

YOUR FREE GUIDE TO BOOKS & AUTHORS

BC
BOOKWORLD

VOL. 34 • NO. 3 • Autumn 2020

The **BIG** league

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looks at body shapes.



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Whistler **WRITERS** **FESTIVAL**

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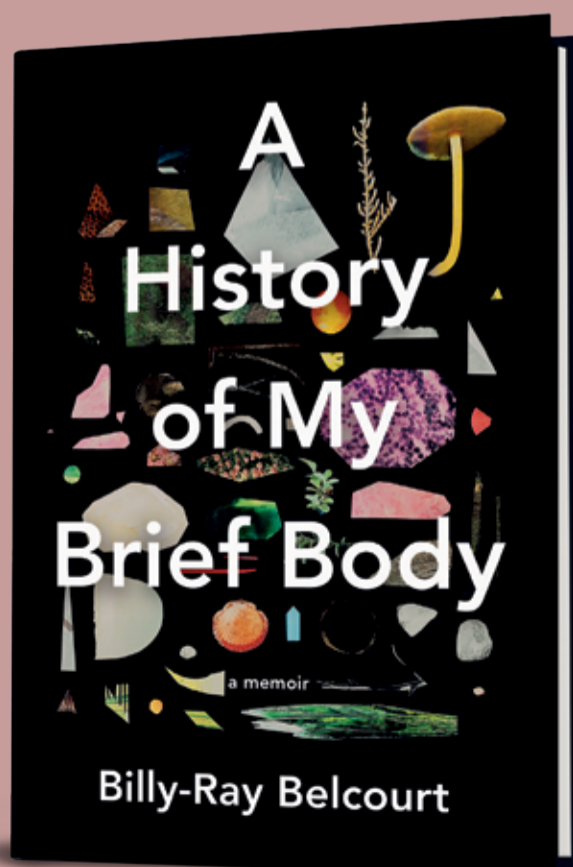
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The current topselling titles from major BC publishing companies, in no particular order.

PEOPLE



In October, Jillian Christmas will be at the Whistler Writers Festival and the Vancouver Writers Festival.

INCANTATORY ACTIVISM

Spoken word activist **Jillian Christmas**' poems are expressive of her family history, queer lineage, and "the political landscape of a racialized life."

In response to Jillian Christmas' first book, **The Gospel of Breaking** (Arsenal Pulp \$14.95), novelist **David Chariandy** described her spoken word texts as "incantatory and disarming, sensitive and cerebral, fiercely defiant and courageously tender."

In an interview with **Rob Taylor** for *Read Local*, she said, "On the page, that immediate feedback is absent, but there is still opportunity to create an arc, a flow that moves the reader from one emotional landscape to another. As for the applause, I have an excellent imagination."

Jillian Christmas, who teaches poetry through word play exercises and whose work often focusses on anti-oppression initiatives, has developed programs and workshops in partnership with Vancouver Opera, Wordplay, **Brendan McLeod**'s Travelling Slam, CULTCH Mentorship and the Museum of Anthropology (UBC).

Born and raised in Markham, Ontario, with lineage from Trinidad and Tobago, Christmas has served for six years as Artistic Director of Verses Festival of Words. Her writing has appeared in *Huffington Post*, *Matrix New Queer Writing* (issue 98), *The Post Feminist Post*, *Plenitude Magazine*, *Room* and *The Great Black North* anthology edited by **Valerie Mason-John** and **Kevan Anthony Cameron**.

"I love hard as I know how," she writes in *The Gospel of Breaking*.

9781551527970

So, a divorce lawyer walks into a rabbi's office...

Divorce lawyer **Joey** is looking to get a crash bar mitzvah course. He's in his sixties and hasn't followed his religion most of his life, and has not had his bar mitzvah. Having lied about this omission all his life, he now needs to go through the procedure, and fast, for family reasons.

Joey chooses Rabbi Michael Levitz-Sharon. Never having met the person before, he barges into the rabbi's office without an appointment and waits, sitting in the rabbi's chair. When a young woman walks in fresh from a jog, wearing a baseball cap (it's the rabbi), he doesn't realize who it is.

Joey: So what do you do here?

Michael: This and that . . . I'm the rabbi. So more this than that.

Joey: No.

Michael: And you're in my chair.

Joey: You're Rabbi Levitz-Sharon? (pronounced Share-in.)

Michael: Rabbi Michael Levitz-Sharon. (pronounced Sha-rown) Like the prime minister. No relation.

Joey: But you're—

Michael: Not circumcised?

Joey: Young. I was thinking young.

It's not a great start and at first the rabbi doesn't want to help with Joey's seemingly insincere request. But Joey eventually wins her over in **Mark Leiren-Young**'s comedic new play, **Bar Mitzvah Boy** (Playwrights Canada \$17.95). As the two get closer, they begin a series of conversations on their faith, family and the importance of community.

978-0-36910-068-9



Mark Leiren-Young

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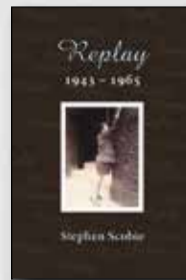
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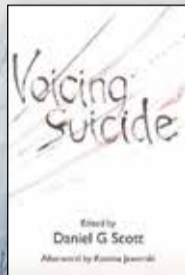
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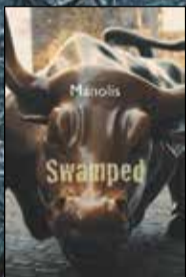
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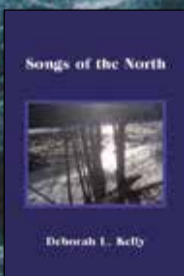
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PEOPLE

Little-known artists of B.C.

In the first half of the 20th century, upwards of 16,000 artists lived and worked in B.C. yet other than a handful of those who achieved ‘success,’ there has been little documented evidence of the majority of the others.

Art was made invisible by socioeconomic or political forces and also a lack of galleries. “Those artists that worked the system got recognition and those that didn’t, disappeared from view,” says **Mona Fertig** of Mother Tongue Publishing.

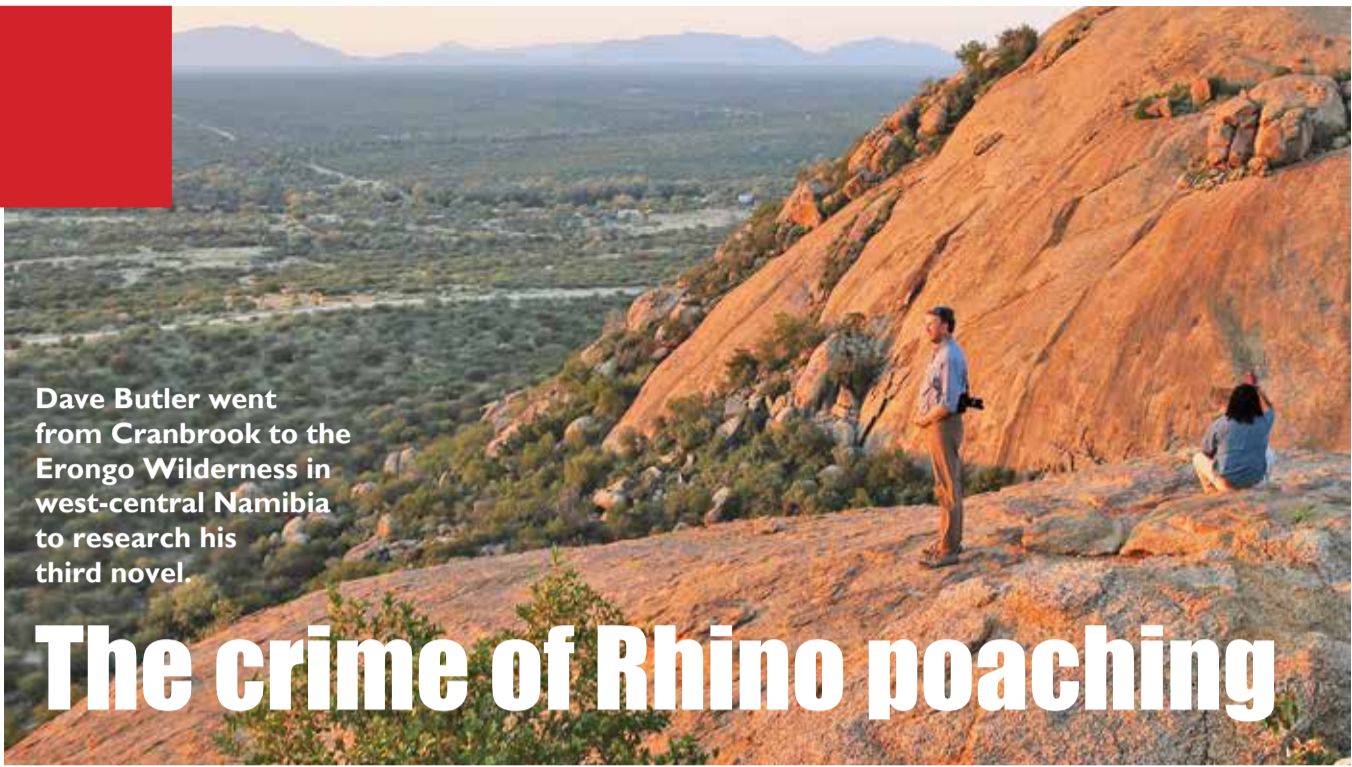


Mary Filer at Quebec’s Dawson College, 1946. She trained as a painter and became a glass sculptor from the late 1960s until her death in 2016.

This spurred Fertig to publish a series of books called *The Unheralded Artists of BC* that included stories on **Harry and Jessie Webb, Mildred Valley Thornton, Mary Filer, David Marshall,** and Mona Fertig’s father, **George Fertig** among others.

Now thirteen of these forgotten artists have been gathered into one book, **The Pocket Guide to The Unheralded Artists of BC Series** (Mother Tongue \$24.95). Each artist’s life and work, from the early 1900s to the 1980s is summarized. The goal is to tempt readers to go back to the earlier books and read more fully about each of these artists, all of whom created large bodies of work during their lifetimes.

9781896949826



Dave Butler went from Cranbrook to the Erongo Wilderness in west-central Namibia to research his third novel.

The crime of Rhino poaching

A retired forester and biologist, **Dave Butler** of Cranbrook is a pathfinder in the new field of eco-fiction. His mystery series features a caustic-witted national park warden and conservationist named Jenny Willson, who is trying to succeed in a largely male-dominated, politically-charged environment.

In the first book, *Full Curl, a Jenny Willson Mystery* (Dundurn, 2017), she discovers that trophy animals are missing from Canada’s national parks. With the list of murder victims (both human and four-footed) growing, Willson pursues the villains across the U.S. border. It won the Arthur Ellis award for Best First Crime Novel in Canada in 2018.

The second book, set in Golden and Yoho National Park, *No Place for Wolverines* (Dundurn, 2018) is a mys-

tery that includes pipelines, shadowy political machinations and a proposed ski area development for a remote valley.

Now, **In Rhino We Trust** (Dundurn \$14.95) Jenny Willson has been seconded to work with an American colleague in Namibia where she gets involved in a case of rhino poaching, leading to connections to international crime syndicates. It could all culminate in deadly consequences for would-be sleuths as well as wildlife.

Butler is the director of sustainability for Canadian Mountain Holidays, a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and a winner of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

Butler’s grandmother was a prolific writer in B.C. newspapers from the 1940s to the 1970s, and his father published a book of stories about Barnston Island in the Fraser River.

978-1-45974-087-7

Bullied schoolgirls, tormented artists

M **arie Clements’** latest play, **Iron Peggy** (Talon-books \$16.95) employs magic realism to span multi-generations and link contemporary times to WWI (1914–1918). The story follows Peg, a young girl struggling at boarding school while being bullied. Peg’s father is absent and the school administration is uninterested and unwilling to intervene.

When Peg’s grandmother dies, an unexpected gift arrives—three antique cast iron soldiers that magically come to life in the form of Indigenous snipers from WWI. The soldiers teach Peg survival skills to take on her bullies.

Iron Peggy was commissioned by the Vancouver International Children’s Festival but would also appeal to adult readers.

Marie Clements founded Urban Ink, a Vancouver-



Marie Clements with a face painting in the style of Norval Morrisseau.

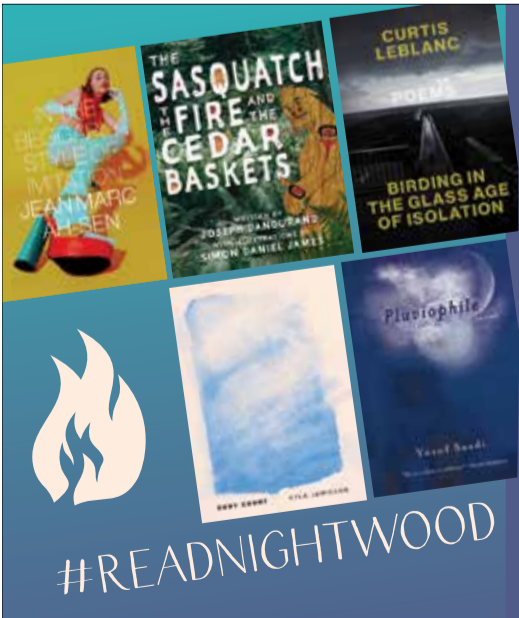
based theatre company that produces works by Indigenous and diverse artists. As a Métis performer and playwright, she has explored the politics of race, gender and class.

Clements’ plays include *Copper Thunderbird* (Talon-books, 2007) about the tormented life of **Norval Morrisseau**, the man generally regarded as the Father of Contemporary First Nations art. *Copper Thunderbird* relates a

Faustian tale of the world-revered artist who became a Grand Shaman within the realm of Ojibwa cosmology while succumbing to the effects of family abuse, alcoholism and extreme poverty—including wanderings on the streets of Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. The result is a composite vision of a fractured life.

The world premiere of *Copper Thunderbird* marked the first time Canada’s National Arts Centre in Ottawa produced the work of a First Nations playwright on its main stage.

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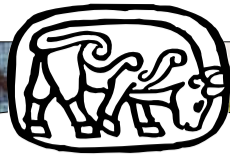
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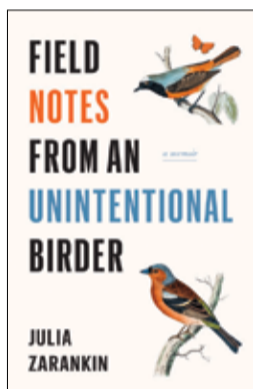


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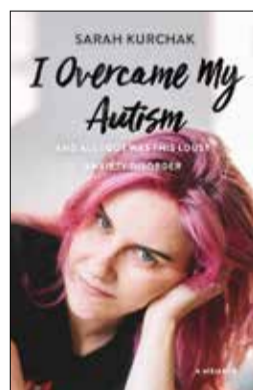
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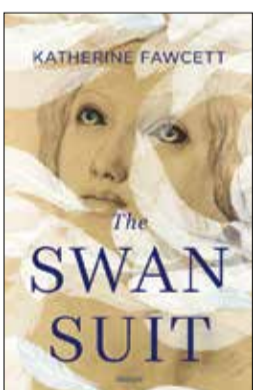


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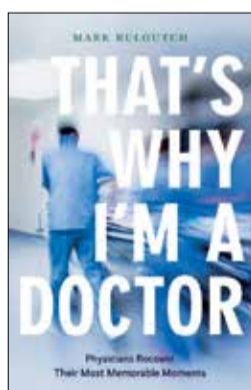
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THE BIG LEAGUE

BIG: Stories about Life in Plus-Sized Bodies
 Edited by Christina Myers
 (Caitlin Press \$24.95)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP



As a young girl, **Christina Myers** got used to hearing people describe her body shape as ‘solid.’

She wasn’t intimidated or ashamed by such remarks – not initially.

“I was solid,” she says in **BIG: Stories about Life in Plus-Sized Bodies**. “Strong and tall and built in a way that made me feel capable of anything I wanted or needed to do. I was the girl who could reach the top shelf and open jars and help teachers carry heavy boxes and outpace boys on the track and the tennis court.”

Myers says she felt ‘at home’ in her own body although this wasn’t to last.

“In a world in which controlling and perfecting our bodies is the most important job, project, obsession and goal that a woman can have, it would have been impossible to reach the end of childhood feeling as benign and neutral about a word like solid as I did in the beginning.”

At first, Myers made jokes. “I’m sturdy,’ I’d say, usually with a wink or chuckle. I’d have made a great farm wife—big child-bearing hips, strong enough to pull a plow, I’d just work hard all day toting water and chopping wood.’ It was a false front: a feigned implication that I embraced my body, under the guise of vague words and a dash of humour.”

A friend called her on it. “The way you say that is not kind to yourself,” they said. “You don’t mean it in a good way.”

From that time on, Myers began to think about how words affect people, their self-image, confidence and well-being. “So what words, then, should I use? What words should any of us use? It is not an uncommon question these days, but the decision is ultimately so personal that I’m not convinced there is a right or best answer.”

While compiling the 26 stories for reflections on the experiences of ‘plus-size’ women (including non-binary and trans people) in a society that values thinness, Myers opted to title her book, *BIG*—not fat, curvy, chubby, ‘rubesque’ or even sturdy.

“Big is a simple word, with complicated implications,” she says.

The stories include expected themes such as bullying, difficult relationships, poor self-image and challenging health care. And then there are the unexpected stories, like that of **Leyla Cameron** who grew up in a straight-talking family of health professionals who got

Twenty-six plus-sized people tell the stories of how they navigate a society obsessed with thinness, including some who developed important life skills while growing up “big.”

on the topic of eugenics one day.

Cameron asked whether or not it was “morally acceptable—even desirable—to detect so-called ‘deficiencies’ during pregnancy?”

After discussing the controversial topic of ‘designer babies’ Cameron went further, wondering “if they had known how being fat would affect my life, would they have taken the opportunity to deselect ‘fat’ from the panel of characteristics possessed by the little embryo that was to be me?”

Cameron was shocked when her family answered they absolutely would, but understood they knew that being fat had been a source of a lot of pain to her growing up; that they would have done what they could to protect her from that.

Cameron acknowledged that, “being fat had also shaped almost everything about me,” but added that her “sense of humour, compassionate nature, radical politics and values would all be different, I was sure, if I hadn’t moved through the world as a fat person.” In the end, Cameron embraced her body shape.

Another contributor, **Tracy Manrell** discovers, while going through a sex change from female to male, how much difference there is between being overweight as a woman and as a man. “Although I always observed that life as a big man seemed different than life for big women, I was struck on a new level just how different these worlds are,” she says. “Women and men have different definitions of a fat body, I observe. Women are much harder on themselves. A woman sees herself as fat when carrying an extra ten or even five pounds. A man with those same extra pounds (and more) sees it as muscle or brawn on their bodies.”

Manrell encounters a doctor who doesn’t like the word ‘fat’ because she sees it as an insult and won’t allow its use in her office. Manrell doesn’t agree.

“The queer community is famous for reclaiming words that have historically been used against us: queer, dyke, fag, tranny. Used by the right people and in the right context, these words carry their own positive power. And they are just words — adjectives, descriptors. Frankly, there was a long time when if someone called me a fat dyke, I could say, Yes. Yes, I am. Fat and (for now) a dyke. What’s your point? So, when I call myself fat, I am not putting myself down. I am fat. I wear glasses. I have brown hair and a brown beard. I am transgender. And none of this is inherently bad.”

Ultimately, the use of words is what drew Christina Myers to this book project. She says it is her hope that readers will ask questions about the way they think and talk about their own bodies and other people’s bodies, about the world we live in and its lessons and obsessions, and about the words we use and how they shape us.

9781773860213



Christina Myers holds degrees in journalism and psychology from Thompson Rivers University and UBC.

TWINLENS PHOTOGRAPHY

The slashburners who set controlled fires in the woods are a breed unto themselves.

SLASH & BURN & LEARN

A crew inspects a spot fire during a slashburning job in the Bush River valley in southeastern B.C.

Slashburner: Hot Times in the British Columbia Woods by Nick Raeside (Harbour Publishing \$24.95)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

On Vancouver Island, in 1938, a huge fire from sparks of logging machinery blackened nearly 75,000 acres. Named the Bloedel Fire, its size and spread were caused by thousands of acres of slash that had accumulated after years of logging.

Thereafter, each autumn logging operators on the B.C. coast and Vancouver Island are obligated to dispose of their accumulations of logging slash by controlled burning, thus limiting the chances of a major conflagration in the woods next summer. In 1967, these regulations were extended to the rest of the province.

A whole new vocation developed—that of the slashburner—as **Nick Raeside** describes in his memoir, **Slashburner: Hot Times in the British Columbia Woods**.

“While many firefighters greeted the arrival of cooler weather with relief as they looked forward to well-earned days off,” says Raeside, “There were others who couldn’t wait for the fall slashburning program to begin.

“Possibly it was the prospect of a few more weeks of employment that appealed to many, but there were a few who rather enjoyed the irony of being paid to set fires in the woods.”

Nick Raeside was firmly in the latter camp.



AT THE AGE OF SEVEN, NICK RAESIDE put out his first bushfire near a holiday cabin he was staying in, using a wet burlap sack. “It might have been

easier,” he recalls, “if I hadn’t been barefoot.”

As a teenager in high school, he volunteered to fight local wild fires. This time he had footwear, he says, “although it wasn’t entirely satisfactory, as they were plastic sandals.” The sandals melted but a passion for fighting wildfires was ignited.

Raeside did a variety of jobs until he was hired by a company that provided contract forest fire control service. It was a rough calling but he stayed in that line of work throughout the 1970s and ’80s.

His first training camp, near Golden, consisted of old buildings left over from the Mica Dam project. He was the second person to arrive in the camp, which meant he had the pick of the bunkhouse rooms. From earlier stays at a logging camp on the coast, he knew it was never advisable to inspect mattresses too closely.

Raeside remembers he had to search for light bulbs that still worked, which revealed the floors were littered with sand and old cigarette butts. The ceilings were covered with fungus, “peeling off in lumps and dropping onto the mattress.”

Eventually he would learn to rappel from helicopters. This was the way crews were deployed onto fires burning on inaccessible terrain. The training was unforgettable. “It was a one-way flight,” he recalls. “The only way to get back to the ground was to slide down the two-hundred-foot rope attached to the side of the aircraft as it hovered above the airport runway.”

Safety measures were far from extreme. Raeside found his first slash burning jacket in the leftover trash in a ‘crummy’ (the nickname for a large vehicle used for transporting logging crews, referring to the general condition of its interior).

“The back [of the jacket] ended up being burned through...with the result



A helitorch lighting slash in late afternoon in the Bush River Valley. The block is in shadow, while the sun is still shining on the mountain ridge.

NICK RAESIDE PHOTOS

that the feather stuffing started falling out,” says Raeside. “The company office staff weren’t too thrilled by the fact that I’d leave a trail of dirty feathers behind me when I walked through the building, so I mended the damage with duct tape.

“Eventually the jacket got so soaked in diesel oil that it was too much even for me. It was ritually burned at the end of one burning season, along with the jersey and jeans I’d been wearing concurrently.”

Staying in remote camps was part of the job. A typical packed lunch included “canned beef hash, canned peaches, and Stoned Wheat Thins. Baker’s Semi-Sweet Chocolate might be present as an additional treat, unless some evil bastard had earlier rifled the pack.”

To this day, slashburning can be

grueling work. Arduous labour requires large amounts of calories. “It took a lot of energy to pack equipment up mountainsides,” says Raeside, estimating he consumed close to ten thousand calories a day. According to the U.S. Forest Service, active firefighters consume at least seven thousand calories per day.

It’s never safe. There was a constant danger that small, controlled burns would get away from their prescribed boundaries and set fire to adjacent stands of trees, something that the Forest Service calls an “escape” or euphemistically an “overachievement.”

Unexpected winds or other bad weather could cause these escapes so part of Raeside’s job was monitoring the weather. As a foreman, if he had misgivings, he would cancel a burn, a difficult decision when expensive equipment and workers were already deployed.

“Sometimes, though, it was better to write off the costs and give up for the day as opposed to lighting up and have a really expensive next few days if the weather did turn out nasty.”

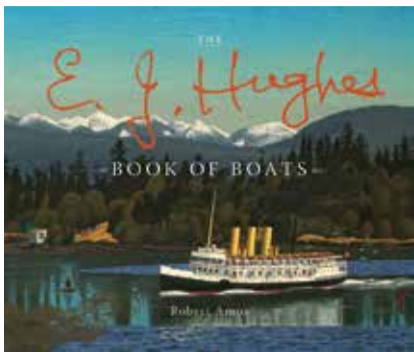
There were times when Raeside found peculiar beauty in his work. Once, as he was leaving a fire that proved too deadly to fight, he looked back to see a spruce tree go up in flames. “This one was unusual, though, in that a crimson flame wrapped around it in a spiral, looking much like the cellophane wrapping that’s twisted around presentation bunches of flowers.”

By the fall of 1989, Raeside’s days on steep terrain were taking their toll; an old hip injury was making every mountainside climb difficult. He had to give up slashburning and return to forest fire suppression on the coast. He eventually retired to Nanoose Bay, where he says, “the only burning I get to do now is the occasional pile of branches in the backyard.”

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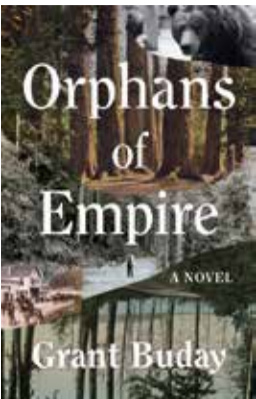


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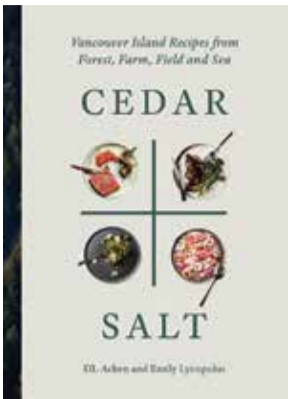
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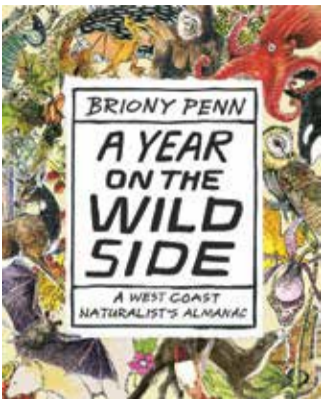


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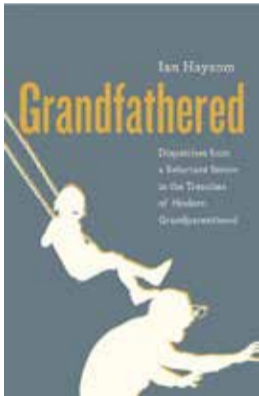
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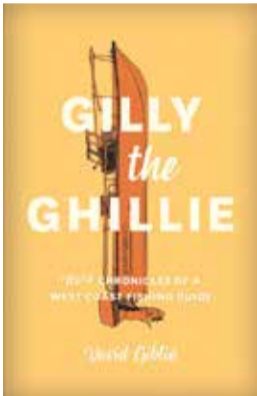


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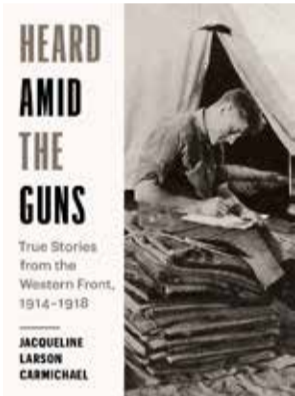
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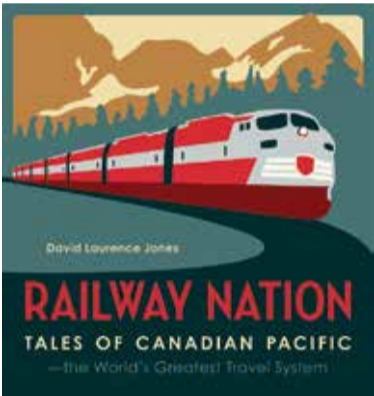
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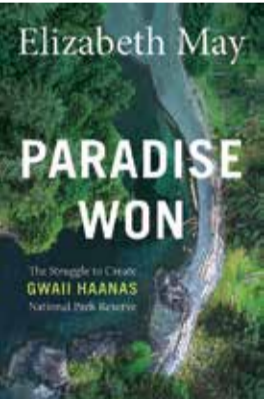
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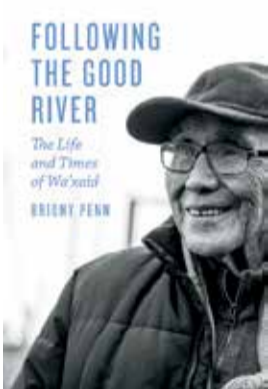
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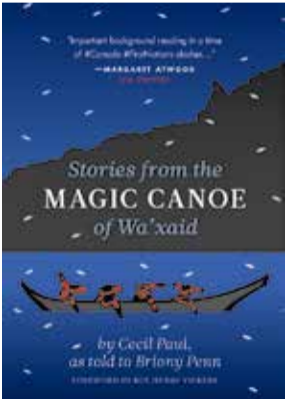
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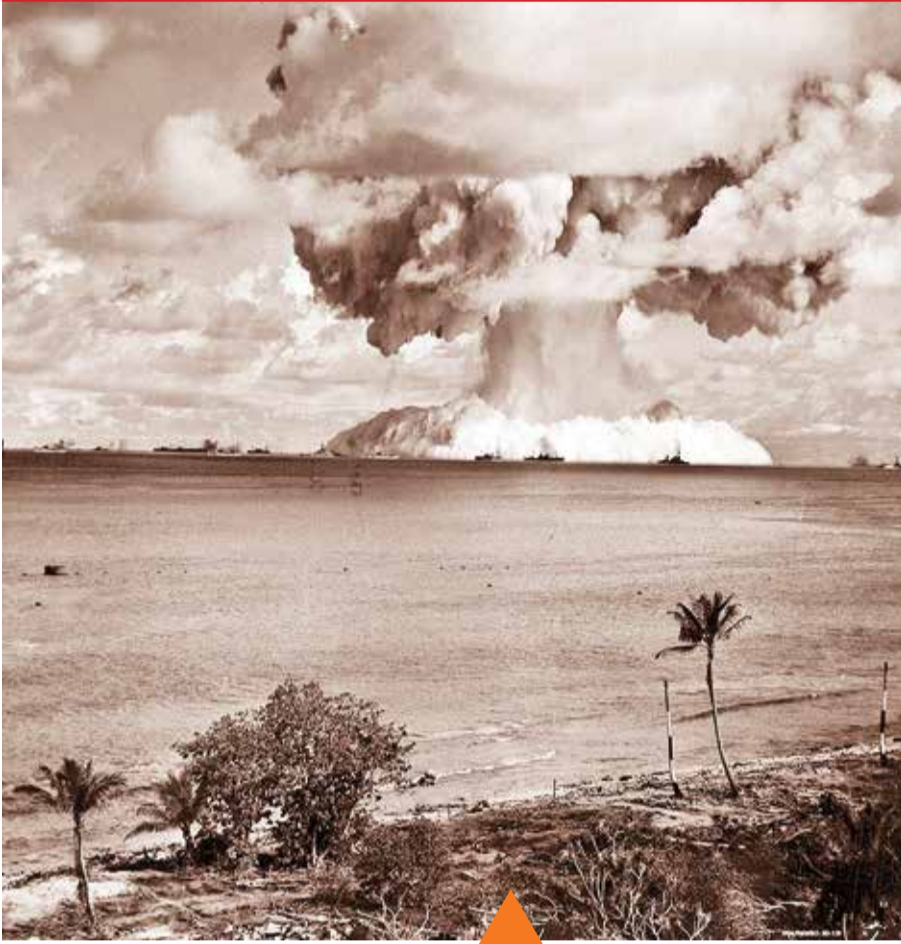
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Hope Matters:
Why Changing the Way We
Think Is Critical to Solving the
Environmental Crisis by Elin Kelsey
(Greystone Books \$22.95)

BY JOHN GELLARD

Cast your mind back to pre-COVID days when the major crisis was global warming. Man-made climate change was about to destroy human civilization by making our planet uninhabitable.

“You have stolen my dreams and my childhood,” said the Swedish teen activist **Greta Thunberg** of *skolstrejk för klimatet* (school strike for climate) fame. “People are suffering. Entire ecosystems are collapsing,” she famously said at the United Nations. “We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of economic growth.”

“The environmental crisis is also a crisis of hope,” says **Elin Kelsey**, who has been working on this issue since 2008, writing award-winning books, giving lectures and running workshops. Now Kelsey shows in **Hope Matters**, due out October 27, how to get from soul-destroying despair to health-giving hope—not a passive ‘Pollyanna’ hope, but “hope with its sleeves rolled up” that compels us to take community action and strive toward solutions.

The COVID crisis has temporarily eclipsed the climate crisis. Has this taken the wind out of Kelsey’s sails? Certainly not! The principles of hope she applies to the climate crisis will also be useful in solving the COVID crisis and then we can get back to environmental issues.

Hope Matters is packed with examples of hope-driven action, stories of nature’s resilience and satisfying advice about keeping our sanity in a crisis. So, let’s look at a few of the many solutions that appear as we turn away from apocalyptic platitudes (“The earth is dying”) or fatalistic mindsets (“I am hopeless. It is hopeless”) and embrace dynamic hope.

Nature has an astonishing capacity for healing. Look for ecosystems that

SIGNS OF HEALING: (left) The Bikini atoll where H-bomb testing destroyed life in the 1950s is now a healthy marine community; (top right) Giant anteaters have returned to northern Argentina; (bottom right) The Chernobyl Exclusion Zone in Ukraine (home to a thriving population of radioactive wolves) is a major wildlife sanctuary.

HOPE

with its sleeves rolled up

Advice on how to get from soul-destroying despair to health-giving hope.

have recovered from calamity, including the Bikini atoll where H-bomb testing destroyed life in the 1950s. Now we find healthy marine communities with “corals as big as cars.” Bikini is “radioactive and resilient.”

We can help by recognizing this resilience. The Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, home to a thriving population of radioactive wolves, is a major wildlife sanctuary. Sudbury, Ontario, once horribly polluted, is now “an international model of ecological recovery.”

Not only can we help nature along, but we can also take the lead. Community organizers in Portland, Oregon “wanted to make Portland a place where people would come for the green lifestyle.” Like-minded people gathered there and now the city is “one of the greenest cities in the U.S.”

Southern humpback whales have recovered. Amur tigers in Siberia are endangered but their population is increasing thanks to **Vladimir Putin** who identifies with them. New bridges across highways link the habitats of threatened species from tigers to grizzly bears, elks to turtles.

“Rewilding” introduces “native wild-

life back into degraded ecosystems.” Giant anteaters have returned to northern Argentina and wild bison to Romania. Salmon have returned to the Elwha River in Washington after a decrepit dam was removed. Blue whales came back to California. They help the fish

by fertilizing phytoplankton which absorbs CO₂ and produces oxygen.

Monterey Bay in California is a rewilding hotspot. Once disgustingly polluted, it is now a “world class center of ocean conservation,” and home to great white sharks, which prefer seals to people.

Marine-protected areas like the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument, 506,000 sq km in the west Pacific, conserve fish and enhance fish populations in the surrounding ocean. Land-based protected areas similarly enhance biodiversity. For example, the Indigenous Guardian Program that protects caribou migration in B.C.

“A decade ago, I felt utter despair over the catastrophic rise in the murder rate of elephants,” Kelsey writes. The insatiable world demand for ivory encouraged poaching in poor African countries. Then ‘The Great Elephant

Census’ started and in 2017 China banned the ivory trade. Hope makes you engage in trends that are achieving meaningful results.

Humans are not alone in showing altruism towards other species. Humpback whales defend seals by ganging up against killer whales. Humpbacks do not eat seals, so what’s in it for them?

Where do species get their resilience? How can offspring acquire useful new physical traits from their parents? The conventional wisdom in genetics is that new traits cannot be passed on without a random mutation in the DNA sequence. “Epigenetics” does an end run here. “Gene expression” can change without mutation. A zebra finch calls to its chicks still inside the eggs. In hot weather, chicks will hear the “hot call” and develop smaller heat-resistant bodies.

We humans might take a lesson from epigenetics. We can improve our health (mental and physical) and the health of our yet unborn children by acquiring good habits—healthy food and hopeful attitudes—and seeking out people who share them.

“Everything is connected,” says Lillian Howard of the Tlingit Nation. “Our ancestors are always with us.”

Now that we’ve gained the “sleeves rolled-up” hope that matters, there’s a huge amount of work to be done, particularly here in B.C. Kelsey’s advice is to choose manageable, definable issues. Examples: help to save the Peace River from the abominable Site C Dam; to protect old growth forests from clear cutting; or to save wild salmon from the blight of fish farms.

If there’s a second edition of *Hope Matters*, it might be worth adding a chapter on the COVID crisis. Soul-saving hope is certainly needed there. We must take care of each other.

However we proceed, we must learn to temper anger with hope and good humour. *Hope Matters*. Indeed, it does.

9781771647779

John Gellard’s articles have appeared in the Globe and Mail and the Watershed Sentinel. He was once named Canada’s “Best High School Teacher” in a Maclean’s magazine poll.



Elin Kelsey also writes books for children.

Voices at the Intersection of Art, Science, and Activism



Fighting for a Hand to Hold *Confronting Medical Colonialism against Indigenous Children in Canada*

SAMIR SHAHEEN-HUSSAIN
Foreword by Cindy Blackstock, afterword
by Katsi'tsakwas Ellen Gabriel
Cloth \$29.95 360pp

“A necessary and sobering read. Shaheen-Hussain masterfully exposes the ways in which the logics of settler colonialism and genocide are structurally embedded into Canada’s healthcare system. He illuminates how egregious racial violence takes place – in plain sight – under the direction of a publicly funded institution that is broadly understood, by most Canadians, as a social good. The book, meticulously researched, firmly centres Canada’s medical system as a crucial site for ongoing anti-colonial struggle.” –Robyn Maynard, author of *Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present*



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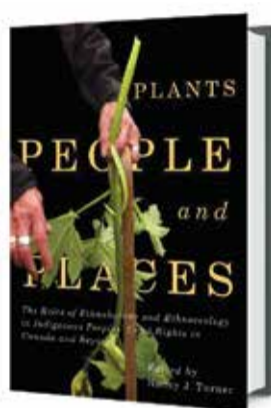
“Take a trip to the top of the world through the eyes of an impassioned scientist who experiences the unique landscape first-hand and, as an activist, mourns the loss of a frozen world that once was. This is a must-read for anyone concerned about the rapid changes taking place in the Arctic as it warms and the implications for the rest of the planet.” –Bob McDonald, host of CBC Radio’s *Quirks & Quarks*



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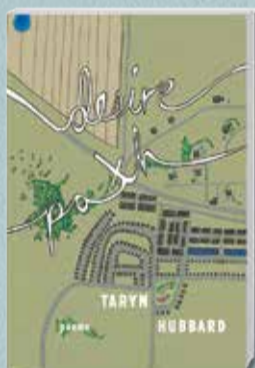


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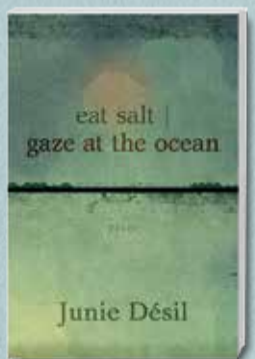


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Dukesang Wong
Edited by David McIlwraith
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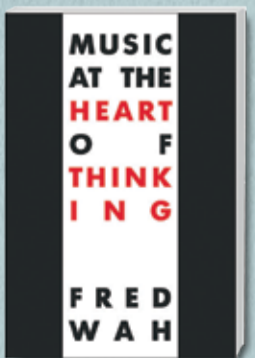
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Anne-Marie Saint-Cerny
Translated by Donald Wilson

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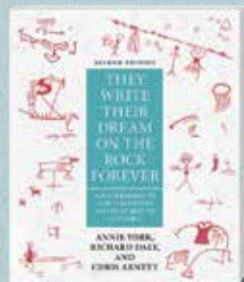
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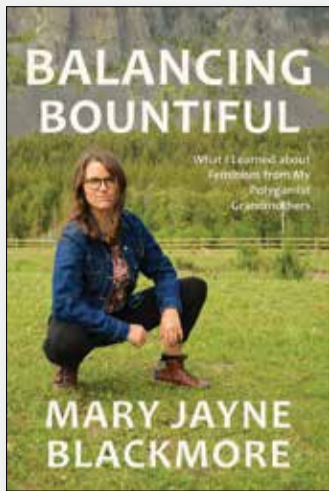
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Rock Writings in the Stein River Valley of British Columbia

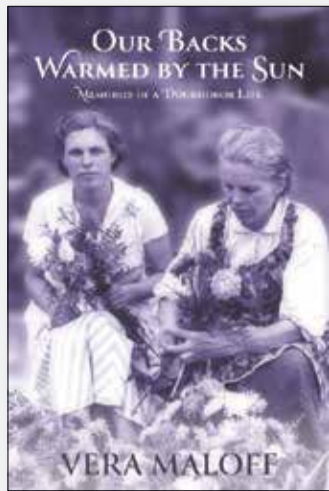
Annie York, Richard Daly, and Chris Arnett

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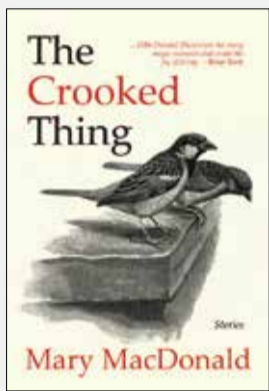
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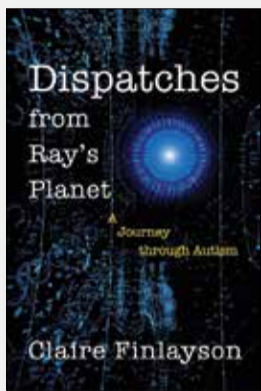
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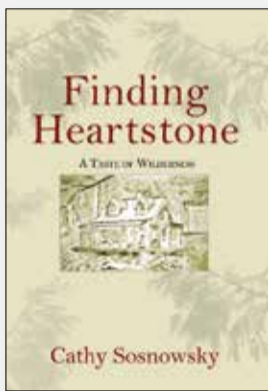
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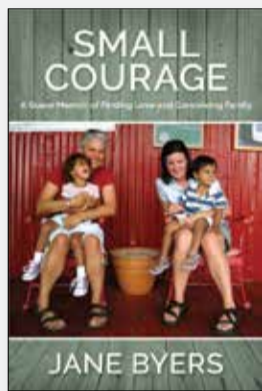
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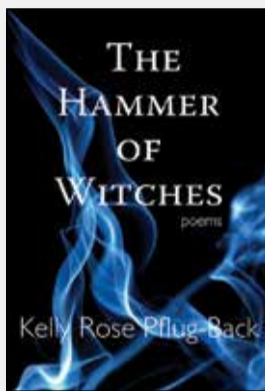
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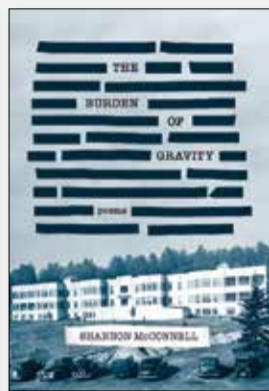
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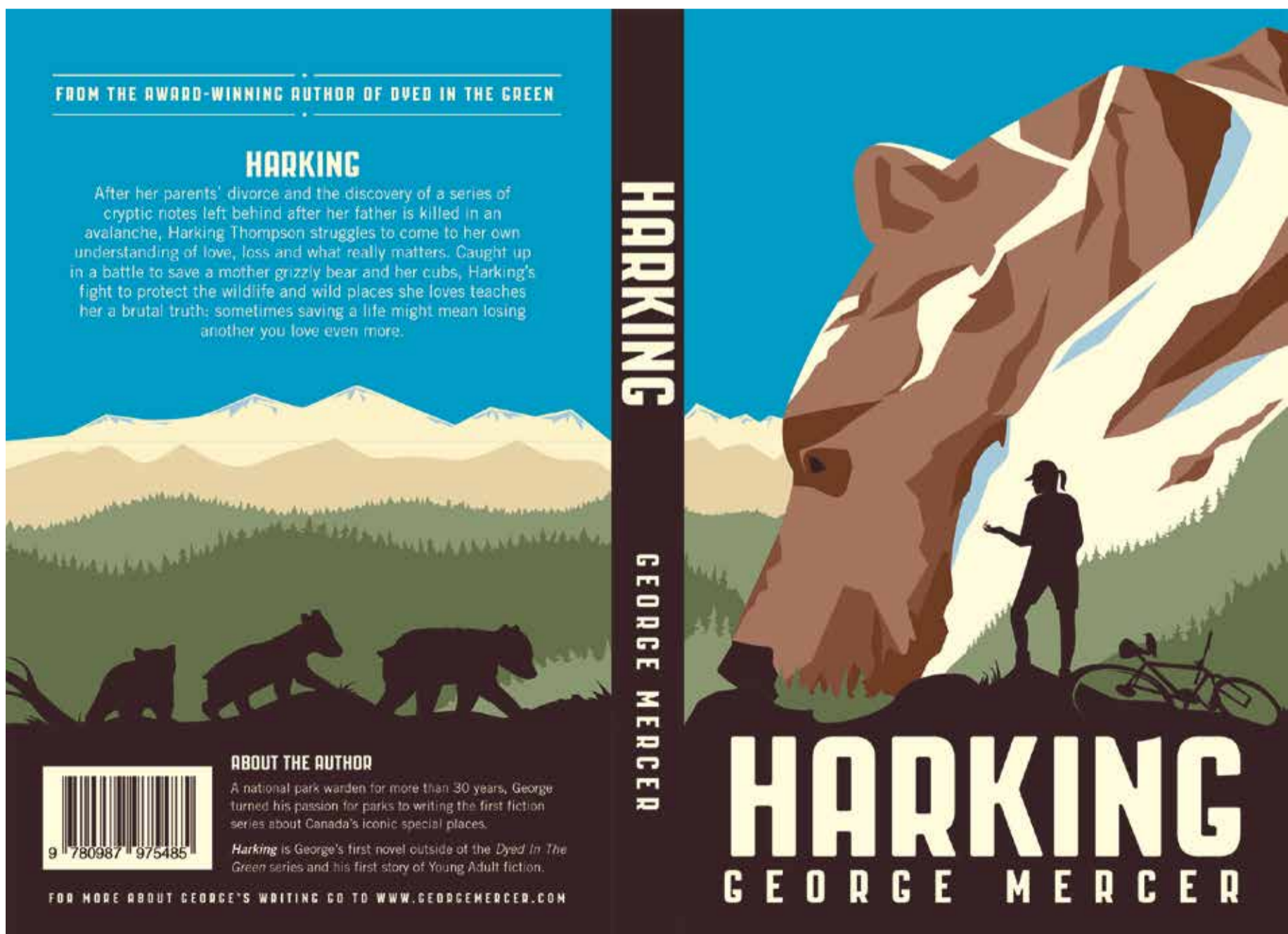
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Bruce Kirkby's descriptions of butter lamps, rosary beads, chanting, maroon-robed monks, simple meals and monastic puja rituals make for fascinating reading.

Sky Highs



(clockwise left) Bruce, Christine, Bodi and Taj. (right) Bodi and his mother, Christine, below the Karsha Gompa, a thousand-year-old Buddhist monastery in the Zaskar valley.

Blue Sky Kingdom:
An Epic Family Journey to the
Heart of the Himalaya
by Bruce Kirkby
(D&M \$34.95)

BY TREVOR CAROLAN

When you're destined for "Little Tibet"—India's northernmost region of Ladakh with its mountain hamlets set in thin oxygen at 12,000 ft.—

you'd better be ready: travelers hear regularly of those who check in, but who don't check out from the romanticized Shangri-la regions of the Karakoram Range. So why parents from the Kootenays with two sons, **Bodi**, aged seven and **Taj**, three, would want to venture to an isolated Himalayan village in Little Tibet makes **Blue Sky Kingdom: An Epic Family Journey to the Heart of the Himalaya** intriguing from the get-go.

Calling Kimberly home, **Bruce Kirkby** packs credentials as an outdoors photographer, writer and wilderness guide with a yen for extreme challenges. On this adventure, along with his wife **Christine**, he hopes to explore more deeply the realms of inner experience. Bodi, their eldest son, registers on the autism spectrum, and his mother is concerned for both her youngsters.

With a need to get out of a constricting life, and with bumps in their marriage to overcome, the Kirkbys head for Ladakh's remote Zaskar Valley. Readers following recent news will know of ongoing border fighting between Chinese aggressor forces and the Indian army a scant 150 miles to the north.

Overburdened with an L.A. film crew documenting the family odyssey, the author confesses, "selfishly, I had agreed to the television project at the last minute, viewing it as a way to advance my freelance writing and pho-



Bodi leaves an offering on a chorten (Buddhist shrine) outside Karsha village.

tography career." It also pays the bills.

Christine meantime is "lukewarm about the idea from the start." She has a doctorate in psychology, and metaphysical interests in Buddhism, however, she hopes that living in a traditional Tibetan community for a time might have dividends. They can teach English and math, maybe do some good.

Kirkby regards their expedition in terms of "self-preservation," saying "our only choice was to swim for all we were worth toward a distant, opaque light—something we hoped was the surface."

For twelve weeks they aim for the higher heights—by canoe, train, trans-Pacific freighter to Seoul, Shanghai, then train from Beijing to Lhasa. Although it's an epic route, Kirkby spends no more than a few pages on each of these phases. The exception is his outrage at China's savage occupation of Tibet. A dusty, smelly Indian train ride soon kicks in, ultimately nearing them to their destination.

For ten days with a reduced film crew they trek through the magical landscapes and snowy peaks of high-altitude valleys. We learn Kirkby

passed this way twenty years earlier. Things have changed: creeping modernity gnaws at Ladakh's traditional culture. Yet some things remain: frightening canyon-precipice trails lead on to prayer flags and yaks. There are still peasants in colourful garb and necklaces calling out Jullay!, their universal greeting.

Blue Sky Kingdom takes us to Zaskar and the time-defying world of Karsha Gompa, a 1,000-year-old Vajrayana Buddhist monastery where the family has an invitation to live and teach. Once **Lama Wangyal**, the revered head monk, welcomes and gives them local names, and when the movie crew departs, the family is free to settle and Kirkby's tales of daily village life become engrossing.

Kirkby's descriptions of butter lamps, rosary beads, chanting, maroon-robed monks, simple meals and monastic puja rituals make for fascinating reading. In films like *Little Buddhas*, *The Cup* and *Kundun*, some of us have seen images of Tibetan Buddhism's utterly unique culture: the Kirkbys' new home is a world of living holiness where compassion, profound

faith and everyday kindness are fundamental.

Led by their sons Bodi and Taj, who flow easily into local customs, the family deepens its awareness through classroom interactions with their novice-monk students and the villagers. Steadily, everyone loosens up. Sitting meditation helps overcome distractions; there are mysterious healings, funerals and one's daily tsampa barley flour needs grinding.

Several times Kirkby introduces detailed accounts of the parents' experience with their son Bodi's autism, the stress induced by it and a deeper layman's explanation of Asperger's Syndrome in particular, along with its place on the autism spectrum. We get an inside look at the various developmental challenges and situations involved. The talented ink illustrations in the book are by this seven-year-old boy.

Toward the end of their three-month stay, the Kirkbys determine it's finally the moment to discuss autism with their son. It's a tender, vulnerable scene.

For Bruce Kirkby, he gains heightened awareness while helping Lama Wangyal's family clan in the timeless work of harvesting barley. Everything, he intuitively, is done with a prayer. In one of the book's most affecting passages he concludes "there seemed to be no separation between life and religion in these fields. Life was the ceremony."

Kirkby further glimpses that the ramshackle advance of modernity inevitably heralds the dissolution of this ancient society. Zaskar, he concludes empathetically, sits "perched on the edge of extinction."

The road can be a tough teacher. Back in B.C., Kirkby has a deeper appreciation of stillness, "to quietly watch and listen." Can we ever tire of such simple, good advice? 978-1-77162-269-1

The most recent book by world traveler and lifelong Buddhism explorer, Trevor Carolan, is Road Trips: Journeys in the Unspoiled World (Mother Tongue, 2020).

**Spirits of the Coast:
Orcas in Science, Art and History**
edited by **Martha Black, Lorne Hammond**
and **Gavin Hanke, with Nikki Sanchez**
(Royal BC Museum \$29.95)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

In 1965, the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) acquired an indigenous button blanket and headdress with remarkable killer whale imagery. At the time, they were in the possession of **Mildred Valley Thornton**, a white artist and journalist.

Known for her portraits of Indigenous people in B.C. and Alberta, Thornton frequently talked to her subjects as she painted them, and then recorded any socially significant comments soon afterwards for books she later wrote.

But Thornton provided no information about the original owner of the headdress and blanket, nor where or from whom she had acquired them.

The RBCM already knew though, from existing photos taken in 1899, that both once belonged to the family of **Charles Nowell**, a Kwakwaka'wakw chief originally from Fort Rupert who later lived in Alert Bay.

Orca POWER

Exploring the plight of the ocean's top predator and its importance as a symbol of B.C.'s coast.

"The headdress and blanket had come to Nowell through his marriage to Ruth, the daughter of **Chief Lagius**, in 1899," says **Martha Black** in an essay for **Spirits of the Coast: Orcas in Science, Art and History**, a collection from over 50 contributors that explores one of B.C.'s most ubiquitous symbols of the coast. Black adds that several historical photographs show Chief Lagius, **Ruth Lagius Nowell** and Charles Nowell wearing the headdress and blanket over a span of at least 25 years.

"These images hint at how, in its original cultural context, the killer whale headdress signified identity, lineage, connections and collective action."

Black cites other experts about the killer whale being a primary crest of the Haida Raven lineages, the oldest

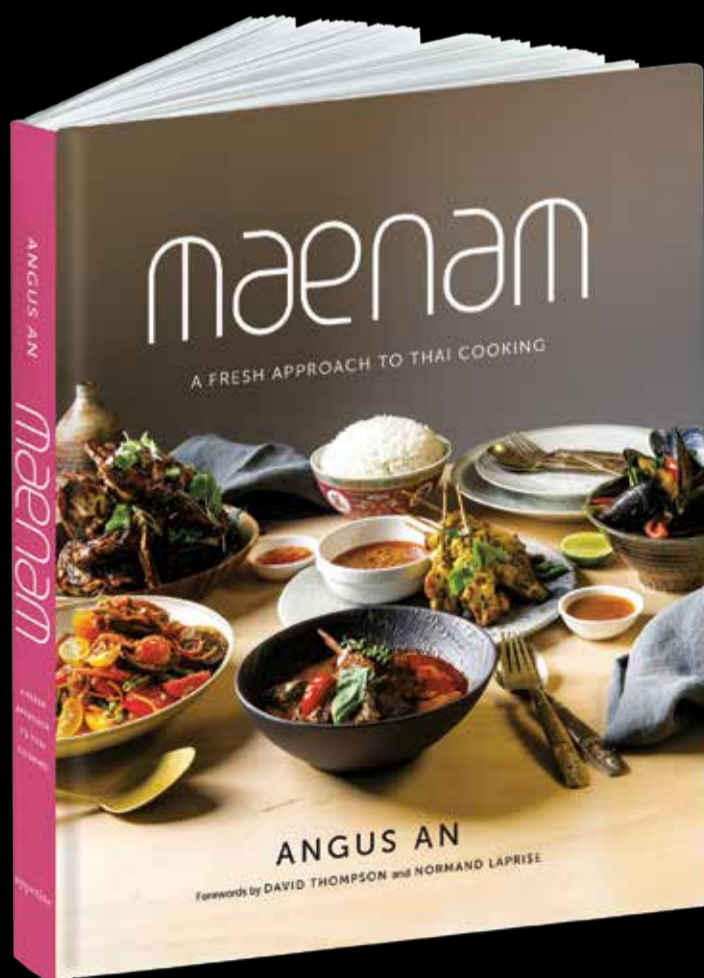
of the Haida crests and a major crest in all other Northwest Coast cultures "appearing on poles, house fronts, painted and carved screens, robes, headdresses, hats and other regalia, bracelets, spoons and more."

Mildred Valley Thornton can be seen wearing the killer whale regalia for a photo that appeared in the

Vancouver Sun in 1949, a troubling image of cultural appropriation. As Black notes, "the photograph bears witness to the migration of the killer whale headdress and button blanket from Kwakwaka'wakw lineage property to exotic non-Indigenous costume."



A celebration of modern Thai cooking from Chef Angus An of Vancouver's award-winning restaurant Maenam



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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM

Ruth Lagius Nowell and Chief Charles Nowell in killer whale headdress and blankets, 1899.

Black points out that Thornton “expressed her ‘enduring respect’ for Indigenous peoples and their histories, arts, ways of life and spirituality, suggesting she felt kinship with these values.”

Perhaps Mildred Valley Thornton felt ‘transformed’ by posing in Charles Nowell’s regalia. Nonetheless, it was cultural appropriation and Thornton’s use of the regalia was a symbol of insensitive colonialism.



OTHER ESSAYS IN THE COLLECTION DESCRIBE the orca’s role as an apex marine predator.

“It preys on a wide range of species throughout the world’s oceans, making it one of the most ecologically diverse and widespread species on the planet,” writes researchers **Jared Towers** and **Rebecca Wellard**, who specifically describe killer whales (referred to as type A, B, C and D) in the Southern Hemisphere, which are the largest and most widespread species of orca in the world.

Those known as type A killer whales are so large that their prey consists mainly of minke whales and elephant seals around the Antarctic Peninsula. Most other killer whales’ prey in the region consists of smaller seals, penguins, fish and squid.

Killer whales are known for their cunning, group-organized predations. For example, type B killer whales use “a dramatic hunting technique called ‘wave-washing,’ in which they all swim quickly along the surface towards an ice floe with a seal on it. They synchronously dive just before hitting it, and kick up a large wave with their flukes, which washes the seal off the ice.”

The use of the common English name killer whale is misleading as

orcas are actually in the dolphin family writes **Ken Balcomb** in his essay simply titled *Killer Whales*. While there is a minimum of ten different species of killer whales found in all oceans and seas worldwide, Balcomb says the killer whales of B.C., so-called Resident killer whales, are “indisputably” the most studied in the world. He charts their origins from the North Atlantic Ocean, from where they migrated through the Bering Strait about 120,000 years ago during one of the times when it was clear of ice. (Another of those ice-free, interglacial warming periods is happening now).

The Pacific Northwest orcas referred to as “Transient killer whales” are genetically so different from North Atlantic killer whales that Balcomb believes they came through the Bering Strait even earlier than the Resident killer whales.

Pacific Northwest orcas favour eating chinook salmon, the largest and most nutritious salmon. Chinook used to be abundant in the region but are no longer. Ken Balcomb blames human harvesting (which can take as much as 90% of the fish in a given year) and environmental destruction from our industrial activities.

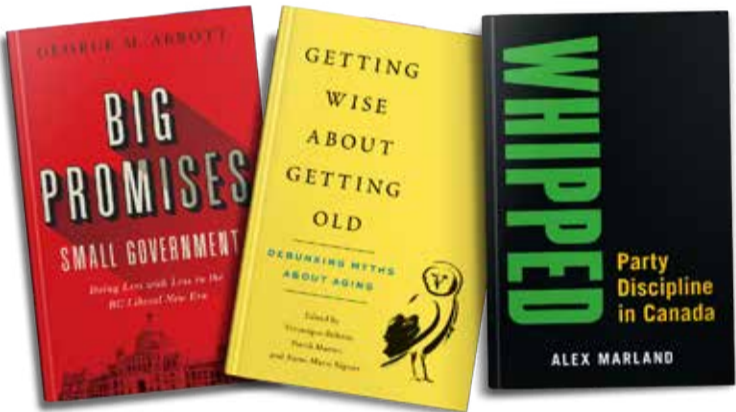
Balcomb concludes that if the salmon continue to dwindle, the killer whales could be extirpated and humans may not be far behind.

“Reducing our impact on the ecosystem is much easier than sending a rocket to the moon,” he writes. “But if we fail and the salmon stocks go extinct, and if climate change runs wild thanks to our inability to self-regulate, we may ourselves join the growing list of extinct species in the fossil record.”

978-0772677686

BOOKS FOR THE TIMES

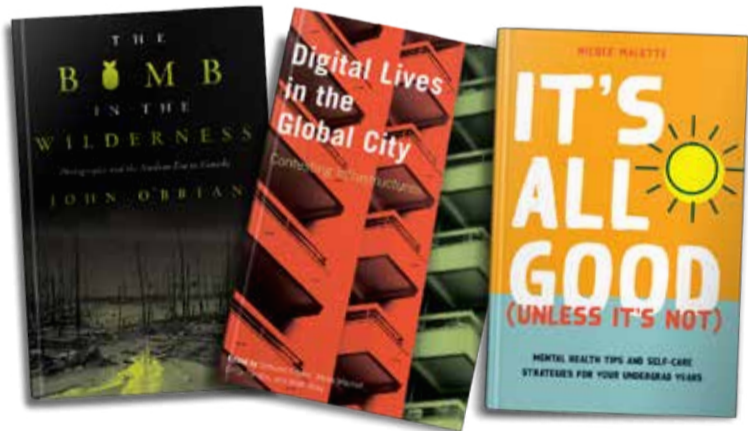
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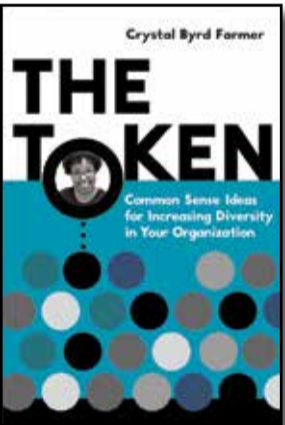
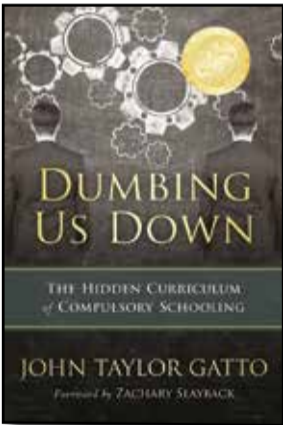
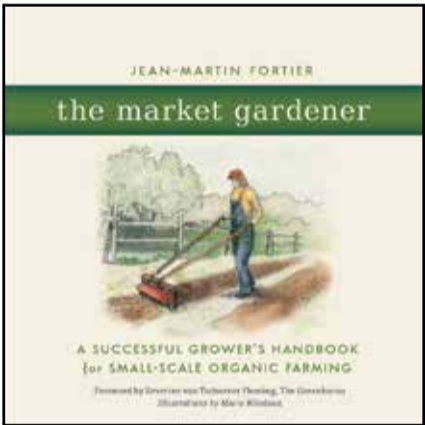
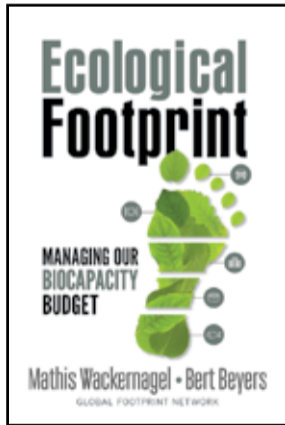
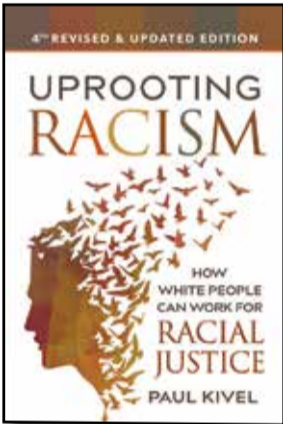
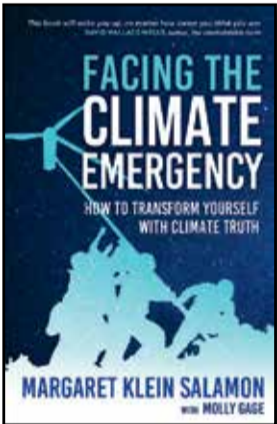
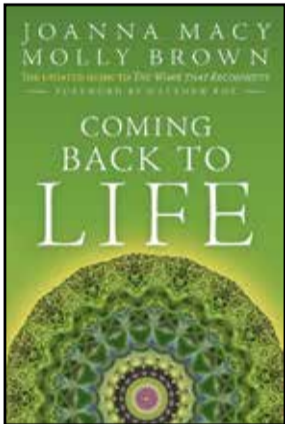
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LABORATORY ACHIEVER

How **Julia Levy**, a scientist and WW II refugee, became a billion-dollar biotech entrepreneur.

In Sight: My Life in Science and Biotech
by Julia Levy (UTP \$34.95)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

In 1950, eating bagged lunches, sitting with high school girlfriends in Vancouver, **Julia Levy** (née Coppens) secretly disagreed with their discussions about going to university.

In her memoir **In Sight: My Life in Science and Biotech**, she recalls they mostly thought, “Universities were where you met boys who were going to have successful careers.”

Levy wanted a career as well. Even more of an oddnik, she chose science—a sector dominated almost entirely by men.

In a nutshell, at 23 she earned her Ph.D. from University College London; she taught microbiology and immunology at UBC; she joined with four UBC colleagues in 1980 to form QLT Inc., and its subsequent discoveries in the field of photodynamic therapy led to the first approved medical treatment for age-related macular degeneration.

Having served as chief scientific officer and later as chief executive officer of QLT, gaining financial as well as scientific success, Levy became an Officer of the Order of Canada and received a number of honorary degrees.

“Her story would be just as fascinating if it were happening today,” says **Molly Shoichet**, University of Toronto science professor in her foreword to *In Sight*.



IN LEVY’S EARLY CHILDHOOD, SHE WAS RAISED IN COMFORT IN THE Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) where her Dutch father worked in a merchant bank. Her British-born mother had two maids, a cook and an amah to look after little Julia and her older sister.

Then, on Levy’s sixth birthday in 1940, news came that Holland had surrendered to Germany. Her father quickly sent his wife and two daughters to Canada. He was taken prisoner days later and spent the war in a Japanese prisoner of war camp—notorious for their horrendous conditions.

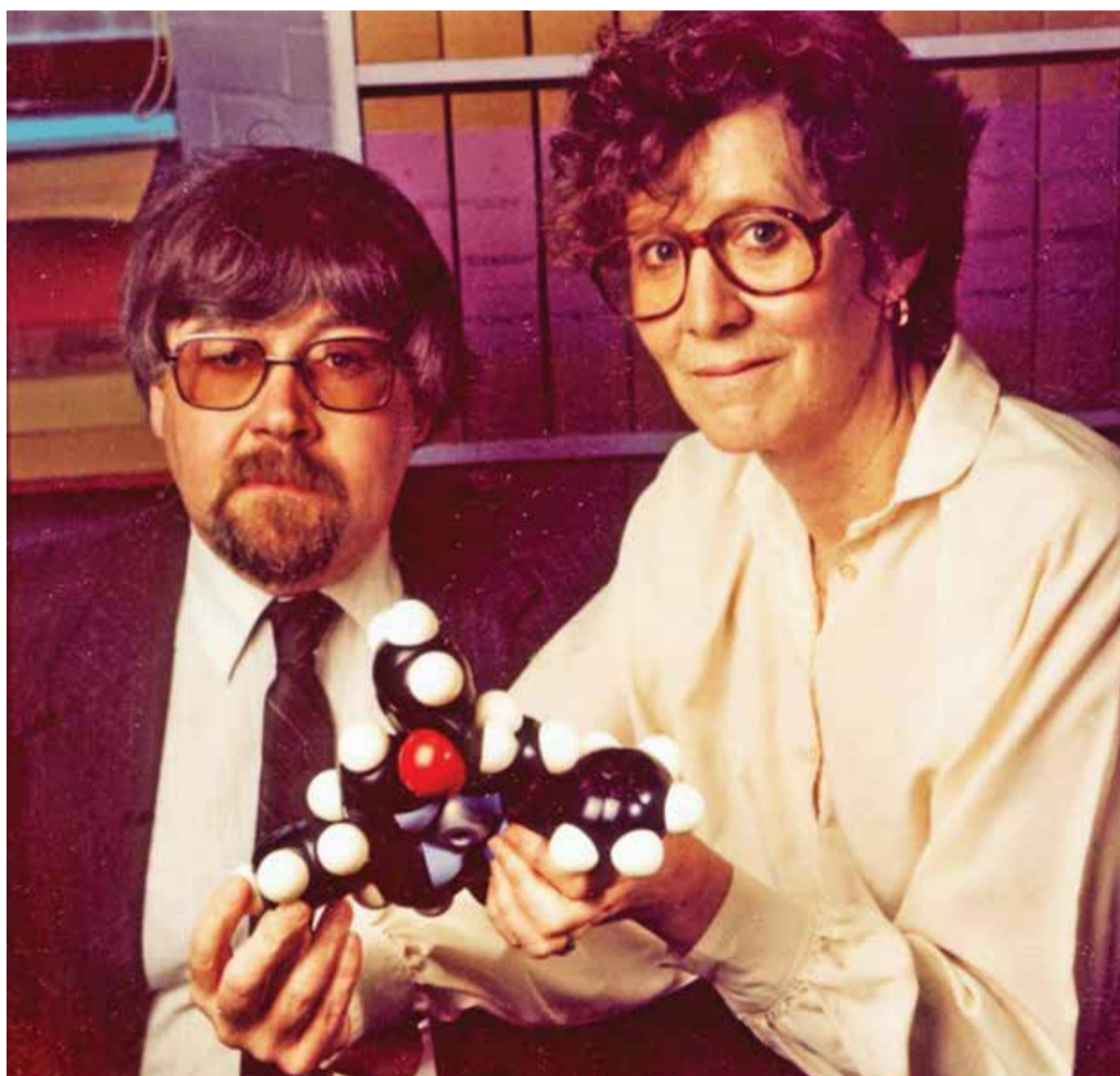
At the end of the war, when he rejoined his family in Vancouver, he was a broken man suffering from PTSD.

“Over the years, I’ve often thought about my mother in those first years we were in Canada,” she writes. “She was really on her own: a woman who had never worked or cooked a meal, nor expected to have to, with two small children in a strange country about which she knew next to nothing.

“When I talked to her about that time, she was always very Britishly matter-of-fact, her attitude being ‘you do what you have to and don’t go on about it.’”

Their future was completely uncertain. But Levy was a diligent student and achieved good grades in both English and Science. She is remembered by one of her classmates as being a “nerd” although she never wanted for friends. She also knew how to stick up for herself.

When Levy attended UBC, there were about five thousand students. “The labs, the hands-on part of science, thrilled me,” she says. “One of our first labs in bacteriology involved the simple exercise of



Julia Levy with colleague David Dolphin and a molecular model of QLT’s drug, BPD-MA.

swabbing various parts of our bodies (face, hands, hair, etc.) and then plating the swab onto agar to see how many different bacteria grew on the Petri dishes we were given. It was a simple demonstration of the ubiquity of microorganisms.”

Levy graduated with an honours B.A. in bacteriology and immunology. If there was a big break, it was probably applying for a job at The National Institute for Medical Research in a northern suburb of London, England whereupon she was given a fellowship to do her doctorate. Newly married, she earned her Ph.D. in 1958.

While working at the Institute, she had the opportunity to meet several Nobel Prize-winning scientists, some of whom were women. “They were fierce and competitive,” she recalls. “They represented that early generation of pioneering women who persevered in getting scientific training in the 1920s and 30s and went on to have successful careers in research, our true role models.”

In 1959, Levy returned to Canada to take a position at UBC as an assistant professor with a salary of \$4,800 per year. More importantly, she was also given her own lab and office to do research in immunology and microbiology. But her first marriage was floundering and she left her husband after the birth of their second child in 1961.

In the 1960s, Levy befriended another research scientist named **David Suzuki** who had “a vibrant lab of graduate students” and was “high energy and a great organizer of group activities.” Suzuki later became a media star as the host of TV show, *The Nature of Things*.

By the late ’60s, Levy’s career was taking off. She was getting invitations to international science meetings. She also found time to remarry, to **Ed Levy**, and she had her third child.

In the ’70s, Levy began studying a new field involving light-activated drugs, called porphyrins, that showed early promise for treating cancers. It led her to co-found one of Canada’s nascent biotechnology companies, Quadra Logic Technologies, later shortened to QLT Inc. Their initial resolve was to work on cancer treatments.

QLT’s Photofrin drug was approved in 1993 in Canada and later in the United States for several types of cancer. But QLT remains more widely-known for discovering the first medical treatment of a leading cause of blindness among the elderly with the drug known as Visudyne.

It was the development of Visudyne that boosted QLT to a billion-dollar company.

Levy retired from the company in 2006 after having won many awards including the Helen Keller Award for Contributions to Vision and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the B.C. Biotechnology Association.

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**Stagecoach North:
A History of Barnard's Express**
by Ken Mather
(Heritage House \$22.95)

BY SAGE BIRCHWATER



It's fitting that one of the last remaining red and gold-painted BC Express stagecoaches in British Columbia is safely ensconced in a display shelter beside the Visitors Centre in 100 Mile House. For decades B.C. Express Coach No. 14 stood sentry outside the Red Coach Inn, a business venture started in the 1930s by landed British gentry, Lord **Martin Cecil**, 7th Marquess of Exeter.

As **Ken Mather** points out in his **Stagecoach North: A History of Barnard's Express**, English aristocrats played a significant role in ensuring that British Columbia remained part of the British domain. Authorities in London sent upper-class English gentlemen to the colonies throughout the world to add their own ideas of government and legal control to its territories. Once gold was discovered on the gravel bars of the Fraser River in 1857, that's what happened in B.C.

A dozen years earlier wily Yankee negotiators wrested Oregon Country and the Columbia District away from British colonial control and the Oregon Treaty of 1846 drew a line in the sand establishing the 49th Parallel as the boundary between British and American territories. **James Douglas**, governor of Vancouver Island and overseer of the vast Hudson's Bay Company fur empire of New Caledonia, didn't want American acquisitions pushing further north. So, when 30,000 gold seekers from California flooded into the colony in 1858—bringing with them attitudes of manifest destiny and genocide toward Indigenous inhabitants—he urged colonial secretary of state **Edward Bulwer-Lytton** to send more resources.

A few dozen British aristocrats arrived in Victoria with their libraries, wealth and education to bolster the British presence. They were accompanied by the Royal Engineers and the British Navy to add muscle to the fledgling colony. Bulwer-Lytton appointed Colonel **Richard Clement Moody** to head the 150-strong battalion of Royal Engineers, as well as **Matthew Baillie Begbie** as judge, and **Chartres Brew** as inspector of police.

Mather explains how another class of British loyalists also arrived from eastern Canada. Though considered crass by members of the British upper-crust, these Canadians with their strong work ethic, possessed a strong aversion to becoming American.



THESE CONDITIONS "SET THE STAGE" FOR THE arrival of Quebec-born **Francis Jones Barnard** from Upper Canada in the spring of 1859. Leaving his wife and

Express ways and means

Francis Barnard pioneered the northernmost stagecoach line in North America over a 50-year span.



B.C. Express stagecoach, 1911

children behind in Toronto, he came with few resources apart from his indomitable will and a shrewd business sense.

At 30, Barnard first took a steamship from New York to Panama, crossed the isthmus by train, and proceeded up the west coast of North America by steamship to San Francisco, and then on to Victoria. He started working a claim that spring, just upstream from Yale, but quickly realized being a miner wasn't his calling. He sold his claim in the fall and cut cordwood that winter.

In the spring of 1860, Barnard got a job mapping the trail through the Fraser Canyon, then later he was hired as a constable in Yale. Finally, Barnard secured a job as purser on a steamship between Victoria and Yale, and with the prospect of steady employment, sent for his wife and children. They resided in Yale, the largest town on the Fraser River, for the next eight years.

Mather says many stories have been told about Francis Jones Barnard, raising his exploits to the level of myth. Troubled by errors of fact that rendered this myth "seriously flawed," Mather offers an accurate telling of this man and

his efforts to establish the successful Barnard Stagecoach and Express Company (the BX), later called the British Columbia Express, heralded as the northernmost stagecoach line in North America over a 50-year span.

Mather begins by introducing British Columbia's first expressman, **William "Billy" Ballou**, a colourful and obstreperous frontiersman from Alabama, drawn to the Pacific by the 1849 California gold rush. There he honed his skills carrying letters, newspapers, and parcels of importance to miners in remote camps and returned with large quantities of gold.

Ballou had the uncanny ability to change his appearance and fade into obscurity as he passed through the landscape undetected carrying treasure. He claimed he never got robbed.



At the Historic O'Keefe Ranch in Vernon, Ken Mather stands beside one of the few original Barnard's Express stagecoaches left. Replicas have been made but this is the real deal, well over 100 years old.

(Yes, **Lee Marvin** won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1965 for his portrayal of a notorious gunman with a similar name in the American western comedy *Cat Ballou*, likely a coincidental choice of name.)

With the first sniff of gold discoveries on the Fraser River, Ballou got in on the ground floor by starting an express service for miners. Many missives he carried from these men from the bars of the Fraser to the outside world contained gold dust which helped spur on the gold rush.

When Ballou got into a dispute with the colonial government for refusing to carry the mail without an agreement, Mather says Barnard was always quick

to spot an opportunity: Barnard bought out Ballou's chief rival, **William Jaffray**, and offered to carry the mail free of charge.

Six months later Barnard was awarded the government mail contract. While not lucrative, it gave him the edge during lean times to out-compete Ballou. By the time the Cariboo Road was complete in 1863, Ballou had left the country. That's when Barnard started the Barnard Express Stagecoach line from Yale to Barkerville.



I FOUND MYSELF SCRAMBLING over maps trying to chart the gold rush drama. For instance, I'd never heard of the Big Bend gold strike along the Columbia River, north of Revelstoke

in 1866, as Barnard established a stagecoach route from Yale to Savona on Kamloops Lake and boat passage from there to Shuswap Lake to serve the miners.

We learn of **Steve Tingley**, the man Barnard sent south into American territory twice to buy horses and bring them back to pull his stagecoaches. Tingley became a trusted driver of the BX and BCX stagecoaches along the precarious Fraser Canyon route to Barkerville. Eventually he took over the company. (Tingley Road in the Cariboo bears his name.)

Francis Jones Barnard's son **Francis Stillman Barnard** also played an important role in the stagecoach enterprise. A man with a strong business sense, the younger Barnard took on more duties of the company as his father got into politics, first as a member of the colonial legislative council, then as a member of parliament in Ottawa.

Barnard Sr. was a strong proponent of Canadian unity. He initially proposed a stagecoach route linking British Columbia to eastern Canada. Instead, a railroad was proposed, but F.J. Barnard got behind that initiative.

"When the combined Colony of British Columbia voted in favour of joining Canada, it was the support from the mainland that clinched the union," Mather says. "For this reason, Barnard can truly be considered a Father of Confederation."

9781772033090

Sage Birchwater contributes regularly from Williams Lake on subjects pertaining to the B.C. Interior.

Land of Destiny:
A History of Vancouver Real Estate
 by **Jesse Donaldson**
 (Anvil Press \$20)

BY JOHN MOORE

Depending on which rung of the city's so-called 'property ladder' you happen to be teetering, just that subtitle (*A History of Vancouver Real Estate*) of **Jesse Donaldson's** corrosive chronicle of more than a century of land values—inflated by speculation, back-room insider deals, unmitigated greed, blatant nepotism and shameless conflicts of interest—is enough to provoke wailings, gnashing of teeth and the demented laughter of the damned.

"Before Vancouver was a city, it was—first and foremost—a real estate investment," Donaldson says in the introduction. The reader is invited to substitute "swindle," "hustle," "con game" or "boondoggle" for the word "investment" at almost any point in Donaldson's blood-boiling exposition of why taking out a crippling mortgage to buy into the Vancouver property market should be sufficient cause to get you pink-sheeted under the Mental Health Act and confined in an appropriate facility until you recover your wits.

The main title, **Land of Destiny**, is an ironic mockery of the kind of plitudinous post-Imperial hype used by property speculators in late 19th and early 20th century to market land all

264A, Ward Five) prior to embarking for Japan from the CPR dock on the Empress of India on April 4, 1892.

Kipling later wrote in *American Notes*: "He that sold it to me was a delightful English boy. All the boy said was, 'I give you my word it isn't on a cliff or under water, and before long the town ought to move out that way.' And I took it as easily as a man buys a piece of tobacco. I became owner of 400 well-developed pines, thousands of tons of granite scattered in blocks at the roots

miniscule patio of your North Vancouver townhouse coldly shaded by a dozen other such units, or in the 'bonus room' over the double garage of your Surrey stucco cracker-box palace while calculating that your grandchildren will inherit your mortgage payments, you may be tempted to commit acts of vandalism or arson directed at City Hall or the nearest realtors' office.

Donaldson's complex, humorous, outraged and entertaining narrative is not a simplistic call-to-arms. It is as

surrender the Pacific Coast to the aggressively expansionist United States; or they could hock their future to build a transcontinental railroad that would unite them with the British colonies of the Pacific Coast, thwarting the American policy of manifest destiny and giving Canada a port to engage in trade with the entire Pacific Rim.

For a nascent Canada, a Pacific port linked by rail to the grain belt of the Prairies was a vital economic artery, for which they were prepared to cut any



Jesse Donaldson dressed as a Monopoly-styled Mr. Moneybags to promote his history of Vancouver real estate.

Serial SWINDLING

over the planet as the mania for building railroads opened up the 'dark continents' of North America, Africa, Asia and eastern Russian to questionable development by the so-called civilized nations who could afford them.

Everywhere the steel rails went, worthless wilderness was magically transformed into prime real estate, peoples who had lived there for millennia were dispossessed by legal fiat, (backed up with gunpowder) and desperate land-hungry immigrants got fleeced of their meagre life's savings like hick rubes on a carnival midway.

Vancouver was not unique in this respect. It may now be in the sense that few other such cities have had their dirty laundry aired as thoroughly and conspicuously as Donaldson hangs out Vancouver's skid-marked underwear on the Lion's Gate Bridge in this appalling account of the machinations of Vancouver's early 'city fathers.'



TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE FLEEING OF British author **Rudyard Kipling**. In his book *Vancouver & its Writers* (Harbour, 1986), **Alan Twigg** noted that Kipling had been greatly impressed by British Columbia during his wedding tour of North America in 1892. He was so pleased that he purchased a town lot in the Mt. Pleasant area (subdivision

The mod con game of real estate in Vancouver

of the pines, and a sprinkling of earth. That's a town lot in Vancouver. You or your agent hold onto it till property rises, then sell out and buy more land farther out of town and repeat the process. I do not quite see how this sort of thing helps the growth of a town, but the English boy says it is the 'essence of speculation' so it must be all right. But I wish there were fewer pines and rather less granite on the ground."

Kipling was duped. When he returned in 1907, he learned that he'd been paying taxes on property legally owned by someone else.

Privately, Kipling wrote, "All the consolation we got from the smiling people of Vancouver was, 'You bought that from Steve, did you? Ah-hah, Steve! You hadn't ought to ha' bought from Steve. No! Not from Steve!' And thus did the good Steve cure us of speculating in real estate."



FAIR WARNING: IF YOU READ THIS BOOK in the closet-sized 'den' of your 700 square foot Yaletown loft, or on the

informative as it is incendiary. In the course of this caustic history Donaldson documents the racist caveats that often accompanied real estate sales, in which prospective buyers of properties in certain up-market areas of Vancouver willingly signed undertakings not to sell their property to any person of Oriental or Negro persuasion. It's embarrassing to note that these disgraceful codicils continued into the 1960s before they were publicly shamed out of print, though their spirit lingers in certain parts of the city to this day as wealthy Asian newcomers move into neighbourhoods formerly reserved for British Imperial exiles and their pampered progeny.

After the Confederation of the eastern colonies in 1867, leaders of the emerging nation of Canada faced a choice harder than the rock of the Canadian Shield. They could content themselves with becoming a small nation in the northeast corner of North America, a double bed uncomfortably shared with a French population, and

kind of Devil's bargain with railroad-builders. The Faustian pact Canada made with the CPR is a recurring theme in this book, since it affected speculation in Vancouver real estate, but that's a whole other equally lurid story. **Pierre Berton's** account of the building of the CPR, *The Last Spike*, was published in 1971. It's overdue for "updating," as real estate agents say, and I can't imagine a better qualified writer than Jesse Donaldson to take John Henry's steel-drivin' hammer to that tale.

Meanwhile, Donaldson's account of the bare-faced hustles—from the speculators who secretly lobbied for the site of the Canadian Pacific Railroad terminus, to the first mayors and city aldermen who were among the foremost property speculators, right up to the dubious sale of the Expo 86 lands on False Creek to offshore billionaire **Li Kai Shing**, whose Concord Pacific company pre-sold un-built condos-in-the-air to Hong Kong investors without giving the local sharks so much as a taste of blood—should be a lesson to us all in the ways of the world.

978-1-77214-144-3

John Moore tends his garden in the Garibaldi Highlands. Realtors are forewarned not to knock.

Gold in British Columbia

DISCOVERY TO CONFEDERATION



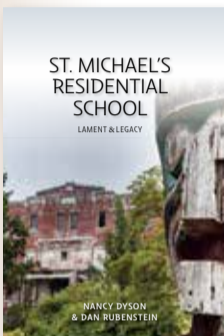
Marie Elliott

Gold in British Columbia

Marie Elliott

Elliott takes readers through the gold rushes of British Columbia from 1858 to BC's entry into Confederation in 1871, explaining their central importance to Canada's history and allowing us to meet the miners, First Nations peoples, Hudson's Bay Company traders, the governors, Royal Engineers, and the brave women who trekked over the mountains. With 50 photos & maps.

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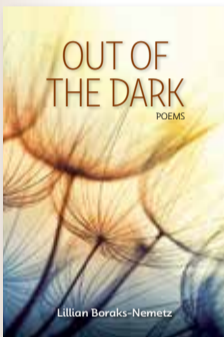


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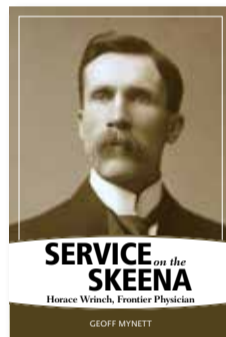


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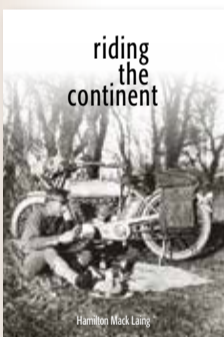


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Geoff Mynett

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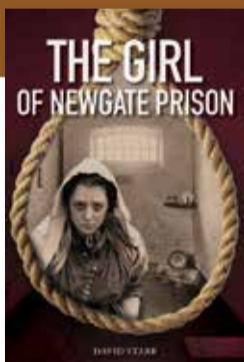


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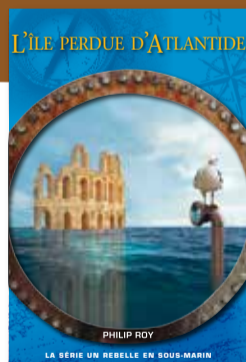


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David Starr

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Heart-Wrenching HEROISM

**Service on the Skeena:
Horace Wrinch, Frontier Physician**
by **Geoff Mynett**
(Ronsdale Press \$21.95)

BY MIKE SELBY



ucked into the pages of **Geoff Mynett's** biography, **Service on the Skeena: Horace Wrinch, Frontier Physician**, is the story of

how the citizens of Hazelton woke up in the early summer of 1906 to a double murder. Everyone assumes the killer is the respected Gitksan businessman and trapper **Simon Gunanoot**; no one appears to care. Rather than face an all-white jury, Gunanoot evades arrest by escaping with his parents, his wife **Sarah**, their two children, another child she had had with a previous partner, as well as his brother-in-law **Peter Himadan** and his wife.

"Life was extinct." These three dispassionate words were noted by the attending physician Horace Wrinch as he examined the first murder victim. He would regrettably repeat them only hours later when a second body was discovered.

Gunanoot hid in the deep woods only to reappear back in town every now and then to replenish his supplies and occasionally have a few drinks. He also brought his children to the village's hospital where they were seen and treated by Horace Wrinch. In essence, like the rest of the townspeople, he, too, was aiding and abetting the

"Dr. H.C. Wrinch proved himself to be one of those supermen whose ambition in life was to administer to the sufferings of humanity."

— Press report, 1918

fugitive group. He had taken a physician's oath to help people; and his Methodist training emboldened him, but what was his obligation to the Provincial Police?

Wrinch is sometimes mentioned in those trade paperback B.C. histories

found scattered around gift shops in provincial parks and wire racks in service stations. They generally only state what Wrinch did, not who he was.

Gunanoot hid from law enforcement for thirteen years before surrendering, only to be acquitted of the murder charges. This famous B.C. outlaw story, on par with the so-called "Gentleman Bandit" **Bill Miner**, has been told extensively elsewhere, most notably in **David Ricardo Williams' classic Trapline Outlaw: Simon Peter Gunanoot** (1982) in which we learn Gunanoot had killed the two white men because



Horace Wrinch's wife Alice and children using winter transport from their remote Hazelton home.

he was offended by one man's disparaging remark in reference to either his wife or the morality of Gitksan women in general.

This well-known Gunanoot story is mentioned almost in passing in *Service on the Skeena*. There is so much more to know about the physician rather than the outlaw.



HORACE WRINCH ARRIVED IN CANADA IN 1880, and he came to B.C. in 1900. Being raised on a farm in England, there was no notice or record of him being a wunderkind. He farmed again in Ontario with his brother.

Methodism spoke to him and he hoped to represent the Church as a missionary. His capacity for learning was matched with an overriding aptitude for healing. He graduated as a doctor and later as a surgeon from Trinity Medical College in Toronto in 1899.

Mynett frequently reminds readers that Horace Wrinch was an immigrant farmer, landowner and agriculturist before he trained to be a Methodist minister, missionary, physician and surgeon. In all his pursuits, he was evidently indefatigable.

According to Mynett, Wrinch was "often found asleep on the side of the road in his cutter [automobile], wrapped in fur robes. After being out on all-night calls, he would be back in the hospital at 6 a.m."

The impression that builds is that Horace Wrinch was always a man of action:

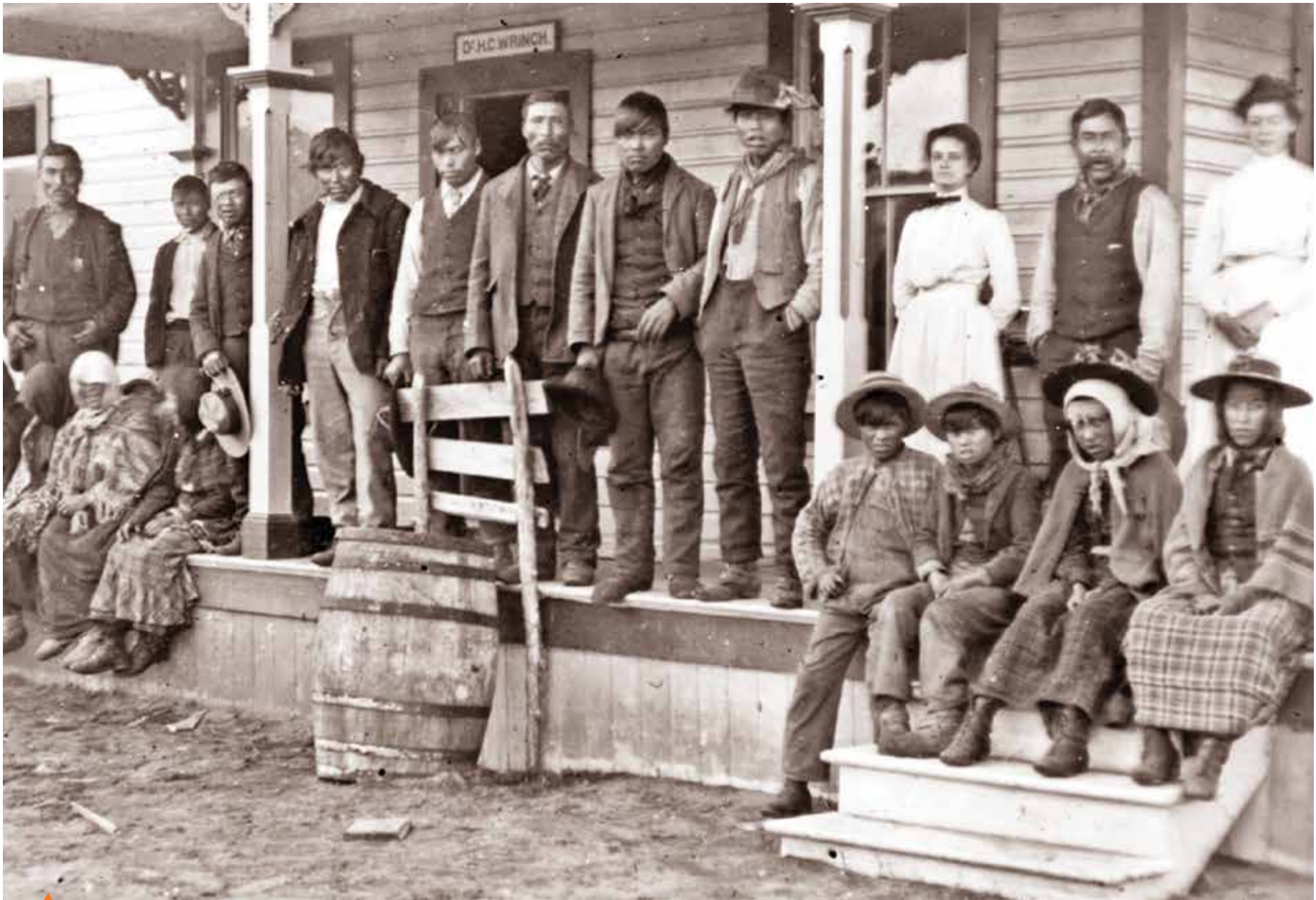
- Upon leaving the creature comforts of Ontario and arriving in the



Sternwheeler *Monte Cristo* on Horace Wrinch's journey up to Hazelton in 1900.



Dr. Horace Wrinch (left) at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, 1899-1900.



Dr. Horace Wrinch earned a reputation for not distinguishing between the Whites and the Indigenous people in his hospital.

wilderness of Northern B.C., Wrinch built Hazelton's first hospital (designing and constructing it himself). This first hospital in the northern interior served an area from Atlin in the north down to the Cariboo, and from Port Essington on the coast to Edmonton. The hospital in Hazelton is now named in his honour.

- Before roads and the railroad could reach Hazelton, Wrinch constructed an accredited nursing school and operated a prosperous hospital farm.

- He became an elected magistrate and president of the B.C. Medical Association, which he also co-founded. He was elected as an MLA in 1924, all the while being a loving husband and father to five.

- He was head of the Red Cross in Hazelton during the First World War, he helped set up the B.C. Hospitals Association and he served as its president for two terms.

- He was one of the first people who championed public health insurance in British Columbia, designing a health insurance plan for his community.

- When he felt he could no longer practice medicine effectively without

an X-ray machine, Wrinch raised the money for it by personally canvassing door to door.

- When the Spanish flu pandemic hit British Columbia, killing 4,000 in 1919-1920, Horace Wrinch inoculated the village of Hazelton with anti-influenza serum, against the advice and wishes of the provincial health authorities.

Histories written by a family member are typically unreadable vanity projects of interest only to the author's immediate family, and even that is not guaranteed. Mynett, a retired lawyer who is married to Wrinch's granddaughter **Alice**, is too good a writer to follow suit. He manages to be an insider who can also write from a distance, creating an immensely fascinating narrative about a remarkable healer who brought and often forced change during exceedingly challenging times and circumstances. Geoff Mynett brings the human side of Horace Wrinch to life in this accessible and superbly written work.

978-1-55380-575-5

Mike Selby reviews non-fiction titles from Cranbrook.



In 2019, Geoff Mynett and his wife Alice, a Wrinch granddaughter, donated Dr. Horace Wrinch's oscilloscope and his 19th century copy of the *Encyclopaedia of Medicine* to the Bulkley Valley Museum.



Wrinch family home on the right, foreground, with the hospital on the left.



Dr. Horace Wrinch at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto.



The Fall Book Club with Yaa Gyasi

Spend your Fall reading *Transcendent Kingdom* and then take part in a virtual face-to-face with this acclaimed author.



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POLITICS

REVIEW

Campbell's STOOP

**Big Promises, Small Government:
Doing Less with Less in the BC Liberal
New Era by George Abbott**
(UBC Press \$32.95)

BY PORTIA PRIEGERT

Having served as the Shuswap MLA for seventeen years, including twelve years as a cabinet minister, **George Abbott** says he never planned to write about his time in government.

He says his focus instead during the so-called New Era under Premier **Gordon Campbell**—from 2001 to 2005—was “day-to-day survival” as he led a large ministry through “daunting” budget cuts.

Having retired from politics in 2013 and pursued a UVic doctorate in political science, Abbott says he was initially reluctant to revisit what he has called his “least favourite period” in politics.

The committee overseeing his studies, however, convinced him it was an important story to tell. Now UBC Press is bringing his research on the Campbell era to a wider audience.

The basic premise in **Big Promises, Small Government: Doing Less with Less in the BC Liberal New Era** is that Campbell's 25-per-cent cut to personal income taxes, announced soon after the Liberals' 2001 landslide victory, ultimately led to social services cuts that hit some of the province's most economically and socially disadvantaged people.

But don't expect the kind of salacious, even-the-score political firestorm we've come to expect from south of the border during the Trump presidency. Abbott is not dishing dirt. Instead, this is an earnest and scholarly enterprise that will mostly excite policy wonks.

“Although the tax break was undoubtedly popular among many British Columbians,” Abbott writes, “few understood that it would come at a very high cost.”

Abbott says the cut was motivated by Campbell's “ideological zeal” and its magnitude was not specified during the election campaign. Ultimately, it

would mean relinquishing \$1 billion in revenues. It was followed, seven weeks later, by another \$1 billion cut to corporate taxes.

Taking a page from the neoliberal playbook, Campbell wrongly assumed economic growth would make up the shortfall. Meanwhile, a slowing global economy, with declining energy and commodity prices, pushed the government another \$2 billion in the hole and “extinguished any prospect of a magical made-in-B.C. turnaround,” Abbott writes.

With resource ministries such as Forests and Agriculture struggling, and his election commitments to spare Health, Education and Higher Education, Campbell tried to balance the budget through major cuts to social programs, even those for children and families, whom he had promised to protect.

A large section of *Big Promises* examines the cost-cutting consequences for three ministries—Human Resources, Children and Family Development, and the portfolio Abbott oversaw, Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.

News stories from those days detailed the turmoil—there

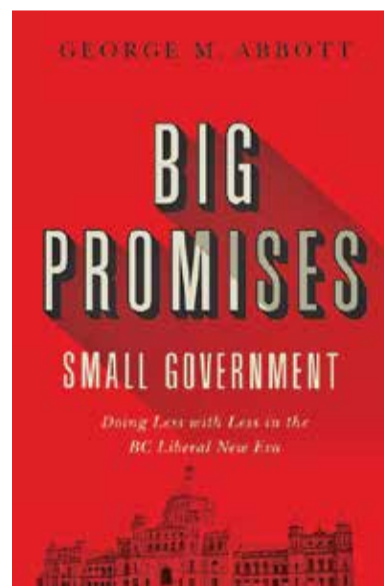
were cuts to child protection, tough new policies for welfare recipients, a freeze on social housing and much more.

In the words of **Seth Klein**, the B.C. director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a non-partisan social justice research group, it all amounted to a “transfer of income from the poor (in program cuts) to the wealthy (who disproportionately benefit from the tax cuts.)”

Campbell's leadership style is assessed bluntly: “Gordon Campbell despised indecision and was particularly impatient with long debates on matters on which he had already formed his conclusions. He preferred to act before doubters and naysayers could crowd his path.”

Readers—who will bring their own politics and prejudices to the book—must figure out how to square a scholarly analysis with the fact that Abbott was a key player in enacting the measures.

Abbott did leave the Liberal party in 2015, but not before serving two more terms and running unsuccessfully for



Big promises and big lies of the Gordon Campbell government are examined by former Liberal cabinet minister George Abbott.

the Liberal leadership after Campbell's 2010 resignation.

Abbott's insider status lends credence to his perspective and his connections have enabled him to quote anonymous public servants. He says he has honoured his oath of cabinet secrecy and claims he has based his research on news stories and the official record, including debates in the legislature.

"What I read and learned as a student moulded my understanding," he says.

Of course, people are allowed to change their views and politics is a messy affair at the best of times, but the reader will have grounds for being uneasy. Perhaps those nameless bureaucrats he quotes have vested interests in which version of history is written. Are there biases and potential conflicts of interest that may be opaque to readers?

While *Big Promises* is readable enough for the layperson, it lacks the descriptive passages and human interest a journalist might use to set the scene and tell a story.

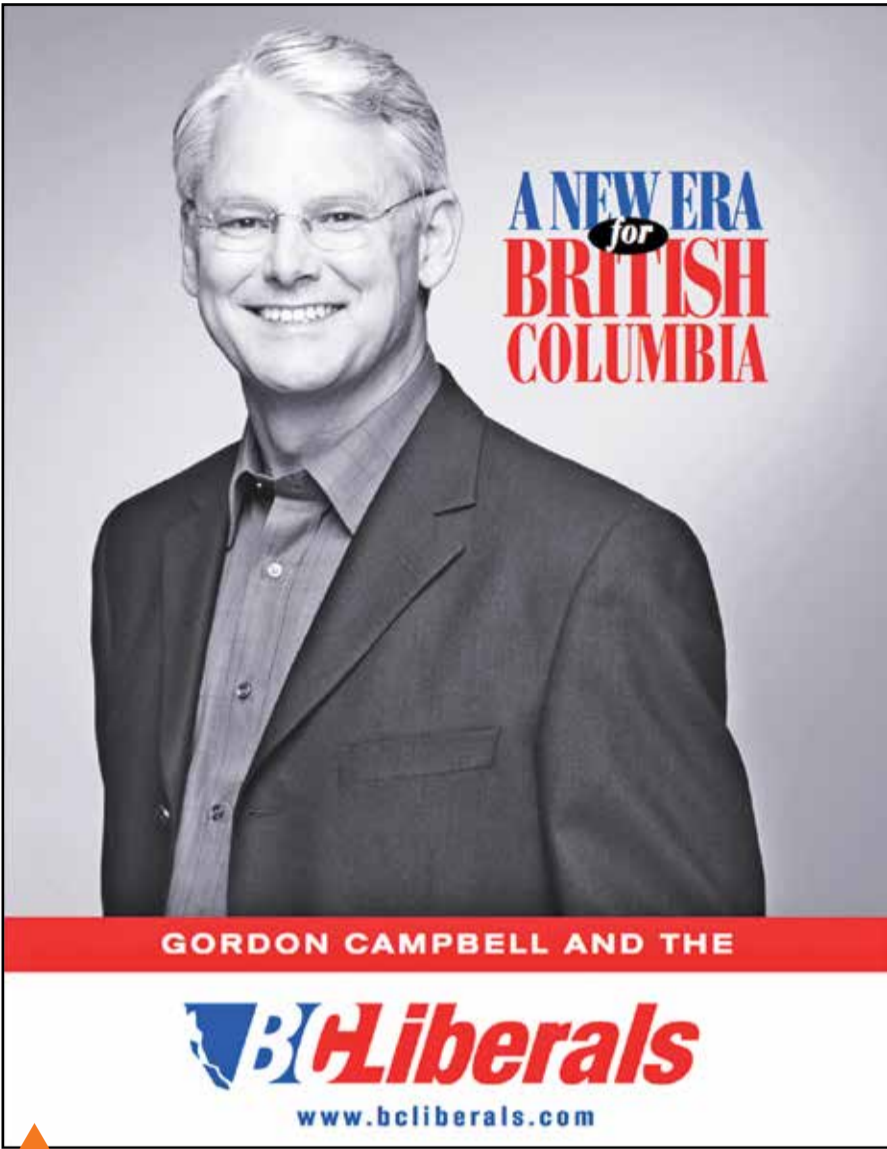
In his foreword, **Vaughn Palmer**, a longtime provincial affairs columnist for the *Vancouver Sun*, describes the book as "a cautionary tale." Indeed.

Perhaps, more than anything, I finished *Big Promises* feeling melancholy about the havoc needlessly wreaked on the lives of people struggling—whether due to health issues, the repercussions of childhood poverty and trauma, or the systemic biases we are increasingly hearing about in public discourse—often through no fault of their own.

I found myself thinking again about the potential of proportional representation to temper the rash impulses of those drawn to power. Abbott uses the phrase "prescription before diagnosis" to describe Campbell's approach to governing. Perhaps we should carry that medical metaphor further, and seek a way to hold politicians to some basic duty of care, as articulated in Hippocrates' exhortation to "do no harm."

978-0-7748-6487-9

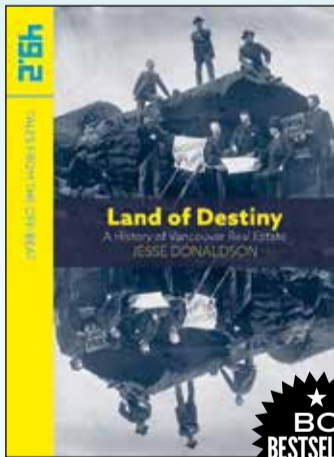
Victoria-based writer Portia Priegert is a former reporter for the Ottawa bureau of *The Canadian Press*.



B.C. Liberal Party campaign poster, 2001. Gordon Campbell became the 34th B.C. premier by winning 77 of 79 seats in the election.



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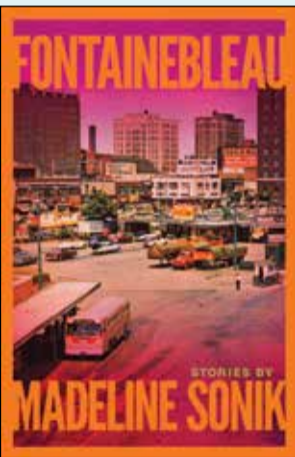


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Nazanine Hozar's epic novel will haunt you.

Aria by Nazanine Hozar
(Knopf \$24.95)

BY CAROLINE WOODWARD

Aria is the kind of vivid and powerful storytelling that grabs you by the throat on page one, holds you up against the wall for days (and well into the nights) and only lets you drop on the final page.

The stories within these pages will likely haunt you for ages. When you next hear the word 'Tehran,' you will think of a half-starved little girl locked out of her house, huddled high up on a balcony.

Or the army truck driver who found that little girl as an infant, abandoned in a reeking alley, surrounded by waiting street dogs.

Or the neighbour's boy with a cleft

Thus far, **Aria** has landed on many "must-read" lists and been nominated for the 2020 Amazon Best First Novel Award and the 2020 Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize.

palate who makes bead bracelets for her.

The setting is Iran between 1953 and 1981, twenty-eight turbulent years which encompass the lavish oil-funded reign of the last Shah, the era of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and the return from exile and rise to power of **Ayatollah Khomeini**.

The structure of the novel follows the child Aria and her relationships with her birth mother, her stepmother

and her adoptive mother. The novel is further developed by the relationship Aria has with Behrouz, the gentle truck driver, the only father figure she has known throughout her life, as well as his relationship with an upper-class young man, an army captain, who ends up in prison during both regimes.

We also meet an Armenian school boy called Hamlet and Mitra, a girl who is his best friend. They both befriend Aria but years later betrayal among the

trio is inevitable.

The protagonist accepts the nickname Aria given to her by Behrouz, the truck driver. Behrouz was beaten by his father for his "delicate ways." Then he was married off to a relative nearly twice his age, only to learn she had a thieving son who was several months older than him.

"I used to sing in secret," says Behrouz, "so my father wouldn't know. I used to sing arias... Little tales, cries in the night. If you sing an aria, the world will know all about you. It will know your dreams and secrets. Your pains and your loves."



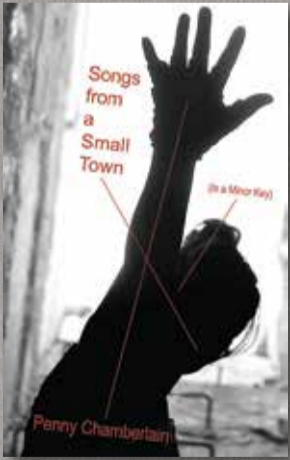
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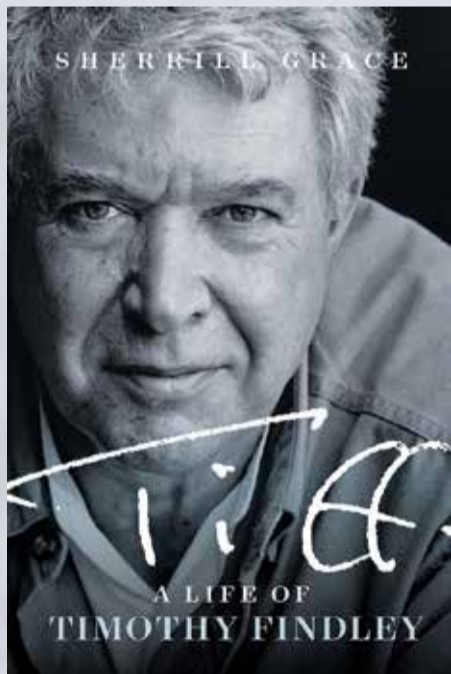


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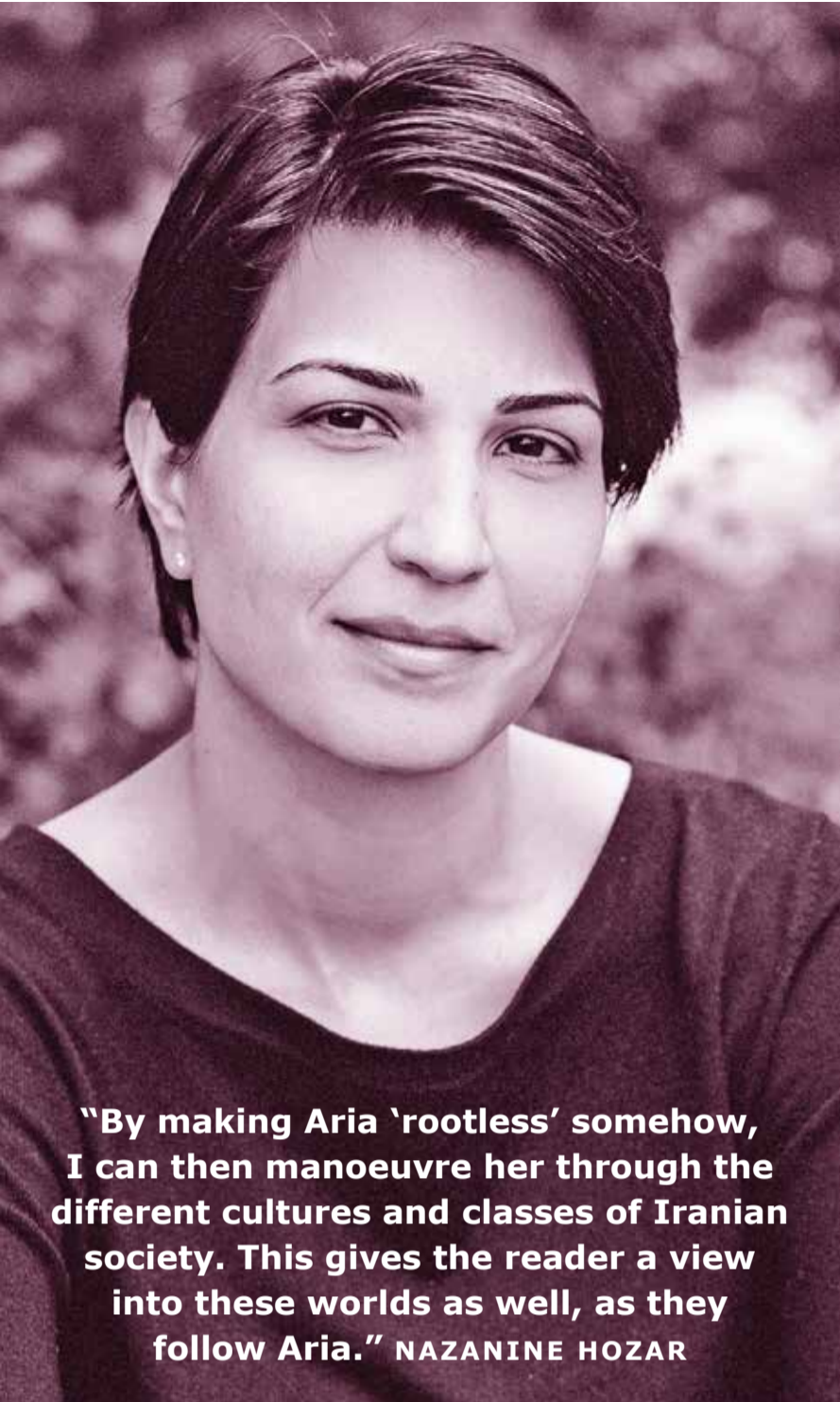
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“By making Aria ‘rootless’ somehow, I can then manoeuvre her through the different cultures and classes of Iranian society. This gives the reader a view into these worlds as well, as they follow Aria.” NAZANINE HOZAR

TENILLE CAMPBELL PHOTO

Aria is like getting gritty dispatches from a journalist who knows exactly how mulberry flowers and their sun-dried fruit smell; how it sounds to hear an ancient festival march through faraway streets as hundreds of men pound their own faces and chests like drums; what a dangerous eye infection looks and feels like; and what a man missing two thumbs has likely experienced in exactly which area of Iran’s main prison.

There is an undeniable authenticity and gorgeous writing, the kind of quote-worthy writing to be found on every page which reveals humanity at its worst and at its best—such as the observation made by one imprisoned character that the trouble with poets was that they wrote beautiful words and then other people went out and died for those words.

The importance of literacy and gaining an education, even if it’s being able to count money well enough to work in a stall in a bazaar, is stressed throughout as child characters or their caretakers struggle to attain it, or worse, block their children or their siblings from being educated.

Hozar pulls no punches when she presents her flawed characters, male and female, as superstitious and stubborn. She depicts the brutal, misogynistic mistreatment of women; as well as the oppression of boys and men suspected of being gay.

We meet the rich and the poor; the generous and the repressed, the vindictive and the selfless—the whole gamut of human qualities in 3-D, from inner fears to outward behaviours.

When the change of political regime gets underway, the complicated multi-denominational religious reality of Iran is revealed in this novel, even as people

are scrambling to assign “more Muslim” names to themselves and to their children to avoid persecution.

There are Sunni and Shia Moslems, Christians, Zoroastrians, Jews and Baha’i characters. Issues of language, education and class are interwoven throughout the book.

Was it better to attend school taught in French, favoured by the Shah’s upper class? Or should learning be conducted in Farsi, the ancient language of Persia from which learned culture and the kingdom of Iran became a nation? Or should schooling be done in Arabic because the only book people ought to read should be the Quran?

At the bidding of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Savak, the secret police to the Shah, are replaced by the Vevak, but their fondness for torture is much the same. To serve their political masters, they seek out and imprison all opponents and significant relatives and then turn a blind eye to legitimate, public, judicial process.

Nazanine Hozar of Vancouver left her birthplace, Tehran, during the war between Iran and Iraq (1980-1988), eventually earning a Masters in Fine Arts specializing in creative writing at the University of British Columbia.

With her stunning debut novel, Hozar deserves the international readership enjoyed by authors such as Afghani-American **Khaled Hosseini**, author of *The Kite Flyer*, and other books which explore the complex lives of orphans and families in dangerous times and places.

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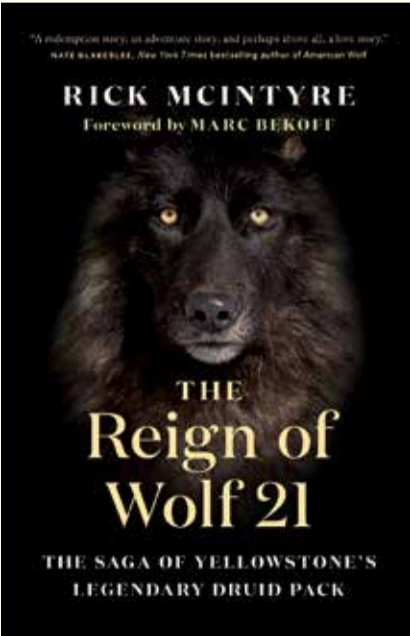
Caroline Woodward’s *A West Coast Summer (Harbour)* was nominated for a B.C. Chocolate Lily Award (2018/19). She writes from the Lennard Island Lightstation.



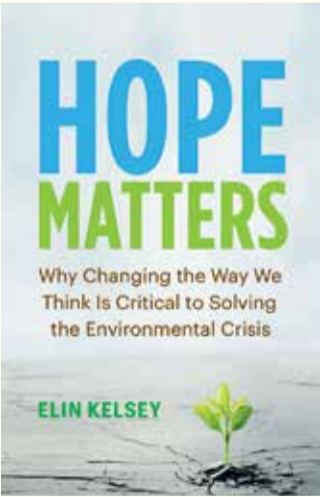
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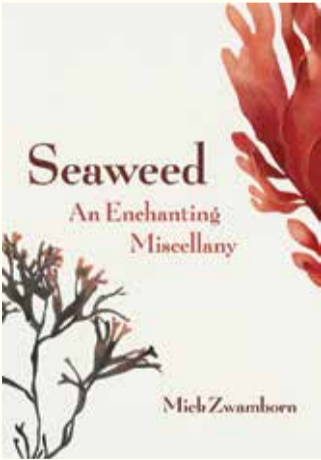
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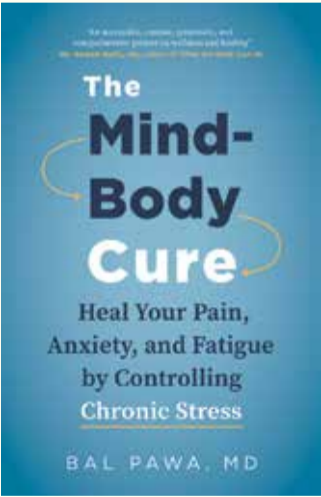
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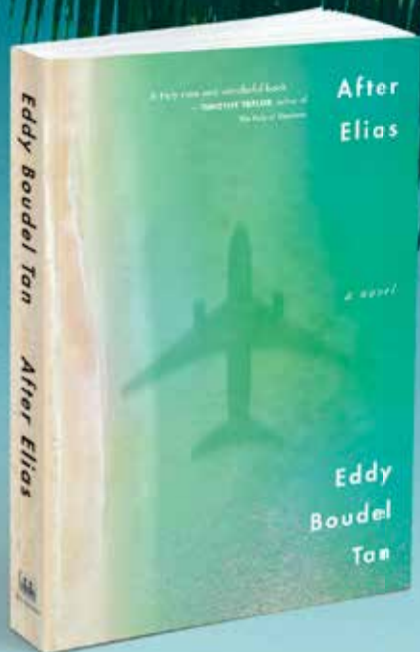
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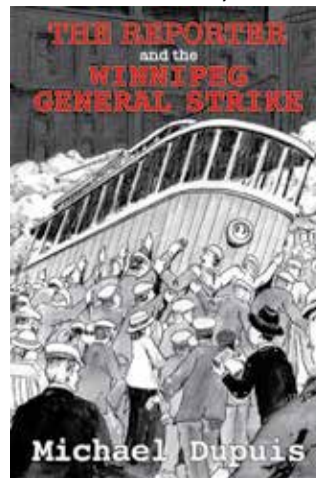
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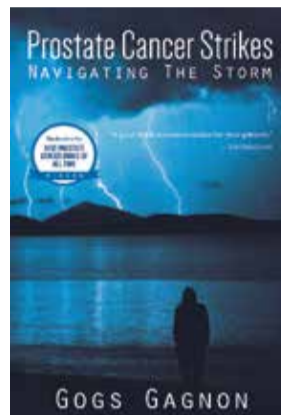
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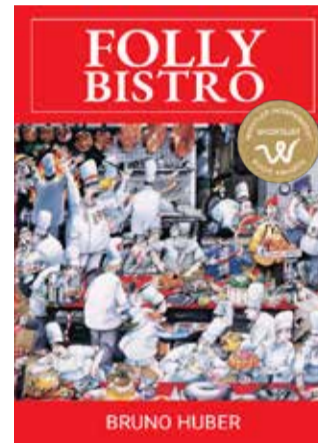
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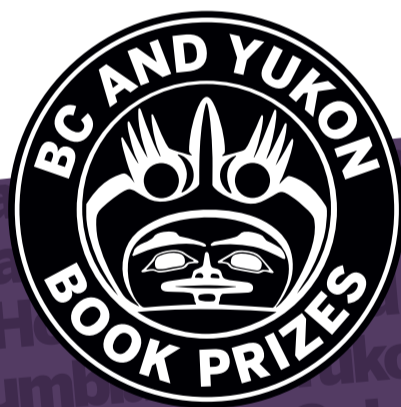
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Logan Macnair (seen here on a visit to Israel earlier this year) named each of his book's 65 chapters with a single word starting with 'P'.

The stutterer and the statesman

Logan Macnair gives us two opposing wordsmiths, one verbal and one non-verbal, the orator and the scribe.

In Logan Macnair's audacious and experimental first novel, **Panegyric**, we meet a male politician named Valerie Montblanc who wants to be prime minister. On the hustings, he is a masterful embellisher—he can make a verbal bouquet out of a fistful of weeds.

[panegyric—public speeches or published text in praise of someone or something.]

To further his political ambitions, he wants a biography. Trouble is, Montblanc can't write his way out of a proverbial paper bag, so he hires a lifelong stutterer, Larry Mann, who can't manage a sentence without a stammer but he has an extraordinary vocabulary.

It's an original odd couple: a rich, self-made, older man with enemies and a woefully unsuccessful and unfulfilled younger man who suffers painfully from psellism.

[psellism: stammering or stuttering; a speech disorder.]

As a ghostwriter, Larry has produced one widely-praised biography for which he received zero credit. His biggest public accomplishment to date is attaining the highest score on The Donkey King in the video arcade on the Spirit of Vancouver ferry.

The ghostwriter has left his dreary digs on the West Coast and for five months he will live in Montblanc's luxurious lower suite while interviewing him and completing the book. Larry will be making good money for this gig but once again there will be no recognition in it for him, no glory.

The ghostwriter must remain marooned in his quarters, not welcome to invade the upper chambers of the house. There is a wife who is seldom there, but she is willing to appear as a prop on the hustings.

Montblanc is controlling, mercurial and often sarcastic. The politician ricochets from mood to mood, sometimes cruelly mocking Larry's speech impediment; at other times he can be angry and challenging. It's almost as if he's playing with the scribe, saying incongruous and often shocking things out of the blue to confuse him.

Panegyric by Logan Macnair
(Now or Never \$19.95)

BY CHERIE THIESSEN

Larry's lucrative assignment is turning into a challenge that could well be beyond him. Larry's panglossian hopes appear to be misplaced.

[panglossian: marked by the view that all is for the best in this best of possible worlds: excessively optimistic]

Montblanc wants Larry to write about him in positive colours but then, tantalizingly, he slips the greys and even the blacks into the literary palette.

What are the mysteries in Montblanc's past? Is he stable? And why can't Mann get off the ground and take control of his life? This plot alone is worthy of a read but Macnair ups the ante with his clever writing in 65 short chapters—all with a one-word titles beginning with the letter P.

For a stutterer such as Larry, P's are especially difficult to pronounce. Dedicated readers with a dictionary at hand will be well rewarded with a serious increase in vocabulary.

Macnair manages to segue from each chapter title to the content of each chapter. Each chapter is a little like eating a bowl of lentil curry—very dense and filling. It took Macnair two-and-a-half years to complete this work, while simultaneously in pursuit of a Ph.D.

"The short length of the chapters was inspired by a few things," Macnair says, "most notably **Leonard Cohen**'s novel *Beautiful Losers*, which was a huge influence on my book. I borrowed many structural and stylistic cues from it, including his use of short,

occasionally abstract, chapters.

"While some of them are only a couple pages long, they can be demanding, but my hope is that there will be lots there for curious readers to potentially unpack if they are so inclined."

The P-word chapter titles were not an idea that was originally intended.

"It was something I decided to commit to after writing a few initial chapters. I would spend a lot of time looking through these lists of fancy P-words and compiling the ones that I thought were interesting. You would be surprised how many archaic P-words are actually out there!

"When it came to naming the chapters, I didn't have a set method in place, sometimes the chapter was fully-written and I then had to find a suitable word for a title that captured the essence of what the chapter was about, and sometimes I started with nothing more than an interesting P-word that I would then use as a jumping-off point for the chapter.

"Larry's speech impediment was not originally intended either. It was only after writing about six or seven chapters that the idea came to me. As soon as it did, the themes and characters of the book became much clearer to me, as did their internal struggles and motivations (and the juxtaposition with the eloquent and well-spoken Montblanc).

"Because I don't have this speech impediment myself, I needed to do a lot of research so that I could accurately depict not just how the condition is expressed, but also some of the internal struggles or thought processes that people who have such a condition may undergo.

"As the story goes on, I try to express that, while Larry has blamed his impediment for many of the failures in his life and sees it as a source of shame, he has also been using it as a crutch to mask the true source of his worries."

Panegyric has found a good home with Now or Never Publishing, a Lower Mainland literary publisher that prints edgy books. Macnair is now hard at work on his second novel, *Troll*. Perhaps it will feature another polemicist.

[Polemicist: a person who engages in controversial debate.]

978-198-8098-975

Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction from Pender Island.

A Match Made for Murder
by Iona Whishaw
(TouchWood Editions \$16.95)

BY JOHN MOORE



Match Made for Murder is the seventh in **Iona Whishaw's Lane Winslow** mystery series set mostly in and around Nelson, B.C. during the late 1940s, immediately after the end of WW II.

Like any good mystery author, Whishaw has written her novels so you don't have to read them in order, but doing so adds deeper levels of complexity and enjoyment. If you haven't been keeping up, stack them all beside your favourite deck chair and self-isolate for a summer well-spent.

In a genre more crowded with quirky characters than a downtown bus, creating one with the charisma to carry a series is tougher than picking a winner in the ninth race. At a glance, Lane Winslow appears to be an attractive but innocuous young Englishwoman who comes to the Kootenays to find peace, as far as possible from five years of stress and privation in wartime London.

Winslow's inherent sleuthing skills are used to complement the work of one member of the Nelson police force in particular, her ongoing love interest, Inspector Frederick Darling.

Under her cool, well-mannered, English reserve, Lane Winslow is as damaged as any veteran who spent too long at what Brits call 'the sharp end' of the war. She is one of many resourceful, young women who worked for the Security Intelligence Service (SIS) and the New York-based British Security Coordination (BSC).

It hits close to home as Whishaw says she based the character of Lane Winslow on her mother, who, in real-life worked for British intelligence during the war.



IN HER FIRST LANE WINSLOW NOVEL, *A KILLER in King's Cove* (TouchWood, 2016), Iona Whishaw explores an insidious affliction of the spy: the corrosive suspicion that the agency they have loyally served is spying on them and will do so until they take their secrets to the grave, prematurely if they become 'unreliable.'

Len Deighton's detective Bernard Samson and **John Le Carre's** George Smiley in *Smiley's People* had similar problems. British novelist **William Boyd**, not usually a writer of 'spy novels,' explores this state of life-long unease in *Restless*. Like Boyd, Whishaw subtly conveys how the trained senses of the secret agent, hyper-acute observation and sensitivity to situations, constantly threaten to become paranoia.

Self-isolate with Iona

After six novels, a detective based in Nelson solves her first case outside Canada while on her honeymoon in Arizona.

Though Lane Winslow's skills as an amateur detective are empowering, they also make it impossible for her to find the inner peace she seeks.

After six novels of cautious, mutually investigative foreplay with Inspector Frederick Darling, in *A Match Made for Murder* Winslow seems to have made a truce with her past and succumbed to the instinctive 'nesting and breeding'

frenzy that possessed WW II survivors, resulting in the Baby Boom of the fifties. She marries the inspector.

Winslow and her newly-wed Fred choose to honeymoon in Tucson, Arizona, where Darling's former boss and mentor is now Chief of Police. The newlyweds have escaped the cold of the Kootenays in November in favour of the posh and romantic Santa Cruz

Inn where Winslow plans to relax and spend the holiday poolside with a good mystery. Her plans are interrupted by gunfire. One of the hotel's wealthy guests has been shot point blank and Lane is second on the scene.

Tucson, in the late forties, is an idyllic Southwestern town where nothing much seems to happen. Winslow proceeds to find and investigate the sleazy underside of the town, including its police department and the war-spawned American culture of corporate greed.

Whishaw often uses the device of having Inspector Darling and his sidekick Sergeant Ames juggle two apparently unrelated cases that gradually prove to be connected. It's an old trick, but a good one that allows a writer to employ a larger cast of characters and introduce information asymmetrically, avoiding the linear clue-by-clue plod of formulaic mysteries.

This time, back in Nelson, Sergeant Ames has been left in charge of the department during Darling's absence. As he investigates a case of vandalism at the Van Eyck garage, it seems to lead directly to the death of the suspected vandal himself. Working with Constable Terrell, the new recruit, to piece together what happened in this strange

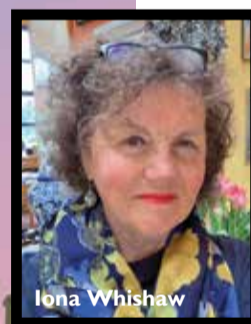
and unsettling murder, Ames finds that his romantic interest in mechanic Tina Van Eyck creates complications that are more than awkward; they could be deadly.

So, *A Match Made for Murder* is not just a double murder investigation; it's a double romance. But what really makes the Lane Winslow mysteries so compelling is that Whishaw gets the tone and mood of the time and place exactly right. Her eclectic mix of remittance men, Imperial refugees and small-town Canadians—all suffering from wounds or moral crises as a result of the recent war—should provide her with plots and characters for many novels still to come.

To the deck chairs, everyone.

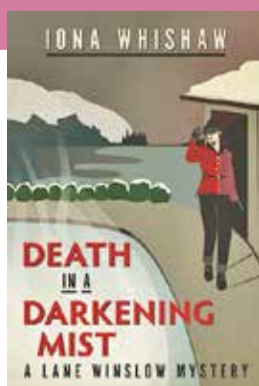
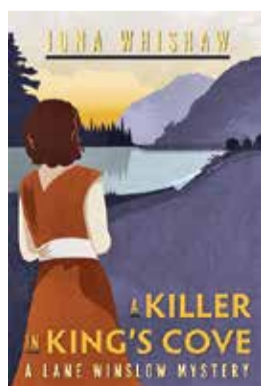
9781771513265

John Moore is an ardent gardener, mystery buff, novelist and longtime social distancer in Garibaldi Highlands.

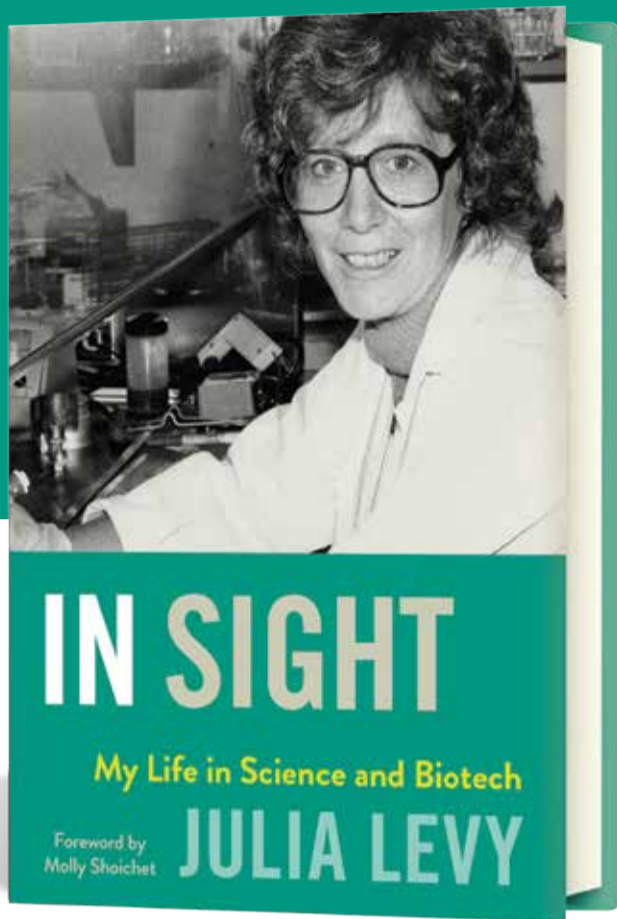


Iona Whishaw

The complete series of Lane Winslow Mystery books, with cover art by Victoria illustrator Margaret Hanson. Vancouver's Iona Whishaw based the fictional King's Cove on the hamlet where she was born, Queen's Bay, outside of Nelson.

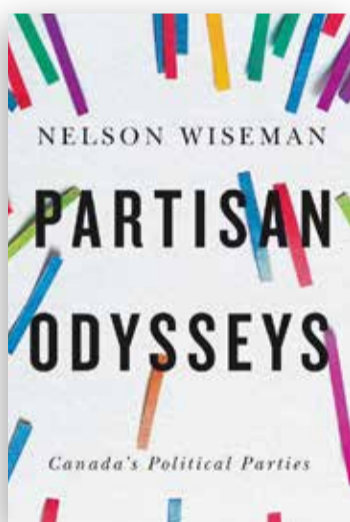


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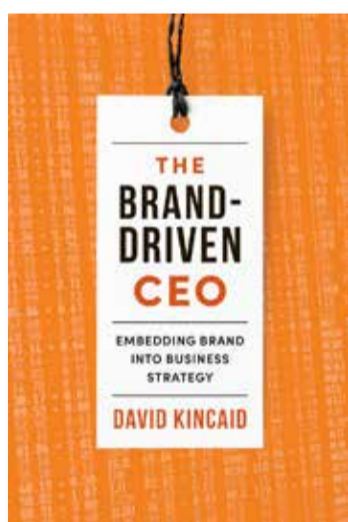
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POETRY

REVIEW

A year of walking and seeing

When We Are Broken
by Luanne Armstrong
(distributed by Maa Press \$30)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

Having lived much of her life on her family farm on Kootenay Lake in the heart of the Kootenay-Columbia basin, issues of land and a sense of place are key subjects in **Luanne Armstrong’s** writings.

“Part of my life’s work has been to truly understand the place where I live and the other creatures that



dwel there with me,” she says. “In my daily walks, I focus on the quiet, always changing occurrences of nature.”

Her 23rd book, a collection of poetry and photography, **When We Are Broken**, follows a year of Armstrong’s daily meanderings, during which she frequently stopped to meditate on her surroundings and take photographs.

“Whatever snagged my eyes, is where I would stop and wait and look to see what had asked me to pay attention.”

The photography proved integral to Armstrong. “Often, I don’t see what is truly there until I look at the photo. It’s a way of seeing, a way of going deeper into awareness as I walk.”

Daily walks are key to Armstrong’s physical health as she has heart issues and rheumatoid arthritis. But her frailty is part of her poetry, lending the verses an elegiac character.

Armstrong will be presenting the book and her photographs through a multi-media presentation at the Capitol Theatre in Nelson on November 26th.

When We Are Broken is distributed through Maa Press and can be ordered through info@maapress.ca.

9780987838414

Luanne Armstrong’s physical frailties lend her poetry an elegiac character.

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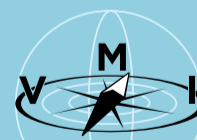
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Pineapple Express by Evelyn Lau
(Anvil Press \$18)

I

f you want an antidote for the COVID blues, try reading this brave, sad book about living every day with depression.

Evelyn Lau

talks to herself throughout, like some foreign correspondent taking mental snapshots from an urban prison, occasionally distracted by a spider or mosquito.

“Thirty years ago / you were a homeless teenager, and now / you remember how to live on nothing.”

There is no story. **Pineapple Express** is more like driving through a grey, concrete neighborhood we know we don’t want to live in.

“You waste whole afternoons drowsing / on the day bed like a sultan / bored with the dazzling harem, / waiting for winter.”

At one point, on a Sunday night, she describes three policemen hammering on her door, hands on their holsters, racing from door to door to seek the source of screaming reported to 911.

“You answered the door / in your middle age, TV flickering / on mute, in your nightshirt and slippers / at 10 pm — surely so incapable / of causing a disturbance, of exciting / a violent passion, that the cops politely / averted their eyes and apologized /

INSIDE THE

monastery

Evelyn Lau’s new contemplative poems are for adults only

for disturbing your peace. Had they even / been born, those years were disturbing / everyone’s peace? Now it’s another / young woman’s turn.”

There is not a single comment about, or reference to, being an under-privileged person of colour. She is beyond concern about her reputation. She asks herself if it is wrong to stop seeking glamour and “disappear into the monastery of poetry.”

Lau describes her bleak astonishment when she is almost hit by a taxi in a crosswalk. Has she become that invisible? A simple statement on the back of the book cover rings true. “Evelyn Lau’s eighth collection of poetry marks an important contribution to the literature of depression.”

A section on living with anti-depressants is particularly fine. They teach you stillness. “The Silicon Valley millionaires who flock / to Katmandu, in search of serenity / would be envious.”

These poems about the moods and medications pursuant to depression describe what it’s like to withdraw for survival.

She is just alone.

978-1-77214-147-4



Evelyn Lau in Vancouver

A cracked and dusty mirror

A

fter a lengthy battle with alcoholism, **David Haggart** discovered in 1988 that he had serious mental health issues. It was during this period that he started to write poetry, advised by his mentor **Patrick Lane** to learn to write “by writing.”

Haggart attended one of Lane’s workshops in Sechelt, found work with an old friend he knew from the time he spent working in the Arctic—stone sculptor **Abraham Ruben**—and moved to Salt Spring Island in 2000. There, he



has written over 600 poems, some of which appear in his first collection, **A Curious Happiness in Small Things** (Raven Chapbooks \$18) about reflections on his family, nature, and the beauty of the North where he spent part of his working life, “savouring the emptiness there.”

I write my poems – poor ragged things in a cracked and dusty mirror my gift to the few that read them

— from the poem, *The Weekend* by David Haggart.

Haggart produced two previous chapbooks of poetry, *Signs of Life* (Little Soup Press) and *On The Way Out* (Arashido Publishing) as well as three chapbook anthologies with fellow writers.

978-0-9734408-3-6



jaye simpson

DAVA NARAY PHOTO

Not okay

it was never going to be okay

by jaye simpson (Nightwood \$18.95)

j

aye simpson, who identifies as non-binary, has written their first collection of poetry and prose, *it was never going to be okay*. They explore intergenerational trauma, Indigeneity and queerness and also address the urban Indigenous diaspora and breaking down the limitations of sexual understanding as a trans woman.

In an excerpt from their poem, *boy*, simpson recalls the early pain, confusion and anger of being given a specific gender:

i am five
my sisters are saying *boy*
i do not know what the word means but
i am bruised into knowing it: the blunt *b*,
the hollowness of the *o*, the blade of *y*



SIMPSON IS AN OJI-CREE SAULTEAUX INDIGIQUEER whose roots hail from the Sapotaweyak, Kees-eekeoose and Skownan Cree Nations. They grew up primarily in the Vancouver area in foster homes.

They have been published in *This Magazine*, *PRISM*, *SubTerrain*, *Room*, and the anthologies: *Hustling Verse* (2019) and *Love After the End* (2020). Simpson self-describes as a displaced Indigenous person “resisting, ruminating and residing on” Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish First Nations territories. 978-0-88971-382-6

Elephant seals are thriving again on the West Coast, including a new colony on Race Rocks off Vancouver Island.

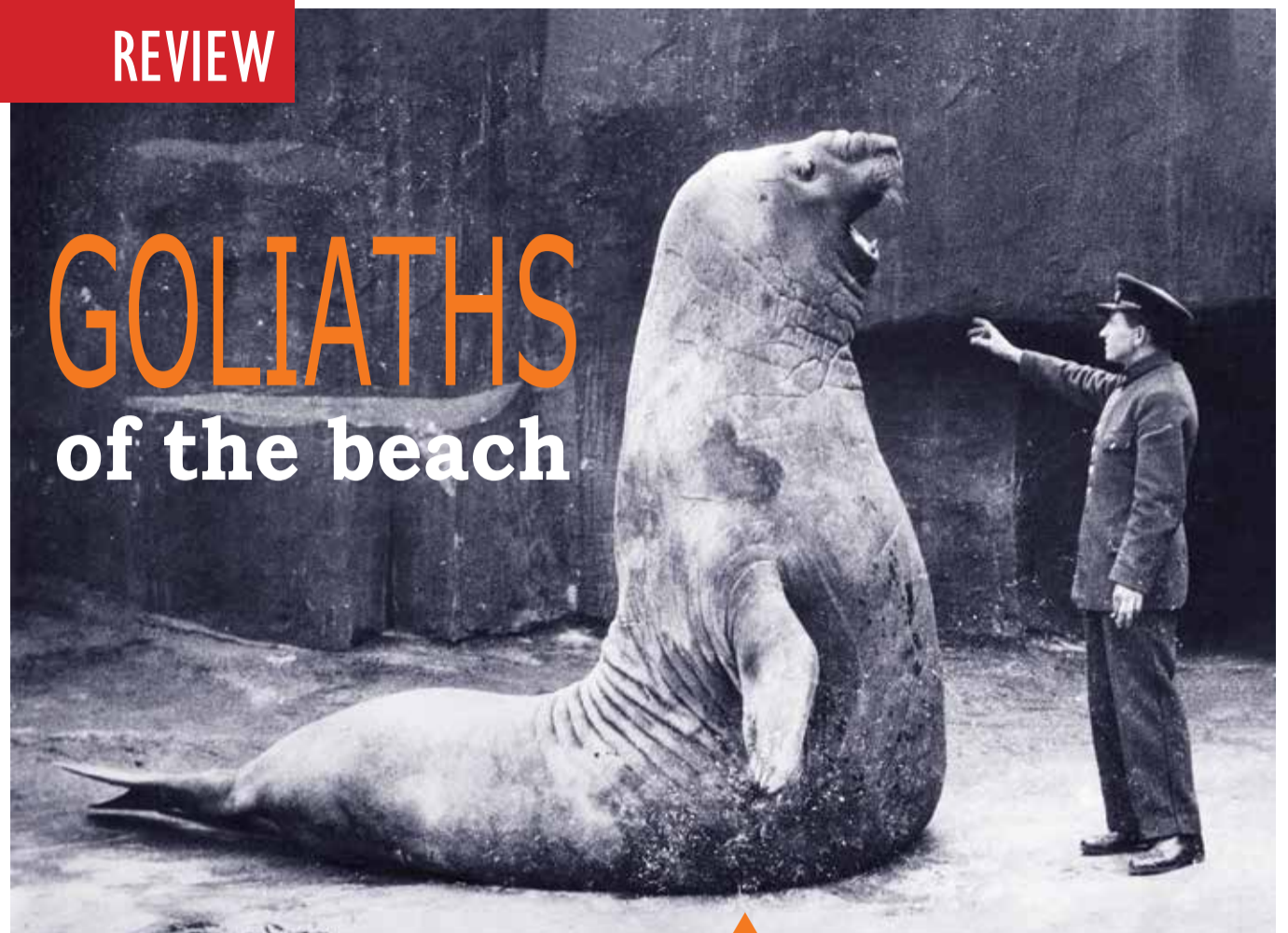
Return from Extinction: The Triumph of the Elephant Seal
by Linda L. Richards (Orca \$24.95)
Nonfiction Ages 9-12

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

While driving down the California Coast a few years ago, **Linda L. Richards** caught sight of a highway sign: Vista Point: Elephant Seal Viewing Area.

Visiting seals wasn't anywhere near the top of her sightseeing list but she pulled over for a "quick peek" at a beach below.

From a distance, she thought she was looking at hundreds of dead creatures on the sand. Then she realized they were all seals "flipper to flipper and tail to tail," lying on the beach companionably, flipping sand. They seemed to be having seal conversations.



GOLIATHS of the beach

She later wrote, "Imagine a creature the size of a small bus, making sounds as loud as an airplane taking off and moving inelegantly—though not always slowly—across the sand."

Richards was soon hooked on the seals, especially the odd-looking males with their blubbery big noses. "You don't forget the first time you see an adult male elephant seal," she recalls in **Return from Extinction: The Triumph of the Elephant Seal**.

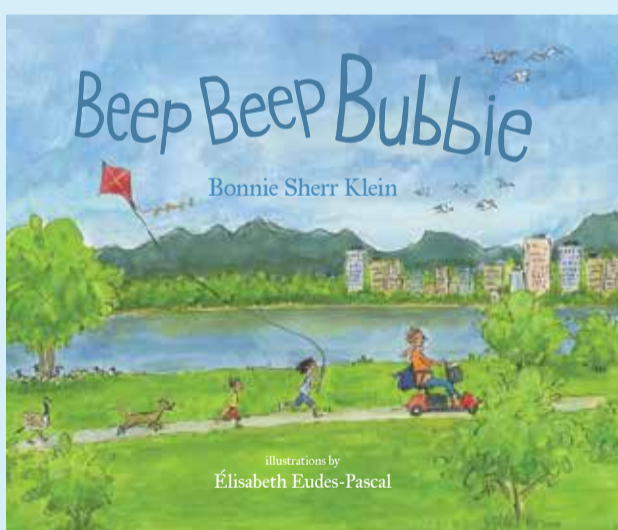


An elephant seal in a Paris zoo known as 'Goliath', in 1936. It is believed that this seal was from the Channel Islands off the California Coast, making it a northern elephant seal.

Only mature males have those big, protruding noses which give the mammals their name. They aren't related to elephants.

"As far as scientists can tell, the purpose of the nose is all about breeding," she says. "The bigger the nose, the more awesome, impressive and scary sounds the male can make. This scares off smaller (and probably less noisy) competitors when establishing their territories."

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Beep Beep Bubbie
ISBN: 978-1-926890-23-4 \$19.95

Bonnie Sherr Klein, best-selling author of *Slow Dance: a story of love and disability*, joins acclaimed illustrator Élisabeth Eudes-Pascal "for the lighthearted intergenerational story, sure to open young eyes to issues of disability." (Quill & Quire)

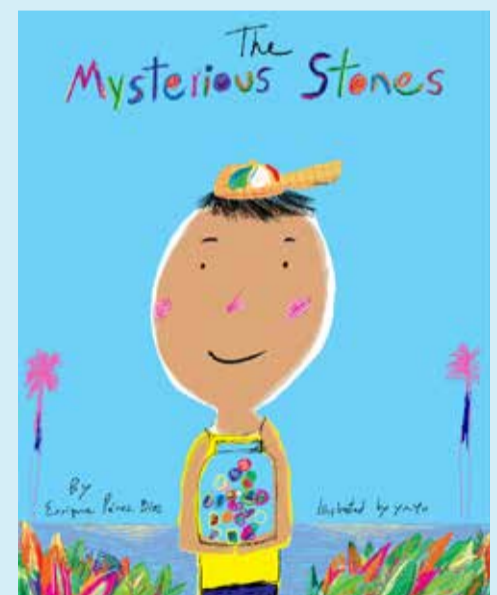
Kate is upset when her grandma (Bubbie) gets a motorized scooter. Will Bubbie still be Bubbie in that scooter?



Crocs in a Box - Three mini-books
ISBN: 978-1-926890-06-7 \$24.95

The three mischievous crocs are back—in a box! Frolic along with these raucous reptiles as they romp through a crocodile day, sprint off the sports field, and turn the work-a-day world upside down.

"Heidbreder's bouncy verse and the mayhem and imagination of Maté's energetic illustrations will leave kids joyous with laughter." (Toronto Star)



The Mysterious Stones
ISBN: 978-1-926890-18-0 \$19.95

Written by Enrique Pérez Díaz, Cuba's leading author for young people, and illustrated by the celebrated Colombian-Canadian artist Yayo.

Kiki lives with his tío and his abuela ever since his papá sailed away in search of a new life.



www.tradewindbooks.com

The males can weigh over 2,000 kilograms while the females are much smaller at just over 700 kilograms. The females look the way everyone expects a seal to look: “They have large eyes, a smooth head and a friendly expression.”

Richards took the time to find out that the spectacle she had witnessed was a recent phenomenon. “Not so many years ago, there were no seals on the beach,” she was told by a docent at the Piedras Blancas elephant seal rookery. “Not so many years before that, there were only 20 to 70 northern elephant seals left in their entire range.”

Their recovery seemed like a miracle to Richards. She wondered how it had occurred. Overhunting had brought the northern elephant seals to the edge of extinction when they were killed for their oil in the mid-to-late 1800s.

“The records of early hunters describe huge numbers and easy pickings,” she writes. “The animals could be shot or herded to one part of a beach and clubbed—females, males, young and old—and no one cared for anything but the oil in the animals’ blubber.”

By the end of the 19th century, elephant seals were scarce. In 1892, a couple of naturalists found nine northern seals at Guadalupe Island off Mexico. “In the name of science, the men killed seven of the nine for the Smithsonian Institution,” says Richards, adding that they considered it justifiable because as one of them explained, the species was doomed to extinction and few if any specimens were in North American museums.

Fortunately, by 1922, the Mexican government banned any further hunting of the northern elephant seals. Their numbers increased every year from then on. “In the end,” says Richards, “they protected—and ultimately saved—a whole species.”

By 2020, elephant seal populations have reached nearly a quarter million. They range from Mexico to northern B.C. and the Aleutian Islands.

A new colony has now taken hold at Race Rocks Ecological Reserve in the Juan de Fuca Strait off southern Vancouver Island. Numbering around twenty collectively, every year these elephant seals return to birth and raise pups.

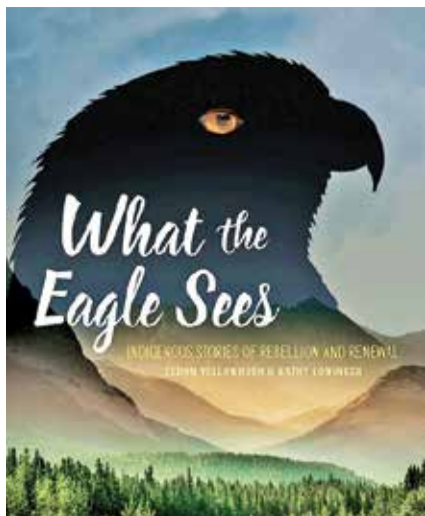
9781459821361

Turtle Island survivors

What the Eagle Sees: Indigenous Stories of Rebellion and Renewal by Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger (Annick Press \$16.95) Nonfiction Ages 11+

In *Turtle Island: The Story of North America’s First People* (Annick, 2017) **Eldon Yellowhorn** and **Kathy Lowinger** teamed up to tell stories of what pre-contact life was like for Indigenous peoples throughout North America as far back as fourteen thousand years ago—before **Columbus**. Indigenous people called the continent Turtle Island (it was settlers who imposed the names Canada, America and Mexico) and it was their whole world says Yellowhorn.

Now Yellowhorn and Lowinger have followed up with what happened after settlers arrived and invaded Indigenous lands in **What the Eagle Sees: Indigenous Stories of Rebellion and**



Renewal. The horrors and deprivations faced by Indigenous people included disease, war, broken promises and forced assimilation.

But they fought back and survived. In the face of crushing losses and challenges, they rebuilt their nations, adopted new ideas and kept their cultures alive.

Yellowhorn and Lowinger have collected a number of survival stories, like how the Indigenous peoples in the northeast came together to create a stronger front against settlers. The Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca came together in 1451 to form the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. It is now the oldest surviving confederacy in the world. In 1722, the Confederacy was joined by the Tuscarora and thereafter was known as the Six Nations.

The book takes its title from one of the most important creatures to Indigenous peoples say Yellowhorn and Lowinger: “Of all the birds and animals, Eagle tells the most important story of all: the story of life.”

What the Eagle Sees has already collected many awards and has been shortlisted for the 2020 BC & Yukon Book Prize’s Sheila A. Egoff Children’s Literature Prize.

9781773213286

Grandma and her Scooter

Beep Beep Bubbie
by **Bonnie Sherr Klein** and
Élisabeth Eudes-Pascal
(Tradewind \$19.95) Ages 3-8

A young girl named Kate sees her grandma (Bubbie) on a motorized scooter for the first time and worries what it means, in **Beep Beep Bubbie** by **Bonnie Sherr Klein**. Kate wonders, will Bubbie still be Bubbie in that scooter? But soon she learns how useful the scooter can be. Even better, it’s fun



Bonnie Sherr Klein

to go shopping with Bubbie on her scooter. Klein is a feminist filmmaker and disability rights activist. After suffering a catastrophic brainstem stroke in 1997, she spent three years in rehabilitation and learned to get around using two canes and a motorized scooter. Art by **Élisabeth Eudes-Pascal**.

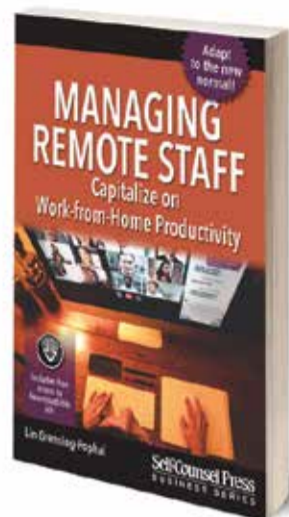
978-1-926890-23-4

SelfCounsel Press

Managing Remote Staff: Capitalize on Work-from-Home Productivity

by *Lin Grensing-Pophal, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, PCM*

- Many small businesses are struggling to adapt to the impact of COVID-19 while maintaining productivity, staff engagement, customer satisfaction and a healthy bottom line.
- This book addresses the myths, misconceptions, pros and cons of remote work for employees who are now out of sight, but NOT out of mind!
- Learn the attributes of successful remote workers, establish policies and procedures, and effectively train staff with an emphasis on communication.

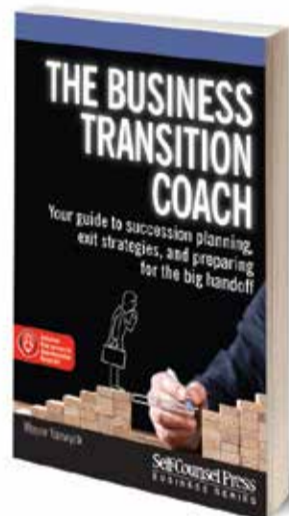


\$26.95 | Paperback + Download Kit | 152 pages

The Business Transition Coach: Your Guide to Succession Planning, Exit Strategies, and Preparing for the Big Handoff

by *Wayne Vanwyck*

- Sort out your personal and professional transition options.
- Prepare your business, your employees, and yourself for transition.
- Create a business plan that makes sense now and multiplies the valuation later.
- Leave a legacy that you can be proud of.



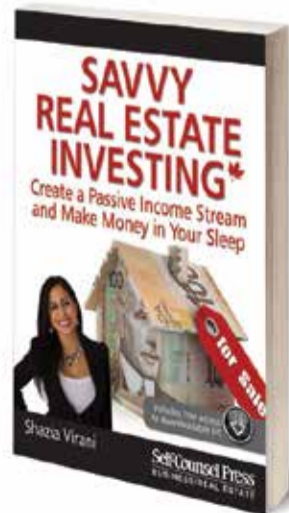
\$26.95 | Paperback + Download Kit | 180 pages

Savvy Real Estate Investing: Create a Passive Income Stream and Make Money in Your Sleep

by *Shazia Virani*

- Make money grow from an average salary.
- Create a passive income stream and earn money while you sleep.
- Leverage your assets to build a strong portfolio of investment properties so you can enjoy life.
- Diversify your real estate investments so you can retire early.
- “You don’t make money by just buying and selling real estate, you make money by investing purposefully and knowing where the trends lie in any market.”

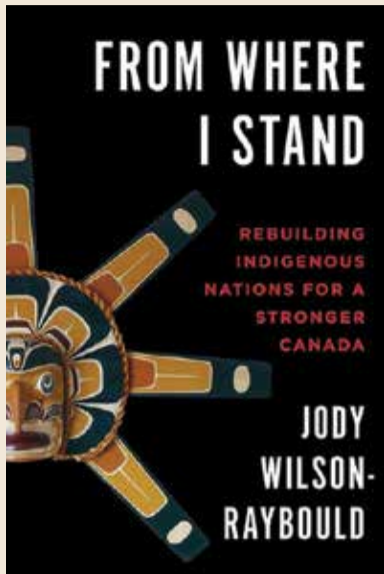
- Shazia Virani, AUTHOR



\$19.95 | Paperback + Download Kit | 112 pages

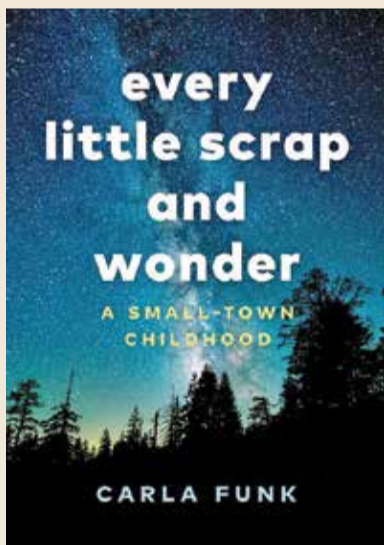
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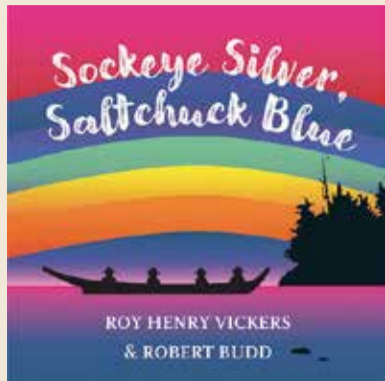
From Where I Stand
by Jody Wilson-Raybould
(UBC Press \$24.95)

Having shaken up federal politics when she went from being a senior cabinet minister in Justin Trudeau's Liberal government to becoming an independent Member of Parliament, Indigenous leader Jody Wilson-Raybould has published a collection of her speeches and lectures from the past ten years. She is forthright in her analysis of Canada's colonial past and her desire for a new era of recognition and reconciliation.



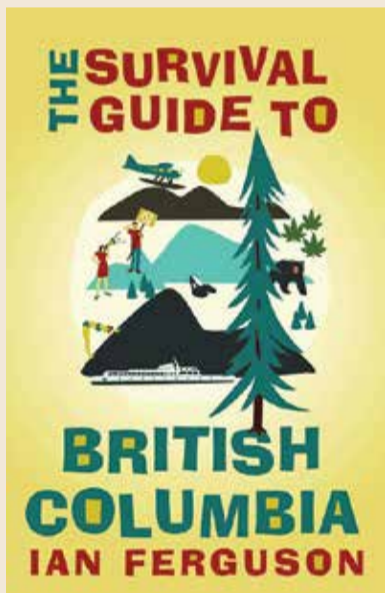
Every Little Scrap and Wonder: A Small-Town Childhood
by Carla Funk
(Greystone \$29.95)

Poet Carla Funk grew up in a Mennonite community in Vanderhoof. After publishing five books of poetry, this is her first memoir, a paean to childhood and rural life in British Columbia. Paying tributes to both her church-going mother and her truck-driving father, she uses rich language to create the world that shaped her as a person and writer.



Sockeye Silver, Saltchuck Blue
by Roy Henry Vickers & Robert Budd (Harbour \$9.95)

With catchy rhymes married to Roy Henry Vickers signature artwork, this children's board book is the third instalment in a series that started with *Hello Humpback!* and *One Eagle Soaring*. The concepts of colours are linked to the changing seasons on the West Coast: red tones of huckleberries in summer, silver and red flashes of spawning salmon in fall, grey rain in winter, and the sprouting of green in spring.



The Survival Guide to British Columbia
by Ian Ferguson
(Heritage House \$19.95)

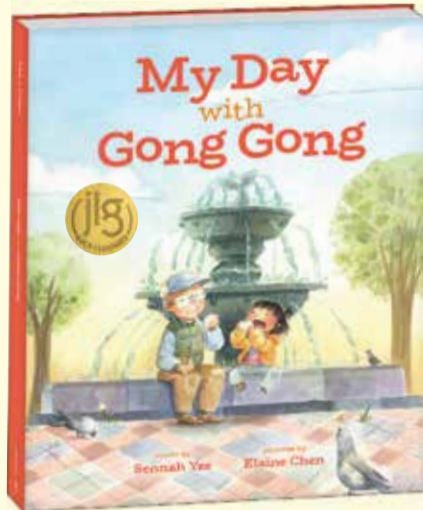
Having moved to B.C., humorist Ian Ferguson finds the place pretty – but also pretty scary. Here's his guide on surviving everything from the province's politics, the locals and the weather, to our food and fashion sense. Some 'Fergusonian' wisdom: B.C. is located – "to the left of Alberta"; speaking to B.C.'ers, means "not saying anything beyond, 'I love trees' and 'forgive me'; and, you can "tell an outsider (filled with enthusiasm and interest) from a local (full of resentment and ennui)."

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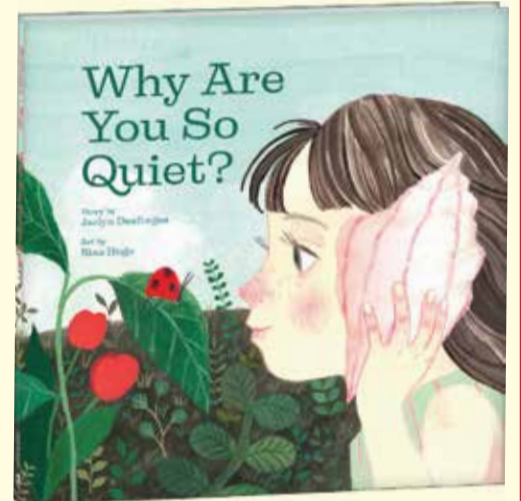
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—CM Reviews ★ review

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—Storywraps

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WHO'S WHO

BRITISH COLUMBIA

A IS FOR ALEXANDER

After years spent documenting a solitary wolf on Discovery and Chatham Islands, mere miles off Victoria, photographer **Cheryl Alexander** has



Cheryl Alexander

produced **Takaya: Lone Wolf** (RMD \$30). Last year, the wolf dubbed Takaya roamed Victoria's streets and came too close to urbanites, so the wolf was relocated 100 miles away by conservation officers. In March, Takaya was shot dead by a hunter. A film about Alexander and the wolf was shown on CBC and BBC in 2019.

9781771603737

Francine Cunningham has written for **THAT'S AWSM** on The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN).



B IS FOR BOYD

The internationally respected environmental lawyer **David R. Boyd** of Pender Island has debuted his political and legal thriller, **Thirst for Justice** (ECW \$22.95), about a trauma surgeon whose experiences volunteering in the Democratic Republic of the Congo lead him down a path he never would have imagined possible, resulting in a global manhunt and a riveting trial.

9781770412408

David R. Boyd



C IS FOR CUNNINGHAM

Self-described as "a white-passing, city-raised Indigenous woman with mental illness who has lost her mother," **Francine Cunningham** of Vancouver writes about residential schools, intergenerational trauma, Indigenous peoples sent to sanatoriums, systemic racism and mental illness in her debut poetry collection **ON/Me** (Caitlin \$18). Originally from Calgary, she is a graduate of UBC's Creative Writing program.

9781773860169



Mercedes Eng won the 2018 Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize.

E IS FOR ENG

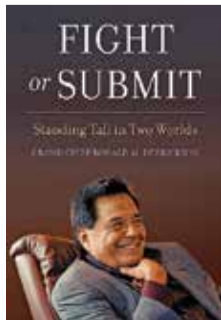
Mercedes Eng recalls growing up in Medicine Hat, Alberta with a white settler mother (using the initials yt for "white") and a Chinese Canadian father in her third book of poetry, **my yt mama** (Talonbooks \$16.95). In one poem Eng describes watching the TV miniseries *Roots* and seeing a young black woman being whipped: "electric with fear I asked why / because she's black / my mom said, and this uncontextualized response is true but I don't / think she understood what that meant to not-yt-me."

978-1-77201-255-2

D IS FOR DERRICKSON

Grand Chief **Ron Derrickson** describes **Fight or Submit: Standing Tall in Two Worlds** (ECW 2020) as being "not a litany of complaints but a list of battles." We learn that as chief of the Westbank First Nation near Kelowna he increased his community's revenues by 3500% and led his people into "a war in the forest over logging rights." Derrickson claims he was the target of a full Royal Commission due to his politics as well as an assassination attempt by a hitman hired by local whites.

978-1-77041-566-9



Chantal Gibson



G IS FOR GIBSON

Chantal Gibson's debut, **How She Read** (Caitlin \$20), represents the voices of Black women, past and present, highlighting the colonial ideas embedded in everyday things such as storybooks, coloured pencils, paintings and postage stamps. It won the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Pat Lowther Memorial Award. Gibson is a Vancouverite who has ancestral roots in Nova Scotia.

978-1-19879-1596-9

H IS FOR HILGEMANN

In **Judy Hilgemann's** self-illustrated **The Great Grizzlies Go Home** (Harbour \$23.95) for young readers, two grizzly bears swim to Comorant Island and surprise the residents of Alert Bay. The bears wander around the town for a few days before conservation officers are called in to safely trap and relocate them back to the mainland. Based on true events, the book has a section on bear safety tips.

978-1-55017-907-1



F IS FOR FOX

When he's not being a solo wilderness explorer, Lexus ambassador, Fujifilm X-Photographer, Sandisk Extreme Team member and Manfrotto photographer, **Daniel Fox** is the founder of WILD.ECO, a non-profit organization that mentors young adults and raises funds to send disadvantaged students to month-long wilderness camps. Fox's **Feel the Wild** (RMB \$40) is a collection of his photos, drawings, and stories about the power of nature and travel.

9781771603713



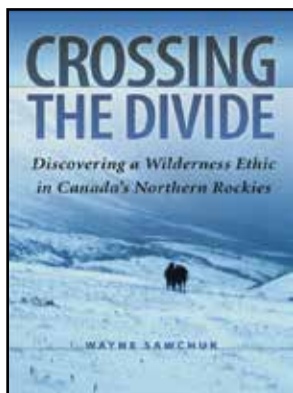
Philip Resnick

I IS FOR ITINERARIES

Growing up Jewish in Montreal, **Philip Resnick** broke with organized religion and moved out west to teach in 1971. After forty years as a UBC political science prof, he offers his reflections on academic freedom and key political developments in B.C. and Canada in **Itineraries: An Intellectual Odyssey** (Ronsdale \$21.95). After ten political books and six poetry collections, Resnick recalls initially feeling he was not a good British Columbian—because he was too rooted in the past, European-focused, and not outdoorsy.

978-1-55380-602-8

Ask at your local bookstore!



CROSSING the DIVIDE

Discovering a Wilderness Ethic in Canada's Northern Rockies
Wayne Sawchuk

Logger, trapper, conservationist, Sawchuk's journey to protecting the Muskwa-Kechika wilderness area is packed with edge-of-your-seat stories involving a wounded bear, a blinding snowstorm, a partially submerged snowmobile and jumping onto a mountain from an airborne helicopter.

9781928195061 \$21.95 Creekstone Press

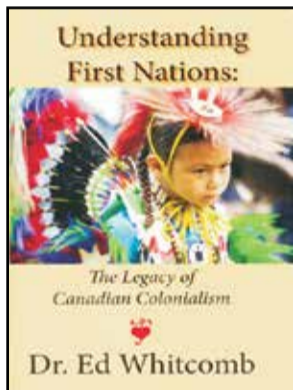
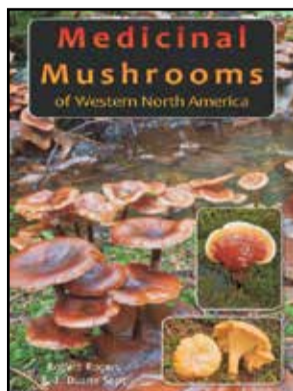
Medicinal Mushrooms

of Western North America

Robert Rogers & J. Duane Sept

This book highlights 40 species of mushrooms that have shown significant benefits for chronic illness, including autoimmune conditions. Color images of each species aid in identifying the mushrooms, and notes on additional species clearly inform — or warn — the reader of similar-looking mushrooms.

9780995226623 \$14.95 Calypso Publishing



Understanding First Nations

The Legacy of Canadian Colonialism
Dr. Ed Whitcomb

A must-read book aimed at non-Indigenous Canadians who want a better understanding of the background and current issues that have arisen over the past 150 years between First Nations and the settler population. The book is clearly focused on First Nations and the many problems they face in Canada.

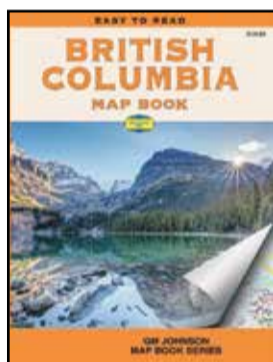
9780986596742 \$19.95 From Sea to Sea

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SATURDAY at the GARAGE

Nancy Hundal

Each Saturday, a young girl joins her father at the family-owned garage where she learns how to work the cash register, pump gas, fix cars and more. In this gentle story, an award-winning author recounts her own experiences with her father in a Marpole garage they once owned.

9781988242323 \$21.95 Midtown Press



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WHO'S WHO

BC



Heather Jessup

J IS FOR JESSUP

A hoax isn't always a lie meant to deceive or wound; it can also exert a positive influence. In **This Is Not a Hoax: Unsettling Truth in Canadian Culture** (Wilfrid Laurier \$35.95), **Heather Jessup** reveals that hoaxes can be constructive by helping people re-examine "unquestioned institutional trust, habituated cultural hierarchies and the deeply inscribed racism and sexism of Canada's settler-colonial history." Hoaxical works are from Canadian artists such as **Brian Jungen** and **Rebecca Belmore**, and writers and translators **David Solway** and **Erin Moure**.

978-1771123648

K IS FOR KIRSCH



Sharon Kirsch

As a child, **Sharon Kirsch** had a penchant for reading in the closet and she liked cataloguing her tiny, plastic animals like pink alligators, blue beavers and purple bison. The protagonist

and narrator in her follow-up to *What Species of Creatures* (New Star, 2008), **The Smallest Objective** (New Star \$22), is searching for buried treasure in her now-vacant family home while her mother struggles with failing memory.

9781554201556

L IS FOR LEE

Working on a postdoctoral fellowship at SFU, **Katja Lee** has written **Limelight: Canadian Women and the Rise of Celebrity Autobiography** (Wilfrid Lau-



Katja Lee

rier \$49.99), examining how the rise of celebrity autobiography was used in Canada for image management. Her examples include: L.M. Montgomery, Nellie McClung, the Dionne Quintuplets, Margaret Trudeau and Shania Twain.

978-1-77112-429-4

M IS FOR McKAY

John McKay is a professional draftsman and authority on the design of ships from the sailing era. He got into writing books while researching *HMS Victory*, a museum ship in England best known as Lord Nelson's flagship at 1805's Battle of Trafalgar, resulting in the oft-reprinted *The 100-Gun Ship Victory* (Conway Maritime, 1987). His **Sovereign of the Seas 1637: A Reconstruction of the Most Powerful Warship of its Day** (Seaforth Publishing \$68.95) includes a history and a folio of drafted plans and drawings of the ship's design from the hull to the sails and rigging.

978-1-5267-6629-8

N IS FOR NARSIMHAN

Eight-year-old Kiara's grandmother left her a genie in a garam masala bottle. She enlists the genie to help her with a bully at school but the genie is on vacation after working for ten thousand years. The genie wants Kiara to do his bidding. The battle of wills that follows is **Mahtab Narsimhan's** fifth kidlit story, **Genie Meanie** (Orca \$7.95).

978-1-45982-398-3

O IS FOR OSCAR



Oscar Martens

Oscar Martens of Burnaby started publishing his stories in literary journals at age 17. In 2000, he participated in the St. Roch Voyage of Rediscovery through the Northwest Passage,

followed by a year working on coastal tugboats. His first collection of fiction was *The Girl with the Full Figure Is Your Daughter* (Turnstone, 2002). Martens latest book is **No Call Too Small** (Central Avenue \$14.99), a collection of short stories bound together thematically by relationships with aging parents, campers and partners.

978-1771681957

WHO'S WHO

BRITISH COLUMBIA

P IS FOR PAWA



Bal Pawa

In **The Mind-Body Cure** (Greystone \$24.95), Dr. **Bal Pawa** shows how we can heal from chronic stress and relieve the impact it has on our bodies. She explains how the body's stress hormones impact everything from our sleep to our immunity, and shows how to manage stress through actionable tips for sleep, nutrition, exercise and mindset.

978-1-7716-4579-9

Q IS FOR QUARMBY



Lynne Quarmby

As one of the guests, along with artists, aboard a schooner trip to the Arctic, SFU professor **Lynne Quarmby** mixes memoir, microbiology, grief for the loss of a frozen world and the sublimity of the northern landscape in **Watermelon Snow: Science, Art, and a Lone Polar Bear** (McGill-Queen's \$24.95). *Quirks and Quarks* host **Bob McDonald** and ex-Green Party leader **Elizabeth May** have provided endorsements.

978-0-2280-0359-5

R IS FOR REVA

Maria Reva's satirical novel **Good Citizens Need Not Fear** (Knopf \$29.95) concerns a cast of characters living in a crumbling apartment building in Soviet-era Ukraine. They work in the small industrial town of Kirovka in the years leading up to, and immediately after, the fall of the USSR in 1989. The narrative linchpin is a young woman named Zaya, an orphan and survivor who crashes a beauty pageant.

9780735278424

Maria Reva was born in Ukraine and grew up in Vancouver.

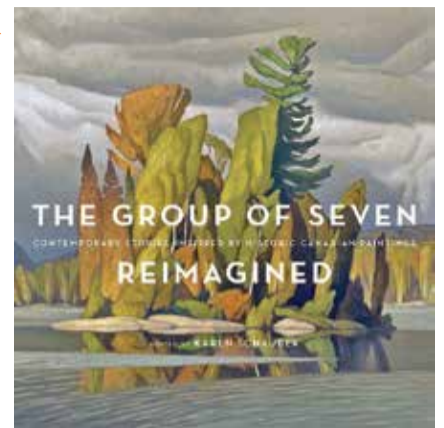


MATTHEW PRESCOTT PHOTO

S IS FOR SCHAUBER

The Group of Seven Reimagined: Contemporary Stories Inspired by Historic Canadian Paintings (Heritage \$24.95) includes contributions by Vancouver-based writers J.J. Lee, Alfred DePew, T. Godwin Good, Isabella Mori and Nina Shoroplova. Stories are linked to 21 paintings by artists associated with the Group of Seven, including B.C.'s Emily Carr. This coffee table book is edited by **Karen Schaubert**.

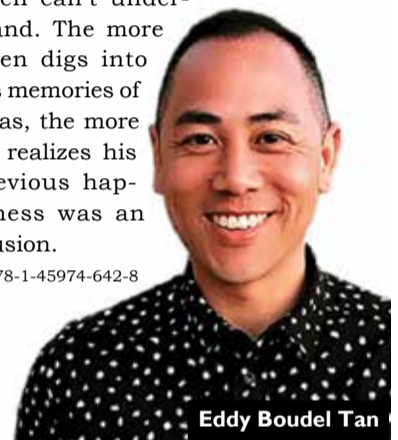
978-1-77203-288-8



T IS FOR TAN

Coen Caraway is left with more than heartache after his fiancé, Elias Santos, fatally crashes an airplane one week before their wedding day in **Eddy Boudel Tan's After Elias** (Dundurn \$21.99). The only thing Elias leaves behind is a cryptic recorded message that Coen can't understand. The more Coen digs into his memories of Elias, the more he realizes his previous happiness was an illusion.

978-1-45974-642-8



Eddy Boudel Tan

Four years ago, we adopted a remote village in Tanzania.

With the help of *BC BookWorld* readers we were able to recently purchase a new vehicle for the community.

Now our aim is to build a much-needed local primary school. Father Placid Kindata and the villagers have already made thousands of bricks for it.

HELP

Luhombero

Project #2

We are asking our readers to collectively match a \$5,000 kickstart donation to this school building project made by one of our long-time readers, Yosef Wosk.

There are three ways to donate.

1. via Paypal to helpluhombero@yahoo.com
2. send a cheque to BC BookWorld
3. for a tax receipt, go to Canada Helps, (www.canadahelps.org), choose Provision Charitable Foundation", and select Luhombero Primary School from the drop-down menu.



Luhombero, Tanzania. Photo by Placid Kindata

Schools in Tanzania are expensive. There is no nearby school in Luhombero. Transportation is difficult and expensive. It is common to have 120 students in one classroom.

To learn more about Luhombero and the school project, please visit: www.helpluhombero.org

Thank you,

Beverly Cramp, publisher, *BC BookWorld*

Alan Twigg, founding publisher, *BC BookWorld*



Justin Trudeau and Stuart Hodgson looking at a painting of an Inuit hunter.

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Labyrinth of Green

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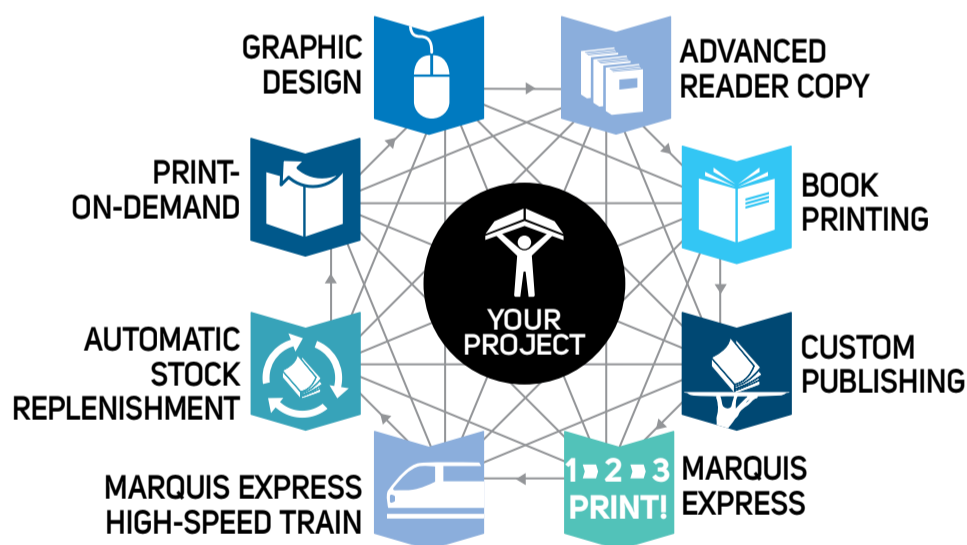
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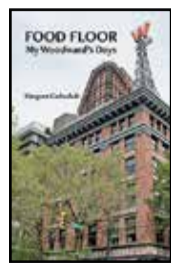
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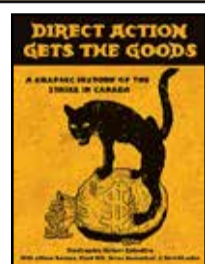


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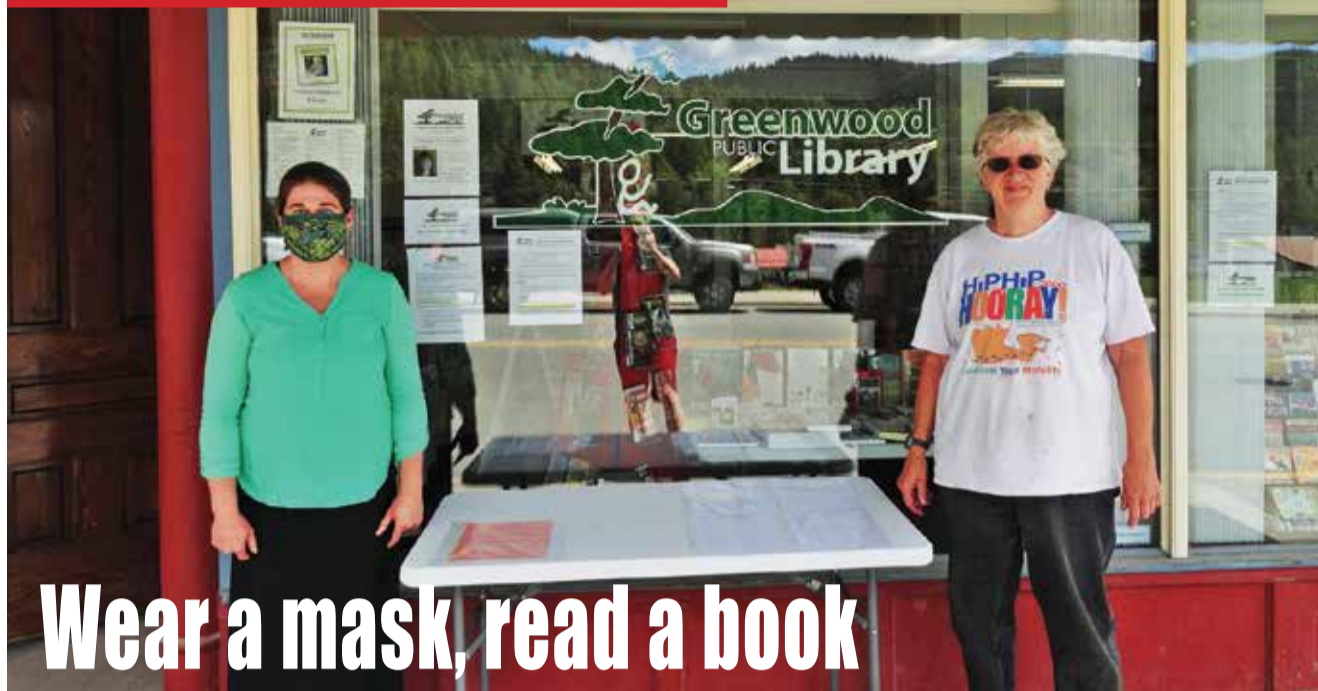
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Thank you to all those workers and
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functional since March.

Greenwood Library director **Sasha Tauzer** (left) and vice-chair of
the Greenwood Public Library board **Roegan Lloyd** are just two of
the countless 'book people' who have provided due diligence, in a safe
way, to continue public access to physical books—our favourite kind.

Meanwhile the More Canada think tank has issued six recom-
mendations to bolster the country's independent bookstores. These
include according public library mailing rates to stores that allocate
20% of shelf space to Canadian-authored books as well as a 10%
bonus on sales of Canadian-authored books from independent
Canadian publishers.

The two B.C. publishers involved were **Don Gorman** of Rocky
Mountain Books and **Howard White** of Harbour and D&M.

At *BC BookWorld* we want to commend our more than 600 dis-
tribution outlets who are providing you with access to this 40-page,
printed edition of the newspaper.

Beverly Cramp

Publisher, *BC BookWorld*

Correction

I was delighted to read the lovely
review of my debut novel, *Secrets*
in the Shadows, in *BC BookWorld*.
However, the subtitle of the review



Heige S. Boehm

says my father
supported Hitler
and the Nazi Party,
which isn't true.
While Rudi, the fic-
titious father fig-
ure in my book, is
a Nazi supporter,
my father was just

a child of 12 when
WWII ended, and he and his family
had no love for the Third Reich that
had so deeply affected their lives
and brought such destruction on the
whole country.

Heige S. Boehm
Sunshine Coast

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Letters may be edited for clarity & length.

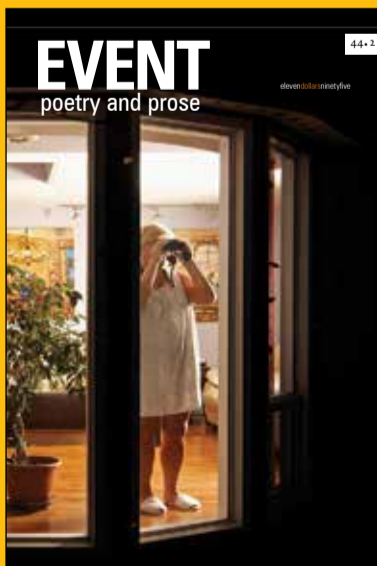
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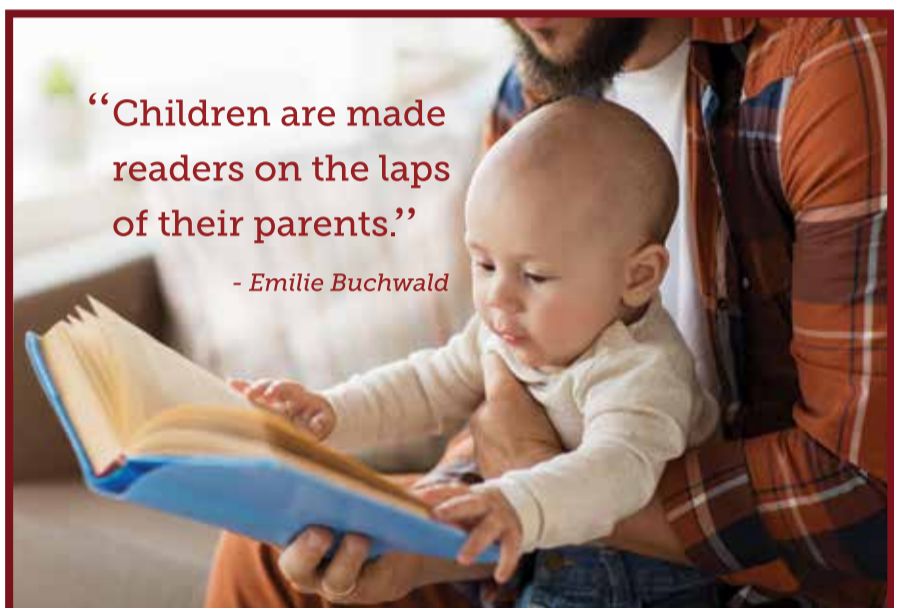
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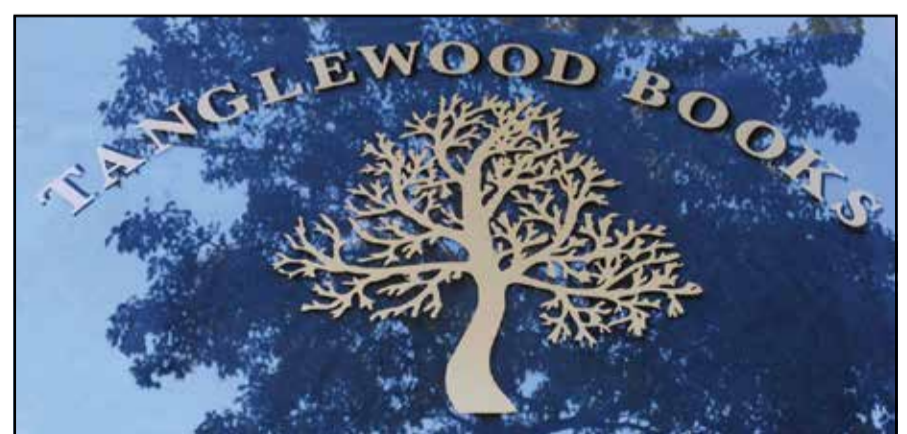
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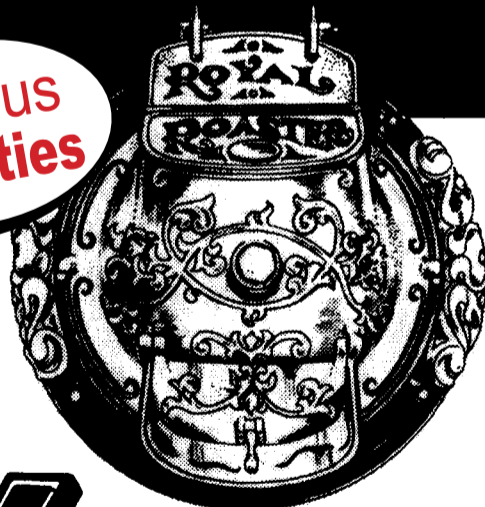


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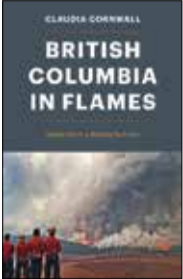
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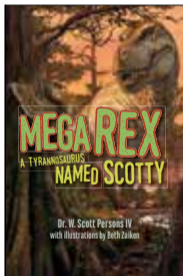
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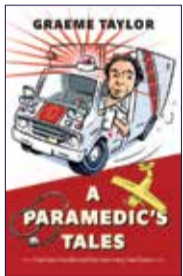
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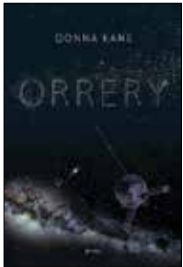
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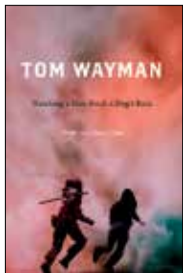
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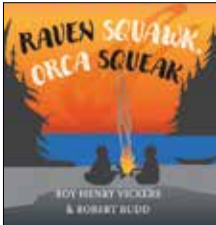
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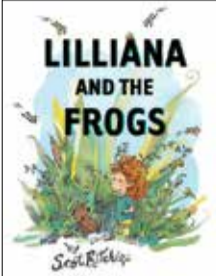
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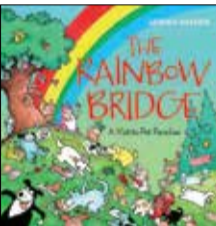
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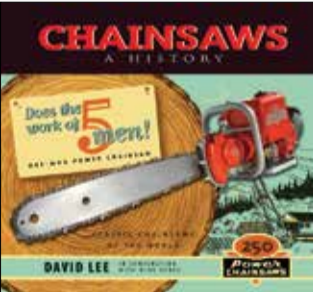
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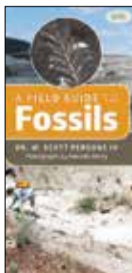
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