SHASHI BHAT

Her coming-of-age novel, The Most Precious Substance on Earth tells of teen years and dark secrets.

see page 7
New books from Douglas & McIntyre

Ice War Diplomat
Hockey Meets Cold War Politics at the 1972 Summit Series
GARY J. SMITH
PAPERBACK: 4 1/8 x 6 1/4 • 336 PGS • 192 COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS • 68 B&W PHOTOGRAPHS • 978-1-77162-290-9 • APRIL

Have You Eaten Yet?
Stories from Chinese Restaurants Around the World
CHEUK KWAN
PAPERBACK: 6 x 9 • 320 PGS • 14 PAGE INSERT • 80 COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS • 64 B&W ILLUSTRATIONS • 978-1-77162-215-6 • AVAILABLE

Noonday Dark
Doctor Annick Boudreau
Mystery Series #2
CHARLES DEMERS
PAPERBACK: 6 x 9 • 288 PGS • 40 B&W PHOTOS • 978-1-77162-164-9 • AVAILABLE

Death at the Savoy
A Phoebe Tempest Mystery, Book #1
RON BASE AND PROVINCIAL EIFFERT
PAPERBACK: 5 1/4 x 7 1/4 • 320 PGS • 978-1-77162-291-6 • MAY

Do Trees Have Mothers?
With whimsical art and gentle text, CHARLES RODGERS translates scientific knowledge about the kinship structures of the forest into a beautiful and affirming story about how trees nurture the young. Discover all the ways a mother tree protects and nourishes the forest understory, and show children what it means to care for a community. CHILDREN’S 6-12 • 55 PGS • 978-1-77162-205-4 • MARCH

Gidal: Letters and Photos
The Unusual Friendship of Yves/Work and Tim Gidal
COLLECTED BY ALLAN TIVOL
PHOTOGRAPHS/ENGLISH HISTORY • 52 PGS • 978-1-77162-266-5 • MAY

All That We Say Is Ours
Guipaw and the Reawakening of the Haida Nation
NOW IN PAPERBACK!
In the mid-1980s, the Haida rallied with environmentalists to end old growth logging in their homeland— and to reassert their title and rights. Drawing first-person accounts with vivid prose, IAN GILL traces the struggle from its early days. INDIGENOUS/BIOROGPHY • 256 PGS • 978-1-77162-287-6 • APRIL

Available in bookstores across British Columbia

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE: GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT OUR BOOKS, AUTHORS AND EVENTS:
www.douglas-mcintyre.com • facebook.com/DMPublishers • instagram.com/douglasmcintyre2013 • twitter: @DMPublishers

FOR TRADE: All Douglas & McIntyre titles are available from University of Toronto Press Distribution
Harry Crerar

Family Walks and Hikes on Greater Vancouver’s North Shore
(Rocky Mountain Books $20)

Goof Nymett

Murders on the Skeena: True Crime in the Old Canadian West, 1884–1914 (Caitin $24.95)

Richard Wagamese

Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest (Random House $28.95)

Upon making it to a clear-cut on one of her first jobs, Simard felt a jolt. “Every tree had been cut down to a stump,” she writes. “White bones of wood jutted out of the soil … I picked my way past severed limbs, feeling the pain of their neglect.”

“Some little velvety firs had been orphaned by the clear-cuts (without any “mothers”).”

She learned early that new seedlings struggled to grow in clear-cut areas while those germinating in the midst of old-growth flourished. Simard went on to earn those germinating in the midst of old-growth, struggled to grow in clear-cut areas while

Suzanne Simard

shows how trees work together.

canadian forests always felt haunted to me,” said Suzanne Simard when she was a young forestry worker. “It seems the forest always remembers. Even when we’d like it to forget our transgressions, especially by my ancestors who came to cut, burn, and farm the trees.”

Simard’s affinity with the woods began when she was growing up in the Monashee Mountains in a family that made its living cutting down forests. She had an unusual sensitivity to trees as described in her book Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest (Random House $28.95).

“Every tree had been cut down to a stump,” she writes. “White bones of wood jutted out of the soil … I picked my way past severed limbs, feeling the pain of their neglect.”

“Some little velvety firs had been orphaned by the clear-cuts (without any “mothers”).”

She learned early that new seedlings struggled to grow in clear-cut areas while those germinating in the midst of old-growth flourished. Simard went on to earn her forestry Ph.D. and now teaches at UBC. After decades of research, Simard discovered that an interdependent ecology was at work that allowed trees to communicate and support one another—like a human community, like a form of natural socialism. She identified hub trees, or “mother trees,” which support seedlings and supply them with nutrients they need to grow. That explains why young trees grow so well in old-growth areas and not nearly as well in clear-cuts (without any “mothers”).

Now Hollywood has come knocking. There are proposals to make a movie about Simard’s life and research. The rights to her New York Times bestseller Finding the Mother Tree have been bought by a production company backed by Jake Gyllenhaal and Amy Adams.

Although Simard is not at all keen to have the spotlight on herself—she’d rather be traipsing through the woods of the UBC Endowment Lands—she hopes a movie will extend world-wide knowledge about the sophisticated relationships between trees.

TREES ARE socialists

Suzanne Simard

shows how trees work together.

Canadian forests always felt haunted to me,” said Suzanne Simard when she was a young forestry worker. “It seems the forest always remembers. Even when we’d like it to forget our transgressions, especially by my ancestors who came to cut, burn, and farm the trees.”

Simard’s affinity with the woods began when she was growing up in the Monashee Mountains in a family that made its living cutting down forests. She had an unusual sensitivity to trees as described in her book Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest (Random House $28.95).

“Every tree had been cut down to a stump,” she writes. “White bones of wood jutted out of the soil … I picked my way past severed limbs, feeling the pain of their neglect.”

“Some little velvety firs had been orphaned by the clear-cuts (without any “mothers”).”

She learned early that new seedlings struggled to grow in clear-cut areas while those germinating in the midst of old-growth flourished. Simard went on to earn her forestry Ph.D. and now teaches at UBC. After decades of research, Simard discovered that an interdependent ecology was at work that allowed trees to communicate and support one another—like a human community, like a form of natural socialism. She identified hub trees, or “mother trees,” which support seedlings and supply them with nutrients they need to grow. That explains why young trees grow so well in old-growth areas and not nearly as well in clear-cuts (without any “mothers”).

Now Hollywood has come knocking. There are proposals to make a movie about Simard’s life and research. The rights to her New York Times bestseller Finding the Mother Tree have been bought by a production company backed by Jake Gyllenhaal and Amy Adams.

Although Simard is not at all keen to have the spotlight on herself—she’d rather be traipsing through the woods of the UBC Endowment Lands—she hopes a movie will extend world-wide knowledge about the sophisticated relationships between trees.

A Sense of Duty

Daniel Wood (1943–2021)

In all of Ian Hanomansing’s years of news coverage, the CBC co-host of The National says he has known only two stories that dominated newscasts for months on end. One was 9/11; the other, the Covid pandemic. “Every story on every day for weeks was connected to this new, frightening virus,” he says in Pandemic Spotlight: Canadian doctors at the front of the Covid-19 fight (D&M $22.95). “We were all so desperate for information … we needed explanations and above all, reassurance. What should we do to try to stay safe?”

A remarkable thing happened. Highly specialized doctors began to offer their time—lots of it—to be interviewed and who, “kept coming back, never paid for their time and expertise, never making us feel like we were imposing,” says Hanomansing.

One of the doctors told Hanomansing “a sense of duty” was why she participated in newscasts. “And while not every doctor in the book used that word, “It’s clear they felt that way too.”

In keeping with this spirit of philanthropy, all book royalties will be donated to UBC’s medical school.

Daniel Wood (1943–2021)

The last book of Daniel

While visiting almost 100 countries since beginning his travels in 1963, Daniel Wood simultaneously became one of Vancouver’s most successful freelance writers. Along the way he managed to publish 15 books and win more than 30 writing awards. Born in 1943 in the United States, he came to B.C. as a Viet Nam War draft resister. Published posthumously, Tales of B.C.: 50 years of wacky, wild & thought-provoking adventures (Op Media/Sandhill $24.95) is his last title. He died on September 19, 2021 of leukemia. For more obits, go to page 38.
THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SEED AND NUT OILS
Growing, Foraging, and Pressing
BEVIN COHEN
$29.99

THE BETTER WORLD SHOPPING GUIDE: 7TH EDITION
Every Dollar Makes a Difference
BY ELLIS JONES
$14.99

THE BERRY GROWER
Small Scale Organic Fruit Production in the 21st Century
BLAKE COTHRON
$34.99

THE BOOK OF NATURE CONNECTION
70 Sensory Activities for All Ages
JACOB RODENBURG
$24.99

PLANT SCIENCE FOR GARDENERS
Essentials for Growing Better Plants
ROBERT PAVLIS
$22.99

COPPICE AGROFORESTRY
Tending Trees for Product, Profit, and Woodland Ecology
MARK KRAWCZYK
$59.99

At NEW SOCIETY PUBLISHERS we are committed to building a just and ecologically sustainable society for the benefit of future generations. Find out more about how we put people and planet first at www.newsociety.com
Chad Sayers of Whistler began as a professional freeskier—with all the benefits of sponsorship perks and travel to the world’s mountain ranges—by pushing his limits at Blackcomb Mountain.

“I felt confident and inspired, feeding off the high energy and world-class talent in Whistler at the time,” he says in the coffee table-style book of photographs and stories, Overexposure: A Story About a Skier (RMB $60).

Pressure amped up when Sayers made a move to the competition scene where skiers are ready to do almost anything to win. “For a while I felt indestructible, I wasn’t a big-time star, but I was skiing my best and felt in sync and powerful. I was still too naive to know that such confidence, so necessary to perform, could also kill me.”

After a horrific injury, Sayers changed his lifestyle, giving up competitive skiing for traveling the world with photographers to shoot and film skiing on mountains. They hoped, writes Sayers, “to capture something more genuine and heartfelt—the kind of soulful expression shared through a collective drive to travel, to be in the mountains, to understand new cultures.”

Out of this, a series of films, A Skier’s Journey was born. Sayers also began surfing as well as skiing and continued to travel the world, visiting more than 60 countries. The recent birth of his daughter Ayla shifted Sayers’ life again as he says in the book’s epilogue: “A child expands your life, teaching you to love unconditionally and surrender to something more profound than your own existence.”

9781771605199

---

### Wisdom of the ages

Indigenous peoples of North America pass down their knowledge from generation to generation, as described in SkyWolf’s Call: The Gift of Indigenous Knowledge (Annick $16.95) by Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger.

Written for ages 11 years and older, the authors reveal how Indigenous knowledge comes from centuries of practices, experiences and ideas gathered by people who have a long history with the natural world. They explore the use of fire and water, the acquisition of food, astronomy and healing practices. This book follows upon Yellowhorn and Lowinger’s titles Turtle Island: The Story of North America’s First People (Annick, 2017) and What the Eagle Sees: Indigenous Stories of Rebellion and Renewal (Annick, 2019).

9781772312994
Spring Books for your TBR Pile

**Framed in Fire**
A Lana Winslow Mystery (9)
Iona Whishaw
“Whishaw deftly intertwines plot and psychology, giving readers insight into Lana’s crime-solving strategies . . . Well plotted and laced with dry wit, Lana’s adventures are entirely satisfying summer reading.” —Shelf Awareness
$16.95 pb | $8.99 ebook
TouchWood Editions

**Face**
A Novel of the Anthropocene
Jaspree Singh
“Scaled-up . . . From nothing, it approaches memory, family, history, and the great oncoming disaster of the anthropocene with courage bordering on fury.” —Premee Mohamed, author of The Annual Migration of Clouds
$22 pb | $11.99 ebook
Brindle & Glass

**All the Quiet Places**
A Novel
Brian Thomas Isaac
“Artfully crafted, evocative story about the trials of growing up Indigenous . . . complex, relatable, and overall, beautifully human.” —Waubgeshig Rice, author of Moon of the Crusted Snow
$22 pb | $10.99 ebook
Brindle & Glass

**From Bear Rock Mountain**
The Life and Times of a Dene Residential School Survivor
Antoine Bear Rock Mountain
“An executionary story that winds from past to present, from the broad historical interaction of Indigenous peoples and Europeans to his own personal details.” —peacearch
$15 pb | $7.99 ebook
Brindle & Glass

**Out of the Fire**
Metalworkers along the Salish Sea
Pirro Reza; Dale Roth, Michele Ramberg (photog.)
A stunning art book featuring 24 west coast artists and craftspeople who work in metal as their primary medium, from the team behind the bestseller Out of the Woods.
$39.95 pb | $19.99 ebook
Heritage House Publishing

**Magical Beings of Haida Gwaii**
Colouring and Activity Book
Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson, Sara Florence Davidson, Paula Varnell
Featuring beautiful images, this colouring and activity book introduces ancient Haida narratives that promote respect for the natural world.
$16.95 pb
Heritage House Publishing

**Granville Island ABC**
A Family Adventure
Alison Kelly; Linda Sharp (illus.)
A whimsical exploration of Vancouver’s favourite family landmark, filled with gorgeous illustrations and fascinating facts.
$22 pb | $12.99 ebook
Heritage House Publishing

**Wildlife Weekends in Southern British Columbia**
Day and Multi-day Trips from Vancouver for Wildlife Viewing
Roy Jantzen
An astounding new guidebook packed with colour photographs, day trips, personal reflections, and a variety of activities for nature lovers of all ages.
$45 pb | $19.99 ebook
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books

**Family Walks and Hikes on Greater Vancouver’s North Shore**
Harrison Cree
This full-colour guidebook introduces readers to a wide range of trails that North Vancouver, West Vancouver, and the Howe Sound Islands have to offer.
$25 pb | $10.99 ebook
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books

**Active Vancouver**
A Year-round Guide to Outdoor Recreation in the City’s Natural Environments
Roy Jantzen
“Active Vancouver is the ultimate resource for both exciting and family-friendly outdoor recreation in and around Vancouver throughout the year.” —OutdoorVancouver.ca
$15 pb | $9.99 ebook
RMB | Rocky Mountain Books

Heritage Group Distribution—with the endorsement of its three Vancouver Island—based publisher clients, Heritage House, TouchWood Editions, and Rocky Mountain Books and the assistance of Canadian Heritage’s Canada Book Fund—salutes our cultural community and the strong survival instinct of all book retailers. Please support them in their time of need.
Heritage Group Distribution | 1.800.885.3302 | orders@hgdistribution.com
writing—writing that evokes an experience universal enough to resonate, with characters believable enough to care about, even worry about.

Part One is set in the world of high school, a place I wouldn't particularly want to re-visit. Nonetheless, Bhat's narrator, Nina, takes me back to those years, complete with the embarrassments, the excuses, the friendships, the crushes. Nina's high school years are set in Halifax, a place far from where I grew up, yet the scenes are completely recognizable. She and her best friend Amy, who's been pals with since Grade 6, like to go to the seashore and lie on a piece of public art that's shaped like a wave. While it probably wasn't a sculpture of a wave, who of us hasn't dreamed of footsteps behind her? But yes, there were many places in the book where I couldn't help but laugh, not so much because what Bhat writes comes as a delightful surprise, but more because of the joke related, but more because of the joke related, but more because of the joke related, but more because of the joke related, but more because of the...
A Cowichan elder offers tips about hazelnuts, yew tree branches, fireweed fluff and other useful wild plant matter.

Excerpt from Luschiim’s Plants

Luschiim [Arvid Charlie] was born in Quamichan, one of the villages of the Cowichan Nation, in 1942. His mother, Violet, passed away in December 2016. His father, the famous carver and artist Simon Charlie, passed away in May 2005 at the age of eighty-five. Luschiim, his namesake great-grandfather, who was born in 1870, lived until Arvid was about six years old and had a big influence on his life, teaching him about plants and medicines even at the tender young age of three to four years old. Even as a boy, Arvid was a hunter and fisher, contributing to his family’s meals and provisions. His formal “Western” education ended in Grade 8. He was a canoe puller in Quw’utsun racing canoes from the age of fourteen and over the years he skippered many racing canoes, setting an example of calm, disciplined leadership that continued into the Yulhu-laah Journeys of recent years (2005 to 2017). He married and started his own family in the 1960s. To support his family he became a logger, learning much about the trees and forests from his keen forest fires. In the 1970s, he started his employment with the Cowichan Band (now Cowichan Tribes), working on various land- and culture-related contracts. As his family grew, he realized increasingly how important his knowledge of language, culture and environments was and would be to future generations. He has dedicated his life to making noise at this particular tree, to make it with anyone—although this year we have to keep track of when it was ready to pick. All they had to do was keep track of the squirrels. As soon as they start to make noise there, it was time to go and pick it.”

Open Luschiim’s Plants at random, and whether you land on Charlie and Turner’s discussion of seasoning yew bows in kelp tubes, sparking an emergency fire with fir pitch, or plumping up a blanket with fireweed fluff, you’ll learn something about the world in which we live.

And you might learn something, too, about paying attention to that world.

The primary audience for Luschiim’s Plants is going to be those who love to forage for wild food. Foraging is frugal, healthy, and fun, and many of us—even...
Steve Earle, an earth sciences expert who has taught university classes on the topic for four decades, is worried.

He knows that 1°C of global warming doesn’t sound like much. “After all, nobody really cares if tomorrow is a degree warmer than today,” he says in A Brief History of the Earth’s Climate. “But this isn’t about just one day; it’s about it being 1°C warmer in 20 years. Nobody really cares if tomorrow is a degree warmer than today, but you don’t know how close you are, and by the time you’ve crossed it, it is probably too late.”

Earle outlines ten major tipping points, including some that are likely beyond which there will be massive biological destruction:

1. Increasing wildfires. After forest fires razed the entire town of Lytton last summer and two people died in the ensuing hell, British Columbians learned how bad climate change can be. And wildfires are on a worsening trend based on experience south of our border. The area consumed by wildfires in the U.S. has increased from an average of about 12,000 sq km in the 1980s and 90s, to about 25,000 sq km in the first decade of this century, to 30,000 sq km in the past decade,” says Earle. “And it’s not just North America that is changing in this way because of runaway fire activity. Similar things are happening in Australia, Russia, Indonesia, and the Amazon.”

2. Melting Arctic sea ice. Polar bears aren’t the only animal suffering from less sea ice, although emaciated and dying bears are powerful images of global warming. Melting Arctic Ocean ice worsens many other tipping points (that Earle likens to a death spiral) such as the loss of glaciers in Greenland and Western Antarctica, and permafrost that will lead to huge releases of stored methane and carbon dioxide thereby vastly increasing global warming.

3. Dying tropical reefs. Warming ocean temperatures are causing “bleached—and therefore likely dead—coral” says Earle. “You may know it’s out there, but you don’t know how close you are, and by the time you’ve crossed it, it is probably too late.”

Earle outlines ten major tipping points, including some that are likely beyond which there will be massive biological destruction.

Climate change is here now. How bad will the impact be?

“Approaching a climate tipping point is a bit like walking toward the edge of a cliff in the dense fog,” says Earle. “You may know it’s out there, but you don’t know how close you are, and by the time you’ve crossed it, it is probably too late.”

Earle outlines ten major tipping points, including some that are likely beyond which there will be massive biological destruction.

How can we mitigate the impacts of climate change?

Earle envisions a scenario in which we take bold action and rapidly reduce our carbon emissions. “We need to reduce our carbon emissions, not just to the levels of the 1980s and 90s, but to zero emissions,” he says. “We need to think about how we can live sustainably, and we need to start doing that now.”

Earle’s book puts the lie to the notion that climate change is “natural.” He shows why the worst of global warming is human-caused and that this kind of global warming is much more dangerous than any natural process that has occurred over 4.6 billion years on this planet. Partly this is because climate change is happening so fast that plants and animals won’t have time to adapt and survive. Some experts warn that we are close to numerous tipping points already, beyond which there will be massive biological destruction.
North America is lucky to have ten great rivers, but are we mismanaging them?

“A river is water in its loveliest form; rivers have life and sound and movement and infinity of variation; rivers are veins of the earth through which the lifeblood returns to the heart.” — RODERICK HAIG BROWN

Sockeye salmon holding on a Fraser River tributary before spawning.

Rivers do indeed run through us. “One simply cannot understand the history of human civilization, or its future without an appreciation of the role that rivers have played,” states Eric Taylor in Rivers Run Through Us: A Natural and Human History of Great Rivers of North America.

His aim is “not to provide an encyclopedic summary of rivers of North America, but to provide a taste of the diversity of rivers and their geography.” Actually, he does both supremely well.

There are ten great rivers in North America. Taylor places them within the six “continental divides” defined by mountain ranges. Namely, these are:

• The Great Divide, which is the crest of the Rocky Mountains. Into the Pacific Ocean flow the Yukon, Fraser, Columbia, Colorado and Sacramento.
• The Arctic Divide sends the Mackenzie River into the Arctic Ocean.
• The Laurentian Divide sends the Mississippi basin to the south, and the St. Lawrence to the northeast.
• The St. Lawrence Divide, and fifth, the Eastern Divide along the Appalachianians contain the St. Lawrence and send the Hudson south to the Atlantic Ocean.
• The Sixth Divide circles the Great Basin west of the Rockies. Its rivers are “endorheic,” that is they run inwards to the Great Salt Lake. Rivers never cross the Divide—except sometimes. Most of us live along rivers and our lives are caught up with rivers. Here’s some advice to the reader. Bring the book title to a personal level and relive some vivid river experience. In my case, it was lying alone with a broken leg for six days, having fallen into Cottswood Creek, drinking the sweet water that tumbled down from alpine Brimmill Lake on its way to the Stein River, which joins the Fraser at Lytton, just before the canyon. Yes, the creek ran through me.

The Stein valley is small, only 1,070 sq km, but it’s very special. It was about to be crisscrossed with roads and logged in the 1980s but protest prevailed and now the pristine forest is a jewel in B.C.’s crown—the Nlaka’pamux Heritage Park, known for camping and salmon fishing.

Bring your own experiences to the book.


Taylor outlines some development issues around major rivers in Canada. For example, Fraser River salmon remain as ecosystems. To avoid disaster, we must change. “The health of rivers is a metaphor for the health of Canadians,” states the book. He also quotes General G.L. McNaughton, who calls NAWAPA “a monstrous concept, a diabolical thesis.”

B.C.’s most prominent river, the Fraser, is a consummate salmon river. Its 1,375 kilometres flow entirely within the province and there are no dams on it. Several tributaries including the Harrison, the Chillcotin, the Thompson and the tiny heroic Stein are spawning grounds for a huge variety of species returning annually from the Pacific.

Once, the river flowed north. Now it starts northwest out of the Rocky Mountain Trench. Then it turns south across the Interior Plateau, then through the Canyon where it is called “the savagest of all the major rivers of North America” (Hugh MacLennan). It abruptly turns west through a fertile alluvial plain and enters the Pacific in a huge estuary beside Vancouver.

Problems have developed with the Fraser’s salmon fishery. Returns have dropped recently from several million to less than a million and then briefly back up again. Causes? Climate change, overfishing, mining spills, fish farm disease and human development generally. Fraser River salmon remain in a “perilous state.”

Taylor goes into detail about the other great North American rivers, including the Yukon River, the Sacramento & San Joaquin Rivers, the Colorado River, the Rio Grande, the Mississippi River, the Hudson River, and the St. Lawrence River. He ends with a plea for better stewardship.

We have treated rivers as hydraulic machines and have neglected them as ecosystems. To avoid disaster, we must change. “The health of rivers is a metaphor for the health of Canadians,” writes Taylor. He urges readers to recognize the “Rights of Nature” and share water with the natural world.

Taylor’s book is a masterpiece of scholarship with exhaustive appendices, an index and notes. Your humble reviewer has merely skimmed the surface. Find your personal river and prepare for a wild ride.

John Gellard was named Canada’s “Best High School Teacher” in a Maclean’s poll in August 2005. His articles have appeared in BC BookWorld, the Globe and Mail and the Watershed Sentinel, as well as online at BCBookLook and The Ormsby Review.

ENVIRONMENT REVIEW

BY JOHN GELLARD

Rivers Run Through Us: A Natural and Human History of Great Rivers of North America by Eric Taylor (Rocky Mountain Books $38)

The Laurentian Divide sends the Mackenzie River to its delta near Inuvik. The main tributaries are the Athabasca coming north through the oil sands, the Peace, and the Liard. Two issues stand out here. One was the proposed pipeline to transport gas south from Alaska. This was abandoned in 2017 after the Bergey Commission found it “too disruptive to the environments.” The second issue is dams.

The W.A.C. Bennett Dam holds back the 1,760 sq km Wiliston Lake and generates power. It’s followed by the Peace Canyon dam. Then the Peace opens east into rich farmland. A hundred kilometres downstream, the Site C Dam will flood 6,000 valuable hectares and the power it will generate must be sold at a huge loss. So why keep building it? Taylor mentions the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA) as a possible factor. He also quotes General G.L. McNaughton, who calls NAWAPA “a monstrous concept, a diabolical thesis.”

B.C.’s most prominent river, the Fraser, is a consummate salmon river. Its 1,375 kilometres flow entirely within the province and there are no dams on it. Several tributaries including the Harrison, the Chillcotin, the Thompson and the tiny heroic Stein are spawning grounds for a huge variety of species returning annually from the Pacific.

Once, the river flowed north. Now it starts northwest out of the Rocky Mountain Trench. Then it turns south across the Interior Plateau, then through the Canyon where it is called “the savagest of all the major rivers of North America” (Hugh MacLennan). It abruptly turns west through a fertile alluvial plain and enters the Pacific in a huge estuary beside Vancouver.

Problems have developed with the Fraser’s salmon fishery. Returns have dropped recently from several million to less than a million and then briefly back up again. Causes? Climate change, overfishing, mining spills, fish farm disease and human development generally. Fraser River salmon remain in a “perilous state.”

Taylor goes into detail about the other great North American rivers, including the Yukon River, the Sacramento & San Joaquin Rivers, the Colorado River, the Rio Grande, the Mississippi River, the Hudson River, and the St. Lawrence River. He ends with a plea for better stewardship.

We have treated rivers as hydraulic machines and have neglected them as ecosystems. To avoid disaster, we must change. “The health of rivers is a metaphor for the health of Canadians,” writes Taylor. He urges readers to recognize the “Rights of Nature” and share water with the natural world.

Taylor’s book is a masterpiece of scholarship with exhaustive appendices, an index and notes. Your humble reviewer has merely skimmed the surface. Find your personal river and prepare for a wild ride.

John Gellard was named Canada’s “Best High School Teacher” in a Maclean’s poll in August 2005. His articles have appeared in BC BookWorld, the Globe and Mail and the Watershed Sentinel, as well as online at BCBookLook and The Ormsby Review.

Many Rivers to Cross

“Rivers do indeed run through us. “One simply cannot understand the history of human civilization, or its future without an appreciation of the role that rivers have played,” states Eric Taylor in Rivers Run Through Us: A Natural and Human History of Great Rivers of North America.” — WENDY/BEV
“Captivating...This inviting book effectively encourages visual literacy for the youngest audience.”
—SLJ

“A simple, celebratory story of community collaboration and religious tolerance.”
—Kirkus Reviews

“The wordless story providing an opportunity for child readers to speculate on the events of the story.”
—CM Reviews

★ “The spare text is developmentally perfect for children.”
—SLJ, starred review

“The perfect book to read before bedtime and an equally perfect book to add to your bookshelf. Highly Recommended.”
—CM Reviews

“Playful...Clear illustrations in pastel colors will be accessible to the youngest lapsitters.”
—SLJ

Like, actually. Check out how literally WORDLESS these books are at orcabook.com.
In 1983, hundreds of thousands united for justice and human rights, fighting against repressive new laws in B.C. as David Spaner chronicles in this extraordinary story.

**Solidarity: Canada’s Unknown Revolution of 1983**

*b* Solidarity: Canada’s Unknown Revolution of 1983 by David Spaner (Ronsdale $21.95)

BY ROD MICKLEBURGH

In 1983, hundreds of thousands united for justice and human rights, fighting against repressive new laws in B.C. as David Spaner chronicles in this extraordinary story.

n a single, unforgettable day in B.C.—July 7, 1983—26 government bills came down the chute striking at the very heart of longstanding union and societal rights. Oversight of human rights, tenant rights, employment standards and more was abolished. Government employees had their contract gutted and all public sector employers in the province were given the power to fire employees without cause.

It was truly a revolution of the right wing.

People fought back with a revolution of their own. Under the banner of Operation Solidarity, occupations and record large protest marches took place across the province. When nothing changed, there was job action that brought B.C. to the verge of an all-out general strike.

Despite these dramatic events, nothing of any depth has been written about it, beyond labour historians Bryan Palmer’s useful but overly-partisan book, Solidarity: The Rise and and Fall of an Opposition in British Columbia (New Star, 1987) published 35 years ago, and last year’s Tranquille & Battle for Community Care in B.C. (Nightwood 2020) by the late Gary Steeves on the three-week occupation of the Tranquille residential facility in Kamloops.

Solidarity: Canada’s Unknown Revolution of 1983 is a welcome addition to the surprisingly thin library of books on one of the largest, most broad-based political protests in Canadian history. Over four turbulent months in the summer and fall of 1983, hundreds of thousands of British Columbians were caught up in the massive fightback against the wave of repressive legislation brought in by Premier Bill Bennett’s freshly-elected Social Credit government.

Solidarity is far from a comprehensive history. That remains to be written. Rather, David Spaner focuses on the non-union partner of Operation Solidarity, the Solidarity Coalition. There is comparatively little about unions and the labour movement, which, after all, co-founded and co-funded Operation Solidarity with the Coalition, as well as providing the picket line muscle that started the uprising down the path to a general strike. There are background bios of many of the activists featured in the book, giving it a folksy feel, but not much about Coalition leaders Renate Shearer, Father Jim Roberts and the fascinating history of BC Federation of Labour president, Art Kube who also led Operation Solidarity.

Concentrating on the Coalition, where Spaner’s sympathies lie, is not a bad thing. Largely ignored by a media that concentrated on a “what next?” mentality, it’s a story that cries out to be told. But the result is an incomplete, somewhat one-sided account.

The Coalition was the broad-based organization of community advocates, activists and social movements that drove the fight on social issues. Stretching into every nook and cranny of the province, they represented the heart and soul of Operation Solidarity, giving it credibility and proof that it was more than a self-interested crusade by unions. The welding of these two disparate groups—the inspired brainchild of Art Kube—was unprecedented. Operation Solidarity would never have been the force it was without the Coalition.

It is refreshing to revisit those heady times through the eyes of those who threw themselves into the Coalition. Spaner provides good descriptions of the endless organizing, unwieldy but respectful marathon meetings, and grassroots decision-making that went on. The chapter on feminism and the strong role played by women in the fightback is particularly good. “It brought all those people together in such a short period of time,” participent and now speaker of the Legisla-
“There was a time when British Columbians united in common resolve to stand up for justice and human rights.”

Raj Chouhan tells the author. “It was quite a phenomenon, you know, like when you saw people from the faith groups, socialist types, or women’s rights, suddenly together.” They galvanized many British Columbians to join a protest for the first time in their lives. But at times, the book loses focus by drifting off into quirky tangents such as socialist history going back to the First International, tales of old lefties, endearing though they are, musical memories from Vancouver’s past and tales of Barkerville and Wells. There are also errors. It was the Fraser River gold rush that prompted establishment of the Colony of British Columbia in 1858, not the 1860s gold rush at Barkerville. There are others, none fatal.

In the end, it mostly came to nought. With 70,000 public sector workers already on the picket line, ferry workers and bus drivers were due to walk out the following Monday morning. By then, however, the government had backed down on its anti-union bills and Operation Solidarity leaders wanted out. With Kube sidelined by pneumonia, International Woodworkers of America (IWA) leader, Jack Munro flew to Kelowna to negotiate a deal with Premier Bill Bennett. Solidarity’s Coalition partners were frozen out. It was now a union show. Late Sunday night, November 13, as the province held its breath, Munro and Bennett announced the strike was over. The so-called Kelowna Accord contained nothing that addressed social issues.

Left in the dark back in Vancouver, members of the Coalition, many of whom had put their personal lives on hold for months, were devastated. Spaner gives them justifiable voice. “We were all in tears,” recounts tireless social justice advocate Patsy George. “It was a horrible betrayal.” Self-styled “hoarder of records” Sara Diamond was so upset she threw out all her records from Solidarity and the Coalition. Despite the ennobling harmony of the summer, the gap between unions and social groups proved too wide to be bridged. Spaner puts all the blame on the labour side, disparaging what he calls “obsolete unionism.” It’s an odd term for what was the most militant labour movement in Canada, reflecting an imperfect understanding of how unions work. The Coalition’s vote for a general strike to be carried out by unions, not Coalition members, irri
tated many in the private sector.

Munro, who unleashed a barrage of disparaging remarks of his own about members of the Coalition, takes his lumps, including withering criticism from then BC Teachers’ Federation president Larry Kuehn, one of Solidar
ty’s heroes for leading 30,000 teachers out on an illegal strike, as the first wave of Solidarity’s general strike. Despite its faults, we should be grateful that David Spaner has given us this account. His book reminds us that there was a time when British Columbians united in common resolve to stand up for justice and human rights, and anything, even the political surrender of a government, seemed possible. Spaner is right to conclude: “The Solidarity uprising of 1983 gave us a glimpse of what could be. [It] was far greater than its anticlimactic ending.”

Such a time it was. 978-1-55380-638-7

“If you remember the Sixties, you weren’t there.”

his oft-misattributed Eighties joke (officially credited to L.A. comedian Charlie Fleischer) implied that people who were really there were so stoned on newly popular psychedelic drugs like LSD-25 that they couldn’t recall ten years of the most fun you can have with your clothes on and off. Like most slow wit that passes for observational humour, it sounds cleverly definitive yet it’s about as accurate as your Fourth Avenue drug dealer’s assurances that the Lysergic Acid you were getting was ‘clinical’ or came direct from the pocket of the legendary Grateful Dead soundman and amateur chemist Owsley Stanley himself.

In this concise entertaining history of New Westminster’s long-demolished Hollywood Hospital, Jesse Donaldson and Erika Dyck take a trip back in time that sets the record straight on what was clearly a lost opportunity for psychiatric medicine. Located in a white mansion surrounded by holly trees (hence its name), the hospital treated psychological disorders from 1957 to 1975. Its unorthodox methods, which produced a remarkable success rate of 50-80% included, for a time, the new field of psychedelic psychiatry and attracted a long line of celebrity patients such as Andy Williams, Cary Grant and Ethel Kennedy. More than 6,000 medically supervised LSD trips were conducted in a special area known as the Acid Room. Such unorthodox treatments eventually led to the hospital’s closure despite its success rate.

Finding out that the old Hollywood Hospital was not only one of the original epicentres of the Acid Trip, but the place where the ideal Acid Room, (provided with comfy couches, patterned and textured fabrics, art works, music etc.) was designed and described in a therapeutic manual is “mind-blowing,” as we said back in the day.

Donaldson and Dyck trip lightly through the development of LSD-25 by Albert Hofmann of the Swiss Sandoz pharmaceutical company in 1938, while pursuing a treatment for migraine headaches. Returning from an accidental acid trip, (not the world’s first; also covered here) Hofmann’s reports on LSD’s effects languished until after WW2 when, in the early Fifties, some psychiatrists who, despairing of their discipline’s lack of progress in dealing with mental health issues, began looking for alternative methods. ‘Better Living Through Chemistry,’ a variant of the 1935 DuPont slogan, had become the mantra of the pharmaceutical industry (which produced amphetamines and anti-depressants before the war) long before it became an acid-head t-shirt banner a decade later.

Early experiments with LSD revealed that it was a particularly successful treatment for chronic alcoholism, a mental illness notoriously resistant to conversational therapy. Anybody lucky enough to hang out fifty years later with friends from those days knows the effects of psychedelic drugs are the exact opposite of the belligerent behaviour, stupefaction and memory loss produced by alcohol. (“Booze is a bum trip,” we said then.) Under the influence of psychedelics, people became peaceful, hyper-aware of their own most authentic emotions and of their deep spiritual connection to the rest of humanity and especially the natural world.

Unlike drunks, LSD users remember their experiences as intellectual
and emotional turning points for the rest of their lives. Since Hollywood Hospital was primarily a private detox clinic for wealthy dipsomaniacs, its doctors were willing to give LSD a try. They found the drug enabled patients to discover the emotions that drove them to drink in a non-confrontational way, causing them to give up booze without fear. A few were so thoroughly cured they were later able to drink socially, a notion still taboo among alcoholic recovery programs today.

In 1959, young Vancouver Province reporter Ben Metcalfe underwent LSD therapy and wrote a series of prescient articles about it for the paper. That same year, film star Cary Grant extolled the virtues of LSD in a Look magazine interview. Later, celebrities like The Beatles, Carrie Fisher, Steve Jobs, Sting, Angelina Jolie, Anthony Bourdain, Susan Sarandon and Bill Gates would testify to the positive life-changing effects of LSD.

Radical new ideas always attract eccentric characters, would-be messiahs and self-appointed grand inquisitors. Psychedelic psychiatry got the full cat-caller of cast members, from stars like author Aldous Huxley, whose 1954 book The Doors of Perception described his life-changing experiences with mescaline (and gave The Doors rock band their name), to Al ‘the Captain’ Hubbard, the original Captain Trips, the pistol-packing wild boy who had the exclusive contract with Sandoz to import LSD-25 until amateur alchemists like Owsley Stanley cut into his action. Hubbard is a bio-worthy subject on his own, never mind UBC head of psychiatry Dr. James Tyhurst who, along with Dr. Pat McGeer, were responsible for demonizing LSD and having it criminalized (leading to the closure of Hollywood Hospital). The donnish pipe-smoking Tyhurst proved to be no uptight citizen. He was later convicted of coercing female patients into master-slave sexual relationships involving whips etc. that went on for years. No wonder he was afraid of LSD.

With his books Land of Destiny (Anvil, 2019) about the development of Vancouver as a real estate swindle and Fools Gold (Anvil, 2020), the story of Joachim Foikis, Vancouver’s Official Town Fool, Jesse Donaldson has emerged as the successor to Ben Metcalfe and the legendary Chuck Cook as the keeper of Vancouver’s ‘Closet of Secrets’. Erika Dyck is a professor and Canada Research Chair in the History of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. She’s the author of Psychedelic Psychiatry, Facing Eugenics, co-author of Managing Madness and co-editor of Psychedelic Prophets. As we said in the Sixties of dealers who had a dependable sense of quality control, “She really knows her shit.”

John Moore drove cab in the early ‘70s and had occasion to drop off dipsomaniacs at the Hollywood Hospital.

Cary Grant, 1958; Andy Williams, 1966; Ethel Kennedy, 1968
CONGRATULATIONS
Sadiqa de Meijer and Tolu Oloruntoba
Winners of the Governor General Literary Awards – Non-Fiction and Poetry

Grab a copy from your local bookstore today.
#GGBooks2021

SHOP ONLINE AT PALIMPSESTPRESS.CA

I Am Billy the Kid  M I C H A E L  B L O U I N
This revisionist history seen through the lens of a twenty-first century sensibility features the picaresque hero we thought we knew and the unexpected one that we don’t: a fearless and determined young woman who is in no mood to be saved and would much prefer exacting her own revenge.

NOVEL  |  384 PAGES  |  $22  |  APRIL

Queasy  M A D E L I N E  S O N I K
The award-winning author of Afflictions & Departures turns her multifaceted lens on England in the 1970s in Queasy, a series of linked memoirs.

MEMOIR  |  320 PAGES  |  $20  |  MARCH

Unrest  E M M A  CÔTÉ
This revisionist history seen through the lens of a twenty-first century sensibility features the picaresque hero we thought we knew and the unexpected one that we don’t: a fearless and determined young woman who is in no mood to be saved and would much prefer exacting her own revenge.

NOVEL  |  384 PAGES  |  $22  |  APRIL

Catastrophe Theories  M A R I - L O U  R O W L E Y
Rowley toys with perception, fractures reality into kaleidoscopic visions, then brings the reader back to small, everyday moments of truth and joy.

POETRY  |  96 PAGES  |  $18  |  APRIL

“Distinctly urban, with a twist!”
Robert A.J. McDonald charts the advance of the “Left” in British Columbia that led to the first NDP government in 1972.
A Métis leader
IN COLONIAL TIMES

Rising through the ranks of the Hudson’s Bay Company, Joseph William McKay was at the forefront of exploration and development in B.C.

As a young Hudson’s Bay Company employee, McKay would ultimately rise to the enviable position of Chief Trader at Fort Kamloops (in 1872). This was an unheard-of ascendency for a Métis anywhere east of the Rockies where he could have only hoped to gain the rank of postmaster. In fact, McKay had served as the postmaster of Fort Victoria in 1848 when he was still a teenager.

He explored the Cowichan Valley in 1851 and witnessed the Queen Charlotte Islands (now Haida Gwaii) gold rush. McKay proved valuable to Governor James Douglas because he spoke English, French, Chinook and numerous First Nations languages, including the Indigenous language of the Saanich peninsula. Between 1850 and 1852, McKay signed eight of the eleven so-called “Douglas Treaties.”

For his next feat, McKay proceeded to establish the original townsite for Nanaimo in 1852, where he built the port city’s still-standing, white bastion in 1853 and he supervised the opening of the first coal mines.

At age 31, he married 19-year-old Helen Holmes at Christ Church in Victoria in 1860. McKay eventually served as one of the original six members of the first legislative assembly for the colony of Vancouver Island—another remarkable distinction for someone of mixed-race heritage.

These are some of the details we glean from Greg N. Fraser’s laudable Joseph William McKay: A Métis Business Leader in Colonial British Columbia.
“During his three-year term in office, Joseph McKay raised many issues in the Assembly. He argued that US coins should be legal tender on Vancouver Island—a measure passed by the Assembly but denied by Douglas’ council. He also initiated discussions on voter registration and adjusting electoral boundaries to increase the number of representatives in the Assembly, and called for the protection and preservation of game.”

In 1878, having likely seen more of the new construct known as British Columbia than any other man, he published *Reflections of a Chief Trader in the Hudson’s Bay Company*. This was the same year he finally left the HBC and took a two-year contract as manager of the Inverness Cannery at the entrance to the Skeena River.

After eleven years as a well-travelled federal Indian agent for the government of Canada, gaining knowledge of the entire province, he was appointed assistant superintendent of Indian Affairs for British Columbia in 1893.

A dedicated family man with six children and a non-Indigenous wife, McKay personally vaccinated 1,300 Indigenous people against smallpox and expressed his ethnographic knowledge of the Coast Salish in an article called “The Indians of British Columbia” in 1899, not long before he died. McKay also took an interest in Coast Salish blankets, some of which were acquired by the Field Museum of Chicago and the National Museum of the American Indian in New York.

There’s a fulsome bibliography and Fraser frequently gives credit to the likes of Richard Mackie, Barry Gough, Terry and George Goulet (*The Métis in British Columbia*) and Brodie Douglas, research historian for the Métis Nation British Columbia.

This is a solid and easily accessible work for readers of all ages. If there were more books such as this one, more people might be inclined to learn about the history of British Columbia.
Emily Carr’s hidden writings on art school, sexism in the art world, and the struggle to forge a modern art in Canada.

Unvarnished: Autobiographical Sketches of Emily Carr by Emily Carr, edited by Kathryn Bridge (ISBN 24-93)

By Beverly Cramp

Emily Carr’s hidden writings

Emily Carr, who wrote as well as she painted, kept notebooks and private sketchbooks for much of her adult life. In them, she wrote and drew so candidly of her inner thoughts and opinions that they represented, she said, “unreadable.”

These personal writings and pictures reveal Carr at her most honest, even more so than her published books like Growing Pains: The Autobiography of Emily Carr (1946) republished by D&M, 2005), The House of All Sorts (1942) republished by D&M, 2004) and the Governor General’s Award-winning Klee Wyck (1941) republished by D&M, 2003.

Many of her journals and notebooks are stored in the B.C. Archives in files with names that were created decades ago. Ereach pieces got hidden within other papers while others were disregarded when Carr had flipped around notebooks so that she could write on the blank back-sides of the pages (she disliked wasting paper). Carr even penciled over some pages with scribbles as if dismissing them herself.

Emily Carr expert, Kathryn Bridge has combed through the records of Carr’s hidden writings, file by file, to draw out new information, and has published the findings in Unvarnished: Autobiographical Sketches of Emily Carr. Bridge has left misspellings and bad punctuation unedited to protect Carr’s authenticity. Primarily covering the period 1899 to 1939, the revealing moments and encounters from Carr’s life read like stream-of-consciousness prose. “We are privy to Carr’s innermost thoughts and emotions in ways that were later polished out of the published versions,” says Bridge.

“Unvarnished begins with notebooks Emily Carr kept while studying art in England from 1899 to 1904. “Nearly every Sunday I went to Mrs. Redden’s at tea time,” writes Carr of her early days in London. “Her eyes were brown & stared when she was thinking—like caged things that had reached their limit.”

An independent Carr is evident when she dismisses Mrs. Redden’s urgings to go to the church across from her art school to pray for soldiers fighting in the Boer War. (Mrs. Redden calls Carr by one of her nicknames, “Klee Wyck”).

“Do you not think Klee Wyck that you should spare time from your studies to pray for our soldiers. The school is so close to the Abbey.”

“But Mrs. Redden I could not run into the Abbey in my paint apron by the time I had changed and run across & prayed & run back, it would be a big hole in the days work.”

“It makes a big hole in the men’s lives going out to fight for us.”

“I can pray for them night & morning does it have to be in the Abbey?”

“The historic Abbey of all places should rouse ones patriotism,” Mrs Redden wallowed in the South African war, she bought every paper & every special and read & wept & prayed.”

Another family friend, Mrs. Sophia Mortimer who toured Emily Carr around the historic sights in London, also hounded Carr about a perceived lack of patriotism.

“If we hurry we can see the change of guards.”

“Why should we want to?”

“My dear! The dignity of traditions.”

“She was a pretty little lady & romantic with 3 white curls in front of each eye wore widdows bonnets & widdow colors & cuffs though her husband had been dead more years than she had known him alive when he died she had become a widdow-for-good swathed inside her weeds. The same as she would always be a woman of old England swathed in its traditions.”

Showing early on that she preferred the country to the city, Emily Carr went to the small town of Butshey near Londes in 1901. Carr was determined to continue her artwork despite the distractions.

“Bushey was a good deal talked of as an art colony in the country. The Herkomer school was there,” wrote Carr. “Bushey is full of studios & students besides having Herkomer school. On enquiry I found that if I wanted theatricals dances & good times you went to the school, but if you were out for hard work you went to Mr. Whitley’s studio. I wanted work.”

After Bushey, Carr travelled to another well-known art colony, St. Ives where she stayed for several months. Upon returning to London in 1902, her dominating older sister Lizzie came to visit. Emily was not pleased as her favourite sister was Alice.

“Oh why isn’t it Alice?” I wailed. Lizzie & I never did hit it off.

“What made me really angry was the Hipocracy of making out that we were utterly devoted sisters & kissing & fondling me which I loathed and which was not natural to either of us.”

Emily Carr went through a long period of illness before she could return to Canada. Her writing of the return was rejoiceful. “It is good that there is the great ocean between England and Canada the violence of the jump from one to the other would hurt. Of course there is [the] rest of Canada to go through as well before you come to B.C. on the west coast but Canada clear aired & big from the moment you go up the rushing St. Lawrence. I never tired of staring, absorbing from the train window.”

Paintings & sketchbooks

Paintings & sketchbooks, I, Bottom is (sic)!!, The View from the Top is Super!!, The View from the Bottom is Grand!, The Climb is Exhilerating! by Emily Carr (1909). Carr titled her three sketchbooks, left to right: The View From The Paintings from Emily Carr’s Northern Tour 1907, she went on a life-changing trip to Alaska & villages of B.C. and I shall do all the totem poles & villages … That was exactly what I did in the woods were grand as ever…. I went into it & villages … That was exactly what I did in the woods were grand as ever…. I went into it
EMILY CARR

Back in Victoria Carr says, "... the beach & the woods were grand as ever.... I went into it & breathed & breathed till the last vestige of London was cleared from my lungs." In 1906, Carr moved to Vancouver and in 1907, she went on a life-changing trip to Alaska with Alice. “It was in Sitka I first conceived the idea of painting Indians & totem poles,” writes Carr. “I shall come up every summer among the villages of B.C. and I shall do all the totem poles & villages ... That was exactly what I did in the years that followed ... I cost a lot of money but I felt it was worth while & worked very hard.” Early on, Carr encountered pushback and sexism. “Some of the men artists in Vancouver were angry because I was making headway and because my work was strong more like a man’s than theirs. When the Art society gave exhibitions these men hung my pictures under shelves or on the ceiling.”

Carr was not one to be deterred. “[I went] right on my own way. I did not bother with the other artists or societies and they got angrier than ever because I did not care. A plan was forming in my head ... I was saving to go to Paris everyone said Paris was the top of art and I wanted to get the best teaching I knew.” And it was in Paris that Carr began painting in a Post-Impressionist way, complete with bright, unrealistic colours.

Upon her return to Canada and her family, her new work was met with dismay. “They had never taken much interest in my painting at home but when I unpacked my box there was dead silence among my sisters and friends ... Nobody painted that way out West.” But Carr knew that her French instructors had deepened her art. “I was doing bigger freer work. I attacked my material with a bolder fiercer spirit,” she writes of the period.

And here is where Carr’s strength of character shines through as she was ridiculed for her new Modern painting. “I built a wall high & solid. My friends & relatives, the old way of work were on one side on the other side of the wall was myself, my aspirations my real work. I did not talk about it to anyone.”

EMILY CARR MOVED BACK TO VICTORIA IN 1913 AND built a small apartment house that she hoped would provide a living. Her studio was in the back. Life remained difficult for many years. “We had always been a devoted if independent family. My smoking, damning and not going to church troubled my family very much. It was frequently thrust upon me that I had always been different from the rest.” Carr was so discouraged, she did little painting for over a decade.

It was Eastern Canadians who rescued her. The National Gallery of Canada, big on the Group of Seven painters had heard of Carr’s work and invited her to participate in a 1927 exhibition. When asked about the Group of Seven, she said, “Who are they?” The reply: “Seven fine men who are the art leaders in Canada. You have not read The Group of Seven, just out by Fred Housser!”

Carr admitted that she hadn’t and that she had not painted for nearly 15 years. “Come, make a new start you have fine material out West come & meet the Group’ they are inspiring,” Carr wrote in her journals of the offer. And that is what she did, becoming ‘discovered’ by the rest of Canada and paving the way for a new round of work that focused on the forests and scenery of the West.

In 1937, EMILY CARR HAD HER FIRST HEART ATTACK. While recuperating, and under strict orders not to paint, she began writing stories. Between 1939 and 1940, she had a second heart attack forcing her to move in with her sister Alice. A stroke followed, debilitating her further.

Carr’s writing gained attention, championed by her friends including Ira Dilworth, and were read on CBC Radio. Her first collection, Klee Wyck (1941) won the Governor General’s Award for Literary Merit in non-fiction. She published two more books before dying on March 2, 1945. But she left behind a treasure trove of unpublished writing, some of which has found its way into Unavowed.

Beverly Cramp is publisher of BC BookWorld.

Back in Victoria Carr says, ... the beach & the woods were grand as ever.... I went into it & breathed & breathed till the last vestige of London was cleared from my lungs.” In 1906, Carr moved to Vancouver and in 1907, she went on a life-changing trip to Alaska with Alice. “It was in Sitka I first conceived the idea of painting Indians & totem poles,” writes Carr. “I shall come up every summer among the villages of B.C. and I shall do all the totem poles & villages ... That was exactly what I did in the years that followed ... I cost a lot of money but I felt it was worth while & worked very hard.” Early on, Carr encountered pushback and sexism. “Some of the men artists in Vancouver were angry because I was making headway and because my work was strong more like a man’s than theirs. When the Art society gave exhibitions these men hung my pictures under shelves or on the ceiling.”

Carr was not one to be deterred. “[I went] right on my own way. I did not bother with the other artists or societies and they got angrier than ever because I did not care. A plan was forming in my head ... I was saving to go to Paris everyone said Paris was the top of art and I wanted to get the best teaching I knew.” And it was in Paris that Carr began painting in a Post-Impressionist way, complete with bright, unrealistic colours.

Upon her return to Canada and her family, her new work was met with dismay. “They had never taken much interest in my painting at home but when I unpacked my box there was dead silence among my sisters and friends ... Nobody painted that way out West.” But Carr knew that her French instructors had deepened her art. “I was doing bigger freer work. I attacked my material with a bolder fiercer spirit,” she writes of the period.

And here is where Carr’s strength of character shines through as she was ridiculed for her new Modern painting. “I built a wall high & solid. My friends & relatives, the old way of work were on one side on the other side of the wall was myself, my aspirations my real work. I did not talk about it to anyone.”

When asked about the Group of Seven, she said, “Who are they?” The reply: “Seven fine men who are the art leaders in Canada. You have not read The Group of Seven, just out by Fred Housser!”

Carr admitted that she hadn’t and that she had not painted for nearly 15 years. “Come, make a new start you have fine material out West come & meet the Group’ they are inspiring,” Carr wrote in her journals of the offer. And that is what she did, becoming ‘discovered’ by the rest of Canada and paving the way for a new round of work that focused on the forests and scenery of the West.

In 1937, EMILY CARR HAD HER FIRST HEART ATTACK. While recuperating, and under strict orders not to paint, she began writing stories. Between 1939 and 1940, she had a second heart attack forcing her to move in with her sister Alice. A stroke followed, debilitating her further.

Carr’s writing gained attention, championed by her friends including Ira Dilworth, and were read on CBC Radio. Her first collection, Klee Wyck (1941) won the Governor General’s Award for Literary Merit in non-fiction. She published two more books before dying on March 2, 1945. But she left behind a treasure trove of unpublished writing, some of which has found its way into Unavowed.
Jaime Smith took pictures of faint blue stars as an astronomer, retrained to be a psychiatrist and led in the fight against AIDS.

Jaime Smith, astronomer, Minnesota, 1955.
Out of Hiding
Alan Twigg
There will soon be no eye-witnesses to the Holocaust. What is to be done? One answer is Out of Hiding, a cross-section of memoirs and stories collected from British Columbia, examining 85 authors and 160 books.
978-1-55380-662-2 (PRINT)
978-1-55380-663-9 (EBOOK)
338 pp $24.95

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.
978-1-55380-638-7 (PRINT)
978-1-55380-639-4 (EBOOK)
240 pp $24.95

St. Michael's Residential School
Nancy Dyson & Dan Rubenstein
One of the very few accounts of life in a residential school by caregivers who witness the shocking discipline, poor food and harsh punishment for the children's use of their native language.
978-1-55380-623-3 (PRINT)
978-1-55380-624-0 (EBOOK)
184 pp $21.95

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.
978-1-55380-641-7 (PRINT)
978-1-55380-642-4 (EBOOK)
344 pp $24.95

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.
978-1-55380-620-2 (PRINT)
978-1-55380-621-9 (EBOOK)
194 pp $12.95

Sous le Saint-Laurent
Philip Ray
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.
978-1-55380-656-1 (PRINT)
978-1-55380-657-8 (EBOOK)
264 pp $12.95 · FRENCH LANGUAGE

New from Ronsdale Press

Available at your favourite bookstore or order from PGC/Raincoast
www.ronsdalepress.com

TALONBOOKS
SPRING 2022

THE GRAND MELEE
by Michel Tremblay
translated by Sheila Fischman
Family tensions boil over in this fifth installation of the acclaimed nine-volume Desrosiers Diaspora series of novels by major Québécois author Michel Tremblay.
978-1-77201-383-8; $16.95 · Fiction
Now Available

TWISTS OF FATE: IF BY CHANCE & DESTINATION PARADISE
by Michel Tremblay
translated by Linda Gabioriau
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 Montreal’s Main Street, and follow Édouard Tremblay in his formative years).
978-1-77201-379-5; $19.95 · Poetry
Forthcoming March 9, 2022

Standing in a River of Time
by Jónína Kirton
Standing in a River of Time merges poetry and lyrical memoir on a journey exposing the intergenerational effects of colonization on a Metis family.
978-1-77201-378-7; $16.95 · Poetry
Forthcoming March 4, 2022

Unfuckable Lardass
by Catriona Strang
Unfuckable Lardass, a book of poetry by British Columbian author and editor Catriona Strang, takes its title from an outrageous insult allegedly lobbed at German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Fuelled by the energy of grief and rage, but counterpoised by moments of love and hope, this book refracts the patriarchy’s gaze.
978-1-77201-380-0; $16.95 · Poetry
Forthcoming March 4, 2022
Prudence Emery, co-author of *Death at the Savoy*, worked at the Savoy Hotel from 1968–1973 before returning to Canada where she was a publicist on over one hundred movie productions. She met stars such as Sophia Loren, Peter O'Toole, Angie Dickinson, Robin Williams and David Cronenberg. In the field of literature, Emery's longtime friendship with Krystyne and Scott Griffin is noteworthy, leading to her involvement with the launch of Canada's lucrative Griffin Prize.

**BC BookWorld**: Your first book was a memoir, *Nanaimo Girl*. What gave you the idea to write a murder mystery?

**Prudence Emery**: I must confess that the idea to write a murder mystery did not occur to me. But it did occur to an old friend, Ron Base, retired film critic, showbiz journalist and novelist. I knew Ron from the years I worked as a film publicist and invited him to visit my sets. Many years later in 2020, Ron read my memoir and was intrigued with the section at the Savoy, where I worked as press officer in London during the Sixties. He subsequently called me with an invitation to collaborate with him on a series of mystery novels based at the iconic hotel. The collaboration was launched, Ron working in the east in Milton outside Toronto and me in the west in Victoria.

**BCBW**: The Savoy is an historical luxury hotel, the kind of place that Agatha Christie would have chosen for one of her mysteries. Is that why you choose this backdrop?

**PE**: Thank goodness Agatha Christie didn’t base any of her books at the Savoy. It would have precluded Ron and I from basing *Death at the Savoy* there. It was chosen not only because I worked there, but for its rich history dating back to 1889, studded with royalty, celebrities and the odd scandal, set against the epitome of luxury, perfect background fodder for a mystery novel.

**BCBW**: Was the Savoy as sexist and tradition-bound during your time there as you describe in the novel?

**PE**: I guess you could say that the Savoy was sexist and tradition-bound. But by being tradition-bound, the hotel maintained its high standards. And as for sexist, it’s true that no women worked in the public areas of the hotel. It was all men. However, as...
Priscilla has in the book, I had carte blanche to entertain in both the Grill and the Restaurant. I could be found on occasion drinking Buck’s Fizzes in the American Bar. But I must say, operating in a predominately male world, like Priscilla, I did feel occasionally uncomfortable. Also, like Priscilla in the book, I sometimes had the feeling management wasn’t happy with me.

BCBW: You used your knowledge of 1960s London to expertly develop great settings for your novel. What were some of your favourite places in London and which of them ended up in your book?

PE: King’s Road in Chelsea was a favourite area of mine, mainly, because at that time, the trendy shops and restaurants as well as the “in” nightclub Aretusa (where John Lennon made his first public appearance with Yoko Ono) were to be found there. Although King’s Road didn’t make it into our first book, Priscilla wore outfits from King’s Road, in particular dresses by the fashion designer Mary Quant who popularized the mini-skirt. A few London pubs which I frequented and which occur in the book include The Admiral Codrington in Chelsea and the Coal Hole next to the Savoy. I also liked hanging out with journalists on Fleet Street, scoffing beer in the The Wig and Pen. But my favourite spot to recuperate from over-dosing on beer or champagne was in my Savoy-owned flat at 37-39 Knightsbridge overlooking Hyde Park, where Priscilla also lives. We both loved it in the spring when the daffodils bloomed across the street.

BCBW: Are you Miss Priscilla Tempest?

PE: Maybe. All I can reply to this question is that Priscilla does things that I didn’t do and I did things that she didn’t do. But if one reads both Nanaimo Girl and Death at the Savoy, one can judge for themselves.

BCBW: You use real life characters like Bob Hope, Richard Burton, and Princess Margaret, and real life characters such Amir Abrahim and Daisee Banville. Why this mix?

PE: Mixing fact with fiction is a delicious recipe; give it a stir and it creates a rich tapestry of a tale. Having Priscilla interacting with celebrities gives the story veracity, lots of occasions for humour and probably supplies nostalgia for old “Savoyards.” There may be more fun than dropping famous names and dead bodies around a legendary luxury hotel, but I can’t imagine what it is. Also, who knew that collaborating on a book (with Ron Base) working four thousand miles apart could be such fun? Amazing fact with fiction is a delicious recipe; give it a stir and it creates a rich tapestry of a tale.

Stay Woke, Not Broke
by Alison Tedford

• Protect your brand in today’s business climate
• Navigate polarizing landscapes and “cancel culture” traps
• Develop a social justice education program for your business - big or small

$29.95 | Paperback + Download Kit | 126 pages

Navigating the Criminal Justice System in Canada
by Peter Keen, Barrister & Solicitor

• Learn what to expect as an accused, victim, or witness in the criminal justice system in order to make it out the other side
• Understand what Canada’s criminal justice system entails and how to confidently maneuver through it, especially without a lawyer

$29.95 | Paperback + Download Kit | 126 pages

Prudence Emery: “Mixing fact with fiction is a delicious recipe; give it a stir and it creates a rich tapestry of a tale.”
Kim Seilkop Harvey
Winner Winner of 2020 Governor General’s Literary Award for Drama for her book, Kamloops: An Indigenous Matriarch Story

Weyman Chan
Winner of the 2021 Latner Writers’ Trust Poetry Prize. Author of Chinese Blue, Human Tissue, Hypoderm, and Noise from the Laundry.

SEPTEMBER 3-5, 2022

Announcing the 45th Annual 3-Day Novel Writing Contest!

The basics: Writing starts midnight Friday of the long weekend and wraps up midnight of the holiday Monday. The winner receives money, publication, and overnight fame! The entries are judged by a panel of writers and editors, which announces its winning selection in the spring of the following year. The winning novel is then published by Anvil Press.

REGISTER NOW OPEN!

More information, rules and registration available at: 3daynovel.com

Publisher and Distributor
granvilleislandpublishing.com
Toll-free: 1-877-688-0320

GRANVILLE ISLAND PUBLISHING

Toll-free: 1-877-688-0320

25 Years and Going Strong!

Find it at
rbcm.ca/books
or at your favourite bookstore
$34.95 paperback
$19.99 ebook

BATS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A full-colour, fully updated field guide to identifying British Columbia’s bats, with new material on acoustic identification.

C An inspiring escape from Cambodia to Vietnam to a new life in Canada

Journey Home

Me In Cairo

Meet Me In Cairo

Tales of Hitchin’ in the 60s

Personal Memoir / Adventure

Pen pals help friends travel 50s North Africa, Middle East & Europe on $2.06 per day

Jim Kerr

978-1-989467-52-7

978-1-989467-40-4

Children’s Fiction / Adventure

Sammy Squirrel & Rodney Raccoon for young readers, now in colour

Sammy Squirrel & Rodney Raccoon For First Stanley Park

Personal Memoir / Education

From Class Clown to Vice-Principal in Vancouver High Schools

Hugh Greer

978-1-989467-54-1

978-1-989467-54-1

978-1-989467-60-2

Cultural / Religion / Asia

An inspiring escape from Cambodia to Vietnam to a new life in Canada

Rose and Wilson Ngo

11,000 DAYS at School

From Class Clown to High School Vice-Principal

Hugh Greer

978-1-989467-54-1

26 BC BOOKWORLD • SPRING 2022
xiles, defectors, refugees and orphans; five rogue artists and one professional wrestler—all characters impacted by the vicissitudes of power in Tamas Doboz’s collection of short fiction, Ghost Geographies.

While reading about these displaced individuals, some downtrodden, some deranged, all grappling with lost or imagined ideals, I sensed a few implicit, uncanny accounts from philosophers and their roots and being lost souls in a world of wrestling bears, sex addicts, philosophers and vacant lots. 

Nikolas Blackman, born in Paris, 1969, to a Canadian diplomat and a Russian ballerina. In his short, precocious life as a sex addict and political philosopher, he办学 into the British aristocracy, Nikolas will only ever be stateless, cosmopolitan. He is a utopia, no place. His sister Sophie tells him that even when he’s not there his movements again, he wanders ceaselessly back and forth across the Canadian-American border, staying in flophouses, mapping vacant lots wherever he goes. He charts an imagined fragmentary country made up entirely of these vacant lots, sketched or described on beer coasters, postcards, the insides of takeout coffee cups. Eszterházy transports this imagined country in a bacterial suitcase, as if compiling all this emptiness will fill his own void. 

Ghost Geographies dramatizes the displacing effects of power, both real and imagined. For our enrichment, and for our enlightenment, Tamas Doboz surveys historical moments, one per year. These found facts structure the narrative, serving as a kind of atlas: “If you’re always going somewhere cause if you're always going somewhere you don’t need to be anywhere.” This interpretation aligns with efficacy and feeling the intractable scalar unpoignant, sacred bleeding.

Nikolas’ oeuvre, and once committed to an ideological position. In the case if you’re always going somewhere you don’t need to be anywhere.

Born in Nanaimo, Tamas Doboz lived in Powell River until he was nineteen. His parents were Hungarian immigrants. Doboyz says the short story Spires is based on accounts from his parents, and that their experiences “filter in every where in his work.”

Tamas Doboz tells what happens to people who lose their roots and become lost souls in a world of wrestling bears, sex addicts, philosophers and vacant lots. Missing from her boarding school in Switzerland and is officially declared deceased. Nikolas comes from Oxford, views the corpse, doesn’t believe it’s her, but she’s gone either way. In 1992 he begins receiving postcards closely spaced in time, from all over the world, from a person he believes is Sophie: “June 23, 1991, Beijing; June 24, 1991, San Francisco; June 25, 1991, Valparaiso.” He concludes that “each postcard deserves an atlas of its own... as if each one was sent from another world, another timeline, another place. It’s all there but impossible to get to.” This interpretation aligns with the many-worlds interpretation of quantum physics that Nikolas applies to political ethics, which he appears to refine from beyond the grave.

He’s presumed dead in 2015. His posthumous book ‘Dyschrony’ is a collection of disturbing, unconnected historical moments, one per year. These found facts structure the narrative, serving as a kind of atlas: “If you’re always going somewhere you don’t need to be anywhere.” This interpretation aligns with efficacy and feeling the intractable scalar unpoignant, sacred bleeding.

The Little Brudders of Miséricorde is a darkly comic tale that is at once poignant at amous, sacred at sacrifice.

Order from: UTP Distribution utpbooks@utpress.utoronto.ca

ISBN 978-1-990160-08-0

Dustin Cole is author of the novel Notice (Nightwood Editions) and the chapbook Dream Peripheries (General Delivery). He has contributed to Ormsby Review and Heady Feather Review.

DAVID M. WALLACE

TIDEWATER PRESS

ISBN 978-1-990160-10-3
EVENT celebrates a milestone anniversary with 50 Years of EVENT Magazine: Collected Notes on Writing ($21.75). Published by Douglas College and helmed by editor Shashi Bhat and managing editor Ian Cockfield, EVENT is one of Western Canada’s longest-running literary magazines with each issue focusing on fiction, poetry, non-fiction and book reviews. It has served as a springboard for emerging writers, some who garnered writing awards after appearing in EVENT. The anthology features 70 essays with insights into the joys and struggles of the writer’s life and includes notable Canadian writers such as Kevin Chong, Amber Dawn, Lorna Crozier, Madeleine Thien, Eden Robinson, Jen Sookfong Lee, Caroline Addison, Joy Kogawa, and Lydia Kwa.

In comedian, actor, and playwright Charles Demers’ Nooday Dark: Doctor Annick Boudreau Mystery #2 (D&M $18.95), Boudreau returns with a twisting tale of the political conflicts in a city on the verge of change.

Dietrich Kalteis’ debut, Ride the Lightening (ECW, 2014), was a romp through Vancouver’s underbelly with a cast of characters whose ambitions exceeded their meanest ends: a former actuary with a head for numbers, a web of conspiracies. Wallace earned a degree in French lessons and watering his absent daughter’s plants. When Spence meets Thierry, a petty thief, he is drawn into a world of community and belonging emerge along with the knowledge that trusted neighbours can sometimes be as sinister as strangers in the dark. Set in Nelson, B.C., the novel evokes the local and national history of community and belonging emerge along with the knowledge that trusted neighbours can sometimes be as sinister as strangers in the dark. Set in Nelson, B.C., the novel evokes the local and national history of community and belonging emerge along with the knowledge that trusted neighbours can sometimes be as sinister as strangers in the dark.

Maureen Brownlee’s Cambium Blue (Harbour $22.95) also evokes the B.C. Interior in this account of a town council’s embrace of a resort developer as strangers in the dark. Set in a city on the verge of change. In the spring of 2008, a suicide death is shared online, a community is left to try to make sense of his death and whether it was an accident or a suicide. A SFU Writer’s Studio alumni, Gurjinder Baasan was a BFA Writing Fiction Prize for her debut novel, Everything Was Goodbye (Mother Tongue, 2010/Penguin, 2012).

Meg Todd is an alumni of UBC’s creative writing program and currently lives in Vancouver.

Gurjinder Baasan takes on the perils of social media in Help! I’m Alive (ECW $22.95). When video footage of a teen’s death is shared online, a community is left to try to make sense of his death and whether it was an accident or a suicide. A SFU Writer’s Studio alumni, Gurjinder Baasan won the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize for her debut novel, Everything Was Goodbye (Mother Tongue, 2010/Penguin, 2012).

In his debut novel The Little Bruders of Misericorde (Tidewater $21.95) David M. Wallace explores loss, connection and friendship. Spence’s brief optimism in his early retirement and brave move from Vancouver to Montreal devolves into the loneliness of a road trip when her son and his girlfriend stop to help a stranded motorist. These stories do not shy away from difficult truths. Meg Todd is an alumni of UBC’s creative writing program and currently lives in Vancouver.

Novelist Madeleine Thien, is one of 70 writers featured in 50 Years of EVENT Magazine.

EVEN'T Celebrates 50th anniversary & 2022’s early crop of Spring fiction titles.

“...the record kicks off with the striking 22-minute opus, Durrutti: A Life in 8 Parts.”
— Adam White, Some Party (Polaris Music Prize Jurist)

I Knew I was a Rebel Then is a CD/chapbook by Horde of Two, a collaboration between guitarist/artist David Lester (Mecca Normal) and bassist/writer Wendy Atkinson, which is being released as a special project by Shrimper Records and Bamboo Dart Press.

The album: The musical centerpiece of the album is a cinematic and atmospheric 22-minute piece on the Spanish anti-fascist Durruti. Rebellion infiltrates the rest of the album through field recordings, finger snaps, stand-up bass, crazed laughter and a live one-handed guitar frenzy.

The Book: The 42-page chapbook contains two intertwined stories by Atkinson, “The Recording” and “The Runner,” which reflect on the nature of triumph, defeat and legacy. With illustrations by Lester, the book mirrors their musical collaboration by interweaving visual and text art.

Available digitally: Bandcamp: hordeoftwo.bandcamp.com For CD / chapbook, contact hordeoftwo@gmail.com

Shrimper Records / Bamboo Dart Press BDPSP002

Distribution by Revolver USA and Grapefruit.
An exchange between two feminist Muslim poets in Vancouver and Srinagar, Kashmir.

BY TREVOR CAROLAN

The City That Is Leaving Forever: Kashmiri Letters by Rahat Kurd and Sumayya Syed (Talon $19.95)

love from a place of despair

Syed reports on an Umrah pilgrimage to Mecca with her mother: the pair are outraged at the strict security within the holy sanctuary areas, prompting Syed to write of her “extreme disgust with patriarchy.” With pent-up anger of her own, Kurd responds from Canada in a poem asking, “could our acts of inspiration/be our true acts of rebellion?” To write upon the surfaces of our exclusion/until we carve a doorway in the air/...be our true acts of rebellion.” Few Canadian poets, and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme resistance.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme reaction.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme reaction.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme reaction.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme reaction.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme reaction.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme reaction.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme reaction.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme reaction.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme reaction.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme reaction.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a gun battle and extreme reaction.” Few Canadian readers however, will know of this rebel leader killed in a D 63 29 BC BOOKWORLD • SPRING 2022
A lonely teenage boy plans to produce his own Hindi movie and must encourage his friends to help.

Salman Khan lives with his parents in a four-room mansion on a large property with manicured lawns in the middle of a big North American city. It has an indoor pool, sauna, gym and a media room where Salman likes to entertain his friends. With a giant-screen TV, a calibrated surround-sound system, soft lighting, couches and cushions, it’s a fun place to hang out, especially with family and friends.

There is a man named Ramesh from Chennai, India who drives Salman around and cooks his meals. It seems a dream life that Mahtab Narsimhan has created in her new YA novel Project Bollywood... although there’s a ‘but’ coming... Salman is an only child and his parents are often away in business, leaving him alone with Ramesh for days at a time.

“This house had everything a person could want,” writes Narsimhan. “Except people to share it with.”

Salman Khan has the same name as a big Bollywood star and he tries to emulate this role model because he has a passion for Hindi movies. Salman even dreams of being a famous Bollywood celebrity himself one day. Fortunately, he recently met three friends at school who enjoy watching Hindi movies with him in his family’s media room. They include his best friend Jason as well as Maya and Arman. “If it weren’t for them, he’d be as invisible in school as he was at home,” writes Narsimhan.

After some behind-the-scenes social planning by Ramesh, the three friends drop what they are doing one evening when Salman is particularly lonely to join him to watch a recent Bollywood hit, Dabangg 3. As the name suggests, this is a gangster movie. Here author Narsimhan describes Indian movie plots were corny and made no sense,” she writes, adding of Salman’s friends “they watched all the new ones with him. They loved them for it.”

Narsimhan includes other information such as the fact that India produces the largest number of feature films in the world per year, not Hollywood as most North Americans likely presume.

Salman wants to make his own mini-Bollywood movie and has the camera, editing equipment and everything else needed to do the job. Remember, his parents are rich. They own several companies that manufacture IT security equipment. That’s why they travel so much and are frequently away from home.

Salman gets the opportunity to put his plan into action after his media arts teacher gives the class an assignment to create a group project. “First drafts are the hardest and I used to have a tough time starting every morning. Of late, I tend to plot out my story and it’s easier to write the first draft,” says Salmancharge ads, writes a script and plans the film shoot, working long hours into the night. He does all this before consulting his group. He is after all, an only child, self-centred and used to having his own way.

The inevitable happens. There’s pushback and his friends threaten to quit the project. With quiet counsel from the wise Ramesh, Salman realizes he must apologize and learn how to cooperate with his group. It’s not easy and there are setbacks and consequences to deal with along the way to gaining these important life lessons. But like the happy ending in a Bollywood movie, there is a positive resolution.

Without giving away too much of the plot, Narsimhan gives this novel surprising amounts of diversity. Not only does she shine a light on Hindi movies with specific references to current Bollywood titles and music, she describes Indian food (crispy dosa rolls, chicken tikka rolls and an alternative Thanksgiving dinner of Cornish hens with garam masala to go with spicy potatoes) and has her young film production group embrace LGBTQ themes.

Salman charges ahead, his best friend Jason, Maya and Arman. Not so lucky is a fifth person added to the group, Natalie Ming. Salman knew that name and it struck him for trouble.”

Turns out Natalie is independent, strong-minded and speaks her mind. Maya points out this isn’t such a bad thing, noting that Natalie stands up for herself. “Sometimes I wish I was as strong as she is,” says Maya.

Salman charges ahead, writes a script and plans the film shoot, working long hours into the night. He does all this before consulting his group. He is after all, an only child, self-centred and used to having his own way.

The inevitable happens. There’s pushback and his friends threaten to quit the project. With quiet counsel from the wise Ramesh, Salman realizes he must apologize and learn how to cooperate with his group. It’s not easy and there are setbacks and consequences to deal with along the way to gaining these important life lessons. But like the happy ending in a Bollywood movie, there is a positive resolution.

Without giving away too much of the plot, Narsimhan gives this novel surprising amounts of diversity. Not only does she shine a light on Hindi movies with specific references to current Bollywood titles and music, she describes Indian food (crispy dosa rolls, chicken tikka rolls and an alternative Thanksgiving dinner of Cornish hens with garam masala to go with spicy potatoes) and has her young film production group embrace LGBTQ themes.
Growing up in the Coquihalla Valley, Sydney Sunderland liked art, soccer and playing guitar. She expressed herself in a variety of ways: sometimes with short hair, fun colouful hair, long curly hair and many other styles. What was always central to whatever Sunderland did though, was being her true self despite the pressures to conform to stereotypes.

At the age of eighteen, Sunderland has written and illustrated I Am Everything In Between, a picture book for ages 4–8 years that celebrates children and how they gender identify. As the book’s back blurb notes, “It’s okay to feel like a girl, it’s okay to feel like a boy, and it’s okay to feel like Everything In Between.”

On the first page, Sunderland presents an illustrated BIPOC child with short spiky hair who adamantly declares “I am not a boy.” Then she describes herself as liking to wear shorts and t-shirts, running and playing basketball with friends and getting dirty (stereotypically boyish qualities).

“But I am not a boy, I am a girl,” she says.

The book’s second illustrated character also has short hair, identifies as not being a boy and says, “I like to play dress-up, and wear dresses, and put on jewelry.” She likes playing with her dog, has a crush on a boy and plans to grow her hair long. Then she reveals, “I was born a boy, but I am a girl.”

The third child in Sunderland’s book, unlike the first two, states, “I am not a girl.” He loves his short hair and also likes to do his makeup, paint his nails, wear skirts and also loves baseball. “But I am not a girl, I am a boy.”

All Sunderland’s characters break through major gender stereotypes including a child that shouts, “When I grow up, I want to be an astronaut. I am not just a boy, and I am not just a girl, I am both!”

The importance of self-empowerment is clear in one child’s expression outburst: “I am loved, I am happy … My gender does not define who I am!”

Sunderland reaches out to all children, including those who are still discovering themselves. “It’s OK to not know exactly who you are. You can be small and have BIG feelings,” she writes. “Whoever you are, and whoever you choose to be, know that you are … beautiful, brave, smart, and awesome!”

Sunderland graduated from Grade 12 in 2021, and moved to Kamloops in fall 2021 to begin post-secondary education at Thompson Rivers University on a soccer scholarship.
A IS FOR ÁVILA

Set in the back alleys and brothels of old Lisbon, Fado: The Saddest Music in the World (Talonbooks $16.95) is Portuguese Canadian playwright, Elaine Ávila’s new play. It tells the story of a young woman coming to terms with her country’s fascist past and her own identity. Part concert and part theatre, the play contains Fado songs, the national music of Portugal. Ávila’s plays are produced in Central America, Europe, the U.S., Australia and Canada. She is also the founder of the LEAP Playwriting Program at the Arts Club Theatre in Vancouver.

B IS FOR BUSHKOWSKY

Aaron Bushkowsky’s second novel Waterproof (Cormorant $24.95) is a black comedy about two men who lose their humanity and try to regain it in a plot to bankrupt their business because of a lawsuit. They pour all their company’s money into a movie about a plot to bankrupt their business be-cause of a lawsuit. They pour all their company’s money into a movie about their pathetic lives. Neither one realizes how much trouble their shenanigans bring, especially after a kayaker they fought a well-publicized turf war with the residents. This, combined with a rising crime rate, brought closer attention from the Vancouver police, including its vice squad as covered in Aaron Chapman’s fifth book about Vancouver’s nightlife and cultural underbelly, Vancouver Vice: Crime and Spectacle in the City’s West End (Arsenal Pulp $27.95). UBC assistant professor Dallas Hunt’s debut collection of poetry, Creeloland (Nightwood $18.95) plunges readers into the inner life of Indigenous people and their notions of home, as well as references to the ongoing destruction and violence of colonialism. In his poem ‘Cree Dictionary,’ Hunt writes “the translation for joy/ in Cree is a fried bologna sandwich” and “the Cree word for constellation/ is a saskatoon berry bush in summertime.” Hunt ends on a note of hope: “the Cree word for poetry is your four-year-old/ niece’s cracked lips spilling out/ broken syllables of neihiyawêwin between/ the gaps in her teeth.” Key to Dallas Hunt’s writing is that it is steeped in the Cree language.

C IS FOR CHAPMAN

Once home to Vancouver’s first upscale district, the West End morphed into a middle-class community for newcomers by the early 1900s when its wealthy residents began to move further east to Shaughnessy. By the late 1970s and early 1980s however, cultural changes were afoot across the city and crime crept into the area. Sex workers, both men and women, were common in the West End’s streets and their humanity and try to regain it in a plot to bankrupt their business because of a lawsuit. They pour all their company’s money into a movie about a plot to bankrupt their business because of a lawsuit. They pour all their company’s money into a movie about their pathetic lives. Neither one realizes how much trouble their shenanigans bring, especially after a kayaker they fought a well-publicized turf war with the residents. This, combined with a rising crime rate, brought closer attention from the Vancouver police, including its vice squad as covered in Aaron Chapman’s fifth book about Vancouver’s nightlife and cultural underbelly, Vancouver Vice: Crime and Spectacle in the City’s West End (Arsenal Pulp $27.95).

D IS FOR DALLAS

“One thing I do like, though, is that more people appear to be seeing Cree as a ‘living language,’ so I guess in the grand scheme of things, as long as people see our languages (and us) as alive, there really isn’t much more I could hope for.”

DALLAS HUNT

Christopher Evans portrays people that are trapped between reality and expectations: of who they think they are, who others think they are and who they want to be, in his debut collection of short stories Nothing Could Be Further from the Truth (House of Anansi $22.99). His publisher writes “Resignation and reinvention are always a breath apart,” and says that Evans’s characters have fallen short of their dreams, or never expected more. Christopher Evans is also an editor and teacher whose work has appeared in KEVEN, the Literary Review, and Best Canadian Poetry and has been shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize. He lives in Vancouver.

E IS FOR EVANS

A stepmother, father and biological mother worry about their daughter Greta, who leaves medical school to run off to Africa to work for Doctors Without Borders with a much older family friend, 88-year-old Rudy, in charity (Biblioasis $17.95). Keath Fraser’s first fiction in more than 16 years. The parents think all will be well when Greta returns home after Rudy dies, ending their March to December relationship, but Greta develops an eating disorder. Narrated by the stepmother, this novel is a meditation on goodness. Fraser won the Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel Award for Popular Anatomy (Porcupine’s Quill, 1995). His collection of stories, Foreign Affairs (Stoddart, 1985), was shortlisted for a Governor General’s Award for Fiction and won the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize in 1986.

E IS FOR FRASER

Christopher Evans portrays people that are trapped between reality and expectations: of who they think they are, who others think they are and who they want to be, in his debut collection of short stories Nothing Could Be Further from the Truth (House of Anansi $22.99). His publisher writes “Resignation and reinvention are always a breath apart,” and says that Evans’s characters have fallen short of their dreams, or never expected more. Christopher Evans is also an editor and teacher whose work has appeared in KEVEN, the Literary Review, and Best Canadian Poetry and has been shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize. He lives in Vancouver.

F IS FOR FRASER

Christopher Evans portrays people that are trapped between reality and expectations: of who they think they are, who others think they are and who they want to be, in his debut collection of short stories Nothing Could Be Further from the Truth (House of Anansi $22.99). His publisher writes “Resignation and reinvention are always a breath apart,” and says that Evans’s characters have fallen short of their dreams, or never expected more. Christopher Evans is also an editor and teacher whose work has appeared in KEVEN, the Literary Review, and Best Canadian Poetry and has been shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize. He lives in Vancouver.

F IS FOR FRASER

Christopher Evans portrays people that are trapped between reality and expectations: of who they think they are, who others think they are and who they want to be, in his debut collection of short stories Nothing Could Be Further from the Truth (House of Anansi $22.99). His publisher writes “Resignation and reinvention are always a breath apart,” and says that Evans’s characters have fallen short of their dreams, or never expected more. Christopher Evans is also an editor and teacher whose work has appeared in KEVEN, the Literary Review, and Best Canadian Poetry and has been shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize. He lives in Vancouver.

E IS FOR EVANS

Christopher Evans portrays people that are trapped between reality and expectations: of who they think they are, who others think they are and who they want to be, in his debut collection of short stories Nothing Could Be Further from the Truth (House of Anansi $22.99). His publisher writes “Resignation and reinvention are always a breath apart,” and says that Evans’s characters have fallen short of their dreams, or never expected more. Christopher Evans is also an editor and teacher whose work has appeared in KEVEN, the Literary Review, and Best Canadian Poetry and has been shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize. He lives in Vancouver.

F IS FOR FRASER

Christopher Evans portrays people that are trapped between reality and expectations: of who they think they are, who others think they are and who they want to be, in his debut collection of short stories Nothing Could Be Further from the Truth (House of Anansi $22.99). His publisher writes “Resignation and reinvention are always a breath apart,” and says that Evans’s characters have fallen short of their dreams, or never expected more. Christopher Evans is also an editor and teacher whose work has appeared in KEVEN, the Literary Review, and Best Canadian Poetry and has been shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize. He lives in Vancouver.

F IS FOR FRASER

Christopher Evans portrays people that are trapped between reality and expectations: of who they think they are, who others think they are and who they want to be, in his debut collection of short stories Nothing Could Be Further from the Truth (House of Anansi $22.99). His publisher writes “Resignation and reinvention are always a breath apart,” and says that Evans’s characters have fallen short of their dreams, or never expected more. Christopher Evans is also an editor and teacher whose work has appeared in KEVEN, the Literary Review, and Best Canadian Poetry and has been shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize. He lives in Vancouver.
G IS FOR GILBERT

Most visitors to Strathcona Provincial Park on Vancouver Island know it for the beauty of its mountains, lakes and waterfalls. In her second book, *A Journey Back to Nature: A History of Strathcona Provincial Park* (Heritage $24.95), Catherine Marie Gilbert shows that behind the breathtaking scenery lies a volatile history of competing interests that have struggled to protect and define the park over the past century—from Indigenous Peoples who have lived on the land for millennia, to European explorers and industrialists who could not see beyond the wealth of its natural resources, to early conservationists and enterprising settlers who wished to preserve the area as a wilderness playground for B.C.’s booming population. 9781772032358

H IS FOR HARRIS

Consumer culture and endless economic growth have been the prevailing paradigms for centuries. That must change if the current climate crisis is to be defeated, according to Michael Harris in *All We Want: Building the Life We Cannot Buy* (Doubladay $26). Harris offers a roadmap towards a more humane and healthier future involving three realms in which humans can find deeper meaning: the worlds of craft, the sublime and care. By embracing these principles, Harris argues we will have paradigms for centuries ahead. That must change if the current climate crisis is to be defeated, according to Michael Harris in *All We Want: Building the Life We Cannot Buy* (Doubladay $26). Harris offers a roadmap towards a more humane and healthier future involving three realms in which humans can find deeper meaning: the worlds of craft, the sublime and care. By embracing these principles, Harris argues we will have different outcomes than ever. To acknowledge both sides of this paradox is to enter a range of difficult decisions: should we take down government, or try to change it from the inside? Is it okay to compare the government, or try to change it from the inside? Is it okay to compare human suffering to climate change to Hitler? How do you tackle collective delusion? Should we erase. 9781772034679

I IS FOR ISA

A three-time winner at the Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards for her poetry, Isa Milman has written a memoir about her investigation into the lives of two Jewish sisters who grew up in interwar Poland, *Afterlight: In Search of Poetry, His-sisters who grew up in interwar Poland, looking for Basia’s vanished poems that she published at the age of fourteen. Milman delves into the complexities of what cultures choose to remember and what they erase. 9781772032365

J IS FOR JENKINS

UBC prof Carrie Jenkins’ *debut novel Victoria Sees It* (Strange Light/Penguin $24.95) is a mix of queer psychological thriller and gothic mystery. Raised by an aunt and uncle, Victoria leaves behind her English working-class background after she gets into Cambridge. Amidst all the rich ‘tufts’ Victoria is an outsider. When her one friend on campus, wealthy Deb goes missing, Victoria sets out to find her. She is helped by a police officer with whom she has an affair. They travel the English countryside investigating various crime sites but Deb is not found. Victoria graduates, moves to various other places to achieve academic success, eventually ending up in Seattle. 9780385695206

K IS FOR KOPECKY

In *The Environmentalist’s Dilemma: Promise and Peril in an Age of Climate Crisis* (ECW $24.95) Arno Kopecky zeroes in on a core predicament of our times: the planet may be dying, but humanity’s doing better than ever. To acknowledge both sides of this paradox is to enter a range of difficult decisions: should we take down the government, or try to change it from the inside? Is it okay to compare climate change to Hitler? How do you tackle collective delusion? Should we erase. 9781772034679

Catherine Marie Gilbert

Michael Harris

Isa Milman

Carrie Jenkins

Arno Kopecky
A girl and her beloved abuelita lean on each other as they contend with racist attitudes around them.

* Junior Library Guild
* Gold Standard Selection

Ages 4–7
978-1-77321-610-2 HC

Ages 11–14
978-1-77321-629-4 PB
978-1-77321-630-0 HC

Indigenomics: Taking a Seat at the Economic Table by Carol Anne Hilton
(Heritage House $9.95)

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 policymakers, and economists.

Indigenomics • Heroines • History • Memoir

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 To-fino. 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 continue to defend its wilderness from the clear-cut saw.

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 Syvka Stark, who had been born into slavery in the U.S. These are a few of the women at the center of this collection of true stories about sixteen unsung heroes of the West Coast.

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, Michael 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.

JOIN US
April 29th - May 1st, 2022
The Sorrento Centre
Sorrento, BC

Sessions include both skill development workshops and open forums with presenters based on questions and answers in a relaxed and intimate setting.

Expect to be encouraged, informed and thoroughly entertained.

Check website for updates

Humphrey Sweatman Award 2022

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

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

Thought provoking books available on

BC Ferries

Selected by BC BookWorld
WHO’S WHO

L IS FOR LAMBERT

At the start of World War Two, a young German Canadian girl, Eva, living in the Okanagan, gets a new friend when Wanda, a child refugee from the London blitz moves to her town. Eva fears Wanda will abandon her when she learns Eva’s family has been branded as German enemy aliens. Barbara Lambert’s novella, Wanda (Fish Gotta Swim $20) takes place during a time when B.C.’s interior towns were ripe with prejudices. The story focuses on Eva as she grapples with the realities of guilt, innocence, shame and love for her family.

9780978005474

M IS FOR MINTZ

The subject of Sarah Mintz’s debut short fiction collection, Handwringers (Radiant Press $20) is her “mediated Jewish identity,” she says, referring to how Jewish culture is portrayed in popular media. The stories are as short as a few sentences and the longest is less than five pages. Mintz uses the ‘schemele’—a figure in Jewish folklore who is unlucky and inept—as a guiding concept. Having grown up in various places such as Goose Bay (NL), Montreal, Greenwood, Courtenay, and Vancouver, Mintz now calls Victoria home.

9781989274477

N IS FOR NYBO

Kelowna-based Darcy Nybo’s novel, Reluctant Angel (Artistic Warrior Publishing $24) is about a woman, Ana and her quirky guardian angel. There are plenty of twists and turns as Ana and her quirky guardian angels maneuver the space between this world and theirs.

9781989207720

O IS FOR OLRUNTOBA

Tolu Olunruntoba won the 2021 Governor General’s Award for Poetry for his first full-length collection of poems, The Junta of Happenstance (Pa-limpsest $19.95) that focuses on the juxtaposition of disease and dis-ease, the immigrant experience and social injustices. Olunruntoba’s poetry has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and his debut chapbook, Manuhrin (An-struther, 2019) was a bpNichol Chap-

9781989202779

P IS FOR PEARCE

Author of ten kidlit novels, Jacqueline Pearce has written her first non-fiction title, What Animals Want (Orca $24.95) for ages 8-12. She explores the physical and emotional needs of animals focusing on pets, farm and zoo animals, as well as rescued wildlife and human impacts on habitat and climate. Written in consultation with the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the book is illustrated with photographs and drawings by Julie McLaughlin. Pearce has also edited a collection of contemporary haiku and related poetry this year: Last Train Home: haiku, tanka, and rengay (Pondhawk Press $24) about train and travel that features poets from 22 different countries.

978-1459825659

Q IS FOR QUEASY

As if teen years aren’t difficult enough, Madeline Sonik’s novel, Reluctant Angel (Fish Gotta Swim $20) follows the instructions of her guides and turns as Ana who learns she is a superhuman being. At the start of World War Two, a young German Canadian girl, Eva, living in the Okanagan, gets a new friend when Wanda, a child refugee from the London blitz moves to her town. Eva fears Wanda will abandon her when she learns Eva’s family has been branded as German enemy aliens. Barbara Lambert’s novella, Wanda (Fish Gotta Swim $20) takes place during a time when B.C.’s interior towns were ripe with prejudices. The story focuses on Eva as she grapples with the realities of guilt, innocence, shame and love for her family.

9781989274477

R IS FOR RESTAKIS

Former executive director of the B.C. Co-operative Association, John Restakis has written Civi-lizing the State: Reclaiming Politics for the Common Good (New Society $19.99) chronicling the history of the liberal state from enabler of capitalism to protector of citizen welfare, to its hollowing out and capture by corporate and moneyed interests. He argues that in its current state, the liberal state is in need to deal with contemporary crises of inequality, injustice and ecological collapse. He then explores citizen-powered alterna-tives and experiments in co-operation, solidarity economics and ‘commoning’ from Spain, India, and the global peas-ant movement. Finally, Restakis looks at the opportunity to reimagine the state as a ‘partner state’ that promotes equity, economic democracy and hu-man thriving—a fully sovereign civil society.

9781772141894

S IS FOR SELLARS

In 2014, Willis Sellers, chief of the Williams Lake First Nation made a publishing splash with his e-chlidit novel, Dipnetting with Dad (Caitlin $16.95) about a boy nicknamed Little Brother who learns the importance of his culture and family. It won a Moonbeam Children’s Book Award, and was shortlisted for the Chocolate Lily, Shining Willow and Ontario Library Association awards. In the follow-up, Hockey with Dad (Caitlin $19.95) Little Brother’s adventures continue as he grows and learns about the impor-tance of hockey to his Secwépemc community. In one particularly important hockey match, the team goalie gets sick and Little Brother and his Big Sister must rely on the wisdom of Grandpa, Dad and Secwépemc cultural values to overcome big challenges. Both books are illustrated by Kevin Easthope, also of Williams Lake.

9781940208190

BRITISH COLUMBIA

McLaughlin. Pearce has also edited a collection of contemporary haiku and related poetry this year: Last Train Home: haiku, tanka, and rengay (Pondhawk Press $24) about train and travel that features poets from 22 different countries. 978-1459825659

John Restakis

9781772141894

Willie Sellar

Jacqueline Pearce

Madeline Sonik

Tolu Olunruntoba

Sarah Mintz

Barbara Lambert

Darcy Nybo

9781989207720
**T IS FOR TEDFORD**

Starting a business is stressful. Combine that with chronic pain and the challenges ramp up even more for would-be entrepreneurs. Alison Tedford experienced both when she left a full-time job to set up a small business venture. An Indigenous woman based in Abbotsford, Tedford writes that she was attracted by the ability to "pick and choose which projects I worked on, how much I would be paid for them, and I could make decisions as the head of my own entity that would position me for success, my definition of success."

Tedford suffered from chronic pain, yet despite this she succeed-ed, which she describes in *Chronic Profit: Building Your Small Business While Managing Persistent Pain* (Self-Counsel Press $26.95) along with business-building strategies and proven methods for maintaining personal health. 9781770403321

**U IS FOR UNNA**

Unna, an 18-year-old female orca born in captivity, starved to death in 2015 at SeaWorld San Antonio according to Nicholas Read in *A Home Away from Home: True Stories of Wild Animal Sanctuaries* (Heritage $19.95). "History has taught us that keeping an orca in captivity can be full of hazards—some of them deadly," writes Read. These animals usually can't be safely released back into the wild, but sanctuaries are the next best thing says Read, who describes the advent of whale sanctuaries in Britain and Ireland as well as many other kinds of sanctuaries (for monkeys, apes, elephants and many other kinds of sanctuaries are the next best thing says Read, who describes the advent of whale sanctuaries in Britain and Ireland as well as many other kinds of sanctuaries (for monkeys, apes, elephants and even many other kinds of sanctuaries for wildlife such as hiking in B.C., walking Spain's Camino de Santiago, the Yangtze River in China, as well as personal feelings of loss, death and hope. She references two ancient Chinese poets, Li Po and Li Qing Zhao, both of whom were exiles. Wong lived in Vancouver's Chinatown with her family from the 1950s to the early 1960s and now lives in Burnaby. 9781773240862

**V IS FOR VIGNA**

John Vigna’s second novel *No Man’s Land* (Arsenal $22.95) is set in the late 1890’s in B.C.’s wilderness. Fourteen-year-old Davey is being raised by a group of eccentric hostile misfits who rescued her from a bloody battlefield. Together they roam the countryside led by Reverend Brown, a charismatic false prophet. There’s violence but this is true of much of the province’s history. Vigna takes a long hard look at this legacy of violence, its senseless destructiveness and the fearlessness dignity required to rise above it. His first novel, *Bull Head* (Arsenal, 2012) was re-published in 2017 in France by Editions Albin Michel and in the same year, Vigna was named one of 10 writers to watch by CBC Books. Vigna is an assistant professor at UBC’s School of Creative Writing. 9781551528663

**W IS FOR WONG**

A life-changing time in Caroline Wong’s life occurred in her early teens when her family moved from Southern China to Canada. It led her to write poems and stories following the interior journeys of a transplanted woman. In her collection of poetry, *Primal* (Greystone $32.95) due out in May. Wong writes of actual journeys such as hiking in B.C., walking Spain’s Camino de Santiago, the Yangtze River in China, as well as personal feelings of loss, death and hope. She references two ancient Chinese poets, Li Po and Li Qing Zhao, both of whom were exiles. Wong lived in Vancouver’s Chinatown with her family from the 1950s to the early 1960s and now lives in Burnaby. 9781773240862

**X IS FOR EXIT**

After five years as executive director of the Association of Book Publishers of B.C. Heidi Waechter is leaving for another, yet undisclosed position in B.C. publishing. "Heidi was instrumental in all facets of the operation of the ABPBC, from developing strong and lasting relationships with government, to implementing successful new marketing initiatives and engaging directly with members," says Andrew Wooldridge, ABPBC board chair and publisher of Orca Books Canada. "The pandemic has meant we needed to adapt to a changing landscape and Heidi helped lead the membership through uncertain times. And while we will definitely miss her, the association is in great shape and well-positioned for the future." Waechter’s past jobs included a stint as managing editor of Toronto-based Coach House Books.

**Y IS FOR YAHGULANAAHS**

Celebrated Haida artist, Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas has provided illustrations for a 30th anniversary edition of The Declaration of Independence: A Pledge to Planet Earth (Greystone $20) by Tara Cullis and David Suzuki with Raffi Cavoukian, Jade Davis and Gunjaw. This call to action was composed by David Suzuki and a team of activists in anticipation of the United Nations’ Earth Summit in 1992. Suzuki contributes an inspiring essay of hope and Cullis an informative afterword. 9781778400049

**Z IS FOR ZAZIE**

Social psychologist and certified dog trainer, Zazie Todd has followed up on her book *Wag: The Science of Making Your Dog Happy* (Greystone, 2020) with the cat companion advice book *Purr: The Science of Making Your Cat Happy* (Greystone $32.95) due out in May. Todd covers the science behind pets’ petting preferences; the multiple meanings of purrs, chirrups, and meows; how to best satisfy the scratching and stalking desires for indoor cats; and even how to keep both cats and wildlife safe if felines spend time outside. Todd writes a column for Psychology Today. She has a Ph.D in psychology (U. of Nottingham) and an MFA in creative writing (UBC).
Advertise your services, contests, bookstore, festival, events, special sales, and online deals in BC BookWorld and reach 100,000 readers.

bookworld@telus.net
604-736-4011

Subscribe to BC BookWorld

Name: .................................................
Apt / Box: ...........................................
Street: ................................................
City: ...................................................
Prov: ..................................................
Postal Code: ......................................

Just $25 to receive the next 4 issues delivered to your door:
• mail a cheque
• E-transfer
• PayPal

Remember to include your mailing address.

REPLY TO: BC BookWorld, P.O. Box 93536
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4L7 Canada • bookworld@telus.net
www.bcbookworld.com

Connect with Marquis, a customer-focused and cost-efficient option for all of your book manufacturing needs under one roof.

• Personalized customer support from our dedicated team of printing experts
• One of the largest offset and inkjet book production capacities in North America

www.prinitoriumbookworks.com

Island Blue Print
PRINTORIUM BOOKWORKS

BOOK PRINTING

Quotes: repro@islandblue.com
Locally Grown, Community Known.

BC’s Book Printing Experts since 1912
Books • Bookmarks • Business Cards • Postcards • Posters

FIRST NATIONS BOOKS
ANNUALS
TRAVEL BOOKS
GRAPHIC NOVELS
COLOURING BOOKS

FICTION
NON-FICTION
POETRY
MEMOIRS
CHILDREN’S BOOKS

CONTACT US FOR A QUOTE
marquisbook.com

Self-Publish.ca

All you need to know about self-publishing

Call for a free consultation
604-929-1725
info@self-publish.ca
The Vancouver Desktop Publishing Centre
4360 Raeburn Street
North Vancouver, BC

HELPING SELF-PUBLISHERS SINCE 1986
Art and shaking

Thank you so much for including What’s Not Allowed? A Family Journey with Autism in BC BookWorld [Winter 2021]. I’m thrilled and honoured to be included.

I’ve been reading through the magazine this morning and it truly is a work of art and heart ... so creatively assembled, engaging and pleasing to the eye. Love the abundance of visuals, the striking cut-outs and the beautifully written reviews. I’m always drawn to creative layouts and this one is especially pleasing. The entire publication draws you in and keeps you turning. I was told how good it is by a fellow writer and now I see that for myself.

I’m still in the midst of savouring the publication, but I wanted to take a moment to thank you and also to commend you on producing such a first-class publication. We are fortunate to have you here in B.C.

Teresa Hedley
Comox

Moving and shaking

I’ve just renewed my subscription and I’m looking forward to the next two years of reading all the moving and shaking going on in the B.C. writing and publishing world. Thanks!

Anne DeGrace
Bonnington

Win, win, win

I love getting BC BookWorld. As a campus librarian at a college, I order books for the college and for myself, through my local bookstore. It’s a win, win, win.... Love you folks. Thank you.

Taryn Schmidt
Sorrento

Letters may be edited for clarity & length.

Send letters or emails to: BC BookWorld, P.O. Box 93536, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4L7
bookworld@telus.net

Quickies

Annick Press...34
Anvil Press...16
Banyen Books...39
Caitlin Press...14
Douglas & Mcintyre...2
EVENT Magazine...18
Friesens Printers...37
Galileo Island Books...39
Granville Island Publishing...26
Harbour Publishing...40

Heritage Group of Publishers...6
Keeler...33
University of Toronto Press...24

Tangletown Books...39
Tanner’s Books...39

People’s Co-Op Books...39
Printtorm/Island Blue...37
Rebel Mountain...33
Ronsdale Press...23
Royal BC Museum...26
Self-Counsel Press...25
SFU Writers Studio...18
Signature Editions...36
Stray Feathers Press...33
SubTerrain/LUSH...16
Talonbooks...23, 26
Tidewater Books...27

To advertise call 604-736-4011 or email bookworld@telus.net

The revered co-owner and publisher at Ronsdale Press, UBC professor emeritus Ron Hatch, died peacefully, with his family at his side, on November 25, 2021. Ron and Veronica Hatch purchased CanacanadaPress in 1988 with the intention of publishing books that would give Canadians new insights into themselves and their country. Ron and “Rowny” soon renamed their imprint Ronsdale Press (thereby incorporating her maiden name, Lonsdale). More than 300 titles later, Hatch has left an indelible impact of his topnotch editorial standards. He will also be remembered as a teacher, mentor, mountain climber and environmentalist. Hatch excelled at nurturing the best out of his writers, co-workers and colleagues.

Louise Jilek-Aall (1931 – 2021)

The physician and psychiatrist Louise Jilek-Aall, author of two books, died on January 4, 2022. In 1999, Jilek-Aall worked for three years as a physi- cian in Tanganyika (now Tanzania). In the Ulanga district she discovered many people who suffered from a convulsive disorder, called Khila. To help, Jilek-Aall founded the Mahenge Epilepsy Clinic in 1960 that continues to function in Tanzania. In 1961, she arrived unannounced at Dr. Albert Schweitzer’s jungle hospital in Gabon, writing about it later in her memoir, Working with Dr. Schweitzer: Sharing his Reverence for Life (1990). “In my work,” she writes, “I am keenly interested in people who are role models and who serve as ego-ideals, espe- cially for the young; but only a very few appear to be worthwhile models.” A biography of Jilek-Aall, written by Alan Twigg was published in 2019, Moon Madness: Dr. Louise Aall, Sixty Years of Healing in Africa (Ronald).
Tanglewood Books, located in a heritage building at 2306 West Broadway on the corner of Vine Street, is an Aladdin’s cave of new and used books. We can get your special orders to you within 4 business days, we have a popular and unusual DVD collection, as well as some rare vinyl thrown into the mix.

OPENING HOURS:
Mon to Sat: 10am to 6pm
Sun: 12pm to 6pm

Tel: 604-736-8876
Tanglewoodbooks.ca

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.”
- Enid Bacherwald

Every child can love reading, they just need the right story to spark their passion. From board books and Early Readers to YA and graphic novels, we have a room full of carefully-selected titles. Start their story in The Children’s Bookshop at Tanner’s Books.

We are open for customer browsing
9am to 5pm, seven days a week
Whilst we’ve taken safety measures to protect our staff and customers we encourage browsing and ordering through our website, tannersbooks.com. Millions of titles are searchable and available to order 24 hours a day.

TANNER’S BOOKS
at Beacon & Fourth in Sidney · open 7 days a week
250 656 2345 · tannersbooks.com
Only 10 minutes from the Swartz Bay ferry terminal

Advertise your services, contests, bookstore, festival, events, special sales, and online deals in BC BookWorld and reach 100,000 readers.

bookworld@telus.net
604-736-4011

BC BOOKWORLD