

BC

BOOKWORLD

VOL. 31 • NO. 3 • AUTUMN 2017

SPIN DOCTOR

Ron Norman's
Slouching Towards
Innocence, a novel
of non-stop
scandals in
B.C. politics.

PAGE 18



Ron Norman

TRICKSTER COLUMBIA

Eden Robinson kicks off her new trilogy with a novel
that combines magic realism with brutal realism,
reviewed by **David Stouck**.

See page 13



Andrew Struthers
on the sacred herb
versus the
devil's weed.

PAGE 15



Jordan Abel
wins \$65,000
Griffin Poetry
Prize for *Injun*.

PAGE 37



Nikki Tate
on the anxious
lives of rock-
climbing teens.

PAGE 31

EDUCATION



PUBLICATION MAIL AGREEMENT
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RED WORDS STUDIO PHOTO

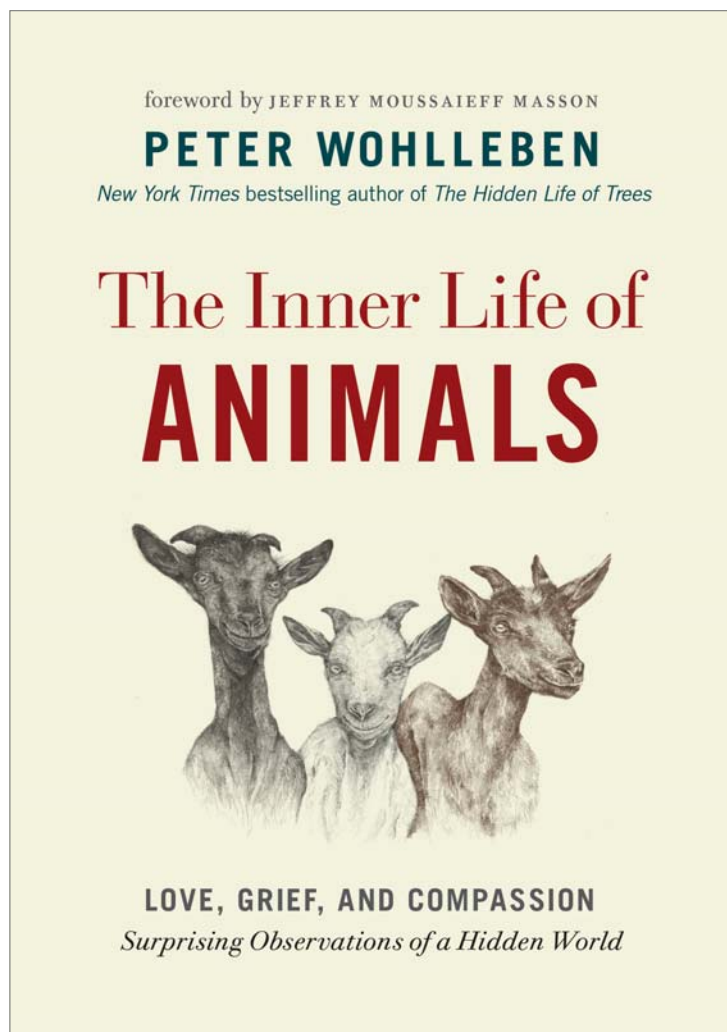
THE COASTAL LIVES OF **WORKING WOMEN** P.22-23



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PETER WOHLLEBEN

Foreword by **JEFFREY MOUSSAIEFF MASSON**

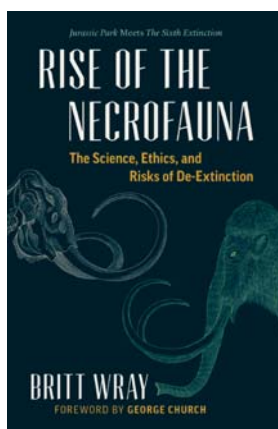
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“Surprising, humbling, and filled with delight.”

SY MONTGOMERY, author of *The Soul of an Octopus*



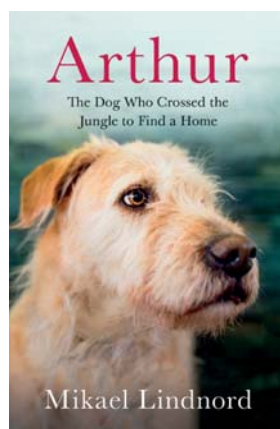
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BRITT WRAY

Foreword by **GEORGE CHURCH**

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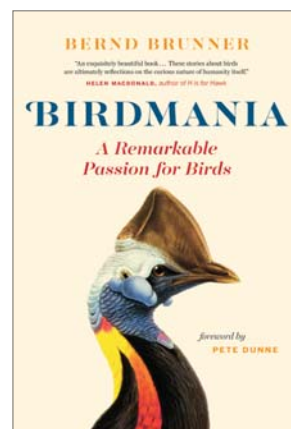


Arthur

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Jungle to Find a Home

MIKAEL LINDNORD

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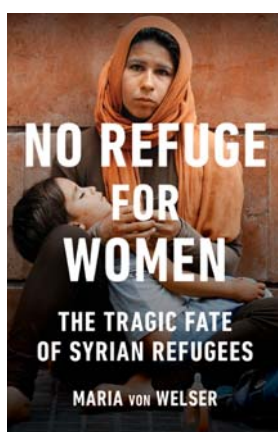
Dirty Kids

Chasing Freedom with
America's Nomads

CHRIS URQUHART

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MARIA VON WELSER

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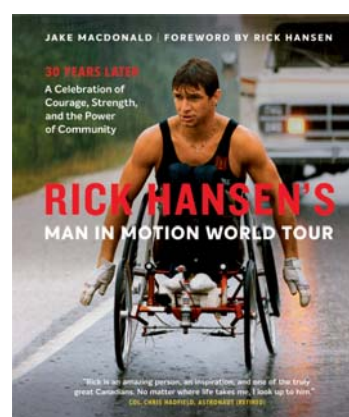


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and Awe in a Rising Sea

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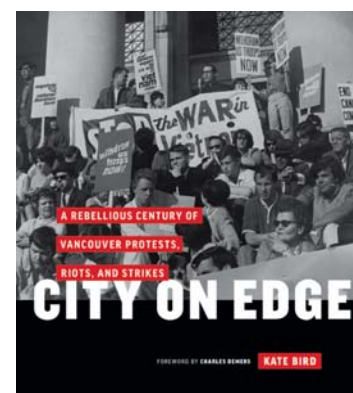
Rick Hansen's Man In Motion World Tour

30 Years Later

JAKE MACDONALD

Foreword by **RICK HANSEN**

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City on Edge

A Rebellious Century of Vancouver
Protests, Riots, and Strikes

KATE BIRD

Foreword by **CHARLES DEMERS**

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SEPTEMBER 2017

BC TOPSELLERS*

Tomson Highway
From Oral to Written:
A Celebration of Indigenous
Literature in Canada, 1980 - 2010
(Talonbooks \$29.95)

Carleigh Baker
Bad Endings (Anvil Press \$18)

Andrew Struthers
The Sacred Herb / The Devil's Weed
(New Star Books \$19)



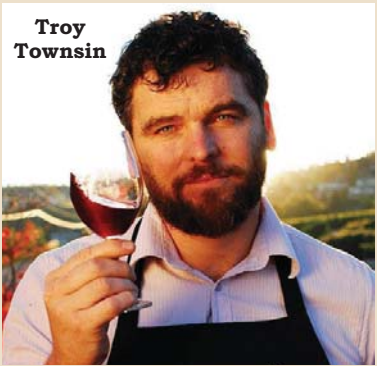
Lee Cardwell
Dementia In the Family
Practical Advice From A Caregiver
(Self-Counsel Press \$19.95)

Terry Milos
North of Familiar:
A Woman's Story of Homesteading
and Adventure in the Canadian
Wilderness (Caitlin Press \$24.95)

David Doyle
Louis Riel: Let Justice Be Done
(Ronsdale \$24.95)

Monique Gray-Smith
Speaking Our Truth:
A Journey of Reconciliation
(Orca Books \$29.95)

Eve Lazarus
Blood, Sweat, and Fear: The Story of
Inspector Vance, Vancouver's First
Forensic Investigator
(Arsenal Pulp Press \$24.95)



Troy Townsin
One Blue Moose
(Sandhill Book Marketing/
Polyglot Publishing \$14.95)

Peter Kalmus
Being the Change: Live Well and
Spark a Climate Revolution
(New Society \$21.99)

Matt Price
Engagement Organizing:
The Old Art and New Science of
Winning Campaigns
(UBC Press \$22.95)

Theo Dombrowski
Popular Day Hikes 4:
Vancouver Island
(Rocky Mountain Books \$15)

Richard Wagamese
Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations
(D&M \$18.95)

**Roy Henry Vickers
& Robert Budd**
Hello Humpback!
(Harbour \$9.95)

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

PEOPLE



Academy Award
Best Picture
director
Barry Jenkins

Hobo, OSCARS
& LASQUETI

Moonlight, the indie movie that won best picture at the Oscars, was directly inspired by a Canadian magazine from B.C.

Soon after his Oscar win, the director of *Moonlight*, **Barry Jenkins** held up a copy of *HOB*O magazine—featuring **Isabelle Huppert** on its cover—saying he and cinematographer **James Laxton** had been “obsessed” with *HOB*O since their college days.

*HOB*O is a high fashion-meets-environmentalism magazine founded on a chairlift in Whistler in 2000. Although the editorial office is currently in Paris, the family’s address in Canada for twenty-five years has been on Lasqueti Island. *Hobo* is owned and published by **Christian Dogimont**, his wife and his son.

Although the high-end magazine is distributed in twelve countries, mostly in Europe, the content is largely West Coast Canadian. “The spirit is definitely West Coast,” says Dogimont. Because the contributors are worldwide, often *HOB*O does not meet the 65% Canadian content rules required for Canadian government support or eligibility for Canadian magazine awards. “Our readers around the world see *HOB*O as a Canadian magazine—totally,” Dogimont says.



Katja Pantzar:
discovering sisu

SISUWORLD

HELSINKI-BASED WRITER **KATJA PANTZAR**, FORMERLY associate editor of *BC BookWorld*, credits unhappiness in B.C. for her newfound literary success.

Her upcoming book, **The Magic of Sisu: In search of courage, strength and happiness the Finnish way**, will be published in the U.K. in April of 2018, together with Penguin Random House USA’s non-fiction imprint TarcherPerigee in North America. Reprint rights have already been sold to China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Kosovo, Poland, Russia, and Spain.

Pantzar says the book arose from her responses to Canada where “the consumerist and materially obsessed culture left her feeling empty and unhappy.” When she received treatment for depression in her mid-20s, medical practitioners simply prescribed medication and sleeping pills, no thought was given to her lifestyle.

After moving to Finland, Katja discovered sisu: the Finnish approach to well-being defined by a special kind of resilience, grit and courage. She embraced sisu and experienced a dramatic turnaround in her health and happiness. Exercise (as simple as riding her bike to work), the Nordic diet, spending time in nature, swimming, and having a more courageous outlook on her world transformed Pantzar’s life.

She is previously the author of three guidebooks: *The Hip Guide to Helsinki*, *Helsinki by Light* and *100 Things to Do in Helsinki*.



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Contributors: John Moore,
Joan Givner, Mark Forsythe,
Alex Van Tol, David Conn,
Cherie Thiessen, Jeremy
Twigg, James Paley,
Caroline Woodward,
Caitlin Woods-Rotering
Writing not otherwise
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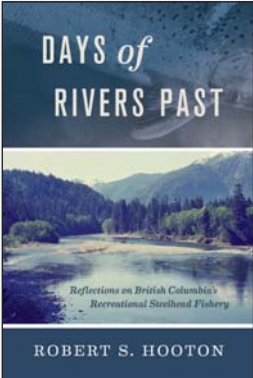
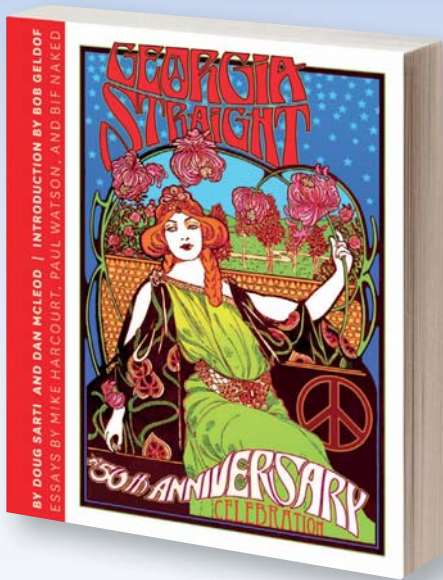


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TURN THE PAGE ON NEW FALL BOOKS

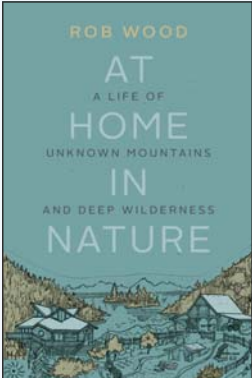
The Georgia Straight A 50th Anniversary Celebration Doug Sarti and Dan McLeod

Brings together over 100 of the *Straight's* iconic covers, along with short essays, insider details and contributor reflections, putting each issue into its historical context.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$40 hc



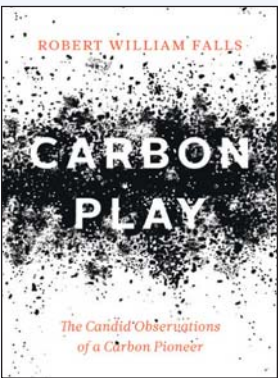
Days of Rivers Past Reflections on British Columbia's Recreational Steelhead Fishery Robert S. Hooton

Personal and professional thoughts on some of BC's iconic steelhead rivers and the possible futures they face in an era of climate change.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$25 pb | \$11.99 ebook



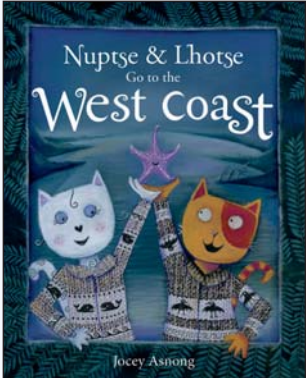
At Home in Nature A Life of Unknown Mountains and Deep Wilderness Rob Wood

One family's story of converting youthful ideals, raw land and a passion for the outdoors into an off-grid homestead in the rugged landscapes of BC's Coast Mountains.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$22 pb | \$9.99 ebook



Carbon Play The Candid Observations of a Carbon Pioneer Robert William Falls

An insider's look at the world of international negotiations, technology and diplomacy relating to the carbon industry, environmental management and climate mitigation.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$22 pb | \$9.99 ebook



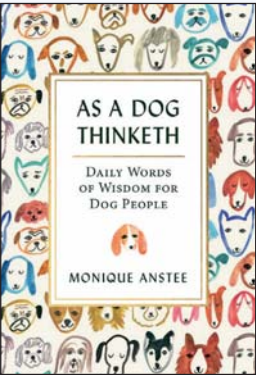
Nuptse and Lhotse Go to the West Coast Jockey Asnong

A colourful, imaginative story for adventurers of all ages that dream of falling asleep on a beach made of stars at the edge of the world.
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books | \$18 hc | \$12 pb



First, We Brunch Recipes and Stories from Victoria's Best-Loved Breakfast Joints Rebecca Wellman

Victoria is the brunch capital of Canada and with more than 60 recipes from city's most celebrated eateries, this guide will point you towards the breakfast you're craving.
TouchWood Editions | \$30 hc | \$12.99 ebook



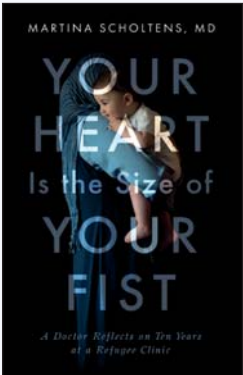
As A Dog Thinketh Daily Words of Wisdom for Dog People Monique Anstee

Confused by your canine? Monique Anstee, top dog trainer and owner of the Naughty Dogge, provides daily reflections, guidance, and sound advice to improve your relationship with your pooch.
TouchWood Editions | \$22 pb | \$8.99 ebook



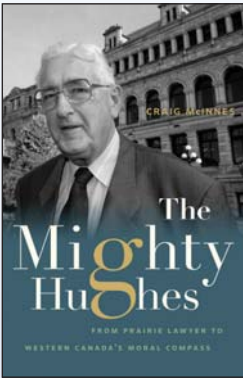
The Haunting of Vancouver Island Supernatural Encounters with the Other Side Sharon Sinn

A compelling collection of investigative pieces exploring 25 tales of the supernatural and local lore from the south end to the north of Vancouver Island.
TouchWood Editions | \$20 pb | \$7.99 ebook



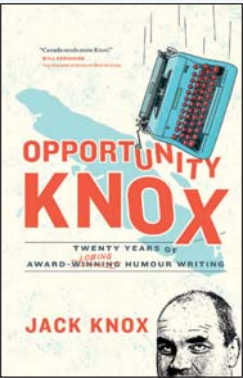
Your Heart Is the Size of Your Fist A Doctor Reflects on Ten Years at a Refugee Clinic Martina Scholtens, MD

Candid and moving true stories by a Vancouver doctor detailing her efforts to provide quality healthcare for a refugee family during their first year in Canada.
Brindle & Glass | \$22 pb | \$7.99 ebook



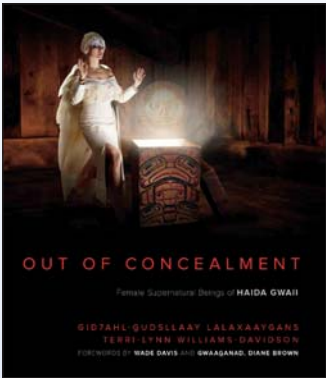
The Mighty Hughes From Prairie Lawyer to Western Canada's Moral Compass Craig McInnes

The remarkable story of Ted Hughes, the former Saskatchewan judge who became BC's first conflict-of-interest commissioner.
Heritage House | \$32.95 hc | \$24.99 ebook



Opportunity Knox Twenty-Years-of Award-Losing Humour Writing Jack Knox

Jack Knox riffs on the inanities of life in the new century in this hilarious collection of best-loved humour columns from the *Victoria Times Colonist*.
Heritage House | \$19.95 pb | \$15.99 ebook



Out of Concealment Female Supernatural Beings of Haida Gwaii Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson

Amazing scenes from the Haida oral tradition are brought to life in this visually striking book by Haida performing artist Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson.
Heritage House | \$29.95 pb



The Spitfire Luck of Skeets Ogilvie From the Battle of Britain to the Great Escape Keith C. Ogilvie

The true story of a young Canadian pilot in the Second World War who becomes one of a handful of POWs to survive the Great Escape of March 1944.
Heritage House | \$22.95 pb



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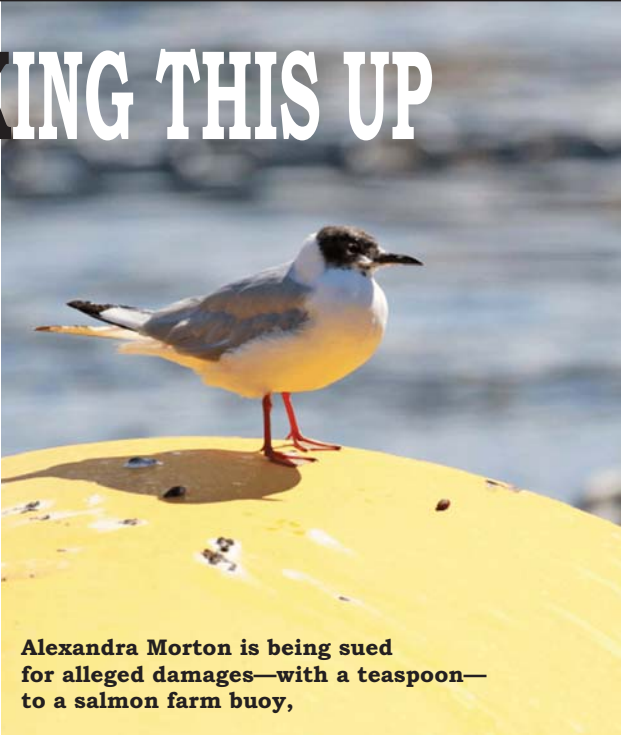


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WE ARE NOT MAKING THIS UP

Author and anti-fish farm researcher **Alexandra Morton** is being sued by big business again—this time for using a spoon to collect a sample of bird poop from a buoy belonging to Marine Harvest. The company is claiming Morton adversely harmed the integrity of the farm’s anchoring system by touching a yellow, steel buoy when she collected a biological sample during a visit she made to the fish farm with approximately sixty members of the local First Nation. The tribe has consistently voiced their objection to the presence of the fish farm on their traditional territory. The suit was first launched against Morton & John



Alexandra Morton is being sued for alleged damages—with a teaspoon—to a salmon farm buoy,

& Jane Doe and Other Persons for trespassing, etc. but when “John and Jane Doe” turned around and counter-sued Marine Harvest, the Norway-based company dropped their allegations against the unnamed Indigenous people and decided to go after only Morton. Unfazed by this nuisance suit, Morton was back in court in June, backed by Ecojustice, for a case in which activists are trying to prevent Canada from allowing the fish farming industry to continue putting piscine reovirus-infected Atlantic salmon into the Pacific. Whereas some DFO and industry scientists have tried to argue the virus is benign, other DFO scientists have published results to prove piscine reovirus is, in fact, spreading disease in B.C. salmon. Morton claims 87% of the juvenile salmon leaving the area are infected with sea lice and “most will not survive.”



Evany Rosen: founding member of comedy troupe Picnicface.

Kraft Dinner & hot dogs

ARSENAL PULP PRESS LIKES COMEDIAN AND PLAYWRIGHT **Charles Demers** so much they gave him his own imprint. Starting this fall, Robin’s Egg Books, a collaboration between Demers and Arsenal Pulp, will bring book readers fresh and funny writing on a wide range of topics. The imprint is named for Demers’ late mother Robin. “The first book to leave the nest,” as the publicity announces, is **What I Think Happened: An Underresearched History of the Western World** (Robin’s Egg Books \$17.95) by comedian, writer and actor **Evany Rosen**. Rosen’s comic essays recast famous historical happenings from her “wickedly funny feminist perspective.” Demers, who will be the editor for Robin’s Egg Books, says his inspiration to become involved with book publishing was because: “Two of the things that have always given me the greatest joy in life are books and funny people, and so it only made sense to combine the two (the same kind of synergistic ingenuity that gave us, to take but one example, Kraft Dinner and hot dogs).”



Charles Demers

978-1-55152-695-5

Rendering the monstrous

Hadley Louise Friedland was the first research director of the University of Victoria’s Indigenous Law Research Unit. In **The Wetiko Legal Principles** (UTP \$24.95) she examines the concept in Algonquian folklore of a cannibal monster or a spirit that possesses a person, rendering them monstrous, known as the wetiko, in the context of inordinately high rates of “intimate violence” and child



Hadley Louise Friedland

victimization in Indigenous communities. Friedland’s analysis of Cree and Anishinabek stories and oral histories is combined with academic and legal literature to theorize about the dynamics of wetikos and offenders in cases of child sexual victimization. The goal is to help provide direction for applying Indigenous legal principles to contemporary social issues.

978-1-4875-2202-5

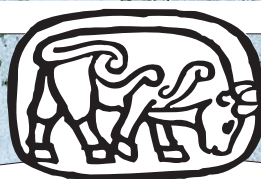
WARSAW GHETTO REVISITED

Lillian Boraks-Nemetz will launch her latest book at the 33rd annual Cherie Smith Jewish Book Festival in Vancouver at the Jewish Community Centre on November 26, at 2 pm. Born in Warsaw, Poland, she survived the Holocaust as a child after she escaped from the Warsaw Ghetto and lived in Polish villages under a false identity. She is best-known for young adult novels that include *The Old Brown Suitcase*, a fictional account of a 14-year old immigrant girl, Slava, who comes to Canada from Poland after the Second World War. This book won the Sheila A. Egoff Prize, among other awards. Boraks-Nemetz has now reprised her autobiographical story for **Mouth of Truth** (Ekstasis \$26.95), a novel inspired by her experiences. She is a proud member of the Janusz Korczak Association of Canada.



Lillian Boraks-Nemetz

Coincidentally, the Belfry Theatre in Victoria has kicked off its 42nd season with **Hannah Moscovitch’s The Children’s Republic** (Sept 12-Oct 8) about how the educator and author Dr. **Janusz Korczak** (pronounced Kor-Chock) and his long-suffering female associate maintained a sanctuary school in the Warsaw Ghetto for Polish-Jewish orphans. Rather than abandon their charges, they went with their 192 children to the Treblinka extermination camp in 1942. His most important book is called *How to Love Children*. 978-1-77171-211-8



New books from Douglas & McIntyre

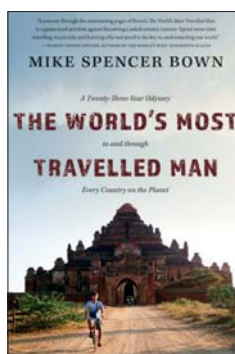


ISLAND OF THE BLUE FOXES

Disaster and Triumph on Bering's Great Voyage to Alaska

Award-winning author **STEPHEN R. BOWN** tells an epic tale of shipwreck and survival from the Age of Sail. **HISTORY | \$34.95**

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THE WORLD'S MOST TRAVELLED MAN

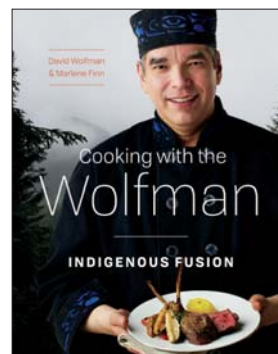
A Twenty-Three-Year Odyssey to and through Every Country on the Planet

In 1990, **MIKE SPENCER BOWN** began a two-decade journey that would take him through

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favourite recipes. **COOKING | \$29.95**

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First Canadian Army and the Battles for the Channel Ports

In the twelfth installment of the bestselling Canadian Battle Series, **MARK ZUEHLKE** tells the story of the First

Canadian Army and how they opened the way to Allied victory in World War II.

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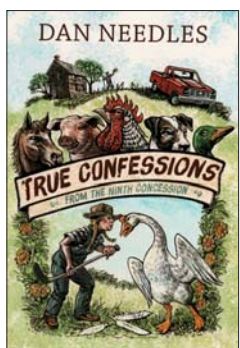


COLLECTED TARTS AND OTHER INDELICACIES

A juicy and much-anticipated volume from humour columnist **TABATHA SOUTHEY**, who understands the psychological struggles of shadowy Russian pee traffickers, recognizes

the PR benefits of puppy throwing and has deeply considered the moral quandaries presented by sea slug penises. **HUMOUR | \$24.95**

PAPERBACK · 6" × 9" · 352 PAGES · SEPTEMBER
978-1-77162-167-0

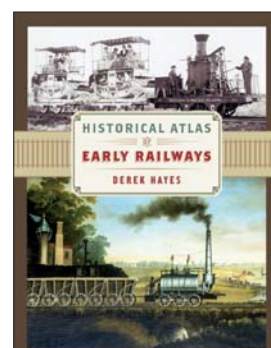


TRUE CONFESSIONS FROM THE NINTH CONCESSION

A funny and affectionate chronicle of rural Canadian life written by *Harrowsmith* columnist **DAN NEEDLES**, author of the Wingfield Farm

series, winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour and member of the Order of Canada. **HUMOUR | \$22.95**

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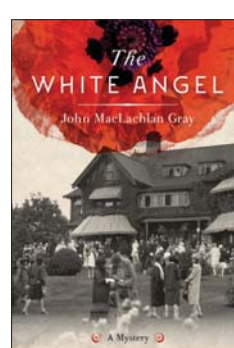


HISTORICAL ATLAS OF EARLY RAILWAYS

DEREK HAYES has a passion for old maps and what they can reveal about the past. In this volume, he presents a vivid visual history of railways around the world.

HISTORY | \$49.95

HARDCOVER · 9½" × 12¾" · 320 PAGES · 770 COLOUR MAPS, PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS · OCTOBER
978-1-77162-175-5



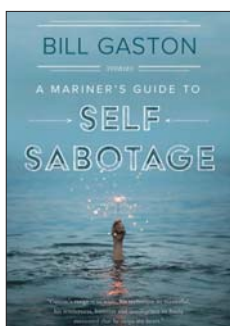
THE WHITE ANGEL

Award winning writer **JOHN MACLACHLAN GRAY** has written a novel based on the true story of the 1924 murder of Janet Smith in Vancouver—a city at the edge of the empire, still reeling from the Great War with a barely functioning police

department and a thriving criminal class.

FICTION | \$29.95

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A MARINER'S GUIDE TO SELF SABOTAGE

This short fiction collection from award-winning author **BILL GASTON** is populated by characters who are lonely and alienated—they are holders of

secrets, members (or would-be members) of shadowy organizations, screw-ups, joyriders and runaways. **FICTION | \$22.95**

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SPINDRIFT

A Canadian Book of the Sea

This salt-soaked anthology, edited by **MICHAEL L. HADLEY** and **ANITA HADLEY**, celebrates our relationship with the three seas that frame our country. It features 170 pieces of writing from

over 130 of Canada's most significant literary voices. **CANADIANA | \$36.95**

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A is for Alexander

A COW-EYED GODDESS STEALS A NYMPH’S tongue. Steering wheels are taken over by octopi. **Susan Alexander’s** poems in **The Dance Floor Tilts** (Thistledown \$17.95) are derived from eclectic experiences such as working as a chambermaid, a CBC Radio journalist, at a boutique investment firm and being a stay-at-home mom. The Bowen Islander has won both the 2016 Short Grain poetry prize and the 2015 Vancouver Writers’ Festival Contest. 978-1-77187-152-5

B is for Basran



Gurjinder Basran

YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL graduate of SFU Writers Studio, **Gurjinder Basran** of Delta is making the rounds. After reading at the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts, she’s appearing at Word Vancouver (Sept. 19), Victoria Festival of Authors (Sept. 27), Whistler Writers Festival (Oct. 12) and Vancouver Writers Festival (Oct. 16) promoting her second novel, **Someone You Love is Gone** (Viking \$24.95), described as a tale of love and heartbreak that crosses continents and spans generations.

978-0-7352-3342-3

C is for Cain

FOUR YEARS AGO, KRISSY MATHEWS DISAPPEARED. When she returns it is through the doors of her hometown’s hospital with a lifeless child in her arms and a man she refers to as her husband. He is charged with kidnapping and Krissy must deal with the Stockholm syndrome that developed from the twisted abuse she suffered while isolated in a mountain cabin experiencing what she believed to be true love. That’s the gist of **Shelby Cain’s** debut novel, **Mountain Girl** (Oolichan \$22.95). Cain lives in Fernie.

978-0-88982-315-0

D is for Derrickson

IN **THE RECONCILIATION MANIFESTO** (Lorimer \$22.95), **Arthur Manuel** with Grand Chief **Ronald Derrickson**, former chief of the Westbank First Nation near Kelowna, challenge nearly everything that non-Indigenous Canadians believe about their relationship with Indigenous Peoples and the steps that are needed to place this relationship on a healthy and honourable footing. The preface is by **Naomi Klein**.

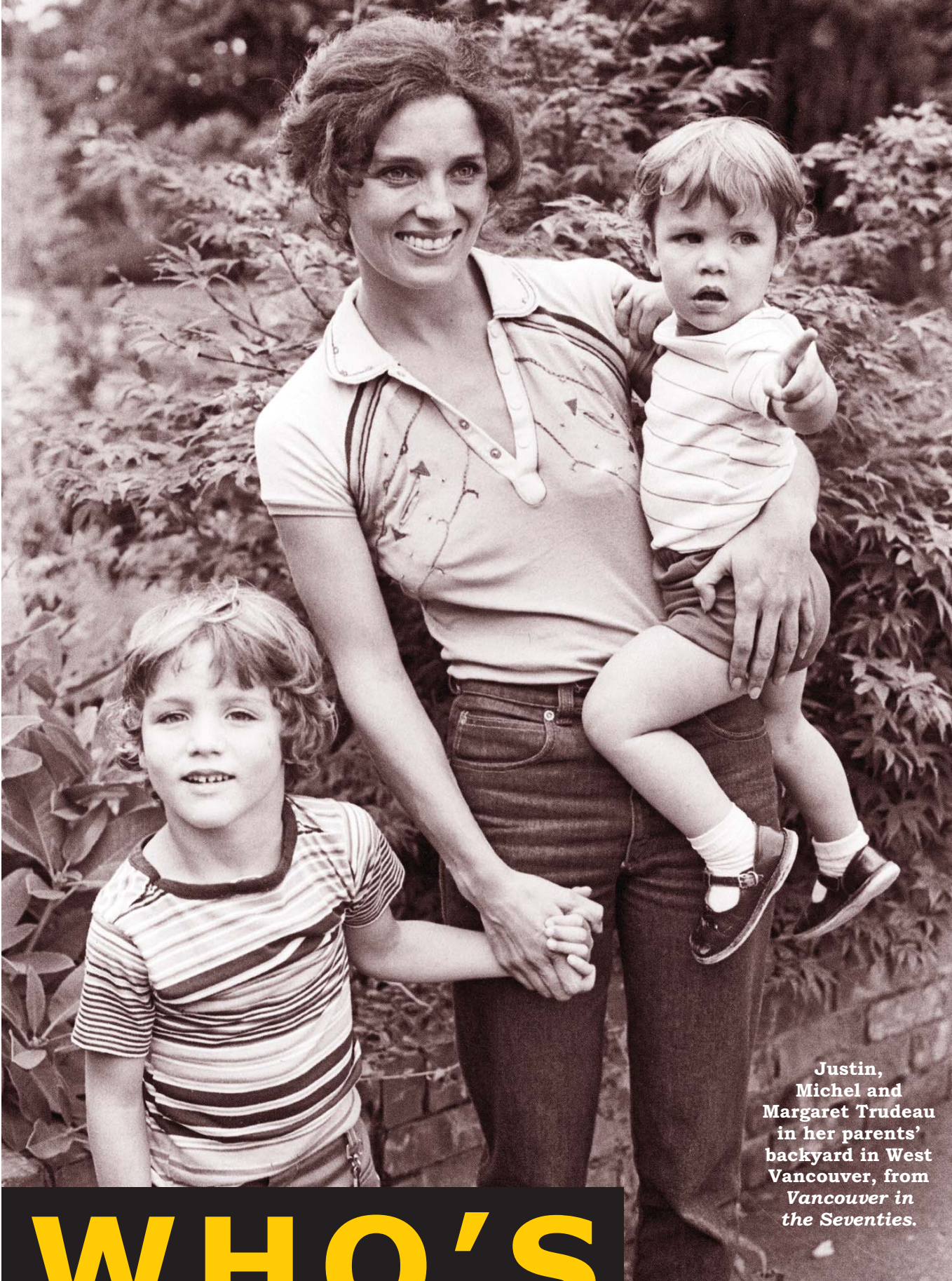
9781459409613

E is for Ekstasis



Richard Olafson

OFFICIALLY, EKSTASIS Editions was founded by **Richard Olafson** in 1982 in the basement of the now-defunct Galleries Untitled on Government Street in Victoria. That’s where he printed his own first book, *Blood of the Moon*, on a 1250 Multilith Press. Equally the birthplace of Ekstasis was the Breezy Bay Farm Bed ‘n’ Breakfast on Saturna Island, still very much in business. The caretaker in the early 1970s was Richard Olafson—now marking his 35th anniversary as a publisher.



Justin, Michel and Margaret Trudeau in her parents’ backyard in West Vancouver, from *Vancouver in the Seventies*.

WHO'S BRITISH • COLUMBIA WHO

F is for Fralic

WITH A FOREWORD BY **DOUGLAS COUPLAND**, and an introduction by **Shelley Fralic**, research librarian **Kate Bird** presents 149 photos from the *Vancouver Sun* archives for **Vancouver in the Seventies: Photos from a Decade That Changed the City** (Greystone \$29.95), featuring representative images from the era as well as pivotal moments in the city’s history such as the Gastown Riot and the founding of Greenpeace. Personalities range from a five-year-old **Justin Trudeau** to the iconic Chief **Dan George**.

9781771642408

G is for Griffiths

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WERE PRACTICAL skills such as how to change a carburetor or pluck a chicken. We have advanced to learning how to Skype and,



Deborah Griffiths

yes, how to apply for grants. **Deborah Griffiths**, executive director of the Courtenay and District Museum, knows her way around an application.

Having been involved in museum research and curatorial work in the Okanagan and on Vancouver Island for over thirty years, Deborah Griffiths has not only written a novel under a pseudonym and co-authored *Water-shed Moments: A Pictorial History of Courtenay and District* (Harbour Publishing, 2015), she has e-published *The Grant Seekers Helper: The Little Book on Grants for Big Community Dreams* (Amazon, 2013), that has evolved into **The Grant Writing and Funding Coach: Target and Acquire the Funds You Need** (Self- Counsel Press \$16.95).

978-1-77040-288-1

H is for Hekkanen

ONE OF THE UNSUNG HEROES OF B.C. literature, **Ernest Hekkanen**, is calling it quits. The final issue of *The New Orphic Review* will appear this fall. With his wife **Margrith**, Hekkanen began the bi-annual journal of fiction, poetry, reviews and essays in 1998 when they had just turned fifty-one. “To create a product of no obvious practical value,” he writes in the penultimate issue, “and for which there would be an extremely limited market, if any at all, seemed to me an act of defiance worth pouring some hard-earned cash into.” They have kept their Nelson-based publication going for forty issues without financial assistance from any level of government.



Margrith and Ernest Hekkanen



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WHO'S



Marianne Ignace is professor of linguistics and First Nations studies at SFU. Chief Ronald E. Ignace is a Secwépemc historian, storyteller, politician and adjunct professor at SFU.

I is for Ignace

WIFE-AND-HUSBAND TEAM **MARIANNE IGNACE** and Chief **Ronald E. Ignace's** 10,000-year history, **Secwépemc People, Land, and Laws** (McGill-Queen's \$39.95), has contributions from ethno-botanist **Nancy Turner**, archaeologist **Mike Rousseau**, and geographer **Ken Favrholt**. It weaves Secwépemc narratives about ancestors' deeds filtered through past and present Secwépemc storytellers. It reveals how the Secwépemc peoples resisted oppression and the theft of their land, and how they fought to retain political autonomy between the mid-1800s and the 1920s. 978-0-7735-5130-5

J is for Julie

IN **A DAY WITH YAYEH** (TRADEWIND BOOKS \$19.95), a grandmother passes down her wisdom of herbs and mushrooms during a First Nations family outing in the Nicola Valley. Beautifully illustrated by multiple BC Book Prize winner **Julie Flett** with text by **Nicola Campbell**. Suitable for ages 4-7. 9781926890098

K is for Kalteis

LEVI HAYES HAS SERVED HIS TIME IN San Quentin Prison for the theft of \$30,000 in gold coins from the San Francisco Mint and now he is ready to take back what is his in **Dietrich Kalteis' House of Blazes** (ECW \$19.95). After scheming to retrieve his saloon,

called House of Blazes, from the powerful Healey brothers, Levi Hayes ends up in lock-up when the great earthquake of 1906 hits. Now he must escape the collapsing building and burning city while avoiding the Healey's revenge, and also get the gold coins. 978-1-77041-286-6

L is for Layland

MICHAEL LAYLAND TRAINED AS AN OFFICER and mapmaker in the Royal Engineers. As a follow-up to his prizewinning *The Land of Heart's Delight: Early Maps and Charts of Vancouver Island* (Touchwood, 2013), **A Perfect Eden: Encounters by Early Explorers of Vancouver Island** (Touchwood \$39.95) digs more deeply into the story of the men who explored the shape of Vancouver Island and discusses some of the mysteries yet to be resolved. 9781771511773

M is for McAth

FOR CHEESE-LOVING VEGANS WHO THOUGHT they had to give it up or resort to unappetizing non-dairy 'cheeses', there's now cultured plant-based cheese and **Karen McAth's Plant-Based Cheese-making** (New Society \$29.99). It contains recipes and encourages experimentation for beginners and foodies, making a distinction between 'cheese' and 'cheeze.' Offerings include walnut ricotta cheeze, seed cream cheeze, coconut kefir curd, almond curd feta, cumin seed cashew and coconut gouda. McAth was born and raised in Alert Bay to parents who came from agricultural backgrounds. 978-0-86571-836-4



Karen McAth, chef and founder of Blue Heron Creamery.

W H O

N is for Nardelli

SELF-STYLED MYSTICAL COUNSELOR **Linda Nardelli** reveals “the inherent wisdom and spiritual essence within all our felt-senses and life experiences” in **Mystical Intimacy: Entering into a Conscious Relationship with Your Spirit and Human Nature** (Agio \$24.99). The book discusses the teachings of Masiandia, “a group soul comprised of seven spirits who are here to help us remember who we are. They are here to help us strengthen our self-belief, challenge our self-deceptions, and teach us how to trust our soul evolution.”

978-1-927755-52-5

O is for Obsession

IN **REVERIES OF A SOLITARY BIKER** (Talonbooks \$16.95), **Catriona Strang**’s poetry ponders the difficulties of living an anti-capitalist life; the invisibility of much of women’s labour; and the complexities of sustainability as she cycles around Vancouver. These poems reference and pay homage to **Jean-Jacques Rousseau**’s unfinished 1776 manuscript of obsession, *Reveries of the Solitary Walker*. With cycling, Strang finds it particularly conducive to slow, non-deliberate thinking. She lives in Vancouver and has publicly performed parts of *Reveries of a Solitary Biker* with clarinetist **François Houle**.

9781772011807

P is for Police

KAY STEWART’S DEBUT NOVEL—FEATURING RCMP Constable Danutia Dranchuk—*A Deadly Little List* (2006), was undertaken as a writing experiment with her husband **Chris Bullock**. “Our marriage survived that experiment,” she says. After that foray, Stewart was the sole author of her second police procedural, *Sitting Lady Sutra* (2011) and back again with her husband for *Unholy Rites* (2013). Now the Victoria-based duo have produced **Tour de Mort: A Danutia Dranchuk Mystery** (Friesen Press \$20.99). Danutia Dranchuk is



Heather Ross is a regular contributor to *House & Home* and *Western Living* magazines. She has been nominated for national magazine awards and her art has been placed in feature films.

now an RCMP Corporal, and enjoying a thousand-kilometre cycle ride to raise funds to fight childhood cancer. But soon enough, murder hits the cyclists.

978-1-4602-9146-7

Q is for Qilan

LYDIA KWA’S MAGIC-REALIST NOVEL **Oracle Bone** (Arsenal Pulp Press \$19.95) subverts traditional tropes of Chinese mythology to tell a tale of greed, faith, and female empowerment. The story takes place in seventh-century China, a time of ghosts, martial arts, magic, fox spirits and demons. Empress Wu Zhao’s evil-minded lover Xie becomes obsessed with finding and possessing a magic object called the oracle bone that will bestow immortal powers on him. But blocking his way to the bone, is Qilan, an eccentric Daoist nun. Along the way, the many secrets and powers of the magic bone are revealed. Lydia Kwa works in Vancouver as a writer and psychologist. Her *The Walking Boy* (Key Porter, 2007) was shortlisted for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize in 2008.



Lydia Kwa

9781551526997

R is for Ross

WITH THE PUBLICATION OF **THE NATURAL Eclectic: A Design Aesthetic Inspired by Nature** (Figure 1 \$42.95), **Heather Ross** added author to the list of her career accomplishments: artist, photographer and stylist. Ross also owns a décor boutique at 2170 Fir Street in Vancouver, known for its mixture of the new and the found with the natural. Her aesthetic has been called “coastal chic” and her colour palette described as “where the sea meets the shore.”

The Natural Eclectic features over 300 of her photographs that illustrate Ross’s approach to decorating, which is inspired by her West Coast upbringing and two years spent living and antiques in Paris.

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WHO'S WHO BRITISH COLUMBIA

S is for Stanley

WHEN SHE FIRST HEARD THE NEWS OF HER husband **Simon's** head injury, **Kara Stanley** packed a copy of **Joan Didion's** *The Year of Magical Thinking* into her duffel bag and took the Langdale ferry to Vancouver General Hospital. She was already reading it due to her mother's diagnosis of breast and lymphatic cancer. Now Kara Stanley's **Fallen: A Trauma, A Marriage and the Transformative Power of Music** (Greystone \$19.95) has been compared to Didion's celebrated memoir (about the year following her husband's sudden death and her daughter's near-death experience). *Fallen* incorporates the extent to which music can be a transformative force when coping with a catastrophic brain and spinal cord injury. We follow Simon Paradis' battle to return to work as a professional musician. 978-1-77164-102-9

T is for Turner

JASON TURNER OF VANCOUVER IS A COMIC book artist whose first graphic novel, **Fir Valley** (Cloudscape Comics \$25), is seemingly set in North Vancouver. The town of Fir Valley, on the side of a mountain, is shaken when a man is killed and his son disappears. While the community reacts to these events, the mystery is investigated and dark secrets from the town's past come to light. And there is something lurking in the woods...
Turner has self-published comics since the late 1980s, and has been putting his comics on the internet since the late 1990s. He co-wrote the *True Loves* trilogy with his wife **Manien Bothma**. More recent work includes *Farm School*, *The Adulation* and *Bird Comics*. His comics column in comic form, *Jason and the Comics*, ran in *Broken Pencil* for five years. 978-1-927742-10-5

U is for Up

ILLUSTRATED BY **DANIELLE DANIEL**, YOU HOLD **Me Up** (Orca \$19.95) by **Monique Gray Smith** aims to foster empathy and respect among young people, their care providers and educators. It encourages children to show love and support for each other and to consider each other's well-being in their everyday actions.
Previously, Monique Gray Smith's novel, *Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience*, won the 2014 Burt Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Literature. She lives in Victoria. 9781459814479

V is for Voices

VANCOUVER'S **LISA CHARLEYBOY** HAS CO-EDITED **#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women** (Annick Press \$14.95) with **Mary Beth Leatherdale**. This young adult anthology demonstrates how Indigenous women break down stereotypes through essays, stories, music, poetry, and art. Presented with a bold visual design, stories of abuse and intergenerational trauma are countered by outraged passionate voices demanding change. Charleyboy was named by the *Huffington Post* as one of three Aboriginal Millennials to watch, and her writing has been published in *The Guardian*. 9781554519576



Simon Paradis (left) learned how to live in a wheelchair and re-learned how to play the guitar after his brain and spinal cord injury.



Lisa Charleyboy hosts *New Fire* (CBC radio), on Indigenous youth today.

W is for Wiebe

SARAH MARIE WIEBE'S EVERYDAY EXPOSURE: Indigenous Mobilization and Environmental Justice in Canada's Chemical Valley (UBC Press \$32.95) examines the devastating health issues suffered by the Aamjiwnaang First Nation near Sarnia, Ontario, home to one of Canada's densest concentrations of chemical manufacturing plants. The Aamjiwnaang have long expressed concern over declining birth rates and high rates of miscarriages, asthma, cancer and cardiovascular illness. 978-0-7748-3264-9



Sarah Marie Wiebe



Daniel Griffin

X is for Dead

TWO ROADS HOME BY **DANIEL GRIFFIN** (Freehand Books \$21.95) tackles the tough decisions activists make when fighting against social injustice. Set in 1993 on Vancouver Island, the novel follows a group of environmental activists as they find peaceful protest too ineffectual and move on to sabotage that ends in death.
Daniel Griffin was born in Kingston, Ontario. He has been a finalist for the Danuta Gleed and ReLit Awards, and holds an MFA from UBC. He currently lives in Victoria. 978-988298-21-4

Y is for Yahgulanaas

ARTIST AND AUTHOR **MICHAEL NICOLL YAHGULANAAS** has created another graphic novel that retells an ancient Haida tale in his unique mix of Northwest coast art and the Japanese comic style known as Manga. **War of the Blink** (Locarno \$24.95) is about a fisherman caught in a high-stakes game of kidnap and bluff while trying to save his home village from raiders. In a showdown in which one of the sides must blink first, the villagers find a way to save face and their home.
Ultimately, it's a story about finding the courage to choose peace over war. It follows up his award-winning *RED: A Haida Manga*. Yahgulanaas, also a sculptor and graphic artist, has work in the collections of the British Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Vancouver Art Gallery. He speaks frequently about social justice and community building.

Nicola Levell, assistant professor of museum and visual anthropology at UBC has produced **The Seriousness of Play: The Art of Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas** (Black Dog, \$29.95) which focuses on Yahgulanaas' Haida Manga. War of the Blink: 9780995994621 Seriousness: 978-1910433119

Z is for Zwicky

TO KICK-START THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA'S new venture called *Oskana Poetry & Poetics*, series editor **Jan Zwicky** has released her own title, **The Long Walk** (U of Regina Press \$19.95), further exploring how environmental awareness in the wake of colonial barbarism and ecocide can give rise to spiritual transformation. It's a follow-up to her collection, *Songs for Relinquishing the Earth*, recently cited by the *Literary Review of Canada* as one of the four most noteworthy poetry titles in the past twenty-five years. 978-0-88977-449-0



Jan Zwicky has published nine collections of poetry.

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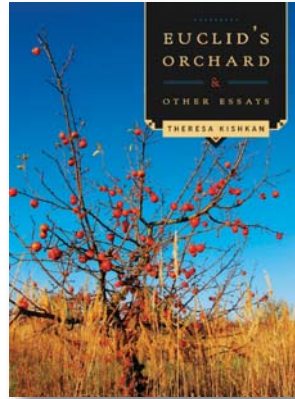
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Theresa Kishkan is the author of thirteen books of poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction, including *Mnemonic: A book of Trees* and *Patrin*. A finalist for the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize and the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, she won the Edna Staebler Personal Essay Prize.



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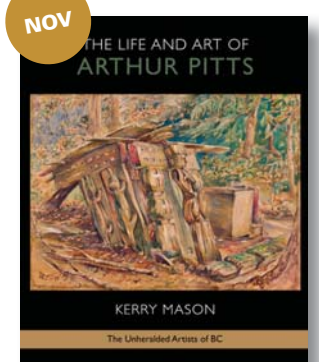
Arthur Pitts (1889-1972) born in the UK, pursued a career of art and adventure, first in South Africa, then Canada, where he travelled over 4,000 miles in British Columbia and Alaska, producing a large body of watercolours focusing on Coast Salish, Nuw-Chah-Nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw, Tlingit, Haida and Ktunaxa First Nations. His story includes life as an artist in Vancouver in the 20s & 30s. He lived in Saanichton for over 30 years. His work is at the Royal BC Museum and the Glenbow Museum.

"The remarkable life and work of Arthur Pitts will be welcomed by the W̱SÁNEĆ (Saanich) people, and by many others in the Pacific Northwest, including cultural historians and ethnographers."

—RICHARD MACKIE, EDITOR, *THE ORMSBY REVIEW*.

Kerry Mason is an art historian, author, curator and art consultant who lectures at the University of Victoria.

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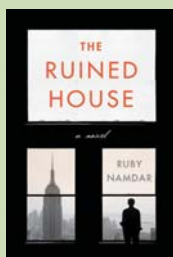
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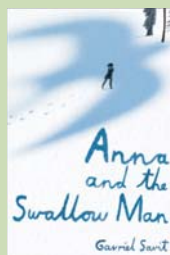
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HIGHLIGHTS



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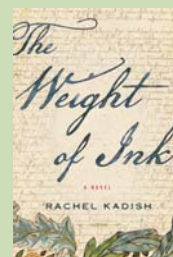


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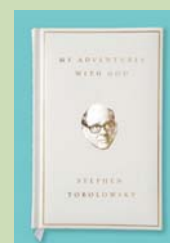
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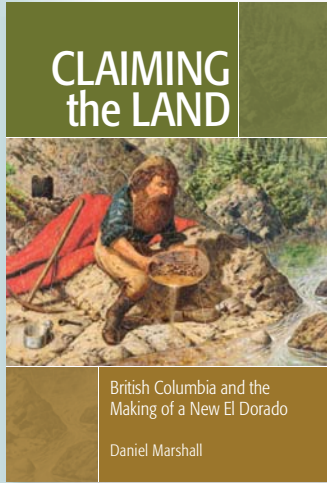
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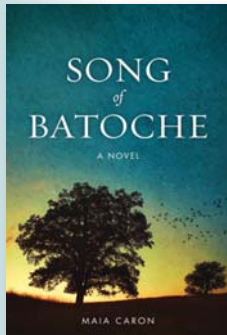
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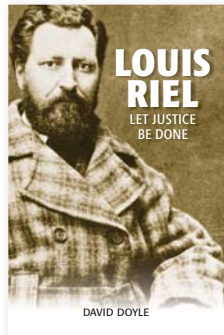


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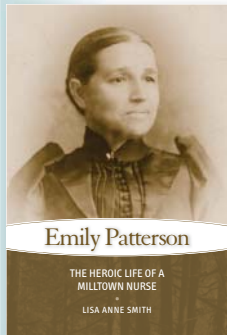
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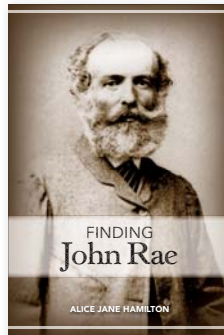
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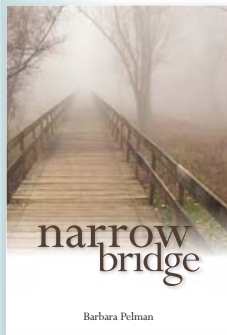


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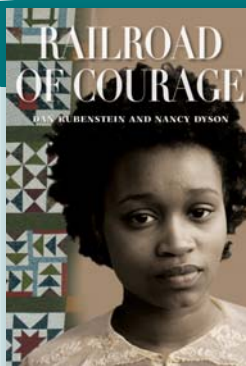


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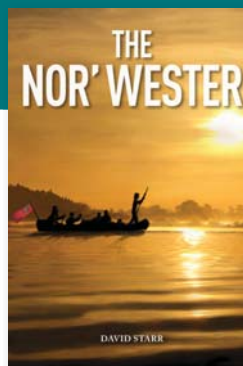


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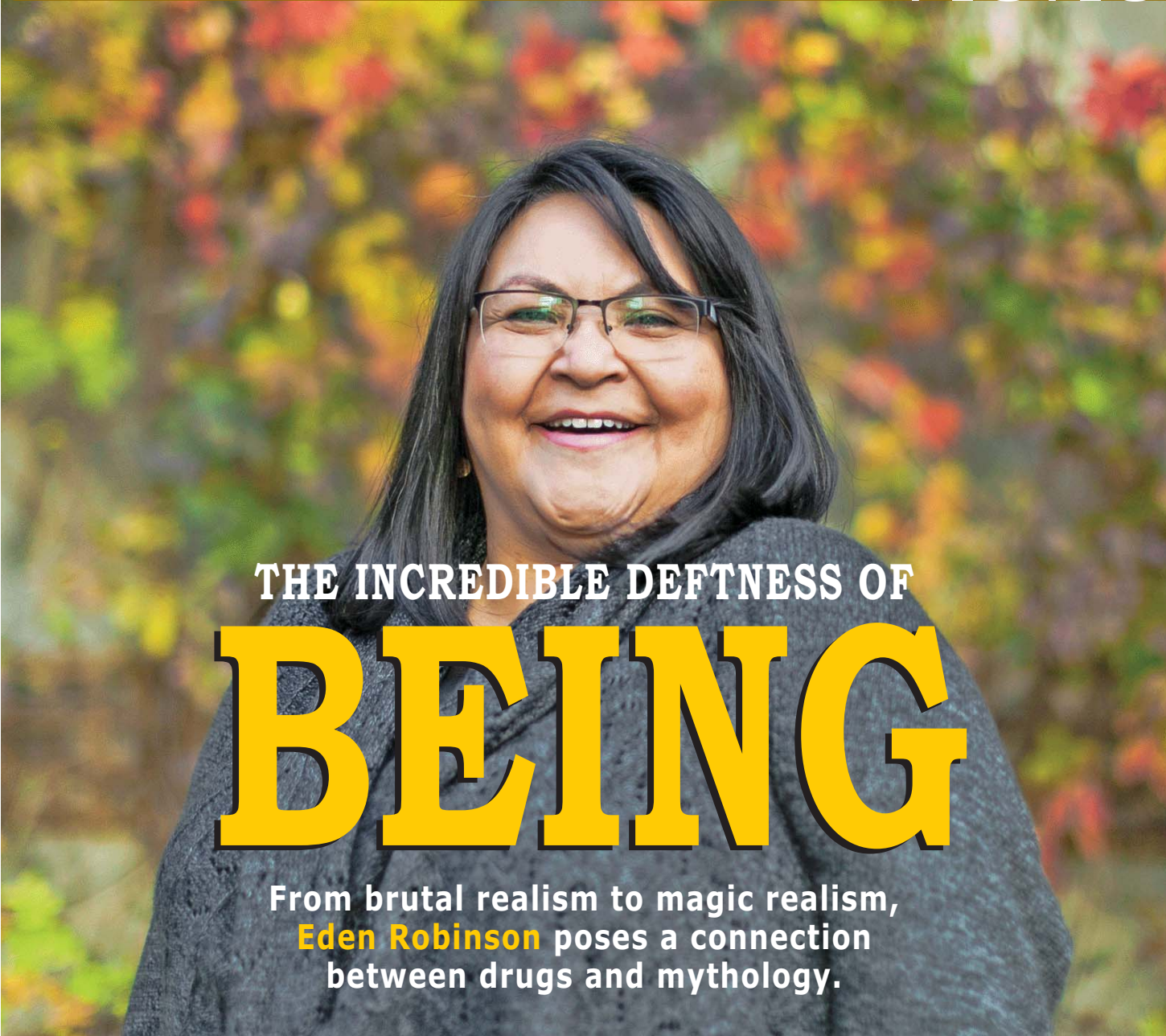
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THE INCREDIBLE DEFTNESS OF BEING

From brutal realism to magic realism,
Eden Robinson poses a connection
between drugs and mythology.

Son of a Trickster
by **Eden Robinson**
(Penguin Random House \$32.00)

BY DAVID STOUCK

IN 1997 A BOOK OF REMARK-able short stories by a young Haisla/Heiltsuk woman came across my desk. It had been selected as Editor’s Choice and Notable Book of the Year by *The New York Times*. That book was *Traplines* (1996) and its author was **Eden Robinson** from the village of Kitimaat. Of the four stories in that collection, “Queen of the North” struck me as one of the best Canadian short stories ever written. Its theme was dark—violence to children that was rooted in the residential school system—but the author’s touch was light, or “deft” as critics have frequently phrased it.

For the next twenty years Robinson has published novels that have explored related themes, insisting, in deft fashion, that horror can be allied to humour.

There is an interesting trajectory in her novels as regards her reader. I would suggest that the audience for her first novel, *Monkey Beach* (2000), with its reference to Sasquatch stories, is the tourist, someone like myself from Ontario when first visiting Indigenous relatives on northern Vancouver Island. The first-person narrator in *Monkey Beach* is searching for her brother lost

on a fishing boat while waiting for word of him. Travelling the coastline becomes an occasion for introducing the reader to a traditional culture with its different language dialects, its myths that explain the landscape and its creatures, and its unique food practices—making “grease” to flavour food by rotting oolichans, whipping soapberries with water to create frothy “ice cream.” So the reader is given a guide to coastal B.C. that was nominated for two national literary awards.

Her second novel, *Blood Sports* (2006), describes the plight of people in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside.

In her new novel, **Son of a Trickster**, the reader is no longer a tourist or outsider, but is brought to identify closely with the experiences of a sixteen-year-old Indigenous boy named Jared. Like many of his non-Indigenous peers he has some major alcohol and drug issues—he is highly valued by his friends for the marijuana cookies he bakes. But he especially engages the reader because he is a caregiver for his family—his frequently violent mother, his deadbeat father, and for his close ties to his grandmother—the first chapter is titled “Nanas I Have Loved.” He is also caregiver to elderly neighbours and their granddaughter, Sarah, who eventually shares his bed. Jared’s is a coming of age story familiar to all cultures—but what is

different, as the dust jacket suggests, is that his coming of age crashes up against Indigenous beliefs and their unique view of the natural world.

The novel poses a connection between the use of drugs and myths. Key to that link is the brief second chapter that posits time not as a progression of sequential events, but states that all time is simultaneous. Accordingly, the totemic figures of Indigenous carvings and storytelling are not just historical; they transform into contemporary humans and vice versa. Jared, not yet attuned to this knowledge, is harassed on a bus to Terrace by a man who claims to be his biological father and says his name is Wee’git (Trickster). Jared moves to the back of the bus (“Christmas always brought out the crazies”) and is glad to see the man get off at the next stop. But when he looks out the bus window to see if the man is really gone, he sees a raven flap upwards in his place.

Such transformations become a pattern and source of knowledge in the book, what critic and novelist **Robert Wiersema** calls its magic realism. One afternoon when Jared is hitchhiking home after a weekend of partying, “an old Native woman” in a burgundy Cadillac stops to give him a ride. She was “perfectly respectable in a flowered dress, work jacket and square orthotic shoes,” but he saw something in her that

was “dark as cedar bark, with yellowed fangs and knobby, twisted knuckles.” In spite of her solicitous concern, he shuts the door, backs away and watches “the thing underneath the Grandma-skin start to snarl.” He blames it on magic mushrooms.

Before he sees her again the narrator tells us that individual human bodies are recycled carbon that was once grass, crickets, dinosaurs, and creatures that swam in ancient oceans, and they now sing to you in your dreams. “You think they are extinct, but they wait, coiled and unthinking, in your blood and bones.”

Jared again sees the old lady, first in a dream where he is on a fishing boat with her and they are surrounded in the water by talking killer whales (the orcas remind Jared this is their hunting ground), and then fully awake after school when he stops for a pizza and sees her Cadillac in the parking lot. Again, the monster underneath her skin snarls, but this time she introduces herself as Mrs. Georgina Smith, though her old name, she adds, is Jwasins. And she “doesn’t normally share dreams with humans.”

She tells him a quest story about a shaman’s two sons: the oldest wanted to succeed his father, but in his fasting and self-flagellation with spikes of devil’s club, he dies. The other brother rejects his father’s life, but spirits flock to

him like mosquitoes and torture him until he submits and becomes a powerful shaman. The old lady believes Jared is like the second brother. But Jared insists he has not believed in such magic since the time he stopped believing in Santa Claus. She insists he will and that she can be his guide.

Beginning in a chapter titled “Welcome to the Jungle,” he sees in hallucinatory fashion numerous embodiments of Indigenous narratives: a company of naked savages wearing necklaces of finger bones, humans and otters spliced together in one body, more talking ravens who insist his father is a Trickster. A grizzly bear attends a house party, but only Jared and his mother see it. His beloved Nana Sophia also transforms. He sees something with a long, terrible beak under her skin and reptilian eyes—“like a pterodactyl.”



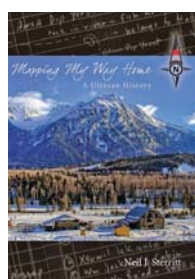
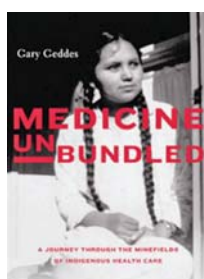
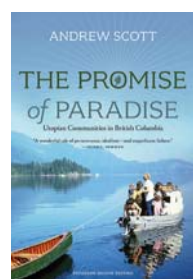
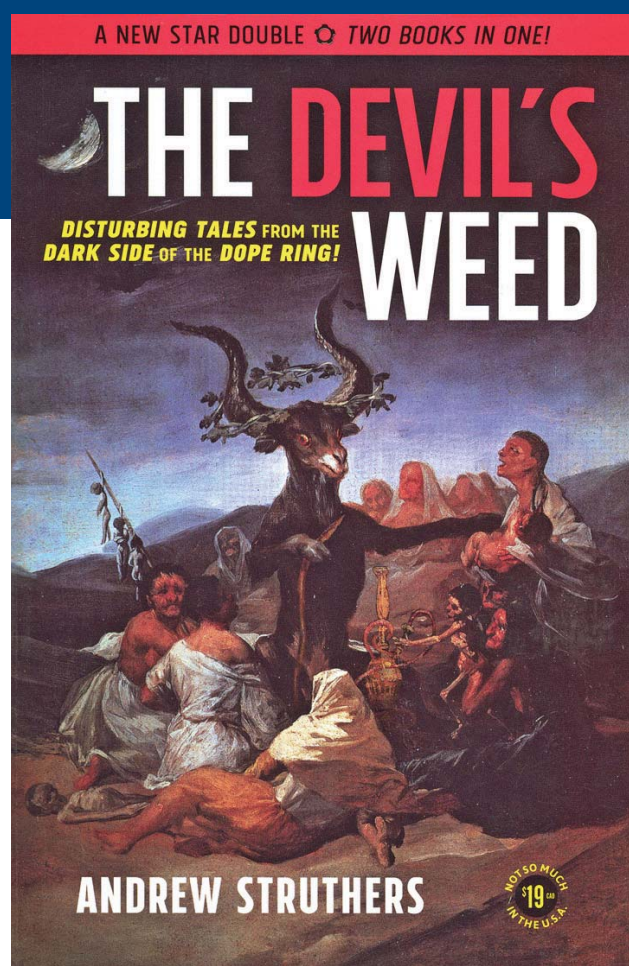
COMING-OF-AGE NARRATIVES embody a search for identity and Eden Robinson ends her story with a shuffling of relationships—Who is the real father? Who is the real Nana? Monsters are also very ordinary contemporary folks, and an important spiritual figure is also a common enough pinch penny and Bible-thumper. At the close Jared is being taken to an AA meeting.

I have followed the plotting of this narrative in terms of human psychology and Indigenous mythology at the expense of the humour that pervades almost every page. Much of that humour is the subversive kind where one’s expectations are turned upside down—a mother who is more violent and foul-mouthed than any of the male characters, a “grandmother” who reveals herself a snarling wolf inside. But much of it is language—its frequent vulgarity, its pop-culture references. Chapter titles with their wide-ranging references and borrowings embody much of that blunt fun: “Cookie Dude,” “Powder House Rules,” “Oxydipal Complex,” “Ragged-Ass Road,” “Goodbye to All That,” “Sucks to be You.”

The span of this novel from brutal realism to magic realism embodies for me much of what it meant to make contact with the B.C. members of my extended family. But more importantly what this novel does for the non-Indigenous reader is to make totem poles, masks, and legends come alive. This remarkable novel accordingly takes Indigenous writing to a new level.

9780345810786

*David Stouck is an editor and biographer. His last book, **Arthur Erickson: An Architect’s Life** (D&M, 2013), won various awards including the Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize.*



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The Sacred Herb / The Devil's Weed
(New Star, \$19)
by **Andrew Struthers**

Informative and even enlightening, but above all, a hilarious look at a humble plant that has entertained, inspired, and occasionally terrified so many for so long. Andrew Struthers directs his “brilliant madness” towards the ambivalent nature of marijuana, once the target of “reefer madness” hysteria and now available for quasi-legal purchase.

The Promise of Paradise: Utopian Communities in British Columbia
(Harbour Publishing, \$24.95)
by **Andrew Scott**

Andrew Scott delves into the dramatic stories of utopian and intentional settlement attempts over the past 150 years of B.C. history. These fascinating, but often doomed, communities included Doukhobor farmers, Finnish coal miners, Quakers and hippies. While most discovered hardship, disillusionment and failure, new groups sprang up—and continue to spring up—to take their place.

Mapping My Way Home: A Gitksan History
(Creekstone Press, \$29.95)
by **Neil J. Sterritt**

Mapping My Way Home traces the journeys of Europeans who came to take advantage of the opportunities at the junction of the Skeena and Bulkley rivers. Gitksan leader Neil Sterritt shares the stories of his people, stories both ancient and recent, to illustrate their resilience when faced with the challenges the newcomers brought. Winner of the 2017 Haig-Brown regional book prize.

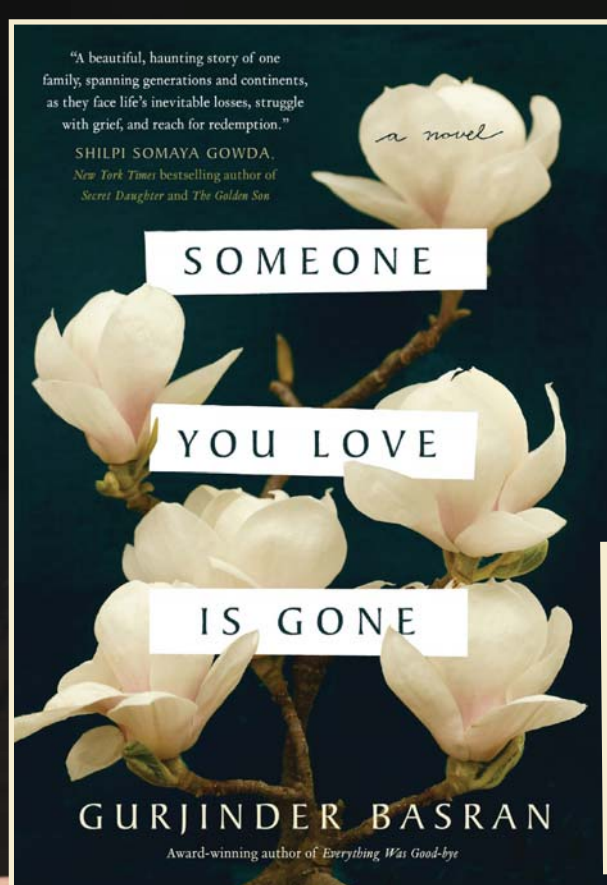
Medicine Unbundled: A Journey through the Minefields of Indigenous Health Care
(Heritage House, \$22.95)
by **Gary Geddes**

Gary Geddes turns his investigative lens across Canada to interview Indigenous elders willing to share their experiences of segregated health care, including their treatment in the “Indian hospitals” that existed from coast to coast for over half a century. A shocking exposé of the dark history and legacy of segregated Indigenous health care in Canada.



*selected by Alan Twigg

A HAUNTING TALE OF LOVE OUTSIDE TIME



“Grief has the power to remake us, and for Simran and her mother, it proves truly transformative, blurring the lines between self and other, home and history—even life and death.”

—ALISSA YORK,
author of *Fauna* and *The Naturalist*

“A beautiful, haunting story of one family, spanning generations and continents, as they face life’s inevitable losses, struggle with grief, and reach for redemption.”

—SHILPI SOMAYA GOWDA,
New York Times bestselling author of *Secret Daughter* and *The Golden Son*



Penguin
Random House
Canada

Author photograph © Karolina Turek

**The Sacred Herb /
The Devil's Weed**
by **Andrew Struthers**
(New Star \$19)

MARIJUANA CAN be dangerous and joyous. Anyone telling you marijuana is one thing, and not the other, is a liar.

And, yes, it can also be medicinal for some. Much like alcohol, except the death rate and social costs have been far less.

You don't have to read a government study to figure this stuff out. And don't trust pot proponents or your neighbour Brad to give you the lowdown.

The truth, my friend, is brilliantly provided in **Andrew Struthers'** hilarious, dualistic, ying/yangish, James Joycean, expert compilation of two manuscripts sleeping in the same bed, **The Sacred Herb / The Devil's Weed**.

One half of this upside-down 'double paperback' affords a scintillating distillation of marijuana-induced misadventures gathered from Struthers' acquaintances and his Facebook group of informants called *The Sacred Herb*. This is a rollicking, strung-together, strung-out narrative that captures the creative, mostly benign insanity and weird energy of pot trips.

Or you can turn the book upside down and start reading the other half first. Struthers has gone beyond anecdotal evidence for *The Devil's Weed*, cobbling together a somewhat more sociological survey of the humble weed that purportedly makes music sound better. But listen up, kids. Ganga can make some people go off the deep end.

Imagine **Hunter S. Thompson** re-invented as an audacious, post-hippie iconoclast in Clayoquot Sound, riffing in his hot tub in a prolonged reverie, having consumed too much "chocolate" cake ("having eaten enough THC to kill Tusko the Elephant"), recounting all the goofy and strange pot stories you can't imagine... and you're only just beginning to get the feel of this outrageously funny, literary triumph.

Best of all, Struthers affects the brash charm of a storyteller who doesn't care whether you like him or not. He first smoked a joint of grey schwag with a kid called Max on the last day of high school in Prince George in 1978. "Before I knew it, nothing happened. That was par for the course in those days. Failure-to-launch syndrome was so common that tokers would warn first-timers that they were about to have no fun."

And so it grows. Struthers has produced another book

UNDER THE VOLCANO HAS A COUSIN...

It's high time **Andrew Struthers** gets his due as one of Canada's most original stylists

that doesn't resemble any other book as a follow-up to his equally mind-bending memoir, *Around the World on Minimum Wage* (New Star 2014). People in Ontario would be thoroughly mystified if this stuff ever reached them. After a carnival ride of comedy, here's where he ends up:

"The official story of the

new Liberal government is that after a decade of Conservatism we're finally heading back to the future. Yet the more things change, the more they stay insane. When I began to smoke pot in 1978 *Alien* was on the big screen and **Trudeau** was Prime Minister. Forty years later, *Alien* is on the big screen and **Trudeau** is Prime Minis-

ter. But there's hope. The new *Alien* is by Vancouver genius **Neill Blomkamp** and the new Trudeau is my pot dealer.

"They say the dealer is not your friend, even when he's a long-haired shirtless feminist, and that might finally be true this time because pot's greatest power was helping us think outside the box. But now it



EXCERPT from **The Sacred Herb/The Devil's Weed**: After a guy named Winston smokes a bowl of Thai stick with Peter and the narrator in 1980...

"The stuff's so strong he launches first time like the Challenger and back in Kelowna relates his adventure to his Lutheran parents, who explode and call the pastor then all three pray and wait for hours trying to cast the Devil out of Winston till his mind folds like a pair of twos and the last time Pete sees him is in the bunny bin at UBC, three hundred pounds of unshaved pain hectored by voices in his head, smoking cigarettes till dawn and watching Wheel of Fortune with both lobes flattened by old-school antipsychotic drugs, after which I take pot's storied harmlessness with a pinch of lithium salt..."

will become the box, a closed system like capitalism, which seemed like such a good idea when it made us all rich, but now it has made us cogs in a monstrous water-boarding machine that figures out with computers how much stress will kill you then backs of the screws till you can pay your bills.

"New Trudeau promised to legalize cannabis for his election special, and claims he has a plan for pot rather than just a scheme to get his old bedroom back. Meanwhile, a new report commissioned by the Cannabis Growers of Canada claims pot is a \$5-billion-dollar industry, and if legalized would provide \$1.5 billion in tax revenue. But all of this is beside the point. Most Canadians can't wait for pot to be legalized so that they'll never have to read another goddamned editorial on the subject.

"One cloud on the horizon is that along with legalization will come Walmart, and the

Andrew Struthers says he is in no way biased towards legalizing the sacred herb even though he considers it to be completely harmless and lots of fun "unless you count the killer strain he smoked last week with a guy called Dennis who he met at a bus stop, three puffs of which nearly put him in a wheelchair."

dollars that keep every small town in the B.C. interior afloat right now will suddenly dry up. Twenty-five thousand people are presently employed there just to trim colas. If the jobs end up at Walmart all those mom-and-pop grow-ops will be forced to adapt the way a corner store adapts when Save-On-Foods opens down the street: by vanishing without a trace.

"I don't doubt Trudeau's heart is in the right place, but his head looks a lot more like his mom's than his dad's, which means sooner or later he'll be partying with the Rolling Stones. So it's hard to have faith in his vague plan to unleash legalized pot on Alberta, a province that smokes less than half the herb B.C. burns...

"Of course, I'm not suggesting Albertans are stupid. I'm going to prove it with science. A 2010 survey from *Maclean's* found that my hometown of Victoria has the highest average IQ in the country, while my ex-wife's hometown of Edmonton ranks eighth..."

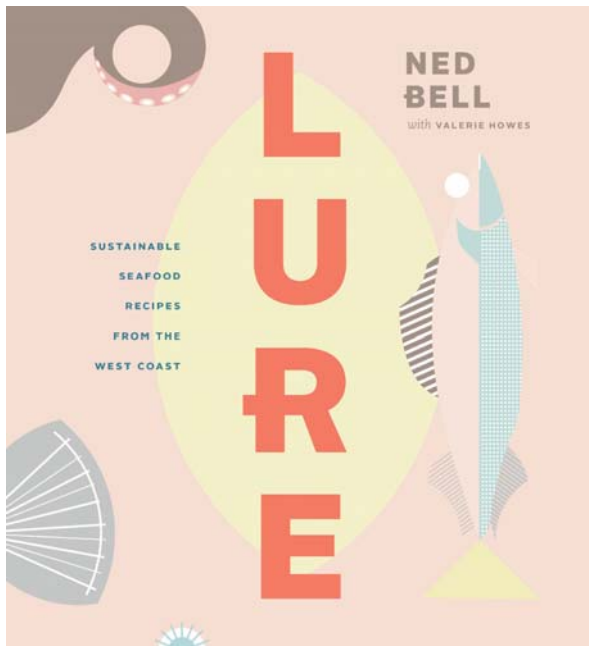
And so it grows.

This is a raucously British Columbian masterpiece that **Malcolm Lowry** would have envied if he hadn't drunk himself to smithereens.

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Figure.1

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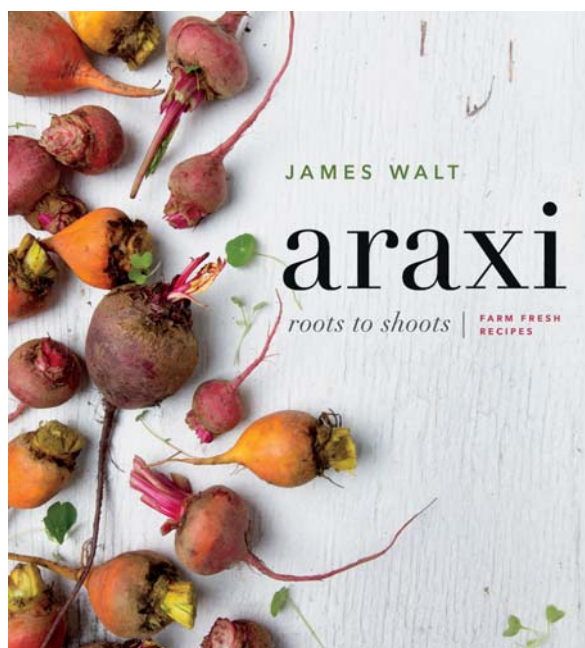
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“I love this book! The ultimate immersion into our one-of-a-kind, funky, fun, warm, and delicious city.” MARTHA HOLMBERG, cookbook author and food editor

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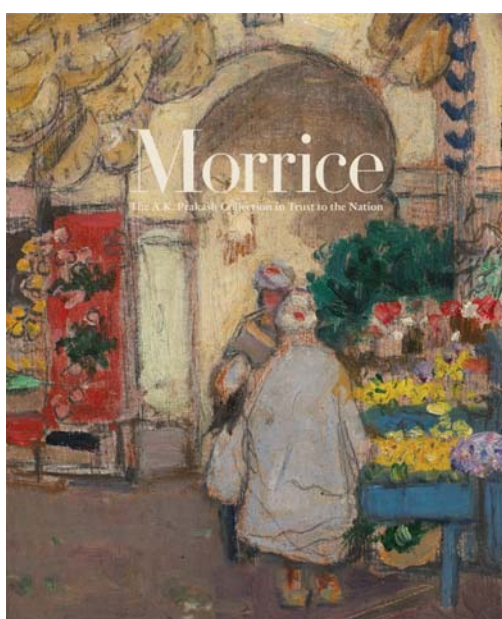


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JULIAN ARMSTRONG, Montreal Gazette

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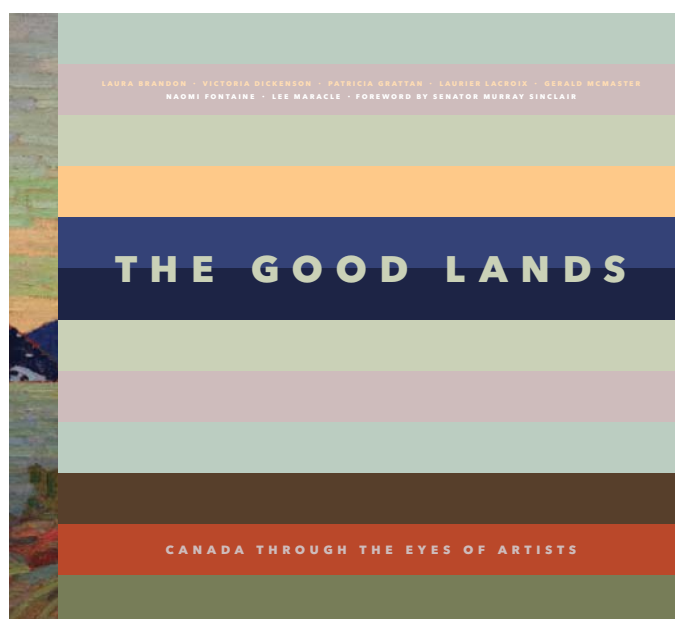


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In Case I Go by Angie Abdou
(Arsenal Pulp Press \$17.95)

A VIVID EVOCATION OF place is one of the pleasures of Angie Abdou’s work. Her fifth novel, **In Case I Go**, is set in the Crow’s Nest Pass, a mountainous region with a history of climactic and industrial catastrophes.

One of her characters describes the mountains on every side of the fictional town, Coalton, as feeling like a cage. “When the clouds settle down below the mountain peaks, it’s as if someone has closed the lid.”

Coalton came into being as a mining town when immigrants from around the globe flooded into the region, displacing and dispossessing the Indigenous population.

In the present day it attracts tourists and those in flight from the suburbs seeking a simpler life, only to bring condos, monster homes on ski slopes, gourmet restaurants and all the amenities of suburbia they hoped to leave behind.

Among the newcomers are Lucy and Nicholas Mountain, an academic and an environmental scientist respectively, hoping to save their troubled marriage and help their ailing, asthmatic son, Elijah (known as Eli).

Because Nicholas has deep family roots in Coalton, they are able to repossess his family home—a miner’s shack built by his great-grandfather; Nicholas finds work in the open surface mines that have replaced the old ones. Through the mountains, Abdou peels back the layered past with all its secrets and abuses. Ten-year-old Eli, the namesake of his great-great-grandfather, Elijah, is the prism through which the past is revealed.

Eli is an “old soul,” whose premature birth and early struggle to breathe have endowed him with special gifts. Described by a doctor as having “so much empathy, it’s like telepathy,” he has an uncanny ability to read unspoken communications. In Coalton, he is disturbed by forces more amorphous than his

physical disabilities, as he becomes literally haunted by the spirits of his restless ancestors.

Being haunted is not entirely a negative experience. As a friend tells Eli “the people without ghosts are the ones haunted. And maybe their kind of haunting is worse than ours.”

Eli learns that the realm of the dead is not separate from real life.

In his effort to come to terms with his ancestral legacy, Eli also learns a lot about “official stories versus real truths.” The official stories are presented in a television documentary and in the local museum, replete with old photographs and the simulated voices of the dispossessed First Nations and the immigrants. From his window he sees the cemeteries of conflicting religious denominations. There is also sinister evidence of another graveyard be-



JOAN GIVNER

low the town. Construction work on new subdivisions churns up skeletal remains from the desecrated burial sites of the First Nations.

★ ELI FINDS GUIDES TO the real truth in his

neighbour, Sam Browning, a biologist and spokesperson for the Ktunaxa First Nation, and Mary, his mute niece, whose non-verbal communications only Eli can interpret. The lives of his forebears and theirs are inextricably linked, and it is through Mary that Eli reconnects with his great-great grandfather.

The relationship of the first Elijah and Mary’s foremother is the central story.

MOUNTAINS OF SORROW

With Ktunaxa characters and spirituality, **Angie Abdou’s** novel is dedicated to the late **Richard Wagamese**.

gether by Elijah’s charitable wife. They were star-crossed lovers, doomed from the start. Their spirits penetrate Eli’s consciousness, fill his dreams and carry him back to an earlier era, the memories flooding through him in raging waves. “Imagining all those Mary’s, at once different and at once the same makes me dizzy,” he says.

Describing Eli’s simultaneous experience of then and now, “the present-past-present whiplash of lives buzzing by in the wrong direction,” is a technical challenge that Abdou handles skilfully.

At the same time, the interwoven Aboriginal and immigrant lives inject another challenge into Abdou’s creative process—that of cultural appropriation. This is territory that has proved a minefield for writers, and adds a new dimension to the traditional anxiety of authorship.

In a prefatory note and again in her acknowledgements (the repetition testifies to her anxiety) Abdou establishes her awareness of the problem, makes clear her sensitivity to the subject, and explains her respectful handling of it. She acknowledges at the outset that the Ktunaxa people do not want their spirituality represented in fiction or used for profit. Accordingly, she does not reproduce the tribal wisdom transmitted to Mary by her mother “in case I go.” Abdou sought permission for the use of the Ktunaxa name and language and land; she expresses gratitude to the Ktunaxa people who read the manuscript and to the Ktunaxa National Cultural liaison officer and to the Elders Advisory Council.

She found crucial inspiration in the advice that the late Ojibway writer, **Richard Wagamese**, gave in a lecture to a white audience:

“You can’t undo the past. You don’t have to feel guilty about the past. You don’t even have to apologize for the past. All you have to do is say YES. Yes, this happened.” Those words brought her work into focus. She frames her novel, which is dedicated to Richard Wagamese, as her “yes.”

9781551527031

Biographer and novelist Joan Givner writes from Victoria.

Angie Abdou lives in Fernie.



Slouching Towards Innocence
by Ron Norman
(Now or Never Publishing \$19.95)

BY JEREMY TWIGG

THESE DAYS, OUR collective attention is dominated, like it or not, by the Trumpian fiascos of American politics. Ron Norman's **Slouching Towards Innocence** is a refreshing detour into our corner of Canadian politics.

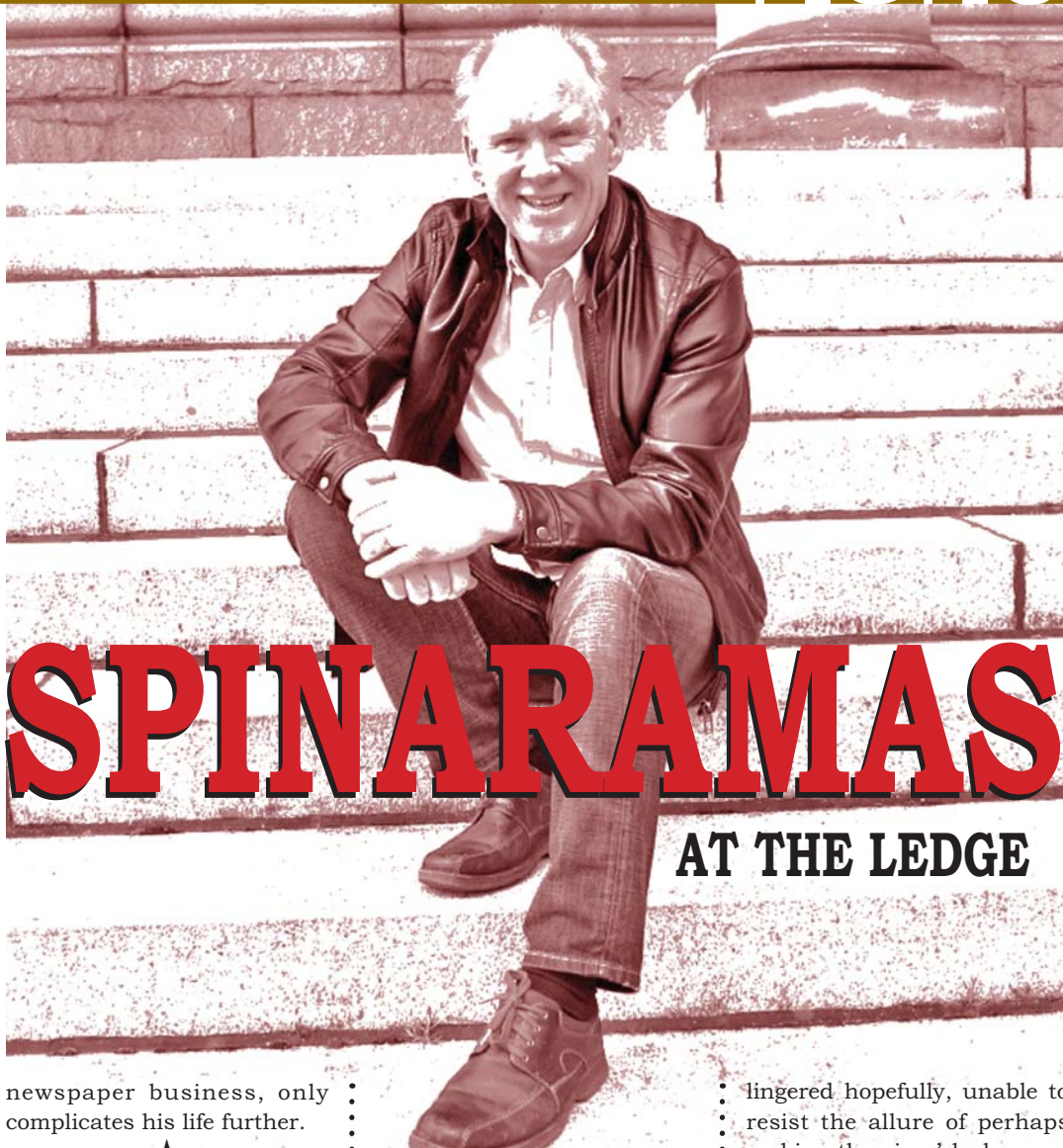
B.C. is often referred to as the 'wild west' of Canadian politics and Norman stays true to that reputation. After young, impressionable reporter Malcolm Bidwell is hired by the province's newly-elected United Party to provide communications services, he is introduced to Premier Steven Davis in a most unusual manner: when a legislative staffer named Catherine—who is secretly sleeping with the Premier—calls Malcolm in a middle-of-the-night panic.

This is worse than **Gordon Campbell's** drunk driving incident in Hawaii. The situation? Our illustrious premier is comatose on Catherine's bed, sporting an enormous, Viagra-induced erection, and can't be woken with any amount of shaking and prodding.

Malcolm's reluctant decision to help lug Davis' dead weight to his hotel—as surreptitiously as possible given the offending appendage—puts our protagonist forever in the premier's debt. But it also makes him a de-facto conspirator with the female staffer (who has a tendency towards low-cut blouses).

This cringe-worthy, 3 a.m. scene feels like it's straight out of a movie. One gets the sense that Norman wrote the book with the intention (or hope) of having it made into a film. Indeed, the opening chapter, in which the premier gives a cynical victory speech, is written in screenplay format.

A fall-out with Malcolm's girlfriend, who disapproves of his decision to leave the



SPINARAMAS AT THE LEDGE

newspaper business, only complicates his life further.



AS A DEBUT NOVELIST, RON NORMAN, who lives in Brentwood Bay, adheres to that old adage 'show, don't tell.' As the chief of staff unfavourably describes a principled, veteran cabinet minister whose political days are numbered for not toeing the party line, a quintessential Victoria scene takes place outside: "A horse and carriage clip-clopped lazily down the tree-shaded street, going in and out of the patches of sunlight that peeked through the leafy canopy, a string of cars backed up in frustration behind it."

I work at a communications agency that provides public affairs consulting (which is just a fancy way of saying government relations) so I have a general sense of how government works. Yet I found Norman's behind-the-scenes glimpses into the inner workings of the legislature both

A neophyte spin doctor stumbles upon anxiety and social ills in Victoria

informative and entertaining. An ex-reporter, Norman has also spent more than a decade as a senior bureaucrat in B.C. politics, so he writes from a position of authority.

"Commissionaires in white shirts, clipped black ties and military epaulettes patrolled the hallway trying unsuccessfully to exert some control over the chaos by issuing verbal cautions for reporters to stay off the red carpet, so as not to block access. Backbenchers sauntered through the maze of reporters untouched and largely unrecognized.

"Parliamentary secretaries, ministers of state, and ministers with minor portfolios

lingered hopefully, unable to resist the allure of perhaps making the six o'clock news, yet knowing that they were only of interest if they had badly mis-stepped...

"Opposition communications staff weaved their way through the reporters and government communicators like spies working behind enemy lines, monitoring media scrums and sending back intelligence via smartphone for critics to use during Question Period."

Slouching Towards Innocence provides the reader with a crash course in media relations. You'll learn tricks politicians use to handle tough questions from reporters. For instance, the minister in charge of Veteran Affairs gets chastised for the mistake of repeating a negative in his response—a classic no-no. Malcolm points out this rookie mistake, then teaches him about 'bridging' away from tough questions just minutes

before a critical media scrum.

My only complaint is that Malcolm's character, at least at the outset, isn't as colourful as the supporting cast. He comes across as a somewhat meek fellow who tiptoes around his ever-critical girlfriend. He is initially subservient; life happens to him. Norman writes, "Malcolm tried to think of something he felt so strongly about that he would take a stand—no matter what. Nothing came to mind."

Eventually Malcolm's star begins to rise in the B.C. legislature, thanks to bonafide issues management work that saves numerous political reputations. His shrewdness grows along with his professional stature.

Beyond the central topic of save-your-own-skin politics, Norman sheds light on the newspaper industry's struggle to survive, big city elitism and our collective obsession with house prices.

From that late-night, Viagra-induced rescue, to a minister caught with same-sex prostitutes, to the premier's animal cruelty charges for killing a lowly crow, *Slouching Towards Innocence* treats the reader to non-stop scandal and action—all distinctly homegrown.



WHILE NOVELS ABOUT B.C. POLITICS are rare, Ron Norman's welcome debut is not the first book with a title alluding to **Yeats'** 1919 poem 'The Second Coming.' **Joan Didion's** well-known collection of essays, *Slouching towards Bethlehem*, has been followed by **Robert Bork's** bestseller *Slouching Towards Gomorrah* and English professor **W.C. Harris'** *Slouching Towards Gaytheism*. **Chinua Achebe** referenced Yeats' poem for his title *Things Fall Apart* in 1958 and **Robert Parker** also wrote a detective novel called *The Widening Gyre*.

At least Ron Norman is in good company.

Jeremy Twigg is a graduate of UBC's Creative Writing Program.



JASPER WILD

BY **GEORGE MERCER**

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THIRST
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Deep in a Columbia River valley rocked by violence and tightly controlled by a U.S.-Canada military force, geologist Alex Graham joins the search for a suspected toxic spill as the victim count rises. But the lethal contamination is no accident.

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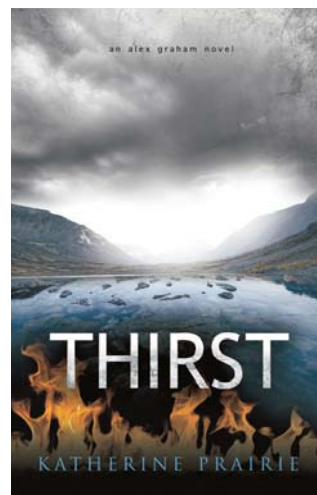


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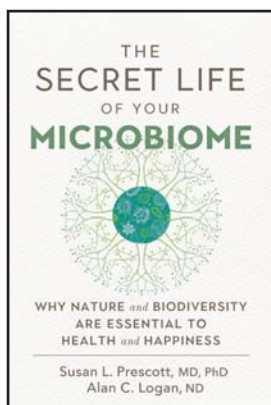
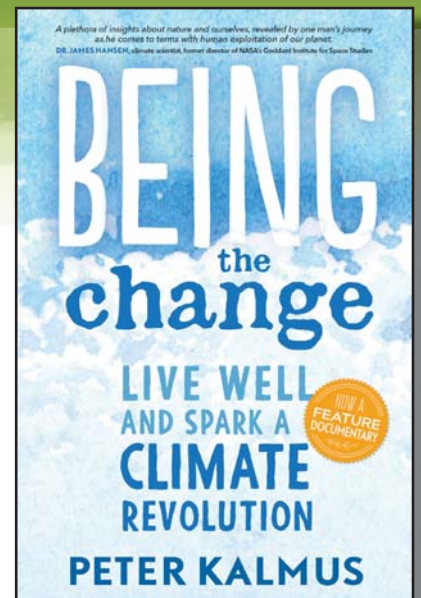
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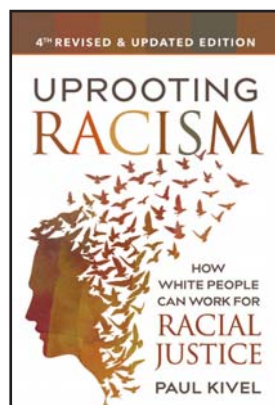
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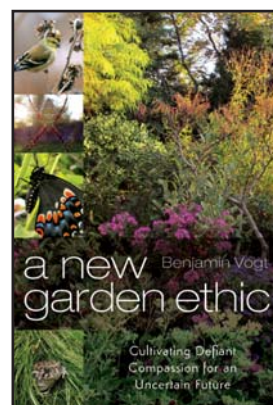
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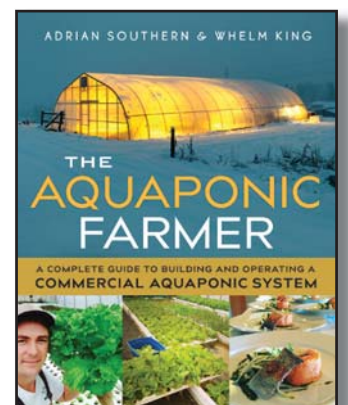
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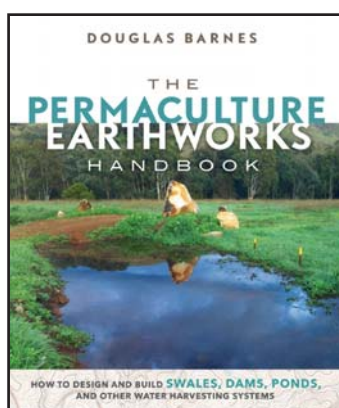
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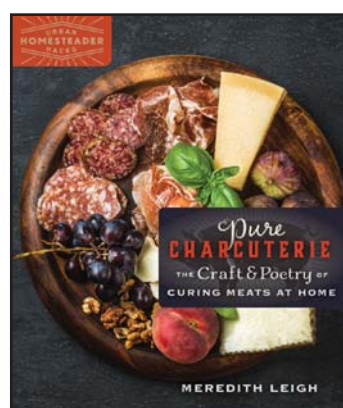
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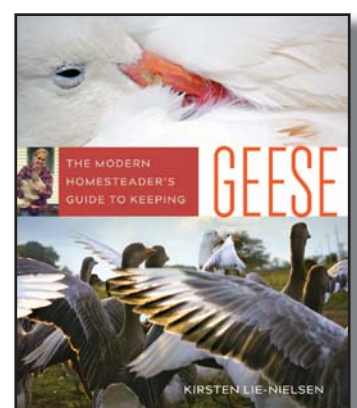
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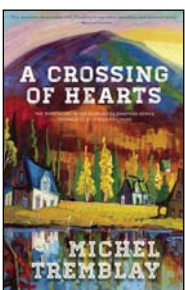
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From Oral to Written
A Celebration of Native Canadian Literature
1980–2010
TOMSON HIGHWAY

Tomson Highway's *From Oral to Written* is a study of Native literature published in Canada between 1980 and 2010, a catalogue of amazing books that sparked the embers of a dormant voice.

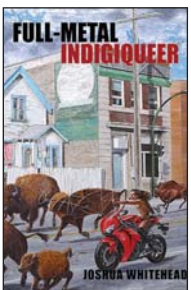
978-1-77201-116-6 • \$29.95 • 432 pages • Non-fiction



A Crossing of Hearts
MICHEL TREMBLAY

A Crossing of Hearts continues Michel Tremblay's Desrosiers Diaspora series of novels, a family saga set in Montreal during World War I.

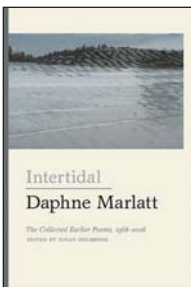
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full-metal indigiqueer
JOSHUA WHITEHEAD

This poetry collection focuses on a hybridized Indigiqueer Trickster character named Zoa who brings together the organic (the protozoan) and the technologic (the binaric) in order to re-beautify and re-member queer Indigeneity.

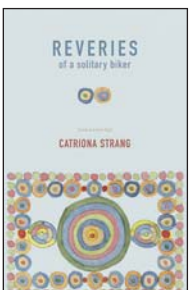
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September 2017



Intertidal
The Collected Earlier Poems, 1968–2008
DAPHNE MARLATT
edited by Susan Holbrook

Intertidal is the definitive oeuvre of Daphne Marlatt's poetry exploring the city, feminism, and collaboration. Includes poetry from sixteen published collections and a number of previously unpublished or uncollected poems.

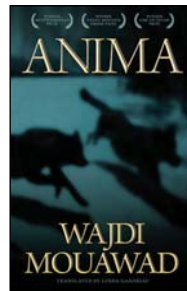
978-1-77201-178-4 • \$49.95 • 648 pages • Poetry
October 2017



Reveries of a Solitary Biker
CATRIONA STRANG

After Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Les rêveries du promeneur solitaire*, translated as *Reveries of the Solitary Walker* (or *A Solitary Walker*). Biking around Vancouver, Strang returned to several issues of lifelong interest, her own version of Rousseau's obsessions. *Reveries of a Solitary Biker* collects her poetic responses.

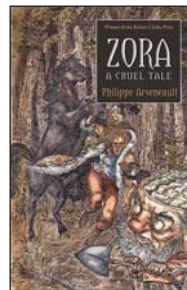
978-1-77201-180-7 • \$16.95 • 88 pages • Poetry
October 2017



Anima
WAJDI MOUAWAD
translated by Linda Gaboriau

This award-winning novel by playwright Wajdi Mouawad is a thriller and a road novel – written in the North African storytelling tradition in which events unfold from multiple animal points of view.

978-1-77201-003-9 • \$19.95 • 368 pages • Fiction



Zora
A Cruel Tale
PHILIPPE ARSENEAULT
translated by Fred A. Reed & David Homel

Arseneault's Rabelaisian fantasy is a gothic tale of the macabre and the bizarre, of black magicians and alchemists, and of the life and times of Zora Marjanna Lavanko, the daughter of a brutish tripe-dresser who dies for love.

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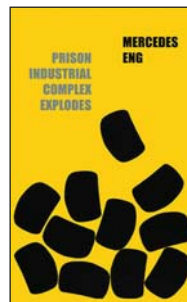


Injun
JORDAN ABEL

Injun is a long poem about racism and the representation of Indigenous peoples. Composed of text found in western novels published between 1840 and 1950, *Injun* uses erasure, pastiche, and a focused poetics to create a visually striking response to the western genre.

Winner of the 2017 Griffin Poetry Prize !

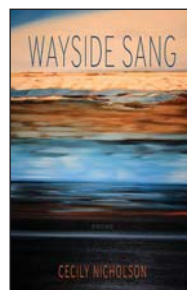
978-0-88922-977-8 • \$16.95 • 112 pages • Poetry



Prison Industrial Complex Explodes
MERCEDES ENG

Combining text from government questionnaires and reports, lyric poetry, and photography, *Prison Industrial Complex Explodes* examines the possibility of a privatized prison system in Canada leading up to then Prime Minister Harper's Conservative government passing the Anti-Terrorism Act, also known as Bill C-51.

978-1-77201-181-4 • \$17.95 • 124 pages • Poetry
October 2017



Wayside Sang
CECILY NICHOLSON

Wayside Sang concerns entwined migrations of Black-other diaspora coming to terms with fossil-fuel psyches in times of trauma and movement. This is a poetic account of economy travel on North American roadways, across the Peace and Ambassador bridges and through the Fleetway tunnel, above and beneath Great Lake rivers between nation states.

978-1-77201-182-1 • \$16.95 • 96 pages • Poetry
October 2017

The Year Canadians Lost Their Minds and Found Their Country: The Centennial of 1967 by Tom Hawthorn (Douglas & McIntyre \$26.95)

BY FORREST D. PASS

1967. It was the year that The Beatles released Sgt. Pepper.

NOW THE YEAR **Canadians Lost Their Minds and Found Their Country** recounts with humour, affection, and a little nostalgia the myriad ways in which ordinary Canadians marked their country's hundredth birthday in 1967.

The 1967 Centennial celebrations overshadowed any previous Canadian patriotic commemoration in scale and enthusiasm.

The celebrations marked a unique convergence of a federal government keen to celebrate its hundredth birthday and a citizenry ready, as **Tom Hawthorn** puts it, to "lose their minds."

And lose their minds they did, but in a good way.

Ida Dekelver, for example, commemorated the centenary and the contributions of her Overlander ancestors by walking from Clearwater, near Kamloops, to Saskatchewan accompanied by two donkeys.

Eldra Robertson of Chase was one of hundreds of women from coast-to-coast who produced elaborate Centennial quilts, many of which are the prized possessions of community halls and local museums to this day.

St. Paul, Alberta, constructed its famous UFO Landing Pad as a Centennial project, one of many unusual roadside attractions to sport the Centennial logo.

With an eye for the quirky and the quixotic, Hawthorn recounts dozens of other Centennial projects, national, local, and personal.

Expo 67 in Montreal gets a chapter of its own, needless to say. Marquee official projects such as the Confederation Train and Caravan also receive well-deserved attention, along with **Stuart Ash's** iconic modernist maple-leaf emblem, **Bobby Gimby's** celebratory ear-worm "Ca-Na-Da" and **Alex Colville's** minimalist Centennial circulation coin designs.

The book's groovy typography and bright colours capture something of the sixties style so evident in Centennial promotions and the endless souvenirs that still abound in the thrift shops of Canada.

Hawthorn steers clear of the "behind the scenes" organizational history of the Centennial, ground already well

IT WAS 50 YEARS AGO TODAY, EXPO 67 TAUGHT THE LAND TO PLAY

Whether some approve or not, anniversary celebrations can energize citizens, according to reviewer **Forrest D. Pass**.

covered in **Peter H. Aykroyd's** memoir, *The Anniversary Compulsion* (Dundurn, 1992). Hawthorn does acknowledge government projects and subsidies, but never loses sight of his focus on individual and community initiatives. It was this government largesse that made possible so much of the Centennial celebrations and their lasting legacies.

Inspired at least in part by the success of grant programs during the British Columbia Centennial of 1958, the federal Centennial Commission subsidized the construction of Centennial scholarships, arenas, parks, squares, community centres, monuments, and celebratory plaques, many of which remain the most tangible connection to the



Tom Hawthorn

celebrations.

In this light, the celebrations were perhaps not quite as spontaneous as Hawthorn seems to suggest. Canadians embraced the Centennial for a variety of reasons, including official promotion and the enticement of funding for community projects.

If the book clearly demonstrates that the Centennial

caused Canadians to lose their minds, the notion of "finding their country" is a little trickier to pin down. In his preface, Hawthorn asserts that:

"The Canada of 1968 was a profoundly different place than the Canada of 1966. All that was to come ... was made possible during the Centennial year. It was the beginning of a new sense of national identity, one in which race, culture and language would play lesser roles than we had become accustomed to in the country's first century."

Here I think he overreaches. Certainly the 1960s in Canada were a decade of social, political, and cultural ferment, but were the Centennial celebrations a driver or merely a symptom of these changes?

For instance, the cultural nationalism of the CBC and the Massey Commission dated from the 1950s, while many of the political hallmarks of modern Canadian identity—universal health insurance, or a colour-blind immigration policy, a precursor to modern-day official multiculturalism—were products of the early 1960s, not of 1967.

Hawthorn himself lived in Montreal during the Centennial year, and considering the reception and aftermath of the Centennial in Quebec, it is odd that he suggests that language politics would play a lesser role in national identity after 1967 than it had before. Before the Centennial year closed, René Levesque would form the Mouvement Souveraineté-Association, which in 1968 would become the Parti Québécois.

For more than a quarter-century to come, language and culture would be central to discussions of Canadian national identity. Indeed, the celebration for the next major anniversary of Confederation, Canada 125 in 1992, was little more than an effort to shore up Canadian federalism in the wake of the failed Meech Lake and Charlottetown accords.

Major commemorations often inspire the revival and re-formulation of national myths, and Hawthorn occasionally falls into the myth-making trap. Yet he also acknowledges that not everyone was thrilled about the anniversary.

Chief **Dan George** of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation (Burrard Inlet, North Vancouver) used the occasion of a Dominion Day address in Vancouver to lament the second-class status of Indigenous people in Canada.

With the benefit of a half-century's hindsight, Canadians' Centennial antics might seem a little quaint, but the excitement and optimism behind them were heartfelt.

9781771621502

Forrest D. Pass is a historian at the Canadian Museum of History. Originally from the Sunshine Coast, he writes on B.C. regionalism, Canadian nationalism, commemorations, and public history.



Let's Celebrate Canada's Centennial!

Beckoned By The Sea: Women at Work on the Cascadia Coast by Sylvia Taylor (Heritage House \$19.95)

ASIDE FROM *SALTwater Women at Work* (D&M, 1995) by **Vickie Jensen**, which is no longer in print, there has not been an overview on women of Cascadia (Pacific Northwest coast) with maritime-related occupations. **Sylvia Taylor's** anthology about twenty-four strong women fills the gap.

After an elegant foreword from poet **Renee Sarojini Saklikar** introducing the profiles to come, **Beckoned by The Sea: Women at Work on the Cascadia Coast** begins with *The Harvesters*, those women who work hard to provide life-sustaining food.

We meet Captain **Laura Rasmussen** of Polaris with whom I've traded for prawns while I was working as a lightkeeper at Nootka Lightstation, as well as intrepid kelp harvester **Rae Hopkins** from Bamfield and Comox-based **Roberta Stevenson**, a shellfish cultivator and executive director of the BC Shellfish Growers' Association. Plus there is much to learn from Newport, Oregon restaurateur (Local Ocean), conservationist and fair food pricing activist, **Laura Anderson**.

For young people contemplating marine careers, this book also offers invaluable insights from trailblazing women like **Connie Buhl** who was the first American woman to earn her chief engineer's license along with three individual licenses: unlimited chief engineer of steam, motor and gas turbine vessels. Buhl, like Portuguese-born tugboat captain **Bela Love** and Canadian Coast Guard Captain **Rhona Lettau**, went for the challenges, adventures and good pay that these traditionally male occupations provide.

In *The Travellers* category, Gibsons-based **Gillie Hutchinson**, a veteran sailing instructor with her own company, LadySail, says, "Sailors are kind of a different breed. We're calmer. We don't get so uptight... Problems and overcoming them: it just creates this different mindset. Sailing has helped me do that.

"You're not in control. It doesn't matter. You don't have to be. You just have to be safe and be at one with the environment, not fighting it. Not be in control of it.

"And when I come ashore I find I'm just in this zoned-out place where I'm just super-calm. And everybody around me is all twittered up and on their iPhones and doing and rushing."

In *The Creators* section, readers encounter the life paths taken by Port Townsend boat builder and shipwright **Diana Talley**, Vancouver's **Vickie Jensen**, a writer and photographer, Qualicum Beach painter **Peggy Burkosky**, and—in a fascinating niche occupation not found on Canada Employment Centre help wanted lists alongside machinists—a professional mermaid, **Lori Pappajohn**.

I must now get my hands on a mono-fin to swim like a mermaid—a harp, evidently, is required equipment.

The History Keepers include **Vi Mundy**, distin-

CASCADIENNES

Patriarchal power patterns are indentured over centuries. Books about trailblazing women are necessary stepping stones to progress. **Caroline Woodward** applauds a new book about watery women.

guished Ucluelet First Nations councillor, band manager, language and economic development researcher, and treaty negotiator. Japanese-Canadian elder **Mary Kimoto** of Ucluelet leads a group preserving the history of their fishing heritage, including the disruption of forcible internment and the seizing (aka theft) of their homes and fishboats during World War Two on the west coast. Her account of working in canneries as a teenager is one of the highlights of the book.

Descended from Aleut and Russian seafarers, **Vonnie Fry** exemplifies those who must wait on shore, raising kids as a single parent while the fishing fleet is out for weeks and months at a time in the high-risk waters off Alaska. Kyuquot's **Nicalena Chidley** spent her childhood and youth as the daughter of long-serving lighthouse keepers, **Ed** and **Pat Kidder**. Her recollections hark back to an era less dominated by urban bureaucracy, when lighthouse keepers delivered jerry cans of gas to nearby boaters who had run out of it and when keepers had a fully-functioning station boat on site in order to rescue people in trouble. Her parents' legacy, like her grandparents before them, of keeping a watch on the waters has been passed on to Chidley's children who head out in a boat upon hearing distress calls.

The book comes full circle to end with *The*



Lori Pappajohn, professional mermaid, harpist, composer and arranger with 11 albums.

Protectors, a formidable quartet of gifted women who work with diverse groups to better their communities. They are respectful, patient and visionary in their roles as educated analysts, admired as superb communicators.

Profiled here are **Katie Beach**, marine and river biologist on the Fraser River, and Tofino's current mayor, **Josie Osborne**, also a marine biologist with an extensive background as liaison between the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Portland, Oregon's trailblazing **Megan Mackey** found her calling at Ecotrust and works with policies for the fishing fleets of all Cascadia to protect the ocean and sustain livelihoods.

Similar work is carried out by **Leesa Cobb** executive director of the Port Orford Ocean Resource Team. The last words are hers:

"Could we extract something different from the ocean that is very high value and could support the community? I believe we should think about the ocean as something to protect and something we use, and get the best of all worlds from it."

978-1-77203-179-9

Caroline Woodward's book, Light Years: Memoir of a Modern Lighthouse Keeper was nominated for the Bill Duthie Booksellers' Award in 2016.

PAT CARNEY'S CARNIVAL

On Island: Life Among the Coast Dwellers by Pat Carney (TouchWood \$21.95)

BY PAM ERIKSON

THE OPENING STORY OF **PAT CARNEY'S** collection *On Island: Life Among the Coast Dwellers* sets a fable-like tone. On a sunny, summer morning a mysterious woman releases eight cats, then boards a ferry, never to return.

The cats, as independent and resourceful as their human counterparts, wind their ways throughout the vignettes of island life, connecting stories and characters. And, like the cats, human characters appear and reappear.

The people are not named, which adds to the stories' fairy tale quality. They are known only by title or description: the Mountie, the Professor, the Church Warden, the Old Man, the Pirate Queen, and Blondie, the golden-haired "pagan princess-of-the-harvest," with her dog, Goldie, and her golden cat.

The feline and human characters must find ways to connect and fit in—as we all do—in ways that are both part of society and separate from society.

Often the inability to communicate with the outside world heightens the sense of separation of the Gulf Island communities "marooned in the ocean." The high cost of ferries and frequent storms compound a feeling of isolation, a recurring and connecting theme. Stories such as 'Lights Out' highlight the scourge of the islands: recurring power outages and loss of phone service. The aptly-titled 'Storm' tells a tale of frustration as a woman attempts to get to the Mainland during intermittent ferry closures.

In 'Battle for the Beach,' islanders and off-island property investors clash when absentee land owners seek to privatize and limit access to traditionally communal, public spaces. The islanders' opinion of these invaders is revealed in their name for the gated communities that impede free access to previously public trails: Fascist Estates.

Islanders band together to save the beach and the salmon, to maintain the interdenominational church, and to help one another in times of need. While Carney reveals the isolated and sometimes exclusive nature of island life, she also deftly illustrates a different, double nature of small communities: they are united and cooperative but also, at times, claustrophobic.

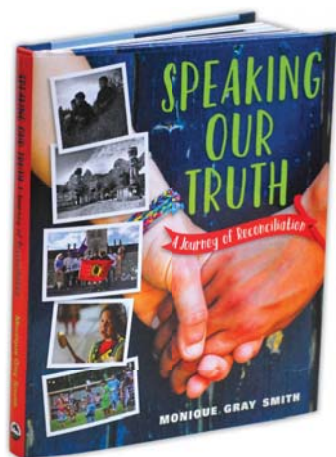
Café gossip over fair-trade coffee and gluten-free lemon cake is a reminder of ever-watchful eyes that scrutinize the comings and goings of the community. Secrets are never truly secrets, and the actions and indiscretions of individuals affect the collective. Island ecosystems are fragile and community ecosystems are equally vulnerable to disruption.

At the same time, these stories can be exquisitely Canadian, and Carney nods subtly to such national institutions as **David Suzuki**, **Alice Munro**, **Tim Hortons** and canned Pacific Evaporated Milk.

Mirroring the interconnection of waterways, ecologies, and communities, *On Island: Life Among the Coast Dwellers* is a delightful collection of stories that often feels magical and sometimes biographical.

9781771512107

Pam Erikson is an English writing tutor living in Kamloops.



*Speaking Our Truth:
A Journey of Reconciliation*
(Orca Book Publishers
\$29.95 HC)
by Monique Gray Smith
9781459815834 Ages 9-13

“Reconciliation
begins with
you.”

says Chief Dr.
Robert Joseph of the
Gwawaenuk First
Nation in **Monique
Gray Smith’s**
formidably executed
new book, ***Speaking
Our Truth.*** This simple
maxim reinforces the
purpose of the titular
journey—one that
is comprehensive in
scope, interactive, and
decidedly inclusive.

The book, which
is divided into four
sizeable chapters,
explores the painful
history of residential
schools, **investigates
what reconciliation
means,** and identifies
specific actions
individuals can take.

As a mixed-heritage
woman of Cree, Lakota
and Scottish ancestry
living in Victoria, Smith
brings authenticity and
passion to her role as
author. Her previous
books include *Tilly:
A Story of Hope and
Resilience*, which won
the Burt Award for

★ “**Absolutely necessary.**”
—*Kirkus*, starred review



Photo: Shari Nakagawa

First Nations, Métis,
and Inuit Literature,
and the board book
*My Heart Fills with
Happiness*, illustrated
by Julie Flett, which
won the Christie Harris
Illustrated Children’s
Literature Prize. She is
also an international
speaker who advocates
for the well-being of
Indigenous children.
Smith infuses her
conversational writing
with encouraging
expressions and takes
care to explain the
manner in which she
interviewed various
people. This transparent
glimpse into the writing
process underscores her
humble, gracious tone.
The author supports
all her assertions
with documentation;

the cumulative effect
is unquestionably
authentic and respectful.

The author also
describes the incredible
resilience Indigenous
peoples have shown
since the Royal
Proclamation of 1763.
Smith explains that in
residential schools, the
‘overall message was that
traditional Indigenous
ways of being were
inferior to non-
Indigenous ways’ and
that ‘this contributed
to shame and loss of
language, culture, and
pride.’ An interactive
feature called
Reflections—illustrated
with a line drawing
of a hand drum—lists
probing questions, none
of which have simple
answers.

Non-indigenous
readers, who empathize
with this reframing of
Canada’s history and
are eager to take on a
role in the reconciliation
process, will embrace
Smith’s use of the
positive term ‘ally.’ As a
package, the book offers
a **perfect framework**
for readers actively
exploring Indigenous
history and current
issues. Welcoming,
honest, and down to
earth, *Speaking Our
Truth* is **the tool many
Canadians have been
waiting for.**

—Excerpted from Jill
Bryant’s starred review
of *Speaking Our Truth* in
the September issue of
Quill & Quire



Monique Gray Smith

Reflections



Let’s start
with some basic
questions to help
you reflect on your
own knowledge and
beliefs.

Do you
know any
Indigenous people?

Are you an Indigenous
person? Is someone
in your family
Indigenous?

Whose
territory is your
school on?

Whose territory
is your
house on?

What do
you know about
the history of the
territory where
you live?

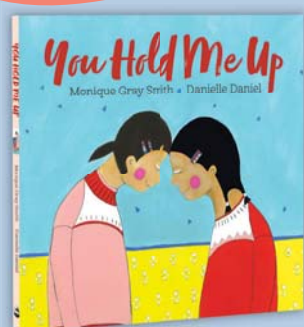
What do
you know about
the Indigenous
people whose
territory you live
on?

Reconciliation—

the restoration and
healing of a relationship.
In Canada, this
refers to the process
taken on by the Truth
and Reconciliation
Commission to revitalize
the relationship between
the citizens of Canada
(Indigenous and non-
Indigenous), as well as
the Nation-to-Nation
relationships with the
Government of Canada.



ALSO COMING THIS FALL



“Calming, positive, and serenely affirmative.” — *Kirkus*

“Heartwarming!” —Debbie Reese, *American Indians in Children’s Literature*

A foundational picture book about building relationships, fostering empathy,
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You Hold Me Up by Monique Gray Smith
(Orca Book Publishers \$19.95 HC)
9781459814479 Ages 4-8

A River Captured: The Columbia River Treaty and Catastrophic Change
by Eileen Delehanty Pearkes
(Rocky Mountain Books \$20)

BY JOHN GELLARD

FOR THE COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY (CRT) of 1964, signed by the Social Credit Party of **W.A.C. Bennett**, communities lost or moved included Halcyon Hotsprings, Arrowhead, Arrow Park, Burton, Fauquier, Needles, Edgewood, and Renata.

Now reviewer **John Gellard** assesses **A River Captured**, **Eileen Pearkes**’s exploration of the CRT’s controversial history and its impact on the ecology, farmland, salmon, and politics of the Kootenay region.

For one dam alone, the High Arrow (Keenleyside) Dam, completed in 1968, BC Hydro appropriated 3,144 properties in Arrow Lakes and relocated 1,350 people.

ONCE UPON A TIME a ferry went up and down the lakes of a splendid valley, collecting fresh cherries, peaches, apples and vegetables from hamlets with names like Renata, Deer Park, Halcyon and Appledale.

Kokanee salmon and bull trout spawned in the deltas of the small streams cascading from the mountains. You could selectively log your fir, cedar and cottonwood, and on the slopes you could graze cattle.

But that valley is gone. The Arrow Lakes on the Columbia River between Castlegar and Revelstoke are now behind the High Arrow dam under a reservoir storing water to generate megawatts and provide flood control for farms and towns in Washington and Oregon.

A River Captured, by **Eileen Delehanty Pearkes** tells in fascinating detail the story of the Columbia River Treaty—and how and why virtually all of the Columbia River and the Kootenay River became a series of reservoirs.

★
EILEEN PEARKEs SHOWS THAT THERE are two fiercely opposed views of how humans should use a river system.

The first is to realize that a river is an ecosystem. Human activity can be part of the life of a river. The Sinixt Indians lived with those rivers for millennia, migrating with the hugely abundant salmon, deer and birds, and making use of the bountiful variety of plants that grew in rhythm with the water cycle. Farmers settled in the valleys and took similar advantage of the water cycle.

The other view is that a river should be controlled and turned to its so called “highest and best” human use. If you get flooded out you deal with that by flood control rather

RETHINKING THE COLUMBIA TREATY CRY ME A RIVER

Damming the Columbia River: lost towns and drowned dreams.

than by not building your town in the flood plain. If you need electricity, or if you want to make the desert bloom, you build a dam.

The river-as-machine view has prevailed since the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia was conceived in the 1930s and completed in 1942. The idea was to make the semi-desert of eastern Washington bloom as farm land. Then the war came along and the dam’s best use was to generate electricity for munitions manufacture.

Ecologically, the dam was a disaster. It blocked the ocean going salmon from the upper Columbia in BC. There was a tentative plan to build a 12 km fish ladder to help the fish over the 168 m structure. It was far

too expensive and probably wouldn’t have worked anyway.

Once you start controlling a river, you can’t stop.

It was decided flood control and electricity generation could be enhanced by putting more dams upstream.

But there was that pesky 49th parallel. Canada’s formidable General **A.G.L. McNaughton**, avatar of the river-as-machine philosophy, wanted to keep Canadian control of the rivers. He hatched a scheme to divert the upper Kootenay into the Columbia and later to build a tunnel to take Columbia water to the all-Canadian Fraser River.

Mercifully, the byzantine machinations of the CRT in the 1960s put a stop to that. Pearkes gives us the details,

but in the end BC got money and downstream benefits in exchange for 15 million acre-feet of water storage behind the High Arrow, Duncan, and Mica dams.

We also got flood control from the Libby Dam on the Montana segment of the Kootenay River.

★
FOR HER BOOK, PEARKEs TOURED THE entire river system in search of human interest stories, finding tales of heartbreak and enormous courage, and of breathtakingly callous government high-handedness.

Janet Spicer grows organic vegetables on what’s left of her father’s Arrow Lake farm – the 29 acres above the flood line. Her rich topsoil was backhoed up from the valley

bottom before the flooding.

Her father **Christopher Spicer** was offered \$30,000 for his farm in the late 1960s. He searched the province for a comparable property but could find nothing for less than four times that price. He refused to sell and hired a lawyer. He kept his farm and got \$60,000 from Hydro for an easement to flood the best 100 acres, to put the highway across his place, and to build a substation there. He did not live long after watching the floodwaters cover his land. Now Janet carries on.

There are many similar stories of Hydro chiseling, threatening and bullying landowners to give up their land. The boast by W.A.C. Bennett that the province got “tens of millions of dollars” for 7.1 million acre feet of Arrow Lakes water storage rings hollow.

“No one in government cared about the people who lived here, who loved living here,” says Janet Spicer. “No one was consulted.”

★
THE RESERVOIR BEHIND THE LIBBY Dam backs up into B.C. and carries the fatuous name of “Lake Koocanusa.” The land is quite dry with open “montane” vegetation, suitable for free range cattle. Here, Pearkes meets **Stanley Triggs** who once photographed and documented the dispossession of prosperous ranchers.

“I documented a tremendous loss...” says Triggs, now in his 80s. “They whittled those people down to the bone. What they got paid for their land was criminal.”

★
SOME HEROIC ATTEMPTS AT MITIGATION have arisen from individual initiative. **Dutchy Wageningen** devised a method to let bull trout migrate from Kootenay Lake to Duncan Lake through the double discharge gates on the Duncan Dam. There was also once a plan to encourage ocean sockeye to migrate up Okanagan Lake, and eventually into the upper Columbia.

What, if anything, has been learned?

Once again, with the proposed Site C Dam, there’s the same atavistic drive to “control” the Peace River.

Once again we are seeing the same chiseling and bullying of landowners to make them give up and leave fertile lands.

A River Captured should be required reading for politicians from all B.C. parties, and anyone else in the province who prefers the “river-as-machine” metaphor.

9781771601788

John Gellard’s articles have appeared in The Globe and Mail and the Watershed Sentinel. Last issue he reviewed David Suzuki and Ian Hanington’s book on climate change.



MILTON PARENT / ARROW LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO

A VIKING FUNERAL (cremation): In 1968, BC Hydro flooded the Arrow Lakes to make way for Keenleyside Dam, but refused to contribute to restoring the SS Minto, a heritage sternwheeler steamboat, forcing the owners to set it on fire.

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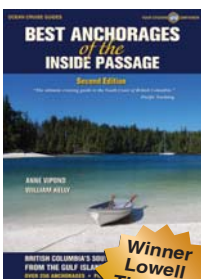
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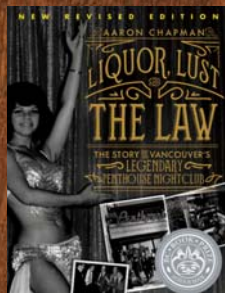
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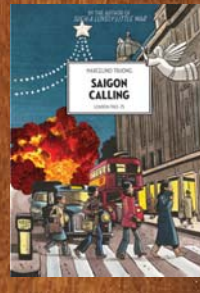
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Martha Black tries Vickers machine gun and scores 64 hits out of 75. Witley Camp, 1917. Yukon Archives.

GRIT TO THE CORE

From the Klondike to Berlin: The Yukon in World War I by Michael Gates (Harbour \$24.95)

BY JIM WOOD

FROM THE KLONDIKE to Berlin presents a narrative history of the men and women who lived in the Yukon, then an isolated Canadian mining outpost, when war broke out in 1914. **Michael Gates** has highlighted their patriotic, indomitable spirit, born during the Gold Rush of 1898 and continued by the hardy folk who answered the call to serve the British Empire.

One recruit summed up the northern spirit among his fellow soldiers: "I am going with Yukoners because I believe no part of the world can produce men more accustomed to all-round frontier experiences...in the face of all kinds of difficulties which try every man's resourcefulness to the utmost."

At the centre of the region's war efforts were two locally-raised units: **Joe Boyle's** Yukon Machine Gun Battery and the Yukon Infantry Company, recruited by **George Black**, Yukon's territorial commissioner. Boyle's unit trained at Hastings Park in Vancouver and Black's infantry group at Victoria's Willow Camp. Upon being sent overseas, both units were merged into the 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade.

From the Klondike to Berlin features the Black family, George, Martha, and their son Lyman, as the epitome of a Yukon family at war, displaying what Canadian poet **Robert Service** depicts as "The Law of the North" where men and women are "the strong and the

sane," "girt for the combat," and "grit to the core."



GEORGE BLACK QUALIFIED IN Victoria to become a captain. He recruited 255 men for the Yukon Infantry Company, and went on to lead his men in the battles of Amiens and the Hundred Days.

The 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade served with the Allied occupation force in Berlin after the Armistice, and following their departure for Canada, Black stayed on to act as defence counsel for several British Columbian soldiers who had been charged in the Kinmel Park demobilization riots in Wales in 1919.

Martha Black was well

known for having climbed the Chilkoot Trail of 1898 while pregnant and going on to create a thriving sawmill business. During the war she led patriotic fundraising campaigns in Dawson City, and in England she continued her work with hospital visits, letter writing, and administration of the Yukon Comfort Fund. In 1935, she became the second woman elected to the House of Commons (the first being **Agnes Macphail**), and the first American-born woman to do so.

Their son **Lyman Black** joined up as a student from Dawson Public School, went on to be promoted to lieutenant, and was awarded the Military Cross for conspicu-

ous gallantry near Amiens in 1918.



FROM THE KLONDIKE TO BERLIN includes wide-ranging coverage of war experiences of Yukon soldiers, including the exhaustion and high casualty rate suffered by Joe Boyle's Machine Gun Battery in action at the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens, and the Hundred Days. Boyle went on to assist the Romanian royal family by transporting the Crown jewels on a treacherous 1300-kilometre journey through Bolshevik Russia.

Robert Service's work as an ambulance driver, journalist, and intelligence officer is shown in *From the Klondike to Berlin* to have frequently

portrayed in his poetry, the devastation and suffering of war, with the result that his writing was targeted by Canada's chief censor.

Yukon history has been well documented for the Trail of '98 and the Alaska Highway; *From the Klondike to Berlin*, however, explores new territory, using local and archival sources to reveal the experiences of individuals serving on both the home front and overseas, documenting the impact on Canadian families of an increasingly dire manpower situation in the later stages of World War I.

From the Klondike to Berlin concentrates on Yukon men and women's uniqueness of character and fortitude that is the proud heritage of Canada's north country.

Nearly one thousand men of Yukon's population of about five thousand enlisted, a rate much higher than in the rest of Canada, and fundraising campaigns garnered a similarly patriotic response.

Where the average Canadian donation to the war was one dollar per capita, Yukoners raised donations at twelve times that rate.

Yukon lost about 85 men of the thousand who served. Impressive memorials were mounted in the years following the war.

Michael Gates has captured that spirit, built on the challenges of northern living and carried forward to the war effort, patriotic fundraising, and recognition of the sacrifices made.

978-1-55017-776-3

Jim Wood wrote *Militia Myths: Ideas of the Canadian Citizen Soldier, 1896-1921* (UBC Press, 2010). He teaches history at Okanagan College.



Canadian armoured cars going into action, Battle of Amiens, August, 1918.

A Temporary Stranger: Homages/Poems Recollections by Jamie Reid (Anvil Press \$18)

A POSTHUMOUSLY published book is like an invitation to the Reading of the Will; you can't help wondering what you might get.

If you knew **Jamie Reid**, as so many Vancouver writers did before his death from a heart attack in 2015, you know a post-mortem work may have been penned by your Absent Friend, but he didn't get his say about its final shape. That's the work of an editor; in this case Talonbooks publisher **Karl Siegler**.

Like Reid, Siegler is a veteran of the explosive period of CanLit, the 1960s. The job must've been made harder by emotions that accompany trying to produce a fitting "Hail and Farewell" for a life-long comrade, yet Siegler succeeds in assembling a sampler representative of the range not only of Reid's writing, but of his thought and influence, which were far more extensive than his bibliography suggests.

A Temporary Stranger consists of three superficially different parts; *Homages, Poems and Recollections*. Each part can be enjoyed separately, just as the pieces can be read individually, but read in sequence they achieve a kind of swelling symphonic effect, likely due to Siegler's editorial skill. The result may not be "the man in full," but in under 200 pages, it's more than just a good sketch and captures his essence.

The *Homages* are transliterations, not translations; works created the way jazz musicians riff on a old standard show-tune, beat the hell out of it, put it through a blender and produce something that's mockingly familiar, yet totally fresh and new. Significantly, Reid based them on poems by **Apollinaire, Paul Eluard, Andre Breton, Jacques Prevert, Baudelaire, Rimbaud**; all French poets of a century ago or more who were rebels in full: politically, socially and artistically. A recovering radical Marxist who never lost his faith in the importance of the struggle for social justice, in later life Reid returned to these poets to revive and nourish his resurgent literary soul.

The centrepiece section *Fake Poems* (so called because Reid once observed, at heart, "all art is a fake"), appear here as a kind of interlude that introduces a new theme, a counterpoint to poetry as it's usually understood.

Reid uses the athlete's slang for a 'fake out' or 'deek,' as he explains: "The head goes one way, the body another, the

ball or puck slips by unhindered, the movement called a fake. These poems, at their best, shake and lean the head in one direction in order to move the body's stem in the opposite direction. All of them are rooted in language and its easiest vagaries, which always speak for themselves, even as I intervene with them."

Here the 'fake' poems emerging out of his lifelong interest in poetics are bracketed by two 'real' poems, "Warbler" and "Where to Find Grace," the latter an elegantly simple rephrasing of the Taoist adage, Tao lives in the hearth:

*Under the kitchen table with the floor
and the cat dish, in the kitchen sink
with the supper dishes and the bubbles of soap.
Behind half closed eyelids in*

the sunlight.

*Round About Midnight
in the moonlit garden.*

Ironically (for a poet), it's the prose Recollections that reveal the literary and social critic we knew from Reid's table talk over glasses of red wine. In one, Reid conjures up memories of Vancouver's infant hipster scene in the early Sixties. Confined to a few blocks of Robson Street called Robsonstrasse because the small cafes and shops all seemed to

be run by European emigres some people still referred to as DPs (displaced persons); people who had fled countries crushed by the weight of too much history for a country that seemed to have

a comforting lack of same. In those days, it was like being in *The Third Man* without the ruins of Vienna in the background.

In another essay, he recounts a chilling memory of being stopped at a red light with friends en route to **Bob Dylan's** first big Vancouver concert, realizing the skinny shaggy guy in the limo beside them was the man himself, escorted by two sleek thuggish minders. Dylan's response to their

enthusiastic waves was a shrivelling goblin glare of pure hatred.

Encountered at the gig, the minders (A&R men, as they were called), confided "there's a lot of money riding on this

guy." It's one of those telling moments when some of us realized the social revolution we believed in had already been co-opted by corporations that would re-package and sell it back to us in one of those cynical daisy-chains that have since become a familiar feature of post-modern life.

The best essays preserve what you never remember after a late night involving wine. As a literary critic, Reid possessed not only penetrating insight but the ability to convey it in clear, incisive language—a talent notably lacking in supposedly expert academics. Reid's essays on the influence of UBC Prof **Warren Tallman**, who nurtured the TISH movement in the Sixties, on **John Newlove**, and especially on marginalized poets **Gerry Gilbert** and **Neil Eustache**, are more valuable than all the volumes of jargon-enriched compost produced by English profs and published in university-funded 'literary magazines' for over four decades.

Reid's awareness of the wider social and political context of poetry enables him to locate poets like Gilbert and Eustache—neither of whom have ever been acknowledged, never mind treated with courtesy either by the Canada Council and the publishers who depend on it—solidly within the tradition of rebel poets that extends from the Beats through Apollinaire, **Cendrars**, Rimbaud, Baudelaire, to the English Romantics, right back to His Unholiness, **Francois Villon**.

The *Recollections* make a knock-out symphonic finale to *A Temporary Stranger*, but you can't help hoping that Reid, like most writers, had a basement, attic or garage stuffed with boxes of manuscripts and notebooks he never got around to turning into books and that this volume may turn out to be a temporary epitaph.

978-1-77214-098-9

John Moore reviews from
Garibaldi Highlands.

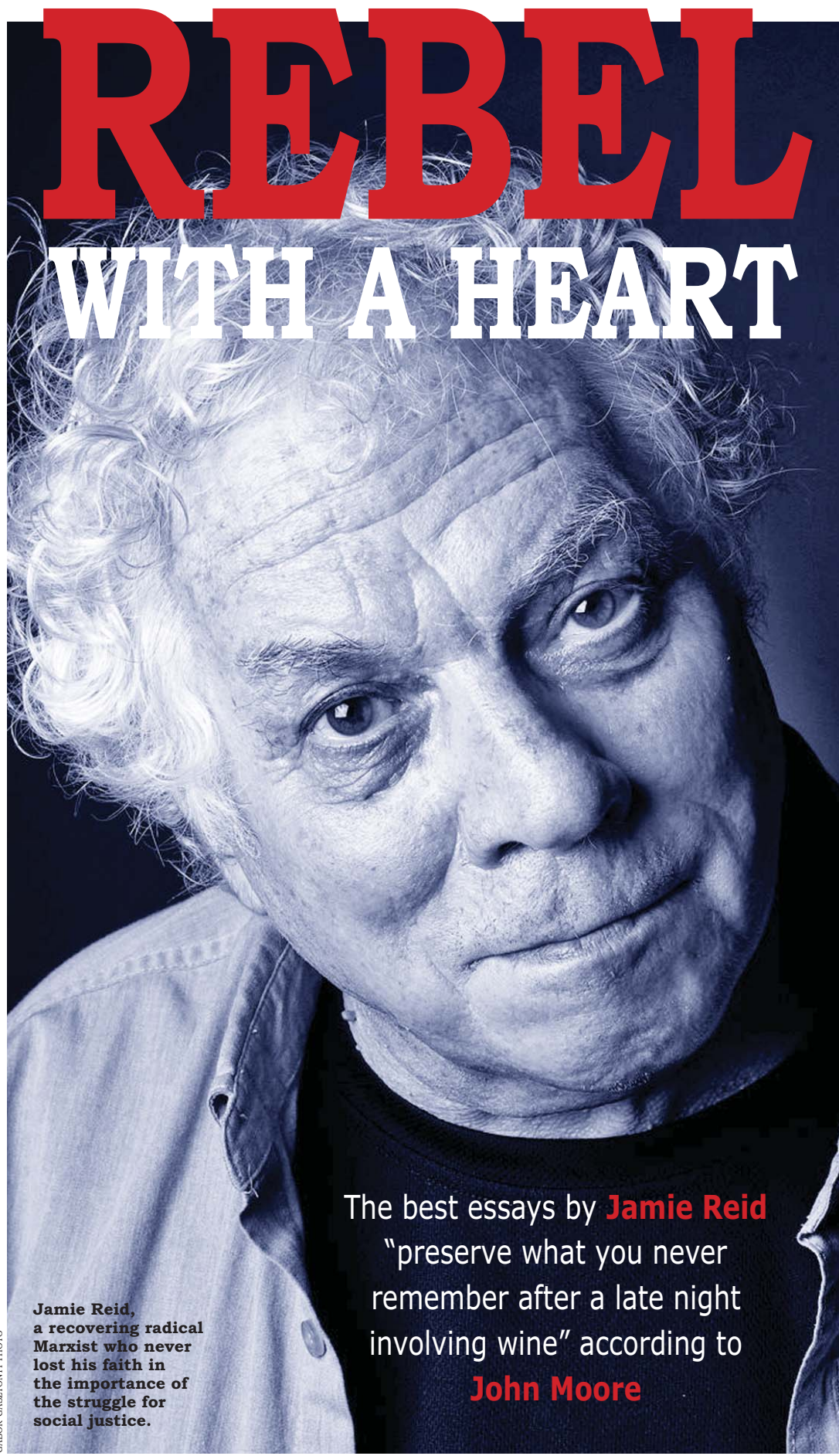
IN PASSING

Jamie Reid (1941-2015) poet
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Joan Skogan (1945-2017) novelist, historian
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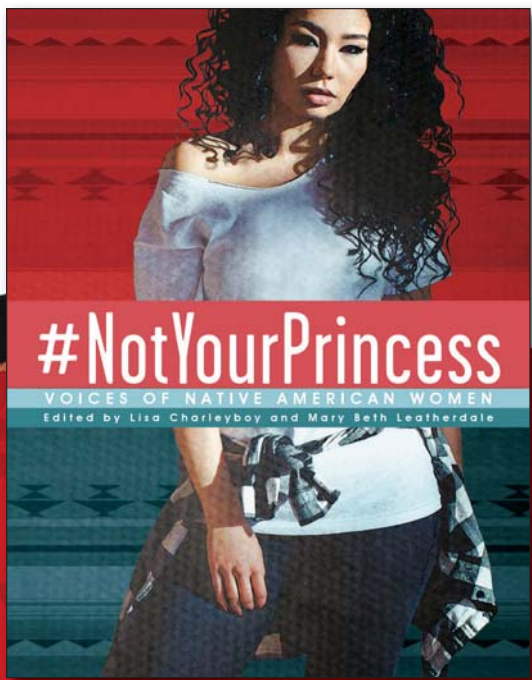
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Jamie Reid, a recovering radical Marxist who never lost his faith in the importance of the struggle for social justice.

The best essays by **Jamie Reid**
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involving wine" according to
John Moore



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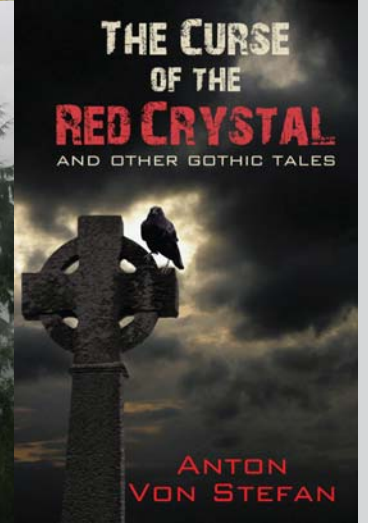
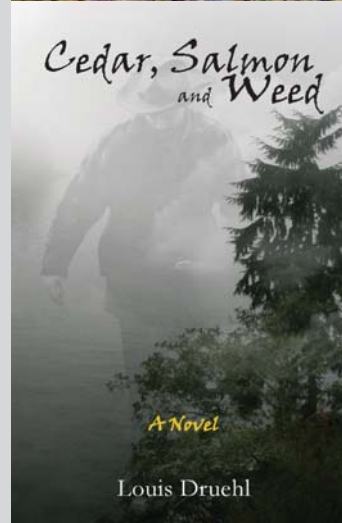
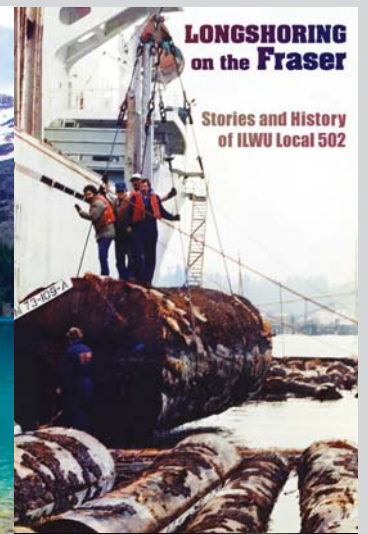
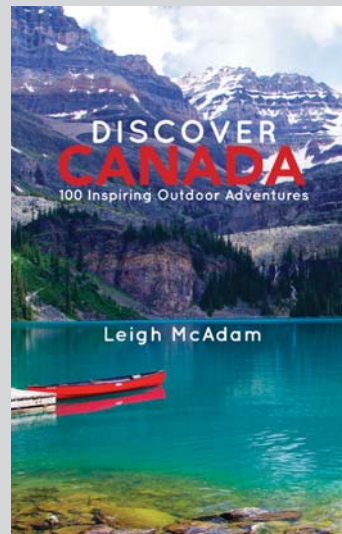
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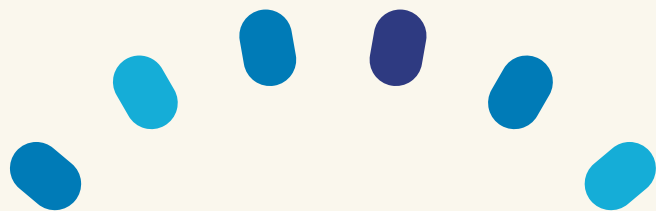
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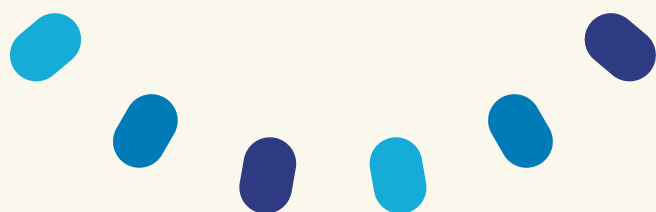
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review

POETRY

IT TAKES ONE TO TANKA

Naomi Wakan venerates
human contact in a cold world

The Way of Tanka
by Naomi Beth Wakan
(Shanti Arts Publishing \$20.00)

BY PHYLLIS REEVE

BORN IN ENGLAND IN 1931, **NAOMI DEUTSCH** came to Canada in 1954 and worked as a psychotherapist in Toronto.

She and her second husband **Elias**, a wood sculptor, married in 1977. Together they chose their surname Wakan, a Sioux word meaning “creative spirit.”

The couple moved to B.C. in 1982 and founded Pacific Rim Publishers in 1986 in Vancouver, moving to Gabriola Island ten years later.

Her new anthology explores tanka, a Japanese poetic form consisting of five lines.

HAVING LIVED IN JAPAN for two years, **Naomi Wakan** became a practitioner and teacher of haiku, hosting workshops and contributing on an international scale.

Haiku is known to most readers of poetry as three-line poems. She has treated haiku exhaustively in previous books, especially *The Way of Haiku* (Pacific Rim Publishers, 2012).

More recently, she has found her way to tanka. In **The Way of Tanka**, a chapter called “Tanka compared with Haiku” explains tanka as “five-line poems that move from image to image, idea to idea, feeling to feeling, yet the whole five lines flow together seamlessly to present a strong statement of humanity’s place in the universe, even though the poem may be intensely personal.”

The five lines follow a pattern: short, long, short, long, long. To clarify the distinction, she offers an example of each on a similar topic.

First, a haiku by **Devar Dahl**:
*empty cabin
the beached canoe
fills with leaves*

Then a tanka by **Christopher Herold**:
*in the morning fog
we slip our oars and drift
between loon calls
all that’s left of the world
the warmth of our bodies*

Wakan elaborates: “The haiku speaks only of images: an empty cabin, a canoe filled with leaves. Yet, on consideration, it is clear to us that this haiku clearly speaks of the impermanence of things, using just those images with no overt indication of this inner idea.

“The tanka also has a strong sense of images: the drifting boat, the loon’s call, but it allows itself a comment that directs our thoughts to the high value of human contact in a cold world.”

There is nothing new about this sort of poetry in the English language. The early modernists who called themselves Imagists learned from Japanese poetics. If none of the tanka quoted by Wakan attain the impact of **William Carlos Williams’ Red Wheelbarrow** or **Ezra Pound’s petals on a wet black bough**, most approach an intensity and focus worth striving for.

As a mentor, Wakan has felt moved to offer a way “to bridge the gap between what people wanted to express and what they were able to express, the chasm between inner and outer lives.”

Naomi Wakan recalls a comment once made of her poetry, that it is really prose until you come to the last line.



THE WAY OF TANKA BEGINS WITH A selection of fifty tanka. Only after readers and would-be writers have digested these, does the instruction begin.

Chapters address the uses and varieties of tanka, love tanka, nostalgic tanka, witty tanka, response tanka [two poets carry on a conversation in alternate tanka], ekphrastic tanka [tanka describing another work of art, e.g. a painting], tan renga [first three lines by one poet, last two by someone else] and tanka as self-expression.

The discipline involved in a tanka, like that in any traditional form whether it be sonnet or villanelle, can calm the poet’s eye. That said, most readers of this book will have dabbled in haiku and be ready to move on—or to move back and forth, depending on the day and the mood.

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Retired librarian **Phyllis Parham Reeve** is co-founder of the bookstore at *Page’s Resort & Marina on Gabriola Island*.



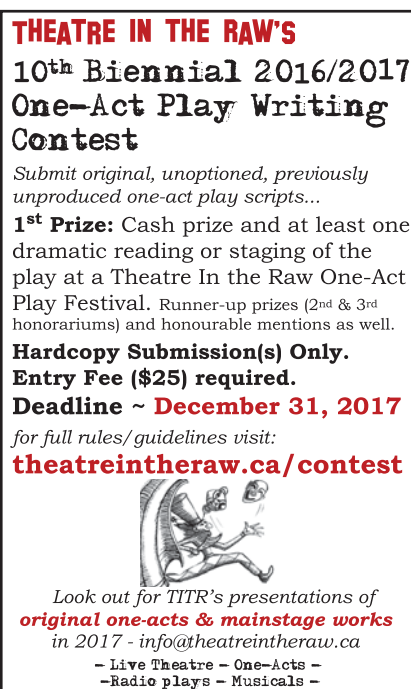
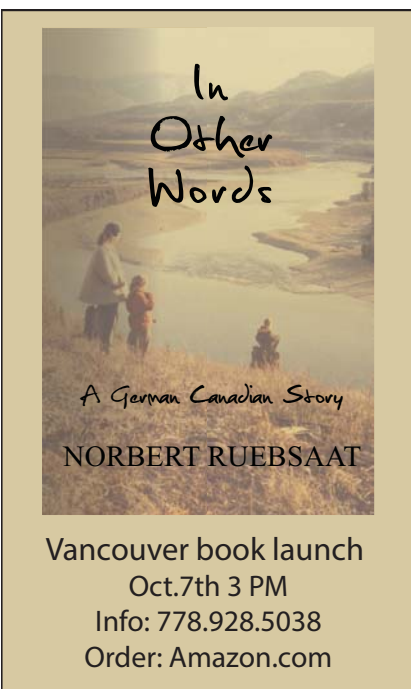
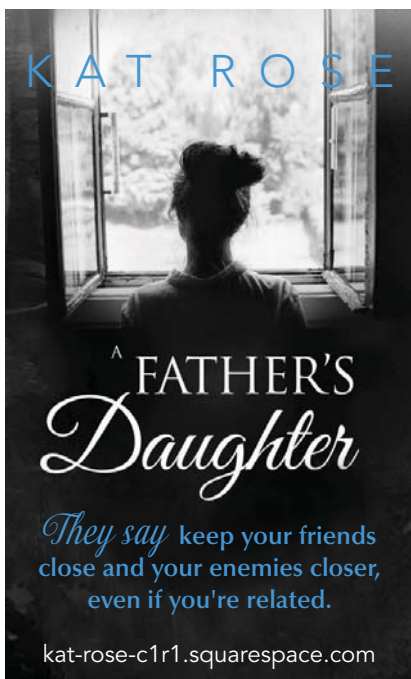
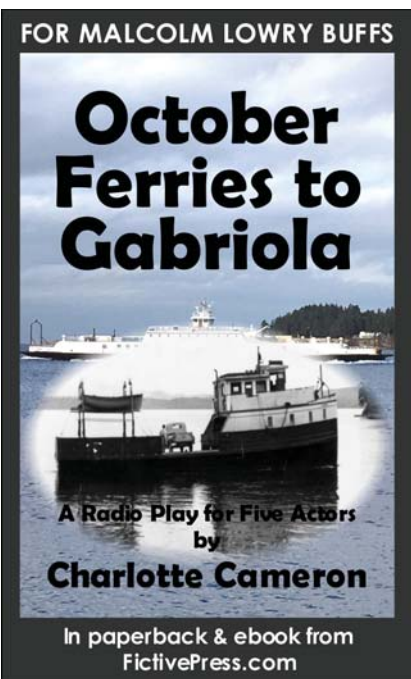
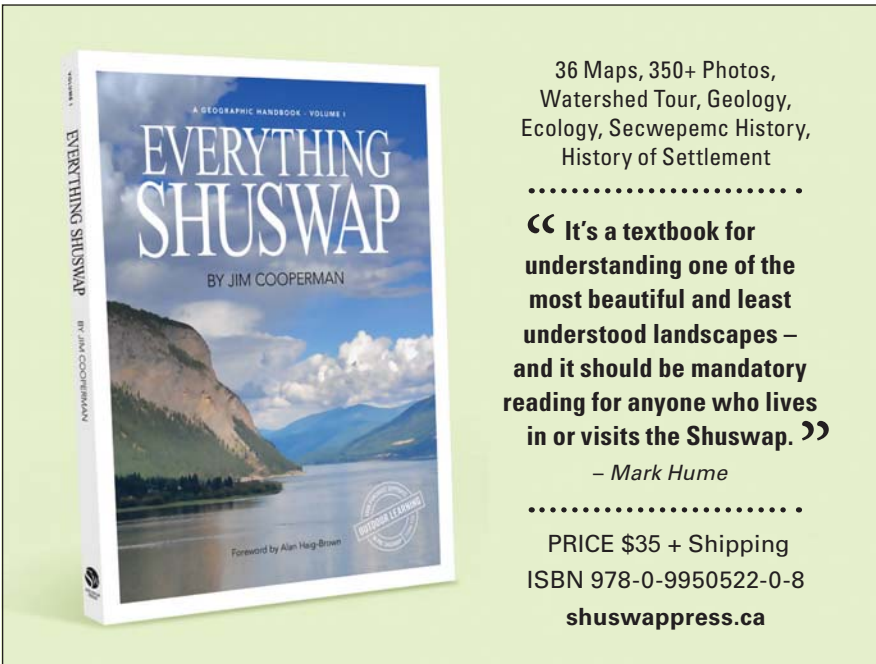
Naomi Wakan was the inaugural Poet Laureate of Nanaimo (2013-2016).

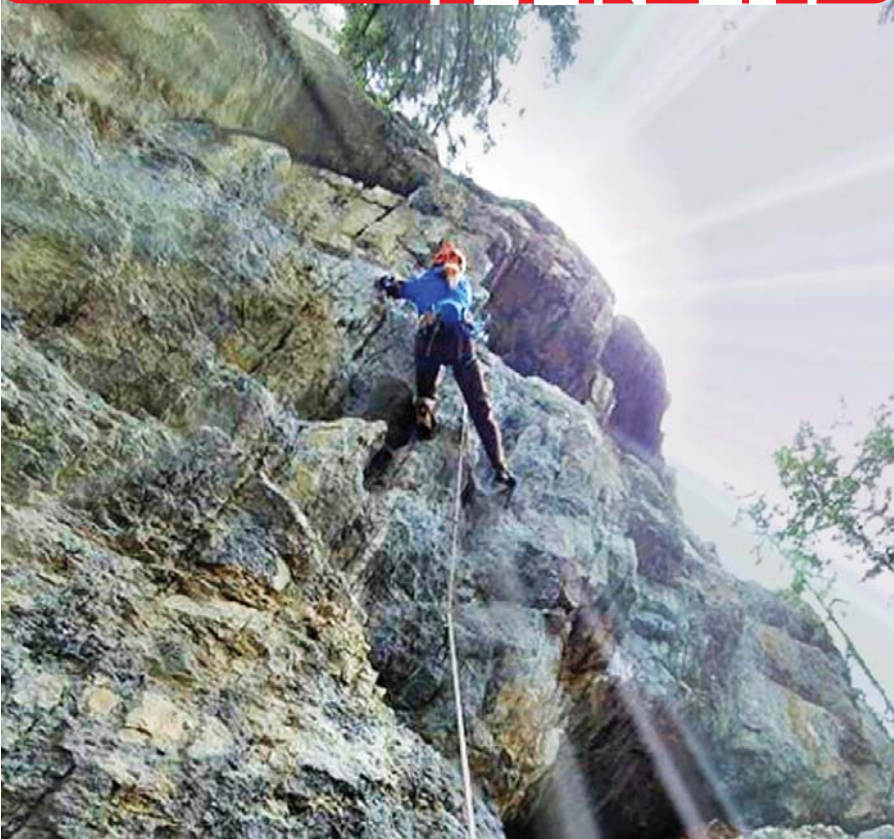
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Nikki Tate has written 27 books and is also an avid rock climber (above).

WHEN FEAR IS NOT AN OPTION

Deadpoint by Nikki Tate
(Orca Books \$9.95)

BY CAROL ANNE SHAW

NIKKI TATE'S LATEST YA THRILLER, **Deadpoint**, is part of the fast-paced, easy-to-read action novel series called *Orca Sports*. These are relatively short (25,000 words) stories well-suited for the reluctant reader.

In *Deadpoint* we meet Ayla, an anxious, sixteen-year-old who loves to rock climb—providing it takes place on an indoor climbing wall. Her best friend, Lissy, is much more adventurous. Passionate about the great outdoors, fearless Lissy doesn't spend her time worrying about what might happen, the way Ayla does.

When Carlos, an adventurous new boy, arrives in town, he and Lissy share an instant connection that has Ayla feeling a little bit like a third wheel. Young readers will relate to the confusing feelings Ayla experiences when Lissy makes room in her life for Carlos and his outgoing personality. He is, after all, everything Ayla is not. He is also the first boy ever to complicate their friendship.

A couple of subplots deserve mention: Ayla's mother lives three time zones away, has a new husband, a new life, and a busy career; and Ayla's father, with whom Ayla lives, spends most of his time depressed in front of the TV worrying, like Ayla, about things that might never happen.

When Ayla finds herself agreeing to go on a weekend climbing trip with Lissy and Carlos to Black Dog Mountain, along with Lissy's dad, she has mixed emotions. On the one hand, Ayla will be able to keep an eye on the relationship between Lissy and the daredevil Carlos, but on the other, she's going to have to push herself out of her comfort zone.

The path of intrepid climbing does not run smooth. When Lissy and her father are seriously injured on Black Dog Mountain during a terrifying accident, it means Ayla and Carlos will be pushed to their limits both physically and emotionally.

During the fast-paced rescue operations, young readers' heart rates will climb right alongside Ayla and Carlos as the two teens brave adverse conditions and, somehow, save the day. The main characters are believable and the dialogue is refreshingly authentic. The compelling plot, narrative tension and gratifying finish hooked my attention and sustained my interest. In fact, I loved it.

★

NIKKI TATE, HERSELF AN AVID CLIMBER, HAS succeeded in writing a novel that not only entertains but educates in the arts of both story telling and rock climbing. Detailed descriptions of climbing maneuvers and appropriate jargon happen at just the right time, and in just the right place. Not only did *Deadpoint* leave me with some real knowledge of the sport, I now feel inclined to give it a try—and I'm afraid of heights.

9781459813526

Carol Anne Shaw is the author of the "Hannah" books, from Ronsdale Press.

Teen Revolutionary

Samantha Smart is living the life of your average teen, even captain of her high school soccer team, when a close election leaves her country teetering into totalitarianism. Samantha is thrust into the fight to save democracy in **How Samantha Smart Became a Revolutionary** (Red Deer Press \$14.95) by Victoria's Dawn Green.

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WE ARE FAMILY

The Language of Family: Stories of Bonds and Belonging edited by **Michelle van der Merwe** (Royal BC Museum \$27.95)

EVERYONE'S IDEA OF family is different: There's the classic nuclear family of mother, father and kids; there are extended branches of kinship within indigenous communities; and some activists eschew biological families for social networks. The folks at the Royal B.C. Museum have therefore included a wide spectrum for **The Language of Family: Stories of Bonds and Belonging**, edited by **Michelle van der Merwe**, publisher at the Royal BC Museum.

Twenty contributors from B.C. share their memories and perspectives on what family means in essays, personal narratives and poems.

"To make sense of so many of the objects in our collections, you have to start with the stories of families," writes **Jack Lohman**, head of the Royal BC Museum, in the book's introduction.

Lohman describes a wedding dress worn by a great-aunt that might be exhibited not just because of the historical qualities the item represents; rather, the stories about the wearer are equally, if not more important.

"To preserve the dress and record its tales and anecdotes is to give us a very different and very rich history, not so much of hemlines, but of the things the legs beneath the hemlines got up to."

Lohman adds that when donors to the museum describe what is important about the object they are giving, the record shows, "Not that the object was so valuable in price that it became an heirloom, but that it was valued because humans cherished it and wanted to preserve the memories attached to it."



COAST SALISH ARTIST **LUKE MARSTON** describes his ancestors, especially his great-great-grandfather **Portuguese Joe Silvey**, a whaler, a Gastown saloon keeper and the first person in B.C. to get a seine fishing license.

Portuguese Joe had travelled from the Azores of Portugal to Vancouver and married twice to First Nations women.

For a time, Portuguese Joe and his family lived in the traditional village of P'apeyek (now known as Brocton Point in Stanley Park). In 2015, Marston erected a monument to Portuguese Joe at Brocton Point.

Historian and writer **Larry Wong** recounts how, in the 1960s, **Mary Chan** saved Strathcona, Vancouver's oldest neighbourhood. It was being threatened by the new-fangled notion of "urban renewal," which meant bulldozers to Chan and her neighbours. They formed a group (that included lawyer **Mike Harcourt**, later mayor of Vancouver and premier of B.C.) to fight the destruction of their neighbourhood. Surprisingly, the group won, becoming the first city in Canada to drop urban renewal.

Vancouver International

Bhangra Celebration founder, **Mo Dhaliwal** examines the depth of "family friends," concluding, "I now consider my family to be those who are there for me in time and spirit, those who are common to me in bond if not in blood, who are kindred in their hopes and dreams if not in lineage."

Lawyer **Barbara Findlay**, describing herself as, "a fat white 67-year-old cisgender lesbian with disabilities, raised Christian and working class, the eldest of five, in Regina," found family in the gay community. "We dykes used to offer each other the common wisdom: watch out for weddings and funerals. Places where family formations matter." This closeness was in contrast to one of Findlay's sisters who, when asked about the appointed guardian of her only daughter, replied she had chosen a neighbour—whom she saw only occasionally—rather than Barbara and her lesbian partner. "When I questioned her choice she said she would never let her daughter be raised by us."

Other stories include author **Joy Kogawa's** account of her kinship to a cherry tree; **Patrick Lane's** elegiac poem to fathers and sons; and rancher and Lieutenant Governor of B.C. **Judith Guichon's** description of families changing over time but how the love of the land unites them all.

9780772670526

Beverly Cramp is associate editor of BC BookWorld



HELENE CRY PHOTO

"My fondest memories and feelings of closeness, of family, are conjured up when I think of the many faces that were simply referred to as 'auntie' or 'uncle' when I was growing up." — Mo Dhaliwal



Owechemis (Kate White, known as Kitty), with her husband, Aaron D. White, and children at Sooke, early 20th century. Kitty later filed a complaint against her husband of "continued unkindness." In 1924 Kitty made a gift to the Royal BC Museum of four masks and a 200-year-old box that belonged to her grandfather.



SEAN SHERSTONE PHOTO

Unveiling Luke Marston's bronze monument to Portuguese Joe Silvey, Stanley Park, 2015.

RELIGION

Gimme that old time **atheism**

The less people pray, the more churches get repurposed.

BRITISH COLUMBIA IS LESS religious than other provinces. Or, if you prefer, it is more irreligious. For many citizens, irreligion has been a blessing in disguise.

Since the 1980s, for instance, many B.C. churches have been deconsecrated, sold, and “repurposed” as art galleries, museums, performance halls, restaurants, and even pot shops.

In **The Secular Northwest: Religion and Irreligion in Everyday Postwar Life** (UBC Press \$32.95), **Tina Block** offers a relatively uncommon analysis of secularism in postwar B.C. from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Block also draws on forty interviews that she conducted in Vancouver, Nanaimo, Seattle, Olympia, and Port Angeles with individuals across, and even off, the secularism spectrum.

★
UVIC HISTORY PROF
Lynne Marks has also examined the



Tina Block,
associate professor,
Thompson Rivers
University.

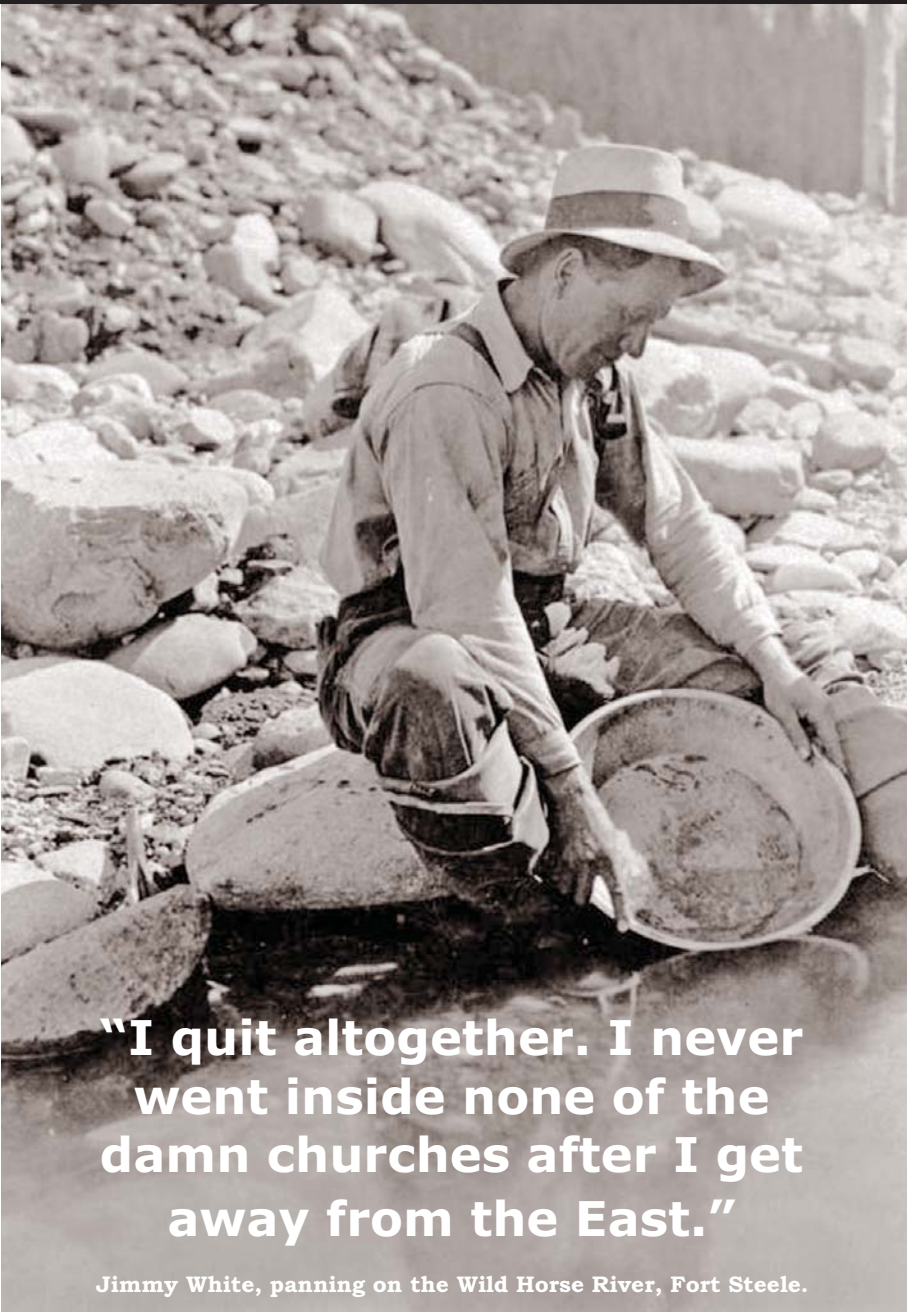
limitations of organized Christianity in often godless B.C. for **Infidels and the Damn Churches: Irreligion and Religion in Settler British Columbia** (UBC Press \$95). In this study of secularism, she asserts class and racial tensions fueled irreligion in settler B.C.

“I tend to say I am studying irreligion, rather than secularism,” says Marks, “because many of the people—mostly men—I refer to in the book can be defined as irreligious, but most are not entirely secular.”

The wide-ranging content includes a spiritualist picnic in Victoria, a Chinese temple, a well-known atheist journalist in the Kootenays named **Lowery** and a prospector interviewed by CBC’s **Imbert Orchard** in the 1960s named **Jimmy White**.

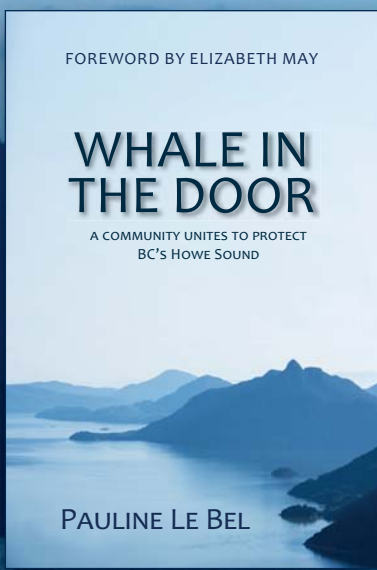
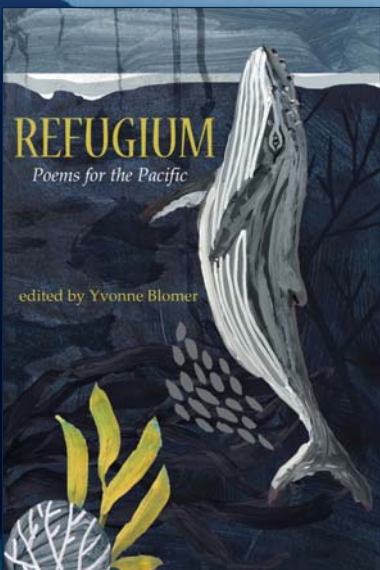
Essentially, the further west people came, the more they felt disinclined to honour the institutionalized values of eastern North America and Europe.

Infidels:
978-0-7748-3344-8;
Secular Northwest:
9780774831291



“I quit altogether. I never went inside none of the damn churches after I get away from the East.”

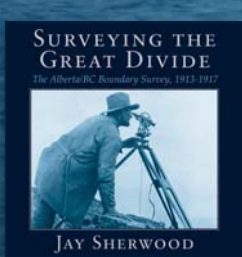
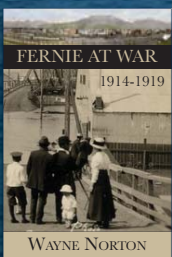
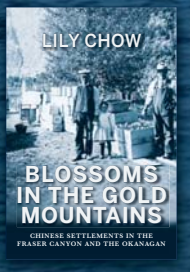
Jimmy White, panning on the Wild Horse River, Fort Steele.



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ONE STORY AT A TIME



MEMOIR

Talking the walk

Once upon a time there were peaceniks.

BETWEEN 1986 AND 2011, the aptly named **Derek Walker Youngs** devoted much of his life to peace, leading to his posthumous book, **Walking to Japan: A Memoir** (Tellwell Talent \$17.95), completed and co-written by his widow and co-walker **Carolyn Affleck Youngs**.

Derek Walker Youngs was born in England on June 16, 1940, during a World War II air raid. At age 45 Youngs participated in the 1986 Great Peace March for Nuclear Disarmament across the U.S.A.—a naive but determined, nine-month commitment to walk almost 6,000 kilometres from Los Angeles to Washington D.C. to spread the message of global disarmament and a ban on nuclear weapons. He subsequently founded the Peace Walker Society, eventually walking more than 25,000 kilometres in 25 countries.

Like the classic Fool in the Tarot pack, the Galiano Island-based healer (who later lived on the Sunshine Coast and in Victoria), walked “in trust and faith,” usually not knowing where he would sleep or find his next meal. He succeeded in walking across Canada in two stages, in 1988-1989, during which time he added the middle name Walker, as suggested by friends.

Youngs sometimes gained media attention while sharing his own stories of love and learning with people; but mostly he was solo and unheralded.

First wed at age twenty in 1963 and separated in the early 1970s, he met a yoga and Reiki teacher, **Lani Kaito**,

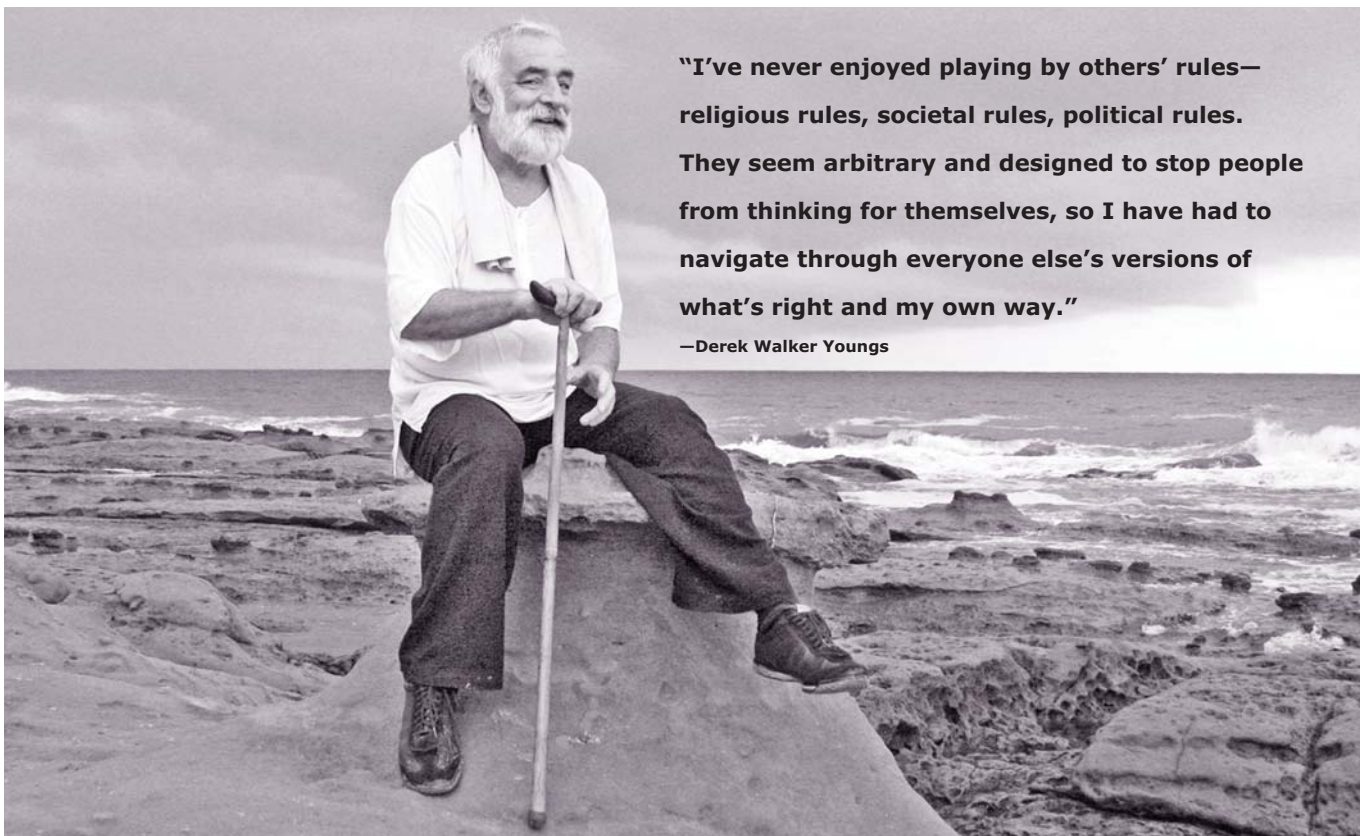
eventually embracing the West Coast lifestyle of Buddhism, Hinduism, meditation and massage, and together they founded the Integrated Health Centre. His increasingly alternative beliefs and practices led him to a deep and enduring marriage to **Linda Ward**, a doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine. They stayed together until her death in 2007.

Thereafter, in his 60s, Youngs walked with, and eventually married, **Carolyn Affleck**, a photographer who has lovingly completed his collection of stories and ideas. Her own pilgrimages

with her older “mentor, collaborator and best friend” included the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain and the 88 Temples in Japan. They had four marriage ceremonies around the world in 2010 prior to his death on March 18, 2011 when she was 45.

Having walked “all the city streets of Vancouver,” Carolyn Affleck Youngs has plans to walk across the country one day, as well as the length of Britain, from John O’Groats to Land’s End.

978-1-77302-273-4

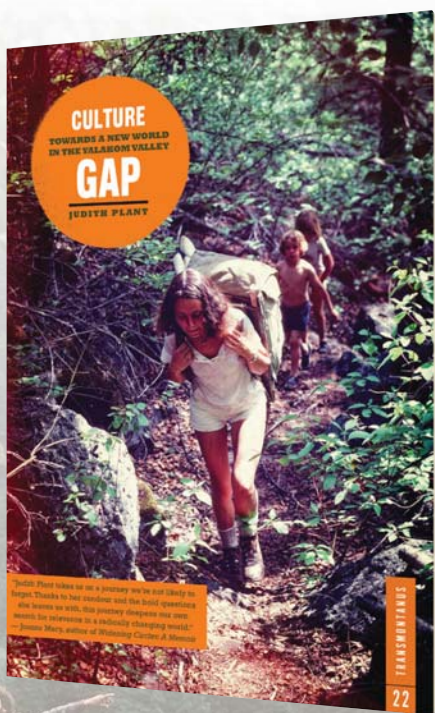


“I’ve never enjoyed playing by others’ rules—religious rules, societal rules, political rules. They seem arbitrary and designed to stop people from thinking for themselves, so I have had to navigate through everyone else’s versions of what’s right and my own way.”

—Derek Walker Youngs

“Judith Plant takes us on a journey we’re not likely to forget. Her candour and bold questions deepen our own search for relevance in a radically changing world.”

— Joanna Macy, author of *Widening Circles: A Memoir*



Culture Gap

TOWARDS A NEW WORLD IN THE YALAKOM VALLEY

Judith Plant

Judith Plant’s memoir of the fleeting achievements and many uncommon good times of Camelsfoot, a philosophical commune out back of beyond, glows with wisdom, complexity, and compassion. A noble read.

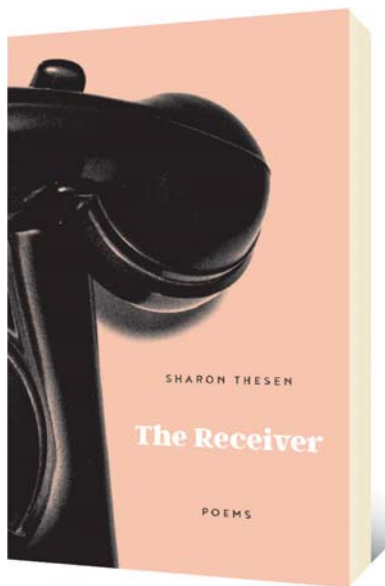
—Stephanie Mills, author of *Epicurean Simplicity* and *In Service of the Wild*

The Receiver

SHARON THESEN

“The body is the receiver of all that is; poetic imagination the transmitter of the world.”

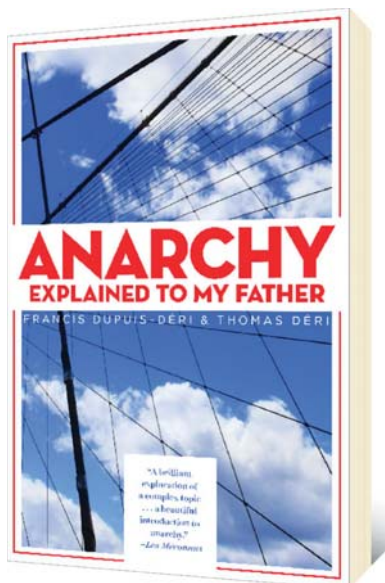
Sharon Thesen is a three-time Governor General’s Award finalist; this is her thirteenth book of poetry, and the first since *Oyama Pink Shale* (2011).



Anarchy Explained to My Father

FRANCIS DUPUIS-DÉRI & THOMAS DÉRI

Through dialogue with his father, a radical anarchist university professor shares the history, theory, and deeply humanistic and peaceful ideals of the revolutionary mode of thought that Louise Michel described as “Order through harmony.”



MEMOIR

Tidings of discomfort & Joy

BY PATRICIA E. ROY

THE LIBRARIAN WHO PROVIDED the Cataloguing in Publication information gave **Joy Kogawa's Gently to Nagasaki: A Spiritual Pilgrimage, an Exploration Both Communal and Intensely Personal** (Caitlin Press \$24.95) a call number in the 800s in Dewey Decimal system. That would shelve it with literature. Given Kogawa's fine reputation as a writer of fiction and as a poet, this is an understandable choice especially since some of the prose reads like poetry and Kogawa explains how she created the characters in her much-praised novel, *Obasan* (1981), her subsequent reflections on its messages, and the origins of her novel, *The Rain Ascends* (1995).

This book, however, is much more than a literary exegesis. Many other call numbers are plausible. A case could be made for putting it in the 100s for it deals with the psychological effects of having a paedophile as a father. It could sit in the 200s beside other books about religion for the book has Biblical allusions, references to Christian feast days, and a discussion of issues within the Anglican Church in which Kogawa's father was an ordained minister.

Another possibility would be the 300s since there is much about Japanese Canadians, particularly during the time of their forced removal from the coast in 1942, the loss of their property, and the aftermath. As Kogawa expresses it, "We were tossed as pearls in a broken necklace and as scraps for the dogs of labour, a few here, a few there, over the vast Canadian landscape."

One could even consider putting the book in the 500 or 600s, where its discussions of atomic energy could be related to medicine or technology. Had I been the cataloguer, I would have assigned 921 to it, the number for autobiography for, though episodic and incomplete, this is very much a memoir. The subtitle accurately describes the subject and theme. Running through the book, beginning with the prelude, is the theme of Mercy.

Why Nagasaki? Nagasaki was the second Japanese city to suffer from the atomic bomb. Ironically, as Kogawa emphasizes, it was "the pre-eminent spot of Christendom in East Asia," yet Christians dropped the bomb. "Somewhere in Nagasaki in August [1945], is God seeking mercy from us."

While she had no direct connection with the city until a visit in 2010, earlier she had been impressed by the story of Dr. **Takashi Nagai**, a Christian radiologist who, though injured and ailing, tended to victims of the bomb.

As a scientist he carefully recorded the progress of radiation disease and the treatments applied, but still wrote that atomic energy could also be used for the betterment of humanity. That leads to Kogawa's debates with her friends, the anti-nuclear power sociologist **Metta Spencer** and the physicist **Erich Voght** who supported the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The book then jumps back to Japan, to Kyoto. While there, accompanying her adored and elderly father who was on a speaking tour, Kogawa finally confronted him with what she had long known, that although "a visionary and charismatic priest," he was a paedophile. Telling him, and later telling the world through her writing, provided her with a release, a mercy. Nevertheless, even after his death she continued to wonder "how my blithe light-hearted father could be the epitome of evil."

Kogawa's memoir also reveals tensions within the Japanese Canadian community as some would not forgive her father and opposed the turning of the family's pre-war home in Vancouver's Marpole district into an artists' residence since it would also, indirectly, honour him.

Kogawa was not the only descendant to be troubled by the actions of an ancestor. Two granddaughters of **Howard Green**, one of the B.C. Members of Parliament who called for the removal of the Japanese Canadians from the province, came to Kogawa when members of the Japanese Canadian community successfully campaigned against naming a new federal building in Vancouver after Green.

Kogawa was shocked to discover that her friend **Stuart Philpott** was the son of **Elmore Philpott**, a Vancouver journalist who, in 1942, also wanted the Japanese removed from the coast.

Despite the efforts of Green's granddaughters to point out his many virtues, and of Philpott to explain the context of the time in which his father wrote, Kogawa could not extend mercy until the descendants admitted that their ancestors were racists.

Kogawa and her brother publicly admitted the "heinous sexual attacks" of their father, but the rage against him continued and Kogawa remained "the daughter of a paedophile." Yet, in a closing poem, Kogawa suggests the Goddess of Mercy listens.

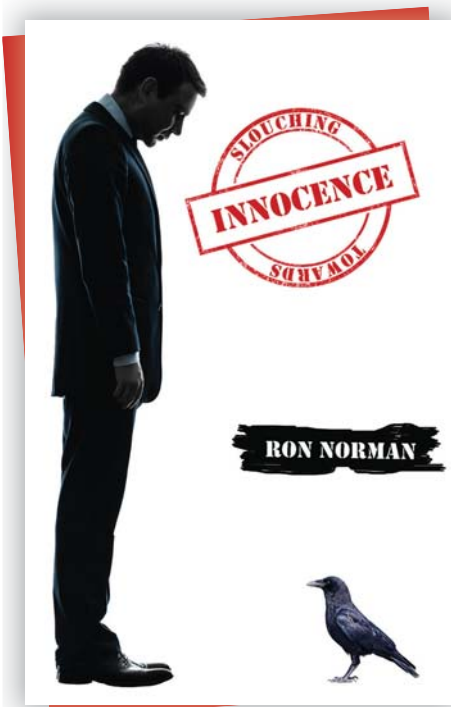
Gently to Nagasaki is an intensely personal story and a tantalizing one. One hopes that Joy Kogawa will write a full autobiography that will clearly be catalogued as a "921." 978-1-987915-15-0

Patricia E. Roy is professor emerita of history at UVic. Her latest book is Boundless Optimism: Richard McBride's British Columbia (UBC Press, 2012).



Joy Kogawa

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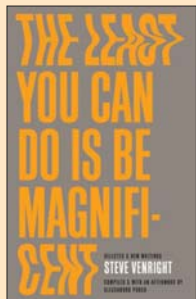


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edited and with a Foreword by Rachel Rose

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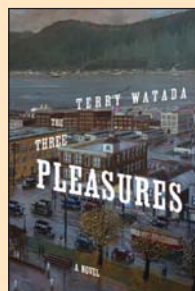
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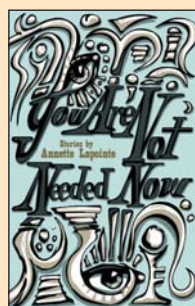
\$24 | 332 PGS. | 978-1-77214-095-8 | NOVEL | AVAILABLE NOW!



LONG RIDE YELLOW by Martin West

The debut novel from the author of *Cretacea & Other Stories from the Badlands*, *Long Ride Yellow* explores the limits of sexual desire. Nonni is a dominatrix who likes to push the boundaries; she is also easily bored. Her disdain for all that is conventional and "vanilla" launches her on a journey of personal discovery.

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YOU ARE NOT NEEDED NOW

by Annette Lapointe

You Are Not Needed Now is a brilliant new collection of stories from Giller-nominated author Annette Lapointe. Often set within the small towns of the Canadian prairies, the stories in *You Are Not Needed Now* dissect and examine the illusion of appearances, the myth of normalcy, and the allure of artifice.

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[FOR COLLECTORS OF RARE BOOKS]
Poetry by Vitsentzos Kornaros. Transcribed by Manolis
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Poems by Manolis. Paintings by Ken Kirkby
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Yoka, the beekeeper, is engrossed in **Mark Winston's Bee Time: Lessons From the Hive** (Harvard U Press).

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36 BC BOOKWORLD AUTUMN 2017

PRIZES

Jordan Abel wins Griffin

He is fully aware his books are not easily accessible.

IF YOU'RE INTO POETRY, THE big news this side of the Rockies is that 320 guests watched Ontario-raised **Jordan Abel** of Vancouver, win the Canadian Griffin Prize in June for *Injun* (Talonbooks).

And he got to take home... 65 grand.

It's not a typo.

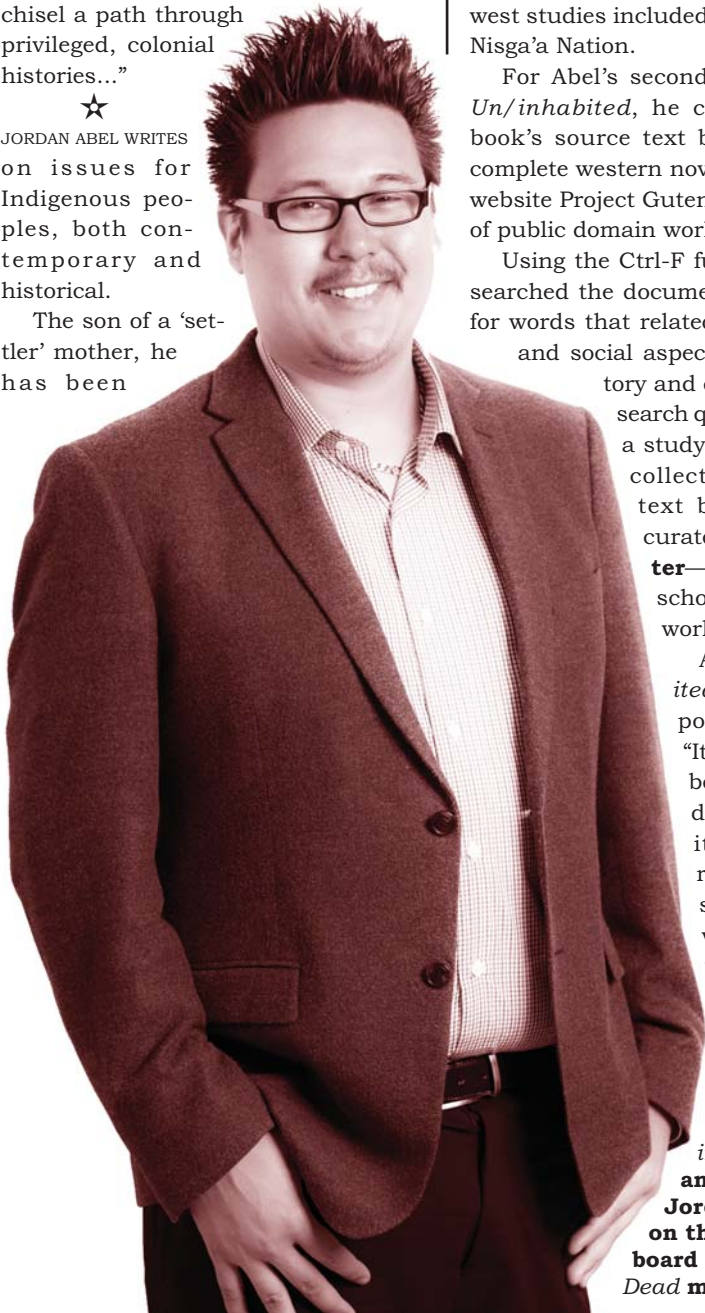
There were 617 submissions over all this year from 39 countries for two categories (international and Canadian).

Abel's third book of poetry, *Injun*, has been described in Griffin Prize materials as a long poem about race and racism which "destabilizes the colonial image of the Indian, both in the public domain and the western genre as a whole."

"By narrowing the web search to the word Injun as it appears in the 10,000-page source text of pulp westerns, and by re-appropriating the 'erasure' imposed by settler colonialism, Abel reclaims erasure, and pastiche to chisel a path through privileged, colonial histories..."

★ JORDAN ABEL WRITES on issues for Indigenous peoples, both contemporary and historical.

The son of a 'settler' mother, he has been



described as a Nisga'a conceptual writer. He reportedly did not come into human contact with other Nisga'a people until age twenty-two.

It has been suggested that Abel's books are meant to be analysed as much as, or more than, enjoyed. He is fully aware his books are not easily accessible.

he heard snatches of comment going up from the river bank all them injuns is people first and besides for this buckskin why we even shoot at them and seems like a sign of warm dead as a horse friendship and time to pedal their eyes to lean out and say the truth3 all you injuns is just white keys

—from *Injun* by Jordan Abel

Abel holds a B.A. from the University of Alberta and an M.F.A. from UBC. While completing his Ph.D. at SFU, his studies have focussed on "digital humanities" and indigenous poetics.

Abel's first book, *The Place of Scraps* (Talonbooks, 2013), won the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. It was followed by *Un/inhabited* (Talonbooks/Project Space Press) in 2014.

CBC Books named Abel one of 12 Young Writers to Watch in 2015.

For *The Place of Scraps*, Abel revisited and re-examined the role of early-twentieth century ethnographer **Marius Barbeau** whose Pacific Northwest studies included Abel's ancestral Nisga'a Nation.

For Abel's second poetry project, *Un/inhabited*, he constructed the book's source text by compiling 91 complete western novels found on the website Project Gutenberg, an archive of public domain works.

Using the Ctrl-F function, he then searched the document in its totality for words that related to the political and social aspects of land, territory and ownership. Each search query represented a study in context. This collection included a text by independent curator **Kathleen Ritter**—the first piece of scholarship on Abel's work.

About *Un/inhabited*, Abel told the podcast *Can't Lit*, "It is an unreadable book, for sure... I don't think that it demands you read all of it," he said, "... I'm always surprised that people try to read it from front to back."

Former editor of PRISM international and Geist, Jordan Abel is on the editorial board of Poetry is Dead magazine.

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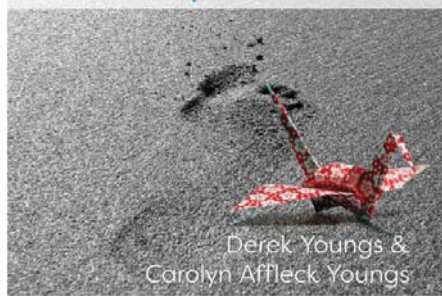
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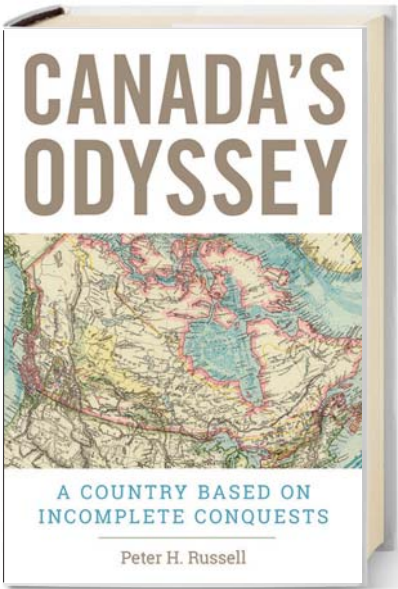
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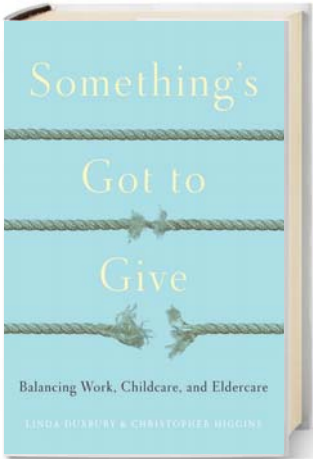


Canada's Odyssey

A Country Based on Incomplete Conquests

by Peter H. Russell

In *Canada's Odyssey*, renowned scholar Peter H. Russell provides an expansive, accessible account of Canadian history from the pre-Confederation period to the present day.

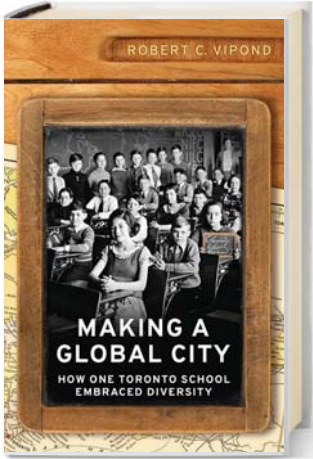


Something's Got to Give

Balancing Work, Childcare and Eldercare

by Linda Duxbury and Christopher Higgins

Something's Got to Give provides practical advice to managers and policy-makers about how to mitigate the effects of employee work-life conflict, retain talent, and improve employee engagement and productivity.

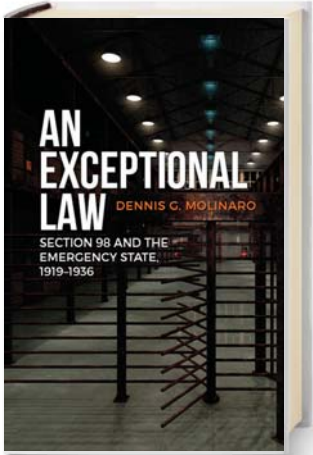


Making a Global City

How One Toronto School Embraced Diversity

by Robert Vipond

Making a Global City celebrates one of the world's most multicultural cities and shows how education plays a vital role in shaping and integrating immigrants in liberal democracies.



An Exceptional Law

Section 98 and the Emergency State, 1919-1936

by Dennis G. Molinaro

An Exceptional Law highlights how the emergency law used to repress labour activism during the First World War became normalized with the creation of Section 98 of the Criminal Code, following the Winnipeg General Strike.

SUMMER



Otters at Savary Island dock. Linocut by Gary Sim, *The Summer Book*

Not everyone goes brain-dead in the heat

Editor **Mona Fertig** has gathered
poignant summer stories, all previously
unpublished, from B.C. writers.

BY HOWARD STEWART

EDITOR **MONA FERTIG** has put together a masterpiece collection of finely crafted and evocative reminders of why summer is such

a special season in **The Summer Book: A Treasury of Warm Tales, Timeless Memories and Meditations on Nature by 24 BC writers** (Mother Tongue Publishing \$24.95). Fertig describes *The Summer Book* as “my counterweight, a small feather on the scale against the madness and angst in the world.”

But it's not all sweetness and light. I had to put *The Summer Book* down at times, not because of the quality of the writing, which was mostly exceptional, but because of emotions stirred by the authors' poignant ruminations on their summers.

The contributors have found so many ways to get inside the intensity of feelings and memories of the glorious high sun months when we finally get an opportunity to slow down enough to notice the ravens and eagles, the bees and dragonflies, the frogs and alligator lizards, etc.

Not all recollections are happy ones, especially if, like **Des Kennedy**, you were a redhead prone to sunburn or stuck in torrid urban stews like Toronto or New York City.

Or if, like **Jane Eaton Hamilton's** young friend at the lake, you just couldn't shake that nagging fear of bull sharks.

Some summer experiences, like **Claudia Cornwall's** canoe journey around Desolation Sound, are powerful and deliberate antidotes to other things that we need to put behind us.

The charming artwork of **Peter Haase, Briony Penn, and Gary Sim** interspersed among the writing is also a valuable complement to it—though I would have liked to see the colours in Penn's glorious watercolours.

These stories, linocuts and watercolours—all produced and edited with consummate care—are for reading in the hammock in the summer and leaving on the bedside table when the winter rains return.

978-1-896949-61-1

Denman Island's Howard Stewart's forthcoming book is “Views of the Salish Sea: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Change around the Strait of Georgia” (Harbour Publishing).



Des Kennedy,
Hornby Island



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A new Rielty

“The ideals that Louis Riel fought for—ideals of inclusiveness and equality—are now the very same values on which we base our country’s identity.”

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, 2016

ON RECEIVING THE GEORGE Ryga Award for Social Awareness this year for *Aboriginal Rights Claims and the Making and Remaking of History* (McGill-Queen’s), Indigenous land claims expert **Arthur J. Ray**, noted that Canada has been exceptional among so-called modern nations by according official recognition to its Métis population as a distinct people.

The real and mythological status of Métis leader **Louis Riel**, the foremost Robin Hood figure in Canadian history, is partly why this is so.

After battles with government troops, Louis Riel was tried for treason in Regina and hanged—but he’s still revered as a folk hero.

Every schoolchild should learn about him; and yet most Canadians know precious little. That’s why **David Doyle** has spent decades as a public advocate for Riel’s reputation, resulting in **Louis Riel: Let Justice Be Done** (Ronsdale \$24.95).

In July, David Doyle performed in **John Coulter’s** play *The Trial of Louis Riel* in Regina, then he went to Batheche, Saskatchewan, to present his own creative monologue “*An Inquiry into the Career of Louis Riel*.”

Louis Riel requested that an inquiry should occur during his trial for high treason.

A former First Nations school principal and Canadian Plains Research Fellow, David Doyle has answered Louis Riel’s request and provided Riel the opportunity to defend himself in this imagined re-enactment of the trial.

Riel, the main political spokesperson for Canada’s Métis nation in 1885 had no way to defend himself and the cause of his Métis people before a handpicked magistrate and six Anglo-Canadian jurors.

Riel even had to defend himself from his own lawyers whose defence was “not guilty by reason of insanity.”

On August 1, 1885, Louis Riel was found guilty of high treason and sentenced to hang by the neck until dead.

Upon being sentenced, Riel decried his trial and pleaded for an *Inquiry into the Career of Louis Riel*.

He died waiting and praying for his inquiry so, in Doyle’s book, Riel is allowed to speak in his own defence.

“My new book reveals the immoral and illegal tactics of the Canadian government,” says David Doyle, “and



David Doyle

Gabriel Dumont and Louis Riel’s heroic struggle to bring democracy and harmony back to our Northwest.”



THE MÉTIS IN WHAT is now viewed as Manitoba had had

their own system of Indigenous government in 1872 before it was crushed by the administration of Prime Minister **John A. MacDonald**, making way for CPR expansion.

Over the past thirty-plus years, Doyle, secretary of the Friends of Louis Riel Society, has helped to uncover and collect important evidence that has surfaced since Riel’s controversial trial and execution.

Now Doyle is off on a book tour to Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton prior to returning to Regina and Winnipeg in October to mark the 50th anniversary of John Coulter’s play *The Trial of Louis Riel*.

On Louis Riel Day (February 20, 2018), the Friends of Louis Riel Society will hold a national commemorative calling for exoneration and recognition of Riel as Canada’s Indigenous (Métis) Father of Confederation.

It has taken more than a century since Louis Riel was executed for this nation to begin to widely accept what Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** has stated (*above*).

978-1-55380-496-3



MICHAEL BARNHOLDEN’S DISCOVERY of a previously unknown text by Louis Riel—a poem written in the Regina jail just before his execution—has led to **Flat Willow Creek: The Poems of Louis Riel, 1878–1883** (Talon \$19.95) which includes the 481-line epic “To Sir John A.” and other poems written when Riel lived the traditional life of a Métis buffalo hunter and developed his concept of a “New Nation” for the Métis people.

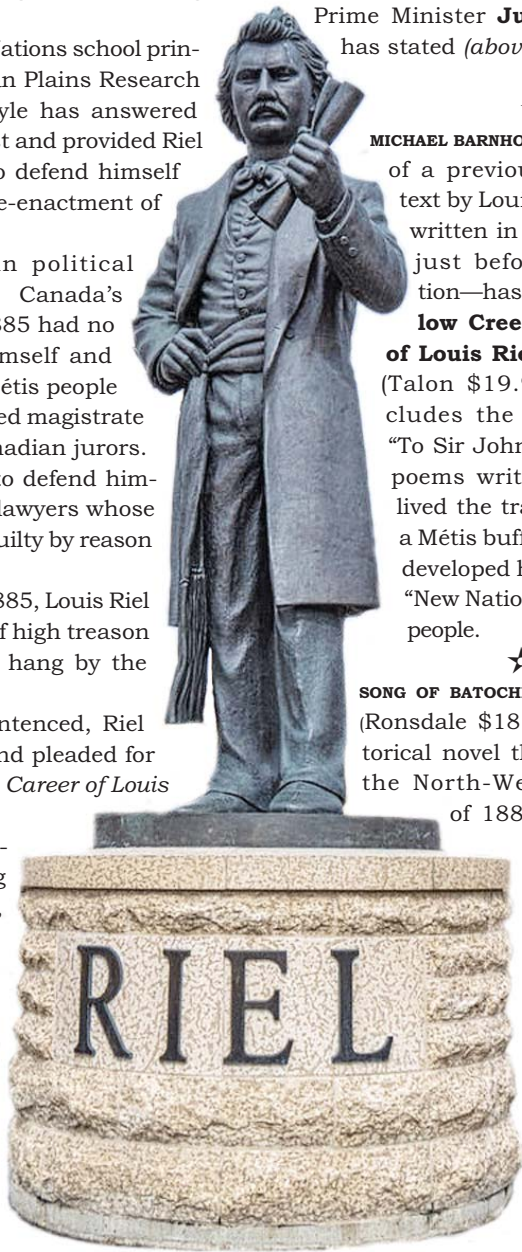
9781772011760



SONG OF BATOCHÉ BY **MAIA CARON** (Ronsdale \$18.95) is an historical novel that reimagines the North-West resistance of 1885 through the experiences of the Métis women of Batoche.

978-1-55380-499-4

Louis Riel by Miguel Joyal (1996), Manitoba legislative building



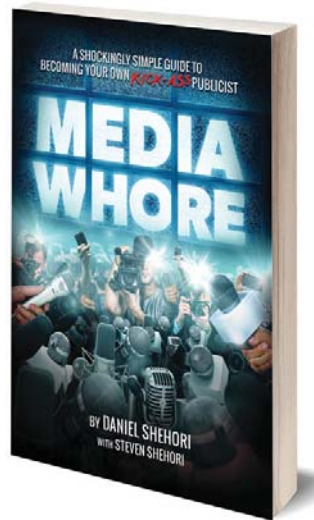
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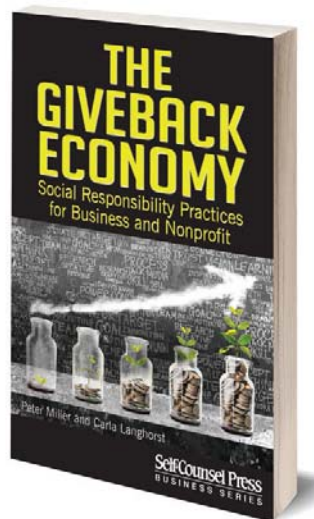


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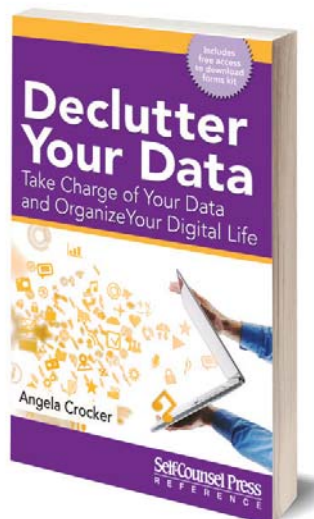


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THE ORMSBY REVIEW

Message From The Ormsby Editor's Desk.

BY RICHARD MACKIE

IT HAS BEEN A YEAR SINCE I took my RRR (Richard's Rolodex of Reviewers) and parted company with *BC Studies* to launch *The Ormsby Review*.

I started soliciting and editing reviews within hours of agreeing to **Alan Twigg's** plan to more than double the number of serious book reviews in B.C.

The response to our pilot project has been immensely gratifying. We've reviewed books from every major B.C. publisher as well as many smaller B.C. presses, plus publishers in the rest of Canada.

In eleven months, we've published 101 book reviews and 19 essays, with 64 more reviews in progress.

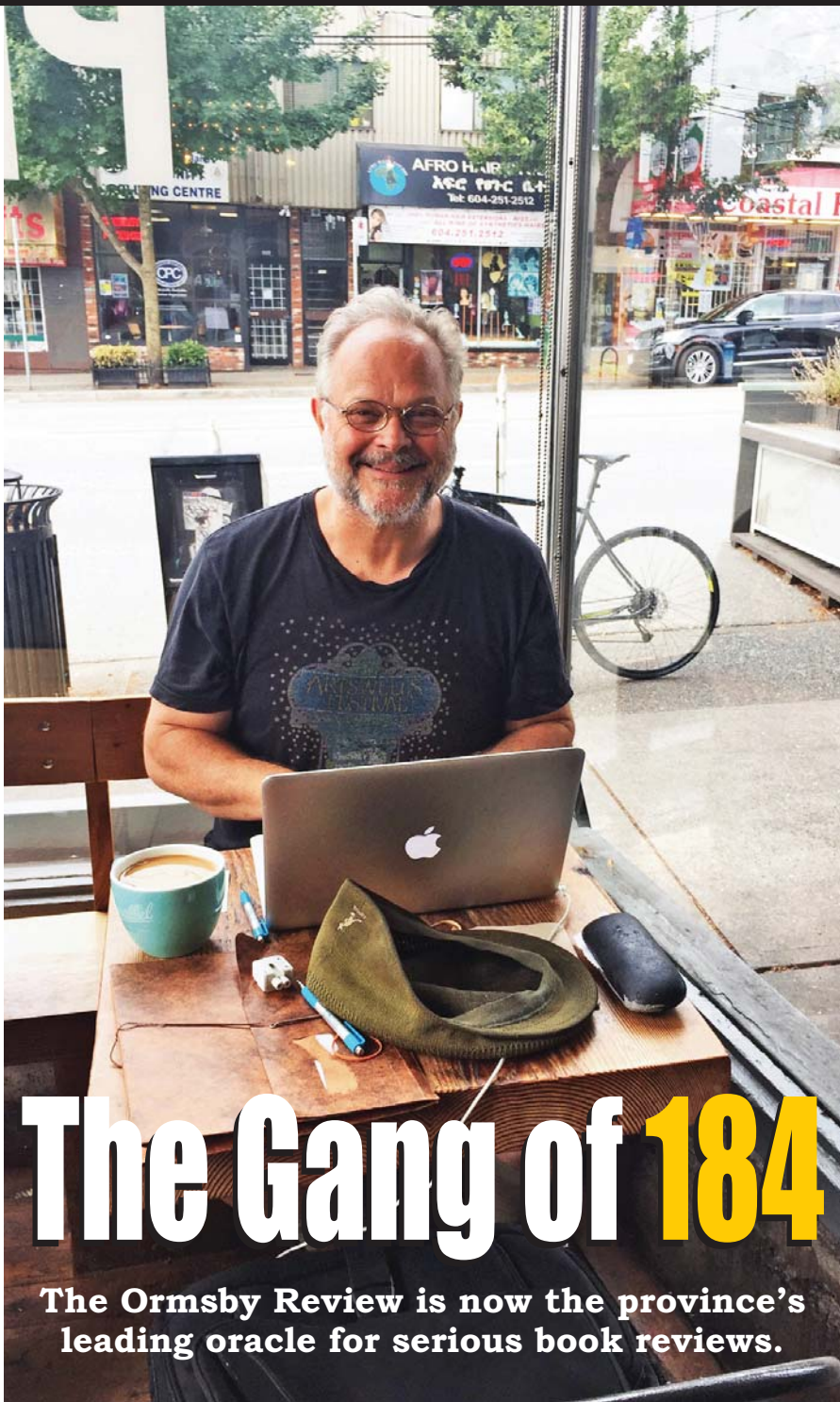
We even published a book: **Alice Ravenhill: Never Say Die**, by **Mary Leah de Zwart**, a 50,000-word biography of **Alice Ravenhill** (1859-1954), the Anglo-Canadian Indigenous rights activist, in our fledgling *The Ormsby Review Press* (ORP).

Our 184 contributors live in every region of the province from Fort St. John and Fort Langley to Cranbrook and Williams Lake, to Nanaimo and Nanoose Bay and to the smaller towns and islands of the B.C. coast, including Bella Coola, Cobble Hill, Salt Spring, Denman, Hornby, Galiano, and Gabriola.

The books we review reflect a broad range of provincial interests. If you visit *The Ormsby Review* page on *BCBook-Look.com*, you'll find:

We have reviewed local, regional, and community histories of Protection Island (#31), Tod Inlet (#36), Courtenay (#33), North Vancouver (#107), Squamish (#72), Chilliwack Lake (#144), Nelson (#77), the Liard Basin (#60), the Chilcotin (#94 & #151), and the B.C. grasslands (#79), as well as books on Chinese immigration and settlement to B.C. (#109) and the long-term impact of the removal and internment of Japanese-Canadians in 1942 (#140).

Biographies include those of Mike Agostini (#24), John Bowen-Colthurst (#63), Cornelius Burke (#21), Emily Carr (#95), Nellie Cashman (#118), Ujjal Dosanjh (#47), Mary Filer (#54), Pnina Granirer (#145), James Legge (#134), Donna Macdonald (#77), Althea Moody (#29), Harvey Murphy (#19),



The Gang of 184

The Ormsby Review is now the province's leading oracle for serious book reviews.

Richard Mackie at work at the Prado Café, Commercial Drive, Vancouver

Louis Oppenheim (#42), Wolfgang Paalen (#95), George Skippon (#123), and Aloha Wanderwell (#35).

Our many Indigenous topics include ethnographies of the Dane-zaa (#20), WSÁNEĆ (Saanich) (#135), and Gitlax m'oon (Kitkatla or Gitxaala) (#92) peoples; biographies of Indigenous leaders Noel Annance (#141), Mazie Baker (#72), Ellen Neel (Ka'kasolas) (#117), Nukwa (Hannah) Oshamôt Oppenheim (#42), Bev Sellars (#38), Charlie Yahey (#20), as well as books on the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (#46), Indigenous health care and genocide (#114), smallpox epidemics

and depopulation (#103, #106), and Indigenous self-government (#72). Books concerning Métis identity include those by Gerry St. Germain (#62) and Catherine Richardson (Kinewesquao) (#96).

Artists covered include Emily Carr (#95), Mary Filer (#54), Pnina Granirer (#145), Fenwick Lansdowne (#81) Ellen Neel (Ka'kasolas) (#117), Wolfgang Paalen (#95), Bill Reid (#110), and Jeffrey Rubinoff (#129). Photography is represented by Wade Davis (#'s 51 & 80), Greg Girard (#137), and Fred Herzog (#128). Architectural history is represented by works on Vancouver's Art Deco (#119), the architect Thomas

Fuller (#59), and the architecture of Victoria (#74).

Works in women's history and gender studies include women's political activism since 1945 (#91), an anthology of writing from *Room Magazine* (#130), the changing conceptions of fatherhood between 1971 and 2015 (#104), intra-gender identities (#99), and biographies of twelve women (mentioned elsewhere here).

With the four-year rolling window of the Great War centennial of 1914-1918, we have featured stories on the lives of two soldiers, Richard Grant (#127) and John Nash (#39), books on the impact of the war on border Canada-U.S. relations (#143), on the wartime experiences of men and women from Langley (#105), and on the Yukon in the Great War (#149).

Books with contemporary relevance include Canada's media collapse (#66), the sinking of the Queen of the North (#84), the debate on marijuana (#142), forest sustainability (#69), the global climate crisis (#102), and the Site C Dam (#85).

We've also reviewed books about the North West Company (#73), the British Empire and Commonwealth Games of 1954 (#88), the Columbia River Treaty (#122), Expo 67 (#133), not to mention books about marine birds (#125), a killer whale (#26), salmon and estuaries (#113), utopias (#139), dystopias (#132), climbing in the Rocky Mountains (#58), the plucky struggles of Pacific Theatre (#148), the poetry of Naomi Wakan (#136), the fiction of Eden Robinson (#138), and young adult books by Darren Groth (#120) and Nikki Tate (#133).



MY WORK OVER FORTY YEARS AS AN archaeologist, historian, geographer, and teacher of writing has led me to many corners of B.C. where I made friends and contacts whose time and good will I have leaned on in my capacity as editor. Alan Twigg's network of contacts is also deep and province-wide. We are enormously grateful to everyone who has helped *TOR* (as we sometimes call it) launch our avalanche of support for books by, from and about British Columbians—without a drop of public funding.

We are thankful in particular to **Gwen Bird** (SFU Library), Graduate Liberal Studies program (SFU) and **Yosef Wosk**. The future is bright if our hard-won progress receives provincial support for staffing and a stand-alone website.

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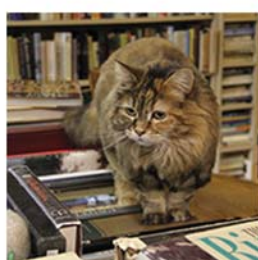
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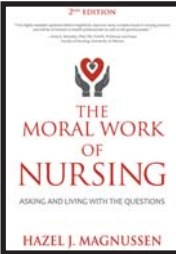
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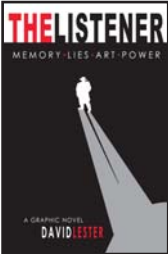


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GRAPHIC HISTORY



2017 Woodcock Award recipient Rolf Knight (centre) with Sandra Singh of Vancouver Public Library and event co-sponsor Yosef Wosk.

Woodcock winner

I WAS SO GLAD TO BE AT THE CEREMONY TO present Rolf Knight and Wade Davis their Woodcock and Ryga awards...especially Rolf Knight. I just happened to be reading Rolf's book *Voyage through the Last Century* at the time. I had seen it mentioned in *BC BookWorld* a couple of years ago. I keep copies for a few years, reading back issues to remind myself of books I've missed. I was pleased to be able to speak with Rolf after the presentation. We are looking forward to reading some more of his books. I just want to thank whoever was involved in presenting him with the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jan Naylor
Pemberton

Breathe deeply

IN THIS DIGITAL AGE, YOUR PUBLICATION IS A breath of fresh air! Note: I use exclamations marks very sparingly! The Wade Davis article alone was well worth the price of admission... wow! Oh yeah, FREE! Keep up the good work/cause!

Tim Carson, Carson Books
Vancouver

Inexpressible

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW HONOURED AND surprised I was to open *BC BookWorld* and see Joan Givner's full-page review of my book. It was beyond my expectations! I don't know how I can ever thank you for this.

Pnina Granirer
Vancouver

Moved to action

I WAS SO MOVED BY THE PHOTOGRAPH and article about Luhombero in the Summer issue of *BC BookWorld* that I mailed a cheque for \$100 this afternoon to you. Thank you for connecting such a worthy and do-able cause to the

readers of *BC BookWorld*, once again proving that *BC BookWorld* is Resolute (yes!) in so many ways. The moment I saw the photograph on page 37 and read about Placid Kindata I immediately thought of Eric Walter's book *Hope Springs*, so perfectly illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes.

In September, when I read *Hope Springs* for children in grade one, I will show them the *BC BookWorld* photographs of Placid Kindata and the three little ones whose village will surely get the vehicle they need with the kind support of readers in B.C. They will understand how their humanity is connected to the greater world.

Susan Yates
Gabriola Island



Ricardo and his sisters. (Luhombero, Tanzania)

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SMALL DONATION TO maintain Luhombero brothers and sisters in East Africa.

I visited East Africa with my brother when we were both in our teens. My father was helping to set up a cancer clinic in Nairobi, Kenya. We travelled around Kenya and Tanzania. The panopoly of stars, grace of giraffes, magnificence of elephants, astonishing array of beautiful birds, and the connection with people made it a singularly memorable experience.

Daphne Osaba
Vancouver

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INDEX

Annick Press...29
Anvil Press...36
Arsenal Pulp Press...26
Banyen Books...41
BC Book Prizes...40
BC Ferries Books...14
BC Historical Federation...26
Caitlin Press...33
Cramp, Beverly...31
Douglas & McIntyre...6
Douglas College/EVENT...37
Ellis, David...41
Fictive Press...30
Figure 1 Publishing...16
Friesens Printers...43

Galiano Island Books...41
Granville Island Publishing...29
Greystone Books...2
Harbour Publishing...44
The Heritage Group of Publishers...4
Houghton Boston...43
Jewish Book Festival...11
Kamloops Writers Festival...11
Libros Libertad Publishing...36
Massy Books...41
Marquis...43
Mercer, George...18
Mermaid Tales Bookshop...41
Mother Tongue Publishing...11
New Society Publishers...19

New Star Books...34
Now or Never Publishing...35
Ocean Guides...26
Orca Books...24
Penguin Random House...14
Printorium/Island Blue...43
Rebel Mountain Press...30
Ronsdale Press...12
Rose, Kat...30
Royal BC Museum...35
Ruebsaat, Norbert...30
Salmon Recipes...37
Self-Counsel Press...39
Shuswap Press...30
Sidney Booktown...41

Stonedrift Press...18
Swanky, Tom...26
Talonbooks...20
Theatre in the Raw...30
Thistledown Press...31
UBC Press/Purich Books...29
University of Toronto Press...38
Vancouver Desktop...31
Vancouver International Writers Fest...9
Vancouver Manuscript Intensive...31
Vancouver Rare Book Show...41
Walking To Japan...37
Whistler Writers Festival...8
Yoka's Coffee...36

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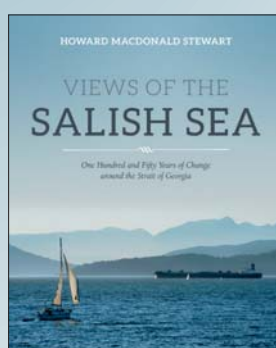
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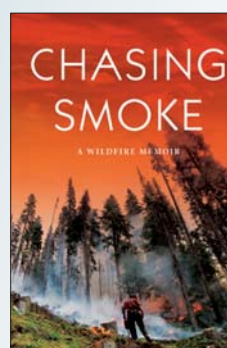
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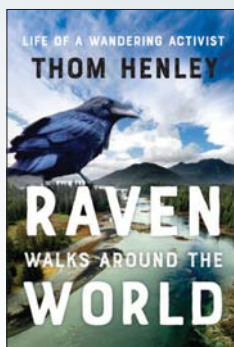
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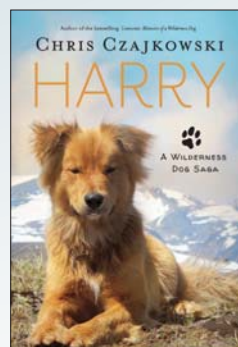
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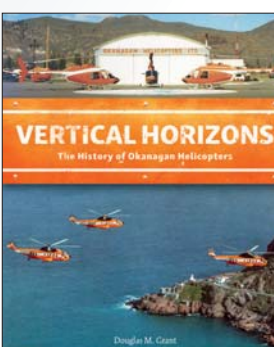
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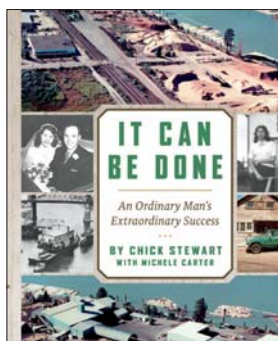
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