

YOUR FREE GUIDE TO **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

BC

BOOKWORLD

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MICHAEL AUDAIN

Bronze Sculpture
(2004) by Haida artist,
James Hart.

**1960s Freedom Rider, art collector, and builder of
30,000 homes and the Audain Art Museum in Whistler.**

see page 6

IVAN COYOTE

A love letter of empathy
in socially-distanced
times. 11



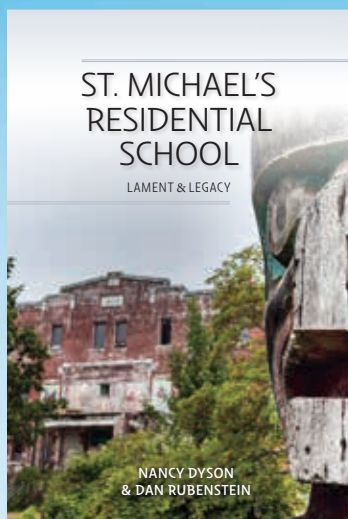
**GRAPHIC
NOVELS**

20-21



**RENÉE SAROJINI
SAKLIKAR**

Dystopia and female
saviours. 22

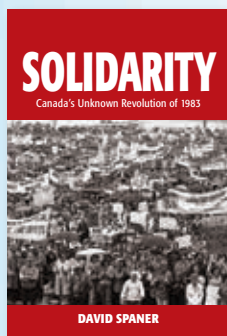


St. Michael's Residential School Lament & Legacy

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 wished to report the conditions of St. Michael's Residential School, they were fired. With 14 photos.

978-1-55380-623-3 (PRINT) 978-1-55380-624-0 (EBOOK) 196 pp \$21.95

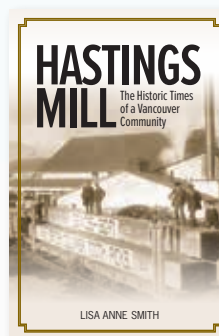


Solidarity

David Spaner

In 1983, B.C. Premier Bill Bennett unleashed an avalanche of anti-union, anti-human rights legislation. The Solidarity movement erupted, uniting the province's labourers and leftist activists for the first time.

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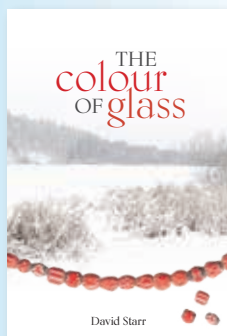


Hastings Mill

Lisa Anne Smith

In circa 1868, Hastings Mill Store became the heart of Vancouver's first community. In 1930, it was sentenced to demolition. Luckily, a group of determined ladies refused to let that happen.

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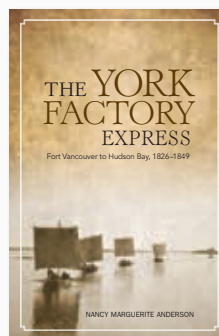


The Colour of Glass

David Starr

Passed from the eighteenth century to the present, a glass bead necklace endures racism and colonialism targeted towards Indigenous peoples. Its journey features the truths of Canada's history, encouraging reconciliation.

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Nancy Marguerite Anderson

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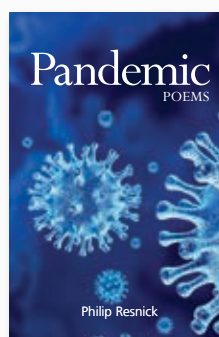


Big Sky Falling

Kelsey Andrews

Kelsey Andrews transitions from Grande Prairie country to Vancouver city life. She befriends the trials of depression in a world of water, earth, sky and memories that linger like ghosts.

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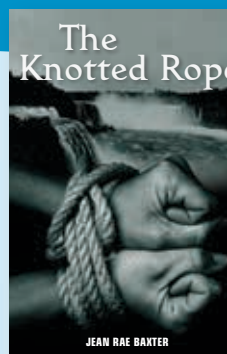


Pandemic Poems

Philip Resnick

COVID-19 unleashed turmoil upon the world. Written during the first wave of the pandemic, these poems call on literature, historical analogies and personal reflection to make sense of it all.

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978-1-55380-645-5 (EBOOK) 128 pp \$17.95



The Knotted Rope

Jean Rae Baxter

When an imperfect law is passed to end slavery in Upper Canada, Broken Trail must rescue a group of slaves before their new slave dealer ships them across the border.

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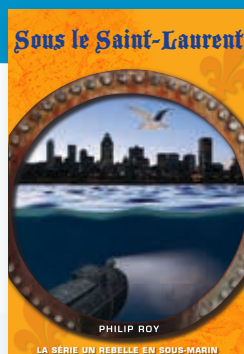


Awesome Wildlife Defenders

Martha Attema

11-year-old Rebecca has a panic condition, and her family's money struggles don't help. When she's paired with Cedar for a class project, she learns that his life is complicated too.

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978-1-55380-648-6 (EBOOK) 280 pp \$12.95

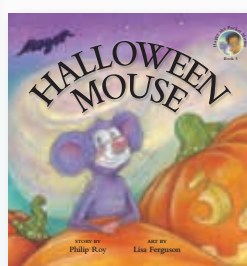


Sous le Saint-Laurent

Philip Roy

The third volume in the French series "Un rebelle en sous-marin" takes Alfred and his homemade submarine up the St. Lawrence River in search of his father who abandoned him at birth.

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978-1-55380-657-8 (EBOOK)
264 pp \$12.95 FRENCH LANGUAGE



Halloween Mouse

Philip Roy & Lisa Ferguson

Happy the mouse is eager for some candy on his first trick-or-treating adventure. Can John find a costume? Will the neighborhood run out of treats?

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32 pp \$12.95 CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

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Tradecraft of Politics**
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Shelley Adams

**Whitewater Cooks
Together Again**
(Sandhill Book Marketing \$36.95)

**Teoni Spatheller &
Natassia Davies**

White Raven
(Heritage House \$19.95)

Carol Anne Hilton

**Indigenomics:
Taking a Seat at the
Economic Table**
(New Society \$19.99)

**Dan Rubenstein &
Nancy Dyson**

**St. Michael's Residential
School: Lament & Legacy**
(Ronsdale \$21.95)

David R. Greig

Separation Agreement
(Self-Counsel Press \$29.95)



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**Willie Sellars &
Kevin Easthope**

Hockey with Dad
(Caitlin \$19.95)

Richard Wagamese

**Richard Wagamese Selected:
What Comes from Spirit**
(D&M \$24.95)

**Roy Henry Vickers
& Robert Budd**

**A is for Anemone:
A First West Coast Alphabet**
(Harbour \$14.95)

Tamas Dobozy

Ghost Geographies
(New Star \$24)

**Monique Gray Smith
& Nicole Neidhardt**

When We Are Kind
(Orca \$19.95)

Doug Diaczuk

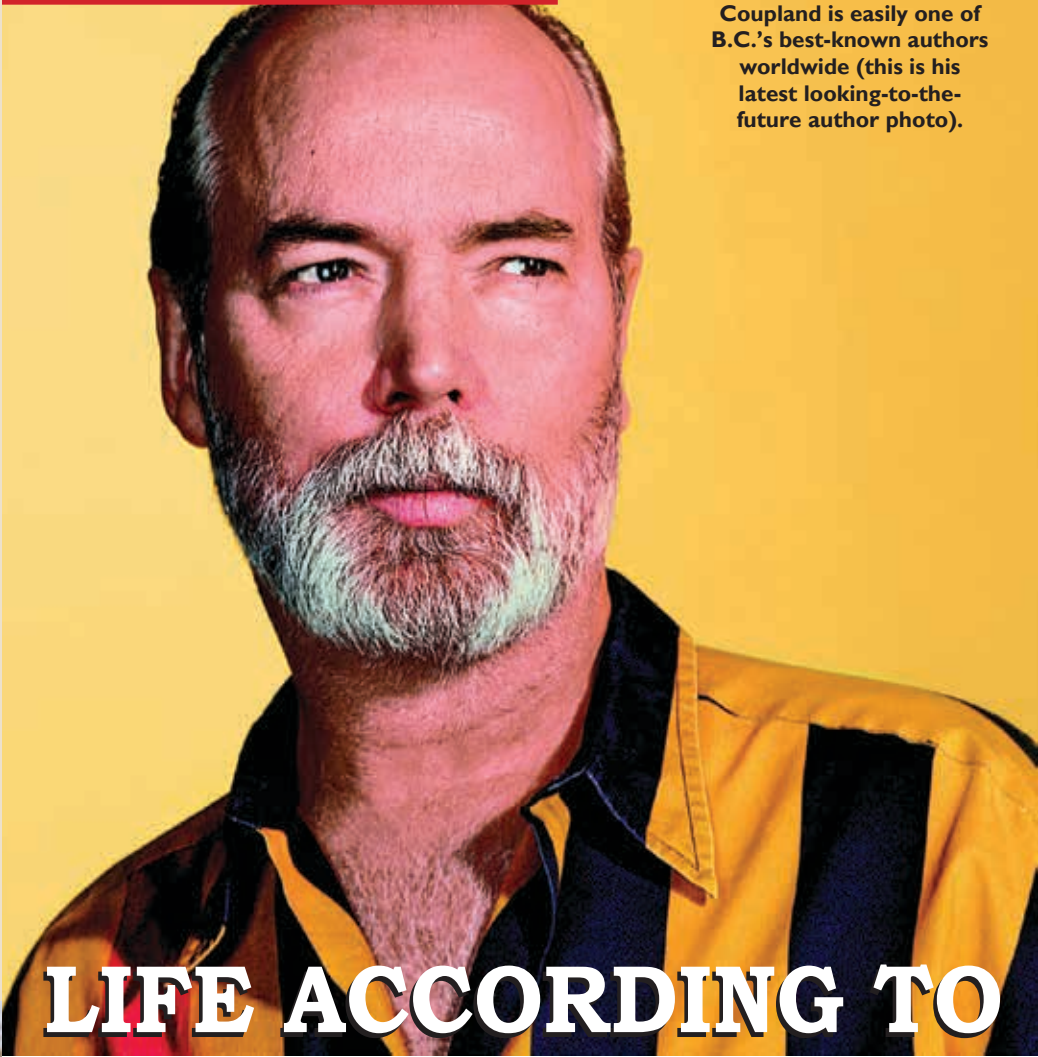
Just Like a Real Person
(Anvil \$18)

M.A.C. Farrant

One Good Thing
(Talonbooks \$19.95)

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

PEOPLE



Wunderkind, Douglas Coupland is easily one of B.C.'s best-known authors worldwide (this is his latest looking-to-the-future author photo).

LIFE ACCORDING TO COUPLAND

When he authored *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture* (St. Martin's Press, 1991), **Douglas Coupland** became one of the few North American authors to define a generation in the 20th century along with, for example, **F. Scott Fitzgerald** for The Jazz Age, **Ernest Hemingway** for The Lost Generation and **Jack Kerouac** for The Beats.

With his first fiction in eight years, **Binge: 60 stories to make your brain feel different** (Random House \$29.95) — so-named because it's impossible to read only one — Coupland proves he hasn't lost his existential touch. He knows how to zero in on the mystery of what it means to be alive.

Take the story "Radiation" about a gathering of middle-class people. The host, Craig, says to himself, "Look at me! I'm having a cosmopolitan fortieth birthday on the deck of a home with an \$800,000 mortgage. I'm truly an adult now!" Then one of the guests drops the news he's getting cancer treatment before asking someone to tell a joke to relieve the dismay he has caused. An eagle suddenly appears and takes their breath away — that is until it swoops down to a nearby treetop, clutches a crow chick in its talons and flies away to the hysterical cries of the crow parents. The eagle returns a second time and does the same thing. What breaks the tension after this repeat episode of gory nature is one of the guests' daughters running out to the deck to ask a startling question about sex (you have to read the book to learn what the question is). Life, death and sex in five pages. And that's just one of the 60 stories. Binge away.

9781039000520

Kevin Loring



THE ART OF PUPPETRY

For thousands of years, people have been charmed by puppets as this ancient art has been used to tell stories and share culture. It was the subject of an award-winning show in 2019 at UBC's Museum of Anthropology called *Shadows, Strings and Other Things: The Enchanting Theatre of Puppets* curated by UBC associate professor, **Nicola Levell**.

Levell earned an award for the exhibition in 2020 from the Canadian Museum Association, followed this year by her book, **Bodies of Enchantment: Puppets from Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas** (Figure 1 \$60). With over 150 photographs of puppetry from around the world and texts from other scholars and puppeteers, the book shows the ongoing popularity of such theatre including leather shadow puppetry based on ancient Indian epics in modern-day Indonesia, Taiwan's Pili glove puppetry still thriving in the current digital era, and the growth of new fields of stop-motion animation.

9781773271545



Nicola Levell

The warrior, his lawyer and the lawyer's wife

The last remaining member of a First Nation decides to go to court to fight for his traditional lands in **Kevin Loring's** latest play, **Little Red Warrior and His Lawyer** (Talon \$16.95). After Little Red Warrior's lawyer, Larry, invites him to live in his basement during the court case, romantic sparks fly between Little Red and Larry's wife Desdemona. Then the court case takes an unexpected turn and everything is up in the air.

Loring is Nlaka'pamux from the Lytton First Nation and a graduate of Langara's Studio 58. He has won many awards including the 2009 Governor General's Literary Award for English-Language Drama for his first published play, *Where the Blood Mixes* (Talon, 2009).

9781772012545

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PEOPLE

HOSTAGE TRAGEDY AFTERMATH

The infamous hostage-taking incident that occurred at the old B.C. Penitentiary between June 9 – 11, 1975 and ended with one of the hostages being fatally shot is remembered by the sister of the victim, **Margaret Franz**, in **Between Blade & Bullet: The Mary Steinhauser Story** (FriesenPress \$20.49). The shooter was one of the prison guards who stormed the area where the hostages were held. The guards deliberately covered up who fired the bullet that pierced Mary Steinhauser’s heart.



Mary Steinhauser, 1971

Steinhauser was a social worker, prison classification officer and prisoner rights advocate. Some believe she may have made herself an enemy of the guards’ old boys’ network. Franz also questions whether justice was served in the follow-up investigations. “I felt, deeply and bitterly, that Mary had been betrayed by the judicial system, by government and police authorities, and by society as a whole.” **Christian Bruyère** based a play and subsequent film of the same name, *Walls* (Talon, 1978) on the incident.

9781525588235



Gregor Craigie

WAITING FOR THE BIG ONE

People in the Pacific Northwest have been warned about The Big One, a massive earthquake followed by a tsunami, which will cause billions of dollars in damages and many deaths. **On Borrowed Time: North America’s Next Big Quake** (Goose Lane \$22.95) is **Gregor Craigie’s** deep dive into the science behind earthquakes. In addition to interviewing scientific experts, Craigie has collected first-hand accounts from people who have survived deadly quakes — all in an effort to find out what we can do to prepare for this major natural disaster that is coming — it’s only a matter of time. Victoria-based Craigie is the host of CBC Radio’s morning show *On the Island*. He has also reported for CBS Radio and been a former BBC journalist who read the news to millions of American listeners of *The World* on Public Radio International.

978177310206

Head of the glass

Trailblazing women **Martha Piper** and **Indira Samarasekera** have joined together to produce **Nerve: Lessons on Leadership from Two Women Who Went First** (ECW \$36.95). Piper served as the first woman president of the University of British Columbia and Samarasekera as the first woman president of the University of Alberta. The pair offer their insights and guidance to women of every age and at every stage of their career who take positions of leadership in academia or business. Through their experiences, Piper and Samarasekera share the reality of the demands of leadership, and caution that things are not always easy or fair.



Martha Piper and Indira Samarasekera

In an interview with *Folio*, Piper said, “There’s research that shows men are given second chances much more than women. Hence, women — especially those who are going first and under so much scrutiny — are sometimes reluctant to take risks. But if you don’t take risks, you’re not going to make a difference. Indira and I realized that we were willing to risk. We were willing to take on some of the old expectations and do things differently.” 9781770416017

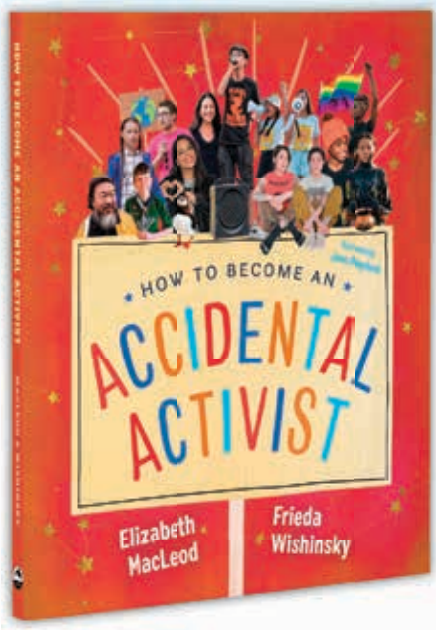
Stories from the SHADOWS

After twice winning the Scotiabank Giller Prize and twice being a finalist for the Man Booker Prize, Victoria’s **Esi Edugyan** will now give this year’s series of Massey Lectures—where major contemporary writers and scholars address important issues of their time. Broadcast on CBC radio, the lectures are also published in book form and in Edugyan’s **Out of the Sun: On Race and Storytelling** (House of Anansi \$32.99) she reflects on Black experience and Black histories in art. She looks at how many “Black figures and stories have been lost to us, and at what it means for us collectively to have been unable to see them.” In one section, Edugyan relates how the Texan journalist, **John Howard Griffin**, darkened his skin to masquerade as Black and write a book about his experiences, *Black Like Me* (Houghton Mifflin, 1961). Edugyan quotes Griffin describing what he called the ‘hate stare’ —“Nothing can describe the withering horror of this. You feel lost, sick at heart before such unmasked hatred, not so much because it threatens you as because it shows humans in an inhuman light.” 9781487010508



Esi Edugyan

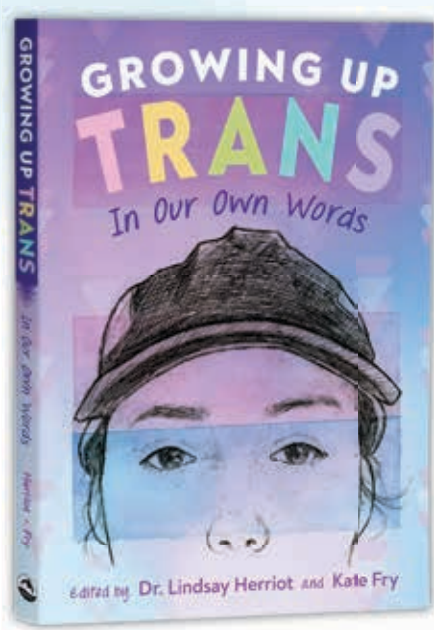
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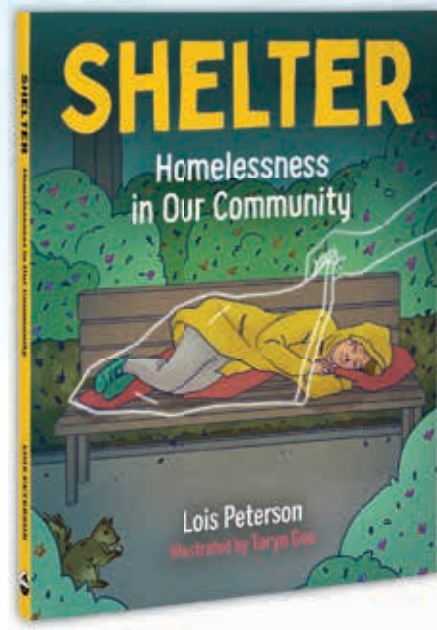
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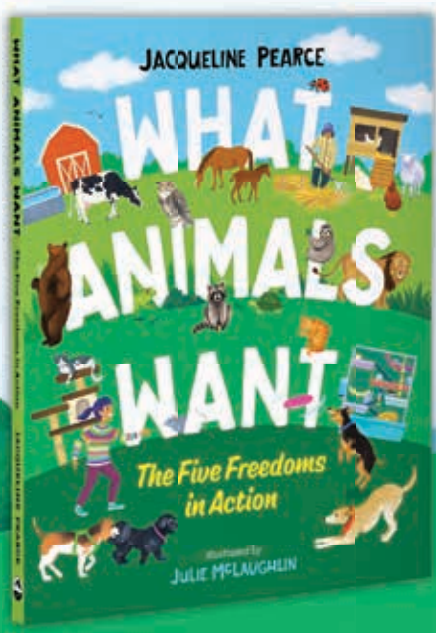
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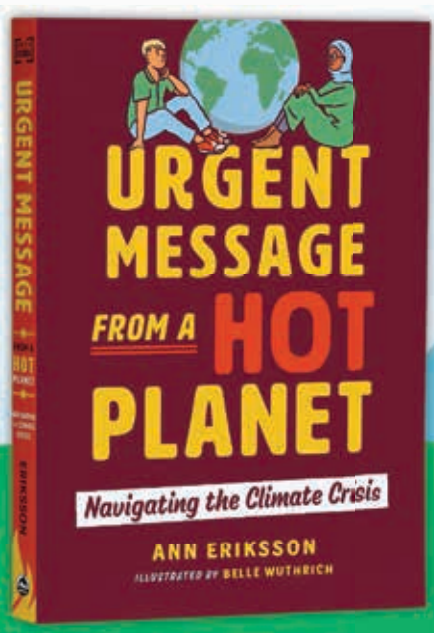
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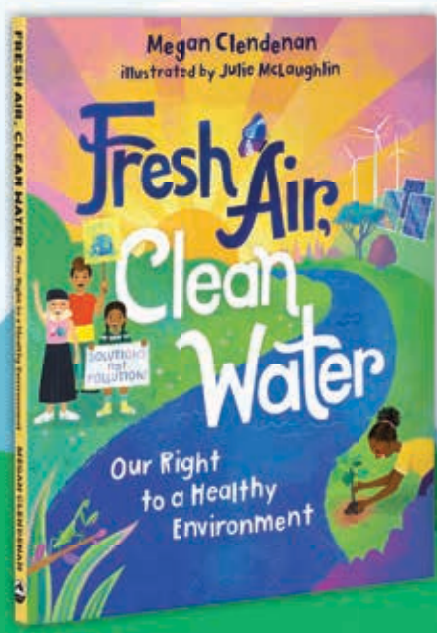
—Booklist



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"AN AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT—COMPREHENSIVE AND INFORMATIVE. ULTIMATELY, IT IS A TOOLBOX FOR HOPE."

—Elizabeth May, MP, Saanich-Gulf Islands



9781459826793 HC \$24.95



MEMOIR

REVIEW

One Man in his Time...
A Memoir by Michael Audain
 (Douglas & McIntyre \$36.95)

These days, when nearly everyone so desperately wants to believe they are special, **Michael Audain** writes as if he is not.

It's a hard act to pull off when you just happen to be one of the richest people in the province, but Audain succeeds charmingly in **One Man in his Time**.

His candour can be eye-popping. Did he really just confide to us his early struggles with impotency? Did he really just describe himself driving to Washington State with a rope, checking into a motel, and preparing to commit suicide?

Did he really make a second trip to Asia to consult with a Buddhist monk about whether or not to marry a woman he barely knew? (They met in a Vancouver hair salon where she told him she wouldn't date a customer.)

Perhaps best of all—did he really trick Premier **Dave Barrett** into accepting a budget item that increased spending on public housing for British Columbians 18 times more than in the preceding provincial budget?

Audain's admirable honesty is not intimate. The chairman of Polygon Homes Ltd. is not confessing. He is instead reporting. He is aiming for truth. This is a brave and often audacious memoir. You do not have to know or care who Michael Audain is to enjoy the ride.



MISERABLE AND LONELY AS A BOY IN England, Michael Audain was mainly raised by his alcoholic father, **Jimmy Audain**, a cavalry officer, sportsman and rake who beat him badly and often. His mostly motherless, violent upbringing will be alarming to some readers, along with his equanimity about corporal punishment. He suggests "even though people may experience troubled times as youngsters, it doesn't rule out one day having a fulfilling life."

As an only child who survived the London blitz, Audain did poorly at school. Bullied as a "toff" and a failure at sports, he was again beaten on a regular basis, but ritualized punishments were common. Someone reared on **Rudyard Kipling** learns to prefer stoicism and philosophy to coddling. He took refuge in reading.

"Children who are loners tend to become quite impervious to being hurt," he writes, "because they don't invest much in social relationships. Introverted people also tend to be more self-sufficient, although perhaps less compassionate than their fellow human beings."

Audain took solace from his favourite Anglican hymn, "Jerusalem" and he initially wanted this memoir to be entitled *My Bow of Burning Gold*, a quote from the hymn. The replacement title references **Shakespeare's** *As You Like It*. "All the world's a stage... and a man in his time plays many parts."

After Audain arrived with his father and step-mother in Victoria in 1947, he learned boxing. Trained by **Eddie Had-dad**, a former British Empire champion,

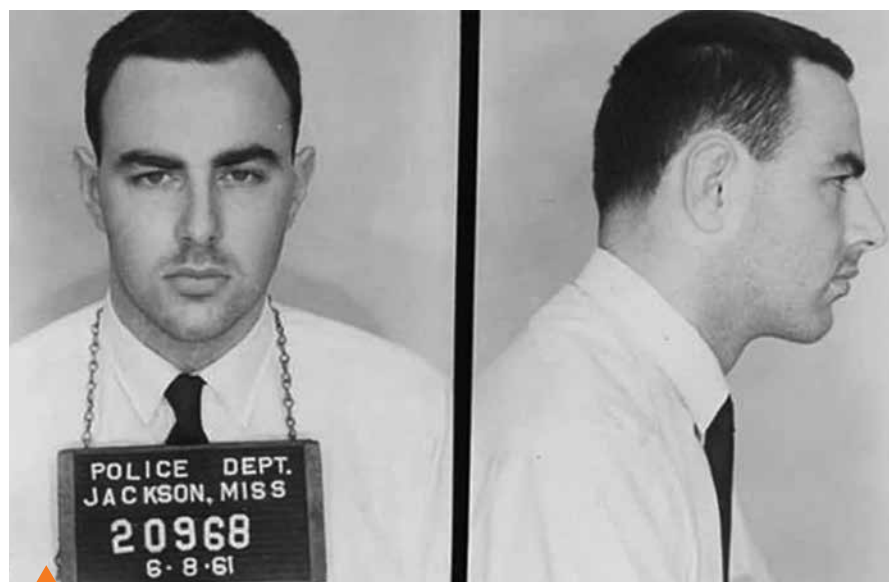


Michael Audain and his wife Yoshiko Karasawa. The Audain family made history when it donated \$100 million towards a new Vancouver Art Gallery building in November 2021.

B.C.'S AUDACIOUS AUDAIN

"I have been involved in a lot of 'good trouble'."

— **Michael Audain**



As a Freedom Rider in Jackson, Mississippi in the summer of 1961, Michael Audain was incarcerated at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. The conviction was later overturned.

he literally learned to defend himself. "I didn't mind boxing because there was no team involvement," he writes. Having feared that Michael was a latent 'pansy,' his much-relieved, homophobic father went to Alcoholics Anonymous and would eventually run unsuccessfully for the Social Credit Party.

In Victoria, Audain met an old Kwakwaka'wakw carver in the carving shed at Thunderbird Park, near Crystal Gardens pool and the Empress Hotel. This turned out to be the first artist

Audain ever knew—the great **Mungo Martin**. Fast forward five decades and Audain would amass one of the world's foremost private collections of Pacific Northwest Indigenous art, giving rise to his remarkable creation of the Audain Art Museum in Whistler primarily devoted to the work of B.C. artists.

At age twenty, Audain boarded a freighter bound for Cuba, hoping to meet **Fidel Castro**, but he ended up instead in London where he was briefly reunited with his remarried mother

after their six-year separation. There followed escapades in Dublin and Lyon, where Audain was unfairly arrested—a harbinger of things to come.



THERE IS MORE THAN A LITTLE BIT OF FORREST Gump in Michael Audain.

He was at Woodstock (he volunteered to give someone a ride there); he met and worked one day for **Mother Teresa** (in 1976); he lived in the counter-cultural hub of Rochdale in Toronto during its zenith (and avoided LSD); he was at the founding convention of the New Democratic Party (where he had a significant private conversation with **Tommy Douglas**); he has dined with **Charlie Chaplin**, James Bond creator **Ian Fleming** and **Queen Elizabeth II**; he was on the island of Phuket when the tsunami of 2004 devastated Southeast Asia; and he met NAACP representative **Medgar Evers**.

Regarding the latter, in June of 1961, he was one of the white Freedom Riders who went to the American red-neck south to support the Black Civil Rights movement led by **Martin Luther King Jr.** Audain was arrested in Jackson, Mississippi and sentenced to four months of humiliating conditions (steel bunks, lights shone day and night) in the Mississippi State Penitentiary.

"It was a bit surprising how delicate some of the white Freedom Riders were," Audain recalls. "They complained

about nudity in the shower rooms, which they found demeaning because it revealed who was circumcised and who wasn't—a strange concern. Some even confided to me that their greatest fear was catching athlete's foot! Others complained bitterly about the food we were provided, saying that it wasn't a balanced diet or that it bothered their allergies. I must confess, I thought to myself that if these kids had experienced the spartan British boarding schools that I had, they wouldn't have felt that they were suffering."

Two years later, Audain read about the murder of Medgar Evers.

In 2020 Audain was quoted in the *Vancouver Sun* as saying the experience changed him for the better. "Over the years I have been involved in a lot of 'good trouble' and it all stemmed from the Freedom Rides. In many ways, that frightening yet energizing experience changed my life."

Forty years later Audain returned to Jackson, Mississippi with his daughter **Kyra** to visit Evers' home after it became a national heritage site. In 2012, Audain received a citation from President **Barack Obama** for his service to the Civil Rights movement.

★
AFTER FORMING THE NUCLEAR disarmament Club at UBC in 1960 and serving as its first president, Audain was married, in 1961, at Vancouver's Unitarian Church (and overcame his earlier impotency problems) with Doukhobor-raised **Tunya Svetleshnoff**. Their eldest daughter **Fenya** is named after the best-known Sons of Freedom Doukhobor activist **Fenya Storgeoff**, nicknamed 'Big Fanny' by the blinkered and biased B.C. press that hurriedly convinced the public it was a good idea for **W.A.C. Bennett's** Socred government to confiscate Doukhobor children and place them in barbed-wire fenced compounds.

Michael and Tunya Audain were the only outsider witnesses at the outset of the famous, sometimes-nude, Doukhobor protest march from Krestova to the Lower Mainland. They remained active for months as key Doukhobor supporters and Audain also served as liaison for a film made by the French section of the National Film Board, crossing paths with poet **Al Purdy** in the process.

Again, as a social activist, Audain blew the whistle on the Dickensian practices of the Brannan Lake School for so-called juvenile delinquents. This led to his sympathetic meeting with a former social worker named Dave Barrett and **Tom Berger** the NDP opposition leader at the time. Soon after, Barrett became the NDP leader, and was eventually elected as B.C.'s first NDP Premier in 1972. Barrett kept a promise he made to Audain and closed the Brannan Lake School.

After gaining a Master of Social

Work at UBC, Audain was hired to work "doing something called local area social planning" for the Strathcona/Chinatown district of Vancouver where he met realtor **Faye Leung** and developed his abiding interest in housing and housing policies.

Accepted by both Columbia University and London School of Economics for doctoral studies, Audain chose the latter but was soon diverted in the spring of 1968 by the general strike in France. After he was warmly met by the leader of the student union movement that was taking over the streets of Paris, **Daniel Cohn-Bendit**—known in the press as "Danny the Red"—Audain became greatly depressed when French idealism fizzled.

After the Gaullist Party won almost three-quarters of the seats in the National Assembly, Audain accepted an offer from the Ontario Housing Corporation that was building thousands of public housing units. "My Ph.D. thesis remains unfinished," he writes, "something that I have always been rather ashamed about."

Audain had eight different jobs, including working as a housing policy consultant for the NDP, before being invited to work for Polygon, the foremost builder of private homes in B.C. The latter quarter of his memoir—recounting his transition from being a socialist idealist to a large-scale residential developer—is less engaging because it is less revealing.

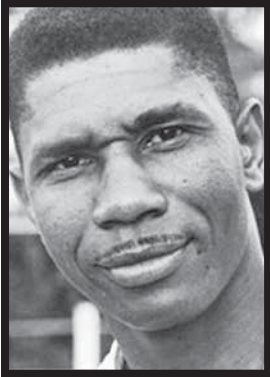
Rather than drone on for a 400-page epic, Audain has chosen to encapsulate his life story in 58 chapters that can be viewed as vignettes. Beyond the account of his Mississippi arrest and imprisonment concerns, the longest chapter concerns Audain's latest passion—elevating the reputation of Quebec painter **Jean Paul Riopelle**—and it makes for an odd finale.

Tunya, mother of their two daughters, and his second wife **Yoshi**, have both shared in his love for art (and now twelve Labrador retrievers) but their personalities remain a mystery beyond a few memorable quips from the latter.

Exceedingly frank about his early life, he is the paragon of discretion about his epoch of success. The most detailed encounter in the book turns out to be Audain's recollections of his chat with Queen Elizabeth during a formal reception, having revered her since his boyhood.

Audain's literary journey in *One Man in his Time* is all the more impressive if you understand how much he has left out—namely his remarkable record of philanthropy and public service. Rather than trying to be liked or admired, he is earnestly taking stock of who he has turned out to be. This is a thoroughly original book about a vital builder of B.C.

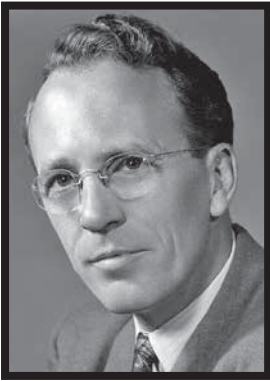
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Medgar Evers



Mungo Martin



Tommy Douglas



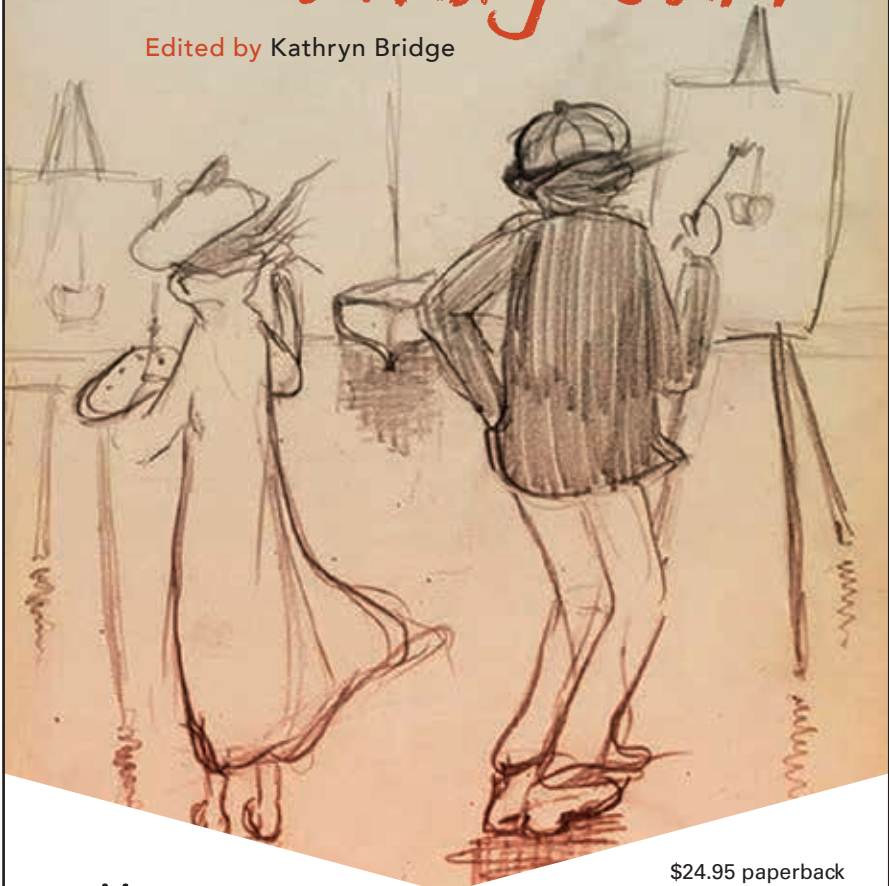
Charlie Chaplin

Unvarnished


Autobiographical Sketches by Emily Carr

Emily Carr

Edited by Kathryn Bridge

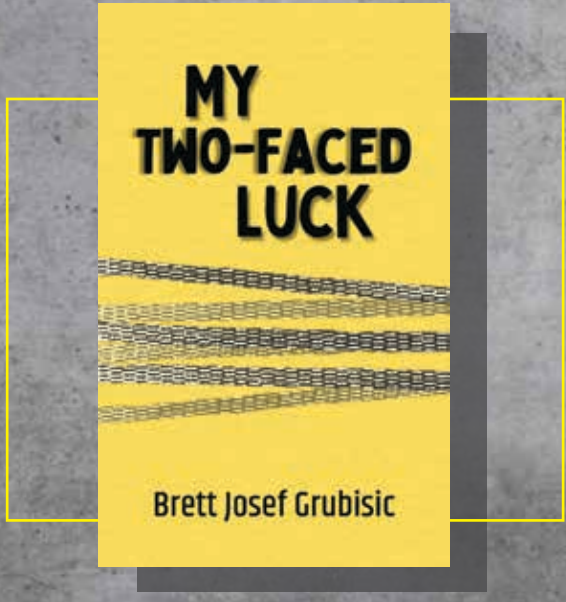


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MY TWO-FACED LUCK

Brett Josef Grubisic

My Two-Faced Luck | Brett Josef Grubisic
9781989689271 | \$19.95

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— The Ormsby Review


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BOOK PRIZES

One of the province's most prestigious awards for writers, the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence, was presented to the poet and playwright **Joseph A. Dandurand** at this year's BC & Yukon Book Prizes, held via Zoom on September 25.

Dandurand, a member of the Kwantlen First Nation, has been a storyteller since he was a young man. He is the author of more than twelve books of poetry and several plays for adults and youth. His most recent collection of poetry, *The East Side of it All* (Nightwood, 2020) was shortlisted for this year's **Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize** (which was awarded to **Michael Prior** for *Burning Province*).

He is also the author of a best-selling children's book *The Sasquatch, the Fire and the Cedar Baskets* (Nightwood, 2020) with illustrations by **Simon Daniel James**.

The LG prize recognizes a writer for having written a substantial body of literary work throughout their career and contributed significantly to the literary community/industry of B.C. The award was presented by B.C.'s Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable **Janet Austin**. "Mr. Dandurand is a keeper of deep cultural knowledge whose work both shelters and amplifies voices that have long been silenced or ignored," said Austin. "His work is a reverential gift of conservation that keeps these voices, experiences and ways of storytelling alive with both tenderness and ferocity. At a time when we look to artists for healing and for orientation, we are blessed to have the guidance of Joseph Dandurand."

Dandurand's passion for words and sharing stories has followed him through the many journeys of his life. He recounted his struggles to overcome physical, emotional and sexual abuse in his first book of poetry, *I Want* (Leaf Press, 2015).

His second collection of poetry, *Hear and Foretell* (Bookland Press, 2016) continued with his focus on urban Indigenous life in Canada. In the poem, "A Place Called Kwantlen," Dandurand wrote: language is gone/land is gone/fish are gone/empty abused mind/of mine/gone.

The same poem ends on a hopeful



JOSEPH DANDURAND WINS LG AWARD

note: I have the dream of fish/and it is enough/to make me real/in this imaginary/place/called Kwantlen.

Having graduated in performing arts from Algonquin College, Dandurand studied theatre and direction at the University of Ottawa and has since produced plays at the Red Path Theater in Chicago, the Algonquin Theatre in Connecticut, the Debajemejig Theater in Ontario and the Autry Theater in

Los Angeles. Dandurand was Playwright-in-Residence for the Museum of Civilization in Hull in 1995, for Native Earth in Toronto in 1996, and for the National Arts Centre in Ottawa in 1998. His script, *St. Mary's*, was produced by CBC Radio in 1999.

In 2019, Dandurand was Indigenous Storyteller in Residence at Vancouver Public Library and named the director of the Kwantlen Cultural Centre.

In an earlier interview with *BC BookWorld* during which he was asked why he writes, Dandurand responded: "They say we are each born with a gift. Some take care of the fires; some are great cooks and fishermen. Others can carve wood. I truly believe that my ability to paint pictures with words is a gift. Even my Indian name **X.alatsep** means written down. This gift has both its wondrous side and also its tragic side.

"I write to release both demons and angels onto paper. Most times when I am writing I am filled with emotions and images that I have stored somewhere inside of me. This provokes memories and stories that I have carried all my life and when the moment comes and I cannot stand it anymore ...I write."



Here is the complete list of BC and Yukon Book Prize winners:

Joel Bakan: Jim Deva Prize for Writing that Provokes for *The New Corporation: How "Good" Corporations Are Bad for Democracy* (Allen Lane Canada/Penguin Canada).

Shaena Lambert: Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize for *Petra* (Random House)

Billy-Ray Belcourt: Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize for *A History of My Brief Body* (Hamish Hamilton).

Michael Prior: Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize for *Burning Province* (M&S).

Kwanlin Dün First Nation: Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize for *Kwanlin Dün* (Figure 1 Publishing).

Sara Cassidy (text) and **Charlene Chua** (illustrations): Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize for *Genius Jolene* (Orca).

Rina Singh (text) and **Ellen Rooney** (illustrator): Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize for *Grandmother School* (Orca).

Robert Amos: Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award for *The E.J. Hughes Book of Boats* (TouchWood).

Victoria Book Prizes

Hosted online by CBC Radio's **Gregor Craigie**, the 2021 Victoria Book Prizes announced its two prize winners on October 3: **Briony Penn** (with the late **Cecil Paul**) for *Following the Good River: The Life and Times of Wa'xaid* (Rocky Mountain Books); and **Leslie Gentile** for *Elvis, Me and the Lemonade Stand Summer* (Cormorant Books).



Briony Penn

Penn got the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize for her biography of one of North America's more prominent Indigenous leaders, Cecil Paul (**Wa'xaid**). After overcoming the pain of the abuse inflicted by residential school, Wa'xaid became an outspoken fighter against the industrialization of his people's land and traditional territory, working tirelessly to protect the Kitlope, the largest intact temperate rainforest watershed in the world.

Gentile's debut kidlit novel about an Indigenous girl who learns the importance of being part of a supportive community took the City of Victoria Children's Book Prize. Gentile describes the summer of 1978 when most people think Elvis Presley has been dead for a year — except 11-year-old Truly who knows Elvis is alive and well and living at the Eagle Shores Trailer Park. Truly sets out to prove that her cool new neighbour is the King of Rock 'n' Roll while finding sanctuary with a Salish woman when her mother neglects her.



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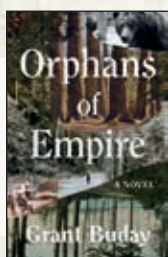


CONGRATULATIONS!

A rich harvest of Victoria writers

Winner of the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize

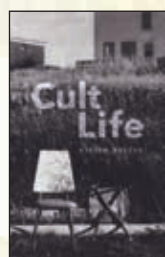
Hats off to the other nominees...



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Orphans of Empire
TouchWood Editions



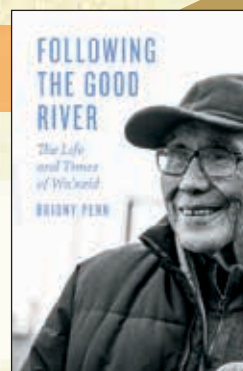
LORNA CROZIER
*Through the Garden:
A Love Story
(with Cats)*
Random House of Canada



KYEREN REGEHR
Cult Life
Pedlar Press



MADELINE SONIK
Fontainebleau
Anvil Press



BRIONY PENN
*Following the Good River:
The Life and Times of Wa'xaid*
Rocky Mountain Books

Winner of the City of Victoria Children's Book Prize

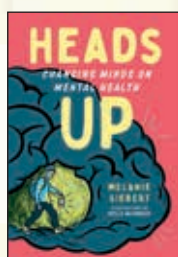


LESLIE GENTILE
*Elvis, Me, and the
Lemonade Stand Summer*
Dancing Cat Books

Hats off to the other nominees...



LEANNE BAUGH
Wild Bird
Red Deer Press



MELANIE SIEBERT
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NEW FROM THE
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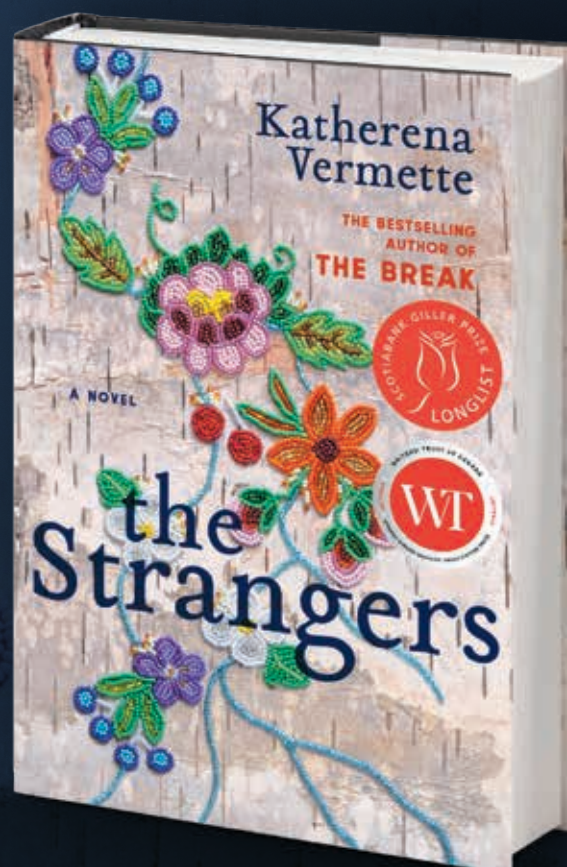
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MEMOIR

REVIEW

**Along the Shore and Through the Trees:
Two Lives on the Line from Ahousaht to
Estevan Point by Des Davidge**
(Sandhill Distribution \$19.95)

BY JOHN MOORE

After a scant couple of decades living with instant messaging, face-time global phone chat and portable laptops, we take wireless communication completely for granted. Consequently, it's hard to get our heads around the fact that for most of the last century, work in the 'communications field' still involved a lot more actual 'blood, sweat and tears' than anyone sitting at a computer terminal in an air-conditioned office can begin to imagine.

In 1955, fresh from five years in the Canadian Navy, **Des Davidge** answered an ad inviting young men to train as radio operators. Ex-servicemen had an edge, especially if they had served in Signals units, because they were familiar with Morse Code — the dots-and-dashes alphabetic code devised by **Samuel Morse** in the 1830s to be tapped out manually and transmitted over fixed wires between terminals.

While 'wireless telegraphy' was invented in 1896 and radio by 1914, fixed-wire telegraph and Morse Code remained in use, especially at sea and between small communities that had limited access to telephone systems.



Des Davidge

LOVE IN THE TIME OF ISOLATION

The Morse Code signal for help, SOS, is still recognized world-wide.

Davidge got the job and was posted to the Estevan Point Marine Radio Station, just south of Nootka Sound on the wild West Coast of Vancouver Island and describes his time there in his memoir, **Along the Shore and Through the Trees**. The area was still notorious as 'The Graveyard of the Pacific' because of the number of ships lost in stormy seas kicked up by weather-driven waves crashing into a continent. Facing that wide open ocean, connected to the nearest tiny outpost of 'civilization' by a plank road suspended over the spongy floor of primordial rainforest, the manned

lighthouse and radio station existed in what could be described as a state of 'environmental siege.'

Davidge loved it, even the constant danger and hard work of driving and repairing the plank road. He loved the people he worked with, many of them hired from the tiny community of Hesquiat, like **George Rae Arthur**, who maintained the telegraph line for more than thirty years over some of the most irregular geography on the planet. George was one of the sons of **Ada Rae Arthur**, known as **Cougar Annie**, made famous by **Margaret Horsfield's** book, *Cougar Annie's Garden* (1999). Ada Rae Arthur built and maintained a beautiful five-acre farm/garden in

the Hesquiat Peninsula wilderness and got her nickname by shooting seventy cougars who tried to help themselves to her livestock.

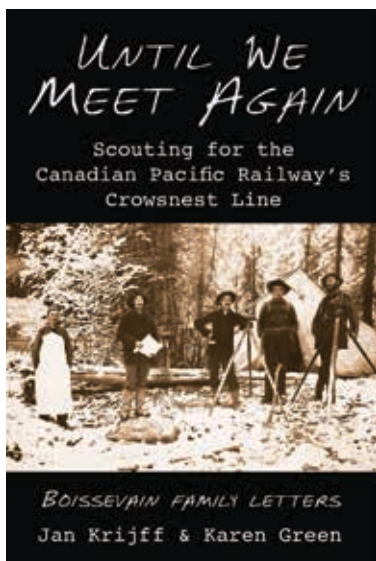
Most of all, Des Davidge came to love George's daughter, **Rosina Adeline Ada Rae Arthur**, who was inconveniently married to someone else. Des and Rosina resisted the intense attraction they both felt and he returned to eastern Canada, but neither of them forgot. Single again at last, they were permanently re-united after nearly a lifetime of separation. Davidge doesn't overdo the 'amor vincit omnia' theme. Much of the charm of this oddly-structured memoir comes from Rosina's recollections of her childhood when she often accompanied her father in his boat on long patrols of the telegraph line he maintained so diligently.

What resonates in this memoir is an intimate look into the lives of people living in supposed 'isolation' without feeling isolated. About a thousand people lived contentedly in a dozen small cells of a larger community connected by a fragile web of marine radio, telegraph wire, small boats and boot-leather in a wilderness of wild seas and rainforest.

Des Davidge's memoir reminds us that as we navigate groomed trails through barely suburban forests, satellite-based GPS transponders in hand, constantly checking how many bars our cell-phones register, we should all take a moment, turn off the electronics, sit where we can look at a river or ocean, read the weather in the clouds, measure time by the position of the sun, and re-think our concepts of 'connectivity'.

9781777392901

John Moore's most recent book is *Rain City: Vancouver Essays* (Anvil, 2019).



UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

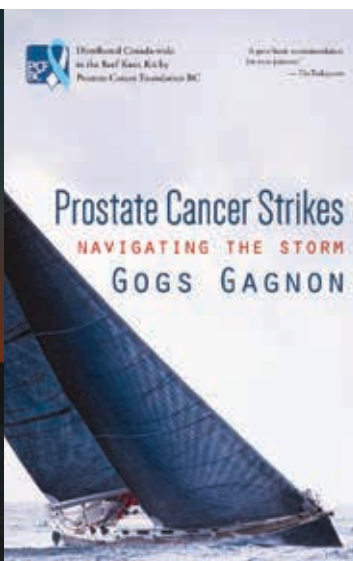
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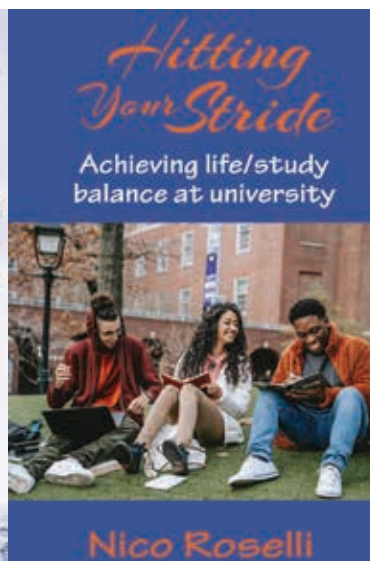
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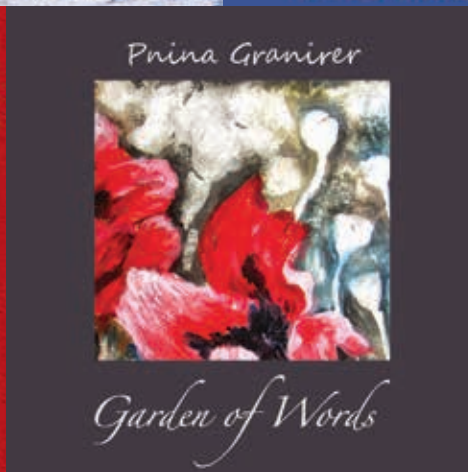
THE EYES OF THE LEOPARD

Ice Age tale of a boy in France 20,000 years ago by archaeologist Brian D. Hayden



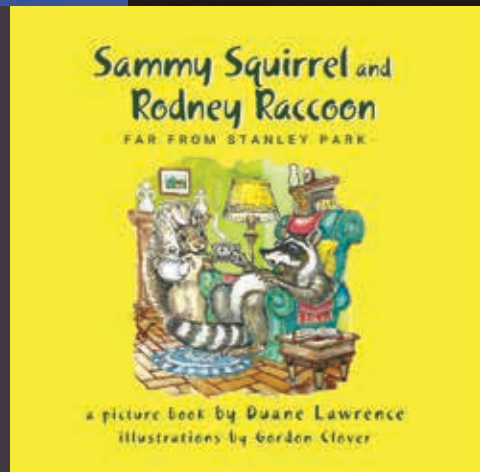
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Love Letters

Ivan Coyote

shares epistolary wisdom on the acceptance of differences.



Ivan Coyote is a finalist for the 2021 Governor General's Literary Awards in the non-fiction category for *Care Of*.

Storytellers. We can't help but keep hoping that there might be a happier ending in there, somewhere," writes non-binary author **Ivan Coyote** to one of their fans, a lesbian from North Dakota whose parents will only see her and speak to her if she doesn't talk about "that" and never brings any of "those" people into their home.

It's one of many letter and email exchanges that Ivan Coyote has published in **Care Of: Letters, Connections and Cures**, which they wrote during the socially-distanced, early days of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ivan Coyote is a brave and tactful performer and writer who is as eloquent and entertaining in person as they are in print, leading to nearly three decades on the road as a performer in high demand. They have delivered at least 200 polished, powerful and often hilarious shows yearly. Then Covid-19 lowered the boom. No more tours to Australia, America, Hong Kong or hometown Whitehorse either. No more high school gyms packed with hundreds of teens and apprehensive or welcoming teachers, gathered to hear hard-won truths about growing up and being transgender. No more conferences for librarians or statisticians or labour activists or nurses, and among them, a few fearful adults ready to fire verbal arrows at the podium.

Coyote proves to be a brave and tactful writer. This is clear in a letter they wrote to a Christian 'mostly closeted' woman explaining how they put up with heckling and rude comments: "When a person has been taught, ...to

**Care Of:
Letters, Connections and Cures
by Ivan Coyote (M&S \$25.00)**

BY CAROLINE WOODWARD

hate and revile me stands up to ask me a question, I must reach across that room and find my way past her fear and dogma and doctrine and into the good part of her heart...It is not important to me in those few seconds that everyone in the room agrees with me, but it is vital that they witness her allowing her heart to stretch open enough to make even the possibility of room for people like me."

With all bookings cancelled, Ivan Coyote started answering the hundreds of letters and emails they have amassed from their audiences over the years. Now there was time to go deeper, to respond more thoughtfully with the wisdom gained from those years on the road.

One letter came from a closeted Muslim actress from Pakistan who discovered Coyote on social media. Her identity is protected because even though she moved to England, her family back home would be harassed about their gay daughter. Another exchange begins with a Canadian high school

teacher who admits to being rather pleased with his own tolerance when his daughter announced in Grade 10 that she was gay. Fine, he thought, one of my brothers is gay, no big deal. Then his child springs the news that she wants to transition to male and, finally flummoxed, Dad turns to Coyote for guidance. This story has what storytellers hope for, that happier ending. A good many of the other letters are filled with despair and grief because fear of the unknown, not love, grips the wheel driving the bus, at school and at home, in the place of worship and in the workplace where some of the most toxic notions of masculinity are unleashed on those who are different.

Because Coyote's performances are engaging and because books like *Tomboy Survival Guide* (Arsenal, 2016) and, for LGBTQ teens, *One In Every Crowd* (Arsenal, 2012) have thrown lifelines to struggling individuals and families around the world, the ensuing correspondence must surely fill a massive filing cabinet. They have carefully selected some of those communiques in *Care Of*, including letters from people of all ages living in this world as someone other than the gender assigned to them at birth. Or realizing, like the high school student from a traditional Indo-Canadian family, that he was gay "ever since he could remember" and his father would kill him, "for real" and his brother would probably beat him up first. Coyote fluently translated his body language and asked if he would carry the stand-up microphone to the parking lot and en route, about sixteen years of repression poured forth, the first time he'd ever confided to anyone. Ivan still thinks, and worries about that student.

There are heartbreaking letters like the one from a mother who lost her 21-year-old transgender daughter to suicide. Coyote's own loving connection to a sprawling, raucous Yukon family, storytellers all, proves to be the key that breaks through resistance in other families.

Families are often simply afraid of losing their loved one. Parents fear what the world will do to their tomboy girl or their tender-hearted boy. Will surgery or any form of identity change mean losing their sister or their brother, their mother or their father? The loyal connection to family so well-portrayed on stage and in print by Coyote reassures parents and teens alike that the world will not end if the lifelong difference that is felt in every cell by one member of the family is acknowledged and future change is supported. This is not to say that the dark side, the snide and hurtful words and deeds dealt by some adults behind medical counters, or the usual suspects among hockey parents, for example, need to be tolerated. Thankfully there are people like the janitor at the Whitehorse Hockey Arena who created a locker room just for Coyote, at age 16 the only 'girl' still playing organized hockey with boys in the entire Yukon. He tacked up a poster of **Wayne Gretzky** too.

One of my favourite zingers in this tough, tender and life-affirming book now festooned with post-it notes and underlined passages, is the following: "This is why labels peel off in the water."

9780771051722

Caroline Woodward is the author of nine books in five genres for adults and children. She lives in New Denver.

**Always Pack a Candle:
A Nurse in the Cariboo-Chilcotin**
by Marion McKinnon Crook
(Heritage \$22.95)

BY SAGE BIRCHWATER

In her memoir **Always Pack a Candle**, Marion McKinnon Crook lays out a year in her life as a fledgling public health nurse during the 1960s.

Her delightful story is tactfully told, conveying the essence of the region, the people and the times, while at the same time protecting the identities of those who lived there.

What's not clear is the book's genre. Is it historical fiction or is it a memoir as Crook proclaims? The names of all the characters are made up, and some characters are completely fictionalized, but the author states that the conversations and events really did occur.

I've been a writer of local history in the Cariboo Chilcotin for several decades and have been a resident of the region since 1973, a decade after Crook describes her arrival in the community, disembarking from a Greyhound bus in Williams Lake on a hot dusty August day in 1963. So I relished the opportunity to suss out the "usual suspects" in her narrative. After all, the social



Marion McKinnon Crook with her medical bag, leaves an Indigenous family's home after checking up on an ear infection, 1963.

Country nursing, 1960s style

A retired nurse recalls rough roads, tough people, racism and sexism in rural B.C.

landscape of the Cariboo Chilcotin has a preponderance of larger-than-life personalities.

To no avail, I was confounded. Crook cleverly conceals who was who.

This was Crook's prerogative and intention, and for good reason it turns out. It gave her the freedom to focus on difficult social issues and the shifting mores of the times like birth control, sexism and racism. It also gave her the opportunity to hit hard on tragic incidents of incest, sexual abuse, professional misconduct and impropriety without getting snagged on incriminations and finger pointing.

Crook's portrayal of the geography and backwoods way of life traveling rugged roads, icy in winter and muddy in the spring throughout the region, rings true. Hence the survival technique described in the book's title, "always pack a candle" is relevant. Place names are familiar like Horsefly, Likely, Big Lake, Beaver Valley, Black Creek, Miocene, Canoe Creek, Lee's Corner, Alexis Creek, Puntzi Moun-



Marion McKinnon Crook conducts teeth and eye examinations at a high school, 1963.

tain, Tatla Lake, Anahim Lake and Soda Creek, but for the most part the names and identities of people are kept well hidden.

In the time span of the book, August 1963 to summer of 1964, Williams Lake was in the midst of metamorphosing from a village into a town, then eventually into a city. Government offices and a new hospital were being constructed as the community was poised to take



Marion McKinnon Crook giving a five-year-old her diphtheria shot, 150 Mile House, 1963.

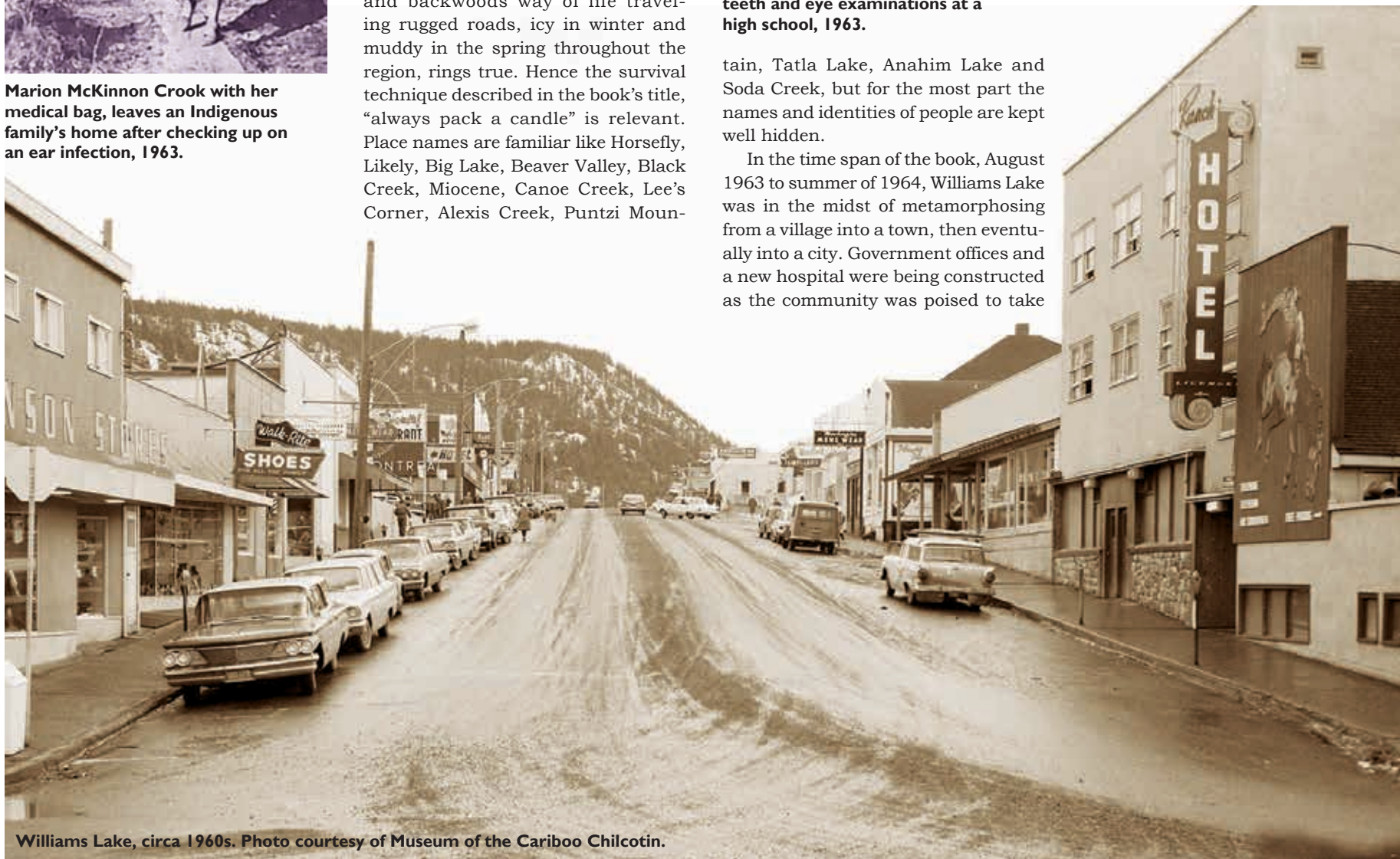
on the status of a regional centre. Hundreds of bush sawmills throughout the backcountry were also being consolidated into larger manufacturing plants in the bigger communities of Williams Lake, 100 Mile House and Quesnel.

Though the identities of her characters are fictionalized, Crook says the incidences and conversations in the book really took place. "I did live with the independent people of the Cariboo and experienced severe weather. I was not prepared and had to learn from experience," she writes.

She also learned from others who readily shared their wisdom, insights and expertise.

"In the age of rock 'n' roll, Woodstock, free love and civil rights, I nursed in the wild regions of the Cariboo, where we were less interested in social movements and more interested in staying alive and surviving rough roads, oncoming logging trucks, and the challenges of country nursing."

What I find difficult to comprehend is the strength and maturity Crook demonstrates as a young, first-year public health nurse. Her calling out incompetent doctors, misguided social workers and racist educators without getting crushed by the system is hard to fathom.



Williams Lake, circa 1960s. Photo courtesy of Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin.



Marion McKinnon Crook,
grad portrait, 1963



Marion McKinnon Crook walks across
a broken bridge to reach a family who
needed her advice and help, 1963.

Chalk it up to the joys of artistic license perhaps. Or maybe she really was a brash outspoken young woman, wise beyond her years.

Fictionalizing her story and compressing several years into one makes for a jam-packed, eventful narrative. When Crook drives 100 miles across the Chilcotin Plateau from Williams Lake to Puntzi Mountain Air Base to perform her community nursing duties, she is confronted by an American airman saluting her at the gate. She describes her humorous dilemma whether to salute back to a foreign official on Canadian soil, or just nod her acknowledgement. She chose the latter.

Crook conveys interesting historical information about the DEW (Distant Early Warning) system the United States established across Canada during the Korean War and Cold War with the Soviet Union in the 1950s. Puntzi Mountain Air Base was built by the Americans in 1950 to serve as a radar station on the DEW Line and it remained an American air base until the fall of 1962, the year before Crook started nursing in the region. Then the Americans turned over command to the Canadian Air Force, and some US per-

sonnel remained at Puntzi Mountain to help with technical operations until Canada closed the base on December 31, 1966.

One anomaly of Crook not naming real people in her book occurs when she travels west into the Chilcotin in the dead of winter and was given hospitality at the Graham Ranch in Tatla Lake. She states that a woman she assumed was Mrs. Graham, fed her enough breakfast “to keep a logger moving all day.” Of course **Margaret Graham**, matriarch of the ranch for over 50 years, had died five years previously in 1958. Nevertheless, members of the Graham Family were still proprietors of the place when Crook stayed there.

Time and again throughout the book Crook breaks through the staid social conventions that shrouded the Cariboo Chilcotin at that time. She is particularly empathetic to the plight of Indigenous people and makes a valiant effort to address racism in its many forms. This makes the book relevant to the current climate of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Indigenous injustices.

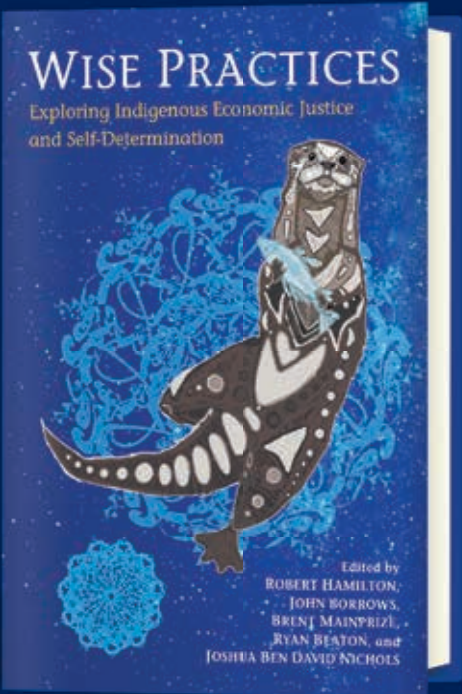
Crook is consistent in her manner of respectful dialogue with Indigenous characters throughout her narrative. This is exemplified by her encounter with an elder Indigenous woman at a child health clinic in Anahim Lake. She describes the woman approaching her and asking if she’d mind giving her niece a ride into Williams Lake. This provided a segue into learning more about the young woman, Charmaine who was an art student in Vancouver with dreams of becoming a great artist.

The strength of *Always Pack A Candle* is the easy conversational style employed by Crook. More like a novel than a memoir perhaps, but a polished work, attractive to both history buffs and readers of fiction alike.

9781772033625

Author of nine books, *Sage Birchwater of Williams Lake* is one of B.C.’s most essential historians and journalists.

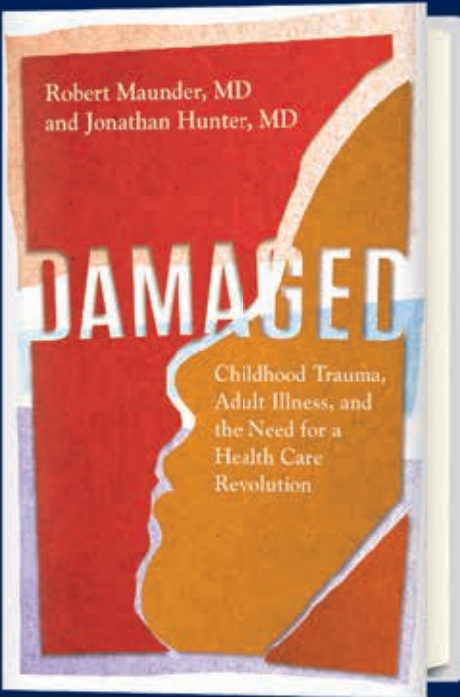
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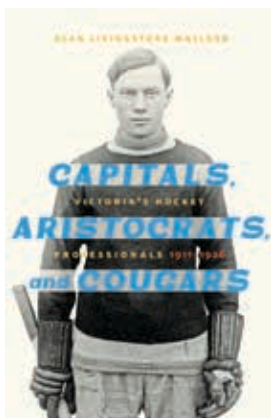
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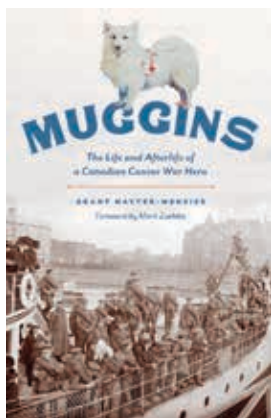


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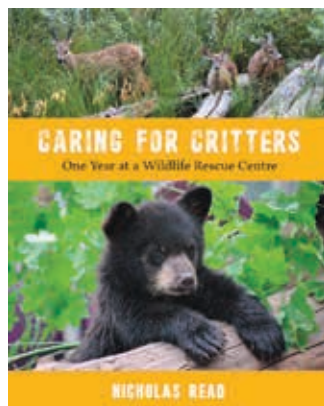


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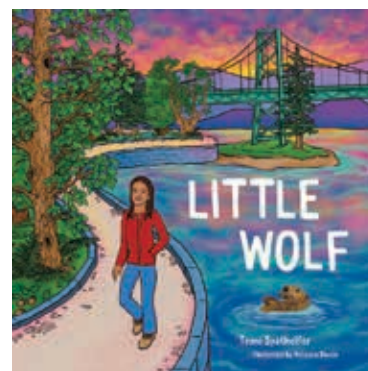


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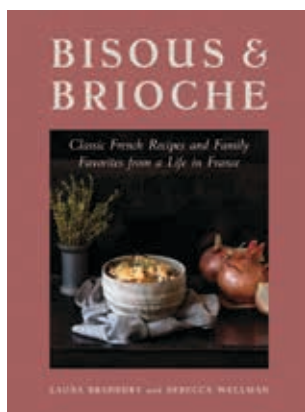


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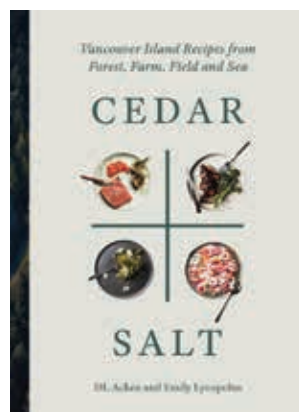


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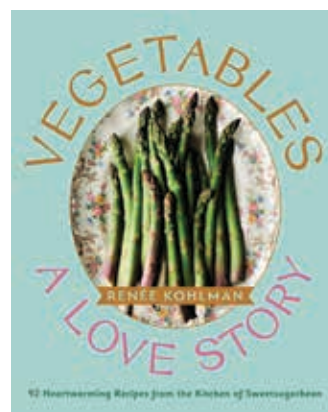


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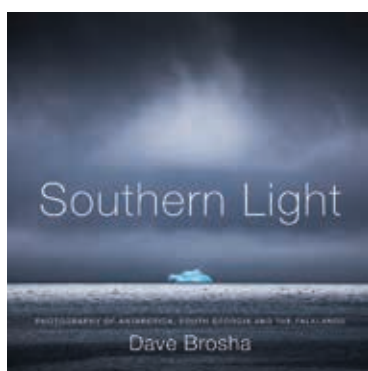


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Pinkerton's and the Hunt for Simon Gunanoot: Double Murder, Secret Agents and an Elusive Outlaw by Geoff Mynett
(Caitlin \$24.95)

It took **Geoff Mynett** three years to research and write the relatively unknown story of **Dr. Horace Wrinch**, *Service on the Skeena: Horace Wrinch, Frontier Physician* (Ronsdale, 2020).

Now Mynett, a former lawyer (whose wife, **Alice**, is Wrinch's granddaughter) has set his sights on the remarkable life of another largely overlooked northern B.C. figure, **Simon Gunanoot**, the highly-respected Gitxsan man who became a notorious outlaw from 1906 to 1919, evading capture for thirteen years until he was finally acquitted of murder charges in 1920. Lawyer **David Ricardo Williams'** *Simon Peter Gunanoot: Trap-Line Outlaw* (Sono Nis, 1982) has long served as the standard reference. Forty years later Geoff Mynett has produced an alternative study, **Pinkerton's and the Hunt for Simon Gunanoot: Double Murder, Secret Agents and an Elusive Outlaw**.



BC BookWorld: Why did the story of Simon Gunanoot need to be revisited.
Geoff Mynett: Finding a forgotten treasure in an archive is an historian's dream and joy. I was in the B.C. Archives doing research for my book *Service on the Skeena* when I came across one such treasure. This was the collection of reports that two operatives of the Pinkerton's National Detective Agency sent to their head office in Seattle while searching for Simon Gunanoot in 1909 and 1910. David Ricardo Williams referred to these reports in *Trapline Outlaw*, and doubtless others have come across them. But these reports have, in my view, never received the attention they deserve.

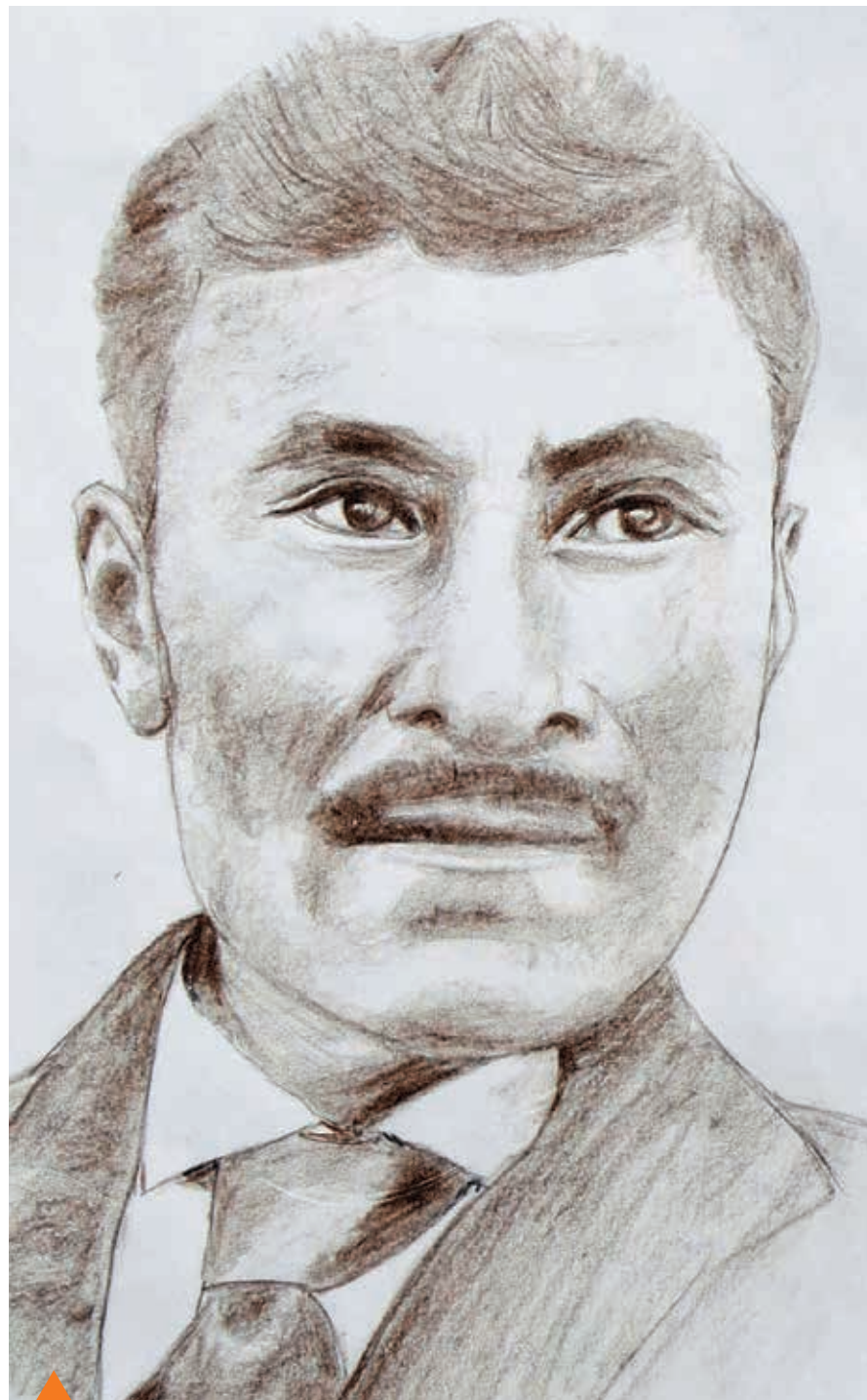
Pinkerton's and the Hunt for Simon Gunanoot is built around these reports. They provide a fascinating picture not only of the hunt for Gunanoot but also of life in Hazelton in 1909. They also give us a new picture of the divided loyalties and personalities in town.

In *Trapline Outlaw*, David Williams gave a broad picture of Gunanoot's life and of the murders of which he was accused. *Pinkerton's and the Hunt for Simon Gunanoot* describes the nitty gritty of their hunt and offers a fresh perspective on why Gunanoot was never caught.

In 1909, Hazelton was a small frontier town in northern British Columbia. It is a place of great natural beauty. There were no roads and there was no railway. To get around you walked, rode a horse or used canoes and, in winter, used snowshoes or dog-sleds. Sternwheelers did come up the Skeena River but not in the six months when ice and bad waters made it unnavigable. To the east were the lakes and mountains of the Upper Skeena. The region where Gunanoot took refuge was an area half the size of England. A great traveler, he went as far north as the Yukon border.

Pinkerton's didn't get their man

How **Simon Gunanoot** remained uncaptured for thirteen years and evaded a premier detective organization.



Geoff Mynett's drawing of Simon Gunanoot

BC BookWorld: So, what happened? And why was Pinkerton's, an American organization, involved?

Geoff Mynett: In June 1906, Simon Gunanoot, a popular Gitxsan trapper and store-keeper brawled with a local thug named **Alex MacIntosh**. They were in a bar in the hamlet of Two Mile, near Hazelton. Gunanoot left the bar at four in the morning, threatening to get a gun and fix MacIntosh. When MacIntosh was found shot dead on the trail the next morning, the sole policeman in town quickly decided that the murderer must be Gunanoot. While

collecting his posse, he learned that the body of **Max LeClair**, a hunting guide new to the region, had also been found on the trail. He too had been shot dead. After a fraught week of evading the police, Gunanoot escaped with his family and brother-in-law, **Peter Himadan**, into the forests and lakes of the Upper Skeena.

Superintendent Hussey, head of the provincial police in Victoria, directed the many searches for Gunanoot. He sent his own men on the hunt, as well as special parties. He posted a reward to encour-

age bounty hunters. Some searchers were competent, but unlucky. Some were incompetent. Others were dishonest. When all failed, the police in Victoria hired two Pinkerton's men to go to Hazelton, disguised as prospectors. Their job would be to locate Gunanoot and to bring him in.

Pinkerton's National Detective Agency at this time was considered one of the premier detective organization in Europe and North America. It achieved its reputation by being able to cut across jurisdictional boundaries, by being utterly discreet and secret, and by using modern methods of detective work. Pinkerton's was one of the first agencies to keep files on known criminals and their modus operandi. It championed the use of mug-shots and fingerprints. In detective work, Pinkerton's was the best. In the hunt for Simon Gunanoot, would they succeed when all the others had failed?

Before the First World War, the B.C. Provincial Police did not have a detective branch. On numerous occasions, including in one hunt for the train robber **Bill Miner**, they had turned to Pinkerton's for assistance. Using Pinkerton's to catch Gunanoot was rather an odd decision, because what the police needed in this case were expert trackers and outdoorsmen, not detectives. Why Pinkerton's men were chosen for the hunt in B.C.'s north is one of many unanswered questions in this saga. Is the answer that the police in Victoria did not entirely trust the locals in Hazelton? And if so, was this suspicion justified?

For almost a year, two Pinkerton's men searched the Upper Skeena, returning to Hazelton to recuperate and gather more information. Always trying to maintain their disguises as prospectors and trying not to be too interested in Gunanoot, they spoke with everyone they met and reported on their travails, the rumours and the gossip. They spent a difficult winter in the snows of the Upper Skeena. As we now know, they failed.

In 1919, after thirteen years as an outlaw, Gunanoot gave himself up to the police in Hazelton. He said he did this because he wanted his children, who had been with him, to have an education. Taken to Vancouver, Gunanoot found he was a celebrity, a "Robin Hood of the North." He became the source of many a myth, a heroic figure. He was also tried for murder.

What would a Vancouver jury decide? We now know the answer. The big question is, was the jury right? In this book I tell the story and ask the reader, what do you think? 9781773860503



Geoff Mynett

The York Factory Express
by **Nancy Marguerite Anderson**
(Ronsdale \$24.95)

BY GENE HOMEL



You may think you've got it tough stuck in a traffic jam or driving the Coquihalla in sleet, but consider paddling by boat and walking by portages some 5400 miles across a network of rivers and waterways from the Pacific coast to Hudson Bay and back.

This was one route taken by Hudson's Bay Company fur-trade employees working in the Columbia Valley from the 1820s to the 1850s as described in **Nancy Marguerite Anderson's *The York Factory Express***.

The actual York Factory Express was the arduous annual boat trip from Fort Vancouver (present-day Vancouver, Washington) to York Factory, the HBC's depot on Hudson Bay, about 200 kilometres from Churchill, Manitoba. The route roughly followed the Columbia River through present-day Washington state and British Columbia, the Rocky Mountains via the Athabasca Pass and Jasper Valley, and the Saskatchewan and Hayes rivers to the Bay.

The Express's journey east of the Rockies was paralleled by the Saskatchewan Brigades, a convoy transporting pelts and trade goods to and from what's now northern B.C.

Anderson's book is not an inclusive account of Western Canada's fur trade and it doesn't delve into issues explored by academic historians. Instead, it is a travelogue of the waterways and portages between Fort Vancouver and York Factory, as well as a portrait of the adventurous men who traversed the hazardous route between March and November each year.

Company operations were based on clear class lines. The "gentlemen," the chief traders, clerks and other company administrators were socially elevated career men, at least in the context of the fur trade. On the other hand, the men who did the incredibly tough work of transporting people, furs, HBC documents, and goods over thousands of miles were a mixture of cultures: French Canadians, Métis, Iroquois from the Quebec colony and recruits from the Scottish Orkney islands.

But it was the gentlemen HBC employees who wrote the stories of the voyageurs in their extensive journals and diaries, some of which have survived to the present day. Anderson's book is based on these documents, which are housed in the B.C. Archives, company archives and elsewhere.

One of the men Anderson quotes is **James Douglas**, future HBC Chief Factor and Governor of Vancouver Island and the colony of British Columbia, who described in his journals that "a few Indians" visited a camp site "with the hopes of obtaining a supply of tobacco, a gratification to which they appear to be passionately addicted."

Each group had its own work habits and cultural practices. The Métis la-



Nancy Marguerite Anderson

CLASSCLASH

Two hundred years ago, class lines separated the HBC's 'gentlemen' from the hardy voyageurs who did the heavy lifting.

bourers, for example, were reported in the 1842–52 journals of a young clerk named **Augustus Richard Peers** to be "naturally of a buoyant disposition... for let a half-breed be ever so tired if he but hear a discordant jingling of an ill-tuned fiddle he must be up and capering with ever and anon an inspiring 'Hi! Hi! Hi!' inviting the others to join in the dance."

The hazards and challenges of the route began with the weather and landscapes. One gentleman noted a "very coarse night" with rain, sleet, thunder and lightning, and the next morning the portaging group "pursued our route, by a road almost impassable to Man or Beast—the Horses & their loads frequently falling into swamps & ruts, in which they almost disappeared, and it required extraordinary efforts at times to extricate the poor Animals from their very uncomfortable situation, and calling down upon them the Most Awful imprecations from their Canadian guides." Repairing the boats when battered, guarding against possible attacks by animals and Indigenous men, and traversing the rapids

and portages with the travellers' very heavy loads made journeys harrowing. One gentleman observed the arrival of workers "almost worn out with their hard journey, which did not however prevent them quozzing [sic] each other as usual & many were the tales of misfortune recounted."

While much of the content in the HBC employee papers is routine—daily descriptions of the weather, the routes, the troubles encountered—there's a richness and occasional awe reflected in some notations. One gentleman approaching the Rocky Mountains described "a continued Mass of snow clad Hills towering their lofty summits in successive ranges, their outlines assuming a great variety of forms, giving to the whole scene a grandeur and novelty beyond my powers to describe—but it is truly sublime."

Douglas described "the vast expanse of prairie variegated and adorned by innumerable groves of trees, smooth green hills and streams of water forming altogether one of the finest prospects imaginable."

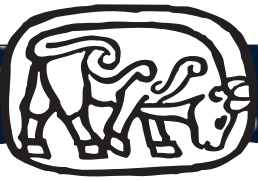
The withdrawal of the HBC and

Britain from the furred-out and American-settled Columbia district and the consequent establishment of Fort Victoria ended this Express in the 1850s.

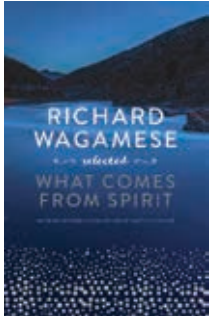
Anderson's book reflects her in-depth research and personal interest. She is the great granddaughter of **Alexander Caulfield Anderson**, fur trader and subject of her 2011 book *The Pathfinder* (Heritage House, 2011). She calls herself "an accidental historian" who, being curious about her forbearer, researched her great grandfather in the B.C. Archives and found another ancestor on the York Factory Express. She identifies strongly with what she says is her French Canadian and Indigenous blood, and ends the book by criticizing prejudice and proclaiming "We Are Still Here."

Readers interested in the geography of western Canada and the life and work of the HBC employees will enjoy the accounts in *The York Factory Express*. 9781553805786

Gene Homel has been a faculty member at universities, colleges and institutes since 1974.



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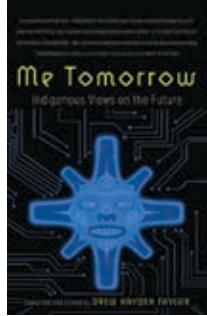
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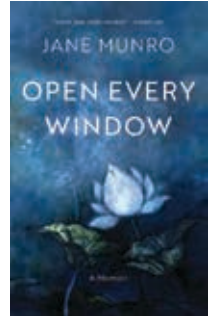
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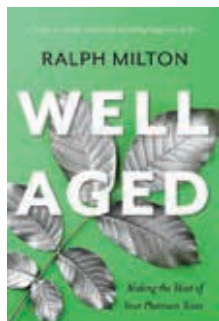
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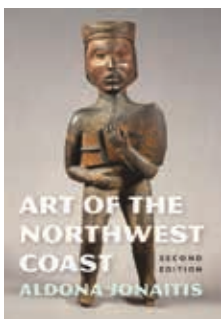
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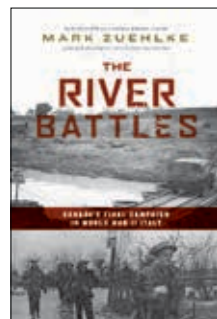
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**Becoming Vancouver:
A History by Daniel Francis**
(Harbour \$36.95)

BY MARK FORSYTHE

Peeering into Vancouver’s history can be like perusing contemporary headlines: frenzied real estate speculation, housing shortages, labour strife, racism and even a campaign to shut down jitney drivers (who were akin to today’s taxi and Uber drivers). Plenty of common threads between then and now are found in **Daniel Francis’s** book, **Becoming Vancouver: A History**—the first chronological survey of the city’s history in 50 years.

A West-sider by birth, Francis grew up in 1950s Vancouver, then a “low rise city” with few tall buildings. From his Kitsilano bedroom he looked across English Bay “at the dark shape of Stanley Park and the buildings of the downtown peninsula.” It was a postwar city in transition: highly industrialized areas like False Creek and Coal Harbour were being shaped into residential neighbourhoods. Today they’re among the most desirable locations on the planet.

Francis launches *Becoming Vancouver* by acknowledging the deep history of First Nations who were forcibly removed from their lands as Vancouver grew (think Stanley Park and False Creek). In 1933 chief city archivist Major **James Matthews** spoke with **August Jack Khahtsahlano** and other Squamish and Musqueam elders about where their people had lived, and he learned some of their stories. Names like E-yal-mough (Jericho) Ay-yul-shun (English Bay Beach) Xway’xway (Lumberman’s Arch) appeared on an illustrated map that Matthews created. *Before The Pale-Face Came: Indian Names for Familiar Places* drew praise from local Indigenous leaders who said their history had been lost. Francis writes, “The map reflects not just a different version of history but also a different understanding of the way the world worked.”



The BC Electric Railway Company, 1928, still stands at the corner of Hastings and Carrall.

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Indigenous women on West Hastings street, Vancouver, 1905.

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VANCOUVER THEN AND NOW

Housing shortages, racism, striving to be “world class”—have been part of the city since white settlers founded it.



August Jack Khahtsahlano, his wife and a child in a canoe at Kitsilano Point, ca. 1907. He was one of the most important sources of Indigenous history in Vancouver.

W. CHAPMAN PHOTO, CITY OF VANCOUVER ARCHIVES, AM1376-CVA 1376-203BVAN



Vancouver city council after the 1886 fire (it was a staged photo).

H.T. DEVINE PHOTOGRAPH, VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY 1089

Vancouver as we know it emerged from white settler communities at Stamps Mill (later Hastings Mill), Gastown (a “jerry-built settlement” surrounding **Gassy Jack Deighton’s** Globe House saloon) and the CPR’s massive land grant (6,275 acres). “It was standard practice for the railway to secure grants of public land in return for building its facilities, but nowhere else in Western Canada was the grant as generous as it was in Vancouver,” writes Francis. Terminal City “changed everything.” Vancouver was now connecting to the world via rail and an expanding port.

The Great Fire of 1886 tore through the settlement leaving one building

standing on the waterfront (shades of the recent devastation at Lytton). Whiskey sales resumed the next day, and the *Advertiser* proclaimed, “Though disfigured, we are still in the ring.” People immediately set to rebuilding. The famous **H.T. Devine** photograph of city council members sitting in front of a tent with a handmade City Hall sign foreshadowed Hollywood North—it was staged three months after the fire. Council had already set up shop in a nearby warehouse.

Francis is an historian with 30 books to his credit, including the highly successful *Encyclopedia of British Columbia*—a 10-year project with Harbour Publishing. *Becoming Vancouver*

ver skillfully chronicles tensions that defined the city through the decades: business vs labour; wartime losses and innovation (the expanding role of women in factory work and shipbuilding); and anti-Asian fear mongering (businessman **Tong Louie’s** move to Dunbar in 1941 was considered by many an “oriental invasion”). After large swathes of Strathcona were razed, including the home of Vancouver’s Black community, Hogan’s Alley, community groups pushed back and politicians began to listen. Francis regards this as a “turning point in civic politics.”

Vancouver could be a wild and rough place, from loggers on Skid Road in the Downtown Eastside to corrupt cops on the take from brothels and gamblers. Early in the city’s life there was also a brilliant tram system, impressive theatre venues, a school of arts that attracted the likes of Group of Seven members **Fred Varley** and **Jock MacDonald**, and bike paths—before streetcars and cars chased them off the road. The city’s footprint often followed BC Electric streetcar lines, over stumps and slash to CPR lands or developments. Eventually the waterfront was rescued from heavy industry and complemented by a seawall begun by master stonemason **James Cunningham** in 1917. It is now the longest uninterrupted waterfront path in the world.

In the 1960s and 1970s community protests halted plans for a freeway through Chinatown and some of the poorest neighbourhoods in the city. Liveability became important and local people would have a greater voice in future development plans. Francis also considers the pros and cons of more recent mega-projects like Expo ’86 and the 2010 Winter Olympics. Each drew international attention and new investment to the city, but they also displaced people in poorer neighbourhoods. Mixed in with fact and anecdotes are short profiles of key figures like **L.D. Taylor**, the city’s longest serving mayor and activist **Helena Gutteridge**, the first female councillor. Ample photos help tell the stories and a **Jack Shadbolt** painting on the cover vividly captures nightlife on Granville Street in 1946.

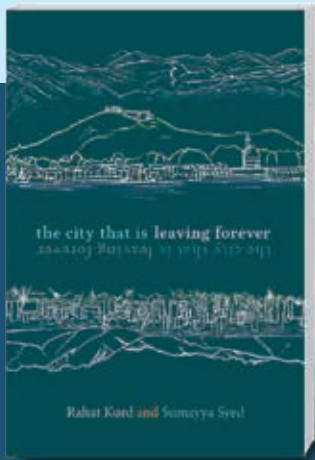
A central theme in *Becoming Vancouver* is what Francis terms “the city’s competing ideas of itself.” The quest to create a “world class” city of steel and glass (with heritage buildings left in a pile of dust) often conflicts with other values calling for a liveable city that includes development on a more human scale. “Vancouverism” realized.

These desires are not so new. British landscape architect and planner **Thomas Mawson** observed “commercialism vs nature” impulses in the Vancouver population back in 1912. As Daniel Francis sees it, Vancouver remains “a city with a split personality.” This book’s wise insights into Vancouver’s past just might help two competing visions forge a future together.

9781550179163

BC Historical Federation council member and former CBC radio host, Mark Forsythe co-authored with Greg Dickson, From the West Coast to the Western Front: British Columbians and the Great War (Harbour, 2014).

TALONBOOKS WINTER 2021



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by Michel Tremblay
translated by Sheila Fischman

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97817720-1-261-3; \$16.95; FICTION
FORTHCOMING NOVEMBER 11, 2021

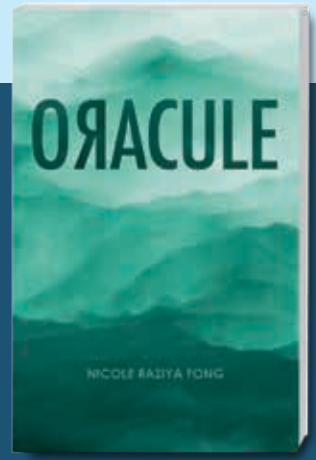


TWISTS OF FATE: IF BY CHANCE & DESTINATION PARADISE

by Michel Tremblay
translated by Linda Gaboriau

Michel Tremblay's *Twists of Fate* gathers volumes 6 and 7 of the *Desrosiers Diaspora* series of novels, *If by Chance* (set in 1925, about the great Ti-Lou, the famous She-Wolf of Ottawa) and *Destination Paradise* (where we enter the Paradise Club, on 1930s Montréal's Main Street, and follow Édouard Tremblay in his formative years).

978-1-77201-368-0; \$19.95; FICTION
FORTHCOMING MARCH 2, 2022



ORACULE

by Nicole Raziya Fong

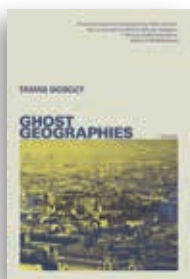
"*ORACULE* emerges from Nicole Raziya Fong's remarkable and under-acknowledged debut, *PERFACT*. Together, the books sustain a meditation on the shape and nature of the poem." —Kaie Kellough

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1968. Winnipeg Beach. Summer. Poor Jewish boy meets rich Jewish girl. The sun is high, libidos soar, even the high is high. And as the poor boy tries to marry up, the Jacob-Rachel myth gives way to an Icarian leap.

9781554201631 | \$18 | 176pp

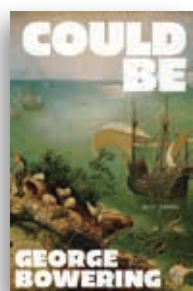
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GRAPHIC NOVELS

FEATURE

From Emily Carr comics to counter-culture heroes

The rise of graphic novels in B.C.

After the text is completed, producing a graphic novel starts with an artist putting pencil to paper. The process can take a year or two, or several before the final book is ready to be published. Pencil sketches must be inked and perhaps painted on. Every artist does it a bit differently; some draw the word balloons and text by hand, others do the work using a computer. Whatever the method, the process is intense.



Graphic novels are the fastest growing genre in book publishing, with sales increasing every year. In 2020, the combined sales revenue of graphic novels/comics in North America was \$1.28 billion.

Graphic novelists were preceded by comic artists and cartoonists, such as **Emily Carr**, who in 1918, drew cartoons for the Vancouver-based *Western Women's Weekly*. The first Canadian comic book, *Better Comics*, was published in Vancouver in 1941 and marks its 80th anniversary this year. *Better Comics* was produced in response to a ban on the importation of American comics during the Second World War.

Vancouver's counter-culture weekly, *Georgia Straight*, in the late 1960s, played a major role in the development of comics by publishing *Acidman* by **Peter 'Zipp' Almasy**. Later, the *Straight* ran regular strips by the legendary **Rand Holmes** (*Harold Hedd*; *Gay Comics*) in the early 1970s, and the hilarious **David Boswell** (*Reid Fleming*, *World's Toughest Milkman*) in the 1980s.

The *Straight* was one of over 500 alternative newspapers that sprang up across North America in the 1960s giving cartoonists a forum to break free of traditional comic art and present a more subversive, sometimes disturbing view of the world. This explosion of expression led to the growth of underground comic books.

The term, "graphic novel" was first coined by **Will Eisner** for his 1978 book *A Contract with God*. Graphic novel now covers any kind of book of sequential art, whether an actual novel or non-fiction work. **Art Spiegelman**'s genre-defining *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* won a Pulitzer Prize in 1992. The award gave legitimacy to graphic novels both commercially and intellectually.



IN B.C., HARBOUR PUBLISHING WAS AN EARLY SUPPORTER, releasing B.C.'s first graphic novel *Now You're Logging* (1978) by **Bus Griffiths**. In 1995, New Star published *The Green Shadow* by **Andrew Struthers**. Arsenal Pulp Press has a growing list of social justice, LGBTQ, BIPOC titles and translated international works such as *Blue Is the Warmest Color*. In 2012, Arsenal published the seminal *Escape to Gold Mountain: A Graphic History of the Chinese in North America* by **David H.T. Wong** and *The Anti-Capitalist Resistance Comic Book* by **Gord Hill**. In 2014, Douglas & McIntyre published the innovative *Red: A Haida Manga* by **Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas** with its combination of Japanese comic aesthetics and Indigenous formline art. And Victoria-based Orca Books



(Clockwise): *The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance* Comic Book (Arsenal Pulp) by Gord Hill; *Borders* (HarperCollins) by Natasha Donovan; *Painted Fences* by Sara Cassidy, with art by Sydney Barnes (Heritage House); *The Monster Sisters & the Mystery of the Stone Octopus* by Gareth Gaudin (Orca); *Coming Out, Again: Transition Stories* (UBC Press) by Sabrina Symington.

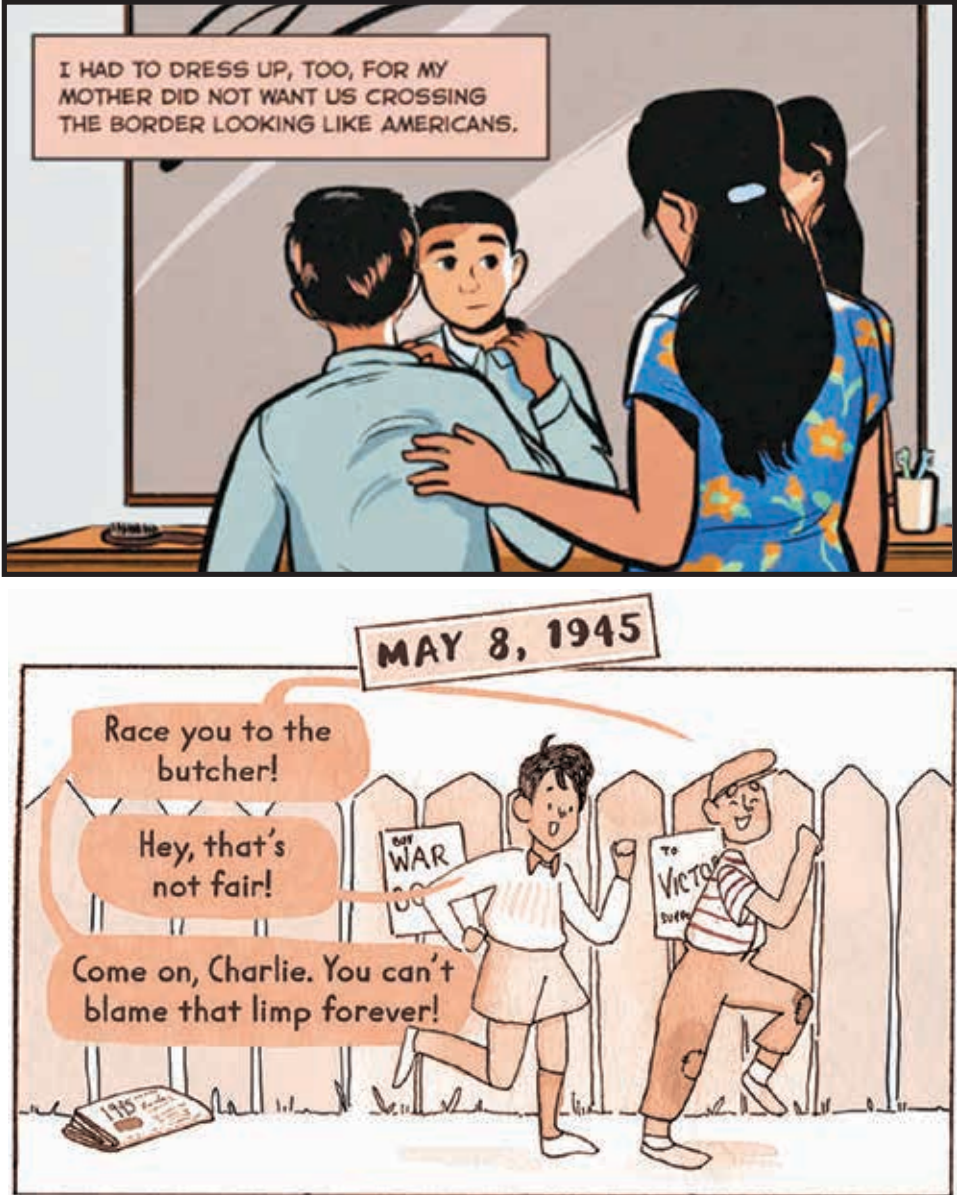
has a vigorous ongoing series of graphic novels for middle-grade readers.

Political awareness made an impact on comic art in B.C. with *She Named It Canada Because That's What It Was Called* (1971) created by The Corrective Collective, a Vancouver-based feminist group whose aim was to re-write Canadian history for a popular audience. The comic was 50 years ahead of its time by offering an alternative perspective on the development of colonial Canada. The comic was illustrated by **Colette French** and printed at Press Gang, going into four editions.

B.C. comics and graphic novels got a boost in 1981 with *Pork Roasts: 250 Feminist Cartoons*, curated by Vancouver-based art historian **Avis Lang Rosenberg** for the UBC Fine Arts Gallery. The exhibit included local artists **Mary Schendlinger**, **Marian Lydbrooke**, **Jean Kamins**, and **Pat Davitt**. The *Pork Roasts* comic book would go into two printings. Starting in 1999, artists **Rob Dayton** and **Julian Lawrence** published a series of comics under the title of *Drippytown* featuring **Xero**, **Colin Upton**, **James Lloyd**, **Ted Dave** and others.

In 2007, artist **Jonathon Dalton** co-founded the Vancouver-based, non-profit publisher Cloudscape Comics Society to support the work of local artists. Cloudscape has since published over 25 graphic novels





and anthologies and given comic book classes and workshops. In 20 Cloudscape embarked on a social justice project to illustrate the experiences of Canadian immigrants fleeing war, political strife and religious persecution. These comics were displayed at bus shelters in Vancouver as part of Comics in Transit.

The accessible nature of comics is a perfect fit with social justice. Er the Graphic History Collective (GHC), formed in 2008 when a group of artists, writers and researchers lent their activist approach to comics. The GHC says their goal is to “produce alternative histories—people’s histories—in an accessible format to help people understand the historical roots of contemporary social issues. Our comics show that you don’t need a cape and a pair of tights to change the world.” GHC books include *Drawn to Change: Graphic Histories of Working Class Struggle* and *1919: A Graphic History of the Winnipeg General Strike*.

In 2008, almost three decades after the *Pork Roasts* exhibit, Vancouver Art Gallery mounted *KRAZY! The Delirious World of Ani Comics, Video Games, & Art*, a groundbreaking, international review of comic art, graphic novels and associated art. The exhibition catalog was published by Douglas & McIntyre.

Over the past few decades, evidence of a growing community of graphic novelists and the wider acceptance of graphic novels can be seen on a number of fronts. The Vancouver Comic Arts Festival (VANC/ an annual two-day celebration, has been going strong since 2012. The academic world has also stepped up with UBC, SFU, Camosun College, Langara College, Emily Carr University of Art + Design and the University of Northern B.C. all offering courses on graphic novels. And in 2017, Vancouver Public Library’s Writer in Residence was, for the first time, a graphic novelist: **Miriam Libicki** who created *Toward a Hot Jew*, named one of 2016’s top 10 graphic novels by *Forbes* magazine.

Recent graphic novels by B.C. artists & writers:

- **Borders** (HarperCollins \$21.99) by **Natasha Donovan**, a Métis illustrator originally from Vancouver has teamed up with **Thomas King** to adapt one of King’s short stories about a mother and son road trip that involves crossing the U.S.– Canada border. When the pair answer “Blackfoot” to the border guard’s question as to their nationality, they find themselves in limbo, unable to go north or south. 9781443461

- **Shadow Life** (First Second \$24.99) by poet and novelist **Hiroshi Kurosawa** with art by **Ann Xu** follows a seventy-six-year-old mother whose w meaning daughters place her in an assisted living home. But she would rather be in her own apartment. *Shadow life* questions institutionalized eldercare and memories of Japanese internment camps. 978162672:

- In **The Monster Sisters & the Mystery of the Stone Octopus** **Gareth Gaudin** (Orca \$19.95), sleuthing sisters Enid and Lyra use the city’s archives and consult local booksellers to uncover a conspiracy spanning centuries and unruly monsters (for ages 9–12). 978145982:

- Eleven years after its original publication, **The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book** (Arsenal Pulp \$19.95) by **Gord Hill** has been relaunched in a full-colour, revised and expanded edition. This ground-breaking opus covers the history of Indigenous activism and struggle from contact to present day. 9781551528

- **Kristina Luu** of Vancouver has illustrated **Besti Work It Out** (Etch/Clarion \$12.99) written by **Kayla Milne** and **Jeffrey Canino**. The story, for ages 8–12, follows entrepreneurs Beth and Chanda as they navigate a dog-sitting job. Kristina Luu’s art has also been published in LGBT comic anthologies. 978035856:

- **Pizza Punks** (Conundrum Press \$15) by **Cole Pauls** pushes the limits of extreme pizza love to new heights. Backpack pizza, couch pizza, mosh pizza are all okay, pineapple, yikes, no way. Cole Pauls is a Tahltan comic artist and printmaker whose graphic novel *Dakwakada Warran* won a 2020 Indigenous Voices Award and was nominated for two Doug Wright Awards. 978-1772620

- **Pearl Low** has illustrated **Vampires Don’t Wear P Dots** (Scholastic \$22.99) by **Marcia Thornton Jones** and **Debbie Dadey** (for ages 7 to 10). The third graders at Bala Elementary are so hard to handle that all of their teachers quit except the new teacher who has just arrived from Transylvania. Low’s art is rooted in Chinese-Canadian and Caribbean-Canadian experiences. In 2020, she won Academy Award for her film *Hair Love*. 9781338734

- **David Lester’s Prophet Against Slavery: Benjamin Lay, A Graphic Novel** (Beacon Press \$21) chronicles the life of an 18th-century dwarf and hunchback who fought a lonely, heroic fight for the immediate and total abolition of slavery in America. Benjamin Lay used guerrilla theater and direct action to speak truth to power and shame slave owners and traders in his community. 9780807081

- Set in Victoria’s James Bay neighbourhood, **Painful Fences** by **Sara Cassidy**, with art by **Sydney Barnes** (Hedge House \$19.95) depicts a child’s eye view of life during World War Two by cutting between the present and the past to tell a poignant story. 978-1772033

- **Coming Out, Again: Transition Stories** (UBC Press \$30.95) by **Sabrina Symington** is an empowering graphic novel exploring identity and how it can change over time. It comes out as a lesbian after coming out as a trans woman. Leanne embraces their genderqueer identity in later life. Ty navigates their queerness with their autistic identity. 978178775:

Renée Sarojini Saklikar's epic fantasy in verse unveils a dystopian future and female saviours.

Bramah and the Beggar Boy
by Renée Sarojini Saklikar
(Nightwood \$26.95)

BY TREVOR CAROLAN

In a new fantasy novel set in the not too far-off future, a band of anti-authoritarian resisters is determined to preserve themselves and a degraded humanity against fearful odds. At stake is nothing less than planetary ecological survival.

The cast contains chiefly female lead characters and the story involves time travel via portals in the Perimeter, a huge post-ecocide territory governed by a brutal force called Consortium. Within the scores of mostly single-page verse accounts—some are longer—we encounter themes involving self and community identity, shifting tides of good and evil and what East-West philosopher **Alan Watts** (1915–1973) called “overcoming suffering.”

Action takes place largely in “Pacifica,” a coastal region resembling Cascadia. Language has deteriorated, but familiar names arise—Barnston Island, the Albion Ferry, Cedar Cottage, the Rentalsman and more.

Story-time begins at the Winter Portal. The earth is akliter and “spores, viruses [are] spreading.” Masks are important. Droughts, wild fires and melting ice-caps accelerate eco-change.

The parallels with current climate change disasters and our past pandemic year and a half are obvious. But in **Renée Sarojini Saklikar's Bramah and the Beggar Boy**, which has been ten years in the making, there's even more societal devolution.

Something is amiss in this dystopian world—milk won't curdle, bread won't rise and an ominous Investigator lurks on behalf of the Consortium, tracking down dissenters to its authority. When the voices of ragamuffin beggar boys call for aid—“Turn your key, Bramah, and find us at last,” Bramah the heroine arrives packing “tools plus lasers, all the latest gadgets.”

With her tattooed arm she's a “turner of bad odds.” Bramah, we're told, is part-human, part-goddess, brown and beautiful, and a female locksmith. Like a character from Indic legends she comes from the “far future.” An employee of the Consortium, she can travel in time and is tasked with retrieving a valuable box. But hearing the pleas of young resisters, Bramah goes rogue.

A first critical turn occurs when Bramah and her Beggar Boy sidekick find the box and snatch the contents.



Renée Sarojini Saklikar

Pindar and **Robert Duncan** in his serial epic *The Holy Forest*. Saklikar also acknowledges her own imposing lineage of inspiring mentors—**Homer**, **Shakespeare**, **T.S. Eliot**, the *Mahabharata*, *The Arabian Nights* and fantasy fiction masters **J.R.R. Tolkien** and **C.S. Lewis**, among others.

An adopted beggar-girl, Abigail shapes Part Two. She'll learn her mother's story from one of the Aunties and the loveliest poetry in the book comes as a hologram message to the future from her mother—reminding her little survivor girl, “*I will be/so silent/I will be that space hidden/... I will be the quiet of a forest/outside the gates/... where a bird sings/liquid/two notes/dropped into morning/ice in the face of a sun/... I will be/so silent/settled along the riverbank/city with its back/to the ocean/at night/a storefront/... I will be/that silent/unending night...*”

Like Bramah, Abigail becomes a “purveyor of the artful dodge,” and in borrowing from South Asian religious mythologies, Saklikar's interconnected heroines become mutually reflective. On meeting her soul-mate Bartholomew, love enters the saga; then after a sparkling exchange of letters we're off toward second bookland in the poet's promised trilogy.

Saklikar writes with keen metrical discipline, depicting finely polished images in lean

lines that mix manifold verse forms. Expect ballad refrains, tricky codes, romantic letters and terse corporate reports. However, the slurries of poetic fragments she constructs, while skillfully effused, are often as ambiguous as *Lucy in The Sky With Diamonds*. Perhaps the poet intuitively this. An end-note clarifies how her “obsession with formal poetry... finds its creative tension in the investigation of the fragment fused into forms of poetry...” By nature, fragments are discontinuous; inevitably there's a challenge in having these clearly understood. The author does provide extensive supplementary information, including a link and a code to an external website providing further back-up to the epic. It makes for busy reading. Some could be reset up front or in-text. Nevertheless, a 300-page verse epic is a formidable achievement.

The author notes that *Bramah and the Beggar Boy* is the first in a planned 1,000-page saga. Fans of fantasy literature and long-form poetry with a gritty ecological resonance have plenty to look forward to.

9780889714021

Trevor Carolan's most recent book is Road Trips: Journeys in the Unspoiled World (Mother Tongue, 2020).

WHEN MILK WON'T CURDLE AND BREAD WON'T RISE

Escaping through a time portal, the crafty pair regroup in a Paris cafe. The box contains documents, disks, codes, maps and a parchment scroll of stories that will unfold for future survivors in recalibrating directions for a world gone off-course.

Female elders play critical roles. When the Beggar Boy is brought to Bramah's grandmother we see the elders' importance as “seed savers” in a ruined ecology. On their way to visit the elder, Bramah and the boy pass across time, vast earthscapes, diverse languages and cultures.

Among the many story lines in this

novel is a group of Aunties associated with “The Wishing Well” who work clandestinely in preserving archival social memory and compiling seed-stocks for climate rehabilitation. There's loving homage paid to bee-keeping, the joy of pollination, to royal queens and honey's nutritional goodness—reminiscent of *Listening to the Bees*, Saklikar's award-winning 2018 poetry and essay collection co-written with biologist Dr. **Mark Winston**. Indeed, the poet ranges widely in her idea-sources: a botanical remark references a “Great Companion” echoing **Robin Blaser's** phrase for poetic mentors like **Dante**,

FICTION REVIEWS



Detail of *White Lie* book cover, photo by Stephen Waddell

Microfiction MASH-UP

Burnham's bite-sized prose can be filling

White Lie by Clint Burnham
(Anvil Press \$18)

Beguiling with their brevity, the mini-prose puzzles in **Clint Burnham's** *White Lie* consist of one-paragraph snippets that may or may not be autobiographical.

Described on the book jacket as "part travelogue, part autofiction" as well as "a series of quick bursts," Burnham's diary-like observations are connected in terms of tone rather than narrative.

The glue is Burnham's cryptic, clever, literary gamesmanship. Can you deduce what he's talking about in these mostly diary-like entries?

For an entry called *Mark*, he writes:

"In the long run..." the economics professor droned on at the military college, in a lecture hall built in 1930. A wiseass from the back of the room piped up "... we'll all be dead!" That night he sat next to a literature professor, the poet, Mark Madoff. His colleague, who wore tapered shirts, was named Brodsky, which led to a few russophobic jokes. He asked him what an oak bay was. The poet had been published in *3cent Pulp* the previous decade.

Most people nowadays would not know that *3cent Pulp* was a Vancouver-based literary publication, created by **Stephen Osborne** and others, that led to the creation of Pulp Press, which later changed its name to Arsenal Pulp. So *White Lie* is not for most people.

Nobel Prize-winner **Joseph Brodsky** (1940-1996), a friend of dancer **Mikhail Baryshnikov**, was arguably the greatest (or best-known) poet to emerge from post-war Russia. Soon after his expulsion from the Soviet Union, Brodsky gave a long-winded reading at UBC in 1972. It is presumed you might know this.



CHRIS BRAYSHAW PHOTO

Clint Burnham

Seemingly haphazard but stylishly clever, Burnham's recollective entries are not connected by personality or plot; instead, they are bound together by his wry, critical eye, a tad elitist to be sure, but often funny and—most importantly—never dull.

It was **Joni Mitchell**, while giving a rare public address in Sechelt, who pointed out that most of the music we hear is degenerate. That is, it is a copy of something that came before. Hence the job of the artist is to make something new. One suspects Clint Burnham would agree.

For an entry called *Roman Idol*, he writes:

It was in a small bar in a rough part of town. Port side, near the hostel for destitute sailors, which had computers set up so melancholy Filipinos, crew members for the tankers bobbing the harbour, could Skype home. The bar had an *American Idol*-type thing going. It was down to two final contestants, Paolo, a construction worker who still lived with his mother but did killer arias, and this satirical guy, Marcel, who did Kenny Rogers. Paolo won, and that's all she wrote.

While an arch, cleverer-than-thou barrage may turn off some readers, it could fascinate others.

The arresting cover photo by **Stephen Waddell** depicts a furtive and desperate young couple, semi-clad, escaping via a cement tunnel, seemingly Adam and Eve-like, as if banished from the Garden. It is perplexing. Like the title, *White Lie*, it does not convey much about the writing within, at least not from the perspective of the Average Joe, Jill or They.

One reader in ten might like it; but that reader might like it a lot.

978-1-77214-174-0

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The Liquor Vicar
by Vince R. Ditrich
(Dundurn Press \$18.99)

BY ALEXANDER VARTY

A romp, the nearest dictionary at hand informs me, is “a song, play, etc. that is lively, energetic, and lighthearted.” It can also be “a playful and lighthearted journey or excursion,” as well as “an easy victory.”

By any of those definitions, **Vince R. Ditrich’s** debut novel, **The Liquor Vicar**, is indeed a romp. It’s comical, engrossing, and even uplifting—but, dear reader, it does not open well.

After a brief prologue, we’re immediately introduced to the outer persona and inner thoughts of the novel’s namesake and protagonist, Tony Vicar, and he is *not* in a good mood. In fact, he’s seething. A faded rock ‘n’ roll guitarist who’s been reduced to deejaying in run-down Vancouver Island bars, he’s currently sound-tracking the wedding of a “meathead” at “the world’s oldest Eagles Hall.” He’s also sucking back beer at an alarming rate, washing it down with slugs of emergency Scotch and slowly gearing up for the apogee of his act: his transformation into a Halloween approximation of the late **Elvis Presley**, here to bless the nuptial pair.

“Don’t tell me these idiots are going to be INTO this,” he thinks. “Let’s just get it over with so I can pocket the extra hundred bucks, and they can get back to their curling bonspiels.”

True to form, though, ‘Fat Elvis’ has a spectacular meltdown, which culminates in... Well, let’s just say it culminates in a fully costumed near-recreation of the King’s last moments on earth, in an open bathroom stall with a few drunken onlookers as witnesses. Elvis, however, suffered from constipation. Vicar does not.

This happens on page 10, and I’d be lying if I didn’t admit that I was dreading having to spend another 228 pages in the company of this flatulent boor. But things get better.

In fact, they get better the next morning, when ‘Hungover Elvis’ wakes up in an unfamiliar bed, with an unfamiliar but very lovely body beside him. Enter Caoilfhoinn Jacqueline O’Neil, aka Jacquie O, the bartender from the night before and a former stripper with, we soon come to realize, a heart of gold. She’s the *deus* in this *machina*, the goddess who lets Vicar reclaim his long-lost sense of wonder and, ultimately, redeem himself as both a human being and a man.

Soon he’s gainfully employed, albeit at a liquor store. He starts performing selfless acts of kindness for his elderly customers. With Jacquie’s charm and computer-savvy help, he drags his hapless and odiferous boss, Ross Poutine, into the 21st century. And, most remarkably, he seemingly wills the victim of an automobile collision back from certain death, a miracle that soon brings him Internet fame, more responsibility than he’s really ready to handle and a ravishing but utterly amoral female stalker.

Did we mention that *The Liquor*

Elvis is in the house

A small town musician gets thrown into the limelight and attracts a stalker.

Vicar is a romp? Even at its darkest, Ditrich’s novel maintains that lighthearted edge: its villains and their schemes are harebrained, and when they get their comeuppance the tool of their destruction is a bong, wielded in a decidedly unconventional manner. Ditrich also provides just enough foreshadowing that, by book’s end, you’ll be glad to know that a sequel is already in the works.

Hopefully it’ll be out by next June,

just in time for summer reading.

There’s more, though. Underneath the terrible puns, the unlikely coincidences, and the perpetually puzzling question of what, exactly, Jacquie sees in Tony, *The Liquor Vicar* has a large and generous heart. It’s probably useful to know that Ditrich was the long-time drummer with popular Vancouver folk-rock band Spirit of the West, an act that successfully managed to combine dance-floor friendly

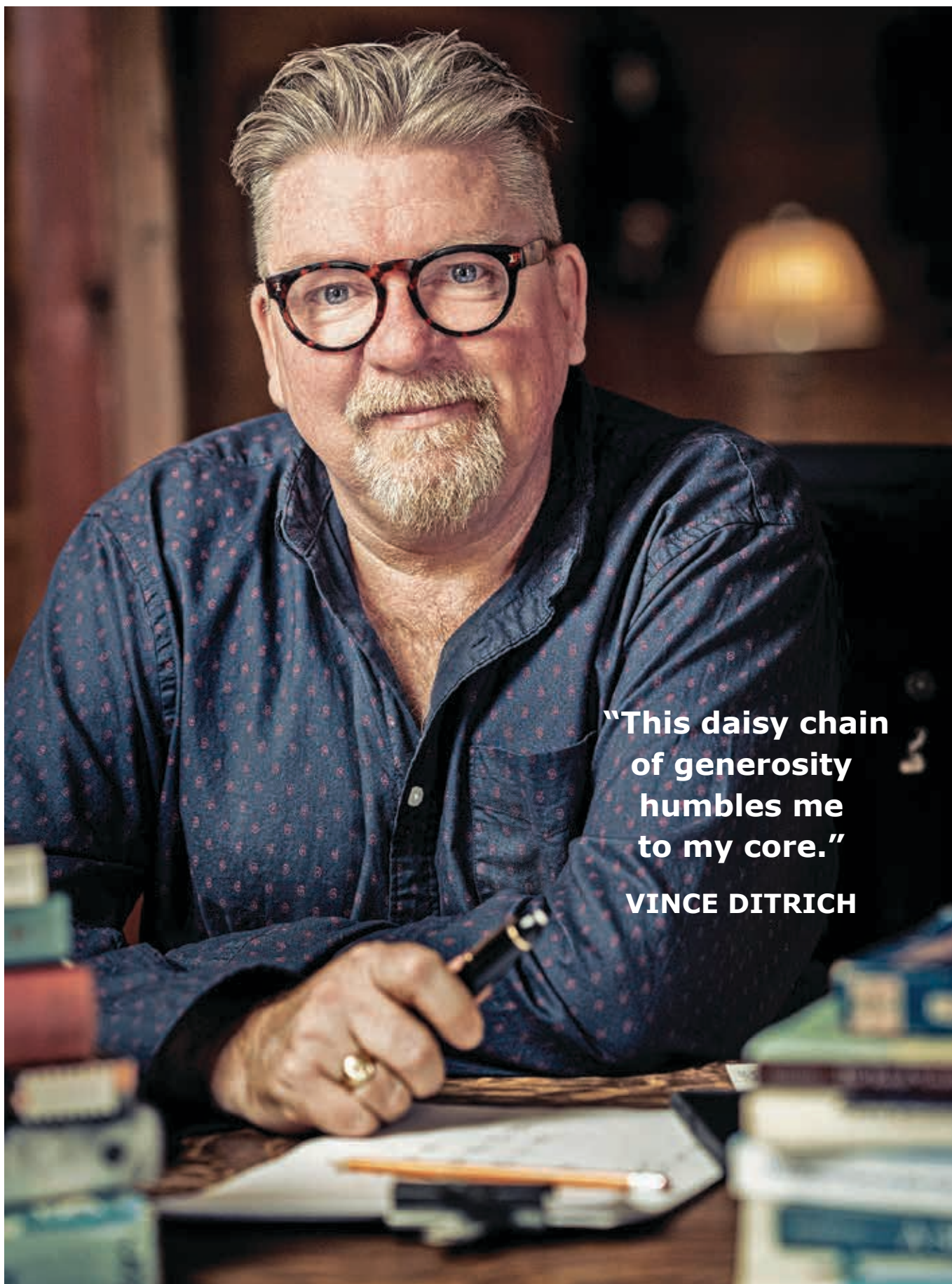
melodies with an activist spirit. In the past few years, Ditrich had to witness Spirit’s universally adored front man, **John Mann**, contract and ultimately die from an aggressive form of early onset dementia. And he’s had health issues of his own: in 2016 Ditrich successfully received a kidney transplant after suffering from kidney disease for several years.

“The situation has even one more miraculous wrinkle,” he reported on Facebook at the time. “My nephew gave up his kidney to some anonymous recipient so that I could in turn receive an anonymous kidney from someone else. This daisy chain of generosity humbles me to my core.”

So, in Ditrich’s world miracles really *do* happen. We *can* save lives just by being compassionate and good. Hope exists. Some of that spirit percolates through this book, and if you can get past its unpromising introduction, you may very well find yourself cheered at a time when cheer has never been more welcome.

9781459747258

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



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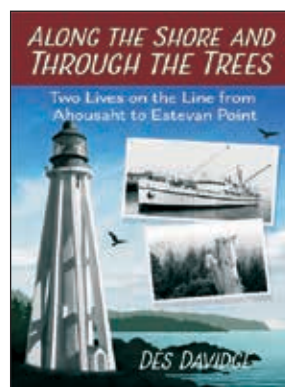
Mushrooms and fungi have become a focal point of interest for so many people. These two in the Calypso Nature Series offer a wide range of identification aids from spectacular colour photos to in depth descriptions and more. Learn how mushrooms are known for their therapeutic and medicinal benefits.



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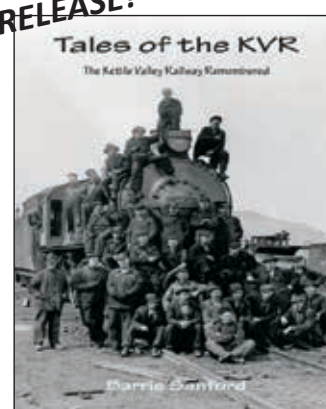
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ALONG THE SHORE AND THROUGH THE TREES
Des Davidge

A telegraph line runs the length of Vancouver Island's rugged west coast, from an iconic lighthouse on Estevan Point to the small Nuuchah-nulth community of Ahousaht on Flores Island. This is the story of two lives – two memoirs – tied together by that line. Des Davidge recounts his time spent as a radio operator at the remote Estevan Point Marine Radio Station. It is also the story of his wife, Rosina Adeline Ada Rae Arthur who accompanied her father, the man who spent over three decades surviving hardships and wilderness to maintain that same line. Set in an isolated corner of British Columbia, this is a compelling story of history, geography, friendship, and love.
9781777392901 \$19.95 pb Davidge

NEW RELEASE!



TALES OF THE KVR
The Kettle Valley Railway Remembered
Barrie Sanford

Drawing largely from his interviews with railroaders over the past 50+ years and his own research, Sanford presents fresh stories and fresh photographs to give the Kettle Valley Railway its due as a product of a generation of wild west BC adventurers. Here are the stories of Hurricane Hawkins, the engineer whose trains were always perfectly on time, of Minnie Engen who hailed from Minnesota, of Bunkhouse Bill who guarded sleeping engineers in the little town of Brookmere, BC - and stories of many others. Told as a series of long and short pieces, Sanford has assembled living social history carefully preserved by one of BC's foremost railway history experts.
9780973560237 \$21.95 pb NRHS BC Div



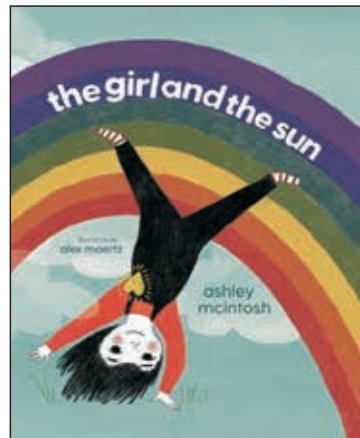
ON BEING YUKIKO
Jeff Chiba Stearns
Lillian Michiko Blakey

Through the blending of two unique artistic styles, this exciting graphic novel tells an intergenerational story of family history and cultural identity. 12-year-old Emma learns about her Japanese roots when her Ba-chan tells her the true-life story of her great-great grandmother Maki, a Japanese picture bride, who journeyed to Canada at the turn of the 20th century. Maki's story of extreme perseverance and sacrifice inspires Emma, who identifies as a quarter Japanese, to discover a deeper connection to her Japanese Canadian identity...and on being Yukiko.
9781775234333 \$19.99 hc Meditating Bunny



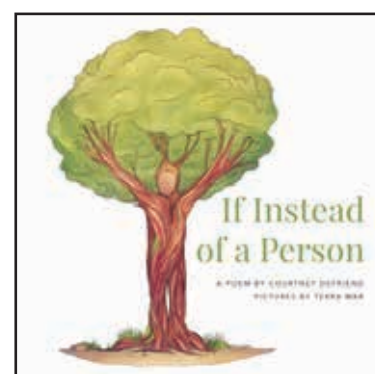
FOX IN A BOX
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Socks and rocks and blocks and clocks, Fox loves everything in his box hidden deeper in the forest. But when he realizes he can no longer fit inside, Fox decides he must take action! Fox learns to part with his collected objects by thoughtfully giving them to his friends and learns that happiness is found not in the accumulation of things, but in the people we love and the gift of giving. Fox in a Box has 40 glorious pages of full colour illustrations with a secret map of Fox's forest that kids will love. Ages 4 – 8.
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The GIRL AND THE SUN
Ashley McIntosh

Each of us has a sun that lives in our heart, and a cloud that lives in our mind. In this beautifully illustrated book, a little girl is happy and the sun shines brightly in her heart. But one day, a rain cloud comes into her world and suddenly things begin to make her feel bad - sometimes mean even. She tries to get rid of the cloud, but nothing works. Sad and depressed, she lays down in the forest and stares up at the sky. But then something happens to make the cloud disappear and her sun begins to glow again... Ages 4 – 8
9781777017903 \$21.95 hc



IF INSTEAD OF A PERSON
A Poem by Courtenay Defriend
Ilus by Terra Mar

"If Instead of a person, I were a tree, how would I live differently?" In this beautifully illustrated book, the author explores the wisdom to be learned from living as a tree with its steadfast connection and vital contribution to life on earth. Readers are invited to become change agents that respect the interconnectedness of nature and humanity.
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My Two-Faced Luck
by Brett Josef Grubisic
(Now or Never \$19.95)

Brett Josef Grubisic wrote his first novel 15 years ago, *The Age of Cities* (Arsenal Pulp, 2006) about the discovery of a hidden memoir of a closeted, gay librarian at the height of the Cold War in the 1950s. The story is partly set in an imaginary town on the Fraser River called River Bend that is based on Mission. Grubisic's second novel *From Up River and For One Night Only* (Now or Never, 2015) returned to the same setting with different characters in the 1980s. Grubisic completes his *River Bend Trilogy* with **My Two-Faced Luck** by examining the queer life of a man from the 1940s who dies in 1990 and how it influences a present day gay woman.

BC BookWorld discussed the trilogy with Brett Josef Grubisic.

★
BC BookWorld: Take us through the River Bend Trilogy.

Brett Josef Grubisic: A story within a story, the core of *The Age of Cities* is a handwritten manuscript a student finds inside a vintage Home Economics textbook. He shows it to his professor, who then publishes it and discusses the manuscript as a document representing lost queer history—a gay fiction manuscript that would not have been published in the early 1960s because gay was “too much” for lettered Canadian society then. The manuscript depicts a weird journey of self-discovery for one Winston Wilson, a teacher in River Bend City. His visits to a medical specialist in Vancouver accidentally expose him to a shadowy queer society—about which he has radically mixed feelings.

From Up River is set in the autumn and winter of 1980/81 and offers a comical exploration of two sets of siblings led by two elder brothers (both

IN AND OUT OF THE CLOSET

Brett Josef Grubisic on the evolution of his River Bend Trilogy set in a fictional town based on Mission, where he grew up.

gay) in Grade 12 who decide to become a New Wave band (called the Iron Curtains) and enter a battle-of-the-bands contest in Haney. Their quests to raise funds and learn to play Gary Numan songs lead them to all kinds of quandaries.

My Two-Faced Luck tells the life story of a gay inmate in Horsetail Institution, located in River Bend Municipality. Before he dies in River Bend

Hospital in 1990, the inmate records episodes for a memoir project from his life in rural Massachusetts (where he was born in 1927), New York City, Washington DC, and San Francisco. Decades later, the infirmary nurse to whom the inmate bequeathed the jumble of tapes faces a sombre winter after divorcing her wife. Rather than dwelling on her own grief, she turns to the tapes as a project. His fragmented

project becomes her psychological one that also serves to complete his.

BCBW: What was the grand scheme for your trilogy?

BJG: All three novels are set in River Bend City, a scruffy fictional town in the Fraser Valley that's modeled on Mission, B.C. It's my old stomping grounds. During the wild period of my father's three marriages, my family lived in a trailer park on Hatzic Island, just east of Mission; plus, I was in elementary school for a few grades in Mission and for chunks of junior and senior high school.

The books are standalone but echo each other stylistically and they all mull over ideas about how queer culture might get transmitted from generation to generation. They are also organized unconventionally. *Age* takes the form of a lost manuscript (and faux-professorial introduction, complete with photographic “documents” and samples of an unknown novelist's handwriting), while *From Up River* features drawings, notes, song lyrics, diary entries, journalism and even sign language symbols. In *Two-Faced*, an inmate's cassette recordings, which are lost and then recovered twenty years later and reorganized according to the whims and guesswork of their listener—continues with the stylistic through-line. While there's no recurring character, the novels focus on queer lives in River Bend at different points in history.

BCBW: Why the focus on closeted gay life?

BJG: It's 2021, same-sex marriage has been possible in Canada for sixteen years and people are still closeted. But there has been change: when looking at a rural character born in '27, or who was an adult in the 1950s, or an adolescent in 1980 (which are, respectively, the situations of *Two-Faced*, *Age of Cities*, and *From Up River*), the condition of “closetedness”—and the narrow range of locational contexts for being unapologetically gay—change massively.

978-1989689271



Brett Josef Grubisic

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Peggy's Impossible Tale
by **Slavia Miki & Roy Miki**,
Illustrated by **Mariko Ando**
(Tradewind \$19.95) Ages 6 – 8

When their daughter **Elisse** was a young girl, writers **Slavia Miki** and **Roy Miki** bought her a guinea pig they named **Peggy**. It turned out to be transformative for both Elisse and her new pet.

“Overcoming her initial fears and limitations, Peggy accepted any challenge, just so they [Peggy and Elisse] could be together, at least so it seemed to us,” write the Mikis in the acknowledgments to their fictionalized kidlit story about a similar guinea pig, **Peggy's Impossible Tale**.

“The relationship between Elisse and Peggy enriched our lives, showing us how Elisse’s love could transform and elevate the life of even the smallest of beings. Peggy’s love for Elisse showed us how the seemingly impossible could become possible and how the ordinary could become special.”

The story is told in the voice of the pet guinea pig. It starts with Peggy alone in her cage at a pet store as a mother and daughter walk in. We quickly learn that Peggy knows what the humans are saying when the pet store owner calls guinea pigs stupid.

“Hey Sandy, I’m not stupid,” squeaks Peggy. “I can understand you.”

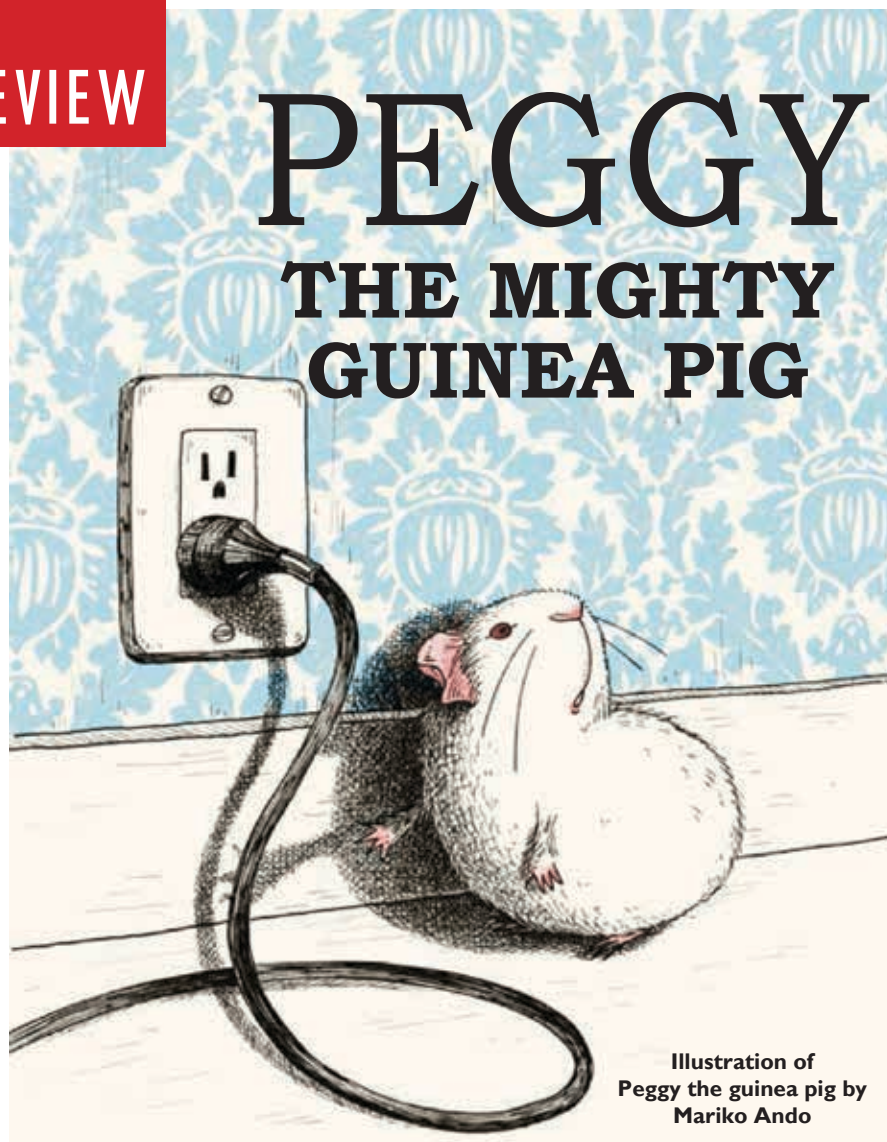


Illustration of
Peggy the guinea pig by
Mariko Ando

Then Peggy agonizes as the mother and daughter (a girl named Lisa) check out the special guinea pigs such as the Peruvian with long silver hair that covers its eyes and a tortoiseshell with dark eyes.

“I’m just an ordinary guinea pig with short white hair and small pink ears,” says Peggy. “I was afraid that

Lisa wouldn’t choose me.”

But Lisa does opt for Peggy and the two become instant best friends. “Finally I had a family of my own,” says Peggy.

Soon, Peggy teaches Lisa to understand her ‘squeak talk’: “For five days I repeated my squeaks until Lisa finally understood me.”

Peggy falls into the rhythms of each day, from waking up and having breakfast to dinner time and “delicious morsels from the table.” Her favourite time of day though, is when Lisa comes home from school. “Even before she stepped on the front stairs, I would squeak, ‘Welcome home, welcome home.’”

Lisa spends all her spare time with Peggy. One day Peggy tries to follow Lisa to the study upstairs. But the guinea pig can’t climb the stairs. Lisa’s mom sees Peggy struggle and offers this advice: “The difficult is done immediately. The impossible takes a little longer.”

Eventually Lisa helps Peggy do the impossible as, “one day, Lisa put my paws on a step and gave my round bottom a little push. To my surprise I climbed one stair, and then another ... I could finally climb stairs.”

Peggy learns many other things, some the hard way. Like staying away from electrical plugs and not chewing electrical cords as they can deliver an uncomfortable zap. The vacuum scares her. And when Lisa trains Peggy to walk outdoors with a special harness and leash, cats and crows are to be avoided.

Most other people don’t believe that Peggy could possibly climb stairs and walk on a leash. That’s when Lisa’s mom suggests they enter Peggy in a Special Pets Contest. There, Peggy shows disbelieving humans that ‘the impossible’ can be realized.

It’s a valuable lesson for everyone.

9781926890210

A lost narwhal finds a family

Little Narwhal, Not Alone
by **Tiffany Stone**
& illustrated by **Ashlyn Anstee**
(Greystone Kids \$22.95) Ages 4 – 8

In her tenth children’s book, **Little Narwhal, Not Alone**, **Tiffany Stone** deals with overcoming differences and the importance of inclusion. Based on the true story of a narwhal that ended up in the St. Lawrence River estuary, about 600 miles away from its home in the Arctic, the lost whale was accepted into a pod of beluga whales despite their interspecies disparities. Marine biologists have continued to monitor this unusual occurrence for over four years as the narwhal has remained with the belugas.

Stone’s story imagines how a restless narwhal came to be so far from its natural habitat. Her playful little whale “longs to roam, to see the sea beyond the ice, past polar bears, to brand-new sights. And so while others hunt and play, narwhal sets off on his way.”

With that, the story follows the adventurous whale past other northern animals like seals and caribou until a strange new sound beckons him. But the noise is coming from the propeller of a large ship and the narwhal immediately senses danger.

“Quick, escape, without a peep! Little narwhal dives down deep,” writes



Tiffany Stone

Stone. The narwhal stays in the murky depths as long as it can until, gasping for air, it re-surfaces. But now the narwhal is a long way from its family and despite searching for his own kind, “far off from his frozen home, little narwhal’s all alone.”

Eventually the narwhal encounters “ice-white whales” [belugas] that kind of look like him “or close enough—though no one sports a twisty tusk.” The sounds they make are different and the narwhal doesn’t understand the belugas and vice versa. And the belugas eat the kind of fish that the narwhal is not used to. But they all instinctively

know how to play together and that becomes the bonding glue: “Although a lot is not the same, narwhal knows he knows this game! Flippers splish. He joins right in. And...SQUIRT...the new whales welcome him!”

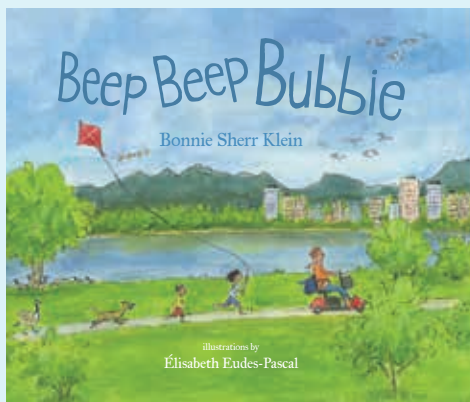


KNOWN FOR HER POETIC LANGUAGE AND silly verses, Maple Ridge-based Tiffany Stone has made animals the protagonists in some of her other books such as *Floyd the Flamingo and His Flock of Friends* (Tradewind Books, 2004) and *Silli’s Sheep* (Schwartz & Wade, 2020). Given that she regularly does volunteer work with new immigrants, it is not surprising her stories are often infused with themes of acceptance and friendship.

Little Narwhal, Not Alone includes a summary at the back of the book from marine biologist **Marie Noel** of Montreal about the real-life incident that inspired Stone. “It is unusual for young narwhals to wander, but this is just too far for him to find his way home or meet up with other members of his species,” writes Noel. “Although they are distantly related, beluga whales and narwhals usually do not interact. However, to everyone’s surprise, it looks like the young narwhal may have been adopted by the group of young belugas. Now, the narwhal has even been observed blowing bubbles from time to time, just like his beluga cousins! What else will he learn? Every summer, researchers keep an eye on the whales of the St. Lawrence and this remarkable friendship.”

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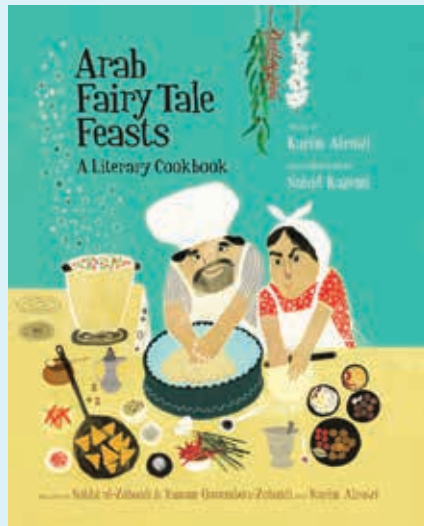
Beep Beep Bubbie by Bonnie Sherr Klein illustrated by Élisabeth Eudes-Pascal

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

“This beautifully illustrated children’s book teaches important lessons about living with disability.” —Vancouver Sun

Finalist for the 2021 Christie Harris Illustrated Children’s Literature Prize (BC Book Prizes)

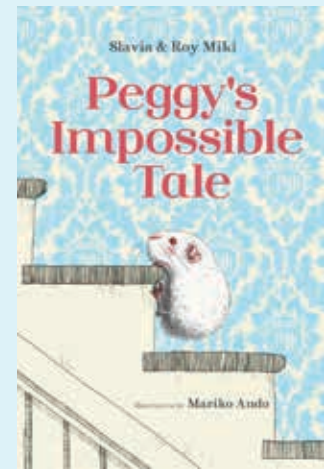


Arab Fairy Tale Feasts tales by Karim Alrawi illustrated by Nahid Kazemi recipes by Sobhi & Tamam al-Zobaidi and Karim Alrawi

Arab Fairy Tale Feasts is the latest title in the highly acclaimed Fairy Tale Feasts series in which prominent writers of diverse cultures have created enchanting tales paired with traditional recipes easily accessible to young cooks and their families.

These magical tales, by award-winning author and master storyteller Karim Alrawi, all feature food or feasting and conclude with an iconic recipe.

They are accompanied by intriguing anecdotes illuminating Arab culture and culinary traditions.



Peggy's Impossible Tale by Slavia Miki and Roy Miki illustrated by Mariko Ando

Peggy's Impossible Tale is told by an extraordinary guinea pig—curious and determined, she finds the world of her adopted family full of wonder and adventure.

“(This book is) an especially apt choice for transitioning readers. This simple, endearing story has universal appeal.”

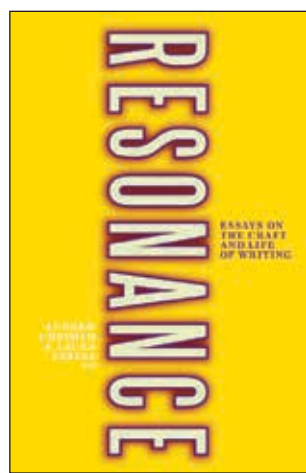
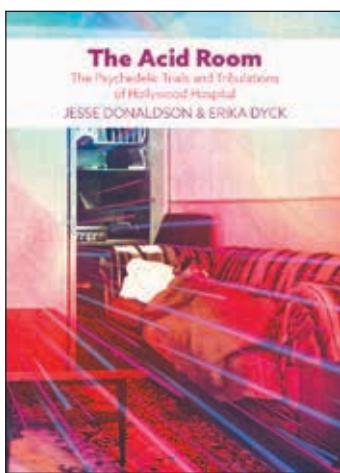
—Kirkus Reviews starred review ★



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One Last Job
by Sean Rodman (Orca \$10.95)

A young teen watches TV with his “Gramps” who lives in a seedy part of town, when suddenly a burglar bursts in. “We never even seen it coming,” says Michael, or “Mikey” as his grandfather calls him.

It’s the opening scene in **Sean Rodman’s** latest title **One Last Job** from Orca Anchor, books written specifically for teens reading below a grade 2.0 level.

Mikey is supposed to be looking after his Gramps “to keep me off the streets,” he says. Mikey’s dad is “out of the picture” and his mother, an ER nurse, is so busy at work there is little parental supervision. Then Gramps has a heart attack shortly after his eightieth birthday, freaking out his daughter, Mikey’s mother.

That’s when she hatches a plan to pay her son to watch over Gramps for the summer until school starts in the fall, setting up Rodman’s narrative-driven, fast-paced thriller.

“So now I’m getting paid to hang out with my grandfather,” says Mikey. “My duties are pretty basic. Take the old man for walks. Make sure he eats his vegetables. Measure out a handful of different pills for him every day. Keep him and myself out of trouble.”

Except Gramps used to be a highly effective burglar for many years, although he did slip up once and did jail time for it. But he’s an old, fragile man now with a heart condition. Or so Mikey thinks.

When the burglar holds the two up with a gun in Gramps’ living room, Mikey is surprised at how the old man handles himself. “The burglar shouts something through the red bandanna covering his mouth. I can’t tell what he is saying. Neither can Gramps.

“I’m sorry,” says Gramps politely. “You’ll have to repeat that.”

“I tear my eyes away from the gun to look at Gramps. How can he be so calm?”

Gramps infuriates the burglar who shouts, “This is a robbery!” and “Do not move a freakin’ muscle!”

▶ Sean Rodman

GRAMPS THE EX-CONMAN

A young teen is set to follow his grandfather into criminal ways.

When the burglar points the gun directly at Gramps, the old man says, “That I understand. And I won’t move. It takes me half an hour to get up from this couch. You’ve got nothing to worry about.”

The burglar uses black zip ties to secure Mikey and Gramps, then gets to work emptying kitchen cabinets, clearing out dresser and desk drawers, throwing books from their shelves and dumping files onto the floor of Gramps’ barely furnished single room apartment.

“How about I save us all some time?” says Gramps. “There’s twenty bucks in a pickle jar by the door. It’s for the cleaning lady. Aside from that, you’re not going to find anything here.”

But there is one more thing; a silver pendant necklace that Gramps had bought for his wife, Mikey’s grandmother, now deceased. The necklace is the only memento of his beloved wife and the burglar finds it. Gramps is heartbroken.

Mikey determines to track down the burglar and the necklace, taking him on adventures that lead to a notorious gangster, a big-time drug dealer and his young girlfriend at a lavish birthday party in a mansion with a pool. Against his Gramps’ wishes, Mikey devises a plan to get into the mansion and steal the pendant necklace back. His friend and cohort, ‘Tank’ helps him.

While they are recovering the necklace, Tank thinks they should also take a little extra by rummaging through the guests’ coats and tells Mikey to check the pockets. “Might be something nice in there. Cash? Fancy phone? A little bonus for us, that’s all.”

But Mikey is having none of it. “What? No! We’re just here to get the necklace,” he says. “I’m not a thief, Tank.”

While Mikey is smart, he is not cunning like an experienced burglar. Luckily, his Gramps comes to the rescue and saves the day. He warns Mikey not to get into a lifestyle outside the law. “This is my last job,” he says to Mikey. “I mean it. No more stealing. I got what I wanted, and I’m done. But this was your last job too. Understand? This was your first and last shot at being a criminal.”

Mikey agrees—sort of. “It’s too bad though, Gramps. We made a good team.”

The two smile at each other like, as Mikey puts it, “a pair of wolves.”

Maybe author Sean Rodman intends this storyline to continue. Stay tuned. 9781459828605

KIDLIT ROUND-UP



Sangeet and the Missing Beat
by Kiranjot Kaur
(Rebel Mountain \$13.95)
Ages 4 to 10

Although tabla hand drums, the principal percussion instruments in Hindustani classical music, are traditionally played by men, they are the favourite instruments of a music-loving girl in the charmingly illustrated picture book **Sangeet and the Missing Beat**.

Sangeet is determined to be a tabla master (tabla is the plural; tabla the singular) when she’s older because “anyone can do anything!” she says.

Always composing tunes and rhythms inspired by her surroundings, one day Sangeet tries to create a song of the noises in her schoolyard at recess. She hears the beat in her head, but when Sangeet tries to play it on her tabla for her dad, something is not quite right. There’s a missing beat. Thus begins Sangeet’s journey to complete her new composition.

She dreams about it, taps on her thighs and the breakfast table, and drums with her pencils in class trying to figure it out. A week later when her grandma—her dadiji—comes to visit, Sangeet gets fresh encouragement and finally finds the beat.

Kiranjot Kaur is a multi-disciplinary artist, author and engineer. She celebrates artistic influences from Panjabi, Sikh and other Canadian heritages. She hopes to inspire kids to realize their potential.

9781989996058

City Day by Glenn Brucker
(D&M Kids \$22.95) Ages 3 to 5

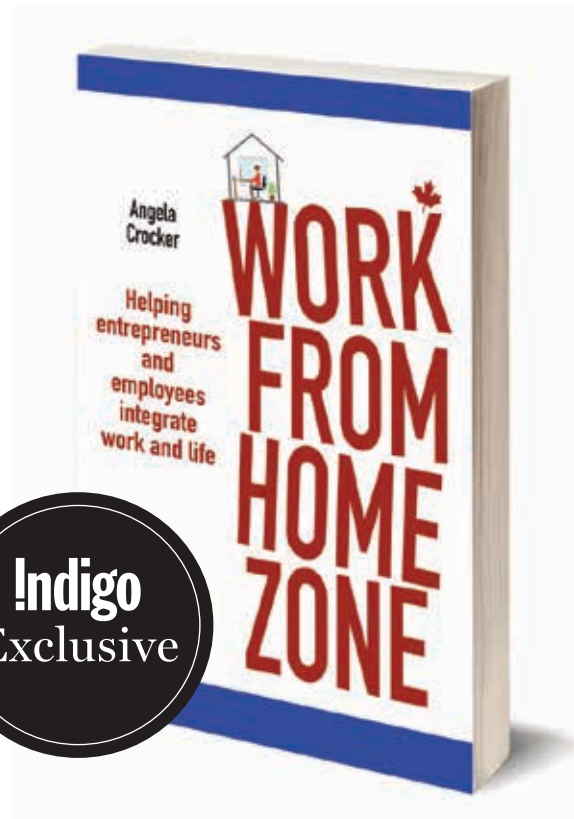
When city campers pack up and leave the forest to go back to their homes, the wild animals decide to visit the people in their home territory in **City Day**, written and illustrated by **Glenn Brucker**.

When the animals arrive in the city, many people run away. The animals decide to stay and play. They drink coffee at a cafe, making them move “twenty times faster than normal!” They try to pay for the coffee but aren’t sure what that means and leave behind what are treasures to them such as Otter’s shells and Skunk’s smelly lumps from his fur. Bighorn sheep and mountain goats climb the tallest buildings.

This romp of a read has a hidden message: people must learn respect for nature.

9781771623087

Carve Out Your Personal Work Space

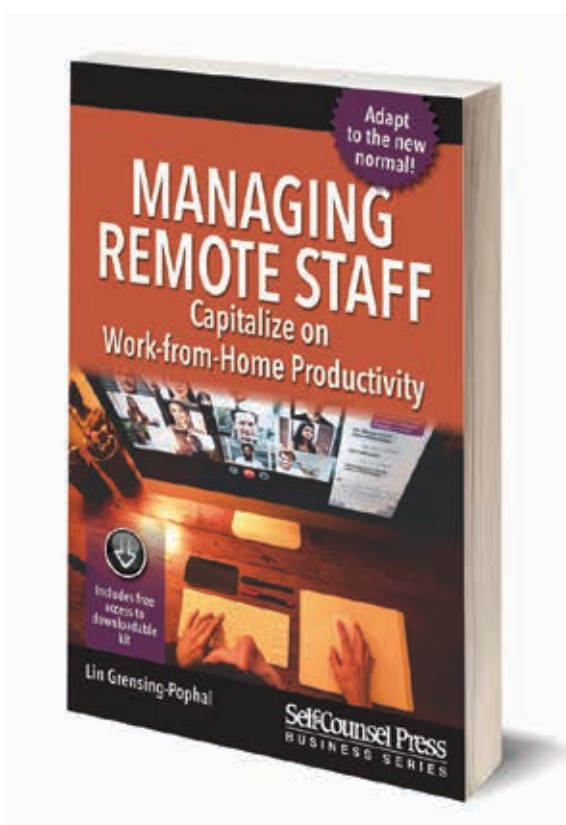


Most books about working from home are written for the businesses and employers managing others. This book is for the employees and the self-employed, the workers and the entrepreneurs, who are often overlooked when it comes to handling a 'work from home' lifestyle.

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ENVIRO REVIEW

ELODIE DOUMENC PHOTO



Isabelle Groc in France with a Great Pyrenees puppy, a livestock defending breed. They were adopted as the "Royal Dog of France" during King Louis XIV's reign.

FIDO the conservationist

Conservation Canines:
How Dogs Work for the Environment
by Isabelle Groc (Orca Wild \$24.95)

Dogs have long been valued for companionship and the work they do such as herding and protecting farm animals, searching for drugs and explosives, locating missing persons and assisting people with physical disabilities.

Perhaps lesser known is that dogs also work in wildlife conservation projects as described in **Isabelle Groc's Conservation Canines: How Dogs Work for the Environment**.

New Zealand employed canines for wildlife conservation as early as 1890 when **Richard Henry** trained his dog to use its great smelling abilities to locate the kiwi and kakapo, two flightless species of bird in danger of extinction, that Henry moved to an island where they would be safe from predators (the kakapo is still endangered).

More recently, dogs are being trained to protect domestic animals in Africa against cheetahs, which are highly vulnerable to human-wildlife conflict. Numbering around 100,000 in 1900, there are only about 7,000 left globally. "Because they live close to humans raising cows, sheep and goats, cheetahs are often held responsible for livestock losses," says Groc adding that farmers feel they have no other option but to kill the big cats. "Between 1980 and 1990, more than 7,000 cheetahs

were lost this way."

The Cheetah conservation Fund (CFF) in Namibia has begun introducing a dog breed called the Kangal shepherd to local farmers. These dogs protect domestic animals against native predators. Nearly 700 have now been placed on farms across the country and fewer cheetahs are being killed by people needing to protect their livestock.

In Australia, a small island connected by a tidal sand bridge to Warrnambool in the southwest was once home to 504 little penguins, the smallest species of penguin in the world. An invasive species of fox almost wiped the little penguins out when they discovered how to reach the island at low tide. In 2006, a Maremma sheepdog that had been protecting a local farmer's free-range chickens, was re-trained to protect the little penguins from foxes. Within eleven years, the penguin population rose to 182.

Increasingly, dogs help scientists collect information about important or endangered plants and animals. One example is an Australian cattle dog named Alli working in the Fraser Valley that has been re-trained from being a drug-detection dog to sniffing out Canada's most endangered amphibian—the Oregon spotted frog. Once located in an area, wildlife managers can take steps to protect the frogs' habitat.

Groc outlines many other examples of dogs being put to use protecting the environment. She also adds a section at the end of the book titled *What You Can Do to Help Conservation Canines* that encourages people to do their part and "join the dogs in making a difference."

9781459821606

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Amanda Swinimer harvests seaweed for a living off the west coast of Vancouver Island.

EMMA GEIGER PHOTO

WHO'S WHO BRITISH COLUMBIA

A IS FOR AMANDA

Marine biologist **Amanda Swinimer** turned her passion for the ocean into a successful business hand-harvesting seaweed, which she recounts in **The Science and Spirit of Seaweed: Discovering Food, Medicine and Purpose in the Kelp Forests of the Pacific Northwest** (Harbour \$28.95). She describes the many culinary uses and health benefits of these unique life forms that share qualities with both plants, animals and fungi. Residing on the west coast of Vancouver Island, home to the greatest cold-water seaweed diversity in the world, Swinimer has made her living for the last two decades from the sustainable harvest of these seaweeds. Many of the recipes are by chefs. Complete with photographs, this book is a resource for beachcombers, foragers and everyone interested in the natural world.

9781550179613

B IS FOR BOWERING

The indefatigable **George Bowering** has released a 38th volume of poetry **Could Be: New Poems** (New Star \$18) that gathers his work since a health scare five years ago. The bright and warm perspective of these new poems reveal a man happy to be alive (although aware of the shadow of mortality) and who is seeing with, as his publisher says, “fresh eyes, curious as any young poet’s.” Using mostly short lyric verse, Bowering also includes “found” material and one long poem. This legend of Canadian letters (with over 100 books and two Governor General’s awards) keeps on keeping on.

9781554201785

C IS FOR CHIU

Vancouver-based journalist, **Joanna Chiu** has written **China Unbound: A New World Disorder** (House of Anansi \$24.99) chronicling China’s moves to



Steven Earle; Nancy and Mike Deas (drawing by Mike Deas) ; P.W. Bridgman.

become a dominant world power through its multi-billion dollar “New Silk Road” global investment project and growing sway on foreign countries. Chiu offers a background on the protests in Hong Kong, underground churches in Beijing and exile Uyghur communities in Turkey, and exposes Beijing’s high-tech surveillance and aggressive measures that result in human rights violations against those who challenge its power. The new world disorder described by Chiu also lays out disturbing implications for global stability, prosperity and civil rights everywhere.

978-1-4870-0768-3

Joanna Chiu



D IS FOR DEAS

Mike Deas and **Nancy Deas** began the “Sueno Bay Adventures” graphic novel series with *Shadow Island* (Orca, 2019) which first told of the mystical properties of Sueno Bay. In the follow-up, **Otter Lagoon** (Orca \$14.95) a young girl teams up with a bad guy to sell exotic animals and stolen crab because she needs money to save a dog that she’s responsible for injuring. A sea serpent is disturbed that hasn’t been around for 100 years, which sets off a destructive string of events. Friends rally around to prevent the creature destroys the entire island of Sueno Bay.

9781459819641

E IS FOR EARLE

Gabriola Island’s **Steven Earle** has written **A Brief History of the Earth’s Climate: Everyone’s Guide to the Science of Climate Change** (New Society \$19.99) that counters climate change skeptics and deniers. Earle explains how our climate evolved over 4.6 billion years and how climate change is different from human-caused global warming, which is much more danger-

ous. He also provides advice on action to mitigate the climate emergency. Earle has also taught university earth science for almost four decades. He authored the widely used textbook, *Physical Geology* now in its second edition.

9780865719590

F IS FOR FLASH FICTION

Readers can be forgiven for not believing that the long-winded style of a former judge could be transformed into flash fiction and short stories. Retired judge **Thomas S. Woods**, aka **P.W. Bridgman** shows it can be done in **The Four-Faced Liar** (Ekstasis, 2021). The story of how he was conceived at Woodstock is a mere 50 words. All the other stories in this collection are longer including the book’s title story about a village clock that cannot tell the truth—its four faces never agree on the time. In Bridgman’s writing things are not always what they seem.

9781771714150

G IS FOR GRAY-COSGROVE



Carmella Gray-Cosgrove

The great granddaughter of Jewish immigrants and early French and Irish settlers, **Carmella Gray-Cosgrove** was raised in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. Her debut short story collection

Nowadays and Lonelier: Stories (Arsenal Pulp \$19.95) features a lineup of gritty urban millennials from both working- and middle-class backgrounds. Gray-Cosgrove contrasts the experiences of the two classes as they seek access to education and art. Some struggle to secure jobs and housing, and face conditions that leave many straddling a world where mental health issues, addictions and sex work are daily realities. Gray-Cosgrove’s fiction has appeared in *PRISM international* and *Broken Pencil*.

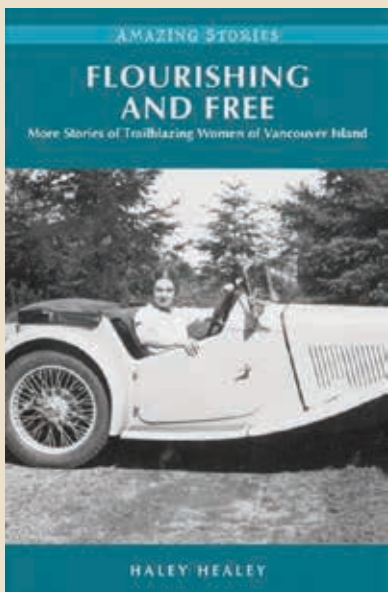
9781551528717

Indigenomics • Heroines • History • Memoir



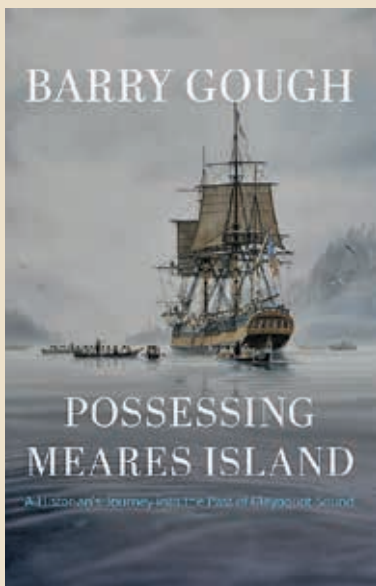
Indigenomics: Taking a Seat at the Economic Table by Carol Anne Hilton (New Society \$19.99)

A Hesquiaht woman of Nuu-chah-nulth descent from the west coast of Vancouver Island, Carol Anne Hilton, MBA (above) founded the Indigenomics Institute and wrote the book of the same name. She lays out the principles of Indigenous economies, introduces leading Indigenous leaders and shows that Indigenous peoples are economic powerhouses. An ideal book for business leaders and entrepreneurs, Indigenous organizations and nations, governments and policy-makers, and economists.



Flourishing and Free: More Stories of Trailblazing Women of Vancouver Island by Haley Healey (Heritage House \$9.95)

In 1906, Minnie Paterson hiked six miles through freezing seawater and mud in a West Coast storm to rescue sailors shipwrecked on a tempestuous shoreline known as the “Graveyard of the Pacific” near Bamfield on Vancouver Island. Then there’s the early Salt Spring Island homesteader Sylvia Stark, who was born into slavery in the U.S. These are a few of the women at the centre of this collection of true stories about sixteen unsung heroines of the West Coast.



Possessing Meares Island: A Historian's Journey into the Past of Clayoquot Sound by Barry Gough (Harbour \$36.95)

Rivalling Fort Langley, there was Meares Island, located near Tofino. It is little known that this remote part of B.C. was a thriving Indigenous-colonial place of trade relations in the early eighteenth century. The trade was based on sea otter furs as spearheaded by powerful Nuu-chah-nulth chiefs like Wickaninnish and Maquinna. It died after 1855 but the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council draws on this complicated history of ownership for their legal claim to the land and continues to defend its wilderness from the clear-cut saw.



One Man in His Time... A Memoir by Michael Audain (Douglas & McIntyre \$36.95)

He went from being a left-wing social worker to a millionaire residential developer. Michael Audain also donated millions to art causes in B.C. and built an art museum in Whistler. Descended from the Dunsmuir family who were known for coal mines, railroads and castles on Vancouver Island, Audain didn’t gain from their wealth as it was gone by the time he was born. He made his own fortune after attending eleven schools, five universities and holding eight different jobs by the age of forty-three.

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WHO'S WHO

BC



Teresa Hedley

H IS FOR HEDLEY

Teresa Hedley chronicles the growth of her autistic son **Erik** with the rest of her family in **What's Not Allowed? A Family Journey with Autism** (Winter-tickle Press \$25.95). The story champions an approach in which each family member strives for the best version of themselves, autism or not. Previously, Teresa and Erik co-wrote a twenty-article series for Autism Ontario's *Autism Matters* magazine entitled, *I Have Autism and I Need Your Help*. They now live in Comox. 9781989664018

I IS FOR INVERARITY



Geoff Inverarity

Geoff Inverarity writes of the fragility of relationships, promises, aging parents, hearts, bodies, love and even time itself in his debut collection of poems **All the Broken Things** (Anvil \$18).

Though all things must end, Inverarity finds optimism in the ‘here and now’ and the future’s great hope — the coming generations. He probes the possibilities “in this fallen world of compromises,” and acknowledges that “we’re stockpiling for the short term / the long term we don’t know. / No matter how much you prepare / there’s always something new looming / like the Unexploded Grief Bomb.” Inverarity lives on Galiano Island and is currently the director of the Galiano Island Literary Festival. 9781772141757

J IS FOR JOHN

John MacLachlan Gray's novel about the 1924 unsolved murder of Scottish nanny **Janet Smith** at a Shaughnessey mansion, *The White Angel* (D&M, 2017) introduced the straight-talking constable Calvin Hook, frustrated poet-cum-reporter Ed McCurdy and the eavesdropping telephone operator Mildred Wickstram, all of



John MacLachlan Gray

whom feature in his follow-up mystery **Vile Spirits** (D&M \$29.95). Set in 1920s Vancouver where alcohol is legal again but pro-temperance sentiments are strong. When citizens start

dropping dead like flies after drinking similar cocktails, suspicions are stoked that someone is deliberately tainting booze. It’s all set against a backdrop of temperance activists, the Ku Klux Klan (who really did set up a chapter in Vancouver in 1925) and the newly-formed Liquor Control Board. 978-1-77162-277-6

K IS FOR KIIDUMAE



Lorraine Kiidumae

Beginning with a quote from poet **e.e. cummings**—“i fear no fate (for you are my fate, my sweet)” —**Lorraine Kiidumae's** debut novel **River of Forgiveness** (PTP Book Division \$14.77) is

a coming-of-age story set at the close of the Second World War. Eighteen-year-old Sydney’s chance encounter with an older British stranger awakens her to the power of love. Intrigued by this educated artistic man whom she later discovers is an escapee from an internment camp, Sydney impulsively begins a tumultuous relationship, finding herself embroiled in a doomed love affair. 9798518474543

L IS FOR LAWRENCE

Bats are nocturnal but not young Bailey who hears cries one morning outside his colony’s tree roost. Against his mother’s orders, Bailey flies out to investigate and finds a young bull moose tangled in a fence. Bailey decides to help free the moose as nearby wolves close in for the kill in **Grant Lawrence's**

first picture book, **Bailey the Bat and the Tangled Moose**

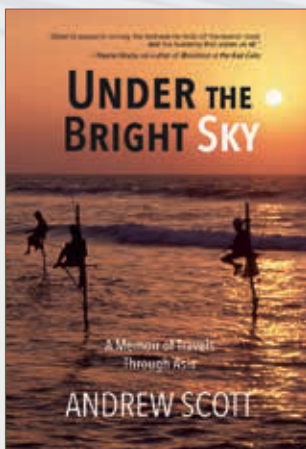
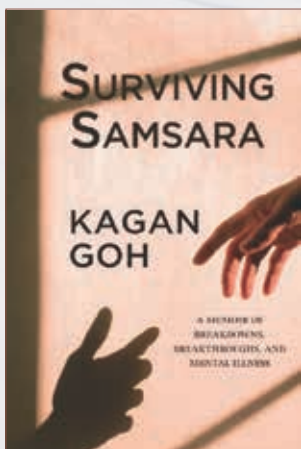
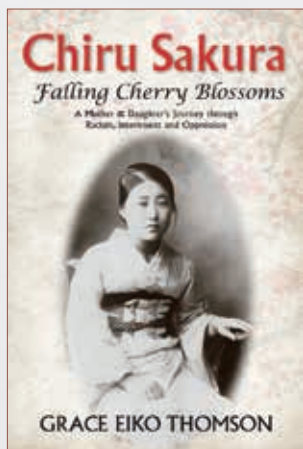
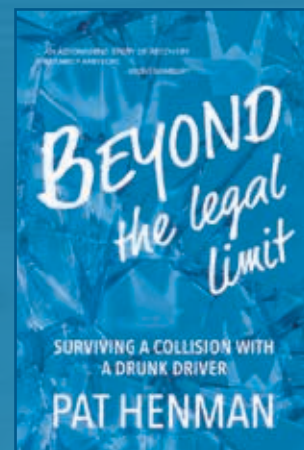
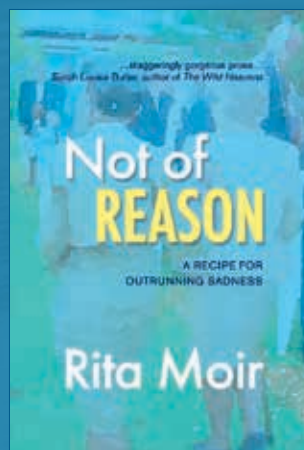
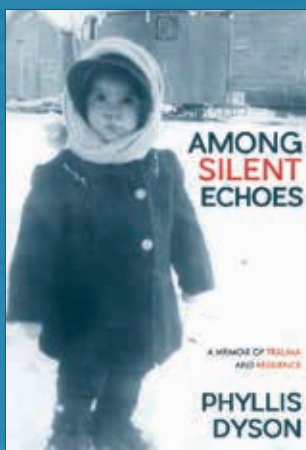
(Orca \$19.95) for ages 6–8.

A CBC radio personality and former pop musician, Lawrence has twice won the Bill Duthies Book-sellers’ Choice Award. Illustrated by **Noémie Gionet Landry**. 9781459827295

CBC personality, Grant Lawrence



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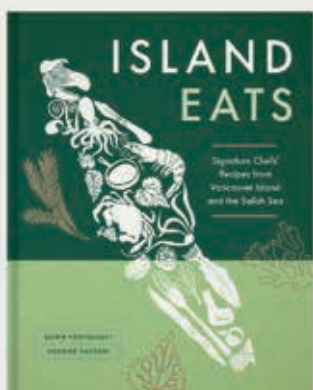
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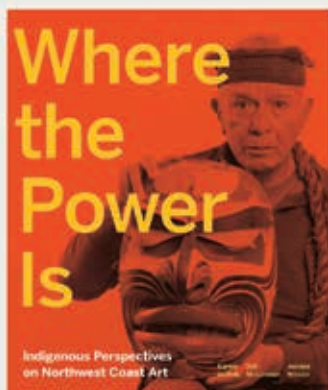


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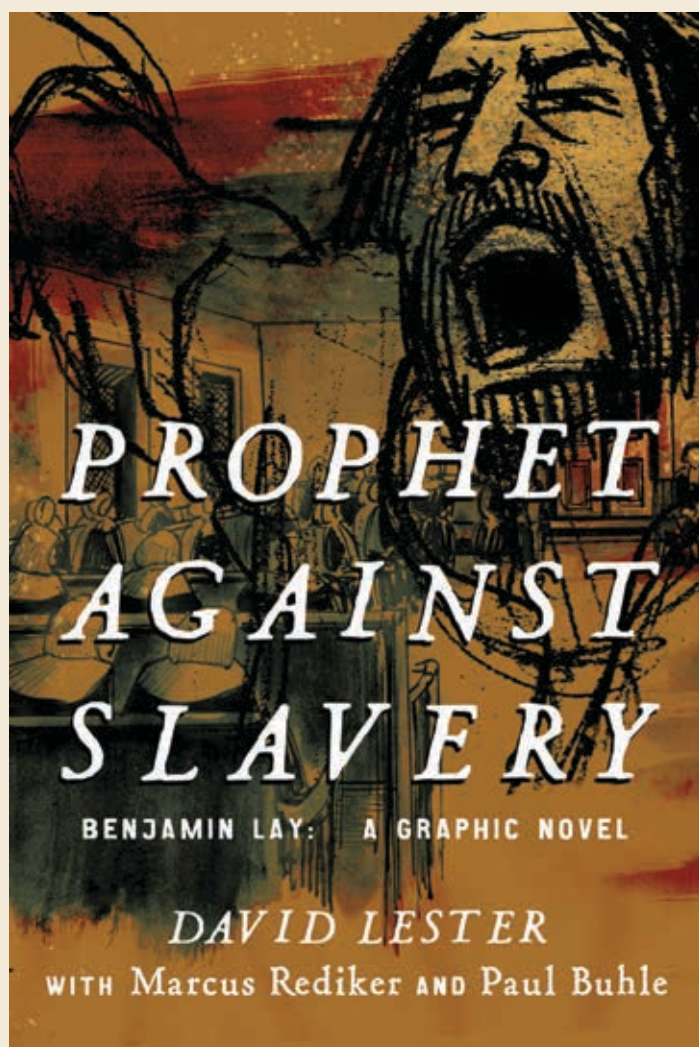
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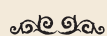
Graphic novel on the life of a radical anti-slavery activist.

Prophet Against Slavery: Benjamin Lay, a graphic novel, chronicles the life of an 18th-century dwarf and hunchback who fought a lonely, heroic fight for the immediate abolition of slavery. The book was created in collaboration with renowned historians **Marcus Rediker** and **Paul Buhle**. *Prophet Against Slavery* brings Lay's prophetic vision to a new generation of young activists who today echo his call of 300 years ago: "No justice, no peace!"



"David Lester's raw, expressive visual approach perfectly delivers. *Prophet Against Slavery* is a crucial account of abolitionism's religious framework, its courage and moral clarity often recast as sin or insanity, and the necessity of taking outside risks in pursuit of justice and equality."

— **Nate Powell**, National Book Award winning artist of the *March* trilogy about U.S. Congressman John Lewis



"In unflinching terms, Lester's expressionist drawings capture the passion and commitment of his subject, he lays bare the bones that fill the cellar of American society, and reminds us that human decency and compassion—unrelenting—can change the world. A reminder we need now more than ever."— **Jason Lutes**, author of *Berlin*

Beacon Press

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ISBN: 978-080708179-2 • \$21

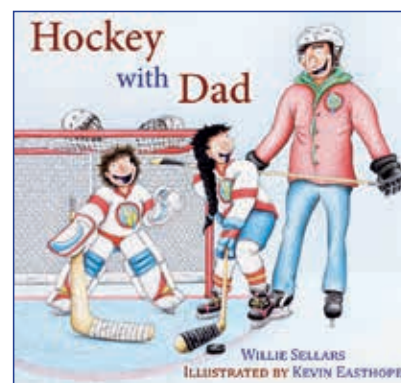
Hockey with Dad

WILLIE SELLARS, ILLUSTRATED BY KEVIN EASTHOPE



"A beautiful and inspiring story about the love of family, culture, and hockey."

—**Monique Gray Smith**

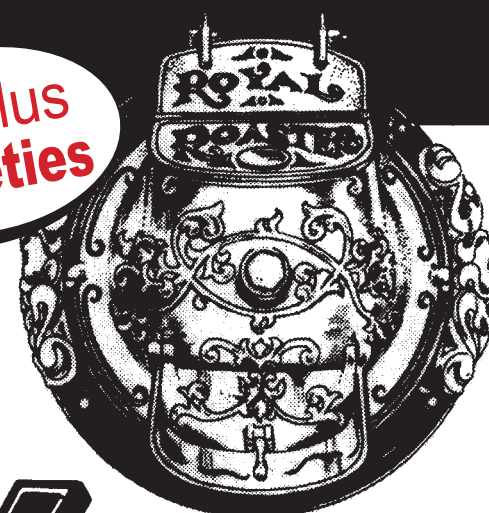


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ILLUSTRATIONS BY HANNA MELIN

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Eric Sager is the author of: *Inequality in Canada: The History and Politics of an Idea* (2020).

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WHO'S WHO

BRITISH COLUMBIA

M IS FOR MYERS



Christina Myers

Thirty-something Ruthie is unemployed, newly single and sleeping on a friend's couch in **Christina Myers's** novel **The List of Last Chances** (Caitlin \$22.95). To get away and earn some quick cash, Ruthie takes a job driving a Vancouver man's aging mother, Kay from PEI to his home on the West Coast. She is soon sidetracked by Kay's bucket-list that includes visiting old friends and re-connecting with a long-lost love. While playing secret matchmaker, Ruthie is increasingly questioned by the son seeking updates and wanting the speedy arrival of his mother. Ruthie gets caught up in a web of her own lies.

9781773860596

N IS FOR NICKEL

In her historical, middle-grade novel **Dear Peter, Dear Ulla** (ThistleDown \$12.95) **Barbara Nickel** crafts a child's eye view of WW2 through the exchange of letters between two cousins who have never met in person—Peter in a Mennonite Saskatchewan community and Ulla in Nazi-occupied Danzig. Illustrations throughout the book represent drawings that Ulla creates and sends to Peter with her letters depicting things she sees such as battleships and explosions, and things she wishes for, like cakes to eat. The book uses humour and empathy to relate stories of complex cultural and moral issues.

9781771872171

O IS FOR O'LEARY

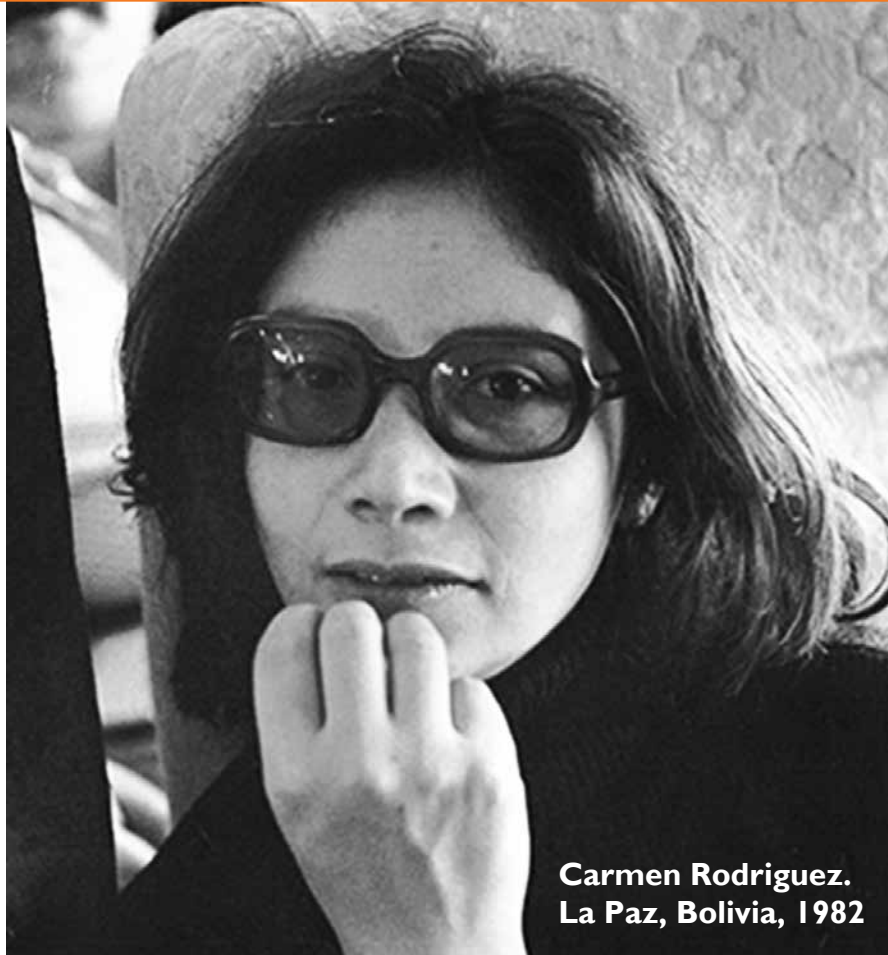
As kidlit character Kateri O'Leary tries to get her rescue dog Belle ready for the Show Dog ring, life keeps getting in the way in **Shirley Martin's** second title in this series, **Kateri O'Leary and the Show Dog Scene** (Self-Published \$9.95), for 8–12-year-olds with illustrations by **Helena Crevel**. Kateri's family has money troubles, her absent-minded mom causes major mix-ups and her pet mouse is sulking. Kateri can't keep up with school work, has a fight with a friend, and a bully named Clive is a thorn in her side. On top of it all, her dog Belle keeps running away. Uchuelet-based Martin's first title in this series, **Kateri O'Leary and the Computer Mouse** (2019) is about a missing pet mouse. She's working on a third Kateri O'Leary title.

9780992061548

P IS FOR PEACH

Vancouver musician and social activist **Earle Peach** has written **Questions to the Moon: Songs & Stories** (Lazara Press \$20) about his musical life, how music drives his social activism, and his belief that everyone has the right to create beauty. Each section in the book begins with a story by Peach followed by a group of songs that elaborate on the theme. From 1984–2000, Peach was the music coordinator at Vancouver's Carnegie Centre on the Downtown Eastside. He also has a musical duo called Songtree.

9780920999158



Carmen Rodriguez.
La Paz, Bolivia, 1982

BOB EVERTON PHOTO



Barbara Nickel

BEVAN VOTH PHOTO



Earle Peach, Barbara Jackson of Songtree

Q IS FOR QUIMBY

A past president of the Federation of BC Writers, versatile **George Opacic** has followed his novels *The Antichrist of Stanley Park*, which takes place in Nunavut and Vancouver, and *The Giants of Cathedral Grove*, about a clan of Neanderthals who try to hide from humans, with **Albert Quimby** (Rutherford \$32), a spirited B.C.-based love story about a pair named Albert and Cloe who become Bert and Ernie. Cloe/Ernie is accused of murdering their boss (a sexual harasser) and let's not overlook their digital-offspring Beasty; plus there's a covid mutation from a mink farm in Michigan. It's a wildly fanciful romp that leads us to Seattle, Haida Gwaii and Mayne Island.

978-1-988739-45-8



Lesley B. Cormack

R IS FOR RODRIGUEZ

In **Carmen Rodriguez's** historical novel **Atacama** (Fernwood \$22), set in the early 20th century, the son of a communist union leader meets the daughter of a fascist army officer complicit in murder and torture. The two bond over a commitment to social justice and

their belief in art. The story is based on true events of the 1925 Marusia & La Coruna massacres in Chile when the army brutally suppressed striking miners and their families. More than two thousand people died. Rodriguez is a political refugee who immigrated to Canada from Chile after the 1973 assassination of the democratically-elected **Salvador Allende** and take-over by right-wing dictator, General **Augusto Pinochet**.

9781773634777

S IS FOR SPOON

Non-binary **Rae Spoon** of Victoria has published their first YA fiction book, **Green Glass Ghosts** (Arsenal Pulp \$19.95), narrated by a young queer moving to Vancouver to start a new life in the year 2000. To get away from a traumatic childhood and abusive family in a conservative prairie city, the narrator searches for belonging and stability on the supposedly laid-back West Coast. Instead, they get sidetracked by too much drinking and too many bad memories from the past. It was never going to be easy.

9781551528380

T IS FOR TURK

Jon Turk's fifth adventure narrative about being on the unforgiving African savannah with a Samburu headman, **Tracking Lions, Myth, and Wilderness in Samburu** (RMB \$30) explores the aboriginal wisdom that our Stone Age ancestors used to survive—and how, since then, our culture has often been hijacked by our urban, scientific, oil-using world. In 2012, Turk was nominated by *National Geographic* as one of the top ten adventurers of the year. He has kayaked around Cape



Jon Turk

Horn and across the North Pacific from Japan to Alaska, mountain biked across the northern Gobi in Mongolia, made first climbing ascents of big walls on Baffin Island and first ski descents in the Tien Shan Mountains in Kyrgyzia. In 2011, he circumnavigated Ellesmere Island. He splits his time between Fernie and Darby, Montana. 9781771604734

U IS FOR UTILITY

How much science done at universities is actually practical and what is its utility to society? It is the main issue **Lesley B. Cormack** and **Andrew Ede**, of the University of British Columbia Okanagan grapple with in their best-selling **A History of Science in Society: From Philosophy to Utility** (UTP \$59.95), now available in paperback in the book's fourth edition, due out in March 2022. This edition adds content on Indigenous and non-western science as well as new case studies including one on the scientist and poet **Omar Khayyam**. The text is accompanied by 100 images and maps and a colour insert showing off key moments in the history of science.

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Rae Spoon

WHO'S WHO

BC

V IS FOR VOON

More than 15 million people visit a hospital emergency department in Canada every year. Did they really need to go? Victoria-based emergency physician, **Fred Voon** has written **Your Inside Guide to the Emergency Department: And How to Prevent Having to Go!** (FriesenPress \$36.95), busting common myths and providing practical tips to stay out of the ED. Guiding readers through what really happens in EDs, he provides answers to why you have to wait so long and why other people get seen before you.

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Dr. Fred Voon



W IS FOR WANG



Isabella Wang

At 18, **Isabella Wang** was the youngest writer to be shortlisted twice for *The New Quarterly's* Edna Staebler Essay Contest. Her poetry has appeared in over 30 literary magazines and she holds a Pushcart Prize nomination for poetry. Her essays are published in *carte blanche*, *Invisible Blog* and *The New Quarterly*. She is also an editor for *Room Magazine*. **Pebble Swing** (Nightwood \$18.95) is her debut full-length poetry collection.

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X IS FOR XXXX

Tlcho Nation author **Richard Van Camp** is known for his fiction for adults like the short story collection *Moccasin Square Gardens* (D&M, 2019) and his dual language children's board books like *We Sang You Home* (Orca, 2018) in Plains Cree and English. He has also published a dual language counting book that helps families praise their small children as they learn to count, **Kiss by Kiss/Ocêôtôwina: A Counting Book for Families / Peyak**



Richard Van Camp

WILLIAM AU PHOTO

oskan ohcih-Akitah-Masinahikan (Orca \$10.95), also in Plains Cree and English, that starts with "One kiss, two kiss, three kiss, four!" and ends with "Please can we start again at kiss number one?" 9781459816237

Y IS FOR YAN

A Vancouver Foundation study found that although Vancouverites want to feel connected to and spend more time with their neighbours, one in five people reported that they didn't have a neighbour to call on for help.

Neighbourhood Houses: Building Community in Vancouver (UBC Press \$32.95), edited by UBC professor **Miu Chung Yan** and **Sean Lauer**, explores the neighbourhood house movement,

which began in Vancouver in 1894, and concludes that the network succeeds in connecting newcomers with neighbours.

9780774865821

Z IS FOR ZENA

Research shows what LGBTQ+ communities have long known: that they face health disparities linked to societal stigma, discrimination and denial of their civil and human rights. **Zena Sharman's The Care We Dream Of: Liberatory and Transformative Approaches to LGBTQ+ Health** (Arsenal Pulp \$22.95) imagines a health system that honours queer and trans people's lives and bodies; as well as one that is committed to their healing, pleasure and liberation. Sharman has presented on gender, sexuality and health to audiences across North America. She has also been a cabaret host, a go-go dancer for a queer punk band and a campus radio DJ.

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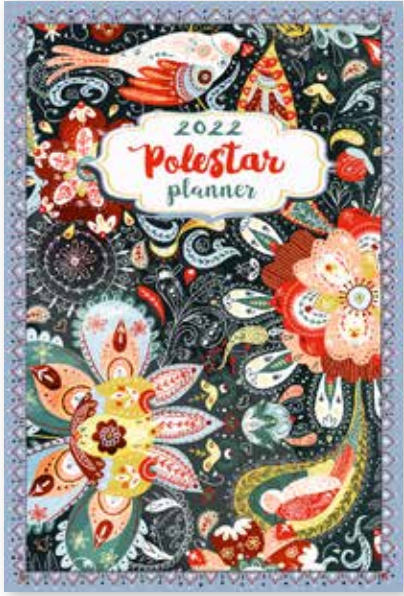


Zena Sharman

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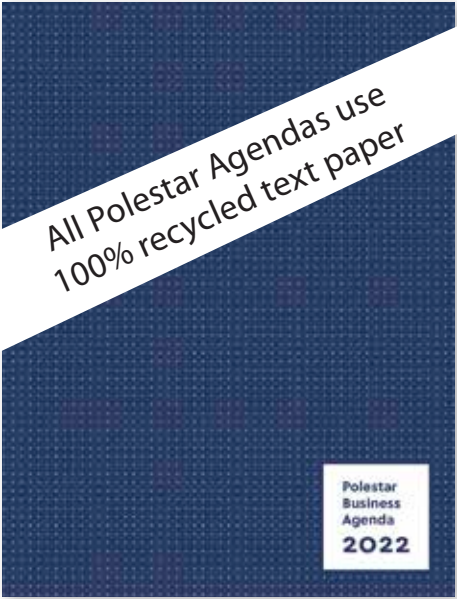
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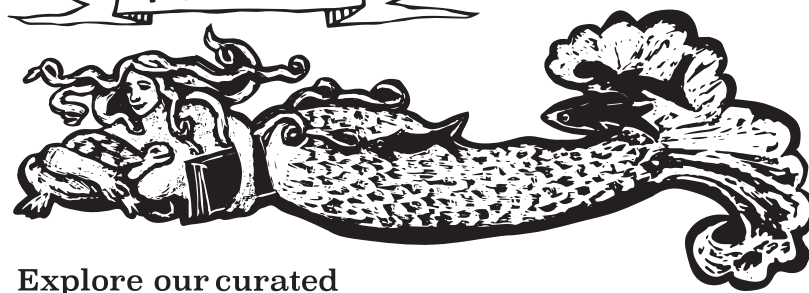
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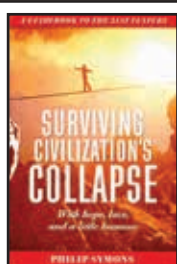
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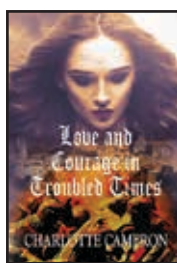
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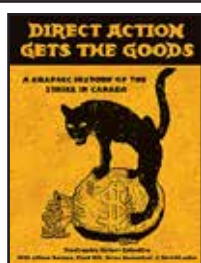
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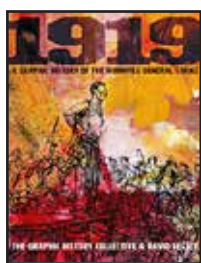
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LETTERS



Ken Reid: BC BookWorld van driver

In 1990, three years after *BC BookWorld* began publishing, **Ken Reid** (left) joined the team to deliver papers to bookstores, libraries and restaurants in the Vancouver area. He continues to be a loyal and trustworthy part of our operations.

Of salmon and chimps

At a first puzzled glance I couldn't agree with Alexandra Morton being dubbed 'the Jane Goodall of Canada' [*BC BookWorld*, Autumn 2021]. Equating salmon with chimps was quite a leap—but I got over it. God knows both these women spent too long in the wilderness with little media support. Bless *BC BookWorld*—again—for giving strong women their due. I've always loved your paper but have to hunt down the freebie pile for a regular read so I want to also thank your team for all the locations *BC BookWorld* is available, including Esquimalt Library, a block away from my desk.

John Harris
Esquimalt



Alexandra Morton

Lit connect

When I opened *BC BookWorld's* Autumn issue, I found much that caught my eye including a beautiful stained glass window image of a World War I soldier and your tribute to Geoff Mynett who won the George Ryga Award. Years ago, when Geoff and I were still practicing lawyers, we lived on the same street. I have long since moved away and lost touch with Geoff, so I was glad to see he is thriving in his new pursuit as an author. I was also impressed to see that B.C. has so many publishers, many more than I had ever imagined. Your paper is a great way to connect with B.C. writers and books.

Rodney Ward
Vancouver

CORRECTION

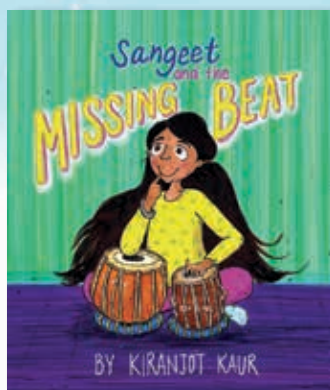
Melissa Munn and **Chris Clarkson** are professors at Okanagan College, not UBC Okanagan as erroneously noted in the review, *Jail House Blues* (*BC BookWorld*, Autumn 2021).

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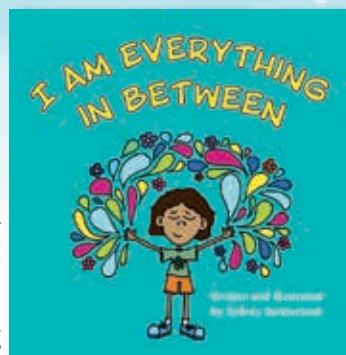
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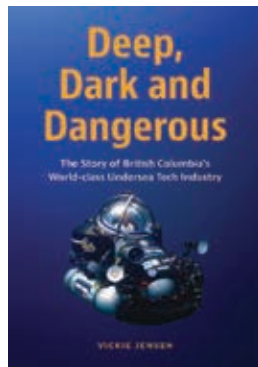
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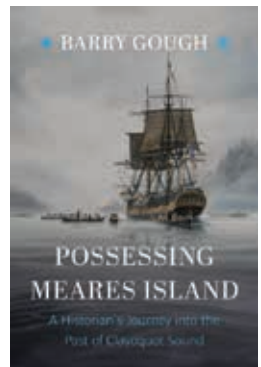
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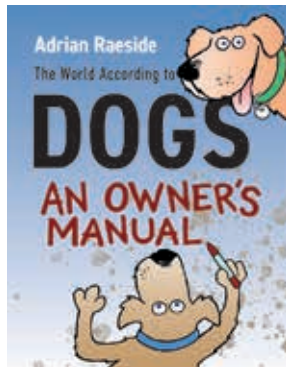
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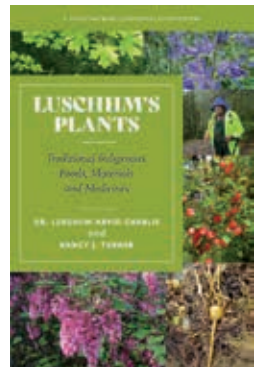
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