

YOUR FREE GUIDE TO BOOKS & AUTHORS

BC

BOOKWORLD

VOL. 34 • NO. 4 • Winter 2020-2021

Dukesang Wong
and his wife Lin.

The first known
account of a Chinese
railroad worker
from the 1880s.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTOR CALVIN HOE

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BUTLER
SARAH



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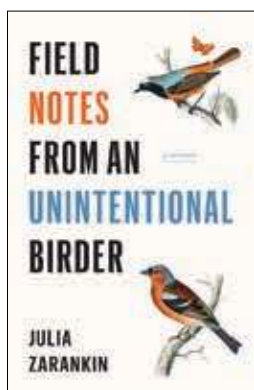


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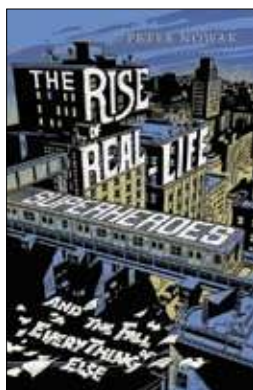


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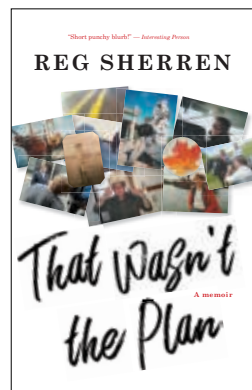


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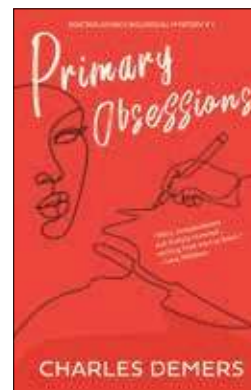


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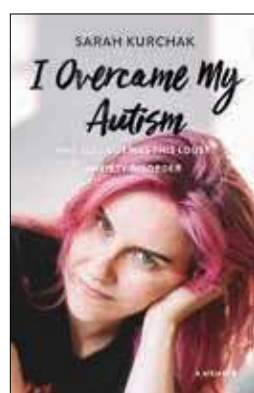
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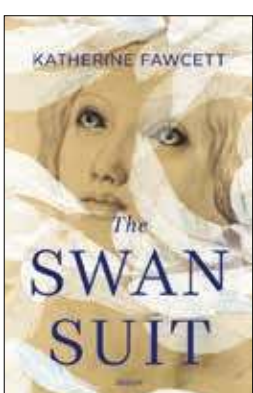


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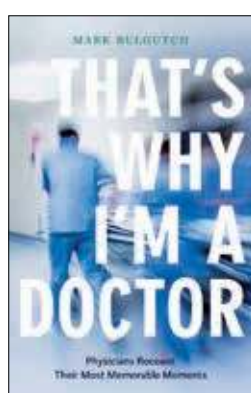
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Dispatches from Ray's Planet: A Journey through Autism
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Madeline Sonik

Madeline Sonik
Fontainebleau
 (Anvil Press \$20)

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Roy Henry Vickers & Robert Budd
Raven Squawk, Orca Squeak
 (Harbour \$9.95)

Charles Demers
Primary Obsessions
 (D&M \$18.95)

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

PEOPLE

Since she was a seven-year-old in war-torn Congo, **Liliane Leila Juma** has struggled to fulfill her dream of being an author. After writing award-winning plays when she was a refugee in Tanzania and Zambia, Juma came to Canada, learned French and spent years sending her manuscripts to publishers world-wide. Eventually, she switched to canvassing Canadian publishers. More rejections.

Years later, Juma found the publisher of her dreams right here in B.C. at Tradewind Books. She produced an exceptional, clear and poignant memoir, **Maison Rouge: Memories of a Childhood in War** (Tradewind \$12.95) and it was featured on the cover of *BC BookWorld's* summer issue. Alas, distribution of that issue was severely curtailed due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

If the pandemic has impacted Juma's books sales somewhat in Canada, it has been more limiting internationally. "I have been contacted by people in Africa and Asia, and a friend in Tanzania who wanted to buy my book and introduce it to their school program," says Juma. "Covid-19 has put this on hold. There is not much to do but wait."

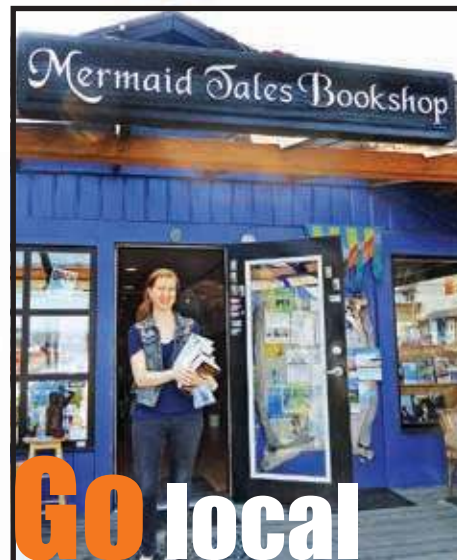
In the meantime, Juma is writing poems and working on another novel about her great grandmother, grandmother and Juma herself. "It's a story of three lives but one soul."

9781926890302



Liliane Leila Juma

From Congo to Covid



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Saving the Serengeti of the North

The 6.4 million-hectare Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA) in the Rocky Mountains is known for its raw beauty and biodiversity.

It was created in 1998 to keep the wilderness intact while allowing for limited development and human use.

One of the people who helped save this vast unlogged area in the Northern Rockies was Chetwynd-born **Wayne Sawchuk**. Having worked as a logger until he sold his logging company to buy a trapline, Sawchuk says he experienced "an immediate drop in my standard of living and a corresponding increase in my quality of life."

Throughout the 1990s he began taking extended horse packing trips into the unspoiled area that he would help shape into the M-KMA. Sawchuk describes this transformation in **Crossing the Divide: Discovering A Wilderness Ethic in**



Wayne Sawchuk with his horse Bonus in Heaven's Pass, the heart of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

Canada's Northern Rockies (Creekstone \$21.95).

"When I was a child, my father used to tell me a story about a fabulous Shangri-la," he recollects. "Years later I rode into the mountains to the southern headwaters of the Pine River searching for adventure. What I found was the Brazion River making a giant circle through the mountains and at the top of the circle a high mountain lake. It was the valley of my father's story, a fabled land."

When news that logging was to start in

this area, sometimes called the Serengeti of the North in honour of the Tanzanian national park that hosts the second largest terrestrial mammal migration in the world, Sawchuk and others formed the Chetwynd Environmental Society. They successfully lobbied the provincial government to protect this wilderness.

"It is an incredible experiment," says Sawchuk. "We can maintain a sustainable economy and keep the wild heart of Canada's Northern Rockies beating strong forever."

978-1-928195-06-1



Winter 2020
 Volume 34 • Number 4

Publisher:
 Beverly Cramp

Editor/Production:
 David Lester

Publication Mail Agreement #40010086
 Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: BC BookWorld, 926 West 15th Ave., Vancouver, BC Canada V5Z 1R9
 Produced with the sponsorship of Pacific BookWorld News Society. Publications Mail Registration No. 7800. BC BookWorld ISSN: 1701-5405

Advertising & editorial:
 BC BookWorld, 926 West 15th Ave., Vancouver, BC Canada V5Z 1R9
 Tel: 604-736-4011
 bookworld@telus.net

Annual subscription: \$25

Indigenous Editor: Latash-Maurice Nahanee
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Design: Get-to-the-Point Graphics

Accounts: Ingela Kasparaitis
 Consultants: Christine Rondeau, Sharon Jackson, Kenneth Li
 Photographer: Laura Sawchuk
 Proofreaders: Wendy Atkinson
 Deliveries: Ken Reid, Acculogix



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We gratefully acknowledge the unobtrusive assistance of Canada Council, a continuous partner since 1988, and creativeBC, a provincial partner since 2014.



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GHOST camp

When he was ten, **David R. Gray** and his brother used to find ‘stuff’ in an old midden at Tod Inlet, including the skulls of pigs. The boys didn’t realize they had stumbled upon the remnants of an immigrant Chinese community that had worked at the long-gone cement plant that was constructed in 1905.

Tod Inlet is located adjacent to the current Butchart Gardens in Victoria, a former limestone quarry that supplied the cement plant. The Vancouver Portland Cement Company was the first to manufacture cement on the West Coast and it’s the reason for the existence of that mostly-forgotten community that arose in 1904.

The company employed ethnically diverse workers such as Chinese Canadians, South Asian Canadians and Indigenous people who were segregated from white engineers, managers and plant workers and their families.

“Our family boat was kept there,” Gray says, “and it was where we spent summers fishing, swimming, exploring

Remnants of the Tod Inlet Chinese community, 1968

and playing.”

Pig skulls were the first trophies found by the brothers. “As we dug into the loose soil to find more of the curving tusks in earth-stained jawbones—the real prize, we thought then—we discovered old bottles, broken pottery and chopsticks, and then beautifully glazed jugs, pots and rice bowls.”

There were still old-timers around and Gray approached them for answers. They had vague memories of a long-deserted Chinese village connected to the abandoned cement plant, which closed in 1921.

Some of those Chinese Canadian workers had gone on to be employed at



Glazed ginger pots found at Tod Inlet.

Butchart Gardens. Two men even continued to live in one of the last standing buildings at Tod Inlet, the old laundry house, until the mid-1960s: **Yat Tong** and **Yem Choy**, a gardener who joined the Butcharts in 1941. Gray tried to track down the two men to no avail and the laundry house was burned in a training exercise by the local fire department in the late 1960s.

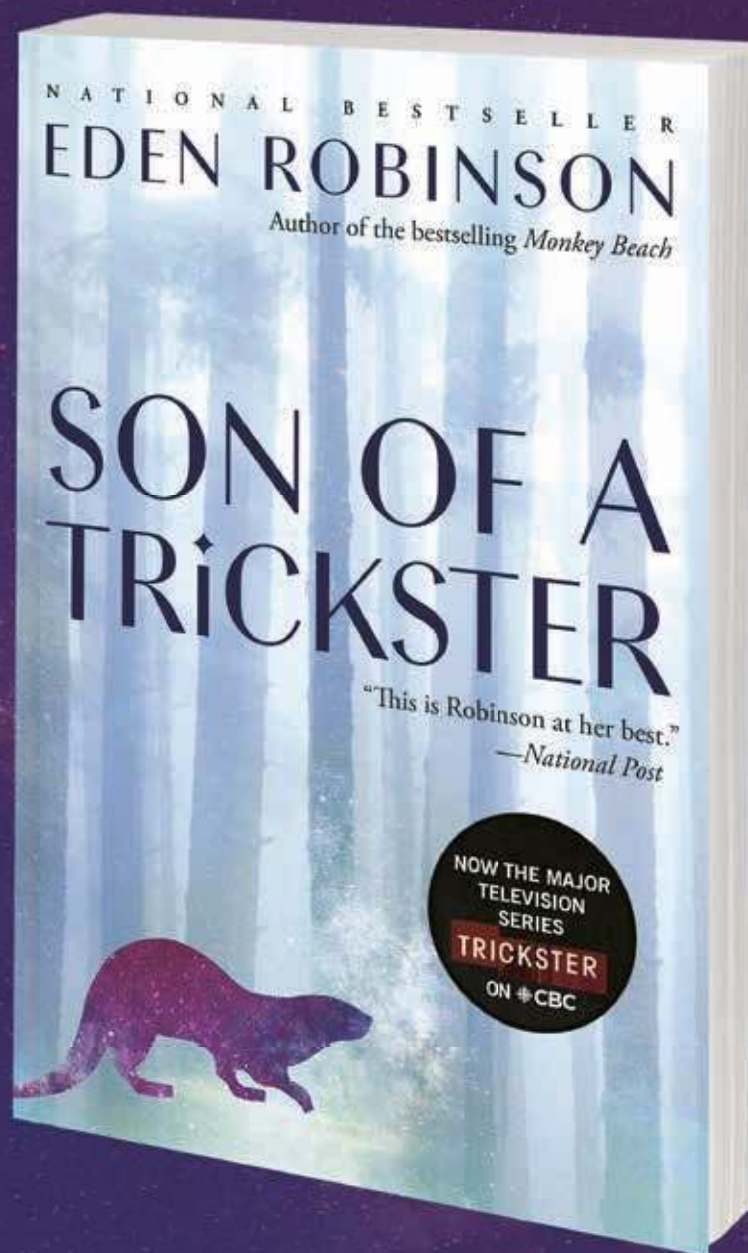
The site of the plant and the long-gone community is today part of Gowlland-Tod Provincial Park in the municipalities of Saanich and Central Saanich, and it’s registered as a Canadian Historic Place.

Remnants of the plant and its associated worker housing are eroding and overgrown with vegetation. The former footpaths once used by Chinese and other workers have been transformed into a trail system.

While Gray now lives in Ontario, he has never lost his fascination for his old stomping grounds, leading him to research and publish **Deep and Sheltered Waters: The History of Tod Inlet** (RBCM \$29.95). 978-0772672568

Read it before you see it!

Eden Robinson’s Giller-nominated, bestselling novel *SON OF A TRICKSTER* is now the major television series *TRICKSTER* on CBC.



Chinese workers on the B.C. portion of the CPR in 1883. They were paid a fraction of what non-Chinese workers received.

IMAGE D-07548 COURTESY OF THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

“My soul cries out”

The Diary of Dukesang Wong:
A Voice from Gold Mountain,
edited by David McIlwraith and
translated by Wanda Joy Hoe
(Talon \$18.95)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

The educated and erudite **Dukesang Wong** kept diaries, which have become the only known first-person accounts from a Chinese worker during the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, especially through B.C.’s perilous Fraser Canyon.

Some of Wong’s surviving diary entries have now been published in **The Diary of Dukesang Wong: A Voice from Gold Mountain**.

Wong started life as the entitled son of a magistrate of the Imperial Court of China upon his birth in 1845. But his family lost everything when his father was killed and the family reputation was mysteriously ruined.

Even though he had studied philosophy and history, Wong was reduced to wandering China to look for tutoring positions for ten years before being compelled to seek his fortune in ‘Gold Mountain,’ the nickname of the Chinese for western parts of North America that they believed to be a place of great prosperity. This perception was likely stoked by agents working in China for the Canadian transcontinental railway to lure Chinese workers with get-rich-quick schemes.

The reality for the tens of thousands of Chinese seeking work in North America would prove to be treacher-

ous, ill-paid labour and racism from white settlers. Having gotten over here, it often took years, if ever, for Chinese immigrants to save enough money to get back to their homeland once they realized what was in store for them

“For over three weeks we have been docked in the harbour of this new land, but we have not been able to set our feet upon the land,” wrote **Dukesang Wong** in 1880, a Chinese migrant on board a ship held up by Portland, Oregon authorities who said the newcomers might have diseases. “We who hold cleanliness so high and propriety so dear, to have the kinds of diseases that those white authorities say—it is totally unworthy of them. Left here in the squalor of this deck as if we are animals, even less than dogs!”

building railroads or doing other menial labour in Canada. But rebellion, famine and poverty continued to be common in China in the latter half of the nineteenth century, also making it difficult to return.

Chinese CPR workers, B.C.’s Rogers Pass, circa 1889. Virtually all Chinese labourers had to contend with poor housing and little food.



Wong describes working himself to exhaustion.

“My soul cries out,” Wong wrote after he made his way to B.C. and joined the Chinese railroad crews. “Many of our people have been so very ill for such a long time, and there has been no medicine nor good food to give them.

“There has been word among the employing company that we are not good workers and do not work enough for the schedules and plans of the railway owners. How does anyone work when so ill?”

Wong eventually saved enough to buy into a relatively prosperous tailoring business in New Westminster and later bring a wife, **Lin**, to Canada with whom he raised a family.

Wong’s last diary entry in the book is a happy one as he finally gets the daughter he yearned for after the birth of eight sons. “It is still the feast of the full moon,” he notes. “My fate now has provided a daughter, a precious eighth child, a great joy for all this house! Her brothers will know this goodness and take care of her, loving her. She has come in my old age, a joyous sign, and she will be able to bring me pride, I know! It is good. Her brothers are men now, so she will be assured a good life. She will look after Lin when I leave these lands for the final journey homeward.”

Dukesang Wong died in 1931.

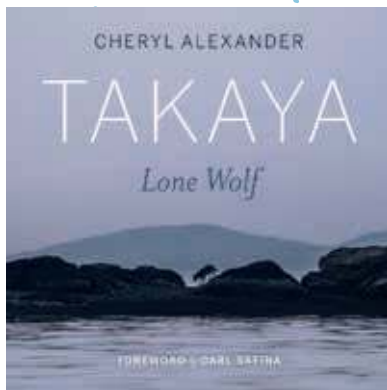
His diary entries were translated by his granddaughter, **Wanda Joy Hoe** (who used selections of Wong’s diaries for an undergraduate class at SFU in the mid-1960s). Commentary is provided by **David McIlwraith** for historical context.

Wanda Joy Hoe’s mother, **Elsie** was the much longed-for, and only daughter of Dukesang Wong. 978-1-77201-258-3

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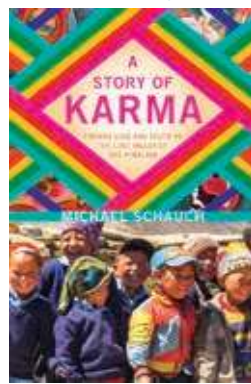
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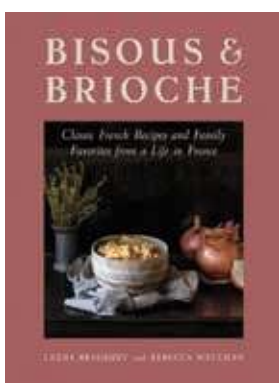
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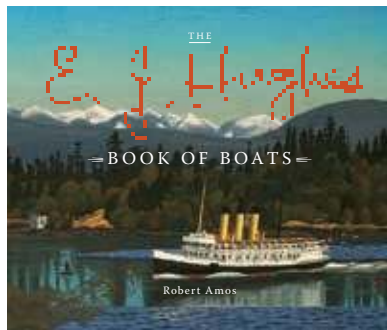
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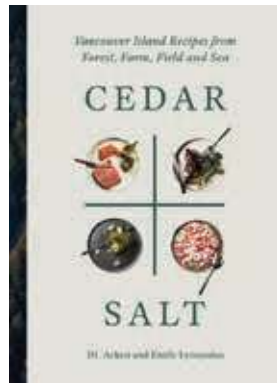
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DL Acken and Emily Lycopolus

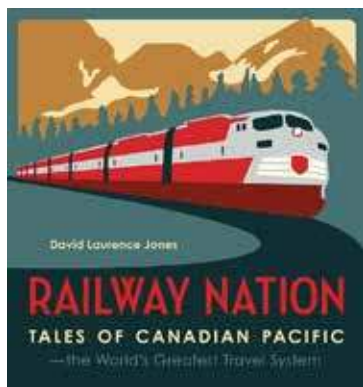
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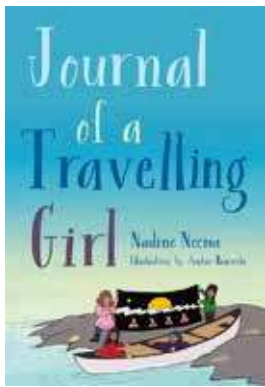
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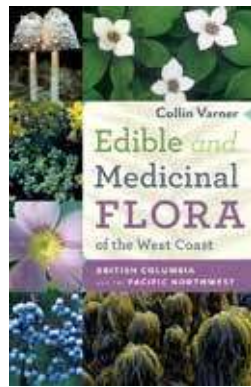


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Fool's Gold:
The Life and Legacy of Vancouver's
Official Town Fool by Jesse Donaldson
 (Anvil \$18)

It took 52 years before filmmaker **Aaron Sorkin** could re-create the counter-cultural turbulence of the Sixties for *The Trial of the Chicago 7*.

Thinking positively, perhaps some enterprising Canadian filmmaker can now finally have the jam and moola to make a movie about **Kim (Joachim) Foikis**, aka The Town Fool.

Former *Georgia Straight* theatre critic **Tom Shandel** had the smarts to make a documentary back in the day, *Superfool* (1968), but since then the mystery behind this pivotal figure in Canada's counter-cultural has been unexamined.

The Town Fool used to be famous—and loved—Canada-wide. **Jesse Donaldson** has done us a huge favour by cobbling together the best semblance of a biography that anyone could manage with **Fool's Gold: The Life and Legacy of Vancouver's Official Town Fool**.

The would-be movie, *The Fool's Journey*, could start with four men, all on their backs, on an expensive blue rug with Chinese designs in the Kitsilano home of UBC philosopher **Arthur Link** in 1966. They hold hands. Their four heads are touching. They have formed a cross. Each has swallowed 800mcg of LSD, eight times the amount normally used for an acid trip.

One man is a soft-spoken social worker, age 35, whose early boyhood was in Nazi Germany. He has degrees in theology and economics. He is studying for a third degree in library sciences at UBC. He has some serious troubles on this virgin voyage into psychedelia. He imagines his own crucifixion. Hours later, after losing himself, he regains his wits and announces, "I feel like a fool."

Foikis later claimed this acid trip "verified my natural mysticism" and after that "I get high on Mother Goose, not drugs." But the die was cast.

These details of Kim Foikis' transformative epiphany are supplied by Donaldson as he peripatetically traces the rise and fall of Foikis—a clever man who gained international notoriety but lost his wife and children in the bargain.

At 36, as a centennial project, Foikis applied to the City of Vancouver for a license for his tomfoolery. Only after some research did the would-be jester learn that fools were never civic employees. They were paid servants for royalty.

Well, Foikis hoped, he could break new ground. Such were the times. Vancouver was giving the world Greenpeace and a few years later a Western Front performance artist, **Vincent Trasov**, would officially run for mayor as Mr. Peanut, dressed as a gigantic peanut and endorsed by **William S. Burroughs**. (Trasov gained 2,685 votes.)

"I want to be a catalyst to the imagination," Foikis pronounced. "Instead of becoming a preacher, I decided to become a fool.... My plan is to contribute to the imagination explosion."



DRESSED IN TRADITIONAL, HANDMADE, red-and-blue fool's motley (two outfits were sewn by his wife—one to wear and

As a self-appointed Town Fool, **Kim Foikis** succeeded in his stated goals "to spread joy and confusion" and to "mock the four pillars of society: money, status, respectability, and conformity."

THE FOOL'S JOURNEY



Kim Foikis

one to wash), dispensing philosophy to adults and nursery rhymes to children, Foikis gained national attention when he received a \$3,500 Canada Council grant and declared himself Vancouver's official Town Fool on April Fools' Day, 1968, quitting his job in favour of fulltime folly.

Soon humourless right wingers such as Mayor **Tom Campbell** attacked the increasingly meddlesome philosopher/clown as a welfare bum. All the better. Foikis meddled with the status quo, mobilizing street parties in the Downtown Eastside, disrupting meetings and asking city council to adopt a new "Fool Tax" that would be one cent per ordinary citizen, and two cents per politician. In his banter, he easily humiliated *Vancouver Sun* gossip columnist **Jack Wasserman**.

Everyone's Fool but nobody's fool, he could blithely quote **William Blake**, **Shakespeare**, **Plato**, etc. He taught

a five-week course on fairy tales at UBC and gave talks on mythology at the Vancouver Art Gallery. He was invited to Essalen Institute at Big Sur, California, possibly rubbing shoulders with **Ravi Shankar** and The Beatles. (It is tempting to suggest Foikis might have influenced **Paul McCartney**'s song 'Fool on the Hill', but the lyrics were worked on between March and September of 1967 and it was George Harrison who was at Essalen in 1968, not Paul.)

Foikis had always been taken seriously by the press—he made great copy. But the same old act started to wear thin as Foikis worked harder to make himself a product of the times. His troubles began in 1969 when he totalled his jalopy in a Burnaby car accident. For transportation purposes, Foikis bought a pair of donkeys (Peter and Pan) and although they proved useful when he wanted to make a nui-

sance of himself—by driving a donkey-drawn wagon up Cambie Street at rush hour—they were financially draining.

Donkeys on the streets of Vancouver were illegal. After innumerable by-law fines, Foikis sold them for \$120—by which time he was broke. "Next year," he said, "maybe I'll get an elephant."

Initially his wife **Wendy** had supported his mission to ferret out folly as a latter-day Diogenes, but she became disenchanted when his travelling left her alone with their children, **Martin** and **Rebecca** for months on end—so she eventually left him, taking the children with her to England.

By the early 1970s, Foikis was an itinerant Fool, hanging out in Toronto's Rochdale, hitchhiking across Canada, squatting in a cabin on Bowen. We learn he last saw his wife and daughter in 1975.

Tracing the early days of a trickster is tricky. From Donaldson we learn Foikis was born in Poland in 1931 in a village near Auschwitz. At age four his mother took him to live in Berlin where she ran a toy shop. Originally, the Foikis family hailed from the Greek province of Phokis.

[It's not mentioned but, bizarrely, our Juan de Fuca Strait is named for the Greek-born mariner **Ioannis Phokas**, better known by the Spanish translation of his name, Juan de Fuca, who, in the service of the King of Spain, reputedly explored the waters that bear his name between Vancouver Island and the Olympic Peninsula before Juan Perez (1774) and James Cook (1778). A statue of Phokas/de Fuca, the possible 'discoverer' of B.C., was recently erected in Kefalonia, Greece.)

At age ten, Foikis had conformed and joined the Hitler Youth, but he recoiled at twelve when he first saw the deportment of Jews. Donaldson includes an unattributed quote from him: "I stopped saying Heil Hitler and dropped out of Hitler Youth and the Roman Catholic Church."

Tracing Foikis "self-imposed exile" on Lasqueti Island since 1975 has also proved confounding. Living without electricity and running water, he was apparently well-liked, garrulous and a good gardener until he left in 1989. He gravitated to a communal house in Esquimalt, reverting to his former life as an introverted bookworm.

In 2007, Joachim Foikis died tragically and foolishly in Victoria, at age 72. When he heard a band playing near the Parliament Buildings, he leapt onto a boardwalk wall above the Inner Harbour, started merrily dancing like the Fool of old, lost his footing and fell two storeys onto the rocks below. There was no obituary. His death went largely unreported until **Rod Mickleburgh** mentioned the accidental fall a month later in the *Globe & Mail*.

His could be a juicy role. A comic tragedy. Make of it what you will. As Donaldson wisely states at the outset, "There's a very good chance I'm misrepresenting Kim Foikis. But as far as I can tell, that would be okay with him."

Chronologically mixed-up but always lively, Donaldson's slim, vital bio is a godsend—more for accumulating what The Fool said, as much as for who he was.

"I want to be a mythic character," he told the filmmaker Tom Shandel, "and I want to create a legend—a Vancouver legend."

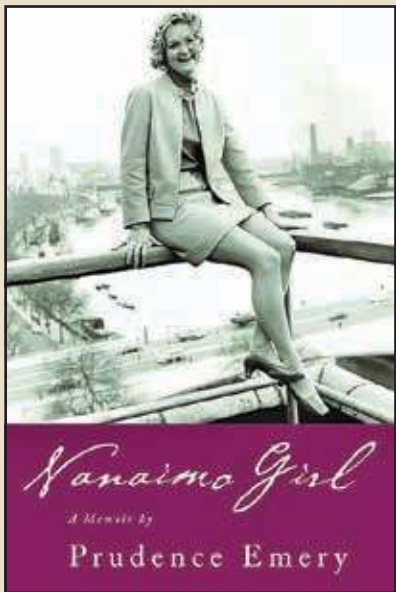
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• Obsession • Memoir • Protest • Art



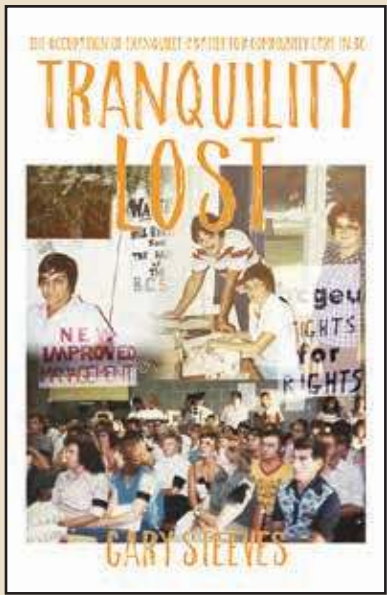
Primary Obsessions
by Charles Demers
(\$18.95 D&M)

Primary Obsessions is the first book in a series of mysteries starring Dr. Annick Boudreau and involving themes of mental health. Charles Demers (*above*) deftly reveals a particular aspect of psychology practice in each book, illuminating shadowy subject matter with masterful sensitivity and sharp wit. *Primary Obsessions* is an engrossing page-turner and a refreshing reboot of the sleuth genre.



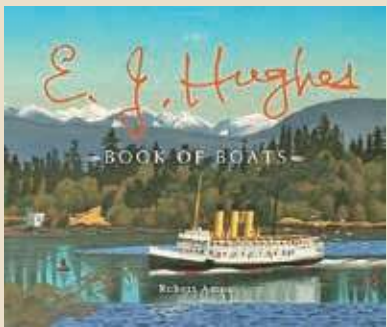
Nanaimo Girl
by Prudence Emery
(Cormorant Books \$24.95)

Nanaimo-born Prudence Emery’s memoir of life as a film publicist. She worked with major stars over the past 50 years and shares stories that are “funny, unusual and sexy, in that order.” Her life intersected with director David Cronenberg; a nervous Nicolas Cage; she chaperoned Ben Kingsley on a whirlwind trip to the Cannes Film Festival and she traded pants with Sophia Loren.



Tranquility Lost
by Gary Steeves
(Nightwood Editions \$21.95)

In 1983, the B.C. government announced plans to close Tranquille, a large residential institution for persons with intellectual disabilities located outside Kamloops. In response, BCGEU members occupied the institution by expelling management, running the institution themselves and publicly advocating for quality community care for people with intellectual disabilities. They did so for nearly a month. *Tranquility Lost* chronicles the political and policy conditions leading up to the occupation, and the courage of Tranquille employees.



The E. J. Hughes Book of Boats
by Robert Amos
(TouchWood Editions \$22)

Boat lovers of all ages and people who enjoy the scenery of B.C.’s coast will delight in this charming gift book. Readers get a fascinating look into the creative decision-making process of master painter E.J. Hughes (1913–2007), with never-before-seen photographs, preparatory sketches and water-colour studies accompanying paintings of some of the artist’s finest works depicting paddle wheelers, steamships, fishing boats and car ferries.

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Girls gone GLOBAL

Sigrid Hirte
and Renate
Belczyk in
Hokkaido,
Japan

How two young women biked, hitchhiked and drove scooters to travel the world in the 1950s.

Our Trip Around the World
by Renate Belczyk
(RMB \$22)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

As young girls growing up in Germany during WWII, **Renate Belczyk** and her childhood friend **Sigrid Hirte** dreamed of far off lands. They became fixated on travel and adventure, if only in their imaginations at first.

After the war, while still in their mid teens they began cycling around Europe. They started out relatively close to home with a cycling trip to Italy in 1948, spending their summer holiday on “ancient, prewar, one-gear bicycles” says Belczyk that they rode all the way from Frankfurt to Naples and back.

“Very few cars were on the road then and we had a wonderful time.”

They met few fellow travellers. “Very little travelling was done by anyone in those difficult years,” admits Belczyk. “Yet we were obsessed with seeing the world.”

In 1950, they listened to a speech by the German writer **Heinrich Böll** who urged his audience to travel to new countries and make friends. To do so, he argued, would help prevent another war. Belczyk and Hirte made a pact that day to do as much travelling as they could and worked to get visas and passports.

That summer they went to Switzerland, Italy and Austria cycling everywhere, pitching their tent in farmers’ fields and talking to people who frequently invited them home for meals.

“Often we had flat tires on our bikes and other problems, but somehow everything got solved.”

Eventually a bigger trip loomed, one

that would take them over continents and last three years from 1955–1958.

Now at the age of 88, Castlegar-based Belczyk recalls those travels in the days before globalization had begun homogenizing diverse cultures in her memoir, **Our Trip Around the World**.



PERHAPS BELCZYK AND HIRTE’S TRIP WOULD have started earlier, as in 1951 the two women went to England, hiring themselves out as nannies. Improving their English was as much on their minds as seeing England, Scotland and Ireland. They knew that learning new languages would be integral to their ambitions to travel the world. French and Spanish were next on their list.

This led them to France in the spring of 1953, this time with three-gear bicycles, “the latest in bike technology,” says Belczyk. “For eight months we bicycled all over the country and enjoyed the land and the people. Whenever we ran out of money, we worked: four weeks as chambermaids in a Paris hotel, another four weeks in Southern France during the wine harvest.” Their pay for picking grapes included a bottle of wine a day.

Working while travelling was to become a way of life. From France, the two spent the rest of the year cycling through Spain and Portugal. Africa was next on their ambitious adventure itinerary but they had to kibosh this part of the plan when Hirte’s mother fell ill and beckoned her home.

Back in Germany they kept reading adventure and travel books, and made plans to visit a new continent—North America—starting off in Mexico in 1955. This was to be the start of their three-year-long adventure taking the two young women to Canada, Japan, India, Nepal and other countries.

They went to Mexico as Hirte had relatives in Mexico City. It was a good

base and both got jobs quickly. They visited beach towns and small villages where handmade crafts were still very much in production. They also joined a mountaineering club and climbed several mountains, which at times proved to be dangerous expeditions.

But they loved Mexico and contemplated staying permanently. Belczyk had even received a marriage proposal, which she declined.

“We had to make up our minds whether to settle in Mexico (very tempting) or move on and see more of the world,” Belczyk says. “We decided on the latter and applied for visas to the United States and Canada.”

News that four of their mountaineering colleagues had died while climbing Mount Victoria in the Rocky Mountains

Holidays and widely credited with inventing heli-skiing. They returned to Montreal to work and save but came back to B.C. in the spring of 1957. Hans Moser directed them to Little Yoho campground in Yoho National Park where they hiked and skied to a mountain cabin (Stanley Mitchell Hut) that Moser was staying at with some clients he was guiding. Belczyk and Hirte spent six weeks in this backcountry skiing idyll.

Their next destination was Alaska but here they were stopped and prevented from going further because they didn’t have the right visas. Undeterred Belczyk and Hirte turned tail and caught a ride to Vancouver where, by chance, they met some Japanese sailors in the Vancouver Harbour. This



Sigrid Hirte and Renate Belczyk with their bicycles in Japan.



Sigrid Hirte and Renate Belczyk with a Shozo family in Haroizuma. Due to the unpaved and neglected roads in Japan, the duo had to constantly work on their bikes.



inspired them to head to Canada in order to place a memorial for their Mexican friends on the mount where they perished. Another deciding factor was that Hirte wasn’t able to get an American visa. Mishaps as well as fortunate circumstances were to influence where they travelled in the following two years.

The first Canadian stop was in Windsor, Ontario from where they departed for Montreal and cycled along the St. Lawrence River. When they didn’t ride their bikes, they hitchhiked, a common travelling method throughout the 50s, 60s and 70s.

“The people who gave us rides were all very friendly and almost all of them invited us for either a piece of pie or a hamburger,” says Belczyk. “I remember wondering, ‘Is there anything else to eat in this country?’”

They eventually hitchhiked to B.C. and hiked Mount Victoria to fulfill the memorial duty for their Mexican friends. They also met **Hans Moser**, at the time a mountaineering guide, but later founder of Canadian Mountain

meeting set them off on a detour to Japan where they rode bicycles around the main Islands of the country.

They soon become celebrities in the local media and were eventually offered motor scooters to aid them on their way.

Belczyk and Hirte used the scooters to drive across India, visiting remote Nepal and Bhutan en route. Camping wild and living simply, they took what looks today like big risks. They were fortunate also not to meet any major misadventures. Perhaps the times were less dangerous too, for as Belczyk recalls, they were for the most part, welcomed and helped by locals.

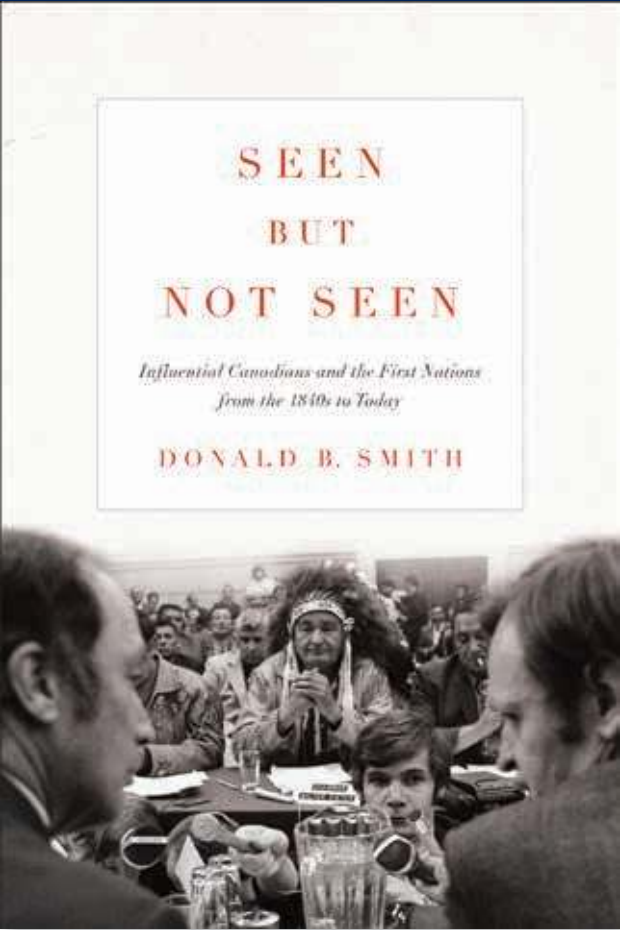
They wandered on foot through the Valley of the Kings in Egypt and drove their scooters through Turkey, across Macedonia and through the Balkans and finally, back to Germany in 1958.

Belczyk would return to B.C. to marry and raise a family. Hirte stayed in Germany but the two have remained lifelong friends.

Renata Belczyk is still skiing at the age of 88.

9781771603775

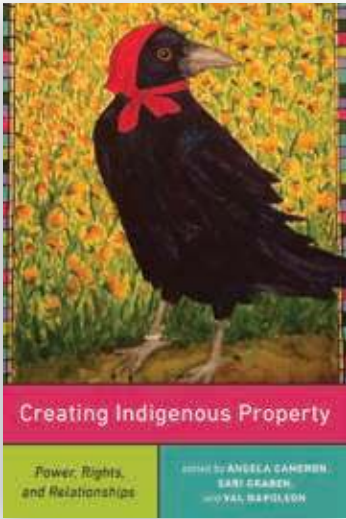
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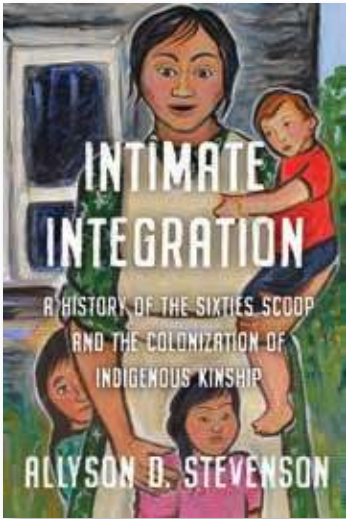
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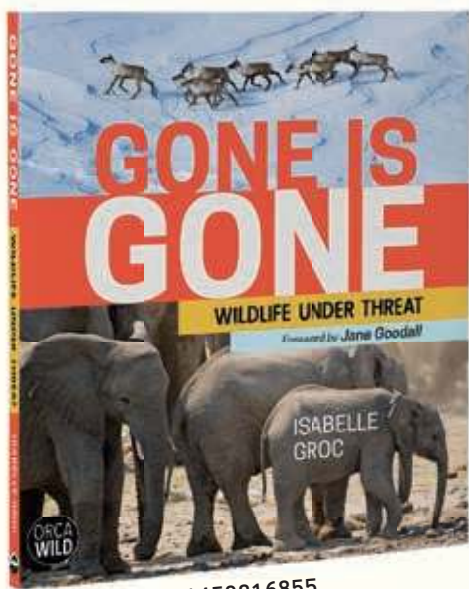
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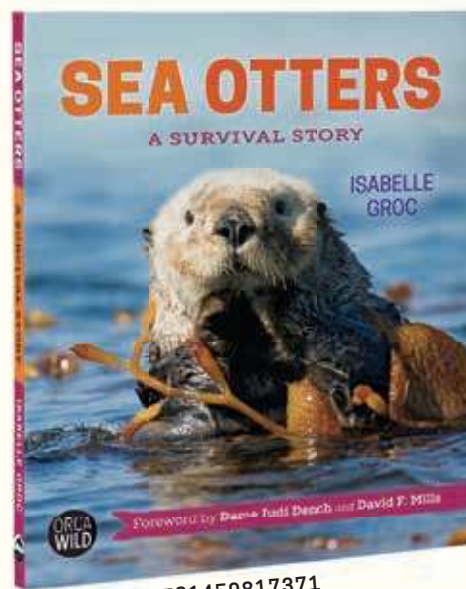
INTO THE WILD!



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FOREWORD BY
Dr. Jane Goodall



9781459817371

FOREWORD BY
Dame Judi Dench



“Isabelle Groc has done a great service for young people and our natural world by writing this book. She describes the threat to our planet’s wildlife in a way that stresses the urgency of the situation we face today, providing scientific information but also describing, in a way that reaches the heart, the beauty that is vanishing.

Every single individual makes an impact on the planet—every single day. And we humans can choose what sort of impact we make. Isabelle’s most important and lasting message is also the most resonant: if human behavior is the cause of the wildlife crisis, it can also be the solution. Remember that you are not alone and that together we can save precious species. To which I would add: we can and we *MUST*. Before it is too late.”

—**Jane Goodall, PhD**
DBE Founder, Jane Goodall Institute
and United Nations Messenger of Peace

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—**Dame Judi Dench**
Dame Commander of the Order of the
British Empire and fan of sea otters

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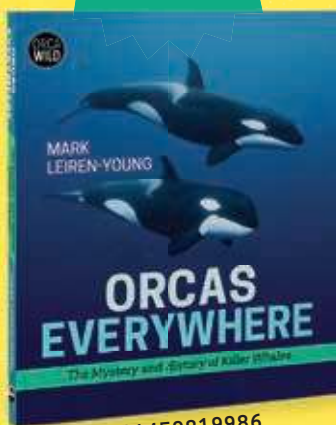
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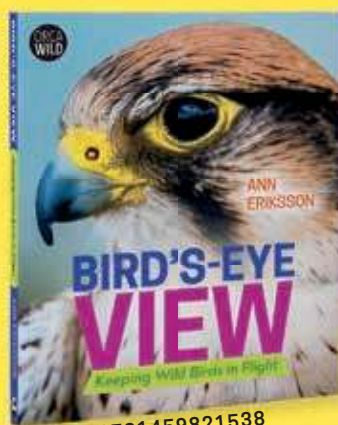
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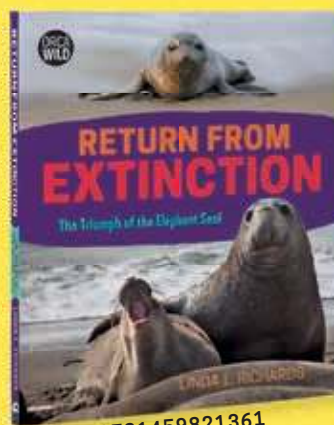
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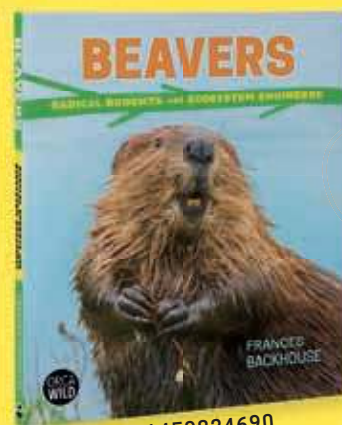
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COMING
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2021



Cataline: The Life of BC's Legendary Packer by Susan Smith-Josephy
with Irene Bjerky (Caitlin Press \$22.95)

BY MARK FORSYTHE

Irene Bjerky, C'eyxkn, has been chasing down morsels of information about her family's connections to the famous British Columbia packer, **Jean Caux**, aka "Cataline" since the early 1970s. Bjerky worked around the province as a boilermaker and commercial fisher, sometimes in the same places Cataline had led his mule pack trains 150 years earlier. He crisscrossed the province, fathering two children with Bjerky's great-great grandmother, **Amelia York**, C'eyxkn, a noted basket weaver living at Spuzum. Another child from a different relationship was later born at the opposite end of the province near Telegraph Creek.



Irene Bjerky, C'eyxkn is a descendant of N'Laka'pamux Spuzum basketmakers and a member of Yale First Nation community.

Bjerky connected with Quesnel writer and genealogist **Susan Smith-Josephy** who did research in museums, archives, ships' manifests, min-

ers' licenses, newspapers and used oral history interviews conducted by CBC's **Imbert Orchard**. Seven years later, a more complete portrait of the man comes together in **Cataline: The Life of BC's Legendary Packer**.

Smith-Josephy's prose is clear and crisp—and she knows an entertaining anecdote when she finds one. Cataline's friend, Constable **Sperry Cline** recounted when Cataline first met Judge **Matthew Bailey Begbie** near Yale: "Judge Begbie was coming up the river dispensing justice in the various camps...The newly arrived packers were asked which side they would support. Cataline coolly drew a long Mexican knife from his boot and answered, 'I standa by judge!'"



PRINCE RUPERT CITY & REGIONAL ARCHIVES PHOTO

Pack mule trains carrying supplies north were charged tolls (for each mule) in order to finance the continued construction of roads and trails.

Judge Begbie later returned the favour by declaring Cataline a naturalized Canadian citizen.



BORN IN THE FRENCH REGION OF BEARN in the Pyrenees Mountains near the Spanish border, Jean Caux arrived in British Columbia in 1858 during the frenzy of the Fraser River gold rush. He spoke a jumble of languages: Bearnese, Mexican, Scots, Chinook, Irish, French, Chinese and English. One story has him swearing "with great dexterity" in

seven languages.

He had learned how to be a packer from Mexicans when he landed in California as a 19-year old. On the Fraser River, he soon realized it was more profitable to be a packer than to compete with thousands of gold-panners. He began working for packing outfits and by 1862, had started his own.

Jean Caux cut an impressive figure—broad-shouldered and strong, with a peculiar habit of rubbing rum or whiskey into his shoulder-length,



Susan Smith-Josephy

employees' wages and expenses in his head and at the end of each season would settle up to the dollar. Cataline built one of the biggest and most dependable packing outfits in the province; his 54 years of bone-crunching journeys parallel the development of modern British Columbia at its mining camps, telegraph lines, Hudson's Bay Company posts, CPR and Grand Trunk railroad construction camps and settlers who were fanning out across the wilderness.

continued on page 13

Mule Skinner Hero

Over 54 bone-crunching years, starting in 1858, **Cataline** built one of the biggest and most dependable packing outfits in the province.

Cataline (standing) was known for his preference of hiring men of Indigenous and Chinese descent for his crew, many of whom went on to purchase animals and start their own pack trains under his leadership.

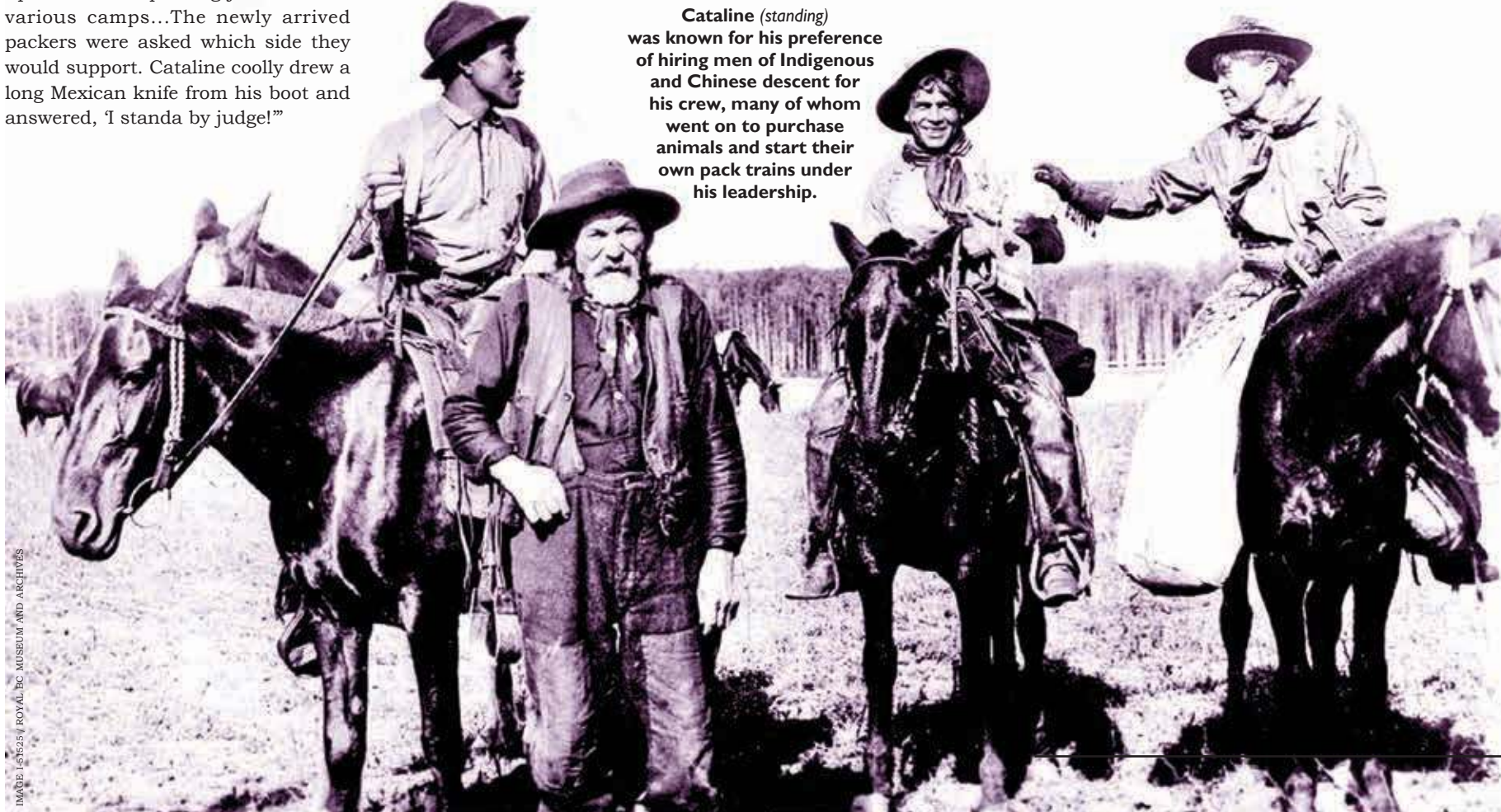
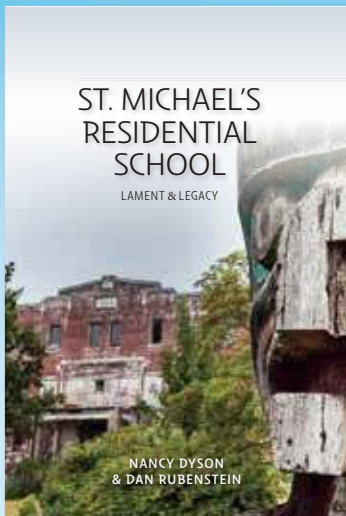


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Nancy Dyson & Dan Rubenstein

One of the very few accounts of life in a residential school by caregivers (Nancy Dyson and Dan Rubenstein) who witness the shocking discipline, poor food and harsh punishment for the children's use of their native language. When they reported the conditions of St. Michael's Residential School to Government officials, they were both fired. With 30 photos.

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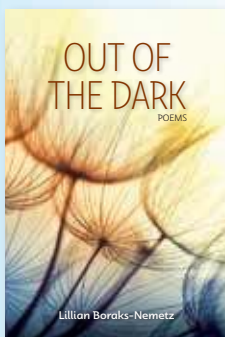


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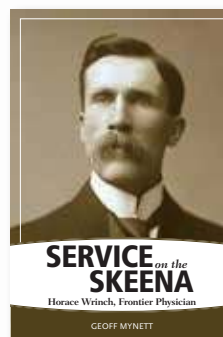


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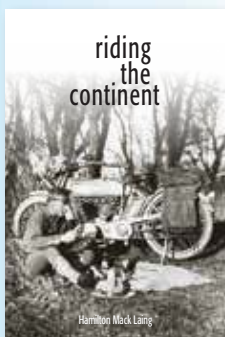


Service on the Skeena

Geoff Mynett

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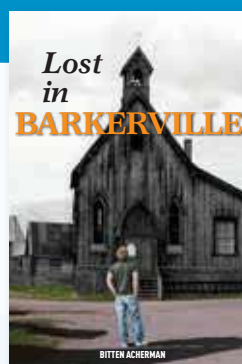


The Girl of Newgate Prison

David Starr

Libby has been sent to Newgate Prison for helping her brother when he defended her from an assault by a Peer of the Realm. She now faces the noose but is saved by the great prison reformer, Elizabeth Fry.

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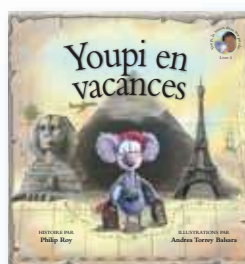


Lost in Barkerville

Bitten Acherman

Zach, Kyle and their eccentric teacher are transported back to 1866 at the height of the Cariboo gold rush in Barkerville. They have to save their friend Theo from hanging at the hands of Judge Matthew Begbie.

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Philip Roy & Andrea Torrey Balsara

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From Chuck to Eve

Vancouver Exposed:
Searching for the City's Hidden History
 by Eve Lazarus (Arsenal Pulp \$32.95)

Chuck Davis would have loved and devoured Eve Lazarus' **Vancouver Exposed: Searching for the City's Hidden History**. This is not another predictable re-hash of stories and anecdotes gleaned from Davis, the city's master gatherer who gave us *The Vancouver Book* (1976) and *The Greater Vancouver Book* (1997).

Instead Lazarus has done her own sleuthing, aided and abetted by internet informants and generous peers such as **John Atkin, Michael Kluckner** and **John Carter**.

The result is a potpourri of forgotten art works, eccentric museums, oddball houses, dismantled architectural gems, and a belly-flop contest, as Lazarus explores Vancouver's neighbourhoods with equal measures of humour and pathos.

Highlights include: Vancouver's first horse race was held on a downtown street in 1887; Vancouverites drove on the left-hand side of the road until January 1, 1922—one of the last areas in Canada to change over; the rundown Regent Hotel in the Downtown Eastside was a ritzy place when it opened a century ago; Vancouver's first hospital was located on West Pender Street between Cambie and Beatty; Canada's first gas station opened at the corner of Cambie and Smithe in 1907 (when there were only 2,131 cars registered in the entire country); the VanTan Nudist Club, founded in 1939, is still operational; and stonemason **Jimmy Cunningham** who de-

voted 32 years of his life building the seawall, didn't live to see it finished when he died in 1963.

Yes, there is, arguably, some filler material, and well-known figures like Trinidad-born **Joe Fortes**, Vancouver's first official lifeguard. But even long-time Vancouver history buffs cannot fail to be impressed by Lazarus' blend of the bizarre, the hidden, the destroyed and the over-looked.

Vancouver Exposed is exemplary popular history, so much so that it succeeds in being disturbing. It's more proof that Vancouver, as captured by photographer **Fred Herzog** and celebrated by Chuck Davis, has always been an interesting place.

978-1-55152-829-8



Joe Fortes in front of his cabin at the foot of Bidwell Street, ca. 1910. Photo colourized by Mark Truelove, Canadian Colour.



Memorial statue of Cataline with a horse is located at the visitors' centre in New Hazelton.

Pack train

continued from page 11

Cataline went wherever the work was, on a diet of bannock, beans, deer, rabbit, squirrel and sometimes weeds that he called, "gooda' lettuce." As gold rushes pushed northward, he ventured deeper into the Interior. Before the wagon roads, it could take a month to pack from Yale into the Cariboo on trails established by Indigenous peoples.

It's difficult to truly fathom the distances travelled in often harsh conditions (maps would be a welcome addition in this book). While returning from the Omineca Country it was so cold he lost half of his animals. But Cataline recovered and eventually his packing trade took him to the far north, servicing the Yukon Telegraph and Klondike gold rush.

Cataline was also clever. Once, he had horse shoes removed from a mule loaded with eggs. "He walk easy, just like a cat."

Smith-Josephy has a fascination with people who traverse vast landscapes. Her first book *Lillian Alling: The Journey Home* (Caitlin, 2011) focused on a woman who walked from New York to Alaska during a four-year quest to return to her Eastern European home. *Cataline: The Life of BC's Legendary Packer* has swiftly found its way onto the B.C. Best Sellers List because British Columbians are keen to soak up compelling stories about the people and events that form the DNA of this province.

Given the vast territory that Cataline covered and his "fair, honest and reliable" reputation, it's no surprise a school is named after him in Williams Lake, a creek in the Central Interior, a motel, and at least one rodeo horse. A statue of the famous packer stands beside the highway in New Hazelton where he retired in 1913.

A poor businessman who was, "too generous with friends and crew," Cataline died at the age of 84 with no savings in 1922.

9781773860244

Mark Forsythe is co-author with Greg Dickson of *From the West Coast to the Western Front* (Harbour, 2014).

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**Magdalena:
River of Dreams**
by **Wade Davis** (Knopf \$39.95)

BY **IZABELLA ALMASI**



World-renowned as a *National Geographic* explorer and author, anthropologist **Wade Davis** of UBC made international headlines

in 2020 when he published an article in *Rolling Stone* titled “How Covid-19 Signals the End of the American Era.” According to the CBC, that article made nearly 10 million impressions on social media within a week of publication.

Characterizing **Donald Trump** as a symptom of a great decline, Davis told the B.C.-based *Skaana* podcast in October, “When you look at Americans who deny the science, who deliberately ignore the advice of the medical authorities, who in masses go to beaches and conventions and bars, they think they’re flaunting their strength in their freedom. They’re actually showing the weakness of a people that lack the stoicism to endure the pandemic or the fortitude to defeat it.”

As someone who specializes in the study of human culture, Davis knows that the types of challenges we are facing are not uncommon or unheard of in humanity’s history. In fact, humans tend to repeat ourselves.

“The fluidity of memory and our capacity to forget is the most haunting trait of our species,” says Davis. “That’s how we’re able to adapt to almost any degree of environmental or even moral degradation.”

Having released his newest book, *Magdalena*, in the spring, Davis felt he had to share his thoughts on America before the U.S. 2020 election.

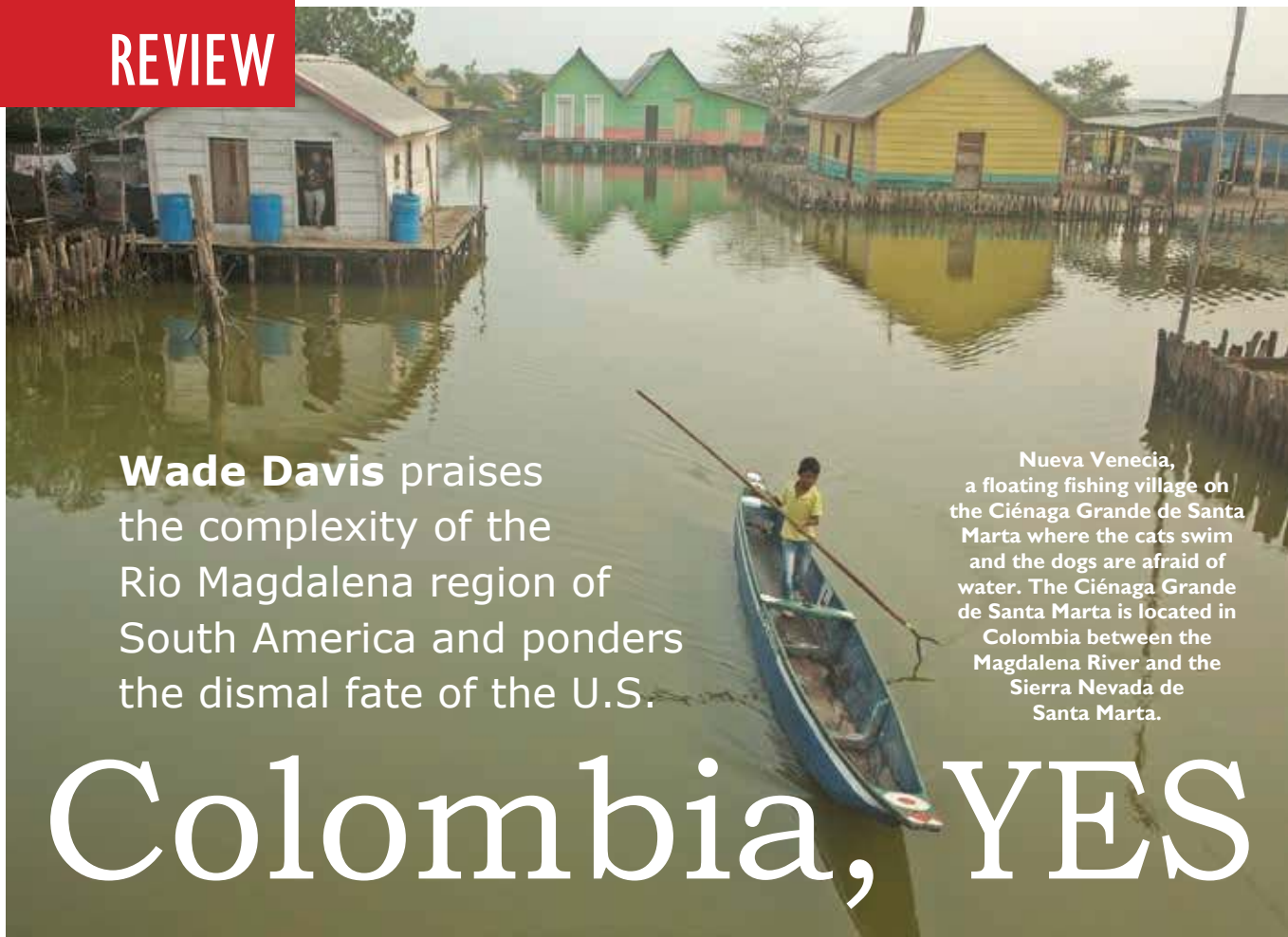
“I travel always in pursuit of stories. I’m a storyteller. And, for me, research in the field has always been wondrous, but so too has been research in libraries and archives,” he says. “COVID is not a story of medicine. It’s not a story of morbidity and mortality. It’s a story of culture. America was the land of **Walt Whitman** and the Grateful Dead. **Abraham Lincoln** couldn’t tell a lie. Then they had a president who couldn’t recognize the truth.”

Calling Donald Trump “a dark troll of a buffoon,” someone who advocated for malice towards all and charity for none, Davis believes the American people have much work to do if they want to maintain their country’s status and legacy.

“I think mercifully the vast majority of Americans, good and decent people, recognize that Trump has been a disaster for the reputation of America as a global power and as inspiration to the world.”

The self-centred USA can still repair itself to create a positive vision for the future. “I’m always optimistic because I think pessimism is an indulgence and despair is an insult to the imagination, just like orthodoxy is the enemy of invention,” says Davis.

“If Americans don’t find, as Lincoln said ‘the better angels of nature’... if instead they’re not able to find some path of forgiveness to embrace people



Wade Davis praises the complexity of the Rio Magdalena region of South America and ponders the dismal fate of the U.S.

Nueva Venecia, a floating fishing village on the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta where the cats swim and the dogs are afraid of water. The Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta is located in Colombia between the Magdalena River and the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

Colombia, YES

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, NO THANKS

of other backgrounds, and if they don’t have any sense of a greater common good, a nation to serve and not just with flag-wrap patriotism...If the American people can’t find their way back to that, then this really will be the end of the American era.”



BY CONTRAST, IN HIS HISTORICAL TRAVELOGUE, **Magdalena: River of Dreams**, Wade Davis is exultant in his praise for the vibrancy and diversity of Colombia, a formerly terror-ridden country which has been re-born in recent decades.

Davis illuminates that country’s complex past, present and future while describing his escapades along the country’s main artery, Rio Magdalena. Four out of five Colombians live within its drainage system. Like the Mississippi, it’s a corridor for both commerce and culture.

Two previous journeys enabled Davis to survey its web of connecting waterways; two more trips concentrated on the “Medio Magdalena” and the musical traditions of the lower river and the Caribbean coastal plain.

A fifth adventure returned him to Arhuaco *mamos*, visiting “old friends from my time in the Sierra Nevada, as we returned to Bocas de Ceniza to make ritual payments at the mouth of the river, even as the streets of Barranquilla erupted all around us with the magic and joy of Carnaval.”

Although the river is essential for 80 percent of Colombia’s wealth, Davis looks deeper as a cultural anthropologist and concentrates on the river as the well-spring of Colombian music, literature, poetry and prayer.

“In dark times, it has served as the graveyard of the nation, a slurry of the shapeless dead. And yet always, it returns as a river of life. Through all the years of the worst of the violence, the Magdalena never abandoned the people. It always flowed.

“Perhaps, as this book suggests, it may finally be time to give back to

the river, allowing the Magdalena to be cleansed of all that has soiled its waters. Colombia as a nation is the gift of the river. The Magdalena is the story of Colombia.”

Davis cites a short story by **Jorge Luis Borges** in which a European woman asks a professor from Bogotá what it means to be Colombian. The man hesitates before replying, “I don’t know. It is an act of faith.”

Magdalena is also an act of faith; a kaleidoscopic melding of history and journalism to fuel hope and redemption. According to Davis, the magic



Wade Davis explored the Magdalena River in Colombia to celebrate its ties to Colombian culture, history and ecology. He was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 2016 and an Honorary Citizen of Colombia in 2018.

realism of **Gabriel García Márquez**, is a natural representation of the country’s vibrancy and wondrous diversity.

“Gabriel García Márquez wrote of what he saw. He was an observer, a practicing journalist for most of his life, who just happened to live in a land where heaven and earth converge on a regular basis to reveal glimpses of the divine.”

Though Davis bemoans the degradation of American culture as evidenced by the bizarre ascension of a liar and a cheat, *Magdalena* is his rhapsodic love letter to a country of resplendent revival.

“Only in Colombia can a traveler wash ashore in a coastal desert, follow waterways through wetlands as wide as the sky, ascend narrow tracks through dense tropical forests, and reach in a

week Andean valleys as gently verdant as the softest temperate landscapes of the Old World. No place in Colombia is more than a day removed from every natural habitat to be found on earth. Cities as cultured as any in the Americas were for most of their history linked one to another by trails traveled only by mules.

“Over time, the wild and impossible geography found its perfect coefficient in the topography of the Colombian spirit: restive, potent, at times placid and calm, in moments tortured and twisted, like a mountain that shakes, crumbles, and slips to the sea. Magic becomes the antidote to fear and uncertainty. Reality comes into focus through the reassuring lens of the phantasmagoric.”

In 2014, Davis was invited to Bogotá by **Héctor Rincón** and **Ana Cano**, acclaimed journalists from Medellín, to help promote the Amazon volume of their series *Savia Botánica*. With the backing of Grupo Argos, one of Colombia’s most prominent corporations, they had assembled teams of botanists, photographers, and journalists to survey the five major regions of Colombia with the goal of producing an

elegant illustrated book on each—the Llanos, Amazonas, Chocó, the Caribbean coast, and the Andean Cordilleras. These *Savia Botánica* volumes were not to be sold, but gifted as complete sets to every library in the country, all with the goal of sending a message to a new generation of young Colombians that theirs was not a land of violence and drugs, but rather a place of unparalleled natural wealth and beauty, home to, among many wonders, more species of birds than any other country in the world. Five years in the making, Davis’ 20th book, *Magdalena: River of Dreams*, is an outgrowth of that well-funded series.

978-0-7352-7892-9

Izabella Almasi is a Victoria freelance writer who works for Mark Leiren-Young’s Skaana podcast.

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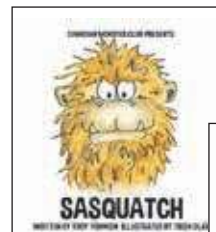
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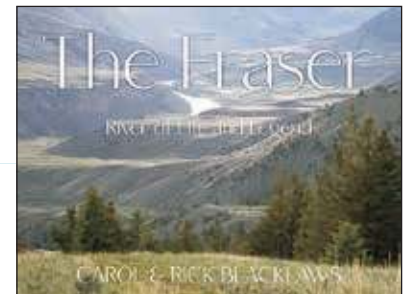


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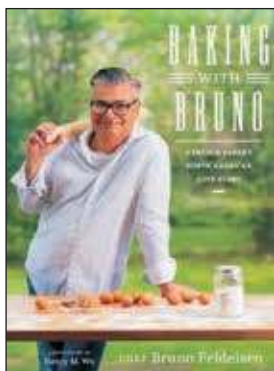
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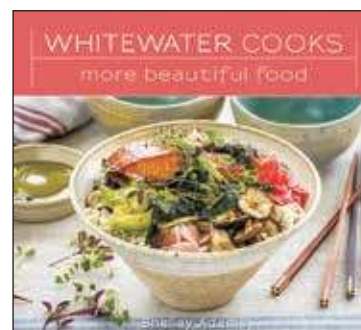
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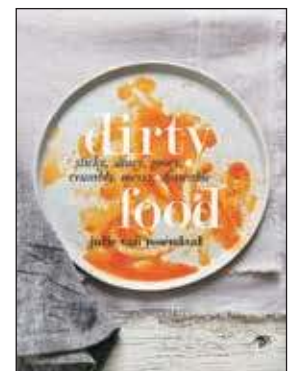
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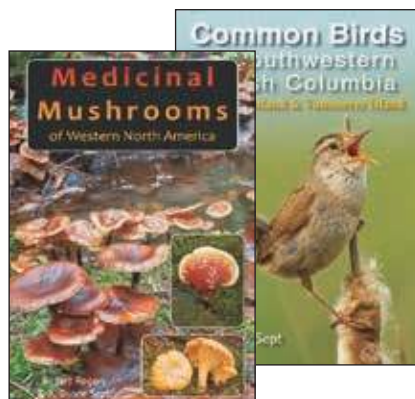
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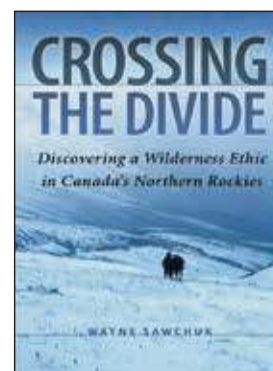
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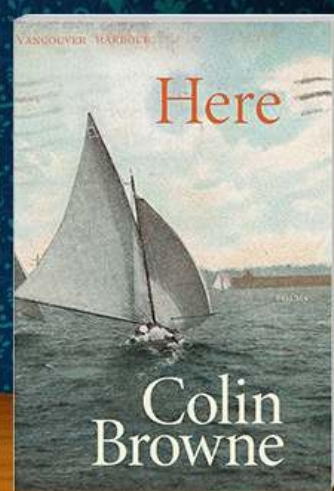
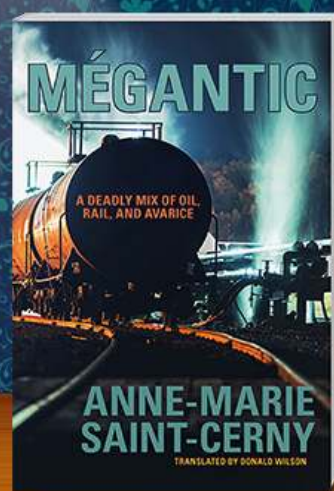
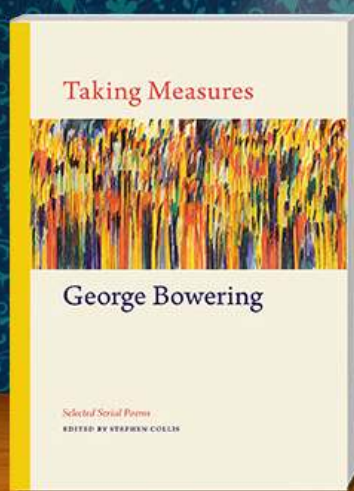
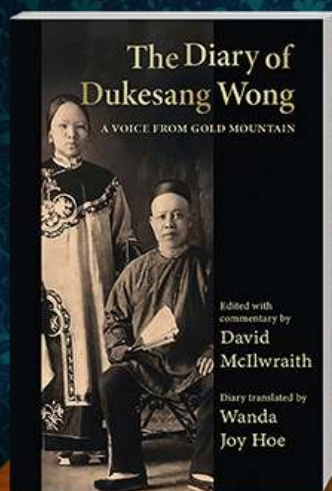


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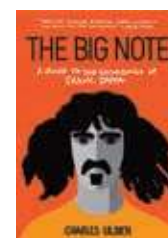
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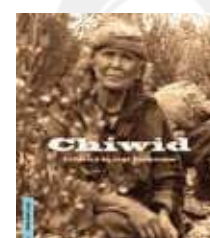
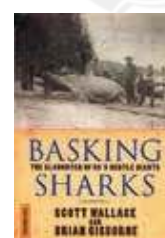
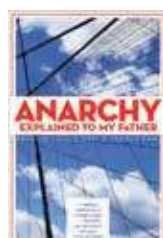
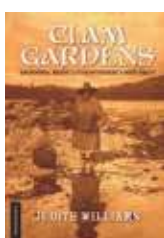
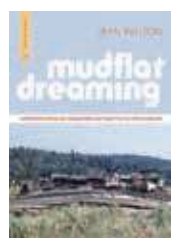
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MUSICOLOGY REVIEW

To Impersonate the Supernatural: Music, Ceremony and Culture of the Bella Bella by Anton Frederik Kolstee
(Granville Island Publishing \$24.95)

BY ALEXANDER VARTY

To Impersonate the Supernatural, Anton Frederik Kolstee's ground-breaking study of the "music, ceremony and culture of the Bella Bella," is also his PhD dissertation.

Long in process, Kolstee's small tome is a work of devoted scholarship—his University of Illinois thesis was successfully defended in 1988—and it offers a comprehensive analysis of what is arguably the most influential branch of Indigenous music from British Columbia's Northwest Coast. But with its discussion of strophic song, home tones and pitch hierarchy, much of its second half will be incomprehensible to anyone without advanced training in musicology. Complicating matters is the absence of recorded examples, whether offered on an included CD or via an online link.

Of course, to say that *To Impersonate the Supernatural* is dry, careful and scientific in its approach is also to say that it's intensively researched, reasoned and blessedly unromantic. Such dualities abound here. If Kolstee doesn't give recorded examples of the music of the Heiltsuk, it's because that nation protects its cultural trea-



COVER ART OF TO IMPERSONATE THE SUPERNATURAL

The musical culture of the Bella Bella is one part of a sophisticated multimedia artform in which music, dance, theatre, sculpture, regalia and story are intrinsically intertwined.

asures from easy digital dissemination and believes that specific families or individuals own the rights to specific songs. If he for the most part refrains from translating Heiltsuk lyrics, it's probably because he knows he's not linguistically equipped to do justice to Heiltsuk cosmology. If he describes form but doesn't interpret content, that's a sign of respect. Despite having done first-hand research in Bella

Bella and its environs, he knows he's an outsider looking in, and confines himself primarily to structural rather than social analysis.

Where *To Impersonate the Supernatural* will be most valuable to the everyday reader comes when it deviates from scientific methodology and delves into cultural history. In his book's first half, Kolstee situates his research within the wider context of 20th-and

late-19th-century anthropology. A fascinating if compressed account of how early ethnologists such as **Franz Boas, Edward Curtis** and **Marius Barbeau** represented and misrepresented Northwest Coast culture leads into a discussion of how music fits into Indigenous ceremony today. Kolstee makes the valuable point that—in its ceremonial role, at least—song is but one part of a sophisticated multimedia artform in which music, dance, theatre, sculpture, regalia and story are intrinsically intertwined. And while he again resists definitive interpretation, he stresses that the 'Cáiq̓a and Auláxa ritual cycles of the Heiltsuk are patterned after seasonal cycles of death, transfiguration and rebirth, and hints that if these operate on a specifically local level—such as the end of the fall berry harvest or the springtime coming of the herring—they also reflect a larger, perhaps even cosmic, sense of scale.

There's much more work to be done in these areas, of course, and it's important to point out that Kolstee began his research in 1978, when he spent a year as a music teacher in the Bella Bella school system. That was a very different era in terms of Indigenous empowerment, scholarship and cultural regeneration, and what it tells us is that while *To Impersonate the Supernatural* is an important publication, it's now time for Northwest Coast ceremonial practices to be assessed from within, by scholars of Indigenous descent. That's almost certainly being done as of this writing, so let's hope that their findings don't take 30-plus years to come to light!

978-1-926991-14-6

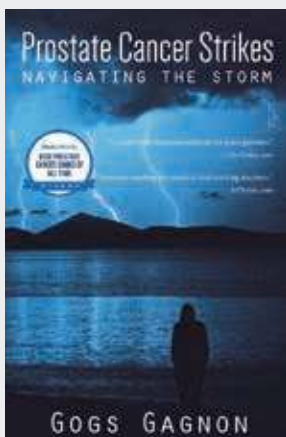
Alexander Varty is an immigrant musician and writer living on unceded Snuneymuxw territory.



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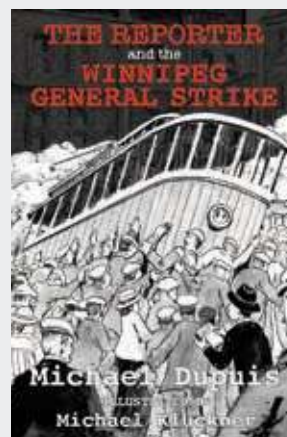
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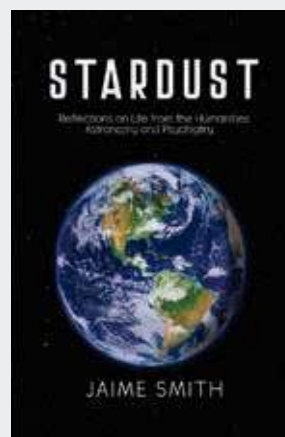
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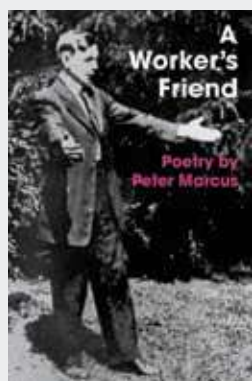
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Illust. by Michael Kluckner
"A must-read." Hassan Yussuf, President, Cdn. Labour Congress



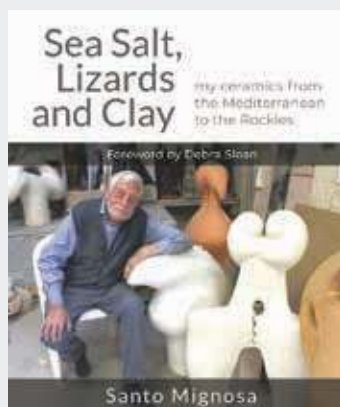
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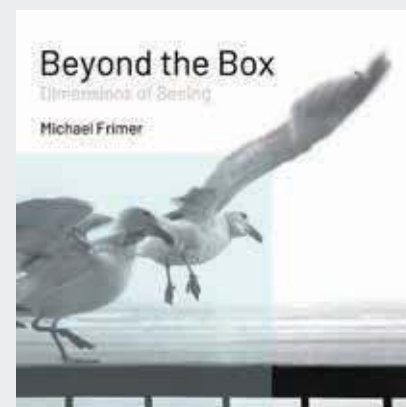
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FOUR UMBRELLAS & MEMOIR

**Four Umbrellas:
A Couple's Journey Into
Young-Onset Alzheimer's**
by June Hutton & Tony Wanless
(Dundurn \$21.99)

EXCERPT

At the centre of this story is one of the smartest people I know, a journalist named Tony Wanless.

Many of us claim to be better in one area of learning than another, at reading and writing, for instance, than at math and science, or vice versa. You can see my own bias in the way I ordered that sentence.

Tony, however, was one of those rare individuals who was accomplished in both areas. He excelled in Latin and algebra, in science and the arts; he skipped a grade in high school. He had the sort of mind that easily grasped foreign languages, a skill due in part to the fact that he was born in the Netherlands where his family spoke Dutch.

Tony was a toddler when they moved to Canada, and while he studied French at school, it was English that became the language used at home. His facility with language would become his greatest strength, leading him away from studies in engineering to a career in journalism.

Despite his talent and accomplishments, he has suffered from depression all his life. Perhaps, given his difficult family history, this isn't so surprising. Tony says his father had a

seven years before he was properly diagnosed, **Tony Wanless** jammed four umbrellas into his suitcase for a trip. It was one of the early signs of his cognitive looping. He and his wife **June Hutton** starting probing the past and finding answers.

By the time he was fifty-three, Tony Wanless had to walk away from his career as a Vancouver journalist. At forty-eight, June Hutton, a novelist and journalist, had to leave behind the life they had known and learn to cope with his Young-Onset Alzheimer's.

The two decided to write a chronicle of the developing disease and how it impacted their lives, each contributing sections in their own words. "The big push behind this book was to make room on the page for the voice of the person with the disease," says Hutton.

The set-up was for Wanless to email Hutton his thoughts and memories and she would then weave his writing into the story.

Here are excerpts from **Four Umbrellas: A Couple's Journey Into Young-Onset Alzheimer's**. 978-1-45974-779-1

temper and, within a couple of years of their arrival, unhappy to be working in Dutch farming communities in Ontario, he hatched a plan to rob a credit union. Tony's mother worked nights as a cleaner for the credit union, and he wanted her to let him in. She refused and threatened to expose him. He beat her unconscious in front of

the children, and he was subsequently deported, not for the beating, but for the planned robbery. She raised three children on her own, which couldn't have been easy. When she remarried, to a Chatham resident of British background named Lyle Wanless, Tony traded his long Dutch birth name, Antonius Josefus Franciscus Stephanos

Tony Wanless and June Hutton met as Pacific Press journalists in Vancouver—he shares her byline in their story of coping with Young-Onset Alzheimer's.

Maria Versteeg, for an English one: Tony Wanless.



DURING THE FIRST YEARS OF OUR MARRIED life, I would call out questions to Tony, such as, How do you spell this? Or, Who ran the country during the Forties? Or, When were antibiotics discovered? This was lazy of me, I admit. My reasoning, however, was simple: Why should I look things up when I knew he would have the answers right there in his head? Tony read voraciously; he soaked up words and information.

When did all that change? Certainly, there is no denying that it did.

On that spring day in 2018, we arrive, and just in time, at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health at the University of British Columbia hospital in Vancouver.

We approach the building with its magnificent windows of etched glass, patterns of brain cells that look astonishingly like the tentacles of an octopus, and Tony asks me again, What are we here for?

I repeat what I had said at home as well as on the way over, that we are here to see the neurologist, and to get the test results.

Have I met him before?

I assure him we both have, and Tony nods.

We have a good idea what this neurologist will tell us. Even so, we need to hear it from him.

It shouldn't have taken so long.

June Hutton began to suspect something was amiss when Tony put out his cigars in a potted plant with peat moss that started a small “bogfire.” Another time he closed a barbecue cover without turning off the elements, melting the cover until it sealed the unit inside. She would find lettuce in the freezer or dental floss in the fridge. Once, the toaster was wedged into the microwave oven.



FROM AS EARLY AS 2011, TONY HAD BEEN growing increasingly forgetful and confused. The bright mind that had skipped a grade and excelled at Latin and algebra was failing him.

He had a fall, and I suspected a stroke. There were computed tomography (CT) scans and other scans, all showing nothing. There were doctors’ appointments and memory tests, such as the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA), often with long stretches of time between them, which had led to the observation that he had mild cognitive impairment, or MCI.



IN ONE OF HIS EARLIEST EMAILS TO ME IN 2017, Tony still refused to believe, de-

the current for a bit – a nice, stress-free feeling, by the way. This also meant it became increasingly difficult to work, which meant I was constantly looking for distraction, i.e., computer, talking with Husein, who shared the office with me and eventually stopped coming in). Of course, this also led to depression (which probably increased the problem) because business and many other things were failing. My research tells me this is common with MCI (although it has to be gleaned from all the chaff about Alzheimer’s, which rarely seems relevant, I guess because more complete brain breakdown is “sexier” for most researchers and writers.

Later, Tony would add:

MCI is a lessening of some mental

Tony Wanless and June Hutton on their wedding day, 30 years ago.



spite mounting evidence, that he had dementia, though he was acutely aware that something was wrong. In the following note, as with the other written contributions from him, the spelling errors, gaps, and repetitions, along with parenthetical comments, are tangible evidence of the disease’s impact, and are left as is for that reason.

It’s been slightly more than a year since I was diagnosed with MCI. I was becoming increasingly forgetful. More important and frightening to me, however, was that it was becoming increasingly more difficult to focus. I would get bored and drift away while doing something, whether talking with someone, or involved with something that I found tedious, then suddenly “wake up” and remember where I was and “get back to work.” It was as if my mind became un-anchored and just bobbed along in the water drifting with

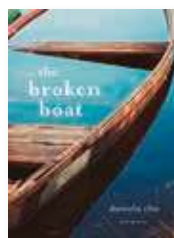
abilities like memory, impulse control and cognition (i.e. word recall, mathematics, handwriting, etc). It’s a condition that’s on the Alzheimer’s scale, although it doesn’t necessarily develop into Alzheimers (about a 30% chance, I was told. Regarding the other 70%, the condition remains the same or reverses).

[Tony Wanless worked at *The Province* for 22 years. He was finally diagnosed with Young-Onset Alzheimer’s or dementia after the age of 65. Young-Onset Alzheimer’s or dementia can be diagnosed retroactively. The majority of patients diagnosed with Young-Onset Alzheimer’s have a family history of the disease and a genetic component. More than 560,000 Canadians are living with some form of dementia according to the Alzheimer’s Association of Canada. About 5,000 of the 70,000 patients in B.C. are under the age of 65. —Ed.]

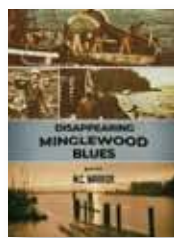


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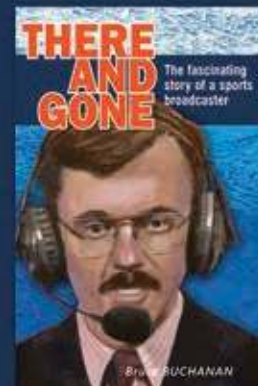
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Seriously inconvenient TRUTHS



JEAN BARMAN REVISITS WHITE PREJUDICES



TOYNEE COLLECTION / SALT SPRING ISLAND ARCHIVES

Isabella Point School on Salt Spring Island, opened in 1904, had one room with no plumbing or electricity. Although Hawaiians and their Indigenous wives were mostly illiterate, their offspring attended local schools alongside neighbours' children. This 1905 photo depicts a fifteen-year-old (far left) holding his Roll of Honour.

On the Cusp of Contact:
Gender, Space and Race in the
Colonization of British Columbia
by Jean Barman, edited by Margery Fee
(Harbour Publishing \$34.95)

BY IAN CHUNN

Nineteenth century whites didn't pull their racist punches when describing Indigenous people living on reserves near the growing cities of Victoria and Vancouver.

"Seriously inconvenient," said an 1862 Royal Navy officer in Victoria.

"A source of nuisance and an impediment to progress," stated Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier in 1911.

Historian **Jean Barman** has dug up these perspectives from under-examined resources—oral histories, family trees, local history and statistical records as well as poetry, drama and fiction—and published them in essays over the years.

Sixteen of her essays from 1995–2013 have been gathered together in **On the Cusp of Contact**. Barman pieces together stories of individuals

Using oral histories, family trees, poetry and fiction, **Jean Barman** brings to life "the land grab known as settler colonialism."

and groups disadvantaged in white settler society because of their gender, race and/or social class. Each chapter concludes with an historical lesson.



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN INDIGENOUS people lived in reserve lands at Kits Point and Stanley Park until settlers coveted these choice areas. In *Erasing Indigenous Indigeneity in Vancouver* Barman documents how white newcomers settled these reserve lands.

What the city wanted, and what the province helped it get was both the land and, hypocritically, a reputation for being Indigenous-friendly.

But white settler ignorance of local Indigenous groups is there for all to see. The totem poles in Stanley Park—not Squamish, like the people who lived there, but Kwakwaka'wakw, from the northern end of Vancouver Island—



THE PROVINCE PHOTO, NOVEMBER 6, 1923

The eviction trial of Stanley Park residents in the early 1920s depended for the defence on Indigenous witnesses, including Thomas Abraham, who testified to the sixty years of residence needed to prove permanent possession.

stand as an example of what Barman dubs 'sanitized indigeneity.'

"The passion to rehabilitate the imaginary Indian who existed prior to the arrival of outsiders was very different from coexisting with real people," she says.

Drivers using the Burrard Bridge experience a solid reminder of that very coexistence. In 2002, the Squamish won a court case that saw the return of ten acres expropriated for the CPR, and as Barman writes, "Roadways free of billboards except when passing through an Indian reserve have become a staple of British Columbian life." The billboard now so visible from the bridge is a present-day reminder that "the hasty erasure of indigenous indigeneity earlier is coming full circle."

In a section titled *Indigenous Women*, Barman provides several vignettes from contemporary accounts that show Indigenous women acting as independent agents. From the time of **Captain Cook**, whose crews were searching for the Northwest Passage, furs and "women to bed," we learn that "except for women taken in war or otherwise exploited, Nootka women on the cusp of contact, controlled access to their bodies." Barman remarks, "These accounts



PHOTO COURTESY OF IRIS GRIFFITHS AND JOE WARNOCK

Mary Sitka Whilemot, a Cowichan woman born in about 1845, had seven children with Willam Henry Curran, who was originally from Rhode Island, and homesteaded after coming to B.C. for the gold rush. Such mixed-race families were often the first non-Indigenous settlers in much of rural BC. The everyday lives of these families were usually little different from pioneer neighbours where both partners were white. Mary Sitka Whilemot died in 1894 on Kuper Island.

challenge the easy stereotype held at the time, and into the present day, of Indigenous sexuality as a commodity.”

Barman also addresses diversity within frontier communities in *Invisible Women: Indigenous Mothers and Mixed-Race Daughters in Rural Pioneer British Columbia*. “Acknowledgment of these pioneer women as part of our common history challenges one of the last bastions of the frontier myth” she says disagreeing with the notion that settlers were only white and not diverse.

Barman demonstrates that “the best history grows out of a combination of perspectives” in *Island Sanctuaries*, in which a successful mixed-race settlement on the Gulf Islands is examined, focusing on settlers who came from the Shetland Islands, Ireland, England and Portugal.

Another section deals with Hawaiian settlers. Canada granted Hawaiians full civil rights—perhaps because of their work in the fur trade—and they often married into Indigenous families. The Hawaiians remain enthusiastic about their heritage and in 1992 (in line with Canada turning 125), “The Hawaiian Connection” brought together 200 people, who learned that they had stories and sometimes ancestors in common.

In *Navigating Schooling* Barman traces how the ideology of common schooling, in linguistically and ethnically

diverse B.C. (where, in 1867, Indigenous people were in the vast majority) was overwhelmed by racism with its assumption that non-whites would perform less well in any setting. Schools thus “almost certainly played a role in the process whereby attitudes of inferiority were internalized” by Indigenous people.



LAURA SAWCHUK PHOTO

Jean Barman “is a cross between everyone’s favourite auntie and *Ancestry.ca*,” says her editor Margery Fee.

White prejudice and lack of federal funding meant fewer opportunities for Indigenous people to lead lives that would help overcome that prejudice.

In *Separate and Unequal* Barman writes about All Hallows School in Yale where an initial period of mixing is changed to separation—in the classroom and the playground—as the federal policy for Indigenous peoples

moved from assimilation to preparing “the Indian for civilized life in his own environment.” One white girl describes the party around the ‘Indian’ Christmas-tree: “We were not allowed to go to it, only to peep in through the open door for a little while... The Indian children... singing carols... looked very nice.”

“The past cannot be undone, but it can be better understood,” says Barman and she highlights some of the difficulties still to be resolved: a lack of Indigenous teachers, not enough support for teaching Indigenous languages and lack of appropriate Indigenous content in textbooks and the classroom.

On the Cusp of Contact is robust and well produced, with excellent illustrations. It is ideal for courses across a range of disciplines (history, sociology, education), but in fact, because it so successfully enriches our common understanding, it deserves a place on everyone’s bookshelf.

9781550178968

Former BC Book Prizes executive director Ian Chunn, a retired college instructor and teacher, writes from Galiano Island.

COLE’S NOTES

**A Bounded Land:
Reflections on Settler
Colonialism in Canada**
by Cole Harris (UBC \$39.95)

After five decades of study, UBC professor emeritus, **Cole Harris** has pulled together some of his past writings and synthesized his ideas in **A Bounded Land: Reflections on Settler Colonialism in Canada**.

He attempts nothing less than examining how European settlers to Canada changed society here—for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike. It is his take on what is distinct about Canada from Europe and also the United States.

The title comes from the fact that Canada is bounded both geographically and politically being a nation that is located between rock and cold to the north and that line we call the 49th parallel, the political border to our south.

His introduction takes us from the early fishing forays into Eastern Canada in the 15th and 16th centuries when few Europeans actually settled, through to the fur trade, and then the big rush of European settlers fleeing the industrial revolution and land enclosures where exploitative factory work and urban slum homes were the reality for most. Migration provided one of the few opportunities for land ownership.



Cole Harris

Those fleeing industrialized Britain sought a more agrarian life in Canada for as Harris notes “In 1871, when Britain’s population was

more than half urban, 80% of Ontarians (Upper Canadians) were rural, and Toronto, the largest city, only had 3.5% of the provincial population. Prince Edward Island was 97% rural.”

In a series of vignettes, Harris examines the experience of people on the ground and draws conclusions about the shape of settler colonialism as it evolved across Canada. His stories cover the first glimpses of new lands and peoples (through the immigrants’ eyes), how the settler experience developed in early Canada and the devastation of the dispossession and resettlement of Indigenous people in B.C. Throughout, Harris shows how Canada’s settler societies came to differ from their European roots and how colonialism managed to dispossess.

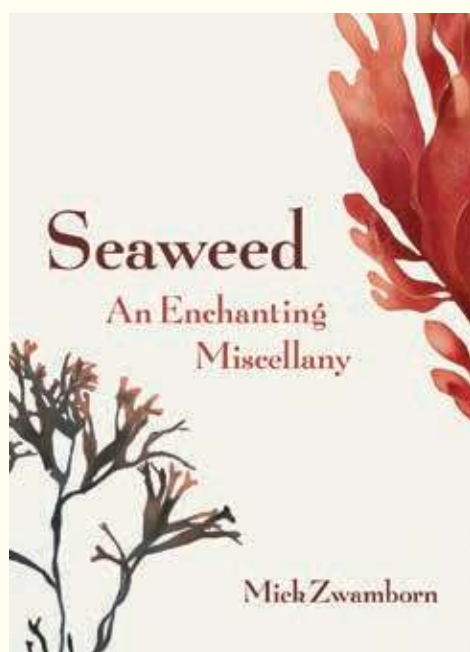
Overall, Cole Harris considers the whole territory that became Canada through colonial domination. He also offers fresh insights on the rising influence of Indigenous peoples and argues, rather hopefully, that the country’s “boundedness” is ultimately drawing it closer to its First Nations roots.

978-0-7748-6441-1



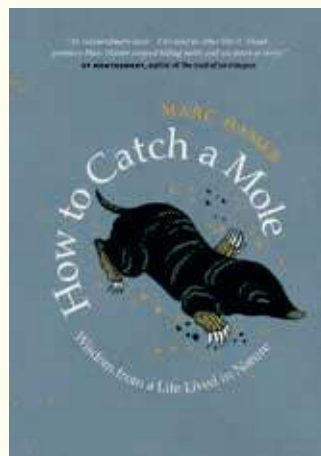
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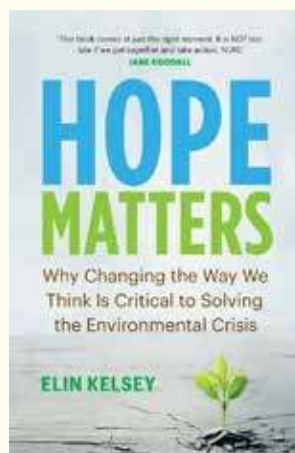
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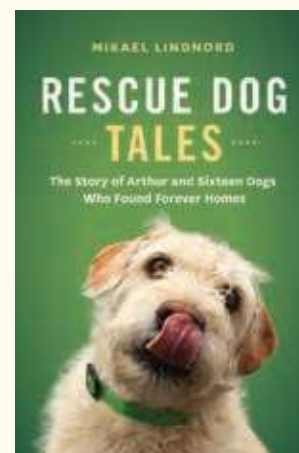
Mom and dad will both love this touching memoir of a Welsh molecatcher, which *New York Times* critic Margaret Renkl calls “the most charming book I read last year.”



For the holiday cook, a fascinating culinary adventure spanning from Sweden to Borneo, wild moose roast to bird’s nest soup.



Young activists will find hope and motivation in this “solutions-focused” book by a climate change scholar.



Know someone who recently adopted a dog? This collection of stories from rescue dog owners will warm their heart.



CONGRATULATIONS!

A fine crop of Victoria writers

Winner of the **City of Victoria Butler Book Prize**

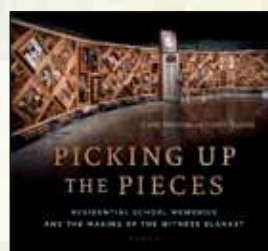
*Hats off to
the other
nominees...*



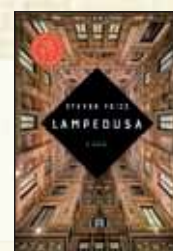
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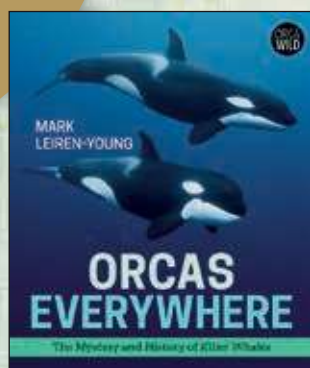
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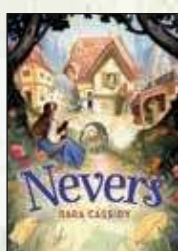


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administers the prizes. Guidelines and details:

www.victoriabookprizes.ca

BOOK PRIZES

Ivan Coyote has won the inaugural 2020 Jim Deva Prize for Writing That Provokes, at the BC & Yukon Book Prizes.

Coyote won it for their twelfth book, **Rebent Sinner** (Arsenal Pulp \$19.95) with its stories of what it means to be trans and non-binary.

The new prize, valued at \$5,000, commemorates the Vancouver bookseller (who was a co-owner of Little Sister's bookstore) and LGBTQ2S+ activist, the late **Jim Deva**, widely known for his legal battle against censorship.

For almost two decades, Jim Deva and **Bruce Smyth**, his life and business partner, along with store manager **Janine Fuller**, battled in the courts with the federal government for the freedom to sell the titles of their choice. He was quoted in the *Globe and Mail* as saying, "We've been fighting for respect for our images and our sexuality."

The trio undertook the expensive legal action after years of having books they ordered confiscated before arriving at the store. The conflict became known as Little Sister's versus Big Brother.

Jim Deva is also credited with lobbying the Vancouver police for a respectful and helpful relationship with the gay and lesbian community, rather than an antagonistic approach.

A donation from Bruce Smyth will fund the new prize for the next ten years. "The goal of this prize is to educate, liberate and celebrate," says Smyth. "My hope for the prize is that it will encourage and acknowledge folks for challenging social norms."

Non-binary Ivan Coyote says that they are honoured to receive the award. "Truly, Jim Deva was my friend, and I loved and respected him very much," they said. "I would go into Little Sister's for a visit and always end up chatting for an hour. He was filthy and irreverent and hilarious. He was dedicated to queer and trans books, the community, his beloved partner, his friends and his dog. I miss him. I'm honoured to have his name connected to mine in this way."

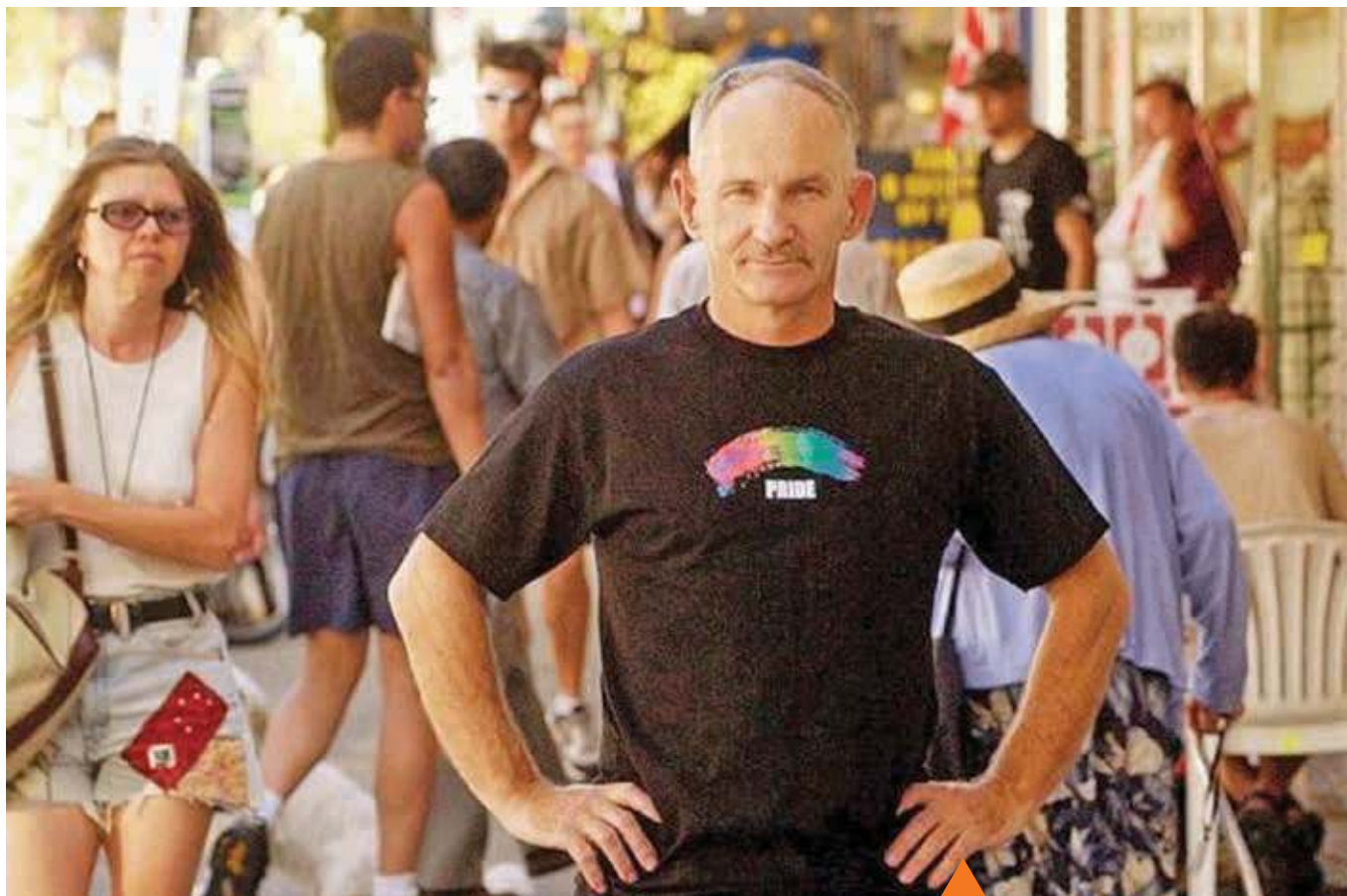
All but one of Coyote's books has been published by Arsenal Pulp. "I need to thank Arsenal Pulp especially **Brian Lam**, **Shirarose Wilensky** and **Cynara Geissler**," adds Coyote. "The team there have been my book family since 1998. We have published eleven books together, and I have loved the process every time."



Chantal Gibson

★
OF THE EIGHT PRIZES FOR BOOKS (not including the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence that goes to an individual(s) for a range of writing), six went to local B.C.-published authors, reversing a trend over

JIM DEVA INSPIRES BC & YUKON BOOK PRIZE



Bookseller Jim Deva (1950-2014)



Ivan Coyote

EMILY COOPER PHOTO

Michael Nicholl Yahgulanaas—Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize for *Carpe Fin: A Haida Manga* (D&M).

Robin Stevenson—Sheila A. Egoff Prize for Children's Literature for *My Body My Choice: The Fight for Abortion Rights* (Orca).

Kyo Maclear (author) and **Julie Morstad** (illustrator)—Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize for *It Began With a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way* (Tundra).

Aaron Chapman—Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award for *Vancouver After Dark: The Wild History of a City's Nightlife* (Arsenal Pulp).

Ivan Coyote—Jim Deva Prize for Writing that Provokes for *Rebent Sinner* (Arsenal Pulp).

Julie Flett and **Joy Kogawa**—co winners: Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence.

the past ten years or so whereby books published from out of the province tended to dominate the winner's circle.

When **Chantal Gibson** won the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize for **How She Read**, it was the first time that a Caitlin Press author received a BC & Yukon Book Prize.

"When I started collaborating with **Vici Johnstone** at Caitlin Press in 2017, we agreed we wanted to design a book we didn't see in school, a poetics for readers and a resource for teachers and students," says Gibson.

"The Dorothy Livesay Prize is an honour. The recognition is shedding light on *How She Read*, me and our tiny B.C. press—and more importantly it's making Black women visible in B.C.

classrooms. For that I am grateful," says Gibson.

How She Read was also the winner of the 2020 Pat Lowther Memorial Award; finalist for the Griffin Poetry Prize; longlisted for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award and the Raymond Souster Award; and a finalist for the Jim Deva Prize.



HERE IS THE COMPLETE LIST OF BC and Yukon Book Prize winners:

Steven Price—Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize for *Lampedusa* (M&S).

Alejandro Frid—Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize for *Changing Tides: An Ecologist's Journey to Make Peace with the Anthropocene* (New Society).

Chantal Gibson—Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize for *How She Read* (Caitlin).



Robin Stevenson

BOOK PRIZES

PROFILE

Writing and Reading
by George Bowering
(New Star \$18)

When bookseller and anarchist **Don Stewart** assembled a public display of **George Woodcock's** approximately 150-plus titles at the Robson Square law courts in 1994, in keeping with civic festivities to mark the city's proclamation of George Woodcock Day, it was akin to visiting Hay-On-Wye (often called "the town of books") in Wales and seeing all those bookstores.

It was unquestionably the biggest array possible of books by a British Columbia author.

Way back in the 1960s, when he was a student at UBC—as well as buddy of a young lecturer at UBC named **Margaret Atwood**—**George Bowering** used to borrow George Woodcock's tape recorder. Fast forward six decades and now Bowering is unchallenged as the second-most prolific literary author of B.C. with approximately 100 titles.

Now "George the Second" has received the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award for an outstanding literary career in B.C.

★
BOWERING'S LATEST COLLECTION OF ramblings and essays, **Writing and Reading**, reveals a newer, milder and possibly humbled Bowering, according to its publisher **Rolf Maurer**,

After a near-death experience when he suffered a cardiac arrest outside the West Point Grey Library in 2015, Bowering no longer plays baseball. In 2018, he was taken aback by a come-uppance from young staffers who refused to provide publicity and marketing for his memoir-like novel *No One* (ECW Press) as they claimed the story "objectifies women." The book was never reviewed and it sank like a stone.

Bowering defends that previous novel in this current collection, in a piece called *The Objects of My Affection*. Instead of crying foul, Bowering has pulled his punches and chooses to exhibit how much smarter he is in his essay about no one reading *No One*.

So, in a way, Maurer is right. The bellicose Bowering is no more. He is still capable of conducting a long interview with himself on the page, but one notes



George Bowering receiving the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award from Christina de Castell, Chief Librarian, at the Vancouver Public Library.

George Bowering is second only to George Woodcock for most books written by a B.C. author.

GEORGE

THE SECOND

strains of wistfulness in pieces about other writers he has known. These include **Robert Kroetsch** ("the funniest and smartest writer in the land"), **Robin Matthews** ("the best ranter on Vancouver Island"), **Sheila Watson**, **Ethel Wilson** and **Alice Munro**. He claims he once walked with Munro in the West End with his right arm around her waist. He recalls: "I was the happiest man in Canadian literature."

Writing and Reading is a likeable mix of off-the-cuff pieces and breezy rambling. Most peculiar is a piece that begins, unabashedly, "I have been a collector and list maker and archivist all my life." After a few thousand words about book collecting and making lists as a boy, he tells us his publisher Rolf Maurer was interested by the fact that Bowering has kept track of every book he's ever read.

How many people have ever done that? Maurer suggested to Bower-

ing that they should arbitrarily pick a year, any year, to exemplify this practice. They chose 1967, Canada's centenary, when Bowering was 31. In a piece called simply *1967 books* Bowering shares his comments on the books he read that year, starting with *Prometheus Unbound* by **Percy Bysshe Shelley**. The list is littered with Bowering's never-ending asides. "I have now read 40 books by Margaret Atwood and have number 41 lined up."

You can argue it's self-centred; but you cannot argue it is not original.

Writing and Reading, if it's Bowering's 100th book, might be a good place to stop, ending, as it does, with George the Second interviewing himself. There is a seeping nostalgia in these pages. Recalling growing up "in a semi-arid Podunk called Oliver, British Columbia," Bowering is aware "my boyhood came even before television, thank God."

★
GEORGE WOODCOCK CAME TO HIS LITERARY maturity in the literary pubs and magazines of London, befriending **George Orwell**. One can argue that his was the easier path, already well-trod by others. George Bowering had a much tougher time. He had to invent his literary path to national notoriety and respectability, as Canada's first Parliamentary Poet Laureate (2002-2004) from the arid hills of the Okanagan, having had a brief career as a photographer for the Canadian Air Force in the 1950s.

Due to COVID-19, only three others were present to witness the unveiling of George Bowering's plaque in the "Woodcock Walk of Fame" outside the main branch of the Vancouver Public Library (one of whom was his partner and literary colleague **Jean Baird**).

Meanwhile, George Bowering is one of only two authors who have reached the 100-book apex from the boonies of B.C.

"In my home town, Oliver, B.C., which I have written many pages about, it has never been possible to buy one of my books. I have done three readings at the library in Oliver over the years. One of them was attended by one of my sister's daughters. No one else in my family, which lives in and around Oliver, has ever come to hear me read."

978-1-55420-154-9

VICTORIA, WHISTLER, CCBC BOOK AWARD WINNERS

Lorna Crozier and **Mark Leiren-Young** won this year's Victoria Book Prizes.

Crozier took the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize for **The House the Spirit Builds** (D&M \$22.95) in which she explores human-crafted and natural landscapes from a variety of angles in poems that speak of moments: an image of a slice of light falling across a tablecloth, three oranges in a red bowl, a black beetle on a leaf.

Leiren-Young won the City of Victoria Children's Book Prize for **Orcas Everywhere; The Mystery**



Lorna Crozier



Laesa Faith Kim

Gauthier's Charlee LeBeau & The Gambler's Promise (FriesenPress \$31.49) won the Whistler Independent Book Award for fiction. In her first title in a YA historical trilogy, set in 1858, 14-year

old **Charlee LeBeau** works with her father as a hired hand at a Sonoma ranch when she is offered a trip to San Francisco by her rich uncle, a professional gambler.

★
Retired high school teacher, **C.V. (Cindy)** **Gauthier's Charlee LeBeau & The Gambler's Promise** (FriesenPress \$31.49) won the Whistler Independent Book Award for fiction. In her first title in a YA historical trilogy, set in 1858, 14-year

old **Charlee LeBeau** works with her father as a hired hand at a Sonoma ranch when she is offered a trip to San Francisco by her rich uncle, a professional gambler.

Laesa Faith Kim won the Whistler Independent Book Award for nonfiction for her debut memoir **Can't Breathe** (Paradox \$20) that captures the nuances of life with a special-needs child.

★
Julie Flett won the 2020 TD Canadian Children's Literature Award from the Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) for **Birdsong** (Greystone, 2019). CCBC executive director, **Rose Vespa** said that it's fitting Flett's book won as it's "all about the lasting impact of art and the people we love during a time of change."

Never Going Back
by Sam Wiebe (Orca \$9.95)

In his fourth novel **Never Going Back** (part of Orca Book Publishers’ “Rapid Reads” series for adult readers) crime writer **Sam Wiebe** introduces us to Ali Kidd, determined to put her criminal ways behind her after spending a year in jail.

Trouble is, Ali is so good at being a thief that there are evil-doers just as determined to get her to continue with her particular skillset. And Ali has vulnerabilities because she comes from a broken family that now includes just her and a brother, Dean.

It’s clear that Dean means more than anything in the world to Ali. A crime boss knows this and kidnaps Dean to extort Ali into doing another heist.

Will Ali do it?



IN ADDITION TO BEING A MASTER OF SUSPENSE, as all good crime writers need to be, Sam Wiebe knows how to pack a world of information into a few short paragraphs.

Take his introduction to Ali in the opening soliloquy: “Don’t believe what you hear about me,” says Ali.

“I don’t rob people. Robbery means taking something with force. I hate violence, and I’ve never used a weapon in my life. Besides, I’m too good to need force. If I take something of yours, you won’t know until it’s gone, and you’ll never know it was me.

“I’m a thief. A great thief. Or I was. But right now I was a woman waiting in the rain for her brother.”

Right from the get-go, Ali is established as someone with morals. Thievery is an artform to her more than a way of life. Her brother Dean has other talents—he likes to cook and runs a restaurant. He has offered Ali a job when she finishes her jail time.

“Tonight, for my first meal after getting out of prison, he promised to make me something called cassoulet. I told him a burger and fries would be all right. But like I said, he loves to cook.



VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY PHOTO

RELUCTANT

stealth

A retired thief is forced to do one more job for her old boss to protect her brother.

Me, I’m good at other things.”

Ali learned about the security business as a teen when she helped her guardian aunt’s boyfriend, Paul, who installed alarms for a security company. Homeowners set their own codes but Ali learns that as a backup, installers set their own codes in case of emergencies. Usually they pick unique numbers. “But installers have bad days too,” says Ali. “Some are lazy. Paul liked to get home early, so he would always set the same code. Four zeros.

“I was fifteen when I learned this. For a fifteen-year-old, that was a lot of knowledge.”

Being young and bored, Ali practiced getting into homes that had Paul’s security company stickers on their windows. “I would practice after school. Or instead of school. Working with Paul *was* my school.

“At that time I didn’t take things. I just liked the challenge of getting into places. I wanted to open any door, defeat any alarm, know every code. That was my fantasy.”

Ali learns other things too, like mastering a rock-climbing wall at a gym where she worked part-time at the age of 18. “After cleaning the floors and emptying the trash, I’d practice climbing, building strength and confidence. Soon I could almost walk up walls.”

Now, in addition to being able to get past alarms and locks, Ali can scale walls and enter a building in a variety of ways.

Her skills get noticed by local crime boss Lisa Wan who leads Ali into the life of a thief. After seven years, Lisa betrays Ali and gets her arrested and landed in jail.

Ali’s only visitor in prison was Dean.

He convinces her that she should come work in his restaurant when she is released. That is Ali’s intention until Dean doesn’t show up to collect her when she gets out. After a bit of sleuthing, Ali figures out that Lisa Wan has kidnapped him. To free Dean, Lisa orders Ali to engage in one of the trickiest, most dangerous heists she has ever attempted.

Will it work? Will Ali get caught? And what about the handsome police officer that takes an interest in Ali? All is revealed in Wiebe’s surprising conclusion.

Sam Wiebe’s first novel *Last of the Independents* (Dundurn, 2014) won the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize, an Arthur Ellis Award, and was nominated for a Shamus award. He is also a former Vancouver Public Library Writer in Residence.

978-1-4598257-7-2

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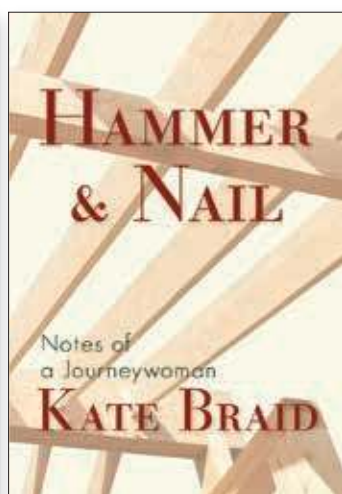
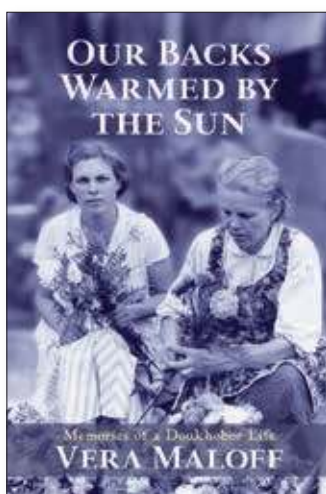
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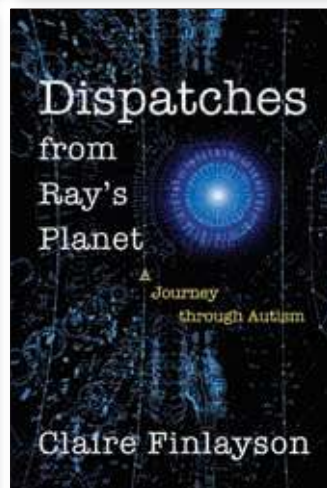
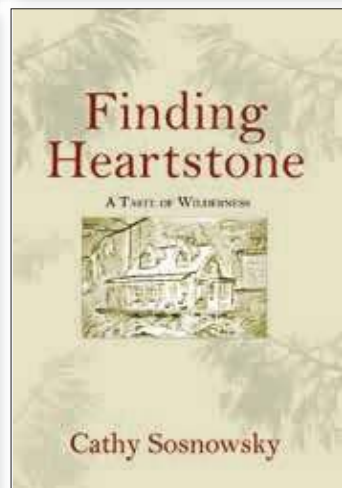
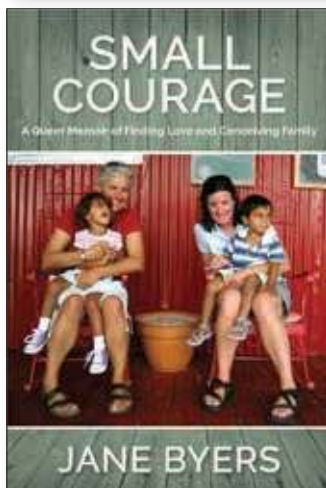
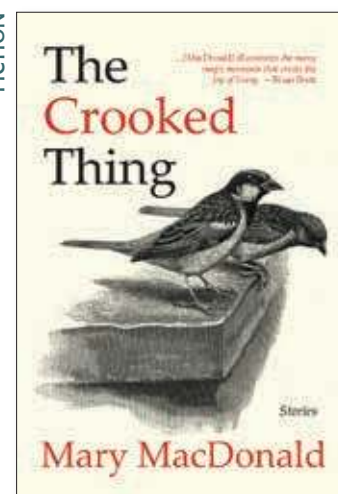
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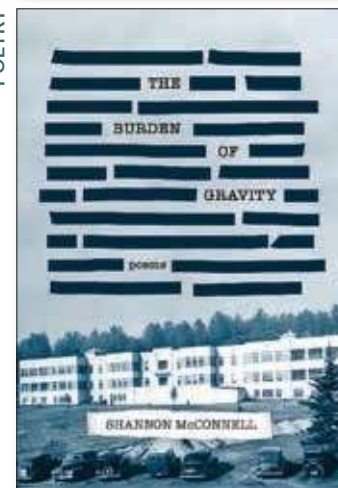
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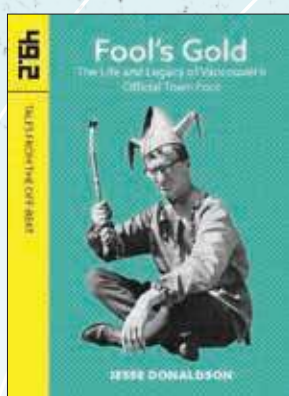
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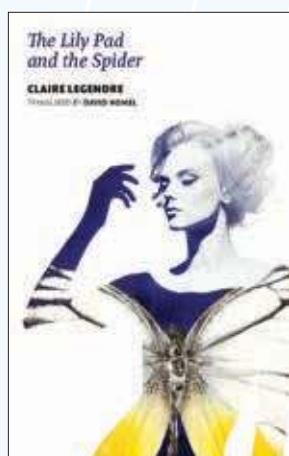


FOOL'S GOLD: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VANCOUVER'S OFFICIAL TOWN FOOL by Jesse Donaldson

On April 1, 1968, a tall, bespectacled, thirty-five-year-old former social worker named Joachim Foikis received \$3,500 from the Canada Council for the Arts in order to finance a unique, self-imposed mission unseen since Elizabethan England: reinvent the vanished tradition of "Town Fool."

Fool's Gold is the story of Vancouver's first — and only — Town Fool. Self-proclaimed as Vancouver's Official Town Fool in 1968, Joachim (Kim) Foikis set forth on his mission to "spread joy and confusion" and to "mock the four pillars of society: money, status, respectability, and conformity."

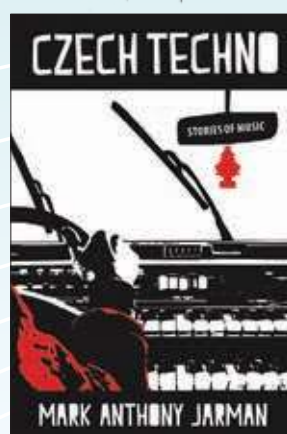
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THE LILY PAD AND THE SPIDER By Claire Legendre | Translated by David Homel

The Lily Pad and the Spider is an autobiographical essay on fear, exploring the symptoms, sources, and genesis of anxiety, from the most intimate to the most ordinary kind. Using short chapters that are fragments of her life, Claire Legendre breaks down the psychological, physical, and social mechanisms associated with that emotion. Her style is lively, often funny, sometimes dark, and the story traces a unique path between France, Canada, and the Czech Republic, casting a defiant yet vulnerable gaze upon the world.

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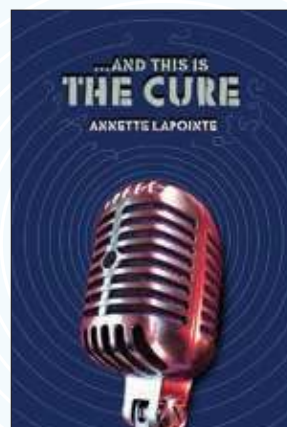


CZECH TECHNO & OTHER STORIES OF MUSIC By Mark Anthony Jarman

From the author of *19 Knives* and *My White Planet* comes a brilliant suite of stories built around music and travel. We see a band coming apart at the ruins of Pompeii, tour through Napoli's "volcanic dust and volcanic drugs and jackal-headed bedlam" and embark on a nostalgic stroll past the homeless in Victoria's inner harbour where "gentle Tunisian techno" rides the breeze above addicts as weighted as Shakespearean characters.

The five stories that comprise *Czech Techno* are replete with the sizzle and jump we have come to expect from a Mark Jarman story.

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...AND THIS IS THE CURE By Annette Lapointe

And This Is the Cure follows Allison Winter, public radio pop-culture journalist and former riot grrrrrl as she regains custody of her adolescent daughter, Hanna, following the murder of her ex-husband. She is unprepared to deal with either the demands of parenting or the fury of her ex-husband's religiously conservative, grieving family, so she pulls up roots and moves Hanna from Winnipeg to Toronto.

And This Is the Cure is a novel about the weight of unresolved baggage — its pain and trauma — and the process of healing and moving on.

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Charlie

IS NO BIG FOOT

Sarah Louise Butler
explores our need to
follow footprints.

Widower Aidan Fitzpatrick first saw ‘Charlie’ in 1920. That’s when he fell under the 9-foot-tall primate’s spell. The sighting of that unidentifiable creature in the woods changed the course of his life.

Fitzpatrick abandoned his goal of becoming a Catholic priest in favour of studying biology and ultimately becoming a veterinarian. He saved his money for years in order to buy property in B.C.’s interior, where that first sighting occurred.

The loner carved a cedar version of Charlie, placing it inside the doorway, anticipating a reunion with its flesh ‘n’ blood counterpart. The carving becomes part of the household and features largely in the lives of the occupants.

“It was a deliberate decision not to call the somewhat mysterious creature in this novel a Sasquatch or a Bigfoot,” says **Sarah Louise Butler**, author of **The Wild Heavens**, “or any other commonly used term. The use of the name ‘Charlie’ is a way around constantly having to describe it as an ‘unidentified endemic non-human primate’.”

All of us, at one time or another, have felt incomplete and disconnected. As we are introduced to other characters in Butler’s debut novel, it becomes apparent that ‘Charlie’ is a symbol of

The Wild Heavens
by Sarah Louise Butler
(D&M \$22.95)

BY **CHERIE THIESSEN**

our universal yearning for finding someone or something to make us feel whole.



THE LONE WOODSMAN IN *THE WILD HEAVENS* once had a wife who died, as well as a daughter, Lily, who left their rustic home largely in response to her fractious relationship with him.

Since then, Lily has died in an accident and Fitzpatrick has been raising his only grandchild, Sandy, who was seven years old when he brought her to live with him in 1959.

The main character turns out to be the woodsman’s granddaughter, Sandy, who never knew her own father due to a short-lived marriage.

While being raised in a remote cabin that included the cedar statue of Charlie, Sandy made do with her distracted, scholarly grandfather and befriended a boy named Luke. The outdoors was their playground and their classroom: they swam, they fished, they explored, and they learned from the creatures around them.

Luke was hiding out with his moth-

er, Eva, having escaped from a violent father/husband. Eventually Sandy married this childhood sweetheart but tragedy again intervened. Her young husband went missing from the cabin, presumably drowned, when she was pregnant with their second child.

Other than a short preface by Sandy which introduces the grandfather and the Charlie quest, the story unfolds all within one winter’s day, interspersed with memories from Sandy’s life in British Columbia’s rugged interior mountains.

Everyone is a tiny creature in a wide, wide landscape, much like the planet earth in the galaxy. Sarah Louise Butler, who is a wildlife research enthusiast and holds a degree in Earth Sciences, has done a stellar job of creating a sense of place that looms high, mysterious and vast over the humans.

“I’ve always found questions more interesting than answers,” says Butler, “and for a novel where both science and religion feature prominently, it felt appropriate that my characters couldn’t possibly have all the answers.

“I recognize that not all readers will share this view, which is why I tried to make it very clear, from the first pages of the novel, which sort of book this is.”

In a word, *The Wild Heavens* is enigmatic. Life is bewildering. We have a small cast of people who have been left alone: Aidan Fitzpatrick lost his wife, then his daughter. Sandy never really had a father, then she lost her mother and then she lost Luke, who had lost his father. Eventually, Sandy will also have to part ways with her grandfather.



BY 2003, LUKE HAS BEEN GONE 30 YEARS and Sandy’s children have departed to live their own lives. Sandy has just

awoken after dreaming of him. Downstairs, she discovers a sparrow trapped in the house. She opens the door to release it and discovers gigantic footprints, footprints she has not seen for 30 years, since the night her husband disappeared.

“This book is hard to categorize,” Butler says. “And maybe it’s most easily defined by what it is *not*. It’s not a thriller, and it’s not a Bigfoot story, and it’s not a tale of a family living in perfect harmony with nature.

“It’s the story of a few inquisitive, flawed, hopeful people who are deeply in love with the place they live, even when its complexities and mysteries exceed the range of their understanding.

“The non-human elements receive more attention than is, perhaps, typical, but the small cast of human characters and their interactions with each other, as well as with the natural world, are at the forefront of the narrative.”

The Wild Heavens is not magic realism. It’s closer to science realism. But it explores the mystery of life. It’s one of those stories that’s bigger than the sum of its parts.

“There’s just something so compelling about their life cycle,” Luke says to Sandy, watching Kokanee spawning in the river. “The circularity of it; how they spawn and then immediately die. It’s kind of perfect in a way.”

When the enigmatic tracks of Charlie finally reappear, it is Sandy who sets out on the trail alone, determined to find out the truth about the mystery that has shaped her life. 9781771622585

*Cherie Thiessen reviews fiction
from Pender Island.*

Notice by Dustin Cole
(Nightwood Editions \$19.95)

If you combined **Franz Kafka**, **George Orwell** (whose first book was *Down and Out in London and Paris*) and **Hunter S. Thompson**, and you had 'em write a realistic depiction of life in the rental jungle of over-priced Vancouver in the early 21st century, you'd get **Dustin Cole** and his shockingly intense debut novel **Notice**.

We follow the blow-by-blow plight of a highly articulate dishwasher named Dylan Levett, someone who formerly studied history at university, as he fights to maintain his near-decade-long tenancy in Bellevue Heights, a (fictitious) apartment complex situated across the street from the historic Lee Building at Main and Broadway.

Despite having a formidable intelligence, Levett works in the dish pit of a low-brow Gastown eatery, The Wild Rose, a raucous joint where ex-Edmonton Oilers fans congregate to drink too much and cheer on **Connor McDavid**.

Facing a bogus renoviction notice, our everyman protagonist decides to not accept the landlord's offer of \$2,500 to leave and goes to arbitration with the help of a housing rights activist. They take the Skytrain to darkest Burnaby to find an obscure government office that will semi-reluctantly process a defence of his civil rights with a Byzantine trail of paperwork and e-formalities.

Our eyes and ears for a prolonged tour of urban desolation in the summer of 2017 is a man whose bank account is running on empty. His electrical power has been cut off by BC Hydro because he owes them \$200 (the amount includes his reconnection fee). He lives in the dark. Why should a man pay if he suspects his efforts to fight the landlord's purge of himself and others is going to fail anyway?

Reduced to walking everywhere between the Bellevue building and Gastown, he conveys to us the details of sidewalk life amid poverty and despair. Driving through that area does not do justice to the darkness that thrives in the shadows of those concrete, gentrified towers that have arisen for the relatively well-to-do around Science World.

Dustin Cole's depictions of the soggy



Dustin Cole

RENOVICTIONS ARE KAFKAESQUE

Channelling his inner George Orwell, an educated dishwasher chronicles his fight for rental fairness.

bazaar of East Hastings does not conform to the great Canadian maxim, if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all. He is not likely to be invited to give a presentation to the Vancouver City Planning Commission any time soon.

"Gaunt putty-coloured people slipping and clapping around in flip-flops. Inundated plush purses, plastic stiletto shoes, scabby bruised thighs, hollow faces from the living crypt. A man in a wheelchair sat at the foot of a curb while a thin man in a black straw fedora and flared women's jeans worked at pushing his chair up a curb cut. Sidewalk dense with black marketeers and the vice-laden who supported this commerce.

"Someone huddled behind two open umbrellas arranged as a lean-to. The orange tip of a hypodermic rose above the edge and a dirty hand popped off the neon safety guard, plunged the needle back down below the lip of the shelter. 'Can I owe you six bucks?' someone said, a strange inverted offer."

Also a stifled musician and a seemingly hapless bachelor, Dylan buys a deluxe pellet gun at Canadian Tire to commit Rodenticide. He flushes the

dead mice down his toilet. An abrasive encounter with a tough cookie named Blade Girl has unfairly gained him a bad rep with her, even though he's actually a loyal friend by nature.

Levett is derisive when it comes to tech yuppie drones, foreign capital, "craft beer bullshit" and affluent white trash, but he has maintained some lasting relationships with the likes of Jim, another long-term Bellevue tenant. "They were friends, dope-smoking buddies, but the relationship had cooled since the Christmas season when Levett had accidentally lit Jim's beard on fire while they were high on mushrooms."

He perseveres with his case, a man not without principles, but life in a Limboland gulag of increasingly video-surveilled poverty crushes his optimism. There are some pain-ridden outbursts. He was not born a loser and yet the world around him conspires to crush him. Blade Girl has mobilized others to denounce him as a violating woman beater.

Eventually there is a two-and-a-half hour renoviction hearing. An expert testifies on behalf of Mr. Levett about the landlord's bogus claim that a rotted beam in the ground floor cannot

be repaired successfully without the need to displace Mr. Levett from his third-floor domicile, as well as others who have already been intimidated and coerced to vacate. The corporate owners since 1980s have undertaken work without permits, etc. But is it true that Mr. Levett at one time did consent to negotiate a fair price for his departure and, thus, in principle was therefore accepting of the landlord's proposal?

Madame Arbitrator might as well be the Grand Inquisitor.

It's not giving too much away to say Levett will win his case but ultimately he will lose the biscuit. It's a tragedy, like King Lear, that cannot be derailed from the get-go. "If he wanted to escape, he would have to fly to the moon." We go along for the downward ride, fascinated rather than appalled, due entirely to the quality of the writing.

Take notice of *Notice*. Rare B.C. literature mavens could tell you this stunning cri de coeur is more in the tradition of the acutely sensitive **D.M. Fraser** and the chronically estranged **Malcolm Lowry**. Both courted despair, discovering genius and alcohol were a deadly cocktail.

Most readers don't like to encounter words they don't know. But some do. Dustin Cole caters to the latter category. Strabismic. Suspired. Weft. Corbel. Knurled. Caduceus. Plagal. A chain-link fence is topped with "a musical staff of barbed wire." A hooker trots down an alley in "precipitous heels." This combo of extreme articulation with depictions of poverty makes *Notice* a work of friction.

The novel is touted as "a bad-to-worse, spiral-down story about an ornery man caught between the gears of gentrification and renoviction" but it's also a delightful dance piece of wordsmithing, an uplifting performance piece.

When Dustin Cole first started writing for the *Ormsby Review* a few years back, it was immediately obvious that the Alberta-born Cole, raised in the wee town of High Level in remote northwestern Alberta, had the potential to be the literary equivalent to **Alphonso Davies**.

(Now described as the 17th most valuable soccer player on the planet, the Alberta-raised Alphonso Davies had a very brief tenure with the Vancouver Whitecaps before he vaulted into the top tier with Bayern-Munich to make \$5.5 million per season. Meanwhile, Dustin Cole is about to skedaddle back to more affordable Edmonton.)

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Firebird by Glen Huser
(Ronsdale \$12.95)

BY SAGE BIRCHWATER

In Glen Huser's young reader/adult "crossover" historical novel, **Firebird**, he offers a sobering look at racial prejudice in Canada more than 100 years ago.

After Canada entered World War One as an ally to Great Britain in August of 1914, many immigrants who had fled to Canada years before to escape poverty and oppression in Eastern Europe were dubbed enemy aliens. Many were arrested and imprisoned in 24 makeshift, forced labour camps across the country.



Glen Huser

On the strength of the War Measures Act, passed by parliament on August 22, 1914, over 8,500 men were confined until 1920. More than 100 died from disease and malnutrition in the harsh living conditions. Some were shot trying to escape. Many more suffered psychological damage that lasted long after the ordeal was over.

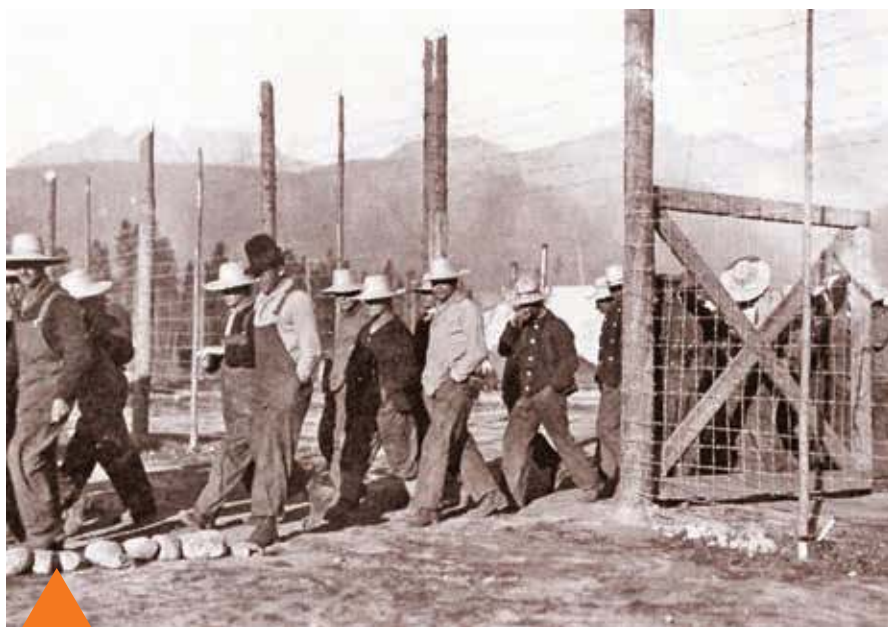
In Huser's novel, set in rural Alberta in 1915-1916, thirteen-year-old Alex Kaminsky and his older brother Marco, orphans from Ukraine, had been living with their uncle on a small farm east of Edmonton when war was declared.

One tragedy follows another and in December of 1915, Alex, now fourteen, suffers serious burns escaping a house fire that claimed the life of their uncle. Marco is away working as an itinerant farm labourer, and when he fails to show up for Christmas as he promised, Alex is worried.

Alex gradually recovers from his injuries through the kindness of neigh-

PROFILING AND PREJUDICE

A legal immigrant from Ukraine is branded an enemy alien and incarcerated in a World War One internment camp, one of more than twenty in Canada, in **Glen Huser's** novel, *Firebird*.



GLENOW MUSEUM ARCHIVES, NA-3959-2

Castle Mountain Internment Camp (1915)

bours. But a new threat looms when he is treated hatefully because of his Ukrainian heritage. The animosity intensifies when news is received that a beloved young soldier from the family with whom he is staying has been killed in action while fighting in Europe.

The emotions of the family members are well depicted as they deal with the tragedy and their resentment toward Alex grows. Alex is given refuge by the

village postmaster and storekeeper who realizes his innocence and reaches out to help the young man as he sets out on a perilous quest to find his brother.

Eventually Alex learns that Marco has been imprisoned in Castle Mountain internment camp in Banff, Alberta. [Huser notes that the site of the Castle Mountain Internment Camp has been set aside as a national shrine, a memorial to remember the shameful

treatment of innocent men, mostly of Ukrainian heritage, caught up in the hysteria of the First World War.]

Huser charts a thread of human kindness and generosity that helps change Alex's fortunes. Difference-makers include the small-town postmaster, a Ukrainian hobo who helps him jump a freight train, a kind-hearted carpenter and his family, a school teacher in Edmonton and the teacher's benevolent aunt in Calgary, who all reach out to allow Alex to achieve his goal and find his brother.

The author's background as an educator and his intimate understanding of the psychology of youth and life in small towns on the Canadian prairies combine to give authenticity to the story. Huser portrays the triumph of human decency through the eyes of children unfettered by prejudice. He conveys the narrowness of powerful individuals consumed by the smallness of their own self-importance and how these shortcomings diminish those around them.

Lastly, he paints a delightful portrayal of the heroic: that is, bending the rules and reaching beyond the limitations of personal circumstances, or boxed-in institutional normalcy, which is what it takes sometimes to make a difference. *Firebird* illuminates the irrationality of war and the shallowness of racial discrimination and profiling.

Few can disagree that this is a lesson that every society has to learn and relearn, generation after generation.

978-1-55380-587-8

Sage Birchwater writes
from Williams Lake.

A mechanic, his daughter and an elf

Saturday at the Garage by Nancy Hundal
illustrations by Angela Pan (Midtown \$21.95)

3-7 YEARS OLD

In this picture book about the warm relationship between a father and daughter, a young girl spends all day at her dad's garage. It's an unusual role for a girl but she relishes pumping gas, fixing cars and greeting customers in between sweeping and cleaning.

"Lights flick up, the radio jolts on and sings a twangy song to remind the night that its turn is done," she says as they open the garage. "Coffee bub-bub-bubbles in a pot. I don't like the taste, but the smell means Saturday, and that's good."

One of the regular customers brings her candies and teases that there is an elf hanging out in the area and it has been spotted in their shop. The girl is not so sure but she keeps looking just in case.

Another customer says "Isn't your dad lucky to have a helper like you?"

The girl's dad doesn't say much, but she can tell he thinks "the customer has it about right."

Helping fix a car, the girl passes her dad tools. "Sometimes he beckons me over to show me how



ILLUSTRATION BY ANGELA PAN, SATURDAY AT THE GARAGE

he's adjusting this or that. Sometimes I even do the twisting or tightening. Dad is the magic man under the hood, but he's slowly passin' the magic to me."

They eat a lunch of "meaty sandwiches and crisp apples." Then its play time.

"Before we go back to work, Dad lets me crawl onto the car hoist, then pushes the button to glide me up high into the air and slowly down again. It's hotter at the top of the garage, where the sun has been dancing with the dust since dawn. Even up there I take a quick look around for the elf, but the only magic at this garage is my dad's fingers tinkering engines back to purring."

At the end of the day, the girl watches her dad clean the grease from his hands. "Some never goes away," she says. "Its dark smell hides in the lines of his calloused hand. Some day my hands will look that way, too."

This gentle story is based on author **Nancy Hundal's** recollections of working with her dad at his garage in the 1960s. Hundal has written nine picture books and one YA novel since she started writing in 1991.

978-1-9882-4232-3

What's in it for Me? by LS Stone
(Rebel Mountain \$13.95)

YA NOVEL

Vancouver Island-based **LS Stone's** debut YA novel **What's in it for Me?** is about teen friends, Nick and Trevor, who couldn't be more different. Nick dreams of being a rock star and thinks only of getting a deal for his band, partying all summer and surfing at Tofino. Trevor is set to do volunteer work in Africa building a school. Nonetheless, Nick is convinced to go to an elephant refuge in Thailand. While Trevor is in Kenya learning from a local 12-year-old boy, Nick meets a Thai girl who wants to be a mahout even though local tradition won't allow it. Nick also encounters an animal rights activist, a drugged tiger and marauding elephants. Will the events change his self-centered outlook on life? And will the two teens stay friends? 9781999241681

Harking by George Mercer
(www.georgemercer.com \$19.99)



Harking is an unusual name for a female protagonist but then **George Mercer's Harking** is a very unusual young adult novel.

While it contains some “adult language” that might be considered alarming, it also deals with serious wilderness preservation issues.

Harking could easily engage adult readers who don't realize they are not part of the target market, and that's not surprising given that Mercer has published four previous novels for his *Dyed in the Green* series for adults, all set in various national parks.

About the same age as **Greta Thunberg** is now (17) and replicating her steadfast devotion to environmental causes, the Jasper-based heroine Harking Thompson is determined to honour the memory of her park warden father by protecting a mother grizzly bear and her three cubs who are at risk of being removed from their natural habitat or else killed.

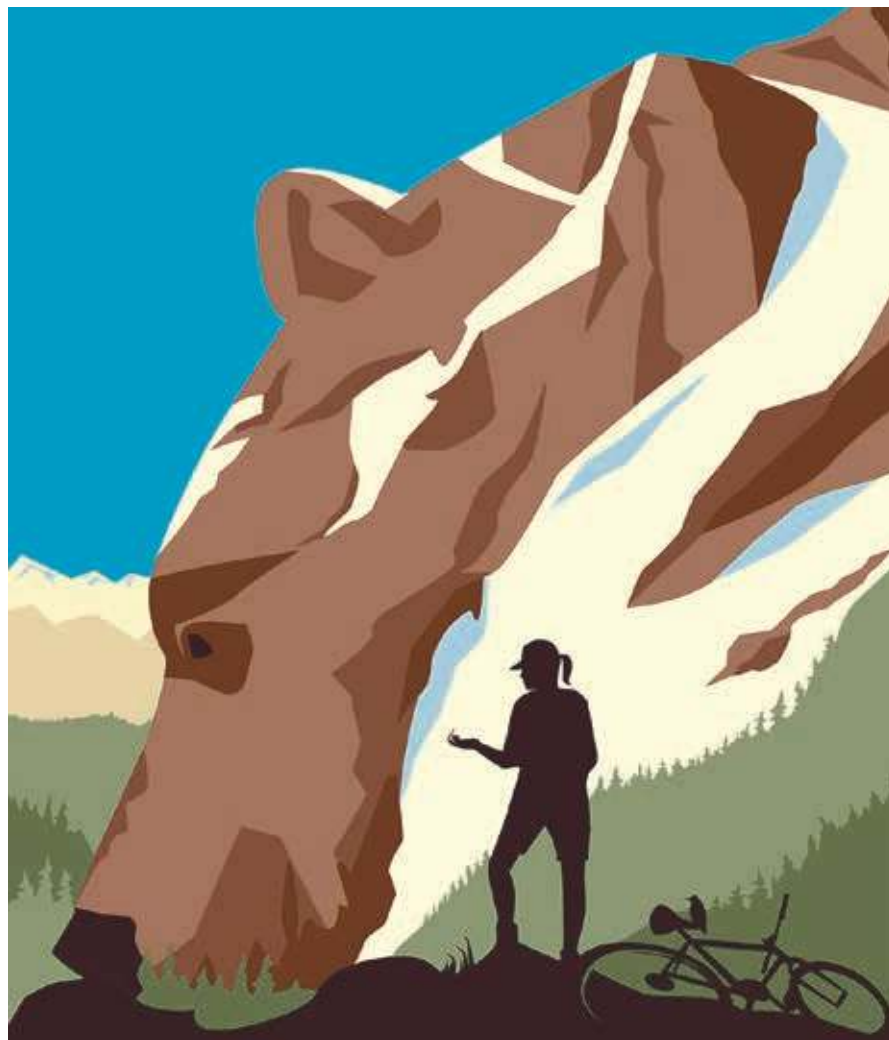
The evolving complexity of Harking's struggle on behalf of those four bears lends credibility to the tale. There is Harking's social quest to make sure everyone in Jasper does what's right, even though it looks to be a lot easier to most people to just do what's simple and wrong, and there is her inner struggle to overcome the wounds of her fractured family.

After her parents divorced and she opted to stay with her Dad, Harking witnessed the death of her hugely knowledgeable father during an avalanche that is briefly described at the outset of the novel, leading the reader to believe Harking feels culpable for the tragedy because she had urged her Dad, a park warden, to forge a dangerous path for her class on a back-country trip.

When her younger brother returns to Jasper, along with her estranged mother, Harking's brave defense of the unwanted mother grizzly and her cubs is complicated by the fact that her naïve brother has got himself tangled up with three young toughs who disobey

For ‘bearance’ in the Rockies

A former park warden invents a heroine for our times



COVER ART FROM HARKING

signage on their mountain bikes and rile the aforementioned bruins.

Harking has used her father's camera equipment to record events on the out-of-bounds mountain trails. She can prove the troublemakers were of the human variety. Trouble is, the gang leader of the anti-social hoodlums-in-training bikers, the ones who riled the grizzly and caused all the problems, is the son of the park ranger who has taken over from her father.

After a two-page evocation of the deadly avalanche gets us off to a shaky start—who are these people and why

should we care about them?—this story gains momentum with every new chapter. Much of the dialogue is less than scintillating but the strength of character shown by Harking pulls this story along as surely as a team of huskies under the northern lights.

Like a Joan of Arc among the Rockies, she will not be beaten. Harking is representative of a new generation who are remarkably well-informed, rational and willing to make personal sacrifices to help save our planet. The deeper we go into the woods with Harking, the more we recognize there is passion and

truth in this tale.

It all comes together because George Mercer worked in six national parks in Canada, including eight years as a Park Warden and Wildlife Specialist in Jasper National Park. He was not just a conservationist, he was an innovator. Mercer was the first to use GPS collars for woodland caribou and wolf research. He also introduced remote cameras to monitor wildlife and human traffic. He doesn't have to make this stuff up. Because he's done it.

The name Harking Thompson is a derivative of both **James Bernard Harkin** (1875-1955), the first commissioner of Canada's new Dominion Parks Branch from 1911 onwards—he created many of Canada's superb national parks—and the laudable explorer **David Thompson**, easily the most sophisticated and sensitive of our country's fur trade explorers.

There is a passion at the heart of *Harking*, leading to an important afterword. Mercer writes, “Coincidentally, as I write this, we are in the throes of a global pandemic that has resulted in a virtual shutdown of human use not only in our parks and protected areas, but everywhere. In the absence of a huge influx of people in places like Jasper National Park during the spring of 2020, wildlife responded by showing up in greater numbers and in areas not normally used in recent years.

“Although other factors including weather may have influenced wildlife behaviour this year more so than in the past, species such as grizzly bears may be showing us that their preferred habitats overlap with human use even more than we suspected.

“This phenomenon, if we want to call it that, is occurring throughout the world, highlighting the need to better understand wildlife use as well as our impacts on that use, if we are to coexist with other species.

“My greatest hope from writing this story is to help communicate the need to develop a better appreciation for the needs of wildlife, not only in our parks and protected areas, but everywhere, so that we can better adjust our own use to accommodate other species we share the planet with...

“Changing our expectations and our own behaviours is critical if we are to coexist with wildlife into the future.”

978-0-9879754-8-5

AGES 3-6

Crocs can do everything

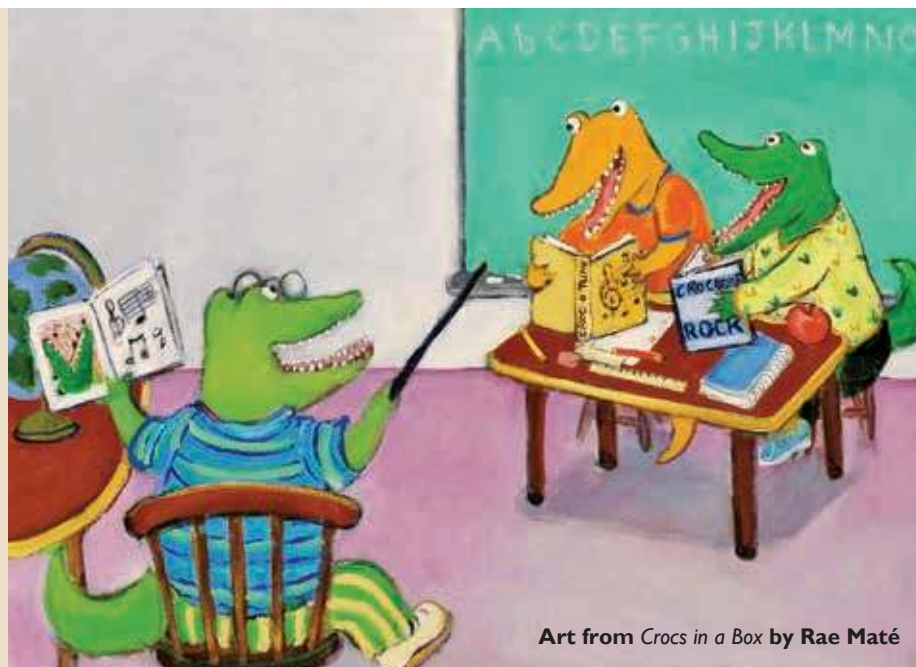


The series of children's books with crocodile characters that author **Robert Heidbreder** and illustrator **Rae Maté** made popular for ages 3-6, is now available in a boxset, **Crocs in a Box** (Tradewind \$24.95).

Crocodiles Say (2005), *Crocodiles Play* (2008) and *Crocs at Work* (2015) offered youngsters verbal and visual fun, taking them along with the colourful crocodiles as they frolic through a day; play sports like baseball and hockey; and take on jobs such as cooks, florists, croc 'docs' and teachers. Changes in the newly packaged titles include smaller-sized books and different cover art.

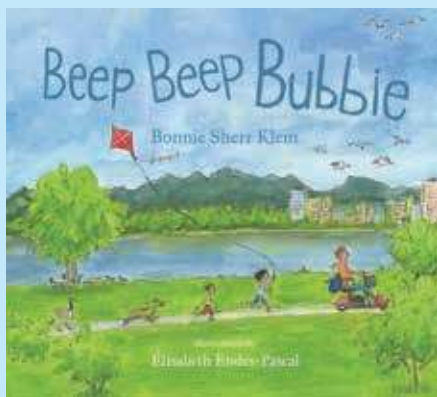
Prior to writing, Robert Heidbreder was a primary and kindergarten school teacher for thirty years, and received the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2002. For over 20 years, Vancouver-born Rae Maté has been an art instructor to preschoolers and their parents at Vancouver Children's Arts Umbrella on Granville Island.

9781926890067



Art from *Crocs in a Box* by Rae Maté

TRADEWIND BOOKS



Beep Beep Bubbie
by Bonnie Sherr Klein
illustrated by Élisabeth Eudes-Pascal

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

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



Crocs in a Box - 3 Little Books
by Robert Heidbreder
illustrated by Rae Maté

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)

“Highly recommended.” (CM Reviews)



The Mysterious Stones
by Enrique Pérez Díaz
illustrated by Yayo

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

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

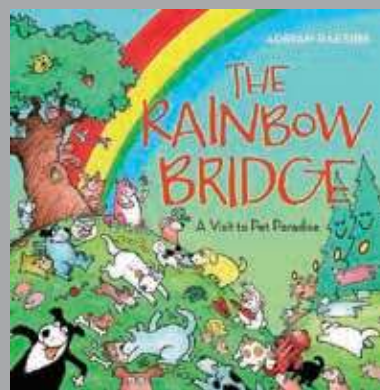
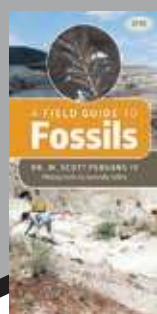
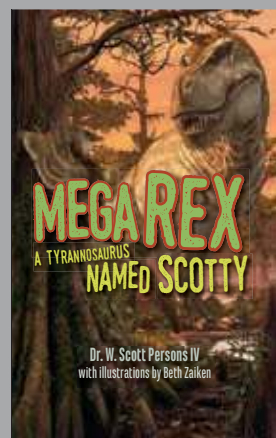
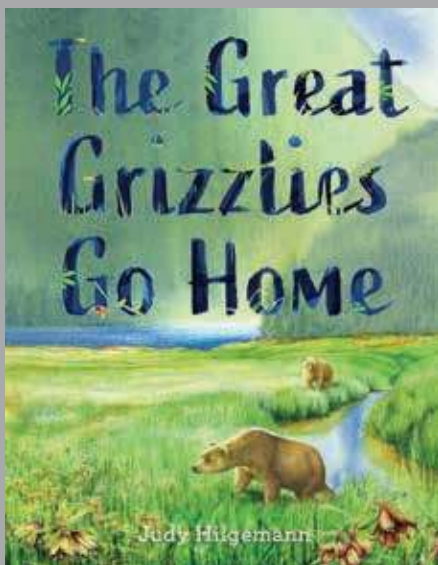
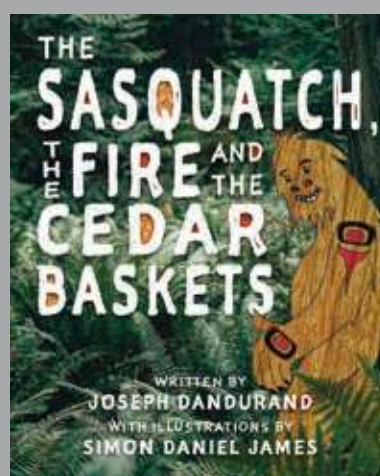
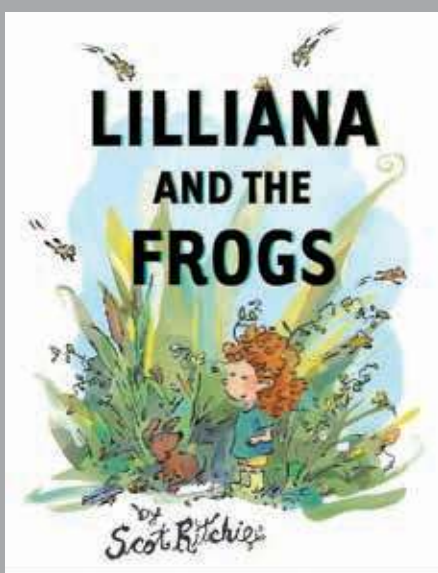
“*The Mysterious Stones* is a title to share between generations, one that ends on a note of hope, perfect in today’s world. Highly recommended.” (CM Reviews)



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WHO'S WHO

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Maneesha Deckha's research includes animal law, feminist analysis of law, health law and bioethics.

A IS FOR ABRAHAM

Book designer **Tree Abraham** won First Prize in the Reference category for Alcuin Society's annual competition for book design for **Cedar + Salt: Vancouver Island Recipes from Forest, Farm, Field, and Sea** (TouchWood \$45). *Cedar + Salt* was also a finalist for the Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award at the 2020 BC and Yukon Book Prizes.

9781771512947

B IS FOR BARRETT

Due in March, **My Best Friend is Extinct** (Orca \$10.95) by Whistler-based filmmaker **Rebecca Wood Barrett** is about a young boy who befriends a strange prehistoric-like creature during a snowstorm. Illustrations are by **Cornelia Li**. For ages 8-10.

9781459824423

C IS FOR CORNWALL

Having almost lost the family cabin during the fire season of 2017, **Claudia Cornwall** collected stories from people in Sheridan Lake, Ashcroft, Cache Creek, 16 Mile House, Lac La Hache, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Hanceville-Riske Creek and Clinton for **British Columbia in Flames: Stories from a Blazing Summer** (Harbour \$26.95), with over 60 photographs.

978-1-55017-894-4

D IS FOR DECKHA

Legally, animals are defined as property, often leading to their inhumane mistreatment. In **Animals as Legal Beings: Contesting Anthropocentric Legal Orders** (UTP \$34.95), **Maneesha Deckha**, a UVic law professor, suggests a new legal term, "beingness"—as an alternative to "personhood"—as a way to legally recognize animals and protect them from exploitation.

9781487525873



Tree Abraham



Patrick Friesen



Lucia Mann

E IS FOR EL SALVADOR

Having lived through El Salvador's brutal civil war between 1980-1992, which claimed more than 75,000 lives, **Lucia Mann** has written **The Little Breadwinner: War and Survival in the Salvadoran Heartland** (Aperion \$17.95) about families tyrannized by the country's military-led government amid the "dirty" war between the American CIA-backed government and the left-wing rebel group, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

978-0-9856039-3-9

F IS FOR FRIESEN

After publishing more than a dozen books of poetry, Victoria's **Patrick Friesen** has released **Outlasting the Weather: Selected & New Poems** (Anvil \$20), which spans a quarter century of his work. In 2016, he was nominated for the Griffin Poetry Prize for his co-translation of the Danish book of poetry, *Frayed Opus for Strings & Wind Instruments* by **Ulrikka Gernes**.

978-1-77214-153-5



Sherrill Grace

G IS FOR GRACE

Having written about **Malcom Lowry**, **Margaret Atwood** and painter **Tom Thomson**, UBC professor emerita **Sherrill Grace** spent ten years on **Tiff: A Life of Timothy Findley** (WLP \$39.99), described by Atwood as, "A meticulously researched deep dive into a troubled and fascinating life—passionate, engaged, often messy, vastly rewarding."

9781771124539

H IS FOR HANDMAN

Misha Handman started writing comics for his friends in elementary school, graduating to short stories and collaborative works. His debut novel **Shadow Stitcher: An Everland Mystery** (Edge \$14.95) follows a private detective in the 1950s on a missing-persons case involving organized crime, murder and espionage. The novel was shortlisted for a Rakuten Kobo 2020 Emerging Writers Prize for speculative fiction.

978-1770531994



Rebecca Wood Barrett

I IS FOR INDIGENOUS

The new *Indigenous Literary Map of BC* highlights the careers of more than 100 Indigenous literary artists of B.C. with extensive descriptions of their output. Stage two of the literary map next year will add another 100 authors from among the 300 written about by **Alan Twigg**. The project is supported by Canada Book Fund and **Yosef Wosk** with website design by **Sharon Jackson**. www.literarymapofbc.ca



J IS FOR JANESS

In the tradition of ‘poetry of witness,’ Victoria-based **Danielle Janess**’ debut poetry collection **The Milk of Amnesia** (MQUP \$17.95) uses various forms and language—theatre, film clips, photographs and dance—to address problems with historical memory and the trauma of inherited memories of war. Elements of Janess’s book grew from her own family history which included a maternal grandfather who was arrested in Warsaw within the first twenty days of the Second World War, and sent to a Soviet gulag where he survived for three years before joining the Free Polish Army in Russia.

978-0-2280-0345-8

K IS FOR KLEIN



Seth Klein’s A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency (ECW \$24.95) is about preparing Canada for the coming climate disasters, using lessons from the Second World War. He served for 22 years as the founding director of the B.C. office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

978-1-77041-545-4



David Neel: writer, photographer and artist.

L IS FOR LAM



Brian Lam

Brian Lam, publisher at Arsenal Pulp Press, has been named the 2020 recipient of the Lambda Literary Publishing Professional Award, which honours a distinguished individual in the community whose innovative work in the publishing industry promotes and promulgates LGBTQ literature.

M IS FOR Manthorpe



Jonathan Manthorpe

Jonathan Manthorpe’s fifth book, **Restoring Democracy in an Age of Populists and Pestilence** (Cormorant \$24.95), outlines what is eroding the democracies in the Western world and provides solutions for fixing them. He names external influences from Russia and China as well as the internal pressures of income disparity as chief among the problems threatening many democratic systems.

978-1-77086-582-2

N IS FOR NEEL

Kwakwaka’wakw artist and author **David Neel** was shortlisted for the 2020 Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust prize for non-fiction for his memoir **The Way Home** (UBC Press \$32.95) about his struggle to reconnect with his traditional culture. The jury said his “spellbinding memoir” was “wise and deeply moving.”

978-0-7748-9041-0

O IS FOR O’BYRNE

It helps to be an enthusiast for the subject you are working on. Vancouver tea tippler **Chelsea O’Byrne**, illustrator of the kidlit book **Teatime Around the World** (Greystone \$22.95), enjoys a good cuppa’. O’Byrne works mainly in watercolour, graphite and gouache. Her images accompany **Denyse Waissbluth’s** spare text about the many tea cultures including those of Tibet, Iran, England, Thailand, Russia, Egypt, Pakistan, Hong Kong, India and Japan.

978-17764-601-7

A modern queer tragedy about a pilot’s last words, an interrupted celebration, and the fear of losing everything.

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— TIMOTHY TAYLOR, author of *The Rule of Stephens*

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CHILDREN OF COMBS AND WATCH CHAINS

Ken Weitzman
SPIN MOVES

Kelli Fox (Canada), Anthony Giardina (USA), and Anthea Williams (NZ) juried. Based on Wong’s award-winning book, the contest is the world’s largest for the writing of tragedy. If you love drama, writing, or criticism, read it today. Next year, there’s over \$12,000 in prizes (risktheatre.com). Risk theatre is literary theory’s finest hour in the 21st century. Explore the possibilities when risk is the dramatic fulcrum of the action.

WHO'S WHO

BRITISH COLUMBIA

P IS FOR PULLINGER

In her tenth novel, **Forest Green** (Doubleday \$29.95) Victoria-born **Kate Pullinger** explores how trauma can warp a life through a man who begins life in the Okanagan Valley during the Great Depression, is haunted by his experiences as a World War II soldier, nomadically works in logging camps across B.C., finds one great love but it's turbulent, and ends up homeless on Vancouver's streets. Pullinger won the Governor General's Award for her 2009 novel, *The Mistress of Nothing*.

9780385683043



Kate Pullinger

BATH SPA UNIVERSITY PHOTO

Q IS FOR QUARTERMAIN

Meredith Quartermain uses a train journey from the West Coast to the East Coast in **Lullabies in the Real World** (Newest \$18.95) to probe Canada's legacy as a colonial nation. At times playful, at other times confrontational, Quartermain ends by imagining a time before, or outside of, colonization. Her



Meredith Quartermain

poems also reflect imaginary conversations with Canadian poets such as **Robin Blaser** and **bpNichol**.

978-1-988732-78-7



Jordan Scott explores the linguistic implications of stuttering as it relates to human communication. In 2006, he was nominated for the **Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize for Silt**.

R IS FOR RAE

In **Chemical World: Science in Our Daily Lives** (Orca \$19.95), former biologist **Rowena Rae** alerts young readers to the role chemicals play in their daily lives. She invites them to consider what they eat and how different foods could affect their health. 978-1-45982-157-6

S IS FOR SCOTT

Jordan Scott, who has struggled with stuttering most of his life, has published a debut kidlit book, **I Talk Like a River** (Penguin \$24.99) for children aged 4 – 8, with illustrations by **Sydney Smith**. It's about a boy who stutters and is helped by a patient, kind father who takes him for a walk by the river to help him find his voice. 9780823445592

T IS FOR TAYLOR

After 21 years as a paramedic, **Graeme Taylor** retired from the B.C. Ambulance Service and has recorded his experiences in **A Paramedic's Tales: Hilarious, Horrible and Heartwarming True Stories** (Harbour \$24.95). He candidly recalls what it's like to attend to people dying, and those who are badly injured or disfigured, those in the midst of psychotic episodes, competitiveness with firemen, what paramedics joke about, and how they deal with suicidal patients. 978-1-55017-902-6



Rowena Rae



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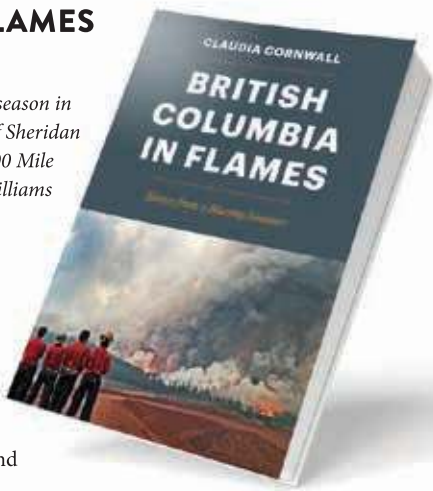
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BRITISH COLUMBIA IN FLAMES

by Claudia Cornwall

A personal and journalistic account of wildfire season in British Columbia, including the communities of Sheridan Lake, Ashcroft, Cache Creek, 16 Mile House, 100 Mile House, Pressy Lake, Lac La Hache, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Hanceville-Riske Creek and Clinton.

"Cornwall records the worst fire season in provincial history, from the vast indifference of climate change imposing its will upon the landscape to the intensely personal tales of fleeing homesteaders saving their livestock. *British Columbia in Flames* is simply a terrific book, as literary journalism and as a chronicle of fiery apocalypse, both present and yet to come."—Stephen Hume



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DEEP AND SHELTERED WATERS


DAVID R. GRAY
with a foreword by Nancy J. Turner and Robert D. Turner

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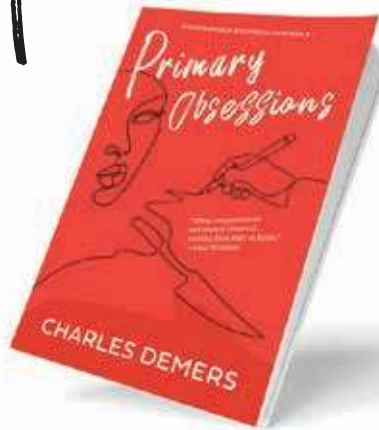
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 ROYAL BC MUSEUM

Primary Obsessions

by CHARLES DEMERS



"Dr. Annick Boudreau is an investigator with intelligence, compassion, and curiosity who never leaps to an early diagnosis. Demers writes sharp, witty dialogue and delivers a nuanced portrayal of the stigmatization of mental illness in collision with crime."
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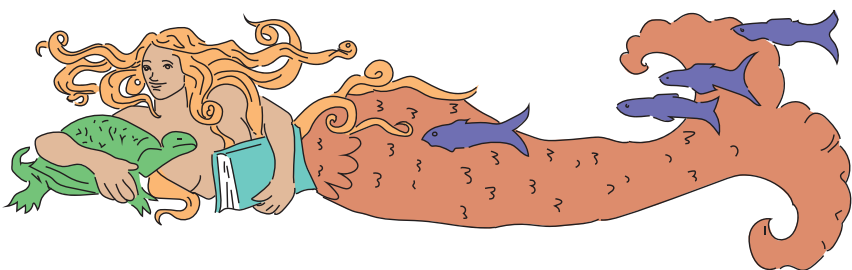
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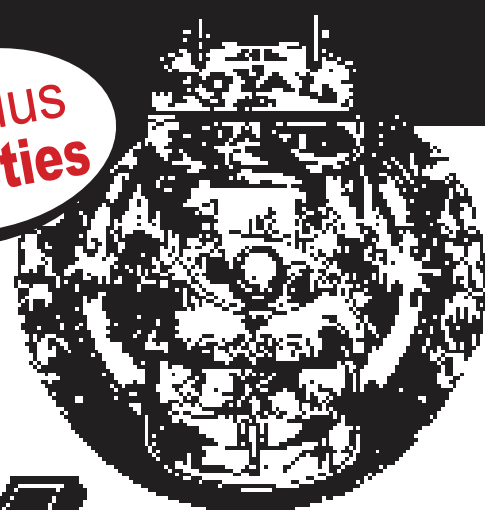


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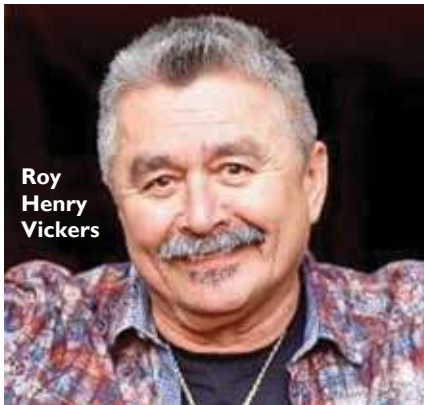


Michael Aloni is Akiva Shtisel in the Israeli TV series *Shtisel*, a global hit about a fictional Haredi (Orthodox) family in Jerusalem. See **Y** entry.

U IS FOR UGANDA

Janice Masur has written a memoir about growing up in a small European Jewish community from 1949 to 1961 in Kampala, Uganda under British Imperial rule in **Shalom Uganda: A Jewish Community on the Equator** (Island Blue \$4.99). With no rabbi or Jewish infrastructure, this community of just twenty-three families formed a cohesive group that celebrated all Jewish festivals together and upheld their Jewish identity.

978-1-9991469-0-0



Roy Henry Vickers

V IS FOR VICKERS

Roy Henry Vickers continues his collaboration with **Robert Budd** in the new board book, **Raven Squawk, Orca Squeak** (Harbour \$9.95), which supports language development of babies and toddlers. Vickers' artwork illustrates the text for West Coast sounds like sea lion roars, crashing Pacific Ocean waves, and the rustle of cedar branches in the wind.

978-1-55017-904-0

W IS FOR WEBB



Maureen Webb

The internet has more pitfalls than a game of Snakes & Ladders. Human rights lawyer and UBC professor, **Maureen Webb** argues that hackers can be vital disruptors and that many

are trying to 'build out' democracy into cyberspace in her hugely important study **Coding Democracy: How Hackers are Disrupting Power, Surveillance, and Authoritarianism** (MIT Press \$39.95). Her previous book was *Illusions of Security: Global Surveillance and Democracy in the Post-9/11 World* (City Lights, 2007).

978-0-262-04355-7

Joseph Dandurand

X IS FOR X.ALATSEP

Kwantlen storyteller **Joseph Dandurand**, whose traditional name X.alatsep means 'written down,' has teamed up with Kwakwaka'wakw artist **Simon Daniel James** for the kidlit book **The Sasquatch, the Fire and the Cedar Baskets** (Nightwood \$14.95). It's the story of a Sasquatch who rescues his family from a forest fire by dousing flames with water stored in baskets woven from cedar bark by his mate.

978-0-88971-376-5

Y IS FOR YACOWAR

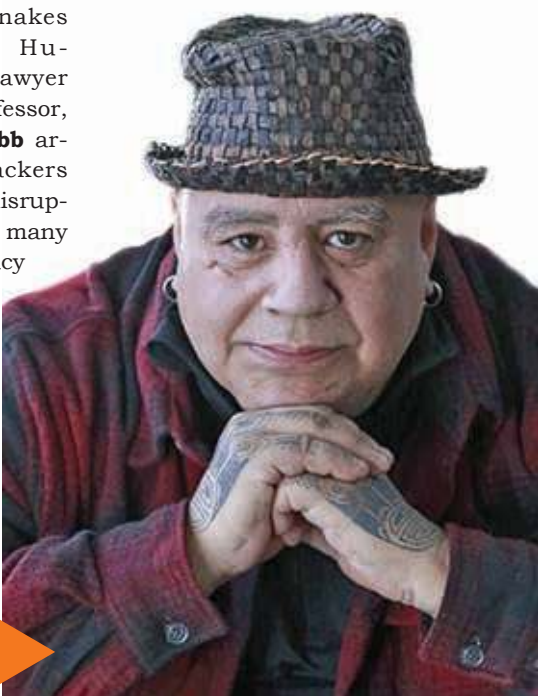
After a 44-year academic career, including jobs as Dean of Academic Affairs at Emily Carr University of Art and Design and Dean of Fine Arts at The University of Calgary, **Maurice Yacowar** of Victoria has released **Reading Shtisel: A TV Masterpiece from Israel** (lulu.com \$20). It's a detailed, 92-page critique and appreciation of the hit series that first aired in Israel in 2013. Netflix brought it to North America in 2018. Yacowar previously self-published two books evaluating *The Sopranos*.

978-0-35947964-1

Z IS FOR ZIMMERMAN

Alex Zimmerman has self-published, **Becoming Coastal: 25 Years of Exploration & Discovery of the B.C. Coast by Paddle, Oar & Sail** (Seaworthy Publications \$26.95). An avid sailor and outdoorsman, he built several boats and kayaks, and designed his latest boat. After several thousand miles under the keels of his various vessels, he says the sea still has things to teach him.

9781948494274

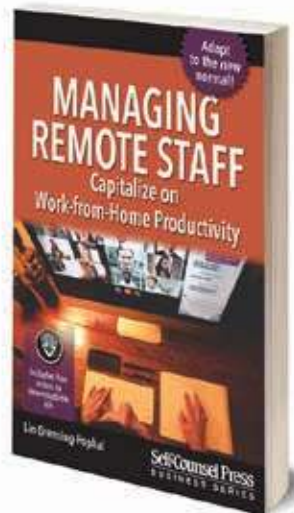


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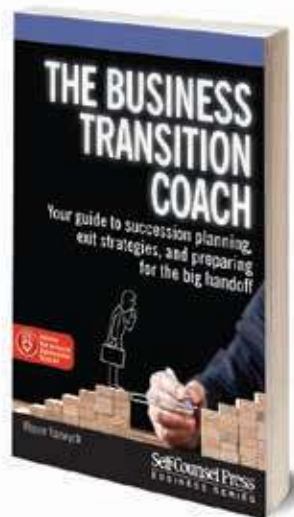


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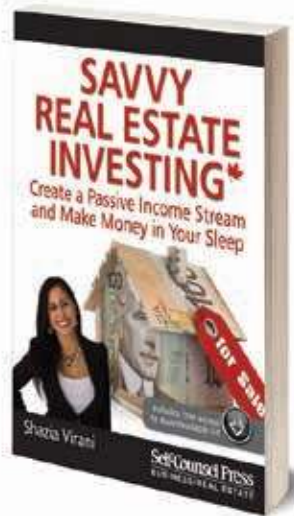


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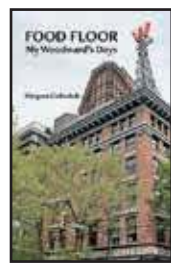
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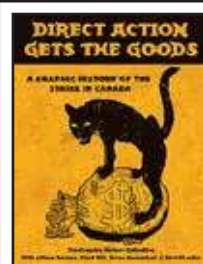
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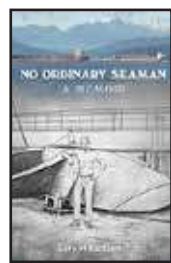


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SEAFARING MEMOIR

LETTERS

Bookie president

My wife and I live in Edmonton. We greatly enjoy *BC BookWorld*. Thanks for doing it. Saw a mention some years back on a B.C. bookstore man who became president of Estonia or some other Baltic country. I looked through old copies but could not find it. Can you help me out—what was/ is his name?

Tom Monto

Edmonton, Alberta

[According to *ABCBookWorld*: Toomas Hendrik Ilves was involved with the Literary Storefront in Vancouver during the 1980s. He reputedly taught Estonian literature and linguistics at SFU for a year and his wife taught in the psychology department at UBC. Born in Sweden, he became president of Estonia in 2006. Under his presidency, Estonia became the first country in the world to introduce voting via the internet in national elections. When he was involved in BC literature, there was a rumour that Ilves could be involved with the CIA. More information can be found in the history of the Literary Storefront by Trevor Carolan: *The Literary Storefront, The Glory Years, Vancouver's Literary Centre 1978-1984* (Mother Tongue 2015). —Ed.]

Community value

Thank you for having us on the cover of the autumn edition of *BC BookWorld*. It looks beautiful. I have had many friends snap photos of it and send the pictures my way from ferries and book stores and locations near and far. I am so deeply grateful for the coverage this brings to our book (*BIG: Stories about Life in Plus-Sized Bodies*). The support that *BC BookWorld*



Tom Ilves
and Mona Fertig,
1982, at
The Literary
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gives to our writing community in B.C. is so important and immeasurable in value.

Christina Myers

Surrey

40 years ago today

I want to thank you for your review of *Slashburner* in the autumn issue of *BC BookWorld*. When I took the included photographs forty years ago, I would never have imagined they would appear in a magazine, let alone a book.

Nick Raeside

Nanose Bay

Scramble Campbell

Once again issues of *BC BookWorld* landed at our local library. Once again, I grabbed one and started paging through it. I was enjoying myself

when I came to page 25 and nearly lost my lunch. Gordon Campbell complete with sleazy grin staring out at me. 'Scramble Campbell' may not have been the worst premier in B.C.'s history—there's too much competition for that one—but Campbell is in the running for the title! The so-called Liberals went their merry way selling off B.C. in bits and pieces to their friends and supporters, including an attempt to sell BC Ferries. The list goes on and on. George Abbott's *Big Promises* is welcome if not somewhat late.

Dennis Peacock

Clearwater

Photo credit

In the Autumn issue: Bigg's orca T37B pursues a sea lion in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, August 1, 2014. Photo © Ken Balcomb.

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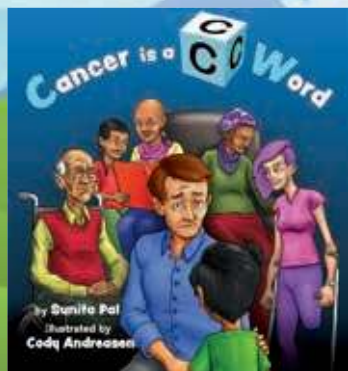
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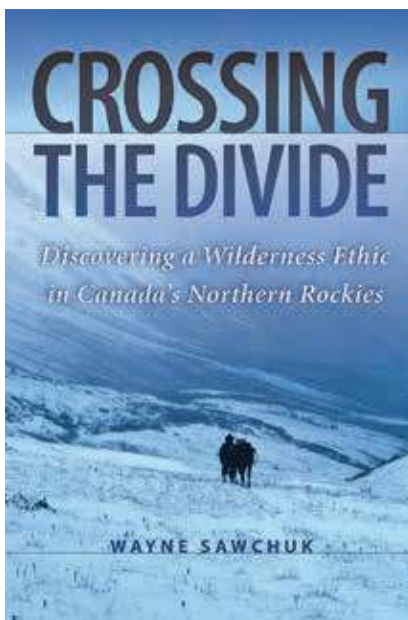
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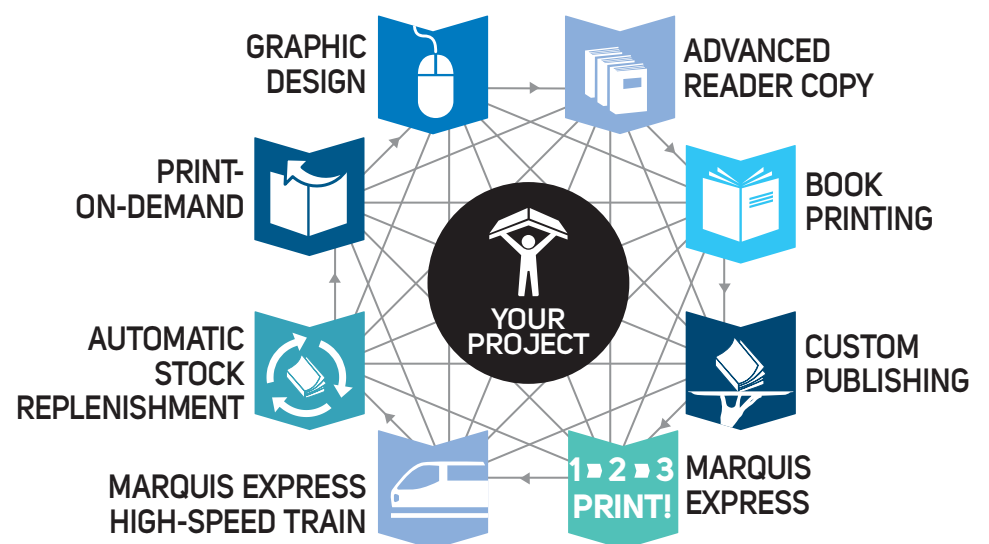
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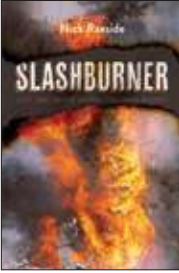


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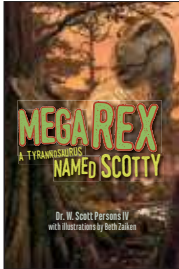


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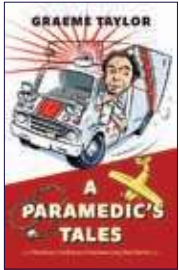


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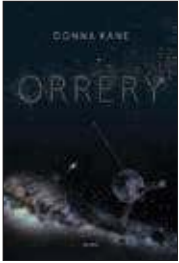


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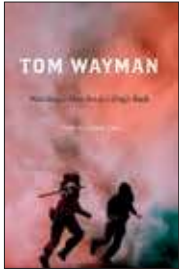
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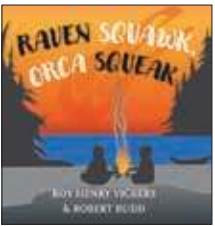


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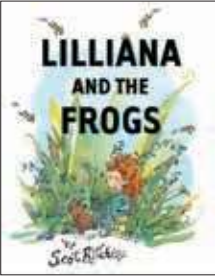
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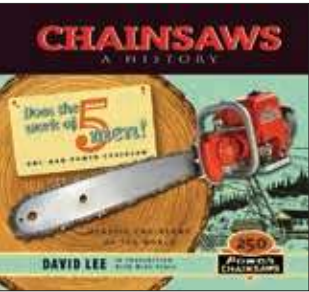


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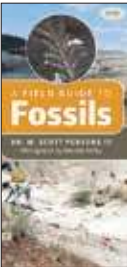
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