

BC
BOOKWORLD

VOL. 30 • NO. 1 • SPRING 2016

WORLD CLASS TEARDOWNS

Caroline Adderson documents the rapid rate of home demolitions.

See page 5

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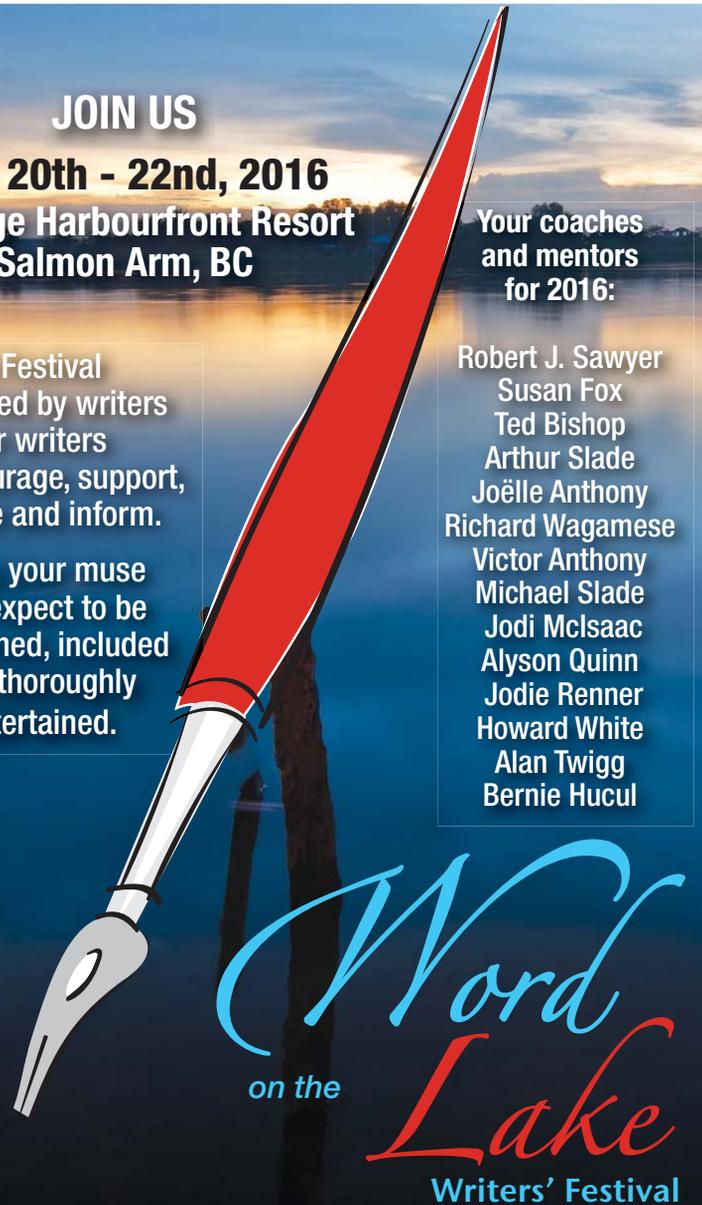
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Left: Original serigraph titled "Along Chuckanut Drive" by Nancy McDonnell Spaulding,
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Caroline Adderson et al.

Vancouver Vanishes: Narratives of Demolition and Revival (Anvil \$32.95)

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Helen McAllister & Jennifer Heath

Down to Earth (Oolichan Books \$29.95)

* The current bestselling titles from major BC publishing companies, in no particular order.

LITERARY LANDMARKS



TOM CAMERON PHOTO

Malcolm Lowry once stayed on Gabriola Island at the Surf Lodge, one of 165 locations on the new Literary Map of B.C. Charlotte Cameron (above) became fascinated with Lowry's visit, resulting in her play, *October Ferries to Gabriola*. Lowry's *Under the Volcano* was ranked 11th by editors of Modern Library in their list of the best 100 novels written in English in the 20th century. Much lesser-known is Lowry's novel, *October Ferry to Gabriola*.

Let's put ourselves on the map

You can now get lost and found with our new Literary Map of B.C.

PEOPLE WHO VISIT PARIS ROUTINELY SEARCH for the graves of famous authors in the world's most visited cemetery, Père Lachaise, opened in 1804. If you go to London, you can visit shrines for

Charles Dickens and Samuel Johnson.

Ditto for literary sites in New York or San Francisco. Russia has Tolstoy's home at Yasnaya Polyana. Dublin has James Joyce, Oscar Wilde... Copenhagen has its Kierkegaard statue.

But here?

Millions of people worldwide know Malcolm Lowry wrote *Under the Volcano* while living in shacks on the Dollarton mud flats in North Vancouver—but tourism departments have yet to capitalize on the fact.

Folks on Gabriola Island appear to be a bit smarter. Word has it they are already planning some festivities for next year, likely in October, to commemorate the arrival of Malcolm Lowry and his wife Margerie on their island in 1946—seventy years ago—that gave rise to his novel *October Ferry to Gabriola*.

Fearful of being evicted from their beachfront shack at Dollarton, Malcolm Lowry and his wife took a small ferry, the *Atrevida*, to Gabriola after he finished *Under the Volcano*. They were hoping to find an alternative place to live. Margerie's friend, Angela McKee, lived on Gabriola and offered to help them look around. The Lowrys stayed at Anderson Lodge, now called Surf Lodge, at 885 Berry Point Road.

Surf Lodge is one of 160 literary locations now posted on the Literary Map of B.C., more than a year in the making in partnership with Vancouver Public Library.

LITERARY LANDMARK
Gabriola Island

★ THE LITERARY MAP OF B.C. IS MEANT TO BE FUN. IT IS ALSO meant to err on the side of content. If you put all the words and photos together from the map, it's the equivalent of at least five books.

In no way does this site purport to present the best writers of the province. Rather, the writers thus far are a cross-section in terms of genres, ages and geography. Some are famous; many are not. Some living, some dead. If you 'scroll out' and get a Google world view of the planet on this site, you'll find some B.C.-related literary locations around the globe—in Mongolia, Iceland, Peru, etc. There is room for expansion.

Ideally some communities around B.C. will want to emulate the City of Vancouver where more than 40

literary markers have been erected to correspond to the Vancouver Public Library's own literary map based on entries provided by *BC BookWorld*.

Not all the sites on the Literary Map of B.C. are easily visited, but directions to each location are provided. Some sites have historical significance. Other times we've pinpointed a location from within a literary work, or else the residence of a particular author.

Nobel Prize winner Alice Munro was most productive when she lived in West Vancouver and Victoria. Douglas Coupland, William Gibson, David Suzuki, David Day and Spider Robinson have global reputations.

There are more than 11,000 B.C. authors on our ABCBookWorld.com reference site now attracting more than 4,000 visitors per day.

Let's celebrate what we're really, really, really good at.—A.T.



Literary Map of B.C. creator Alan Twigg with James Joyce statue in Dublin.

www.literarymapofbc.ca

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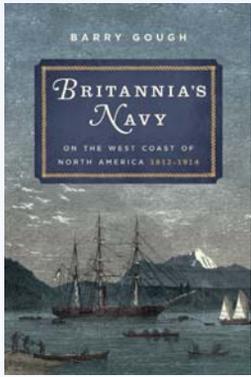
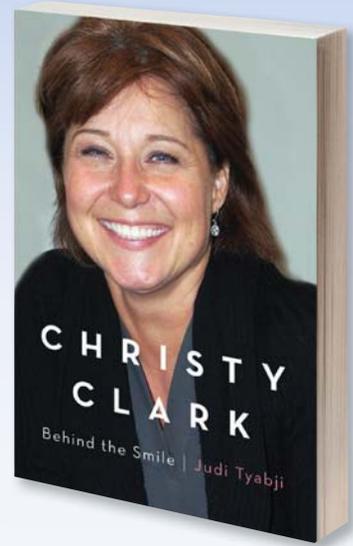
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TIME TO SPRING FOR A FEW BOOKS

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In the course of her rapid rise to power, Christy Clark has ruffled more than a few feathers while still gaining many new supporters with her authentic leadership style. In this revealing look at the woman behind the trademark smile, political insider Judi Tyabji draws on meticulous research and interviews with over thirty public figures to deliver a candid study of BC's first elected female premier.

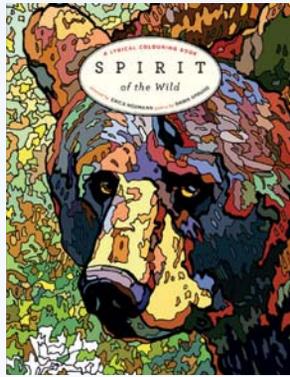
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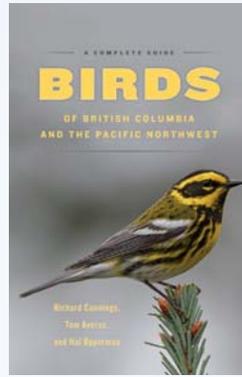
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Spirit of the Wild A Lyrical Colouring Book Erica Neuman. Poems by Dawn Sprung

For animal lovers: a one-of-a-kind colouring book featuring original artwork and poetry.

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Richard Cannings, Tom Avera, Hal Opperman

An all-in-one field guide to every bird species found in BC. Includes 900 full-colour images.

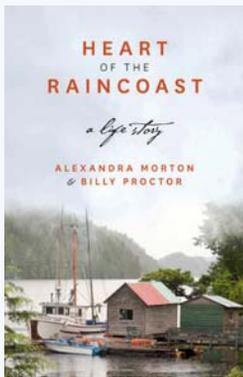
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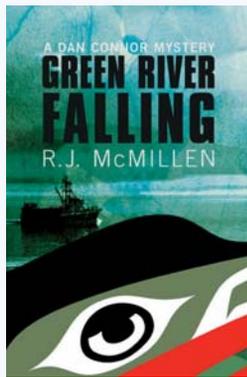
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Heart of the Raincoast A Life Story Alexandra Morton & Billy Proctor

Funny, touching, and honest, this is the fascinating life story of Billy Proctor—fisherman, logger, and lifetime inhabitant of the remote coastal community of Echo Bay.

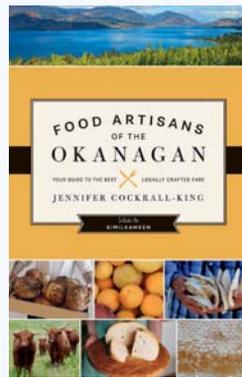
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Green River Falling A Dan Connor Mystery (#3) R.J. McMillen

Five pipeline employees are brutally slain along BC's northern coast. When a Haida man is suspected, Dan and Walker team up to prove his innocence.

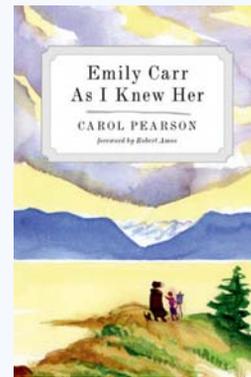
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Food Artisans of the Okanagan Your Guide to the Best Locally Crafted Fare Jennifer Cockrall-King

Complete with full-colour maps and artisan contact information, this is the food lover's guide to finding the best of the best in the vibrant Okanagan.

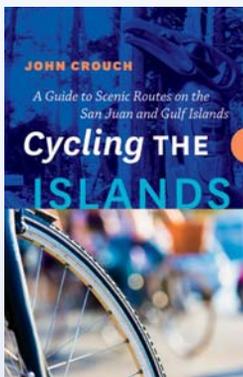
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Emily Carr As I Knew Her Carol Pearson

A touching tribute to the famed Canadian artist, this biography by her dear friend illustrates a gentleness and sensitivity in Carr that has never before been seen.

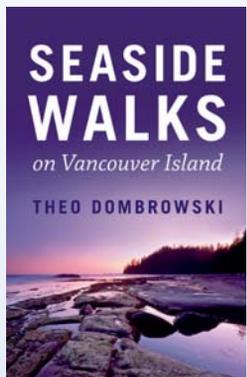
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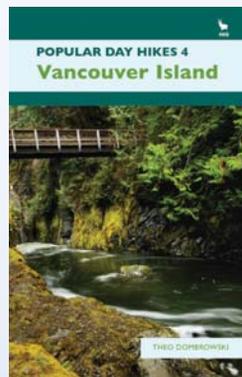
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Seaside Walks on Vancouver Island Theo Dombrowski

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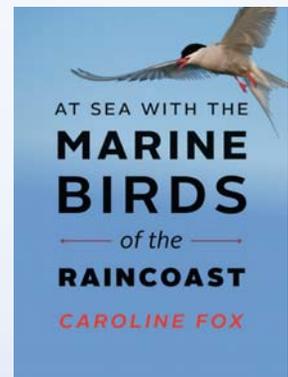
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Popular Day Hikes 4 Vancouver Island Theo Dombrowski

Ranging from easy to challenging, each hike in this bestselling, colourful guidebook is accompanied by a clear map, step by step directions and full-colour photographs.

RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$15.00 pb | \$7.99 ebook



At Sea with the Marine Birds of the Raincoast Caroline Fox

This illustrated narrative details the experiences of a conservation biologist as she surveys the open ocean studying marine birds and biodiversity.

RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$25.00 pb | \$12.99 ebook

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Vancouver Vanishes: Narratives of Demolition & Revival by **Caroline Adderson et al.** (Anvil Press \$32.95)

THE AVERAGE LIFESPAN of a house in Vancouver is becoming less than a human lifespan.

Spearheaded by **Caroline Adderson**, *Vancouver Vanishes: Narratives of Demolition and Revival* is a shared attempt to document and protest the rampant destruction of perfectly fine family dwellings in Vancouver for no reason other than speculative profit.

Between 2004 and 2015, more than 10,000 demolition permits were issued for residential buildings in the city of Vancouver. As of 2015, an average of three houses were being torn down per day. Many of these homes were built for the middle and working class in the 1920s, '30s and '40s.

Although these “disappeared” houses are not deemed significant enough to merit heritage protection, Adderson and the others believe their removal amounts to an architectural loss—and much more.

As a novelist, Adderson contends suburban renewal is tantamount to a loss of shared narratives. Even if that perspective seems a tad airy-fairy to you—Hey, don't those new mega-houses, often owned by folks from afar, constitute



Caroline Adderson visits yet another teardown in Vancouver.

EVE OF DESTRUCTIONS

LAURA SAWCHUCK PHOTO

the growth of new stories in other languages?—it's a lot more difficult to debunk her contention that wide-scale destruction of wooden houses is antithetical to the conceit of Vancouver City council to make Vancouver into the greenest city on the planet.

No matter how many miles of prescribed bike lanes city planners allocate on a map in order to compete with Copenhagen and Amsterdam—

whether cyclists are actually using Cornwall in Point Grey or not—it's pretty hard to condone widespread domestic demolitions from an environmental perspective.

Heartfelt and smart contributions have been made to *Vancouver Vanishes* from the likes of heritage-meister **Michael Kluckner**—who wrote *Vancouver The Way it Was* way back in 1984—as well as *Vancouver Sun* mainstays **John**

Mackie and **Kerry Gold**, heritage honcho **John Atkin**, poet **Evelyn Lau** and the increasingly pervasive and essential **Eve Lazarus** who concludes, not without a whiff of anger:

“Legg House, an Arts and Crafts house built in 1899, managed to hang on all the way until June 2014 with heritage A status on the city's Heritage Register. That should have been enough to save it from demolition. It wasn't.

“The house's century-plus solid old bones lost when the public decided it would rather save a massive old tulip tree on the site. Legg House was demolished in June 2014.”

Also featuring contributions from **Elise** and **Stephen Partridge** and **Bren Simmers**, *Vancouver Vanishes* is replete with photos by Adderson and **Tracey Ayton**.

Redevelopment can't be stopped. Memory must be erased. Developers have co-opted the word development. We must become world class. Give us thy \$8 loaf of bread with 'farm-to-table' self-righteousness, over-priced Canucks tickets and huge vehicles that half of the drivers can't park. Try to stop it? Ha. Go ahead, make my bulldozer. THIS is what Vancouver is all about. Profit.

The aforementioned Michael Kluckner has been trying to blow the whistle for thirty years. In 1990, he published *Vanishing Vancouver*, followed by *Vanishing British Columbia* in 2005 and *Vancouver Remembered* in 2006.

Roland Morgan, a *Georgia Straight* editor who exiled himself back to London where he continued to live by his wits, beat Kluckner to the punch with *Vancouver: Then and Now* (Whitecap, 1983), arguably the first book to alert the Vancouver populace to its own loss of architectural memory.

978-1-77214-034-7

Expulsion & Other Stories by **Marina Sonkina** (Guernica \$20)

IF ANY WRITER IN B.C. CAN MATCH THE VERVE AND intelligence of Moscow-educated **Marina Sonkina**, we haven't met them yet.

Should we also mention that she has a 6'6" son named **Yuri Kolokolnikov** who plays Stryr in *Game of Thrones* to boot?

Sonkina's latest collection of stories, **Expulsion & Other Stories**, is nothing short of brilliant. Two-thirds of *Expulsion* consists of Chekhovian tales of survival set in the Soviet Union, but the longest and first story, 'Face', is a 65-page novella about Vancouver—and its apocalyptic ruin.

In 'Face' a wealthy industrialist buys his 24-year-old son an old bungalow next to the University Endowment Lands in Point Grey. The actor/narrator Matthew welcomes his freedom as a property owner and vows not to be tempted by the “madness” of the real estate game.

Matthew's parents have already sold their home in Shaughnessy and paid seventeen million for one of the penthouses atop the 62-floor Living Shangri-La tower but he would rather sleep under a bridge than live in that sealed fish tank.

“With nouveau-riche Chinese gobbling up the city's real estate and its old Victorian-era houses regularly becoming bulldozer bait,” Matthew dreams instead of opening a splendid new venue for local theatre.

To make ends meet as an out-of-work actor, he decides to rent out a tiny basement suite in his bungalow. The first person to respond to his ad is a young woman clothed



Marina Sonkina
Tales of survival in the old Soviet Union and the new Vancouver.

THE MYSTERY TENANT

LAURA SAWCHUCK PHOTO

Staff Pick

head to foot “in a hijab or chador or whatever they call it.”

The completely mysterious new lodger, Erin, is seemingly a Moslem. She loves the garden. She wears retro sunglasses. She has a nice figure. Hoping to have a relationship between equals, Matthew pretends to be a fellow renter rather than her landlord.

They have beguiling and often loopy conversations. Maybe she likes him. Erin never has visitors. She has taken a job in a thrift store. How does a guy get to know a girl when he can never see her face? He follows her. Bizarrely she enters a synagogue. His fascination with the lodger leads to a deeply disturbing revelation. Afterwards, Erin confesses she is a sibyl of the Erythian line in the 30th generation, someone who is an oracle who can foretell the future, “but when misfortune strikes, people blame us.”

Viewing Erin as a damsel in deep distress, Matthew dedicates himself to saving her. To do so, he needs money. Matthew hatches a scheme. He will secretly sell the house. But he will only sell it if the offshore buyer promises to let them continue to live there. She need never know. A foreign buyer is found who agrees to let them stay. But the madness of the real estate game has taken hold...

Several of Sonkina's Soviet-era stories are more impressive and even more memorable, but the audaciousness of 'Face' and its completely unpredictable ending makes for a potent artistic response to the feeding frenzy of mini-Trump speculators who have made housing costs in tucked-away, provincial Vancouver on a par with Paris, Hong Kong and London.

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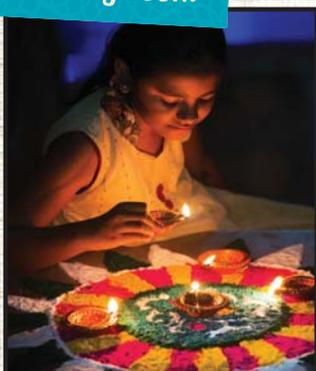
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"Enlightening." —Kirkus Reviews

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PAT MORROW PHOTO

The most literary town in Canada

ECHO BAY ON GILFORD ISLAND IN Blackfish Sound, with its year-round population of ten, has been home to four authors who have produced nine books.

Alexandra Morton, now widely known as the province's leading opponent of fish farming, lived at "Billy's Bay," raising her son and daughter on a floathouse and working as a seasick deckhand on **Bill Proctor's** fishboat from the mid-'80s until 2007.

Artist and homesteader **Yvonne Maximchuk** also worked as Bill Proctor's deckhand for eight seasons and co-wrote his first book, *Full Moon Flood Tide - Bill Proctor's Raincoast* (Harbour, 2003), nominated for the Bill Duthie Booksellers Choice Award in 2004.

Following Maximchuk's own memoir, *Drawn to Sea: Paintbrush to Chainsaw, Carving out a Life on BC's Rugged Raincoast* (Caitlin Press, 2013), she collaborated with the old salt for **Tide Rips and Back Eddies: Bill Proctor's Tales of Blackfish Sound** (Harbour \$24.95).

Newcomer **Nikki Van Schyndel** took up residency on Bill Proctor's land after the release of *Becoming Wild* (Caitlin, 2014), a memoir about living in the Broughton Archipelago for a year-and-a-half, foraging for food and making tools from cedar and bone.



Bill Proctor, in front of his Echo Bay museum for local history, and Yvonne Maximchuk.

BLACKFISH SOUND EXPERT BILLY PROCTOR WAS born at Port Neville in 1934 in a cabin near the Port Neville Store. A month later he moved with his parents to Freshwater Bay on Swanson Island where he spent the next twenty-one years. Here, in this excerpt Proctor recalls evading formal schooling at age twelve:

"Round about that time there were two missionaries who came once a month to visit Mom. They'd paddle over in a dugout canoe and Mom always told me to go down and help them out of the canoe. So I would and one would always say, "How is the heathen today?"

"This was because I was not going to school. They were always trying to get Mom to send me to boarding school. Finally they reported me to welfare. Then the government boat called Sheila started coming around.

"I took to hiding in the bush when I saw them coming, so I ended up spending a lot of time in the bush. It really bothered me to think that these people wanted to take me away and leave my mother there alone.

"As I was spending a lot of time in the bush, I got to know all the different species of trees and plants that grew on our land. In 1948, a salesman came in selling books, so I bought a 10-volume set of *The Book of Knowledge*, which I still have and I still use.

"So, instead of going to school, I was learning about the things around me. Now when people come to my museum, some ask me, "How often do you go out in the real world?"

I say, "I think this is the real world."

Tide Rips: 978-1-55017-725-1

PARABLE
of

GREED

The "Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality" was created by the B.C. government in 2013 to help circumvent regional planning processes for a controversial and hugely unpopular proposal to build a 7000-bed, 22 sq/km ski city in the Purcell Mountains. Protestors such as **Linda Kivi** have been active for more than two decades to stop it. Her all-ages parable of greed, **The Town of Nothing** (Maa Press \$15), illustrated by **Amber Santos**, came about after Jumbo Glacier Resort manager **Grant Costello** showed up at a makeshift Jumbo Wild! protest camp in 2013 and pointed at a spot on the logging landing among the trees and said, "This is the municipal boundary." It was wilderness on both sides. More info: www.keepitwild.ca 978-0-9685302-6-9

HANOI CONFIDENTIAL

How can you not pay attention to a novelist who plays guitar in a punk band called 12 Gauge Facial and an all-woman rockabilly band called Jukebox Jezebel?

Born in Victoria to a German mother and a Vietnamese father, **Yasuko Thanh** dropped out of school and lived on the streets at age fifteen. She has earned her living as a busker, an opium dealer, a cleaner of goat pens, a bed and breakfast operator, a housekeeper and a panhandler.

Thanh's first story collection *Floating Like the Dead* (Emblem Editions, 2012) was shortlisted for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize and the Danuta Gleed Award. The title story won the Journey Prize for best short story published in Canada in 2009. It concerns Chinese lepers who dream of escape from their forced exile on D'Arcy Island, near Victoria, in the late 1800s.

The protagonist for her debut novel due in April, **Mysterious Fragrance of the Yellow Mountains** (Hamish Hamilton \$24.95), is Vietnamese national and Paris-educated physician, Dr. Nguyen Georges-Minh, who, in 1908, loathes his own good fortune at having French connections that have made him rich while the imperial forces of France enslave the indigenous people of French Indochina.

When a plan to poison the Christmas dinner of a garrison of French soldiers goes awry, he is forced to take refuge in remote jungles where his wife's growing madness increasingly leads him to care for their infant son. While eluding capture by hill tribes, he is terrified of being discovered by French sympathizers.

Thanh's "apocalypse then" is reputedly inspired by the history of her father's family in French Indochina and the "Hanoi Poisoning Plot of 1908." The title refers to a group of covert sympathizers who seek to undermine French rule.

Thanh received her MFA from UVic and now lives with her husband, rockabilly musician **Hank Angel** and two daughters in Victoria.

978-0-670-06878-4



Yasuko Thanh:
former Vancouver
busker

Agog

MANY THANKS FOR THE COVER STORY ON *Light Years*. Also, many, many thanks for a longer and updated *BCBookLook* version of the review, as well as its reappearance on your *ABCBookWorld* reference service.

It is a truly wonderful spread and I am well aware that your *BCBookLook* version will now serve for infinity! What a concept that is. First the newspaper version; then two website versions. I'm agog.

Caroline Woodward
Lennard Island

Moses

I WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY YOUR equating me with a biblical figure [Moses] for the article in the winter issue of *BCBW* on our new Asian anthology, *AlliterAsian*. Thank you for thinking so highly of me. Now that the word is out, I hope I can continue to live up to that moniker.

Jim Wong-Chu
Vancouver

Twice is nice

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALAN TWIGG and whomever else may have contributed to the review of my book, *Born to the Wild: Journals of a National Park Warden in the Canadian Rockies*, in the recent issues of both *BC BookWorld* and in *BCBooklook*.

The review was excellently written and with much wit. I feel deeply honoured and very grateful that my book has been highlighted twice, once in print and the other on *BCBookLook*.

Rob Kaye
Vancouver Island

Title feed need

WE READ, COLLECT AND EAGERLY AWAIT EACH issue of *BC BookWorld*, as a key piece of the British Columbian and Canadian publishing landscape.

While nothing could take the place of reading for interest and information, we also spend quite some time and effort searching authors and titles (and ISBNs!) reviewed in *BC BookWorld*.

Is there a possibility of a title feed being made available (by RSS, z39.50,



Deanna Kawatski's most recent book was *Big trees saved and other feats* (Shuswap Press, 2014)

or really any electronic format), so that subscribers could access author, title, publisher, date, and ISBN of titles reviewed and/or advertised?

Jaimie Miller
Technical Services,
UBC Library

[We love librarians and we have followed up with UBC Library for a new initiative]

Not dour

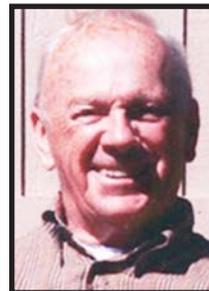
I JUST GOT HOME FROM A TRIP east and found coverage of my forthcoming novel on the new

BCBookLook site. It's so great to have you getting the word out about B.C. books. I look forward to each issue of *BC BookWorld*. Fantastic. Thanks!

Tricia Dower
Vancouver

Estevan Controversy

IT IS DISAPPOINTING THAT *BC BOOKWORLD'S* review of *To The Lighthouse* repeats the oft-told conspiracy fable that the Canadian government published a "bogus" report of a Japanese submarine shelling the Estevan Point lighthouse on June 20, 1942. It is a well-documented historical fact that the Imperial Japanese Navy submarine I-26 did surface offshore on that date, and fired 17 shells from its deck-gun, aimed at the Radio Direction-Finding Station near the Nootka village of Hesquiat (not at the Estevan lighthouse). Two unexploded shells fired during the attack were later recovered by gunnery experts of the Royal Canadian Navy and identified as being of Japanese origin. A detailed account of this and several other Japanese bombardments of our Pacific shores during WWII is published in *WAR ON OUR DOORSTEP: The Unknown Campaign on North America's West Coast*, by Brendan Coyle, Heritage House, 2002.



Sidney Allinson

Sidney Allinson
Colwood

Go godfather figure

I JUST WANT TO EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS to Alan Twigg for being awarded the Order of Canada! That is a huge and also well-deserved honour. We are delighted that he has agreed to come to our next Words on the Lake Writers Festival in Salmon Arm, in May. He is the Godfather of B.C. literature.

Deanna Kawatski
Celista

Penmanship

JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU do for B.C. authors. You are on the side of the angels. The moral support and championing you do elevates the work and makes it seem more noble somehow. You have a special place in the hearts of all who toil with pens and keyboards.

Greg Dickson
Vancouver

As a matter of Zacch

'LITERARY LANDMARKS' IS A FABULOUS project and I'm so glad that you've initiated it.

For a literary landmark, I'd like to suggest the spoken word poet Zaccheus Jackson, who passed away last year. As a location I suggest the eastside of 2100 block Commercial Drive, outside of Cafe Deux Soleils.

This would commemorate an important artist in our literary community, one who performed for city council, the governor general, and writers festivals across Canada.

He had a massive impact as an educator, teaching hundreds of poetry workshops across the country and in remote indigenous communities.

He'd add representation to the *Literary Landmarks* project of both indigenous writers and the spoken word community.

The landmark would also serve to acknowledge Cafe Deux Soleils as a vital literary venue and centre of Vancouver's spoken word movement.

Chris Gilpin
Vancouver

Send letters or emails to:
BC BookWorld, 3516 W. 13th Ave.,
Vancouver, BC V6R 2S3
bookworld@telus.net

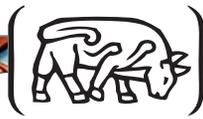
Letters may be edited for clarity & length.



Jim Wong-Chu



**LITERARY LANDMARK:
Self-described East-Van
ghetto poet Zaccheus Jackson
(1977-2014):
"Some people find God.
Some people find health.
Or tofu. I found
spoken word."**



NEW BOOKS FROM
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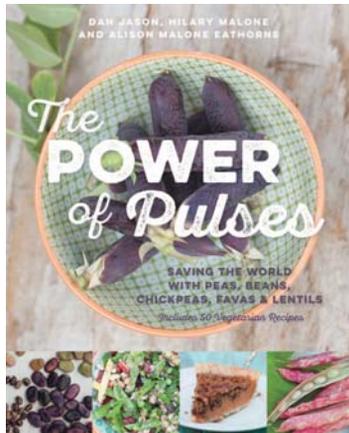
The Power of Pulses

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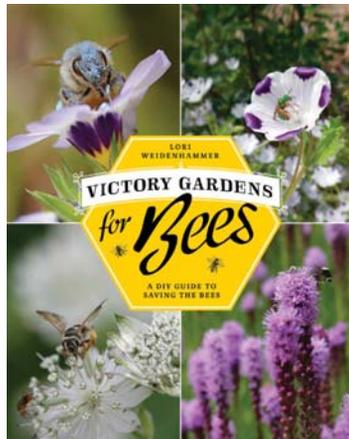
DAN JASON, HILARY MALONE
& ALISON MALONE EATHORNE

2016 is the International Year of Pulses!

Dan Jason, owner of Salt Spring Seeds, teams up with the award-winning authors of *Sea Salt: Recipes from the West Coast Galley* to create a garden-to-kitchen guide about pulses—a nutritious and sustainable crop. Featuring gardening tips and vegetarian recipes.



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Victory Garden for Bees

A DIY Guide to Saving the Bees

LORI WEIDENHAMMER

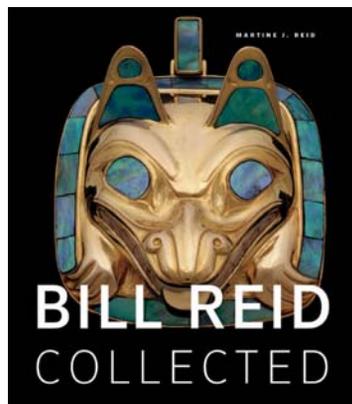
This book investigates the growing problem that bee mortality poses to plant communities and offers practical measures we can all take to help. This is a hive of knowledge from Lori Weidenhammer about creating beautiful and bountiful gardens that double as sanctuaries for bees.

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The Heaviness of Things That Float

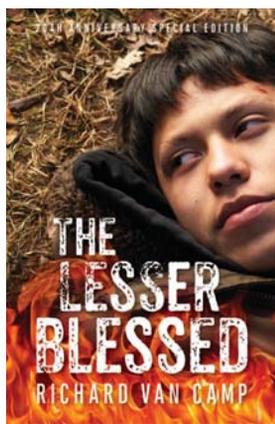
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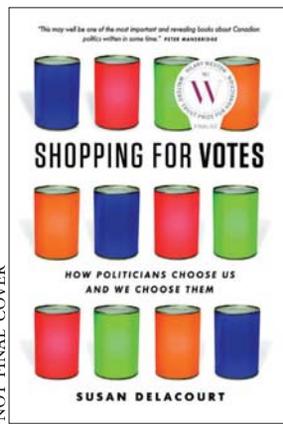
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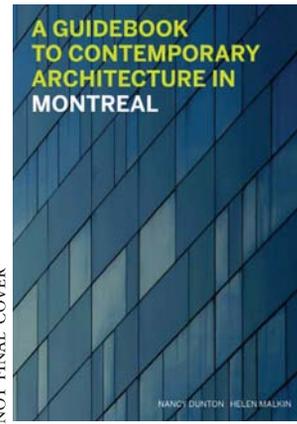
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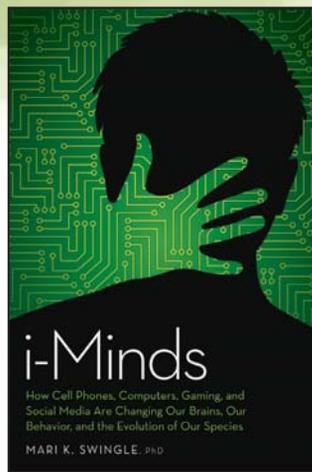
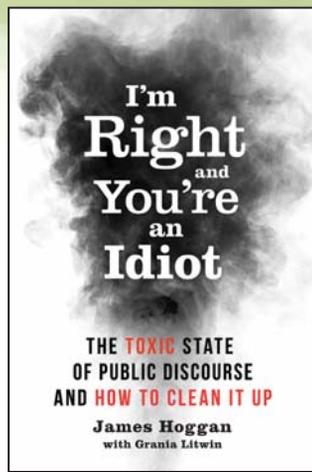
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—Scott Slovic, coeditor, *Numbers and Nerves: Information, Emotion, and Meaning in a World of Data*



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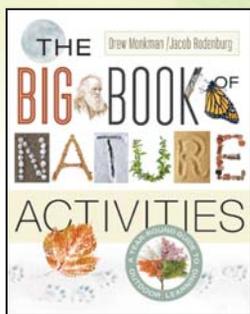
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—Michael Harris, author, *The End of Absence*

Resources *for* Resilient Living



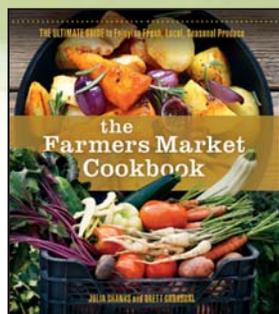
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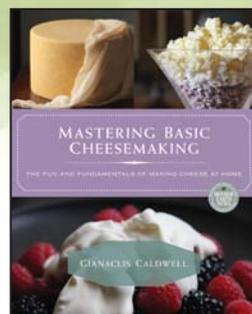
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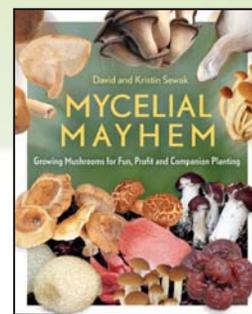
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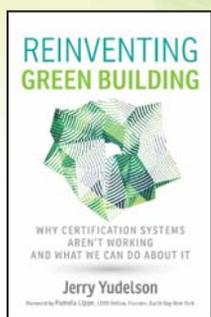
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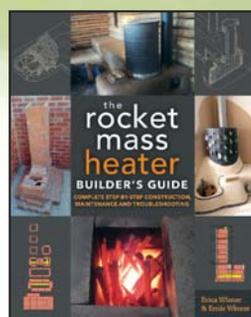
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—Jiri Skopek, Managing Director, Sustainability, Jones Lang LaSalle



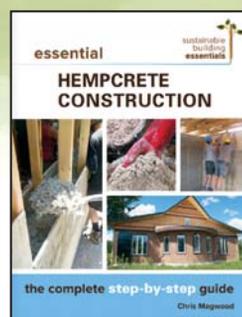
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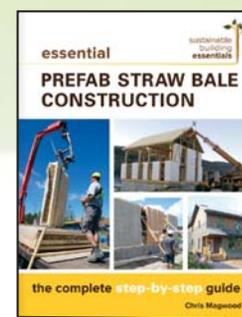
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Cold Case Vancouver: The City's Most Baffling Unsolved Murders by Eve Lazarus
(Arsenal Pulp Press \$21.95)

“WE DON’T CATCH THE SMART ONES.”

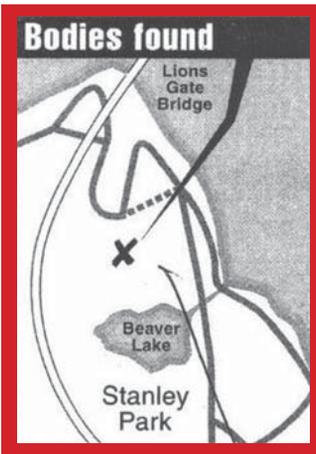
Eve Lazarus surveys unsolved homicides in *Cold Case Vancouver*.

Vancouver: The City's Most Baffling Unsolved Murders.

As a populist historian, Lazarus has developed a lively but authoritative tone in three previous B.C. heritage titles. For *Cold Case Vancouver*, Lazarus is more like a respectful reporter, avoiding sensationalism, as she relates the facts, without lurid or rumoured conjectures, adding maps, archival photos and newspaper clippings.

There's the well-known 1953 'Babes in the Woods' story about the skeletons of two little boys uncovered by a Vancouver Parks Board worker in Stanley Park. Both were likely killed about six years earlier. Lazarus points out they were slain around the time seven-year-old **Roddy Moore** was inexplicably beaten to death on his way to school in East Vancouver in 1947.

There's the case of the young country singer **Debbie Roe**, just back from success in Nashville, who was sexually assaulted, beaten, strangled



X marks the spot where the 'babes in the woods' were found in Stanley Park.

and left to drown in 1975 and also the first recorded gang murder in 1954 when **Danny Brent** was shot in the head, probably by hired killers from Montreal, and left on the tenth hole of the UBC golf course.

Sex rears its ugly head in numerous entries, including the case of an in-the-closet gay man, **Robert Hopkins**, who was found strangled and shot in the head in his home

in the Kensington-Cedar Cottage area. We learn from B.C. Gay and Lesbian archivist **Ron Dutton** that up until the 1980s if a crime against a gay person ever did make it to court, the "homosexual panic defence" was a standard tactic for defence lawyers. A defendant could claim he was so horrified to be propositioned by a gay person that extreme retaliation could be deemed acceptable by the court.

Conversely, when a man attacked thirty women in the early 1950s, he was dubbed "the love bandit" by the press. In that era, domestic violence was largely ignored and women were chronically at-risk in their homes.

"Certainly in the Fifties," says **Neil Boyd**, director of SFU's School of Criminology, "it was totally permissible for mothers and fathers to whack their children in the grocery store. Teachers would hit children, and the notion that a man could 'correct' his spouse was seen as totally

acceptable." Lazarus has not merely regurgitated stories from the likes of retired Vancouver Police staff sergeant, **Joe Swan**, who operated the Vancouver Police Centennial Museum and wrote an historical crime column for the *West Ender* newspaper commencing in 1983. His accounts of murder cases were reprinted in *A Century of Service: Vancouver Police 1886-1986* (Vancouver Police Historical Society, 1986) and *Police Beat: 24 Vancouver Murders* (Cosmopolitan Publishing, 1991).

Instead Lazarus has consulted a wide range of informants and undertaken some original research, most strikingly in her introductory story about the grisly fate of twenty-four-year-old **Jennie Conroy** whose body was found near the West Vancouver cemetery in 1944.

A disturbing percentage of victims in *Cold Case Vancouver* are female; and we learn we are most at-risk to be murdered if we are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four.

"The truly frightening thing is," Lazarus writes, "that these killers might still walk around among us. As a forensic expert for the Vancouver Police Department said, even with DNA and all the scientific improvements, 'we don't catch the smart ones.'"

978-1-55152-629-4

Staff Pick

NORTH VANCOUVER MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES PHOTO

Eve Lazarus has revisited the brutal killing of North Van's Jennie Conroy (pictured above in 1941).

A man attacked thirty women in the 1950s and was dubbed "the love bandit" by the press. Domestic violence was largely ignored. The '50s were more dangerous for women says **Eve Lazarus**.

Resettling the Range: Animals, Ecologies, and Human Communities in B.C. by John Thistle
(UBC Press \$29.95)

THE FIRST B.C. ranches appeared during the gold rushes of the 1850s and 1860s when hungry miners needed to be fed. Ranchers bought most of the best valley lands through preemption or leased crown lands. By 1865 many grasslands had been overgrazed by cattle.

Some ranches were immense. The Gang Ranch in the Chilcotin operated on a million acres; the Douglas Lake Ranch dominated the Nicola Valley.

Indigenous people were forced onto small reserve lands. Access to grasslands to graze their own horses and cattle was prohibited by fences

or settlers' grazing rights.

As **John Thistle** describes in **Resettling the Range: Animals, Ecologies, and Human Communities in B.C.**, wild horses were regarded by ranchers and government as pests to be rid of like bears, cougars, coyotes, even eagles, owls and skunks.

Wild horses competed with cattle herds by dining on grasslands that were further threatened by poor grazing practices, severe weather conditions; a reluctance to rehabilitate lands and the loss of fire control, once used by na-

tives to encourage grass renewal and restrict invasive brush and trees.

Killing wild horses was a quick fix solution but many of these animals belonged to indigenous peoples. Because reserve lands had limited feed and water supplies, horses often grazed on what are now considered "crown lands".

State sponsored roundups and bounty hunting ensued. Many thousands of horses were killed, used for meat, dog food or fertilizer. Tensions mounted, with threats of war between ranchers and aboriginal people on the grasslands.

Grasshoppers were also targeted with some heavy artil-

lery: arsenic, DDT and other chemicals.

John Thistle thinks there was a smarter, more equitable way to deal with both of these perceived pests: "... there was nothing

inevitable about the decisions early British Columbians made: they might have restored the range rather than simply put poison in it; they might have reclaimed wild horses rather than simply annihilate them. They might have listened more to what First Nations peoples were saying rather than simply dismiss and blame them for not valuing property or knowing how to use land properly; and they might have looked closer

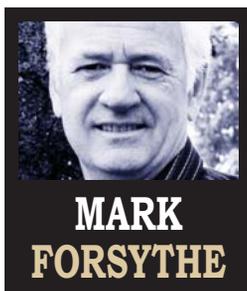
at their own land use practices rather than simply demonize those of others."

Resettling the Range is a story about our relationship with animals, landscapes, indigenous peoples and their pursuit of aboriginal rights.

Environmental historian John Thistle has generated a necessary and thorough study of rancher settlement, the ranching industry's interactions with grasslands and the effects of ranching on First Nations peoples, most of whom were dispossessed from access to grasslands and other traditional lands—a profound rangeland legacy that lives with us still.

9780774828383

Former CBC Radio host Mark Forsythe has contributed to these pages for fifteen years.



MARK FORSYTHE



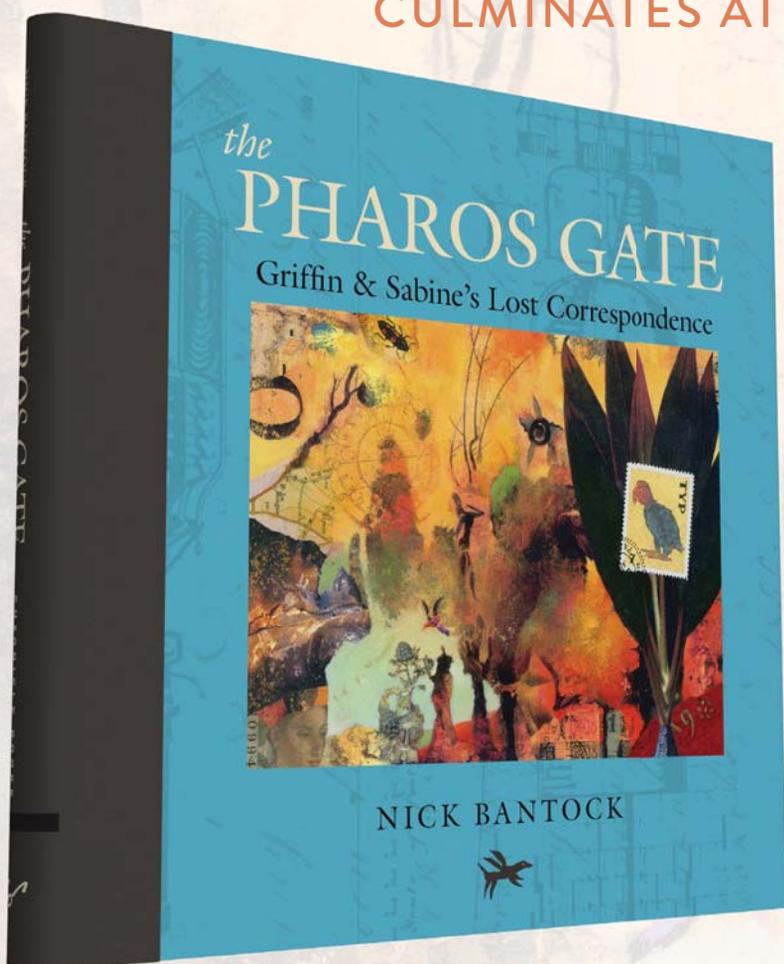
Reseeded wheatgrass on a protected area.

John Thistle's study of managing (and mismanaging) B.C.'s grasslands has won the 4th annual Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Book on B.C. to be presented at UBC Library on June 9.

HOW THE WEST WAS DE-RANGED

GRIFFIN & SABINE

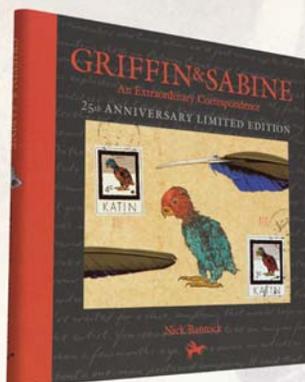
THE LOVE STORY THAT BEGAN 25 YEARS AGO
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"This, the first new book in the series in 13 years, promises to be the last, but it's never too late to discover what, for a certain segment of readers, remains one of the most cherished love stories in modern literature."

—Mark Medley, Books Editor
The Globe and Mail

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RAINCOAST BOOKS

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The Fight for First Nations Survival
Bev Sellars

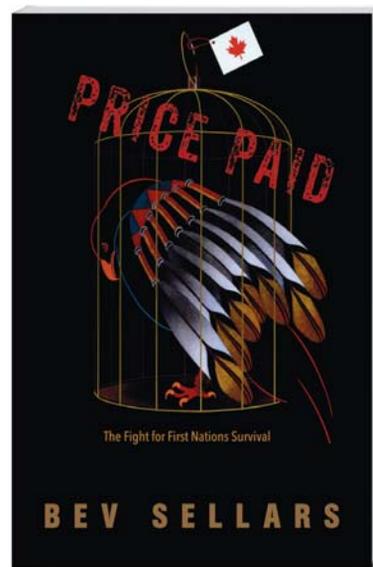
The second book by award-winning author Bev Sellars, *Price Paid* is based on a popular presentation Sellars often gave to treaty-makers, politicians, policymakers, and educators.

The book begins with glimpses of foods, medicines, and cultural practices North America's indigenous peoples have contributed to the rest of the world. It documents the dark period of regulation by racist laws during the twentieth century, and then discusses new emergence in the twenty-first century into a re-establishment of Indigenous land and resource rights. The result is a candidly told personal take on the history of Aboriginal rights in Canada and Canadian history told from a First Nations point of view.

Awards for Bev Sellars's previous book, *They Called Me Number One*

- Winner of the George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature, 2014
- More than 40 weeks on the B.C. Bestsellers list in 2013 & 2014!
- 3rd Prize, Burt Award for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Literature, 2014
- Shortlisted for the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize (B.C. Book Prizes), 2014

\$24.95 CAN / 144 pages / Non-fiction: Autobiography / 978-0-88922-972-3 / ebook forthcoming



Mend the Living

Maylis de Kerangal

Translated by Jessica Moore

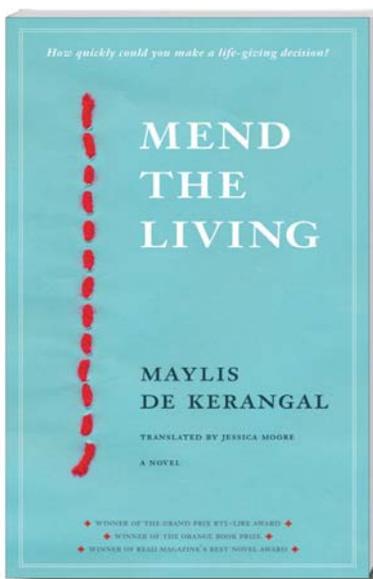
Mend the Living is a novel centred around the physical and emotional intricacies of a heart transplant. The vibrant life of nineteen-year-old Simon Limbeau comes to a state of suspension, after a car accident, urging his family and friends to the thresholds of grief, ethics, and love, all in the span of twenty-four hours.

With a dazzling cast of characters, award-winning author Maylis de Kerangal imagines Simon's body as a locus of relations: Simon's parents, Marianne and Sean, have been estranged for some time, and must come together to make a decision about their son's heart; Juliette, Simon's girlfriend, is building a labyrinth in a Plexiglas case, awaiting Simon's call; and Simon's friends, Christophe and Johan, have scraped by with broken limbs, but are alive and well.

Weaving from hospital corridors to the wild waves of the Atlantic, from the narrow streets of Paris to the countryside in Algeria where goldfinches still sing, from the most intimate details of grief within a car in Le Havre to universal considerations of science, compassion, and humanity, *Mend the Living* is a powerful and vast-ranging book. In her trademark masterful use of language, playing with pacing and tension and a vibrant vocabulary, Maylis de Kerangal gives us a metaphysical adventure that is at once both collective and intimate.

"The story unfolds in an intricate lacework of precise detail. ... These characters feel less like fictional creations and more like ordinary people, briefly illuminated in rich language ... This novel is an exploration not only of death but of life, of humanity and fragility, 'because the heart is more than the heart.'" — *New York Times*

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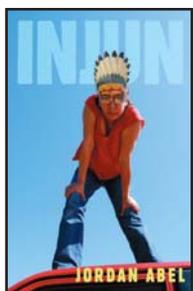


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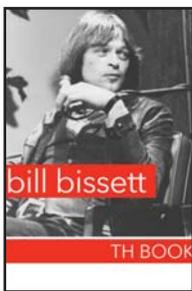


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Some of the poems, such as "libya neoliberal Libya 2.0" and "#egypt #jan25," are more direct than others, but even then reference is to the "hashtagging" and repetition of media/discourse today.

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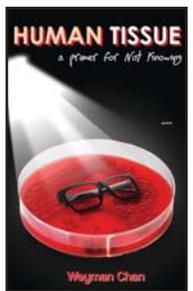


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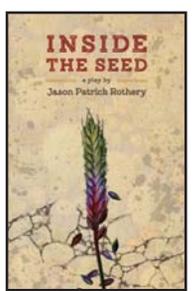


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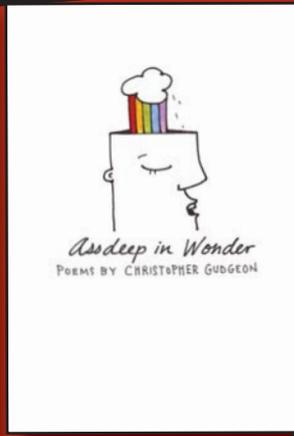
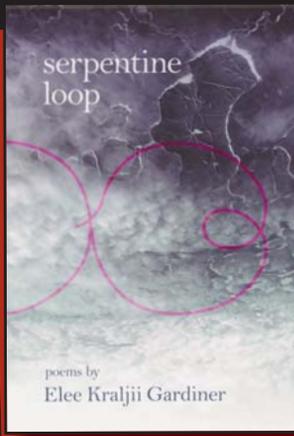
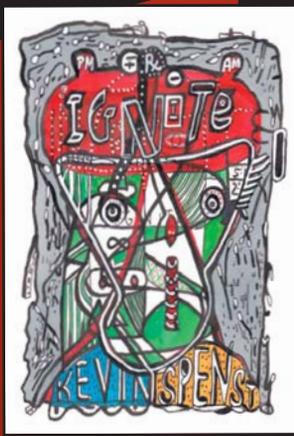
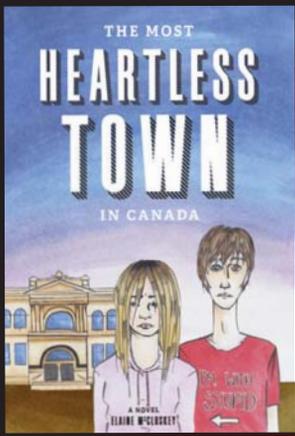
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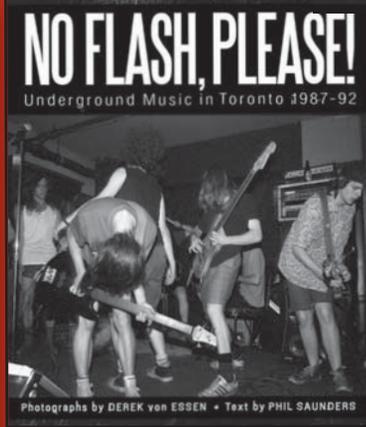
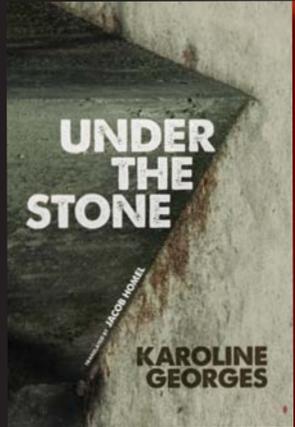


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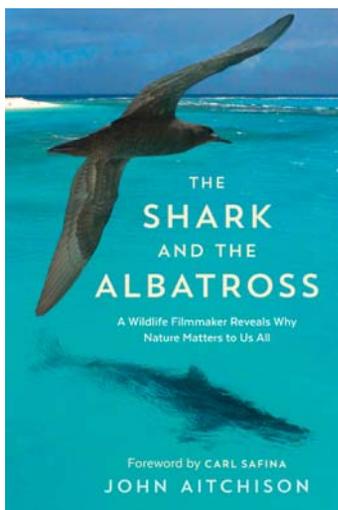
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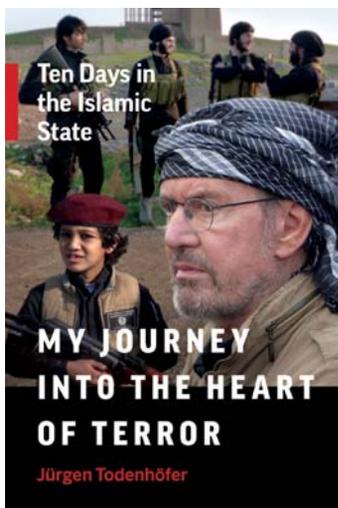
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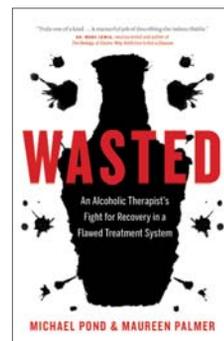
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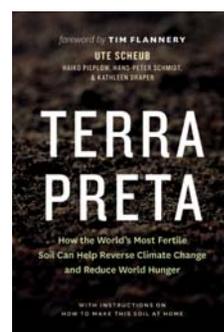


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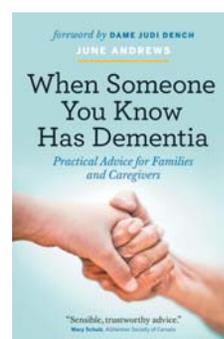
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Move over, Switzerland

Legal fancy-footwork is a common practice for Canada's banks, especially in the Caribbean.

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

TAX EVASION IS ILLEGAL; tax avoidance is not. That's the gist of a new exposé subtitled 'How the Country that Shaped Caribbean

Tax Havens is Becoming One Itself.'

According to **Alain Deneault**, our elected politicians have created subsets of laws with loopholes that now allow tax havens to thrive. It has become respectable to hide your dough. As Canada's former finance minister, **Paul Martin**, who later became prime minister, was widely known to have sequestered much of his corporate wealth in the Caribbean so he could be immune to Canadian taxation.

Of course the likes of Paul Martin can argue they are not 'evading' taxes in the sense of failing to meet their legal obligations; rather they are seeking to rationally, within the law, minimize taxes as a cost of doing business or protecting their income.

Deneault's book covers such events as how, in the 1950s, an ex-governor of Canada's central bank attempted to establish a low taxation regime in Jamaica. A decade later, the trans-

formation of the Bahamas into a tax haven with seemingly impenetrable banking secrecy was shaped by a Canadian minister of finance who sat on the Royal Bank of Canada's board of directors.

Canada: A New Tax Haven, translated by **Catherine Browne**, reviews the history of Canada's involvement with Commonwealth Caribbean nations as they developed banks where Canadians and other citizens could place their money to shield it from the taxman—known as tax havens.

By page two, Deneault provides the reason why avoiding taxes is bad for Canada when he reveals that by 2012, Canadians had "invested" more than \$155 billion in seven offshore tax havens. "Under this practice of tax avoidance," he writes, "citizens are deprived of money to fund public services, and the state as defender of the common

Canadian banking enabled ruthless Baby Doc Duvalier (left) to loot millions from the Haitian people after he assumed dictatorship from his father Papa Doc Duvalier (right).

good looks like a joke."

Among individuals that Deneault cites as law-abiding citizens who 'avoid' taxes include the financial journalist **Diane Francis**, who herself has provided profiles of some of Canada's tax avoiders. Quotations below are from Francis:

The Irvings: "New Brunswick is a company town owned by the Irving family...But technically, ownership is held in a series of trusts in Bermuda."

Harold Siebens: "sold his 34 percent of Siebens Oil to Dome for \$120 million in 1978 and immediately became a permanent resident of the Bahamas."

Frank Stronach: "Today, however, he is clearly a globalist living in a tax haven..."

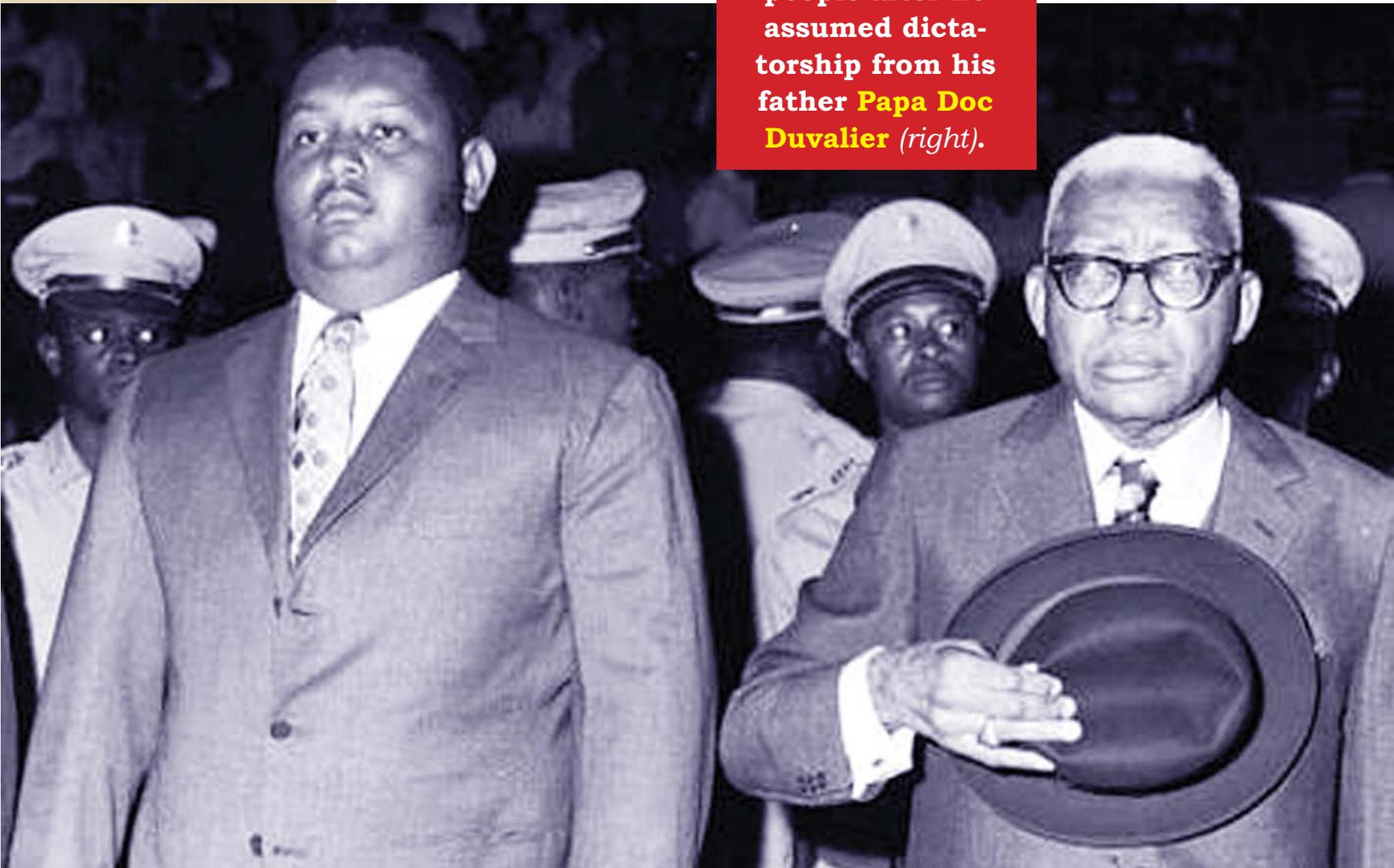
David Gilmour (Peter Munk's partner): "...went to the Bahamas. He said his family had paid high taxes in Canada for five generations and he was sick of it."

Deneault alleges there is a double standard in governments trying to collect taxes while at the same time encouraging tax avoidance: "The money accumulated in these outlaws' dens moves around without any legal, fiscal, political, or regulatory constraint, as states encourage the emergence of a class of privileged property owners who are then courted by these same states offering new political and fiscal incentives."

He concludes, "the framework of corporate globalization makes it possible for powerful people to bypass the constitutional principles that are the foundation of states, and Canada in this sense is pursuing its own destruction."

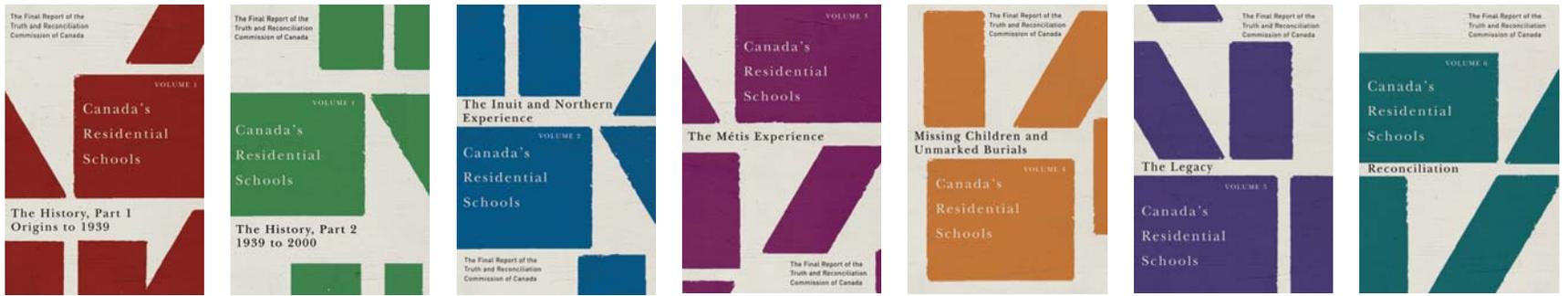
One of the outcomes of a tax avoidance ethos, as recounted by Deneault, is the chilling story of how the notorious Haitian kleptocrat **Jean-Claude Duvalier** and his wife **Michele** were able to launder some of the money they had plundered from their poverty-stricken country's government bank

continued on page 17



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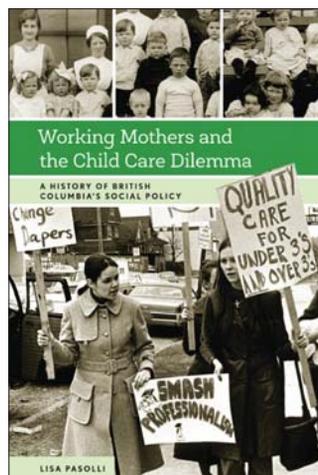
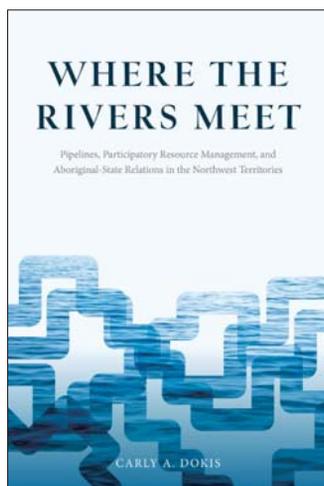
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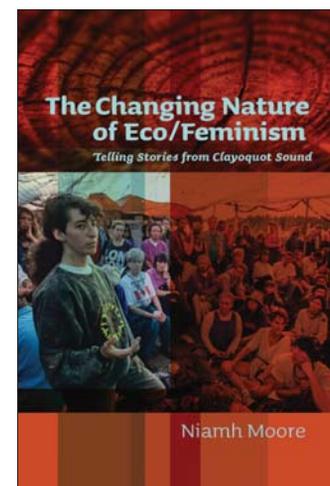
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Novelist Gunnar Gunnarsson (1889-1975) and Harold Rhenisch.

“...Horses have human souls here. If you’ve never met an Icelandic horse, that might seem merely a poetic device.”
HAROLD RHENISCH

HAROLD RHENISCH AND HIS WIFE DIANE HAVE made three trips to Iceland, initially because she had always wanted to go there. Upon their arrival in 2010, after one day, she sat on her bed and announced she never wanted to leave.

Rhenisch felt much the same. Iceland transformed him—it took the intellectual outside and beyond his bookishness—to inspire him to make a very different kind of book, **The Art of Haying: A Journey to Iceland** (Ekstasis \$33.95), with more than 200 photos.

The Art of Haying, according to Rhenisch, is about drawing a line through grass and making a new beginning from it. “I learned that one of the ancient arts, older than poetry but as old as the art of knitting, is the art of haying,” he writes. “...Horses have human souls here. If you’ve never met an Icelandic horse, that might seem merely a poetic device.”

After his first visit, Rhenisch successfully applied for a writer-in-residency in Iceland at the home of Icelandic writer **Gunnar Gunnarsson**. Rhenisch’s father was a German immigrant raised on stories and films of farm people in much the same vein as Gunnar Gunnarsson’s stories, “if not directly influenced by him.” Harold Rhenisch’s writer-in-residency in Skriðuklaustur and his journeys around Iceland with his wife, picking bilberries for lunch, resulted in his book.

“I have no Icelandic ancestry,” says Rhenisch, “but you could say I grew up in Gunnar Gunnarsson’s books. His books sold millions of copies in Germany in the ‘30s and ‘40s, and he missed the Nobel Prize by a hair. *The Black Cliffs* was universally praised in 1932 and it was the first Icelandic crime novel.”

After visits in summer, fall and winter, Rhenisch wrote his travel memoir in which he chats with ravens, learns about knitting traditions and describes his month at Skriðuklaustur, writing about the modern Icelandic sagas of Gunnar Gunnarsson.

Klaustrið (the Monastery) is a residence managed by The Institute of Gunnar Gunnarsson. It is situated at Skriðuklaustur Culture Center in North East Iceland in Gunnarsson’s former home that he built in 1939, next door to the farm on which he was born. In 1940, Gunnarsson went on a “politically complex” speaking tour in wartime Germany.

“The Nazi connection with Gunnar’s house was difficult for me,” Rhenisch says, “so, at first, I was thinking there’s no way I would stay there. But then I realized, who better, especially as he was no Nazi. It turned out to be a profound homecoming of sorts. The creative culture in Iceland is extraordinary. Plus, there are horses and rowan forests and extraordinary light. What’s not to love!”

“This is a love story for a country, for a woman, and for a way of life in which the old is new and the new is old and a man frees himself from the walls that books have made in his mind — walls that he previously didn’t know were there. It’s a scary thing, to have been kept by books my whole life, and then, one day, to step outside their pastures, but that’s what happened.”

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DIANE RHENISCH PHOTOS

Warming to ICELAND

Banking Baby Doc

continued from page 15

accounts when they fled the country in 1986.

“Baby Doc,” as he was known, basically robbed his country with the assistance of Canadian institutions. Baby Doc’s father was the equally vile **Francois “Papa Doc” Duvalier** who ruled Haiti with an iron fist from 1957 to 1971.

When even Swiss banks decided to freeze Baby Doc’s accounts, the escaping couple turned to Canada. According to Deneault, they had some of their advisors “convert into cash a sum of \$41.8 million in Canadian treasury bills.”

The treasury bills were considered ideal because they could be bought and sold with a degree of secrecy approaching anonymity. One of Duvalier’s lawyers, **Alain Le Fort** from the Geneva law firm of Patry, Junet,

Simon and Le Fort, began the process at the RBC’s headquarters in Toronto to move the deposed dictator’s money from Canada to the tax haven of Jersey in the U.K. It was a complex operation involving the securities being split from their ownership records and further movements between the HSBC Bank in Jersey, the RBC in London, the Banque Nationale de Paris, and sundry Swiss institutions.

Despite guidelines requiring banks to determine customers’ identity, according to Deneault, “the RBC admits that it simply relied on the impeccable credentials of the two lawyers, Le Fort and [**John Stephen**] **Matlin** [from the British law firm Turner and Company], who were conducting the operation. The bank later claimed that it would have refused the money had it known who the true beneficiaries were.”

It is important to note that it is unlikely this kind of transaction would

happen today as a 1989 law was enacted to crack down on such practices.

Deneault chronicles why and how Canadian banks have had a long history in the Caribbean. “The economic group ruling the colonies that would eventually become Canada,” he writes,

“had always had an eye on the Caribbean. This was especially true of Halifax merchants, who were interested in the West Indies trade. From the eighteenth century on, these merchants grew wealthy by exporting salt cod and lumber to the islands and importing coffee, sugar, molasses, and rum.

“...The Halifax Banking Company was founded by a privateer who had sailed Caribbean waters. Around 1814, Nova Scotia privateers—violent seamen authorized by the British government to attack merchant ships designated as enemy vessels—deplored the lack of proper banking services in the port of Halifax. The privateers complained

that they had to rely on private money-changers to dispose of the foreign currency accumulated as they went about their professional duties. One of these moneychangers, **Enos Collins**, himself an ex-privateer, had the idea of creating a real bank and was able to carry out this project in 1825.”

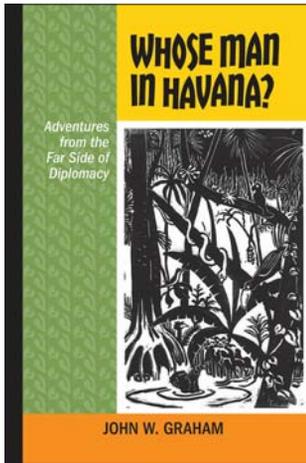
These days Canada has one of the lowest corporate tax rates in the world. Even the IMF (International Monetary Fund) has suggested Canada could raise its maximum tax rate for high income Canadians by as much as 15% without causing capital flight.

According to Deneault, loopholes now encourage companies to relocate to Canada rather than to Barbados or Bermuda. In the book, Deneault places much of the blame directly on Canada’s former prime minister. “Today,” Deneault alleges, “our country’s laws and public policies apply only to citizens belonging to social classes unable to take advantage of loopholes that our indulgent [**Steven Harper**] government has created for the benefit of the powerful.”

978-0-88922-836-8

Beverly Cramp is a Vancouver writer

Foreign



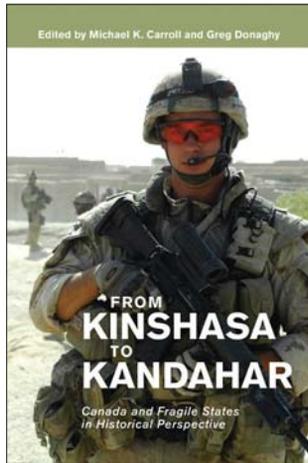
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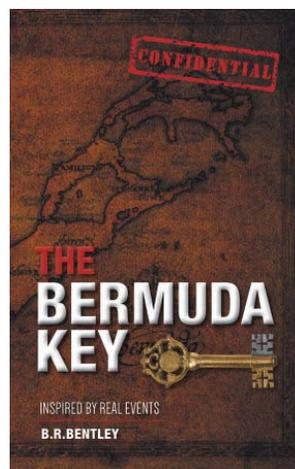
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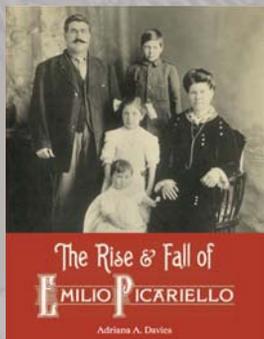
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The Rise and Fall of Emilio Picariello

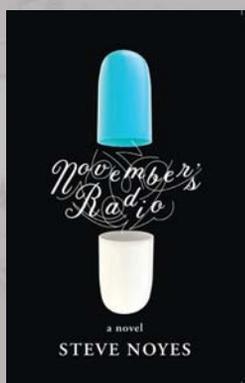
Adriana Davies

978-0-88982-318-1
BC History - 128 pages
Paperback • \$19.95

In this study of Emilio Picariello (aka Emperor Pick)

Adriana Davies paints a vivid portrait of what life was like at the turn of the 20th century in the Canadian west for Italian immigrants, with opportunity hampered by bigotry. Despite this, Emilio managed to build quite the empire, with both legal and illegal business.

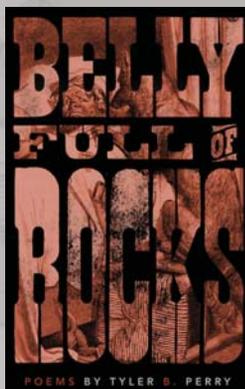
His predilection for running alcohol between BC and Alberta, however, is what led to his demise, as well as the demise of his employee, Filumena Lassandro. Both were executed for the murder, with Filumena the last woman executed in Alberta.



November's Radio
Steve Noyes

978-0-88982-311-2
Fiction - 256 pages
Paperback • \$19.95

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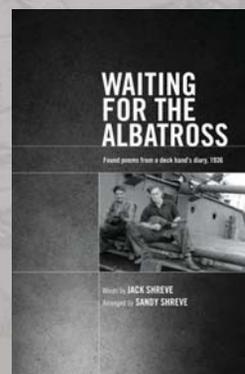


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Tyler B. Perry

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Republican militias (shown here at the Aragon front, 1936) had no formal uniform and chose their own attire. There were few helmets to go around.

Alec Wainman has emerged posthumously as a highly significant Spanish Civil War photographer. At age 23, he volunteered as an ambulance driver to help combat Franco's fascist army.

documentary film.

Born in Yorkshire in 1913, Alexander Wheeler Wainman came to Vernon, B.C. at age seven with his mother, widowed by World War I.

In 1928, the family returned to Britain where he studied modern languages at Oxford, receiving an M.A. in Russian and Italian.

Wainman joined the BMU in Paris in August and arrived in Barcelona in September, soon evolving into an interpreter for the multi-lingual Republican forces. A year later he was head of the English and American press department for the Ministry of State of the Republican government.

A pacifist with Quaker sympathies, Wainman never engaged in the fighting. He crossed paths with **Ernest Hemingway** and **Stephen Spender** (who he photographed) but he never met **George Orwell** or **Norman Bethune**.

Back in Vancouver, Wainman taught at UBC's Department of Slavonic Studies from 1947 to 1978. He mostly kept quiet about his involvements in Spain, sharing his memories with only a few friends and pacifist **George Woodcock**, with whom he collaborated for a CBC documentary.

In the mid-1950s, Alec Wainman purchased a 90-acre property on the Okanagan lakefront and sold it in the late 1980s. This accounts for the street name Wainman Cove, a 700-metre roadway on the west side of Okanagan Lake, near Fisbee Creek, north of Fintry and south of Whiteman Creek. Wainman and his family built the two original breakwaters that created a larger cove.

978-155380-437-6

WITH THE RETRIEVAL of a suitcase, **Alec Wainman** can finally be recognized as a great humanitarian.

After a forty-year search, 240 black and white Spanish Civil War photos taken by Wainman have resurfaced in **Live Souls: Citizens and Volunteers of Civil War Spain** (Ronsdale \$24.95).

In 1934 and 1935 Alec Wainman was working at the British Embassy in Moscow when he became dismayed by Western Europe's ignorance of the dangers posed by the rise of Nazism.

Concerned that **Hitler** and **Mussolini** were supporting **Franco's** nationalists in Spain, he went to Spain soon after the Spanish Civil War broke out in July of 1936 and initially served as a pacifist volunteer in the British Medical Unit (BMU).

The British Medical Unit under Dr. **Reginald Saxton** would make medical history in collaboration with the Canadian Blood Transfusion Unit under Dr. **Norman Bethune** by collaborating on mobile blood transfusions in the field, using refrigerated blood trucks, therefore enabling poorly armed soldiers to more capably defend the Republic's 1,000-km. front.

Having volunteered at age 23 for service as an ambulance driver, Wainman has only now emerged posthumously as a highly significant Spanish Civil War photographer after his son and co-author **Serge Alternés** rescued a long-lost cache of 1,650 photos sequestered by a dishonourable publisher.



WAINMAN'S BEHIND-THE-SCENES PHOTOS of Republican soldiers and civilians were all taken with a Leitz Leica camera. They poignantly capture the faces of idealism and the camaraderie of those who independently mobilized

Staff Pick

The English Suitcase

to defend democratic freedom while western governments stood aside.

Some forty thousand volunteer soldiers from 50 countries came to fight for the Spanish Republic prior to World War II. The largest contingents of civilian support came from France, Germany, Italy, Yugoslavia, Britain, USA, Canada, Latin American and Bulgaria.

But Franco's dictatorship arose—bolstering the confidence of Hitler and Mussolini, leading to the outbreak of World War II.

In *Live Souls*, which also contains Wainman's unfinished memoir of the Spanish Civil War, Serge Alternés is tactfully circumspect about how his father's photos were finally found and retrieved.

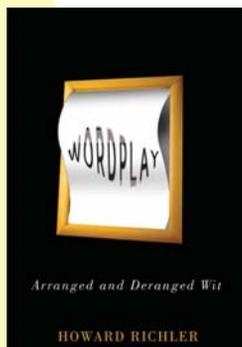
The archive, stored in a suitcase, was rescued by **Jeanne Griffiths** from the home of a retired and since deceased Soho publisher. Oddly, a more famous cache of photos was similarly retrieved in 2007 from a long-missing suitcase. These were the

4,500 Spanish Civil War negatives of photos on 126 rolls of film taken by **Robert Capa**, **Gerda Taro** and **Chim (David Seymour)** and published in the well-known volume, *The Mexican Suitcase* (2010) the subject of a 90-minute



After the Hungarian Revolution failed, **Alec Wainman** (lower right) helped bring Hungarian refugees from the Sopron School of Forestry to UBC in 1957.

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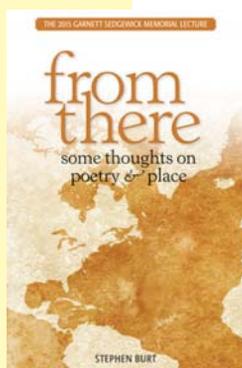
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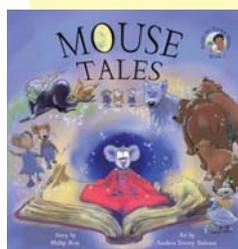
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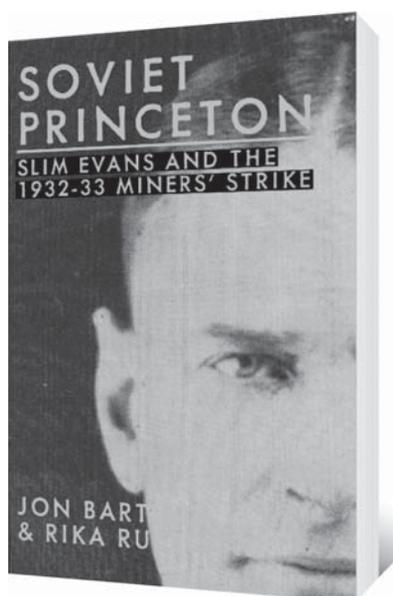
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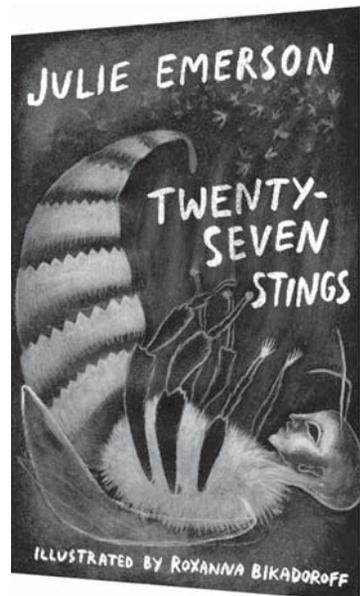


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JULIE EMERSON

ILLUSTRATED BY
ROXANNA BIKADOROFF

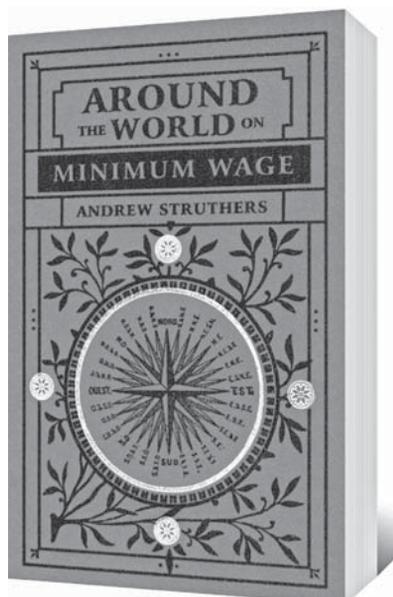
“Few will fail to be impressed and moved by this new collection, which comprises 17 takes in verse on the multiple relationships between women and war. ... We need poets like Emerson, and books like *Twenty Seven Stings*. Read this one even if you seldom read poetry.”
— *Vancouver Sun*



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ANDREW STRUTHERS

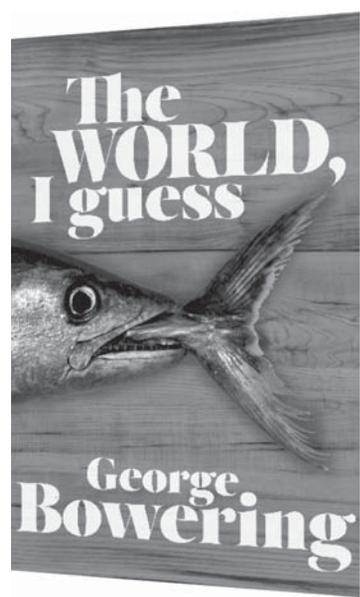
“A comic and spiritually inflected memoir of the Canadian 1980s, presented in the style of the British 1890s. Imagine T.E. Lawrence’s seven pillars of wisdom performed as a Bob and Doug McKenzie sketch, and you’re halfway there.”
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The World, I Guess

GEORGE BOWERING

“A book about the writing life that manages to be affable, astute, and cohesive. ... George Bowering’s candour is beguiling. He gives you a good time with his writing, you feel comfortable, even chummy, in his presence; he’s playful, but then he nails you with some hard truths.”
— *Vancouver Sun*



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THE TREE OF LIFE

Since moving to a two-acre farm and planting dozens of trees, **Nikki Tate** has come to appreciate “why trees just might be our best friends.” As a follow-up to her children’s book about housing around the world, she celebrates the universal importance of trees in **Deep Roots: How Trees Sustain Our Planet** (Orca \$19.95).

Among other things, we learn that six of the planet’s eight species of baobab trees are in Madagascar. During the rainy season, water is stored in their enormous, smooth, white trunks that rise like 100-ft. pillars. The baobab is known as the Tree of Life because the trees produce much-needed fruit in the dry season when little else grows. Baobab flowers bloom at night and are pollinated by bats. 978-1-4598-0582-8





Syntagma Square protest: An estimated 388,324 migrants reached Greek shores by sea in the first nine months of 2015.

Cuban literacy campaign

Having lived and worked in Cuba for five years in the mid 1960s, Shirley Langer has a deep and abiding knowledge of Cuba that has resulted in her young adult novel, *Anita's Revolution* (Shirleez Books \$15.95), recalling Castro's literacy campaign of the early 1960s when school children were sent into the countryside to teach one million illiterate Cubans how to read and write. Some were killed by counter-revolutionaries but Cuba's literacy rate eventually rose to almost 100%. *Anita's Revolution* has been translated into Spanish and was re-launched in February at Cuba's 25th annual Internacional Feria del Libro, an International Book Fair in Havana.

978-09812538-1-7

in 1958 to join one of her sisters who was already living in Nanaimo. My grandfather and my uncle did not survive the war."

"I don't know if the farm still exists but I hope to go and find out. My mother told me that her eldest sister did go back once, after Germans were allowed to travel there. It was still a farm at that point but was somewhat rundown. That would have been quite a long time ago."

978-1-927485-83-5

Hats on in Tanzania

Emily Urquhart was named one of four finalists for this year's B.C. National Award for Canadian Non-fiction for *Beyond the Pale: Folklore, Family and the Mystery of our Hidden Genes* (HarperCollins \$29.99), shortlisted from among 137 entries.



Kindness in Pomerania

Michelle Barker's *A Year of Borrowed Men* (Pajama Press \$21.95) arose from her mother's childhood experiences on a family farm during World War II in Pomerania when that Polish area of Europe was part of Nazi Germany.

Written from the perspective of seven-year-old Gerda, it's the true story of survival after Hitler's army "borrowed" all the men in her family for warfare. Gerda can't fully grasp why three French prisoners-of-war who have been sent to work on their family farm as labourers cannot be invited inside from the barn for just one meal.

Kindness overcomes suspicion as Gabriel, Fermaine and Albert gradually gain the trust of the little girl.

With family photos and an author's historical note, *A Year of Borrowed Men* suggests to young readers (ages 6-9) that it's not a stretch to change the German word Feinde (enemies) to the German word Freunde (friends). The book is illustrated by **Renné Benoit**.

"My mother's family had to flee the farm in the spring of 1945," says Barker, "and they never returned. They headed southwest, ending up in a town called Ermsleben, in what became East Germany. My mother escaped in 1953, and immigrated to Canada

Beyond the Pale investigates the phenomenon of albinism from her perspective as a folklorist and mother of Sadie, her daughter, who has albinism, a rare genetic condition.

Several chapters in *Beyond the Pale* concern Urquhart's trip to Tanzania with her husband to investigate the high incidence of albinism in that country.

We learn, among many things, that the term "albino" is no longer politically correct. People with "oculocutaneous albinism" have little or no pigment in their skin, hair and eyes. As well, they have little protection against the sun; sunburns are quick and dangerous and may cause skin cancer.

"Low pigmentation," she writes, "results in photophobia, meaning that daylight, particularly the searing rays of high noon, can be intolerable."

With a doctorate in folklore from Memorial University of Newfoundland, Emily Urquhart of Victoria won a National Magazine Award in 2014.

978-1-44342-356-4

The B.C. National Award for Canadian Non-fiction was won by **Rosemary Sullivan** for her biography, *Stalin's Daughter: The Extraordinary and Tumultuous Life of Svetlana Alliluyeva* (HarperCollins). The Quebec-born author was presented with the \$40,000 prize at a sumptuous, free-for-VIPs bun toss at Vancouver's Fairmont Waterfront Hotel on February 4th. All three runners-up including Urquhart received \$5,000 each.



Emily Urquhart distributes protective sun hats in Tanzania (near the equator) where half of people with albinism develop skin cancer by age 20 and 80 per cent by age 30.

HALT WHO GOES THERE?

Faced with their own dire economic crisis, Greeks in Athens have looked askance at protesting migrants.

FOR HER SECOND NOVEL, **THE BRINK OF FREEDOM** (Signature Editions \$22.95), **Stella Leventoyannis Harvey** travelled to Greece to better grasp the plight of refugees in the Mediterranean.

Her story concerns a young boy who goes missing from a refugee camp. After he is found with a Canadian woman who wants to help, Greek police apprehend a Roma from Ukraine on suspicion of human trafficking.

"The characters are as real to me as my neighbours and friends," she says, "I feel desperate when my characters make what I think are bad decisions. I hear myself shouting, please don't do that."

STELLA LEVENTOYANNIS HARVEY was first struck by the mass influx of migrants into Europe when she was in Greece in 2012 finishing her first novel, *Nicolai's Daughters* about the Nazi occupation during World War II. "In 2012, the economy was shrinking further, unemployment was in the double-digit zone and young Greeks in particular had few opportunities. This was also the time when I saw the rise of the far right Nazi party, Golden Dawn (Chrysi Avgi) and attacks by this group's followers on foreigners and the later murder of the Greek anti-fascist rapper, **Pavlos Fyssas**."

Among all the countries in Europe, Greece had been cited by the European Commission as the country most tolerant and welcoming to migrants in 1989. Harvey wondered what had happened to filoxenia (Greek for hospitality) and how she would feel in a refugee's shoes.

Her curiosity led her to Athens where she found an apartment close to a Roma camp, later described in *The Brink of Freedom*. When the police tore down that camp, she could see the desperation on the faces of the people who watched their temporary shelters being destroyed.

"There was nothing I could do but watch helplessly," she says, "and later try to write about it."

Harvey returned in 2014 and visited a refugee detention centre, Amygdaleza, the largest such facility in Greece. High fences were topped with razor wire; there were guard towers with armed officers at each corner. The staff spent close to two hours with her as she toured the facility. She met with doctors and other medical staff.

A week later, she read in the newspaper that a twenty-six-year-old Pakistani man died in that centre. Police had allegedly beaten him while he was in another detention centre because he was involved in a protest over the living conditions. The man had allegedly requested medical treatment. It had been denied. Harvey didn't know the man. But she wasn't able to get him out of her mind. His death made her question what she'd been told by Greek officials and it left her wondering about her own naiveté.

Next she visited the Asylum Service of the Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection in Athens to understand the registration process for asylum seekers. It all seemed reasonable. Then she talked to an Afghan boy who spoke perfect English. His family had been in

Greece for months waiting to hear about their asylum request. He liked his school, he liked being in Greece, but he wasn't sure the government was going to let his family stay. His face became very serious. It upset her that a little boy had to worry about such things.

Visiting Syntagma Square—in an exclusive, affluent neighborhood in the heart of Athens—Harvey came across a makeshift camp in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. On cardboard boxes, blankets and plastic tarps, some 200 men, women and children stood or sat, placards in hand. A number had tape across their mouths.

This was Day 5 of a hunger strike. She found an English-speaking bear of a man with kind

eyes and an open smile who was willing to share his story. Like other Syrians, he'd come through Turkey to Greece. To do so, he had been smuggled into Greece in a decrepit, rusted fishing boat. He had received refugee status but now his status was reviewed every six months to determine if it was safe for him to return home. He was in the square because he didn't have a place to live.

"Yes," he said, "it's true that I won't be shot in the streets here, but I'm not allowed to live either. All we want is freedom."

Harvey came to understand that refugee status doesn't permit the migrant to find a job or gain social assistance to find a place to live. Official refugee status also doesn't enable someone to legally travel to another part of Europe.

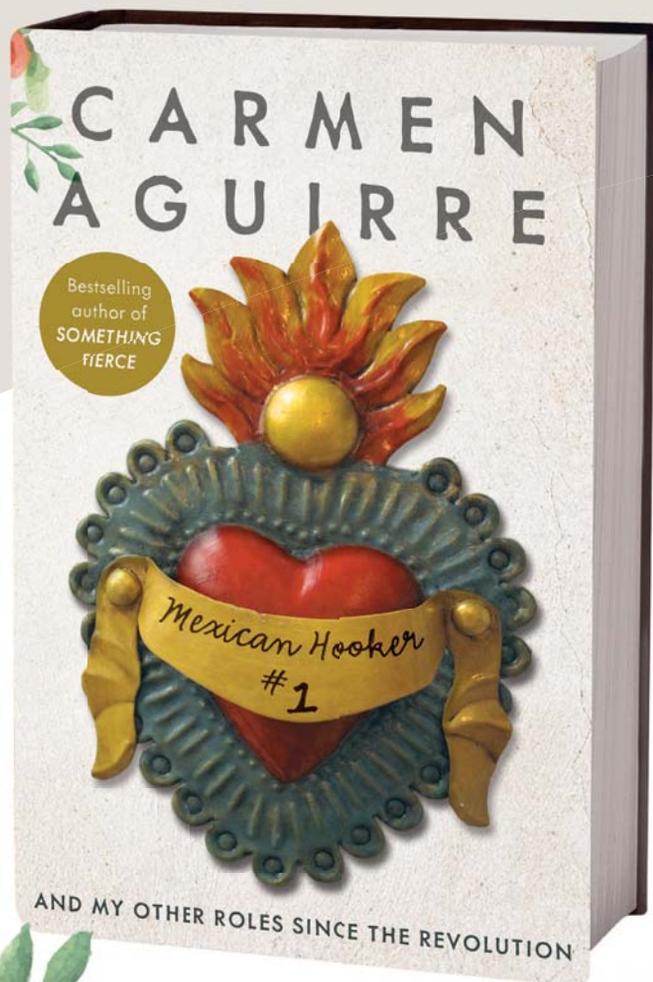
Eventually she created her main characters Vijay, Saphal and Sanjit for *The Brink of Freedom*. Roma also take a leading role. Harvey spoke to those who could understand English or else her somewhat clumsy Greek. "I wanted to see through their eyes," she says, "to sense their plight through their hearts. More and more I came to realise that in order for me to write, I need to first feel."

A Swedish woman raised in Greece, **Maria**



"There was nothing I could do but watch helplessly, and later try to write about it."
Stella Leventoyannis Harvey

A story of strength and survival that will leave you speechless



Author photo © Alejandra Aguirre



"This is extraordinary and, often unexpectedly, beautiful reading."

NOAH RICHLER, author of *This Is My Country, What's Yours? A Literary Atlas of Canada*

"Life-affirming, awe-inspiring, and even wickedly funny in parts."

NEIL SMITH, author of *Boo*

"Carmen Aguirre will show you what compassion truly looks like. And the final few pages will leave you gobsmacked."

ALISON WEARING, author of *Confessions of a Fairy's Daughter*

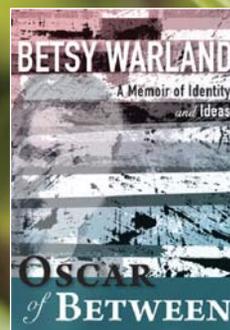
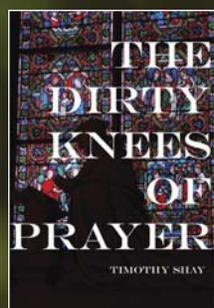
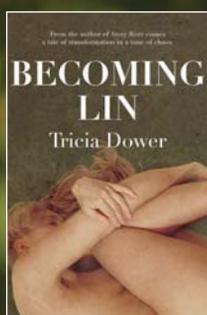
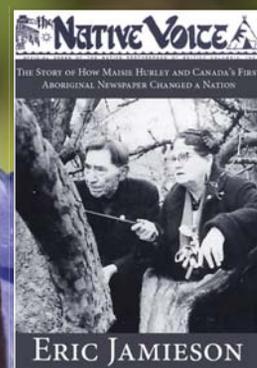
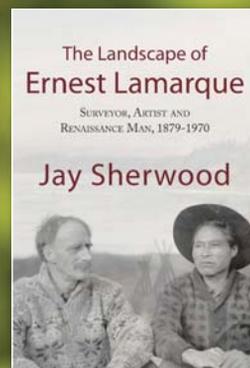
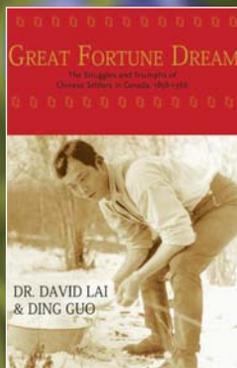
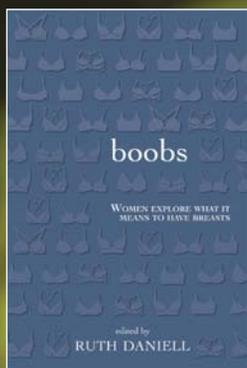
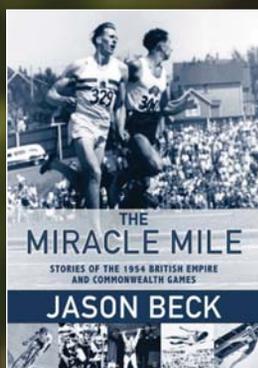
"I read all Aguirre's work with fascination and a kind of awe."

HEATHER MALICK



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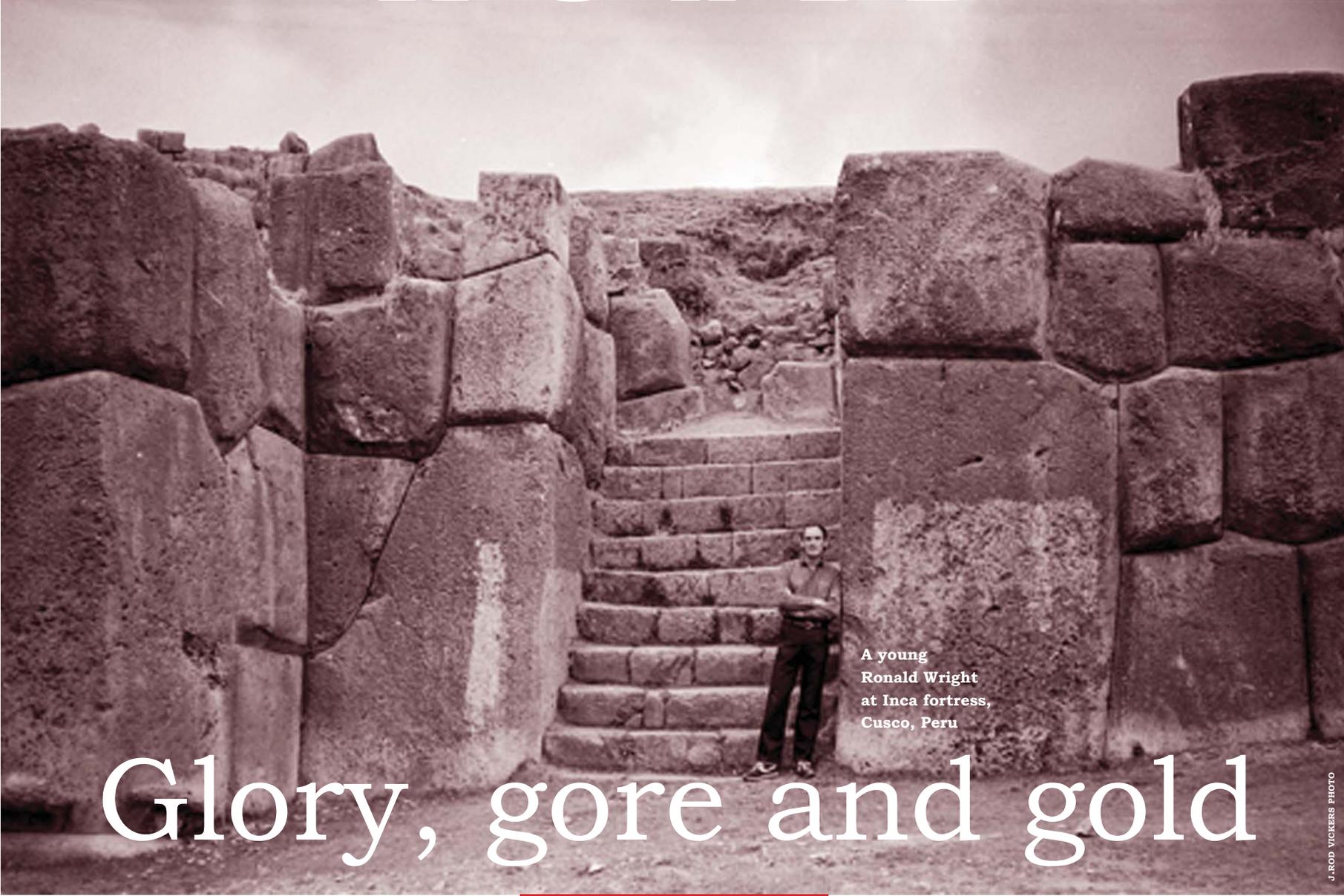
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A young Ronald Wright at Inca fortress, Cusco, Peru

Glory, gore and gold

J. ROD VICKERS PHOTO

BY **CHERIE THIESSEN**

WE CAN PROBABLY NEVER get enough of writings that set to right the looting and devastation that wreaked havoc on ancient civilizations under the guise of bringing Christianity to the savages.

Luisa Maria Celis's novel about the Spanish conquest of Venezuela, *Arrows (Libros Libertad)*, which I reviewed in *BCBW* in spring, 2009, was a product of meticulous research. The author read over 90 books, blasting light on the atrocities under **Diego de Losada**, one of the Spanish invaders in Venezuela's Caracas Valley during Spain's "Golden Age" in the mid 16th century, around 40 years after **Francisco Pizarro's** rampages.

Now **Ronald Wright** has followed suit with a remarkable New World tale of glory, gore and gold, **The Gold Eaters** (Penguin/Hamish Hamilton \$32), written after Wright made numerous trips to South America, conducting research.

Under these authors' unblinking eyes, the glorified Spanish Conquistadors look a whole lot more like thugs and thieves. The amazed Incas called them 'gold eaters' because they fell on the gold with such hunger and savagery.

"The urge to write about Peru," says Wright, "first came to me when I was ill and bedridden, aged 30, at Ollantaytambo, where Manku, the Inca resistance leader—and a hero in *The Gold Eaters*—routed a Spanish army in 1536." After convalescing at a small hotel there called El Albergue, Wright began working on what became his first book, *Cut Stones & Crossroads: A Journey in Peru*—just reissued in Penguin Modern Classics with a foreword by **Alberto Manguel**.

"Over the years," he says, "I also wrote about the Incas in other non-fiction, especially *Stolen Continents*

(Penguin, 2003), but always wanted to give myself the freedom of a novel to imagine what it would have been like to live through the catastrophe of the Spanish conquest. Hence *The Gold Eaters*, which I began in 2010."

In *The Gold Eaters* we follow the misfortunes of Waman, an Inca youth yearning for adventure and travel. He thinks leaving his village will hasten the process of becoming a man. Unfortunately, his leave-taking will yield despair, sickness, suffering and imprisonment, starting from his eleventh day at sea after he manages to board a trading vessel in Tumbes (coastline of present-day Peru) as the youngest crew-member.

A Spanish vessel, with none other than Francisco Pizarro at the helm, overtakes the boat Waman is on. The boat is looted and most of its occupants are murdered, or eaten by sharks as they attempt to flee. The one woman aboard is raped and flings herself overboard.

Waman fares better. He's taken prisoner, taught some Spanish, and ultimately becomes the "Old One's" translator. Waman worries he may never again see his mother, his father, his grandfather and Tika, his comely cousin who was orphaned by an earthquake when very young. Tika lives with Waman's family in the small Peruvian community of Little River.

Waman's fledgling romance with Tika, his years as a captive—in Spain, aboard ship and ultimately back in Peru—and his efforts to find his way home serve as the framework for Wright's gargantuan historical narrative.

That Wright's action-packed plot

Ronald Wright recalls the triumphs of the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro in his novel, The Gold Eaters.

is largely based on meticulous research and historical characters makes it all the more fascinating.

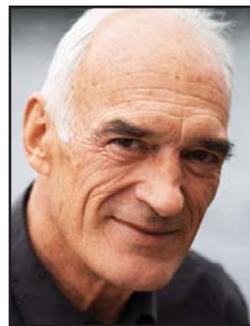
The driving narrative tells the tale of the vast sweep of Pizarro's invasion of the rich and advanced Inca kingdom. Over 3,000 miles long and stretching from southern Columbia to central Chile, the empire was the world's second largest after China.

Abetted considerably by the devastating smallpox they brought with them, by deceit and by the Inca's trusting nature, Pizarro, a founder of Panama, loots and slaughters his way to Cusco's gold.

Before him, in 1521, **Hernán Cortés** had just conquered Mexico, with the help of his invisible army, the smallpox.

Now Pizarro wants the gold of the last great unknown civilization to the south. So it is that in 1526, aboard the Santa Elena, the reader meets up with Pizarro as he sails from Panama and overtakes the little trading vessel at the outset of the novel.

This story of how Pizarro, with only a few hundred ragged and smelly men, is able to capture the Inca emperor, **Atawallpa** (*Atahualpa*) and decimate the huge Inca army has been told before—for example, in **Peter Schaffer's** 1964 play, *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*. But while Schaffer takes more dramatic license with his plot, and elevates both Inca ruler and Spanish conqueror, Wright seems to creep as close as anyone can to historical truth.



Ronald Wright

how maintain integrity while witnessing slaughterous triumphs to which he has been a party. Wright named his protagonist Waman in honour of **Felipe Waman Puma**, "the indigenous writer and artist whose work so brilliantly illuminates the Peruvian experience of those tragic times."

In an afterword, Ronald Wright writes: "I have kept to the skeleton of fact, adding flesh where fiction demands. The main events happened, and most of my characters are based on people known to have taken part in them."

Even Waman was born of research. The initial raid on that Inca vessel really occurred and a young boy was kidnapped and taken to Spain. Very likely he later served as the interpreter for the Spanish in Cajamarca and Cusco, two of the main Peruvian cities featured in the book.

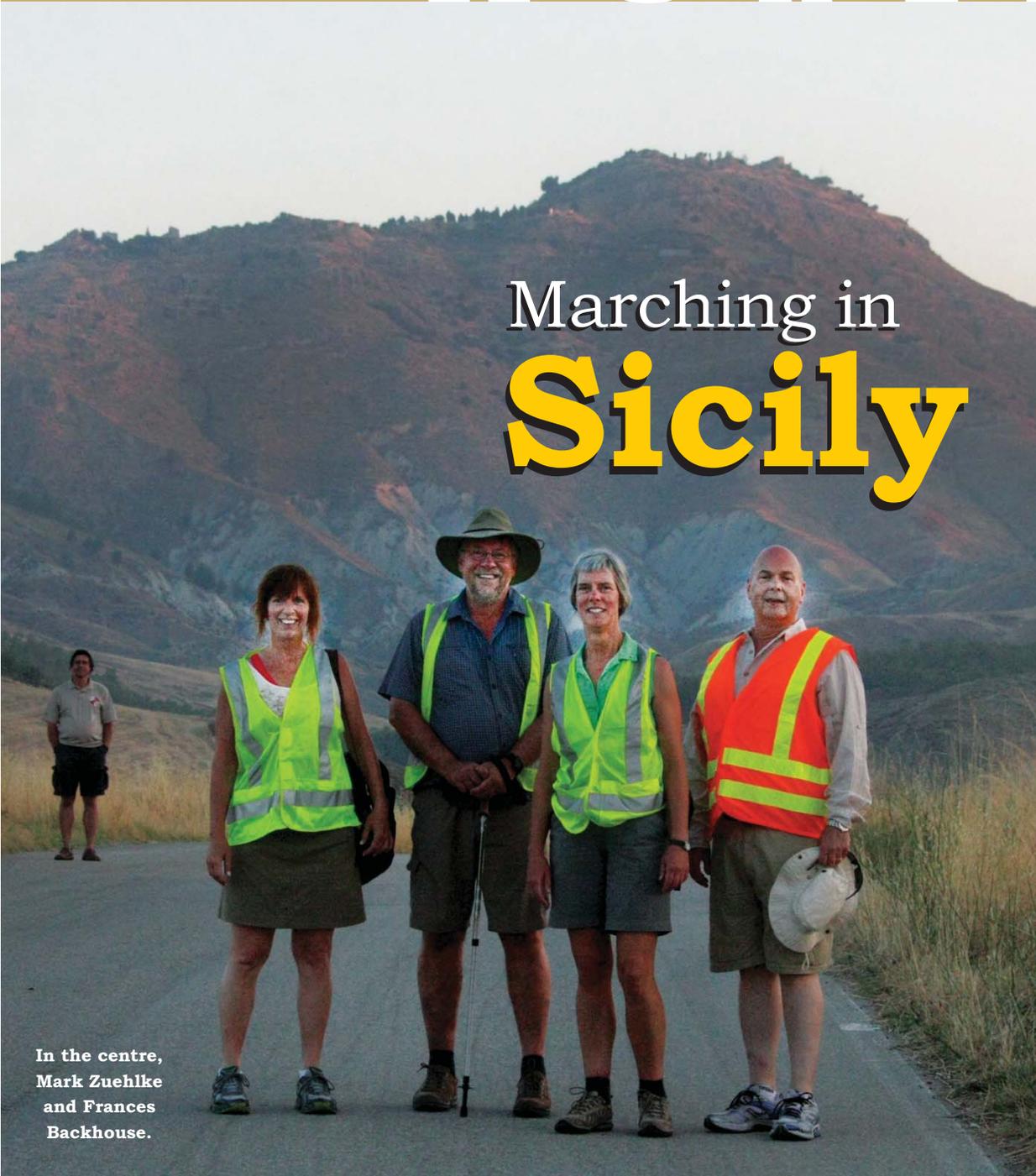
The architects of Machu Picchu and Cusco were part of an advanced civilization but unfortunately they did not have guns or a deadly disease to do their dirty work. Atawallpa's ransom was a roomful of gold and silver, seven tons of gold and 13 tons of silver all melted down. But when the gold was delivered, Pizarro betrayed Atawallpa and killed him anyway.

When it comes to these gold eaters, 'live by the sword, die by the sword' seems apt. The novel is made intriguing by conflicts between Pizarro and "One Eye," Almagro, his sleazy partner in-crime, as well as betrayals, raids, murders and rebellions.

Wright has published ten books of fiction and non-fiction translated into sixteen languages in over forty countries. Earlier works include *Time Among the Maya* (2000), and his first novel *A Scientific Romance* (1999), which won Britain's David Higham prize for fiction and was selected as book of the year by the *New York Times*, *The Sunday Times*, and the *Globe and Mail*. 978-0-670-06826-5

Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction from Pender Island.

Marching in Sicily



In the centre, Mark Zuehlke and Frances Backhouse.

AS THE AUTHOR OF 18 PREVIOUS MILITARY BOOKS, historian **Mark Zuehlke** was one of a small contingent of marchers in a 300-kilometre trek in 2013 through Sicily in the footsteps of Canadian soldiers who were there in WW II.

They walked between 15 and 35 kilometres each day, usually along winding country roads, in order to reach the outskirts of a small town or village. Often they walked under a searing sun, with Mount Etna in the distance.

That adventure with his wife **Frances Backhouse** sparked Zuehlke's contemplation of war and remembrance for **Through Blood and Sweat: A Remembrance Trek Across Sicily's World War II Battlegrounds** (D&M \$36.95).



Canadian tank in Regalbuto, Sicily, 1943.

Filmmaker **Max Fraser** also undertook the Sicilian trek to mark the 70th anniversary of Sicily's liberation in order to make his documentary, *Bond of Strangers*.

The marchers were repeatedly greeted by hundreds of cheering and applauding Sicilians.

In front of each community's war memorial, a service of remembrance for both the Canadian and Sicilian war dead was conducted.

Each day brought the marchers closer to their final destination—the Agira Canadian War Cemetery, where 490 of the 562 Canadian soldiers who fell during the course of Operation Husky in 1943 are buried.

Operation Husky was the code name for the successful 1943 invasion of Sicily. 978-1-77162-009-3



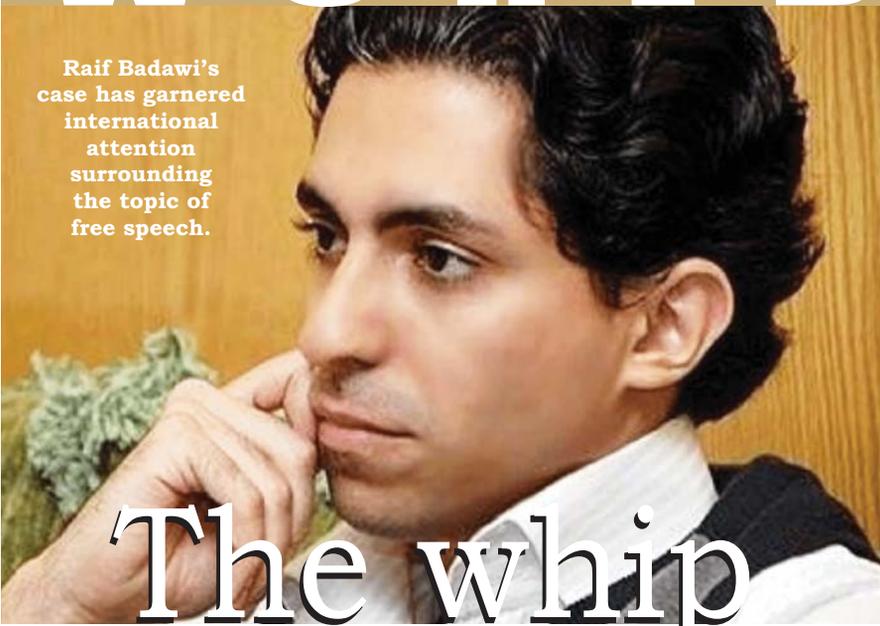
Marilyn & Mary in Scotland

Once upon a Scottish time in the 17th-century, **Mary MacLeod** was banned from composing any song indoors or outdoors, so she defiantly wrote a song on her threshold instead. Hence **Marilyn Bowering's** tribute to the rebel poet of the Hebrides, Mary MacLeod, is called **Threshold** (Leaf Press \$20). Bowering's poems are spare tributes, evoking Mairi as a sister poet. An afterword recalls Bowering's Hebridean rambles [pictured here] to the islands of Harris (burial places of the MacLeods), Berneray (where Mary MacLeod lived), North Uist and South Uist in 2010, but it's neither a travelogue nor a biography. Photos are by **Xan Shian** (Bowering's daughter). *Threshold* was the co-winner of the Gwendolyn MacEwan Poetry Competition for Best Suite in 2013. Mary MacLeod was born c. 1615 on the island of Harris and died at Dunvegan c. 1707 on the island of Skye.

978-1-926655-88-8

Marilyn Bowering

Raif Badawi's case has garnered international attention surrounding the topic of free speech.



The whip vs. the blog

Suffocating orthodoxy in Saudi Arabia.

PUBLISHED BY VANCOUVER'S Greystone Books, the Saudi blogger **Raif Badawi** has received the PEN Pinter International Writer of Courage Award for 2015 from the international literary organization that seeks to safeguard the human rights of authors worldwide.

In 2008, Badawi founded the online forum *Free Saudi Liberals*, a website about politics and religion in his country. He has been imprisoned since 2012 and was publicly punished for expressing his opinions with 50 lashes on January 9, 2015 on the square in front of the Al-Dschafali mosque in Jeddah.

A selection of Badawi's blog posts is available in **1000 Lashes: Because I Say What I Think** (Greystone \$9.95)

In *1000 Lashes* he expresses his opinions on life in an autocratic-Islamic state under the Sharia law and his perception of freedom of expression, human and civil rights, tolerance and the necessary separation of state and religion. Having shared his thoughts on politics, religion, and liberalism online, Badawi was originally sentenced to 1,000 lashes, ten years in prison and fined approximately \$315,000.

1000 Lashes was published with the

support of **Ensaf Haidar**, Badawi's wife, who was granted political asylum by Canada and now lives in Sherbrooke, Quebec with their three children. She has been tirelessly fighting for Badawi's freedom and has organized rallies, met with the U.S. Congress and spoken to media outlets all over the world about his case.

Along with the PEN Pinter prize, Raif Badawi has also received the Thomas Dehler Medal Award, The Franco-German Journalism Prize 2015, the Press Freedom Prize, The Difference Day Honorary Title for Freedom of Expression, the Aikenhead Award 2014, The Geneva Summit Courage Award and The Honour Of The City of Strasbourg.

According to **Salman Rushdie**, "Raif Badawi's is an important voice for all of us to hear, mild, nuanced, but clear. His examination of his culture is perceptive and rigorous. Of course he must be saved from the dreadful sentence against him and the appalling conditions of his imprisonment. But he must also be read, so that we understand the struggle within Islam between suffocating orthodoxy and free expression, and make sure we find ourselves on the right side of that struggle." 978-1771642095

Vietnamese women

Tracing the history from the 11th century.

WHILE TEACHING IN HANOI FROM 2005 to 2011, **Elizabeth McLean** developed a curiosity about Vietnamese

history and folklore. It inspired her to write eight stories that imagine the spirited lives of eight wives and daughters who rebel against the constraints of male-dominated Confucian and contemporary societies to love "zestfully and wickedly." In doing so, McLean traces the history of Vietnam from the 11th century to the present.

Among the women she creates are Lan, a 13-year-old girl in 1067, who dreams of having her teeth stained so that she can attain womanhood in *The Black Stain*; an unhappy village wife who two



Elizabeth McLean

centuries later has a passionate affair with a household servant and almost gets away with it; and a modern manager who must weigh the personal and

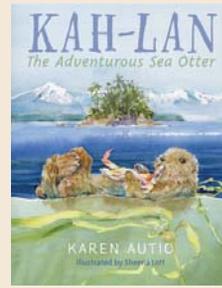
family costs of marrying a foreigner for his money.

Her Vietnam stories have been repackaged and renamed for a Canadian release as **The Swallows Uncaged: A Narrative in Eight Panels** (Freehand \$21.95). She previously received the Impress Prize for New Writers in the UK in 2011. Prior to moving to Vancouver that year, Elizabeth McLean served as a consultant for the

Women's Publishing House in Hanoi, having previously worked as a CBC radio producer and as a researcher for *TIME Canada*. 978-1-55481-264-6

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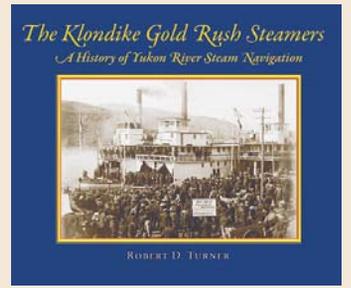


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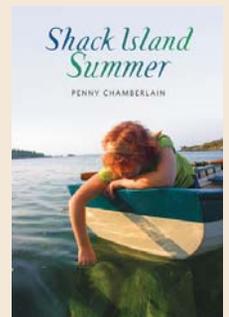
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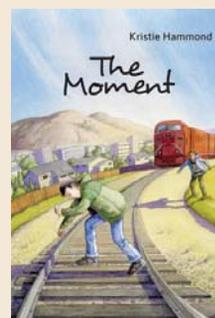
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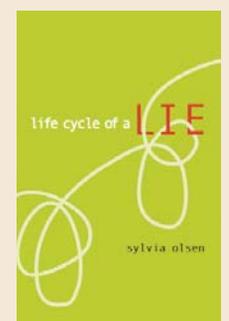
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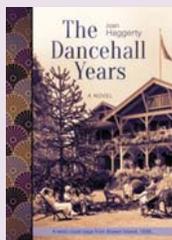
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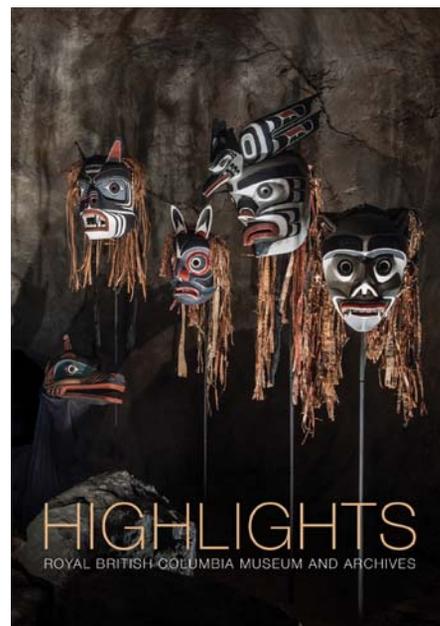
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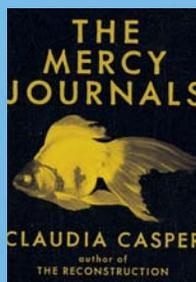
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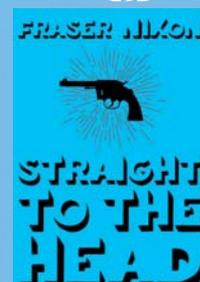


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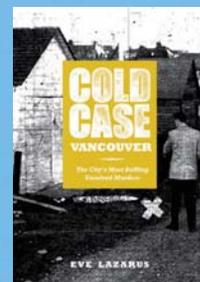


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Throw away the stones

Nasreen Pejvack's novel *Amity* (Inanna \$22.95) charts the life-altering friendship between two very different women who share their stories of wreckage caused by Yugoslavia's dissolution and Iran's revolution. The story resonates with Yugoslavian and Iranian politics and its effects on women. Payvand, an Iranian refugee and activist, still plagued with nightmares, meets Ragusa, a Yugoslavian refugee whose pockets are loaded with stones ready to walk into the water and end a life that feels intolerable since the loss of those most dear to her.



Nasreen Pejvack

Nasreen Pejvack was born in Tehran, Iran, where, pre-revolution, she worked as a writer and poet for an activist underground publication. She moved to Greece in the brutal aftermath of the 1979 revolution in Iran, and then, after nineteen months in Athens, she immigrated to Canada. Now in Vancouver, she has a degree in psychology and is aiming for a Ph.D in sociology. 978-1-77133-237-8

AUSTRALIA

Marriage Saving

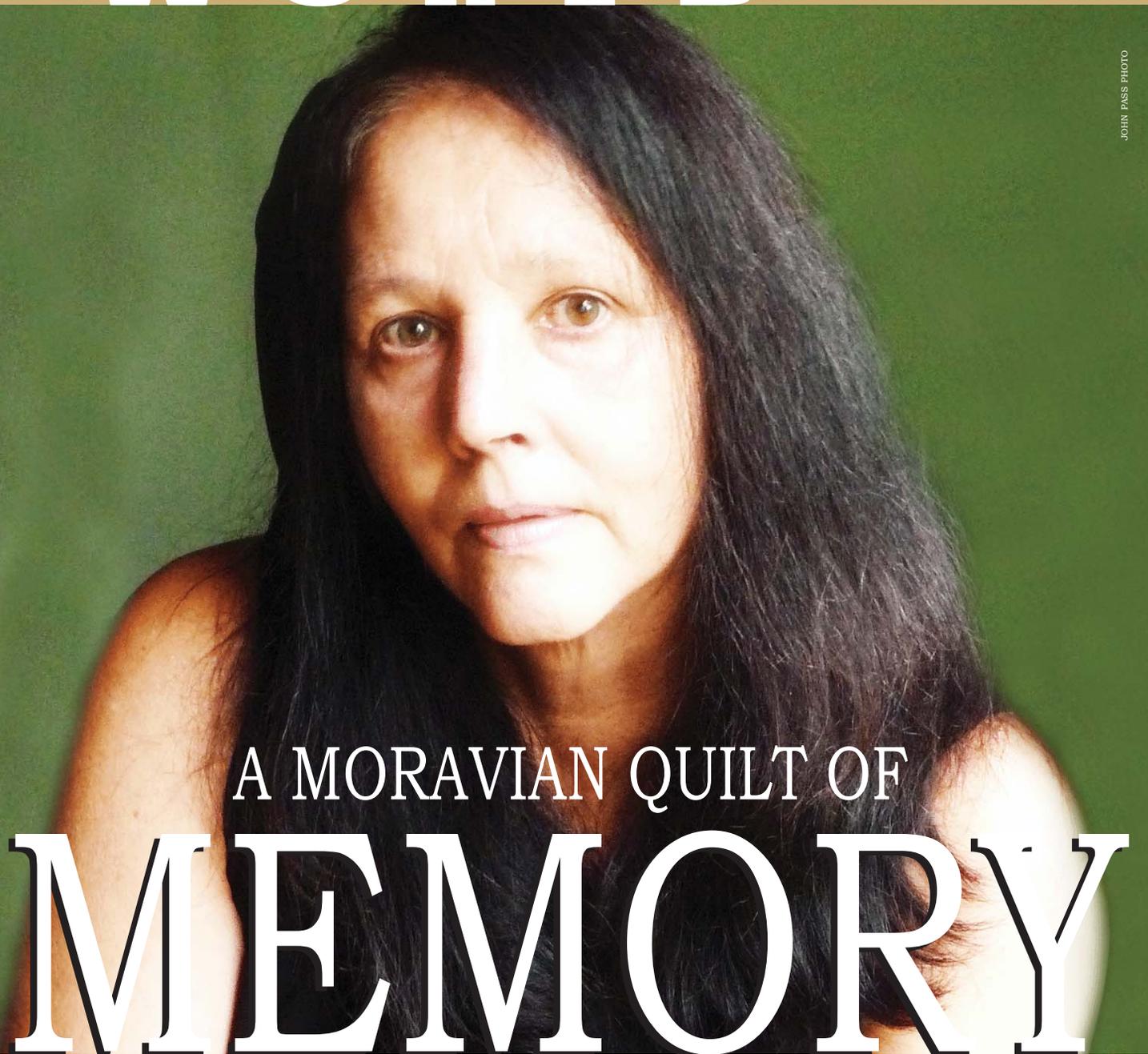
Maggie Bolitho's debut novel for adults, *Outback Promise* (HarperCollins \$3.99 Kindle), profiles an Aussie couple, the Balfours, who are trying to save their marriage after their only child was killed by a hit-and-run driver six years earlier.

Grady Balfour has been having an affair, so he and Ros agree to take a three-month camping trip into the heart of Australia to rekindle the fire or else agree to call it quits. Their chasm of grief is as formidable as the outback.

Raised on the West Coast, Bolitho of North Vancouver married an Australian and moved to Melbourne where she began writing fiction. She spent twenty years there before returning to B.C. in 2007. 9781460705667



Maggie Bolitho



JOHN PASS PHOTO

A MORAVIAN QUILT OF MEMORY

The Romani—or Roma—are not from Rome or Romania. They are nomads with no homeland of their own. Until recently they have mostly been called gypsies. They originated on the Indian subcontinent. For centuries Roma have been persecuted and hounded from place to place, mainly in Europe.

IN THERESA KISHKAN'S COMPELLING novella, *Patrin* (Mother Tongue \$17.95), a Canadian narrator named Patrin Szkandery uncovers her ancestral past via her Roma grandmother, a woman who left with her family, bound for Canada, from Moravia in Central Europe.

Sailing from Antwerp to Saint John, N.B. aboard the *Mount Temple* (the same ship that brought the author's non-fiction grandmother to Canada in the same year), Patrin's grandmother, in her late teens, fell in love with a gadzo (non Roma) man, and was cast out of her tribe for this taboo violation. Her mother gave her a quilt as a parting gift. The young couple married, settled outside Edmonton, and had one child—Patrin's father.

From her grandmother, Patrin inherits the old quilt. As Patrin restores the quilt, it begins to mean more than a warm coverlet, redolent with the smells of sheep and wood smoke, under which she slept with her widowed grandmother. The fabric tells a story.

Patches of loden and homespun cloth alternate with scraps of rich velvet, remnants from the cast-offs of a landowner with whom her great-grandfather found temporary work.

Then, her close attention to the intricate pattern of leaves brings a further revelation. They come from various trees, clearly differentiated and botanically exact. As her fingers trace the stitches around them, she learns that the quilt was fashioned as a map by its creator—her Roma great-grandmother who wept

Theresa Kishkan's novella revisits the 1970s for an ancestral quest.

when she had to leave behind the graves of her dead babies.

Behind one leaf, Patrin finds a scrap of paper bearing eight words in a language she doesn't understand.

The leaf design of the quilt is replicated in the imagery and structure of this intricately wrought novella, as well as on its book jacket.

The narrator—who was named by her grandmother—learns that Patrin not only means 'leaf' but also refers to the bundles of twigs that Roma left as signs for their fellow travelers. The leaves of the quilt become signs that guide Patrin as she travels through the region of former Czechoslovakia where her ancestors roamed before their journey to Canada. Her geographical quest is the outer manifestation of an inner journey of self-discovery.



THE NOVELLA IS MADE UP OF FIFTY-NINE FRAGMENTS, various in length, dated in the 1970s, and woven together in a non-linear pattern. They describe the episodes in Patrin's life that culminate in the discovery of her Roma family's camping grounds in the Beskydy Mountains, situated along the borders of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland.

One segment describes her solitary journey to Europe as a teenager. On a ferry bound for Crete she hears music played on an unfamiliar instrument. Drawn to the musician, she learns that he is part Roma, and that his instrument

is a zurna; the two become lovers. This affair resembles her grandmother's own intimate adventure.

Other segments take place after Patrin returns home to Victoria. While working in an antiquarian bookstore on Fort Street, she hears a poet (who can easily be viewed as the late **Robin Skelton**) read from a collection of ancient folklore. When the poet intones an ancient poem for the consecration of cloth, Patrin seems to hear a voice speaking to her across the decades. She feels a strange nostalgia for something unknown that lurks in her DNA.

Ever since her childhood, Patrin's dark skin tone, her unusual name and solitary habits have given her a sense of alienation. She is a reader and a writer—

and yet, when Patrin attends a salon in the poet's home, and a session of his creative writing class at the university, she feels little affinity with the articulate members of the creative writing class.

It is the incantatory voice of the old folklorist that guides her towards the tradition to

which she belongs. For all the temporal and geographical differences between Patrin and her forebears, the atavistic connection between them is strong. Like her Roma great-grandparents, she is a wanderer.

Mirroring the stitched framework of the quilt, Kishkan deftly weaves an account of Patrin's early years, and the life story of her grandmother, in and around Patrin's first journey to Europe, and a final one to what was once known as Czechoslovakia. The gateway to her appreciation of her racial heritage is that threadbare quilt—the legacy of her Roma grandmother—like a map with roadways to her heart.

978-1-896949-51-2



JOAN GIVNER

Novelist and critic Joan Givner reviews from Mill Bay.



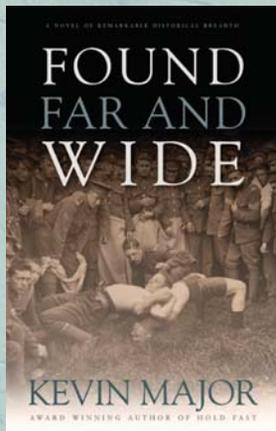
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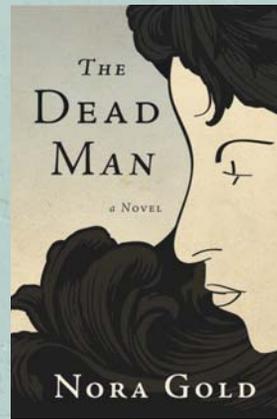
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Here, **one of Newfoundland's most celebrated authors** offers a story of the irresistible historical forces that define our lives and the compelling private power that beckons us home.

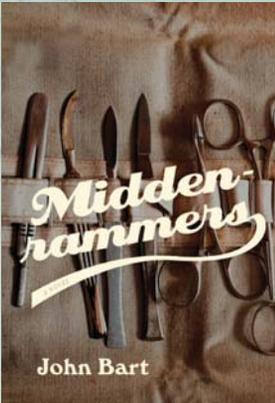


The Dead Man by Nora Gold

Inanna Publications
Fiction • Paperback • \$22.95
ISBN: 978-1-77133-261-3 • Available May 2016

She wants her heart and her music back.

Eve, a composer of sacred music and a music therapist, is well aware of the saying, "Physician, heal thyself," but she just can't seem to do it.

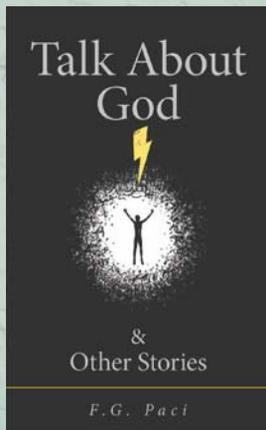


Middenrammers by John Bart

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Beware: Thinking Can Be Dangerous.

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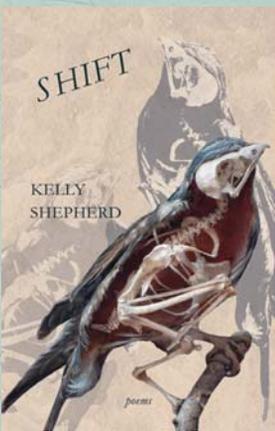


Ceremony of Touching by Karen Shklanka

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ISBN: 978-1-550506-67-9 • Available April 2016

Poems that beg us to explore our own humanity.

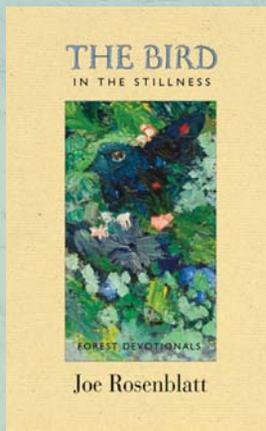
With intoxicating fervour, Karen Shklanka's new poetry collection makes its way through time and place to bring you the stories of everyday people.



Shift by Kelly Shepherd

Thistledown Press
Poetry • Paperback • \$17.95
ISBN: 978-1-771871-04-4 • Available May 2016

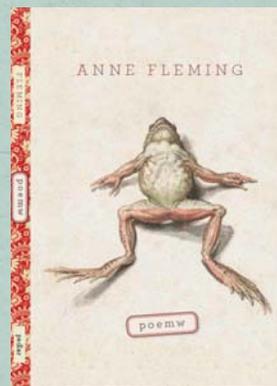
Shift rings with the energy of **ecopoetics**, where human encounters with nature become transformational, and the many meanings of the title are explored.



The Bird in the Stillness by Joe Rosenblatt

Porcupine's Quill
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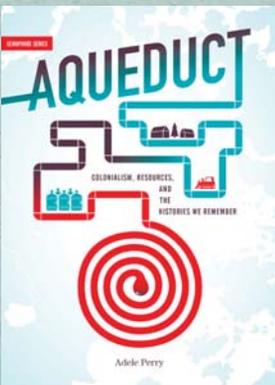
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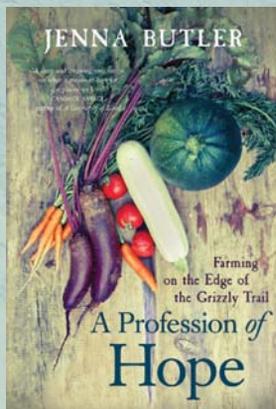
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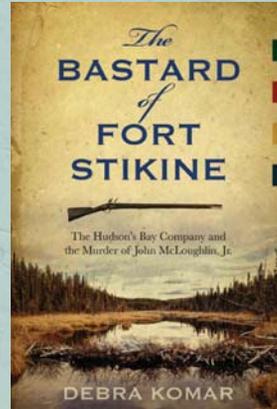
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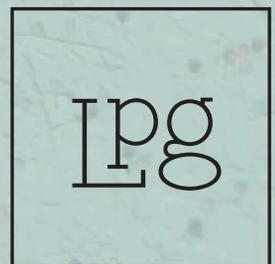
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From *Up River and For One Night Only* by Brett Josef Grubisic (Now or Never \$21.95)

BY CARELLIN BROOKS

BRETT JOSEF GRUBISIC's third novel, *From Up River and For One Night Only*, was partially inspired by his hometown of Mission in the Fraser Valley. As in his first novel, Mission is fictionalized as River Bend City.

"I have ambivalence about Mission," he says, "but I realize that I routinely return to it to gripe about it, and I thought that would be an interesting space to explore."

As a professor of English literature at UBC, Grubisic regularly teaches *Alice Munro's Lives of Girls and Women*. "That book ends with a kind of manifesto about how one should represent one's hometown," he says, "and she uses a lot of words like accuracy and so forth."

"The character who's the writer [in *Lives of Girls and Women*] rejects an early version of her novel which is filled with exaggeration and caricature. I realized the idea of how one represents one's past through fiction was something I wanted to explore."

Grubisic's first novel, *The Age of Cities* (Arsenal Pulp 2006), was partially set in River Bend City in the early 1960s, before he lived there. It tells the story of a closeted gay teacher who lives with his mother and first visits Vancouver in 1959. During his brief forays into the big city, he accidentally discovers a gay subculture. This experimental novel involves the discovery of a manuscript inside a hollowed-out home economics textbook.

Set two decades later, *From Up River* is about four teens with a dream to make it big as musicians. We follow the main character Gordyn—with his name self-respelled—as he serendipitously wanders into the Granville Street record wonderland of Phantasmorgia and looks for '45 records from

Brett Josef Grubisic returns to BowieWorld as teens dream of escape from the Fraser Valley in 1980.



ROSAMOND NOREBURY PHOTO

early punk bands like Siouxsie and the Banshees. The record employees are black-lipped and spike-haired.

That territory is familiar to Grubisic from his own teens. Typical trips to the big city were going to Eaton's and window shopping, until he discovered the music store, as Gordyn does in the novel.

"It was a whole world we never knew existed," says Grubisic. "The people in it are far more adventurous than you'd ever dream of being, but you recognize something in them. A desire to be out of the ordinary."

These days Grubisic still seeks out music from new bands such as The Knife, St. Vincent and Ladytron. "My taste in electronic has remained constant—basically synth pop, but more edgy," he

says. "Discovering something you didn't know existed, like new music, it changes you."



FROM UP RIVER HAS FOUR MAIN CHARACTERS—siblings Gordyn and Dee, and their two friends, also siblings, Jay and Em—who all must solve numerous problems to form the band of their imagination. The intrepid but not exactly talented teens must come up with songs, lyrics, musical ability, access to instruments, places to play and a name.

"There's a lot of autobiography and a lot of fiction," says Grubisic. "For example, I never played in any band, New Wave or otherwise, but there were two sets of brothers and sisters in my real life."

"The characters are several steps removed from reality. There was no drug running,

no prostitution," he says, alluding to some of the novel's more lurid and unexpectedly hilarious episodes.

Grubisic's sister, Meesha Grubisic, died unexpectedly in 2014. In the novel, Jay's sister Em also dies as an adult, leading to Jay and Dee reconnecting.

"My novel was close to being finished when my sister was hit by a car," he says. "The writing after that changed the novel into something more serious. At the time of my sister's death, I was drawn to the idea of finding a source to blame [for the tragedy]. The more I thought about Mission and my father, the more I thought that if they hadn't existed, she wouldn't have died. The rewriting started dealing with that. The novel became darker. The portrayal of Em's

father became less generous." The book's cover shows three teens of the 1980s, including a boy sporting eyeliner, shoulder pads and big hair. Originally the novel would have ended in 1981, but rewriting the story after his sister's fatal accident took the novel beyond nostalgia for an era. Grubisic's experience of cleaning out his sister's house with her friends after her death gave rise to a similar scene in the novel.

Whereas *From Up River* has reflections of the B.C. music scene, Grubisic's second novel, *This Location of Unknown Possibilities* (Now or Never, 2014) highlights the general absurdity of the movie-making process. It follows a bemused professor to the Okanagan where she has been hired to serve as a history consultant for a period film. The somewhat prim professor thinks she will be getting an important role on the set as well as an interesting story to tell about how she spent her summer. Alas, the projected film is almost immediately discarded, morphing instead into a steam-punk mash-up of the Victorian era, complete with the discovery of a crashed alien spacecraft in the desert and evil aliens for the movie's busy lady explorer and her wimpy doctor sidekick to battle.

All three novels share a satirical streak. "I can't do sustained sadness," Grubisic says. "I just don't have that quality in my own experience of life." To a suggestion that he's somewhat dour, Grubisic replies, "I'm as pessimistic as any writer, but I also have a large amount of optimism. And I think that optimism comes out in comedy."

Grubisic is now planning one more novel to be set in River Bend City, which will complete a loosely-based Mission trilogy, marking another return to a place he wanted to get away from. 978-1-988098-07-4

Carellin Brooks is a Freudian scholar, a Wreck Beach historian and a Vancouver Public Library trustee.

As the father of an autistic child, **Aaron Cully Drake** realistically explores the emotional and social realities of growing up autistic in his debut novel, *Do You Think This is Strange?*

(Brindle & Glass, \$17.95), in which the 17-year-old narrator, Freddy, doesn't get along with his father, who drinks. Freddy believes his autism is the reason his mother decided to abandon the family and disappear from his life.

"Academics call my family situation dysfunctional," Freddy writes. "I call it life." Freddy struggles socially, but excels at boxing. After he is expelled from one school for fighting, he runs into Saskia Stiles at his new school, a girl he met and befriended years ago at their childhood group therapy sessions. That was ten years ago. Saskia used to be lively; now she is subdued.

Gradually the two autistic teens renew their friendship that few adults can possibly comprehend. Saskia's mother is understandably protective of her, but Freddy prevails and asserts the dignity of their mutual understanding. When Freddy beats up his father, with surprisingly good consequences. A long-hidden family secret is ultimately unveiled, linking his family's unhappiness to the unhappiness of Saskia's family. With a greater understanding of the past, Freddy can look ahead with more hope for happiness. Aaron Cully Drake is a former reporter and editor and has written for newspapers and magazines. 978-1-927366-38-7

Autism Lit



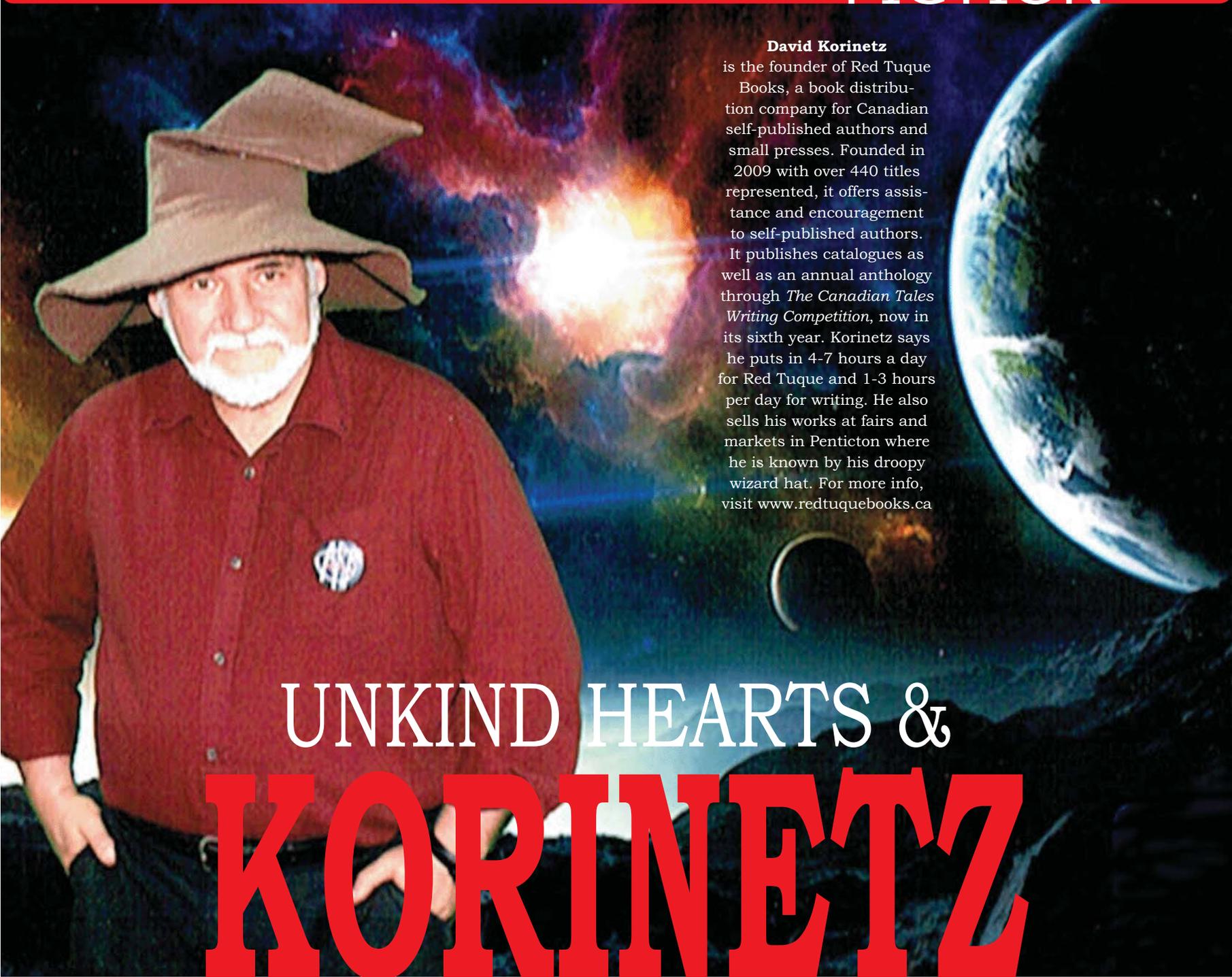
Aaron Cully Drake

Elks in the headlights

While working as a reporter for the *Terrace Standard* in Terrace, **Josh Massey** published *The Plotline Bomber of Innisfree* (BookThug \$20), a lively and delightfully brash "eco-dystopian satire" about an ex-hipster who becomes an elk farmer, only to become unwillingly involved in political turmoil and violence along the B.C./Alberta border. Trouble arises when opponents of a proposed pipeline expansion start to interfere with his privacy and business. This second novel from Massey is 'out there' both figuratively and geographically. 978-1-771661-26-3

Eight Miles high in Whistler

Grey Stevens, the protagonist of **Dietrich Kalteis'** second crime novel is contentedly growing and selling a sought-after brand of pot in Whistler dubbed 'Eight Miles High' and developing a new romance when the incursion of two rival gangs in town gives rise to a turf war that threatens his life and his love. *The Deadbeat Club* (ECW \$14.95) paints an unflattering view of the 'world class' ski resort while offering action, vengeance and dark humour. 978-1-77041-152-4



UNKIND HEARTS &

KORINETZ

David Korinetz

is the founder of Red Tuque Books, a book distribution company for Canadian self-published authors and small presses. Founded in 2009 with over 440 titles represented, it offers assistance and encouragement to self-published authors. It publishes catalogues as well as an annual anthology through *The Canadian Tales Writing Competition*, now in its sixth year. Korinetz says he puts in 4-7 hours a day for Red Tuque and 1-3 hours per day for writing. He also sells his works at fairs and markets in Penticton where he is known by his droopy wizard hat. For more info, visit www.redtuquebooks.ca

Warlock: Chronicles of the Daemon Knights by David Korinetz (Red Tuque \$16.95)

WITH FIFTEEN DIFFERENT points of view in forty-five short chapters, it's nearly impossible to render a viable synopsis of **David Korinetz's** fourth fantasy novel, **Warlock: Chronicles of the Daemon Knights** with its serpentine plot and non-stop action.

Ships are wrecked in storms, evil sea captains are plotting murder, assassins with incredible powers are lurking everywhere, armies are about to invade. There's danger around every sand dune, tree and corner.

David Korinetz says he decided on this multiple-storyline approach after reading *Game of Thrones*.

"I like to keep the story moving," Korinetz says, "and that's why I try to keep chapters to ten pages or less. **Terry Brooks** also heavily influenced me. He tends to use multiple story arcs. I like to get into the head of each character to show how they see things a little differently than everyone else."

Halflings are small human-like characters who use their fetches to travel at will. A fetch

is an apparition of a living person. A wraith, according to *The ElfKing*, is a bodiless soul that for some reason has chosen to remain in the world of the living.

A warlock, on the other hand, is a sorcerer, a necromancer and a practitioner of the dark arts. "They were vile abominations," explains the *ElfKing*, "neither dead nor truly alive, but always extremely dangerous."

Emperor Gamel is one such vile abomination. He hasn't let being dead stop him from conjuring up evil. He was close to obtaining the four elfin amulets that would have granted him unlimited power and eternal life. Except that the Daemon Knight, Sir Rodney Vincent thwarted the warlock by getting the beautiful Empress, Magdalen, who is now pregnant with his child.

If the warlock can only move into her baby's body when he or she is born, then he will have it all. While Gamel conspires to get his hands on Magdalen, having pulled himself out of the dark void and into the body of the Carpathian King, Brian, who is quite a schemer himself.

Will the wizard Aldus ever find a rare Blue Elf to help him break the spell that Gamel cast on him, the spell that has rendered the benevolent

old wizard magicless? Can his apprentice, Robin, ever learn as much as his master?

Will Shaun, the big Icarian shape shifter turned into a were-beast by the swamp witch, survive his capture by the *Herrenvolk* and his subsequent wounds while fighting as a gladiator?

Why does the Princess hate Jack so much? Once an assassin but now an ambassador, can Jack be trusted? Will the Balorian halfling, Hugh, and the Blue *ElfKing* be able to help stop the warlock?



WARLOCK SEEMS TO BE SET IN MEDIEVAL times, equivalent to 10th century Europe, but according to the author, the time "could

"Leaving multiple threads of a story open has more or less become a standard practice in the fantasy genre."



CHERIE THEISSEN

be in the distant past or in a distant apocalyptic future."

Clearly Korinetz is an incredibly imaginative writer, but how does he keep track of it all? His first novel was rewritten five times; the second and third, twice. This one was written in one go, but he says he spent more time fleshing out the outline—nearly two years.

"I typically do a 10,000 word outline," he told me. "I spend three to four months working on one for each book so I can get the plot worked out. Once that is done, I focus on individual chapters and the characters who own them. I have a character book where I keep notes about the basics and update the character when things change."

Korinetz' first three books, *FireDrakes* (2007), *Sorceress* (2009), and *Halfling* (2011), formed *The FireDrakes Trilogy*, while *Warlock* continues the *Chronicles of the Daemon Knights* as the first book in what will be *The Warlock Trilogy*.

The next book in *The Warlock Trilogy*, *Prophet*, is ready and that's a good thing; few readers will be happy about the way *Warlock* ends suddenly unless they have the next book on their radar.

"Leaving multiple threads of a story open has more or less become a standard practice in the fantasy genre," says Korinetz, "and I know this from the hundreds and hundreds of books in this style I have read over the years.

When Korinetz wrote his first book, *FireDrakes*, he did not know that he would end up with a trilogy. With *Warlock*, he did. "I know how it will all end," he says, "but I am still working on the details of how to get there. I expect to have the next book out by the end of 2017 and the third in 2019."

In addition to the map he provides at the front of the book, I'd like to see Korinetz include a character page with a short description of each because I found myself doing far too much backtracking. Even readers who have read the last series are going to need some reminding when the next trilogy comes out. If you're an impatient reader like me, it could be better to wait until all three books in this new series are finished. For that matter, starting with the *FireDrakes Trilogy* would make sense, too, although Korinetz insists that's not necessary. 978-0-9783824-3-8

Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction from Pender Island.

THE BLOOMING OF RACHEL

Rachel Rose on love, loss and addiction

Marry & Burn by Rachel Rose
(Harbour Publishing \$18.95)

RACHEL ROSE WAS APPOINTED poet laureate of Vancouver for 2014-2017 on the strength of her relatively small but distinguished output that has been accorded numerous awards and critical acclaim. Now she has received her second Pushcart Prize for a poem in her fourth collection, **Marry & Burn**. The winning poem 'White Lilies' appears in a re-titled version in *Marry & Burn* as 'Living on Islands I'.

Described as "a searing collection of poems on the subjects of love, loss and addiction," *Marry & Burn* goes beyond intimate struggles to subjects that include the unexpected heartache of losing an entire hive to the global bee epidemic and the reconciliation process to heal the wounds of racism for

Canada's First Nations constituencies. Easily one of the most important poets to emerge in B.C. in the early 21st century, Rachel Rose has also won the Pat Lowther Award and the Audre Lorde Award for her third collection, *Song & Spectacle* (2012).

Rose was also the librettist for an opera about forbidden love and fundamentalism, *When the Sun Comes Out*. It premiered in Vancouver in 2013 and was remounted in Toronto in 2014.

A dual Canadian/American citizen, Rachel Rose was born in Vancouver in 1970. She has returned to Vancouver with her family after many years in Seattle, Montreal, and Japan.

Rose's other poetry awards include the Best American Poetry 2001, A.M. Klein 2000 Award for Poetry, the 1993 Peterson Memorial Prize for Poetry, and she was a finalist for both the Gerald Lampert Award and the Grand Prix du Livre de Montreal.

978-1-55017-718-3

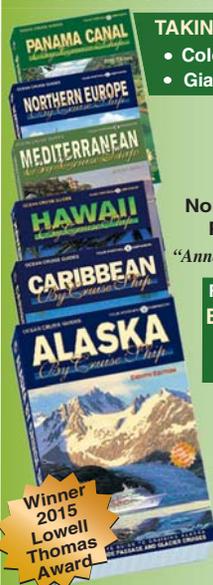
Living on Islands I

(formerly titled "White Lilies")

It is hard for the dying to leave us. We make it hard for them. So they wait for us to step outside before they cut the cord. So the baby in the cabin, lungs full of staph who had been fighting the infection for long nights and days waited until his mother went out to chop firewood before he sighed and stilled. How can I forget her running across the wet pasture with his body in her arms as though my mother were a witch who could bring back the dead? I picked the thick white lilies from our garden for his grave but was not permitted to the place where the mourners gathered. Instead I waited in the silent house, unfolded the image of his mother with her hair wild as the wind and the weight of him in her arms a stone, a feather, a sunflower as my mother rose to meet her or what I have imagined, the map of memory creased and softened like a star repeating its trajectory into the sea the girl who could never forget and the father who did not yet know coming up the gravel driveway with a shovel over his shoulder whistling, kicking the mud off his boots before he opened the door.

Rachel Rose

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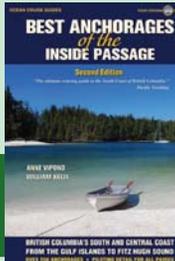
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BASEBALL AND NEW YORK: A POETIC WALK

Randall Wayne McLean

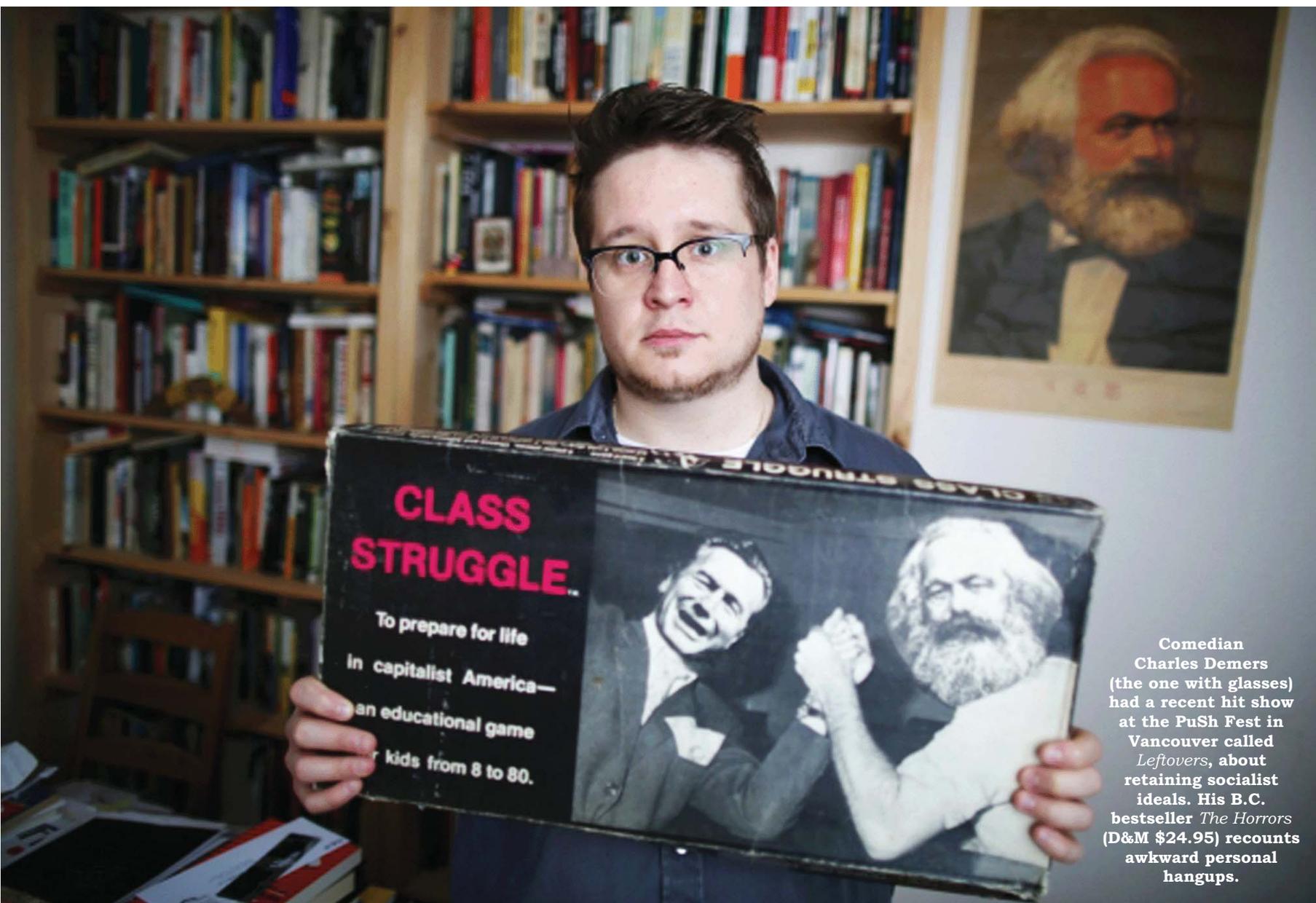
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www.baseball-sayitaintso.blogspot.ca



Comedian Charles Demers (the one with glasses) had a recent hit show at the PuSh Fest in Vancouver called *Leftovers*, about retaining socialist ideals. His B.C. bestseller *The Horrors* (D&M \$24.95) recounts awkward personal hangups.

A is for Aldridge

Jim Aldridge, QC, has represented the Nisga'a First Nation in treaty negotiations, mainly as lead counsel, since 1980, and now assists the lawsuit brought by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated against the federal Crown for breach of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. With **Terry Fenge**, Aldridge has co-edited **Keeping Promises: The Royal Proclamation of 1763, Aboriginal Rights, and Treaties of Canada** (McGill-Queens \$34.95), a collection of essays that marks the 250th anniversary of King George III's proclamation in 1763 that reserved lands west of the Appalachian Mountains for Indians and required the Crown to purchase Indian land through treaties that were to be negotiated without coercion and in public. 978-0-7735-4587-8



Jim Aldridge

Photographer and environmental engineer **Linda Bily** has teamed with mountaineer **John Baldwin**, a nature photographer with over 250 first ascents to his credit over a forty-year period, to co-author **Soul of Wilderness** (Harbour \$36.95), a collection of 166 full colour photos and essays featuring the wild beauty of western British Columbia and Alaska. 978-1-55017-735-0

B is for Bily

If it has happened before, we don't remember it. Before Christmas a book featuring poetry—by **Lorna Crozier**—reached the top of the BC Bestsellers list and it remained on or near the top for weeks. Accompanying 30 splendid nature photographs by Great Bear

C is for Crozier

Rainforest crusader **Ian McAllister**, Crozier's 30 poems garnered the number one spot for **The Wild in You: Voices from the Forest and the Sea** (Greystone \$24.95). 9781771641609

Who's Who

BRITISH COLUMBIA

D is for Demers

Move over **Bill Richardson**. Having hosted the BC Book Prizes on several occasions, **Charles Demers** has re-entered the literary world with **The Horrors: An A-to-Z of Funny Thoughts on Awful Things** (D&M \$24.95). The comedian gives new meaning to a 26-er by starting with "A" for "Adolescence", recalling his sexless teenage years in a Trotskyist sect. "B" for "Bombing" recalls the sickening sensation of knowing your comedy act stinks. And so on.

In February, to much acclaim, he premiered his one-man show at the PuSh Festival in Vancouver, *Leftovers*, about the lack of progress in the world from a socialist perspective. 978-1-77162-031-4

E is for Ellyn

Laura Ellyn, a writer and editor based in Montreal, has published a graphic novel-styled account about the life and death of Vancouver Island's most well-known labour martyr, **Ginger Goodwin: A Worker's Friend** (Between the Lines \$23.95). Her graphic history is



Laura Ellyn

F is for Frid

Addressing his three-year-old daughter **Twylla Bella**, **Alejandro Frid** of Bowen Island tells her he has "jettisoned my gigantic cynicism, at least most of it for most of the time, and focused on the positive and the doable" in order to write **A World for My Daughter: An Ecologist's Search for Optimism** (Caitlin \$24.95).

A World for My Daughter is a compendium of personal experiences as a wildlife researcher in Alaska, Chile and central B.C., as well as his involvements in environmental protests and rallies in Vancouver. An ecologist for First Nations on the west coast, Dr. Frid was born and raised in Mexico City and has lived most of his adult life in B.C. He has been arrested twice for civil disobedience against fossil fuel companies. 978-1-927575-96-3

G is for Goldberg

As education director at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, **Adara Goldberg** published her first book, **Holocaust Survivors in Canada: Exclusion, Inclusion, Transformation, 1947-1955** (U. of Manitoba Press \$24.95) to trace the influx of 35,000 Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution and their dependants who came to Canada in the decade following World War II. Goldberg examines how Canadian resettlement officials and established Jewish communities both coped with major difficulties in order to incorporate the post-genocide migrants. Her research was conducted at Holocaust survivors' kitchen tables as well as in traditional archives. 978-0-88755-776-7



Alejandro Frid crosses police line during the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline protest on Burnaby Mountain in 2014

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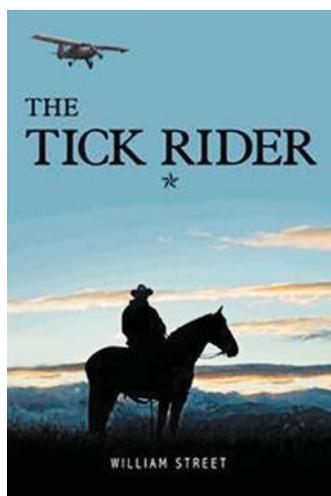
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H is for Huser

Having won a Governor General's award in 2003 is one honour; having a member of Monty Python read your books for operettas is another. For **Glen Huser's** latest picture books, his words are read by the renowned British comedy group's **Terry Jones** and recorded on CDs included in the books. Both titles retell Greek myths: **The Golden Touch** (Tradewind \$20) tackles the story of a foolish king whose lust for gold almost costs him his family and his life. Earlier *Flowers, Time for Snow* (Tradewind, 2013) recreated the legend of Demeter and Persephone and why we have different seasons each year.



Glen Huser

978-1-896580-73-9

Nile Creek Enhancement Society president in 2006, "warrior-painter" Ken Kirkby has worked to improve wildlife habitat on Vancouver Island. The acclaimed painter has now joined forces with poet **Manolis**, self-described as "the most prolific writer-poet of the Greek diaspora," for **Chthonian Bodies** (Libros Libertad \$48), expressing deeply felt appreciation of nature and landscapes.

978-1-926763-42-2



Emily Lycopoulus

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I is for Ikebuchi



Shelly D. Ikebuchi

Just as missionaries sought to shelter First Nations women and girls from prostitution, the Methodist Woman's Missionary Society in Victoria established a "Chinese Rescue Home" as a refuge for Chinese prostitutes and other "slave girls" for more than three decades.

The facility later accepted Japanese girls. **Shelly D. Ikebuchi**, department chair of sociology at Okanagan College, has examined the rescue operation that aimed to redeem the lives of more than 400 women by teaching them domestic skills in **From Slave Girls to Salvation: Gender, Race, and Victoria's Chinese Rescue Home, 1886-1923** (UBC Press \$95).

978-0774830560

L is for Lycopoulus

With more than 180 simple recipes and hundreds of variations, **Emily Lycopoulus's** first cookbook **The Olive Oil and Vinegar Lover's Cookbook** (Touchwood \$37.50) proves how versatile olive oil and vinegar can be. It includes sections on ways to experiment with marinades, salad dressings, brines and cocktails. Emily Lycopoulus is co-owner of Olive the Senses (olivethesenses.com), a luxury olive oil and vinegar tasting room and shop in Victoria that sources the finest fresh, ultra-premium olive oils and aged balsamic vinegars from all over the world.

9781771511353

M is for Maracle

Self-described as the most published First Nations woman author in the country, **Lee Maracle** has turned her oratory into essays for **Memory Serves** (NeWest Press \$24.95), edited by **Smaro Kamboureli**. "Canadians must come out of the fort," Maracle urges, "and imagine something beyond the colonial condition—beyond violence, rape and the notions of dirty people." Maracle has claimed that indigenous people do not control the intellectual maps that determine the worthiness of story.

978-926455-44-0

Lee Maracle



J is for Jantzen

Roy Jantzen's Active Vancouver (Rocky Mountain \$25) provides the lowdown on cycling, trail running, hiking, snowshoeing, paddling, walking or nature treks for everyone from beginner to intermediate skill level. Activities are listed with timing, distance, elevation and accessibility details. There are "eco-insights" for each location. A Capilano University professor, Jantzen also delivers wilderness tourism workshops for the Yukon Department of Tourism.



Roy Jantzen

9781771600798

K is for Kirkby



Ken Kirkby

Born during an air raid in London in 1940, **Ken Kirkby** was raised in Portugal and migrated to northern B.C. and the Arctic as a young man. Having taken his turn as

After All the Scissor Work is Done

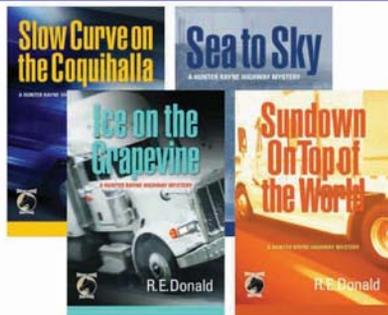
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WHO'S WHO



QAYAM JETHA PHOTO

SFU's Qayam Jetha has assessed the effectiveness of maternity allowances to assist mothers in Bangladesh.

N is for Nexus

The Pembina Institute for energy experts has predicted B.C. will fail to meet its 2020 legislative target due to its promotion of LNG plants. It's just one of a myriad of concerns raised in a remarkably concise analysis of the need to counteract climate and hydrological change, **The Climate Nexus: Water, Food, Energy and Biodiversity in a Changing World** (Rocky Mountain \$16), by **Jon O'Riordan** and **Robert William Sandford**. The former is a policy and research advisor for SFU's ACT (Adaption to Climate Change Team).

978-1-77160-142-9

O is for Oikawa

The number of Japanese Canadians incarcerated in Essondale Mental Hospital in March of 1943 was fifteen; that number increased to fifty-eight by October of 1945 due to World War II fears. The Canadian government required mandatory testing for venereal disease for each incarcerated Japanese Canadian in B.C. who was later moved out of the province to eastern provinces in the 1940s.

These are just two of the fascinating, little-known details to be found in **Cartographies of Violence: Japanese Canadian Women, Memory, and the Subjects of the Internment** (University of Toronto \$41.95) by **Mona Oikawa**, an associate professor in the Department of Equity Studies at York University. Now available in paperback, this overview features interviews about internment that Oikawa conducted with women survivors and their daughters after more than 22,000 Japanese Canadians were forced out of their homes in 1942. Over 4,000 were deported to Japan.



Mona Oikawa

978-0-8020-9601-2

P is for P.R.

As president of his own public relations company and also chair of the David Suzuki Foundation board, **James Hoggan** argues that the greatest environmental problem we face could be the "smog of adversarial rhetoric, propaganda and polarization that stifles discussion and debate." He examines how trust has been undermined and misinformation thrives in **I'm Right and You're an Idiot: The Toxic State of Public Discourse and How to Clean it Up** (New Society \$19.95). Hoggan founded the website DeSmogBlog and has written two previous books.



James Hoggan

978-0-86571-817-3

Q is for Qayam

As a Master's student in public policy at SFU, **Qayam Jetha** received a Graduate International Research Travel Award to conduct stressful but rewarding research for three months in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to evaluate a cash transfer program to benefit women.

Specifically, his research focussed upon a Maternity Allowance Program (MAP) that provides a stipend of approximately five dollars per month for a period of two years to selected poor, rural, and pregnant mothers.

The program was implemented nationally and is intended to improve maternal and infant health by enhancing nutrition, encouraging breastfeeding and increasing the use of maternity services. This work led to Jetha's **Does More Money Mean Better Health? Assessing the Maternity Allowance Program** (Dhaka, Bangladesh: Centre for Policy Research \$15). 984-70060-0008-0

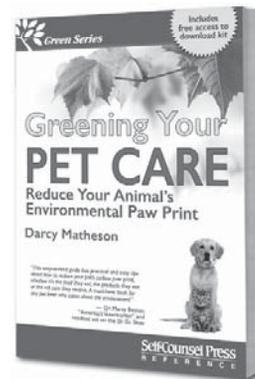
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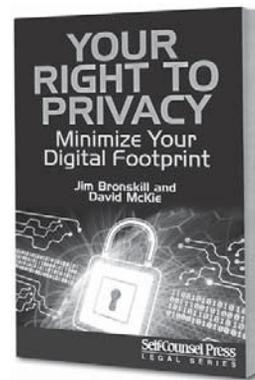


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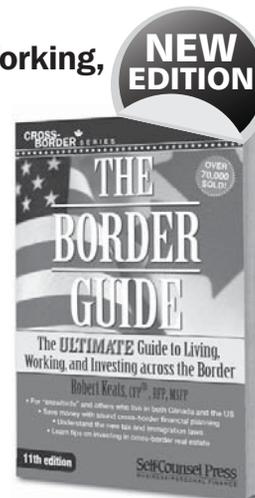


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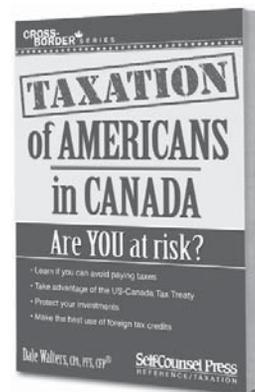


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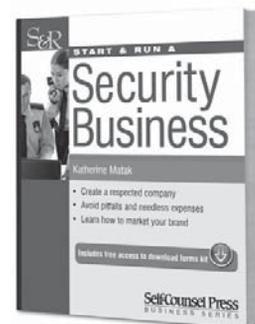


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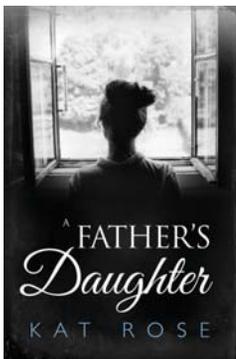
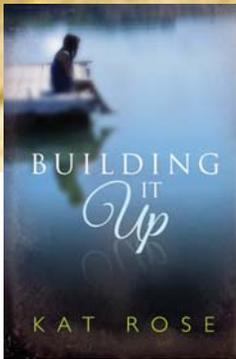
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KAT'S CATALOGUE

A self-described country girl at heart, **Kat Rose** prefers a non-urban lifestyle that includes her dog and her horse, baking and reading. She took creative writing at university and now makes her living in the health care field. Her novels stress the importance of hard work and perseverance. In **The Loss**, a 25-year-old dreamer, Ryleigh Carter, struggles to maintain a positive attitude after the break-up of a romance. **Building It Up** recounts how two friends, Jensen Owens and Autumn Miller, must learn to cope in the aftermath of a tragedy. **A Father's Daughter** describes the protagonist's dutiful need to help her younger sister who is forced to live with their estranged father Jack.

The Loss (Createspace / Red Tuque 2015)

978-1515174868 \$13.99, 251 pages, 6x9

Building It Up (Createspace / Red Tuque 2015)

978-1517061401 \$12.99, 219 pages, 6x9

A Father's Daughter (Createspace / Red Tuque 2016)

<http://kat-rose-c1r1.squarespace.com/artists>

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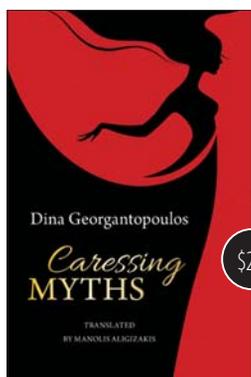
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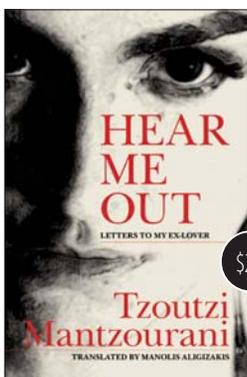


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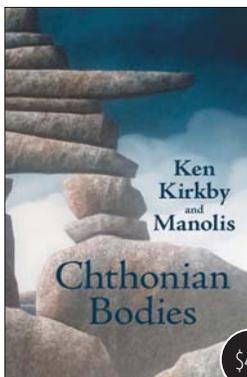


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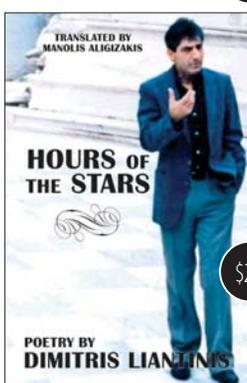


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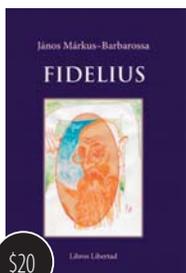


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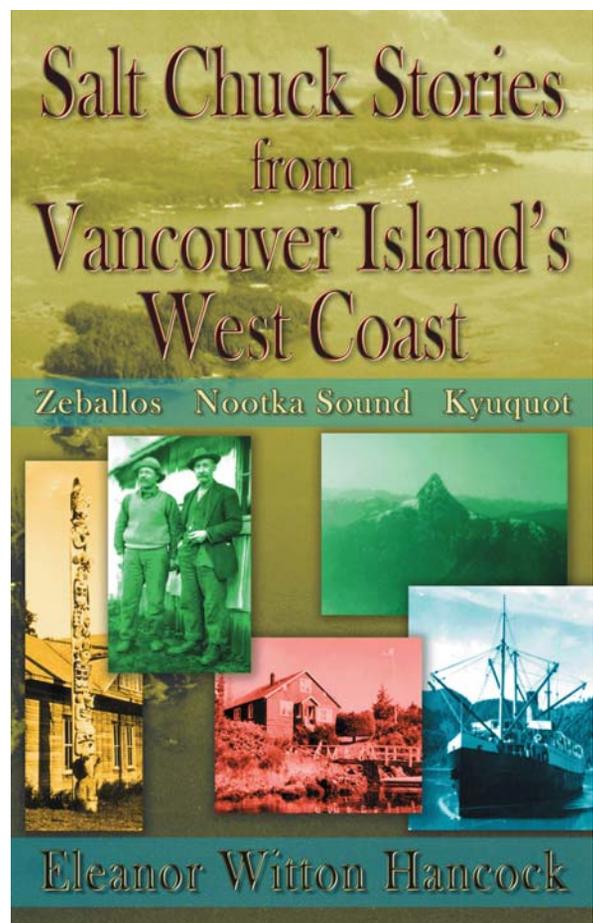
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R is for Richards

Linda L. Richards is the new publisher and senior editor at Self-Counsel Press, replacing **Kirk LaPointe** who has moved on to a gig with *Business in Vancouver* after losing his bid to become mayor of Vancouver. A mystery/crime novelist, Richards is the publisher and founding editor of the on-line *January Magazine*. Richards' 14 books of both fiction and non-fiction include *The Canadian Business Guide to Using the Internet*, published by Self-Counsel in 1995. Her second *Rapid Reads* novel is **When Blood Lies: A Nicole Charles Mystery** (Orca \$9.95). 9781459808379

S is for Shepherd

Kelly Shepherd wrote five poetry chapbooks prior to **Shift** (Thistledown \$17.95), a collection of poems about human relationships with the natural world—ecopoetics—including connection, alienation, and the intersection of ecology and industry. The poems also reflect the many meanings of the title including a shift in point of view, physically moving, and transformation. Shepherd is from Smithers and he currently teaches in Edmonton, Alberta. His writing has been published in *The Goose*, *Geist*, and *The Coastal Spectator*. 978-1-77187-104-4

T is for Turner



With more than 600 photos, **Robert D. Turner's *The Klondike Gold Rush Steamers: A History of Yukon River Steam*** (Sono Nis \$49.95) must surely rank as one of the most comprehensive

studies of the remarkable Yukon River vessels and their vital services, as well as those who built and ran them. After 19 books, Turner understands the importance of B.C. and Yukon history to the general public and it's a catalyst for his work. "I've met so many people whose parents or grandparents featured in my books," he says.

978-1-55039-242-5

U is for Undetectable

For forty years **Kim Goldberg** never told anyone she had Hepatitis C. She railed against doctors and Big Pharma. Then she was completely cured, at no cost, during clinical trials conducted for a drug called Harvoni, developed by Gilead Sciences Inc., with a wholesale price of \$1,125 per pill. We learn from her memoir **Undetectable** (Pig Squash Press \$19) that approximately 250,000 people live with chronic Hepatitis C in Canada, often furtively. "The way to end the stigma is to normalize discussion about Hepatitis C," she says, "the same way we openly discuss cancer or diabetes."

Kim Goldberg's account of her healing uses the Japanese literary style called haibun—a travel diary paired with haiku—after she was inspired by reading **Matsuo Basho's *Narrow Road to the Interior***. 978-0-9949868-0-1



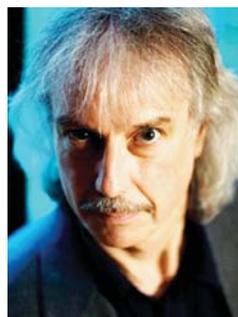
Rick Antonson, Mary Trainer and Brian Antonson, co-authors of *Whistle Posts West: Railway Tales from British Columbia, Alberta, and Yukon* (Heritage \$18.95).



Kelly Shepherd



Kim Goldberg



Ian Weir



Linda L. Richards' *When Blood Lies* (Orca \$9.95) is the second novel in a series of mysteries featuring rookie reporter Nicole Charles.

V is for Vici



Vici Johnstone

Edited by the publisher, **Vici Johnstone, *This Place a Stranger: Canadian Women Travelling Alone*** (Caitlin \$24.95) is about 23 women traveling alone—and writing about it. Women have been traveling alone for more than a century but the dangers remain much the same. Contributors are Yvonne Blomer, Nadine Pedersen, Catherine Owen, Kami Kanetsuka, Yamuna Flaherty, Lori Garrison, Karen J Lee, Miriam Matejova, Desiree Jung, Waaseyaa'sin Christine Sy, Shannon Webb-Campbell, Kim Melton, Sarah Paynter, Nancy Pincombe,

Julia Selinger, Jane Eaton Hamilton, Elizabeth Haynes, Ann Cavlovic, Moni Brar, Trysh Ashby-Rolls, Joei Carlton Hossack, Kelly Pitman, Julie Paul, and Vici Johnstone. 978-1-927575-73-4

W is for Weir

Set in London in 1816, **Ian Weir's** second novel, **Will Starling** (Goose Lane \$29.95), was one of ten Canadian-authored books longlisted for the 2016 Dublin International Literary Award. The charming protagonist has spent five years assisting a military surgeon during the Napoleonic Wars. At age nineteen, the foundling and would-be surgeon Will Starling returns to London to help his mentor start a medical practice in the rough Cripplegate area. It's an era when surgeons and anatomists rely on body snatchers to obtain human cadavers. When a grave robbery

goes awry, brash Will is led to suspect that London's foremost surgeon, Diosys Atherton, could be conducting scientific experiments on the living.

9780864926470

X marks the spot



Sandra Singh

Ten new literary signposts are being erected in Vancouver this spring in conjunction with Vancouver Public Library's partnership with *BC BookWorld* to popularize B.C. literary history. The honourees are **Emily Carr, Michael Turner, Stan Persky, Margaret Laurence, Major J.S. Mathews, Mona Fertig, Chuck Davis, Gary Geddes and Alice Munro**. This civic campaign has been led by VPL director **Sandra Singh**: pwp.vpl.ca/literarylandmarks

On the new Literary Map of B.C., **Emily Carr** (Victoria) and **Alice Munro** (West Vancouver) have been sited with non-Vancouver locations: www.literarymapofbc.ca

Y is for Yukon

Having teamed up for *Slumach's Gold: In Search of a Legend*, **Rick Antonson, Brian Antonson and Mary Trainer** have reunited for **Whistle Posts West: Railway Tales from British Columbia, Alberta, and Yukon** (Heritage \$18.95), a collection of train stories that include the "last spike" at Craigellachie in 1885, the devastating collision at Hinton, Alberta in 1986, and tales of robberies, bridge disasters, humour and high jinx, as well as **Robert Service's** 1904 journey to the Klondike aboard the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad.

Rick Antonson's upcoming **Full Moon Over Noah's Ark: An Odyssey to Mount Ararat** (Skyhouse \$24.99) tells the tale of his time as part of a five-member expedition to the 5,167-metre summit of Mount Ararat, camping alongside Armenians for whom Ararat is their stolen signature of nationhood. Antonson also traces the history of the earliest mountaineers seeking to scale Ararat, initially drawn by eyewitness accounts of "Ark" sightings.

Whistle Posts West: 978-1-77203-043-3

Full Moon: 9781510705654

Z is for Zeballos



Eleanor Hancock

Zeballos is home to Canada's last significant gold rush. Having produced her *Salt Chuck Stories from Vancouver Island's West Coast* (Sandhill \$17.95), pioneer **Eleanor Witton Hancock**, who grew up in Zeballos from age three, has combed through Vancouver and Victoria newspapers, conducted 180 interviews in the early 1980s and gathered photos and documents for her forthcoming study, **Hardly the Klondike: The 1938 Zeballos Gold Boom**. If you have original info and photos pertaining to the Zeballos gold rush, contact: eahancock@shaw.ca



Ron Sakolsky and Sheila Nopper.

Wake up and smell the anarchy

Ron Sakolsky of Denman Island recalls how saving a life in the New York subway saved his own soul and stirred his adherence to Kropotkin's credo of mutual aid.

SOME PEOPLE PREFER TO read newspapers and magazines from back to front. They would be ideal readers for **Ron Sakolsky's** awkwardly brilliant **Breaking Loose: Mutual Acquiescence or Mutual Aid?** (Little Black Cart Books \$8).

At the tail end of Sakolsky's erudite but dense meditations, the Denman Island anarchist describes an event that occurred in the New York subway in 2012 that set him thinking about where we are headed as a species.

"A man ended up on the tracks in the path of an oncoming train. Bystanders on the platform, instead of acting to rescue him, whipped out their smart-phones and cameras to record the event for their Facebook pages."

With his inveterate knack for preferring overlong sentences that sometimes blur his content, the New York-born Sakolsky posits, "The disposable digital camera posts that have increasingly replaced real-time relationships based upon mutual aid with a superficial Facebook connectedness have caused in-depth cooperative interactions to suffer a profound loss."

The key words in that paragraph are mutual aid, arising from **Peter Kropotkin's** 1902 book in response to social Darwinism (ie. Dog-eat-dog capitalism), *Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution*. It inspired the likes of Kropotkin biographer **George Woodcock** to write his definitive work, *Anarchism*, to explain why anarchist philosophy has precious little to do with bomb throwing and more to do with interpersonal responsibility.

Still with us? The 2012 subway incident reminded Sakolsky of an incident when he was on his way to Brooklyn. It was 3 a.m. on a weekday morning. The lower Manhattan platform was empty.

"Looking across the lines of tracks while waiting for my train," he writes, "I saw an apparently drunken man, who had been tottering along on the farthest platform, inadvertently stumble onto tracks below.

"Without a moment's hesitation, I was in motion, running up and down stairways at full speed to get to the spot where he had fallen."

He could hear the sound of a train coming. He reached down to grab the man's upturned hand, pulling him onto the platform just before the train swept into the station.

"Aware that I had saved him from certain death, he kissed my hand with tears of gratitude rolling down his cheeks.

"Sitting him down safely on a nearby bench, I returned to my own platform to catch a train back home. At the time, I distinctly remember feeling wide-awake and brilliantly alive, whereas previous to my encounter with him, I had been sleepy and somewhat despondent."

Now here comes the good bit.

"In a certain sense, it was he who had saved me. I had been rescued from the despair of an atomized existence. The natural human capacity for mutual aid had kicked in, and I had taken direct action.

"It was not an act of heroism on my part, but an inherent act of human solidarity."

Lots of people commit suicide in New York City by imitating Anna Karenina, by jumping in front of a train. Sakolsky had assumed the man was ill or drunk. Only when the man raised his hand towards him did it become clear

to him that this man was not intending to commit suicide, that he had fallen and wanted to be saved.

It was a moment of spiritual rebirth, one that has served Sakolsky as a source of reverie ever since he literally lent a helping hand. He had peered down onto the tracks, "expecting to see the face of a stranger, but instead saw myself looking back up at me."

The goal of *Breaking Loose: Mutual Acquiescence or Mutual Aid?* is to expand upon ideas Sakolsky first broached in an article for *Green Anarchy* magazine in 2006 called 'Why Misery Loves Company.' That piece gave rise to his term 'mutual acquiescence.'

Sakolsky refined his thoughts for a 2011 conference, but he was uncomfortable with the notion that his thoughts might languish in what he calls 'the academic ghetto.' He consequently re-jigged the piece as 'Mutual Acquiescence or Mutual Aid' for the inaugural issue of *Modern Slavery*.

"I did not create the term mutual acquiescence as part of a doom and gloom scenario of despair," he writes, "in which misery rules our lives, but as a way of understanding why and how people become immersed in the dead end of believing that misery is the only reality."

Sakolsky is a sincere intellectual who writes with a passion to uplift;

not destroy. His inspirational rhetoric emphasizes the value of pushing the envelope. He cites examples of modern activists who are doing so, such as the Zapatistas in Mexico or a hodge-podge of protesters in the French countryside called Zone to Defend who have established an encampment at the site of a proposed second airport for the nearby city of Nantes to be built by the Vinci corporation.

Closer to home, he praises the bravado of indigenous resistance from the First Nations Unist'ot'en clan "in response to the voracious appetite of the colonial megamachine." You don't have to agree with his politics to enjoy some of the high octane ingenuity of his prose.

"Though the terrain of battle is localized, these struggles exude a 'war of the worlds' ethos," he writes, "that counters the perpetual crisis management/state of emergency/anti-terrorist/counter-insurgency initiatives of governmental control in a google-eyed cybernetic age of endless apocalypse and perpetual surveillance with a land-based corporeal presence that is rooted in the visceral art of nurturing revolutionary becomings."

Okay, don't expect to see Ron Sakolsky invited to speak at any government-sponsored writers festivals. He seeks to wake us up, to inspire acts

of revolt, to rage against the machine. It's not an act. It's a challenge to act.

"Whether we are locked securely in the gilded cages of consumerism, or are bouncing around contentedly in a technological bubble of recuperation; we are increasingly rendered inert... If we rebel, we often place reformist limits on our rebellion in the name of realism instead of inspiring each other to pursue our dreams of breaking loose.

"Whether we cast off the chains of mutual acquiescence among friends and accomplices or in larger rebel groupings, breaking loose and mutual aid tend to go hand in hand.

"Relations of mutual aid can reinforce our individual refusals, and together we can create unmapped zones of inspiration where we are encouraged to keep the wrecking ball of resistance rolling merrily along in the direction of creating anarchy.

"Rather than playing the mobilizing game of waiting for technological innovation to save us or expecting a revolutionary messiah to come forth who will lead the faithful to a heaven on earth, inspirational acts of revolt can sustain us in the upheaval of the here and now and spur us on to future revolutionary endeavours."

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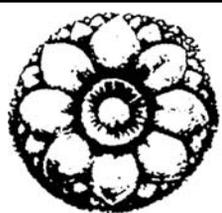
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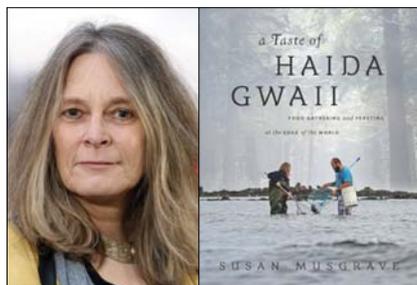
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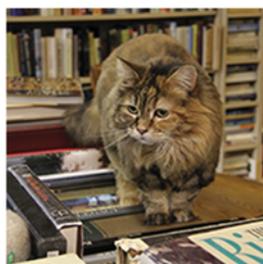
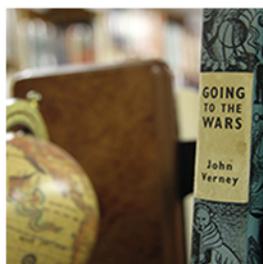
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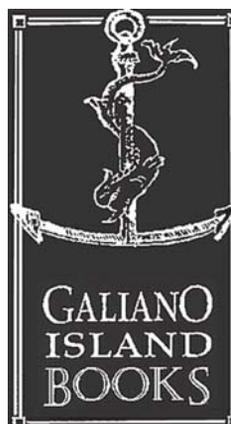
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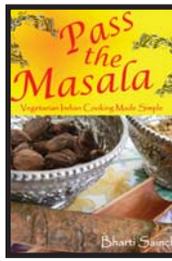
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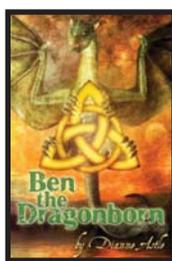
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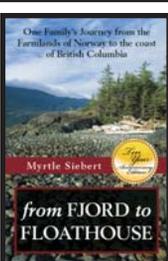
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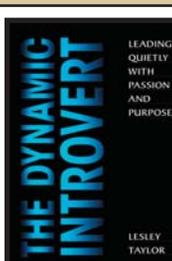
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Mark Winston: To bee or not to bee; there is no question.

BEE TIME: LESSONS FROM THE **Hive** (Harvard University Press) by SFU's **Mark Winston** has won the Governor General's Non-Fiction Award and the Canadian Science Writers Book of the Year Award. "Honeybees are hurting," he says, "with one-third of all colonies dying annually across most of the world."

★
The number of bookstores in the U.S. grew last year as e-book hype has abated and sales of e-readers have plummeted. **Kolin Lymworth's** Banyen Books operation in Kitsilano turned 45 in December. Also thriving, Vancouver Kidsbooks is relocating a few blocks east on West Broadway in Kits.



Kolin Lymworth

★
The courageous book by **Joan McEwen** about the plight of **Ivan Henry**, *Innocence on Trial: The Framing of Ivan Henry* (Heritage House), has been fundamental in Henry's ability to sue prosecutors for breaching his charter rights. After 27 years in jail for sexual assault charges, Henry settled a wrongful conviction lawsuit with the City of Vancouver in November. The province and federal government have yet to settle.



Joan McEwen

★
Nightwood Editions' publisher **Silas White**, who doubles as a town councillor on the Sunshine Coast, has been instrumental in a decision for Sechelt to name one of its streets after poet **Peter Trower**, now a resident of Inglewood Care Centre in West Vancouver.

★
Novelist **Steven Galloway** was suspended from his activities as the head of the UBC Creative Writing due to unspecified allegations that the university has described as "serious." He also relinquished his role as a judge for a prominent Ontario-based book award.

★

Kathy Drover sold her Reading Room Bookstore in Sooke (population less than 10,000) to **Malinda Riffle**. It was opened in 2003, adding a café in 2007. After nine years, **Pirkko Anderson** reports that he's closing Coho Books in Campbell River; after ten years in Powell River, **Sean Dees** is pulling the plug on Breakwater Books. Temporar-

ily closed are K & K Books in Vernon, due to a fire next door, and Vancouver Co-Op Bookstore, due to a fire upstairs. After six years in business, **Judy Zubriski** has temporarily closed Hooked on Books in Penticton due to smoke damage from a restaurant fire next door. Zubriski is awaiting insurance and repair estimates, hoping to re-open.

★
As if she doesn't have enough on her plate... SFU Chancellor **Anne Giardini** has co-edited her third book, **Startle and Illuminate: Carol Shields on Writing** (HarperCollins \$29.95), a collection of literary advice and opinions drawn from her mother's correspondence with other

writers, essays, notes, comments, criticism and lectures. Giardini has co-edited *Startle and Illuminate* with her son, **Nicholas Giardini**, one of **Carol Shields'** twelve grandchildren.

Collected by Hugh Henderson.

CORRECTION

It has been brought to our attention that our review of **To The Lighthouse** (Heritage, 2015) by **Peter Johnson** and **John Walls** repeats an error that appears in the book. The authors of that book report that **Tony Greenall** was the lightkeeper who saved nine people off Entrance Island. **Glenn Borgens** and **Jake Etkorn** were the actual lightkeeper heroes. Tony Greenall was on leave at the time of this well-documented incident.

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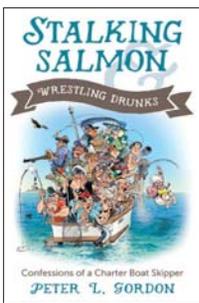
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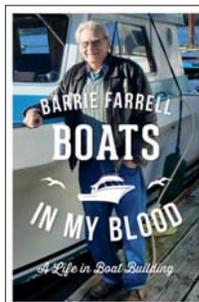
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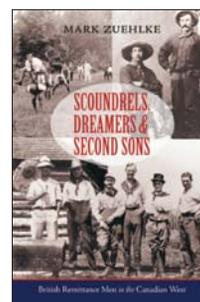
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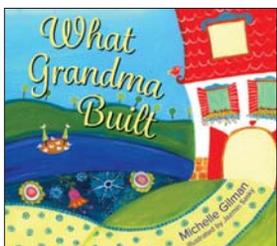
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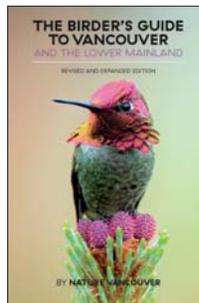


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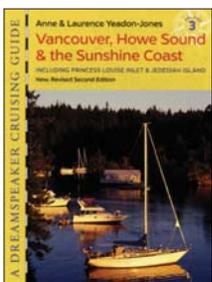
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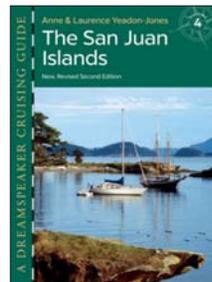
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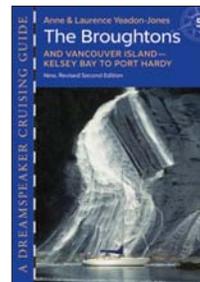
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