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Let's put ourselves on the map
You can now get lost and found with our new Literary Map of B.C.

**LITERARY LANDMARK**

**Gabriola Island**

**LITERARY LANDMARK**

**UNDER THE VOLCANO**

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, William Shakespeare, and Virginia Woolf. In New York, you can visit the statue of José Narváez (1768–1840) on Centre Street. If you go to London, you can visit shrines for Charles Dickens, William Shakespeare, and Virginia Woolf. In New York, you can visit the statue of José Narváez, and in San Francisco, Russia has its Tolstoy’s home at Yasnaya Polyana. Dubil has James Joyce, Oscar Wilde... Copenhagen has its James Joyce statue in Dublin.

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, Juan Lowry, 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 of the new Literary Map of B.C. Charlotte Cameron (above) became fascinated with Lowry’s visit, resulting in her play, October Ferry 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.
TIME TO SPRING FOR A FEW BOOKS

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Carol Pearson
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4 BC BOOKWORLD SPRING 2016
The average lifespan of a house in Vancouver is becoming less than a human lifespan. Spearheaded by Caroline Adderson, *Vancouver Vanishes: Narratives of Demolition & 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 houses 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 suburbanism is tantamount to a loss of shared narratives. Even if that perspective seems a tad airy-fairy to you—hey, don’t these new mega-houses, often owned by folks from afar, constitute 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* 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 exasperating Eve Lazarus who concludes, “not without a whiff of anger: “Leg House, an Arts and Crafts house built in 1899, managed to hang on all the way until 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 engraved. Developer Steve Holroyd opted the word development. We must become world class. Give us thy $8 loaf of bread of who cares? We need to preserve our heritage, over-priced Ca-nucks 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 *Vancouver Revanched* which he later revised and re-titled *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.**

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BlackfishSound, with its year-round population of ten,
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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 seaskiff 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. Maximchuk’s own memoir, Drunk on 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.
Deanna Kawatski's most recent book was Big trees saved and other feats (Bhuswap Press, 2014)

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

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

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."

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALAN TWIGG for the article in the winter issue of BCBookLook. I'm agog. I WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY YOUR review of Agog, by Deanna Kawatski. I'm happy to have your attention.

I JUST WANT TO EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS to Alan Twigg for being awarded the Lenz Literary Award. I was pleased to see it go to someone who is so well-deserved and who has done so much 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

LITERARY LANDMARK:
'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 indigeneous 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

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**Cold Case Vancouver: The City’s Most Baffling Unsolved Murders by Eve Lazarus**

**Arsenal Pulp Press $21.95**

**The Good News—** if there can be any good news in a book about unsolved murders—is that the homicide rate is falling in Canada. These days murder accounts for 0.1 percent of all police-reported violent crime.

Vancouver is safer than ever, with one of the lowest murder rates in North America. Whereas in 1962, Vancouver had eighteen murders with a population of less than 400,000, by 2013, the city’s population had more than doubled and yet there were only six murders.

That disparity can be partially explained by demography. The percentage of the population comprised of men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five—the demographic that commits seventy-five percent of homicides in most countries—has dropped considerably since the 1970s. The Vancouver Police Department has 337 unsolved murders on its books dating back to 1970. Police will not comment about these crimes on the record, but Eve Lazarus has examined twenty-four of the city’s most puzzling unsolved murders between 1944 and 1996 for *Cold Case 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 slain around the time seven-year-old Roddy Moore was inexplicably beaten to death in the hole of the UBC golf course.

There are more than twenty-five other cases that Lazarus includes in her book:

- The brutal killing of North Vancouver Parks Board worker in 1953 ‘Babes in the Woods’ story.
- The case of the “homosexual panic defence” by a gay person that extreme retaliation could be deemed acceptable by the court.
- The case of 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 SPU’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 End newsletter 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 compiled 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 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.’”

*WE DON’T CATCH THE SMART ONES.*

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

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**Staff Pick**

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.
The First B.C. ranches appeared during the gold rush eras 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 natives 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 artillery: 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 landuse 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.

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.

Reseeded wheatgrass on a protected area.

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Former CBC Radio host Mark Forsythe has contributed to these pages for fifteen years.
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, in all 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. The story unfolds in an intricate lacework of precise detail. … These characters feel less like fictional trademarks——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.

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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 expose 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 transformation 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 good looks like a joke."

Among individuals that Deneault cites as tax ‘abiding’ is 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 outlaw’s 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 in a tax haven.

Continued on page 17
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stay connected
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 Skríðuklaustur 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 Skríðuklaustur, writing about the modern Icelandic sagas of Gunnar Gunnarsson. Klaustrð (the Monastery) is a residence managed by The Institute of Gunnar Gunnarsson. It is situated at Skríðuklaustur Culture Center in North East Iceland in Gunnarson’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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Warming to ICELAND

Banking Baby Doc continued from page 15

Banking Baby Doc

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 François "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 privyten 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 money-changers, 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. “To-day,” 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 indigent [Steven Harper] government has created for the benefit of the powerful.”

Beverly Cramp is a Vancouver writer

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17 BC BOOKWORLD SPRING 2016

Novelist Gunnar Gunnarsson (1889–1975) and Harold Rhenisch.
John Graham never would have dreamed that his apprenticeship within the Canadian foreign service would have him stationed in Cuba spying for the CIA on Soviet military operations. Subsequent assignments proved to be as unexpectedly and bizarrely entertaining.

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 remarkable life, a set for yourself and one for your local library.

Belly Full of Rocks
Tyler B. Perry
978-0-88982-296-6
Poetry - 96 pages
Paperback - $9.95
Belly Full of Rocks, Tyler B. Perry's second book of poetry, delves deep into the psyches of Red Riding Hood, the Wolf, the Huntsman, Mama Bear, and other fairy tale characters as they struggle to piece together their broken lives.
Wainman’s Behind-the-Scenes Photos of Republican soldiers and civilians were finally found and 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 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.
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S
ince 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
Facing with their own dire economic crisis, Greeks in Athens have looked askance at protesting migrants.

Harvey returned to Greece in 2014 and visited a refugee detention centre. Anthorning, 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 before he was involved in a protest over the living conditions. The family had allegedly requested medical treatment. It had been denied. Harvey didn’t know the man. But she wasn’t able to get out of his mind. She died making her questions about his own death.

Next she visited the Asylum Service of the Ministry of Public Order and Police Protection in Athens and attended the registration process of asylum seekers. In all seemed逻 reasonable. Then she talked to an Albanian boy who spoke English. He had been already 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 would let him stay. He faced becoming very serious. It upset her that a little boy had to worry about such things.

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

Lazenby of old organization Children’s Ark, was Harvey’s guide to the Roma settlement just outside of the port city of Corinth where a paved road narrowed. She went way beyond, then a desolate olive grove strewn with garbage. Maria said the farm had likely been abandoned. When the farm was sold, they likely cleared the trees, some of which were of over 200 years, to keep wood. There wasn’t any camp through the open gate.

There were all sorts of houses, from shacks to brand new houses. Harvey had seen new houses in other Roma camps. Maria said that the doorkickers in the camp likely owned them. This tidbit would give her more to explore in her novel, connecting two characters from her story. This research was extensive to which both new migrants in Europe and the traditional Roma—the Rom—are frequently victims of ignorance. This research was all grit for her novel, mostly set in the Athenian neighborhood of Ta Prosfigika.

It became increasingly clear to Harvey the extent to which both new migrants in Europe and the traditional Roma—the Rom—are frequently victims of ignorance. This research was all grit for her novel, mostly set in the Athenian neighborhood of Ta Prosfigika.

As Greek police apprehend a Roma from Ukraine who has been cited by the European Commission as an immigrant from Egypt, where 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 was Harvey’s inspiration as Gabriel Ferrante and Albert gain the trust of the little girl.

With family photos and an author’s historical notes, A Year of Borrowed Men is more than a gripping story of a family farm during World War II in Pomerania as an immigrant from Egypt, where 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 was Harvey’s inspiration as Gabriel Ferrante and Albert gain the trust of the little girl.

Harvey’s Ark dances were primarily Swedish. “The general society ostracizes the Roma,” Maria said. “So stick to their own, living apart from the rest of the general Greek community.”

It became increasingly clear to Harvey the extent to which both new migrants in Europe and the traditional Roma—the Rom—are frequently victims of ignorance. This research was all grit for her novel, mostly set in the Athenian neighborhood of Ta Prosfigika.

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“This is extraordinary and, often unexpectedly, beautiful reading.”
NOAH RICHLER, author of This Is My Country, What’s Yours? A Literary Atlas of Canada

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

This story of how Pizarro, with only a few hundred ragged and smelly men, is able to capture the Inca emperor, Atawallpa (Atahuallpa) 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 any writer to historical truth.

Waman Puma is a product of meticulous research. The architecture of Machu Picchu—the indigenous writer—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.”

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 disloyal partner in crime, as well as betrayers, 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 Mayas (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.
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).

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

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 Màiri 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. 978-1-83565-44-8
World

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

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-Dosahuli 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-Islamist 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 Akenhead Courage Award 2014, The Geneva Summit Courage Award and The Honour Of The City of Strasbourg.

According to Salman Rushdie, “Raif Badawi 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 of his imprisonment. But he must also be read, so that we understand the struggle within Islam between suf- focating orthodoxy and free expression and make sure we find ourselves on the right side of that struggle.”

Knitting Stories

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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 Confu- cian and contemporary societies to love “fuzzily 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 centuries later has a passionate affair with a household servant and almost gets away with it; and a modern man- ager 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 radio producer and as a researcher for the Women’s Publishing House in Hanoi, having previously worked as a CBC radio producer and as a researcher for TIME Canada.

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The Roman—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.

Theresa Kishkan’s novel revisits the 1970s for an ancestral quest.

When she had to leave behind the graves of her dead babies. Behind one door, 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 campgrounds 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.
Beware: Thinking Can Be Dangerous. From a boot camp for readers to Rousseau’s children, this collection features an eclectic variety of stories that are at once thought-provoking and whimsical. 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.

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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.

**Poemw** by Anne Fleming
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In poemw, the third finger of the left hand hits ‘w’ and makes up a new kind of poem. Poemw are jokes-and-not-jokes, cheeky, goofy. Tender.

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

BY CARELLIN BROOKS

BRETT JOSEF GRUBISIC’s third novel, From Up River and For One Night Only, was partially inspired by his home-town 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 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 (Artsenal 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 River Bend City was “a shadow of the discovery of a manuscript inside a hollowed-out home economics textbook”.

A few years later, From Up River is about four teens with a dream to make it big as musicians. We follow the main character Gordyn—whom you know is self-respelled—as he and spike-haired, 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, adding that 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 is 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 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 eye-liner, 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 who 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 steampunk 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. I could suggest that he’s somewhat dour, Grubisic replies, “I’m as pessimistic as any writer, but I also have a large amusement of life. And I think that optimism comes out in comedy.”

Grubisic is now planning only one more novel, called For One Night Only, in River Bend City, which will complete a loosely-based Mission trilogy, marking another return to a place he wanted to get away from.

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carellin brooks, a Freelandian, is a former reporter at public library trustee.

Autism Lit

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? (Bird & 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 he was hit by a car,” he says. “The rewriting started dealing with that. The novel became darker. The portrayal of Em’s father became less generous.”

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Warlock: Chronicles of the Daemon Knights by David Korinetz

"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 put 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.”

Hauntings are small human-like characters who use their fetches to travel at will. A fetch is an apparition of a living person. A wrath, 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 Herrenfolk 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 halfing, 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 be in the distant past or in a distant apocalyptic future.” Clearly Korinetz is an incredibly inventive writer, but how does he keep track of it all? His first novel was rewritten ten 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.

Cherie Thiessen
**THE BLOOMING OF**

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 Peterson Memorial Prize for Poetry, and she was a finalist for both the Best American Poetry 2001, A.M. Peterson Memorial Prize for Poetry, and the Best American Poetry 2001, A.M.

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.

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 the cord. So the baby 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 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.
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Who's Who

British Columbia

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 Nisga’a Land Claims Agreement. With Terry Fenge, Aldridge has co-edited Keeping Promises: The Royal Proclamation of 1763, Aboriginal Rights, and Treaties of Canada (McCill-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.

B is for Bily
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.

C is for Crozier
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 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.

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 26er by starting with “A” for “Adolescence,” recalling his sexless teenage years in a Trotskyist sect. “B” for “Bombing” re-teams, his one-man show at the PuSh Festival in Vancouver, Leftovers, about the lack of progress in the world from a socialist perspective.

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 a vibrant addition to two previous books on Goodwin by Susan Mayse and Roger Stonebanks. Ellyn studied Women’s Studies and Fine Arts at Concordia University. Her work has appeared in Bitch, Briar Patch and the Vancouver Review. 978-1-77113-227-5

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).

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 immigrants. Her research was conducted at Holocaust survivors’ kitchen tables as well as in traditional archives.
This new book on Japanese immigrant history has the answer... and more!

Sakata in Stockton, Victoria’s Japanese Legacy
by Christiansen and Sakata
TI-JEAN PRESS
by the authors of gateway to Promise: Canada’s First Japanese Community (LoRes)
Available from tijeanpress.ca
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The Highway Mysteries
by R.E. Donald

These poems scrape at the dark of human experience: David Fraser sorts through memory with a raw clarity.

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BY WILLIAM STREET

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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 retail 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 Flavours, Time for Snow (Tradewind, 2013) recreated the legend of Demeter and Persephone and why we have different seasons each year.

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With more than 180 simple recipes and hundreds of variations, Emily Lycopolus’ 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 Lycopolus 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

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.

978-2-94645-44-0

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 Nile Creek Enhancement Society president in 2006, “warrior-painter” Ken Kirkby has worked to improve wildlife habitat on Vancouver Island. The ac- claimed 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.

978-2-895764-62-2

Emily Lycopolus

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 adopted 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 Salvage: Gender, Race, and Victoria’s Chinese Rescue Home, 1886-1923 (UBC Press $95).

978-0774830560

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.

978-1-77151-1353

M is for Marcade

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K is for Kirby

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Lee Maracle
The Pembina Institute for energy experts has predicted B.C. will fail to meet its 2020 legislative target due to its dependence on 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 (Adaptation to Climate Change Team). The number of Japanese Canadians incarcerated in Easondon 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 Okawa, an associate professor in the Department of Equity Studies at York University. Now available in paperback, this overview features interviews about internment that Okawa 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. 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 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). The former is a policy and research advisor for SFU’s ACT (Adaptation to Climate Change Team). SFU’s Qayam Jetha has assessed the effectiveness of maternity allowances to assist mothers in Bangladesh.

N is for Nexus

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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, Jenai 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) 978-1517063401 $12.99, 169 pages, 6x9

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**Salt Chuck Stories from Vancouver Island’s West Coast** recalls the 1920s to 1940s when the area opened up through fishing, trapping, logging and mining as seen through the experiences of five pioneers. Characters include Rebecca McPhee and the first Red Cross Hospital at Kyuquot and the highballing Gibson Brothers who logged airplane spruce at Zeballos back in the days when a house of prostitution openly operated between the town and the mines. Also included are the Perry Brothers, prospector Andy Morod and many more.

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When the man raised his hand towards him it did 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 renewal, one that has served Sakolsky as a source of reverence ever since he literally lent a helping hand. He had pulled him onto the platform, 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 Mini- mery 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 mutating revolutionary becomeings.”

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 cast 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 to-gether 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 mobiliz- ing 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.”

Ron Sakolsky and Sheila Nopper.
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HUGH’S NEWS

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

Kolin Lymouth

Joan McEwen

Kathy Drover sold her Reading Room Bookstore in Sooke (population less than 10,000) to Malinda Riffle. It was opened in 2003, adding a cafe in 2007. After nine years, Firkko 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. Temporarily 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 Pentiction 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.

CORRECTION

It has been brought to our attention that our review of To The Lighthouse (Heritage, 2015) by Peter Johnson and John Wails 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 Etzkorn were the actual lightkeepers. Tony Greenall was on leave at the time of this well-documented incident.
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Roy Henry Vickers & Robert Budd
In the fourth and final installment of the Northwest Coast Legends series, Roy Henry Vickers and Robert Budd use vivid storytelling and beautiful artwork to tell of the Peace Dance, which passes on the story of a flooded and its lesson of respect.

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