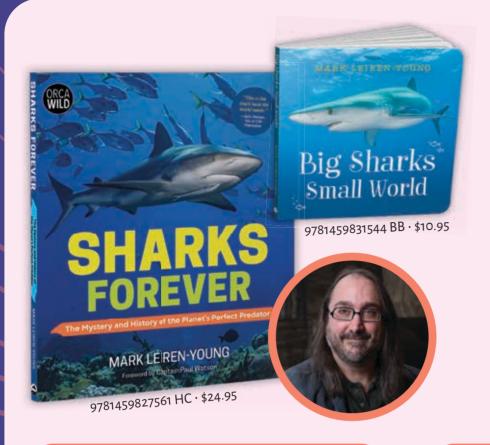
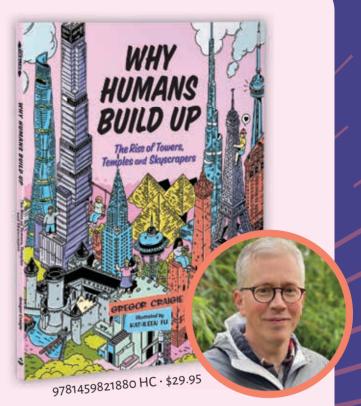


MEET THE AUTHOR!





Award-winning author and activist **MARK LEIREN-YOUNG**

You have books about sharks for different age groups coming this fall—*Big Sharks*, *Small World* for babies and *Sharks Forever* for middle graders. In your research for these books, is there something *you* learned that you were surprised by, or that you think everyone just *has to* know?

I can't stress this enough—sharks are so much less likely to bite you than humans. More people are killed by camels, cows or kangaroos than are killed by sharks. Sharks almost never bite humans—but every time they do, the media covers the story like it's a nuclear level threat or a Royal wedding.

What are a couple of ways that people can help sharks on a daily basis?

Sharks are threatened by pollution and climate change—just like we are. And we know what we have to do about these threats. But also make sure the cat food and cosmetics you buy don't contain shark.

If you were a shark which one would you be and why? Working on the book I fell in love with whale sharks—one of the most beautiful animals on earth—but we know that lemon sharks have friends. So, I'd want to be a lemon shark.

CBC Radio host, GREGOR CRAIGIE

Why Humans Build Up is a nonfiction title for middle grade readers all about buildings and why we build them so high. What made you want to explore this topic? I wrote this book after answering countless questions about skyscrapers from my three sons. Eventually, my

about skyscrapers from my three sons. Eventually, my youngest son asked me why the Burj Khalifa was so tall. I thought that was a great question.

What's one cool and unexpected fact that you learned while researching this book?

Biomimicry! I was surprised by how much the natural world has influenced architects and engineers in their designs. For instance, the Eastgate Centre Building in Harare, Zimbabwe uses a natural cooling design that's based on giant termite mounds, which uses only 10-percent of the electricity of similar buildings.

If you were a building, which one would you be and why?

The CIS Tower in Manchester, England. To be honest, the 25-story tower isn't much to look at. What is remarkable, however, is how the CIS Tower has adapted with the times, and I'd like to think that I'm trying to do the same thing, especially when it comes to leading a more environmentally-sustainable lifestyle.



Christian Guay-Poliquin

Falling Shadows (Talonbooks \$19.95)

Nancy Dyson & Dan Rubenstein

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

Collin Varner

Invasive Flora of the West Coast: British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest (Heritage House \$24.95)

Colleen MacDonald

Let's Go Biking: Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands, Sunshine Coast (Sandhill Book Marketing \$22.95)

Kim Spencer

Weird Rules to Follow (Orca \$12.95)

Alison Tedford

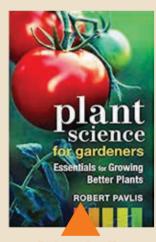
Stay Woke, Not Broke: **Protect Your Brand in Today's Business Climate** (Self-Counsel Press \$29.95)

Marie Annharte Baker

Miskwagoode (New Star \$16)

Phillip & April Vannini with **Autumn Vaninni**

In the Name of Wild: One Family, Five Years, Ten Countries, and a **New Vision of Wildness** (UBC Press \$24.95)



Plant Science for Gardeners: Essentials for Growing Better Plants (New Society \$22.99)

Michael Blouin

I Am Billy the Kid (Anvil Press \$24.95)

Deadly Neighbours: A Tale of Colonialism, Cattle Feuds, Murder and Vigilantes in the Far West (Caitlin \$26)

Gary J. Smith

Ice War Diplomat: Hockey Meets Cold War Politics at the 1972 Summit Series (D&M \$26.95)

Grant Lawrence

Return to Solitude: More Desolation Sound Adventures (Harbour \$26.95)

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



Hogan's Alley

Chelene Knight re-imagines Vancouver's Black neighbourhood, demolished 50 years ago.

enowned Vancouver artist Stan Douglas set part of his theatrical play project, Helen Lawrence (2014) in it. Carole Itter and Daphne Marlatt included five Black Vancouverites from the neighbourhood—including Jimi Hendrix's grandmother Nora—in their landmark oral history, Opening Doors: In Vancouver's East End: Strathcona (BC Archives, 1979/1980/Harbour, 2001). Now Chelene Knight re-imagines the distinctly Black neighbourhood in her debut novel Junie, (Book*hug \$23).

The protagonist, Junie, moves to the community in 1933 with her struggling single mother, who has big dreams of becoming a professional Jazz singer. Located off Main Street close to the railway terminal where Black men got work as train porters catering to white travellers, Hogan's Alley had Black-run businesses and a Black Church. As soon as she gets there, Junie feels at home. "It was like she was in the midst of some big family gathering where everyone had something to shout out from across the room," writes Knight, who chose to focus on the good times, not the destruction of Hogan's Alley. Knight says that she wanted "to bring back a small moment in time where everything was

Papa & Kitten

Il six feet of the famous writer and Nobel

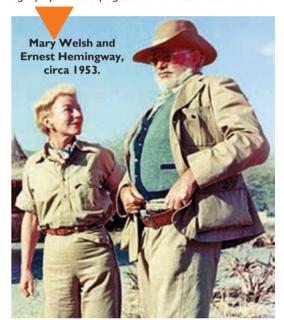
Prize-winner, Ernest Hemingway towered over the five-foot-threeinch, one-hundred-and-twenty-pound figure of his fourth wife, Mary Welsh. He called her Kitten, and she called him Papathe nickname he gave himself when he was just 27, used by even his older friends. Even though their marriage was stormy, Welsh proved to be crucial to Hemingway's writing in the last sixteen years of his life. Timothy Christian, who lives on Vancouver Island's Saanich Inlet, has researched and written Hemingway's Widow: The Life and Legacy of Mary Welsh Hemingway (Dundurn \$42.95) about the former WWII correspondent,

"This is the Hemingway book we've all been waiting for," says Professor H.R. Stoneback, (past) president of The Ernest Hemingway Foundation and Society. Reading like a novel, Christian's depth of research is evident in the 6-page bibliography and 50 pages of endnotes. 9781459750548

who smoked, drank gin, and sang Edit Piaf songs

and managed Hemingway's literary legacy after he

committed suicide in 1961.



Settlers and **state** schools

he location of hundreds of unmarked graves at former Indian Residential Schools in BC has led to a growing recognition of the dark legacy of these institutions for Indigenous peoples. At the same time, the province's other public schools were working to reinforce class systems that favoured European settlers. Historian and teacher Sean Carelton's Lessons in Legitimacy: Colonialism, Capi-

talism, and the Rise of State Schooling in British Columbia (UBC Press \$89.95) delves into the role of all state schools—public schools as well as Indian Day Schools and Indian Residential Schools—to impose the inequitable ways of the province's colonizers.

"Schooling for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth functioned in distinct yet complementary ways; teaching students

lessons in legitimacy that normalized settler capitalism and the making of British Columbia," states publicity for the book. 9780774868075

Sean Carelton



in full bloom."

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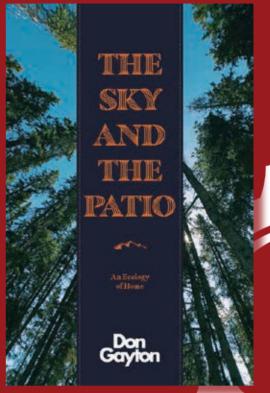


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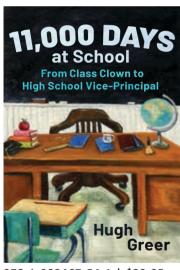


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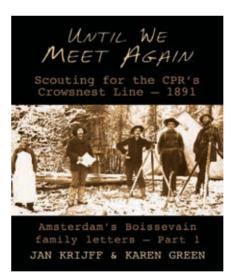
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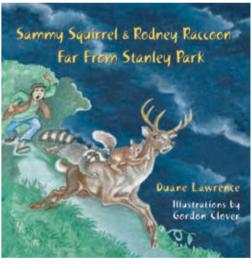
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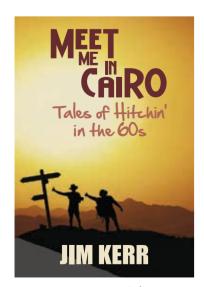
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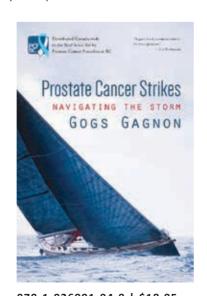
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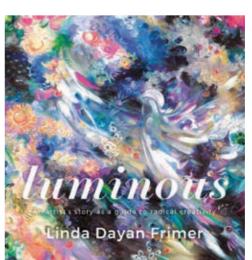
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PEOPLE

John Willcock at the end of another long day of work logging, circa 1960.

Paradise in a logging

ancouver-raised **Kathryn Willcock** grew up in the 1960s spending summers in remote logging camps on BC's coast where her father lived and worked nine months of the year.

When asked where she went every summer, Willcock's

usual reply was "Up the coast." The catch-all name never elicited further questions, she says, "because, for most people,

'up the coast' was a vague place somewhere north of Vancouver, with endless forests, a rugged coastline, and not much else."

But it was magic to Kathryn and her sisters as they were set loose to play in the wilderness despite their mother keeping a rifle next to the wood stove and their logger father risking his life every day. Willcock describes it all in her memoir, **Up** the Coast: One Family's Wild Life in the Forests of British Columbia (NeWest \$24.95). "There was no point in trying to explain that my father's logging camp was situated on the shores of one of the most spectacular fjords in the world. I loved going there for the freedom and the beauty, and sitting around the kitchen table at night with my family, telling stories by the light of a kerosene lamp." 9781774390511





here were several times in the 1800s when what is now known as British Columbia could easily have slipped into the control of the United States. BC would have become a state and not a province. With the availability of newly accessible private correspondence exchanged with the Colonial Office in London, the indefatigable historian, Jean Barman provides new insights

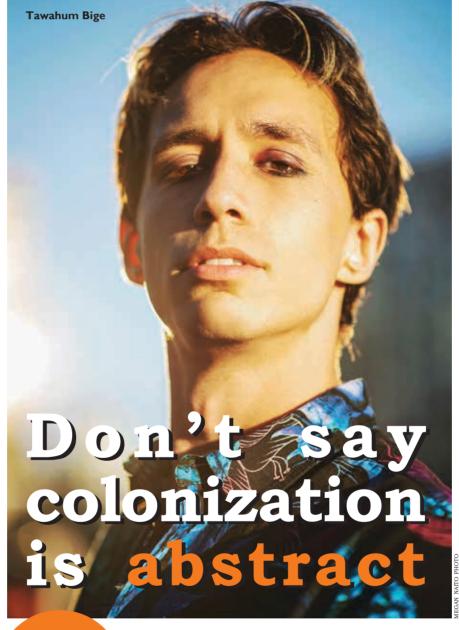


Jean Barman

into these precarious times in **British Columbia in the Balance: 1846-1871** (Harbour \$36.95) and describes the area's transformation from a largely Indigenous territory into a province of the recently formed Canada Confederation.

Several major events kept the land within Britain's administration: the 1846 treaty that established the 49th parallel boundary between the US and the land Britain claimed; the formation of the Colony of British Columbia in 1858 (Vancouver Island was its own colony as of 1849) when 30,000 American gold seekers threatened to take over the mainland territory; and, in the mid-1860s, when the gold rush petered out, leaving the two colonies burdened with such massive public debts that they merged into one colony under the name of British Columbia with Victoria as its capital.

After much political wrangling, and agreements to assume the Colony of BC's debts and build a transportation connection to the eastern parts of Canada, BC became the sixth Canadian province on July 20, 1871. 978550179880



aving performed at festivals—such as the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word and the Talking Stick Festival—and at over 50 venues from Victoria to Toronto, been published in more than a dozen journals and magazines and in an anthology, and self-published three chapbooks, **Tawahum Bige** has finally released their debut collection of poetry, **Cut to Fortress** (Nightwood \$19.95).

These poems course with anguish and rage as Bige confronts colonialism and family relationships disrupted by trauma. When a writing professor says the use of 'colonization' in a poem is too abstract, Bige replies: "Colonization is a two-man saw:/a signed-in-blood, written-in-English/contract atop a forest cut to stumps/... Colonization is our burned anthologies,/silenced oral histories over millennia/replaced with intergenerational trauma/... he was in foster care from fifteen-/a groan/ and from three stories up/Life-Tree creaks and...thud./ Colonization is a signed-in-blood, written-in-English/ coroner's report, denoting/ Accidental fall/undetermined./... It's this lived experience/constantly called into question/and a writing professor/who calls colonization/too abstract."

Based in Vancouver, Bige is Łutselk'e Dene and Plains Cree, holds a BA in creative writing from Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and self-describes as a "two-spirit, non-binary sadboy on occupied Turtle Island." 97800889714168

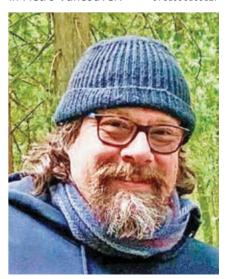
Villains & VICTIMS

n Joseph Kakwinokanasum's debut novel, My Indian Summer (Tidewater \$22.95), it's 1979 in the little town of Red Rock, twelve miles out of Dawson Creek, and twelve-year-old Hunter Frank is struggling to stay clear of his violent, alcoholic mother, Margarette and older brother, Noah. His sister Deb, who protected him, has run away to Vancouver.

"Keep clear of mom and Noah," Deb tells Hunter before she boards the Greyhound bus. "Do your chores. Save as much money as you can, and make a plan to leave, like I did. Okay?"

Hunter returns bottles and hunts small game to sell to three elders for cash. Then he finds an abandoned bag stuffed with cash and illegal marijuana. Will Hunter escape the dangerous drug dealer who is looking for him with a loaded gun? And will he forgive his mother who is a residential school survivor?

Joseph Kakwinokanasum is of Cree and Austrian descent and grew up in BC's Peace region, one of seven children raised by a single mother. In 2022, he was selected by Governor General winner **Darrel J. McLeod** as one of the Writers' Trust of Canada's "Rising Stars." Kakwinokanasum lives in Metro Vancouver.



Joseph Kakwinokanasum

COVER REVIEW

An Indigenous girl navigates prejudice in 1980s Prince Rupert in **Kim Spencer**'s novel, Weird Rules to Follow.

Weird Rules to Follow by Kim Spencer (Orca Book Publishers \$12.95)

BY ERIN F. CHAN

leven-year-old Mia is well aware that her tears are different from "white tears," that "Native girls don't cry like the white girls do." She's amazed at how readily white girls can cry in public-and about such trivial things, too. Having already experienced many painful things in her life, Mia doesn't get upset easily, and she knows that her tears wouldn't be received in the same way anyway: "White tears get a lot of sympathy and attention. They are like show-and-tell tears. Our tears, the few that are shed, seem to make people uncomfortable."

This phenomenon is but one of the many implicit "rules" that shape Mia's life in Kim Spencer's debut novel, Weird Rules to Follow, which is based on her childhood experiences growing up in Prince Rupert in the 1980s. Spencer, who is from the Ts'msyen Nation in northwest BC, reveals her lived experience through the book's protagonist, Mia, who deals with prejudice from a young age while navigating friendships, family and school in the small coastal town. The novel is middle reader fiction, but the charged coming-of-age story will also resonate with older YA readers and adults, too.

Central to Mia's story is her relationship with her best friend, Lara, who is non-Indigenous. Having grown up in the same cul-de-sac, Mia and Lara don't remember the time before they were neighbours and then friends. Lara lives in one of the nicest houses on the street-which has many rooms and appliances, a view of the mountains and ocean, and two cars parked in the driveway—with her nuclear family. Mia lives in a run-down wartime house—which has "original everything, at a time when original has no value," a view of a retaining wall, and no car parked out front-with her churchgoing grandmother, her binge-drinking mother and a revolving cast of extended family members. The two friends mostly hang out at Lara's house, seemingly because Lara's mother is strict about her daughter visiting other people's homes. Mia doesn't mind, though, as Lara's home gives Mia a break from her homelife: "Lara and I never get bored when we hang out. ... I forget about things like my mom's drinking, or that there are so many people living in our house with us. Lara's home is like an escape—well for me anyway."

Although the differences between Mia and Lara had never seemed to matter before, they begin to overshadow their friendship in a way that feels inevitable—as Mia becomes increasingly aware of how the adults in their lives treat her differently because she's Indigenous.

Weird Rules to Follow is an anecdotal history of life for young Indigenous girls in a very specific time and place. But the book's themes of glaring discrimination that Mia and other adolescent characters face, and are deeply affected by, offer representation and understanding for readers today who

UNSPOKEN

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT



face similar issues (and an opportunity to learn and empathize for readers who don't). The novel also exemplifies many aspects of Indigenous history, particularly residential schools, in an effective, personal way that will impart some of the lasting, multi-generational impacts and continued realities and injustices. Spencer explains that, in addition to using outdated terminology and names that were common at the time (such as *Native* and *Indian*), her framing of residential schools reflects the fact that such atrocities "were not openly talked about or widely discussed back then."

The novel is a series of scenes from Mia's childhood, presented as episodic chapters told through Mia's first-person perspective. Spencer's writing style captures an authentic youthful voice while tackling challenging themes and topics—emphasizing not only how well kids understand prejudice and inequality but also how related anxieties, shame, and belittling experiences can control a kid's life and influence the construction of their identity.

In one scene, a Coast Salish dance group performs during a large assembly at Mia's school. When one of the A young Kim Spencer missing her front teeth. <u>K'as'</u>waan, or "toothless," in Ts'msyen, as Spencer explains. In the novel, Mia loses a tooth while on a family trip in Terrace and hopes that the tooth fairy will be able to find her at the hotel. She wakes up to a \$20 bill under her pillow.

dancers addresses the audience and asks the Indigenous students to identify themselves, Mia doesn't raise her hand. "I'm too embarrassed to raise my hand. But I feel equally ashamed for not raising it," Spencer writes. "I admire the Native students who put their hands up. They seem so comfortable with themselves. I can't imagine feeling that way. The speaker continues, It's nice to see so many of you in the audience. Always be proud of who you are, be proud of being Native Indian.' I feel even worse. Like I need some Pepto-Bismol." It's a learned shame, just one of the many weird rules that Mia knows, implicitly, to follow.

Despite all the painful things Mia experiences in her young life and all the rules that shape it, Spencer earnestly highlights the good things in Mia's life, too: distinct moments of friendship and solidarity; youthful fun times; cultural practices and the importance of community and elders; and above all, a family's deep love and best efforts to protect and provide a good life for their kids-even if, as a rule, it's left unspoken. Mia knows being made to feel special is its own kind of love, as in a scene where her uncle gives her cousin Sherrie money he won from playing pool because the song "Oh Sherrie" was playing: "My cousin beams in her father's embrace. Not just about the twenty dollars, which would make anyone happy, but because he'd made her feel special. I'm just a kid and

Weird Rules to Follow delivers on its title, as Spencer explores how kids understand the kinds of power and weird rules that surround and control their present realities and relationships, their self-identities and their ideas of their futures.

9781459835580

Erin F. Chan (she/her) lives and works as a publishing assistant, copy editor, and graphic designer on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

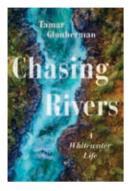
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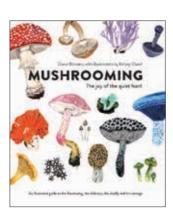
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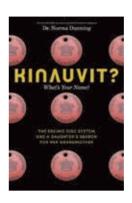
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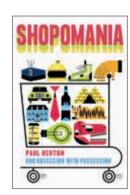
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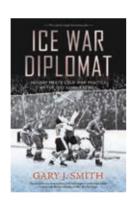
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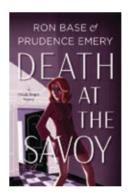


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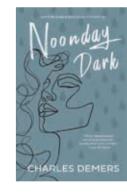
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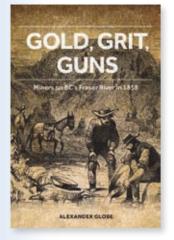
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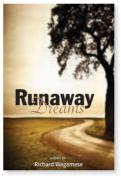
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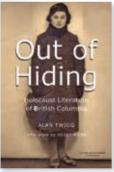
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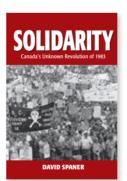
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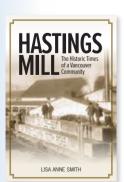
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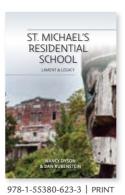
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FICTION REVIEW

REVIEW

Cambium Blue by Maureen Brownlee (Harbour Publishing \$22.95)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

tevie Jeffers is the soon-to-be single mother of two girls, the oldest born when Stevie was just sixteen. She has kicked out her second not-quite-husband, Kurt Talbot, a logger who works in remote camps. He wants to uproot the family from their small-town home in Beauty Creek and move them closer to his current camp farther north. Stevie wants to stay put and provide her children with some stability.

Kurt's not the biological father of Stevie's kids anyway. That guy died in a driving accident down an old logging road, and the kids were too young to remember him.

Thus begins Maureen Brownlee's second novel, Cambium Blue, eight years after her debut, Loggers' Daughters (Oolichan, 2014), marked her as a chronicler of the vast part of British Columbia known simply as "The Interior." This large geographical area is home to many boom-and-bust resource towns, once the bedrock of BC's economy. It's also where substance abuse, family abuse and just about every other kind of abuse is statistically higher than in the province's southern urban areas. These communities tend to be patriarchal —where women are disadvantaged, men work in dangerous blue-collar jobs, violence is never far away and the livin' is tough despite the natural beauty.

The story is set in 1995 just as the bark beetle epidemic is getting started, threatening millions of acres of pine forest that supply BC sawmills and most of the good-paying jobs. The book title refers to the inner bark of pine trees, which is what the pine

beetles eat. If an infected tree is harvested before it dies, the wood is stained blue by a fungus that the beetles carry. Although structurally sound, the blue-stained lumber makes it less valuable.

Partly due to the pine beetle problem and partly to politics, the local sawmill in Beauty Creek is closed, putting many townspeople out of work. Now, a Vancouver developer is promising to build a major resort that will attract tourists and bring new jobs. Meanwhile, the developer is quietly consulting with the town's mayor about a big residential development in Beauty Creek that will fill his pockets if it's built. It will also raise tax rates for the existing residents and cost the town dearly for new municipal services. The stain of cambium blue is a good metaphor for these developments: will the resort make

OUT OF THE BLUE &

INTO THE

A novel set in a fictional small town on the verge of an economic downturn portrays both the meanness and magnificence of BC's "Interior."

the town stronger or of less value to those who live there? Is the developer a parasite?

Stevie knows none of this as she becomes the family breadwinner and starts waitressing at the local café. For self-improvement, she enrolls in an evening computer keyboarding class. The instructor has the class type résumés. Stevie is reluctant, having little life experience. In the education section, she types: "Grade 10, Deighton Secondary, 1987." The instructor probes: "No first aid? Or maybe a Superhost course?" Stevie whispers, "No." The experience section is worse: babysitting when Stevie was thirteen and a few odd jobs helping the cook at different camps where her first husband worked.

Still, Stevie uses this résumé to apply for, and get, an entry-level job at the local town newspaper run by Maggie Evans, a second major character in Brownlee's novel. Not able to sell the business after her husband, Hank, died

of lung cancer, Maggie is barely able to pay the bills. "Two mortgages on the house, an operating line at its max, and too many credit cards had been Hank Evans's idea of financial equilibrium," writes Brownlee.

Unlike most in Beauty Creek, Maggie had spent the last two years of high school in Vancouver, where she intended to stay. After graduation, she got a job in the accounting department of the Vancouver Sun and met Hank, who was a junior reporter. They fell in love, got married. In 1965, when she brings him to Beauty Creek to meet her parents, Hank falls in love with the town when he sees one of its magnificent peaks. "'Look!' he exclaimed. 'Look at that!' A 'Creekster' from birth, Maggie had been taking Wolverine Mountain for granted for a long time. Yes, she agreed, it was a postcard view. Yes, the air was marvellous. Yes, the creek did make a lovely sound."

Hank learns the town paper, *Beauty*

Maureen Brownlee

Creek Chronicle, is up for sale and buys it without consulting Maggie—and bang, she's right back where she grew up.

A third major character in *Cambium* Blue is Nash Malone, an eccentric old widower and junk collector who lived through the Great Depression either jobless and half-starving or working in relief camps near Vancouver for 20 cents a day. Surprisingly, he also fought in the Spanish Civil War — although unbeknownst to Beauty Creek folks, not for political reasons, rather because he was at a dead end with no job prospects. But the townspeople suspect him of being a "Commie," a term most don't fully understand, only believing that Nash is some kind of nut to be avoided. In fact, he is a writer and poet (mostly unpublished except for poems Maggie prints in the Chronicle), and he suffers from PTSD after witnessing the bloody mayhem of war in Spain, which Brownlee covers in flashbacks and Nash's poetry.

It's Nash who saves young Stevie from an assault in her front yard when she's followed home one night from a Legion social event. The abuser is not taking no for an answer. Suddenly a voice comes out of the dark: "Sounds like the lady wants you to go," says Nash, holding a gun. The abuser tries to get Nash to leave, but he stands firm. It's the abuser who backs down, although not before shouting an obscenity at Stevie.



MAUREEN BROWNLEE KNOWS OF WHAT SHE writes, having grown up in the Robson Valley and attended a school in McBride. She lived in Arrow Lakes and Prince George before moving to Valemount, where she founded and operated *The Valley Sentinel* from 1985 to 1994. Although some of Beauty Creek's characters may seem like representations of real people, "I assure you they are not," Brownlee firmly states in her Acknowledgements. She has, she says "concocted a tale."

Yet through the tribulations and resilience of Stevie, Maggie and Nash, against a large supporting cast of other small-towners, Brownlee has effectively portrayed the very real dynamics of an interior BC town on the verge of big change.

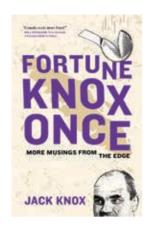
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Beverly Cramp, the publisher of BC BookWorld, grew up in Valemount enjoying views of Canoe Mountain and playing on the shores of the glacierfed Swift Creek. Many of her neighbours worked at the now-defunct Canyon Creek Sawmill

A battalion of Canadians who fought in the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). By 1937, over 1,200 Canadians took part, including Maureen Brownlee's fictional character, Noah Malone.



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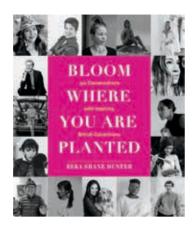


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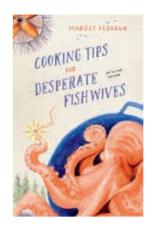


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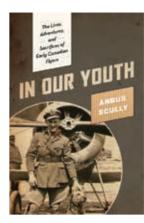


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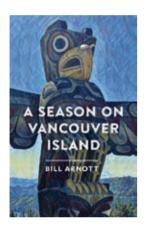


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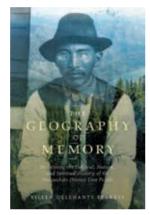
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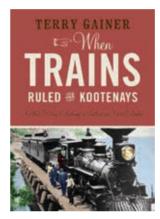
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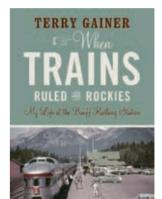


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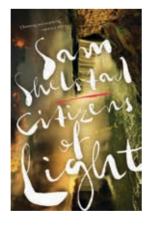
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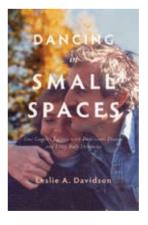


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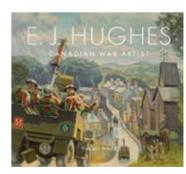
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FICTION REVIEW

A new fantasy series follows children with "ordinary" talents, groomed to use their forces for good.

But who actually wrote this book?

in OVVIII the Darkness

Ordinary Monsters by J. M. Miro (McClelland & Stewart \$39.95)

BY HEIDI GRECO

hen an established author decides to publish work under a pseudonym, I ask myself what the reasons might be. In the case of Ordinary Monsters, it certainly can't be that they're seeking to hide themselves from reaction to the book, as the book is not only amazing,

but is projected as the first part of a series called The Talents.

The word Talents in that title refers to a group of children with extraordinary powers, and we meet a number of them in this first volume of the series. Their talents are not the singing-and-dancing variety that usually comes to mind. These talents are almost otherworldly, ranging from invisibility to the ability to manipulate dust. One of these children is a haelan: one with the power to heal any harm that comes to his body. Yet another, when stressed or in need, physically exhibits a kind of glowing light that in itself emits a power of sorts.

Ordinary Monsters is set in the Victorian era, the last quarter of the 1800s, and the first part of the book recounts how the children are gathered from various countries around the world. The plan is to take the children to a mysterious institution in Scotland, where they will learn to hone their particular talents to put toward the best use: taking on enormous forces in a battle among the dead, the half-dead, and the living—an ultimate conflict between good an evil. Creepy sounding? You bet. Gory as well: "...she

slashed and stabbed and slashed again, cutting the flesh to ribbons, a great hot wetness drenching her wrists and arms." Yet this novel is also amazingly beautiful, especially in the way the story is told: revealing itself layer by tantalizing layer as the action becomes more complex and dangerous as the powers of darkness rise.

The language is remarkable in the ways it pulls readers back in time to the 19th century, with its descriptions of flickering lantern light or damp atmospheres; it's often deliciously arcane, as in its use of words such as litch, taken from an ancient word for corpse. References to literary influences abound, as we find (and also hear) hints of Dickens, not only with the dimly-lit, often dismal settings; there's even a character named Jacob Marber (rather than Marley). While the Golden Compass books by Philip Pullman have their nasty Mrs. Coulter, here we find a counterpart in the similarly named Mr. Coulton; and even though its use is much different here, swirling dust offers further echoes of the English author.

But back to my question about the reason for a pseudonym. Eric Blair did it, publishing nearly all of his work under the name we know so well, George Orwell, as did Samuel Clemens, who we've come to know as Mark Twain. And of course, there was George Eliot, one of many women who determined

porarily, we find **Daniel Handler** writing as **Lemony** Snicket, Joanne (J.K.) Rowling publishing crime fiction—more adult fare than Harry Potter—as Robert Galbraith, and Stephen King publishing

under the name Richard Bachman. So, why take the name J.M. Miro? An obvious (though still in

conclusive) reason could be an

admiration of the Spanish artist

Joan Miró. While known for the rich textures and colourful beauty of his works, Miró took artistic risks that at times led to him being subjected to ridicule. So

perhaps this

s the author's way of saying that this book presents his taking a different kind of risk than in his previous work. And seeing as Miró suffered periods of debilitating depression, "J.M. Miro" could be a reference by the author behind the pen name-Victoria's own Steven Price—to the kinds of issues that tend to plague creative souls. Price's previous work, especially his book Lampedusa, considers love and art and the impermanence of our lives—the latter being a depressing topic to many.

The complexities in Price's work have been evident all the way back to his first book, Anatomy of Keys. Based on the life of Harry Houdini, the poetry collection is arranged much like a tarot deck, with four sections of thirteen poems as well as a distinct section, "The Circus at the End of the World," which could almost serve as precursor to some of the scenes in Ordinary Monsters. The structure in his first collection is subtle, but once

As for where the next book in this series might go, it's not easy to say, though there are a few small hints to be found, including the likely return of one of the main protagonists. I suspect the timeline will likely move ahead some, with perhaps a new generation of Talents. But I can only speculate, based on my reading (which chomped up nearly an entire packet of yellow sticky notes). There's so much in these pages—clearly too much

spotted, hard to ignore, and aptly suited to a

pseudo-biography of the famed magician.

Apparently when Daniel Handler gives a bookstore reading on behalf of his alter ego, Lemony Snicket, he explains Snicket's absence as being due to some mysterious circumstance—a reason so wonderfully appropriate for the author of those 13 books, all about dreadful misfortunes and happenstance. As for Stephen King, when he chose to retire Richard Bachman, he offered "cancer of the pseudonym" as a flippant excuse for Bachman's demise. I'm hoping Steven Price will own up on the ruse as well, as I'm counting on seeing him at the Vancouver Writers Fest and don't want him to show up in some **ZZ Top**-style disguise like Joaquin Phoenix on Late Night with David Letterman because Ordinary Monsters is a work to be proud ofanything but ordinary. 9780771000027

> Heidi Greco's writing appears in a number of recent anthologies, including "Worth More Standing" — a book of tree-themed poetry from Caitlin. www.heidigreco.ca



Wired for Music: A Search for Health and Joy Through the Science of Sound by Adriana Barton (Greystone Books \$32.95)

BY ALEXANDER VARTY

ho doesn't love the cello? With its humanoid curves, graceful neck, sonorous voice and burnished woods, it is perhaps the most beau-

tiful of instruments. And in recent years it's gone far beyond its traditional role as anchor of string quartets and thickener of orchestral textures: witness French musician Vincent Segal's gorgeous collaborations with Malian kora master Ballaké Sissoko, cellist and performance artist Gabriel Dharmoo's ventures into Carnatic ragas, and the Finnish cello quartet Apocalyptica's wildly successful treatments of songs from the heavy-metal canon.

There may be nothing the cello

But for first-time author and longtime journalist Adriana Barton, the cello was nothing less than an instrument of torture. Having fallen into classical music almost by accident—Barton claims that when her five-year-old self was asked if she wanted to play the cello, she heard "Jell-o." Barton spent 17 years mastering the instrument, but she ultimately fell devastatingly out of love with it. For her, the cello was an arduous mountain to climb, an endurance race to be run, or an irritating partner to quarrel with. Battling repetitive-strain injuries, crippling selfdoubt, and her own innate perfectionism, she became accomplished enough to gain admission to first-rate music schools, win significant competitions, and even garner an audience with her instrument's reigning master, Yo-Yo Ma. In her early 20s, however, she put her cello in its case, tucked it into a corner and rarely looked at it again.

"My early training had taught me that nothing short of flawless could

ever be good enough," she explains. And "flawless," to her selfcritical ear, was out of reach.

Abandoning the cello was a kind of bereavement, compounded by the death—in the 1985 Air India bombingof her favourite fellow music student, violinist Aruna Anantaraman. Without Anantaraman's inspiration, and without the discipline of regular practice ses-

sions, Barton was left with a gnawing sense of emptiness, a void that neither professional success as a Globe and Mail health reporter nor marriage and motherhood could entirely fill.

Wired for Music recounts the former cellist's attempts to reconnect with music however she could; but in addition to being a memoir it's a comprehensive survey of current research into music's role in promoting psychic and physical health. This bifurcated narrative is both the book's strength and its weakness: Barton skims over the science at a breakneck pace, and the way that her search for musiAdriana Barton's Wired for Music dissects her slow and often painful climb from low self-esteem and dysfunctional relationships to a positive embrace of music.

cal connection takes her around the globe can also seem more like an allinclusive Thomas Cook's tour than a particularly profound examination of how sound can be a source of solace and connection.

Nonetheless, a lot of value can be extracted from these pages.

On the science side, Barton introduces us to a who's who of researchers into culture and cognition, from musician and biologist David Rothenberg to neurologist Oliver Sacks to anthropologist Wade Davis. Too often, though, their theories are reduced to a pithy quote, and then it's on to the next topic and the next thinker, with little deeper exploration. Perhaps Barton's aim, though, is simply to introduce us to their concepts, and if so, she succeeds. Personally, I'm looking forward to looking into Pat Moffitt Cook and Julian Burger's research into Indigenous shamanic music; John Stuart Reid's study of cymatics, or the visual patterns made by sound; and John Golding Myers' 1929 tome Insect Singers: A Natural History of the Cicadas, none of which I might have discovered without the author's help.

As a health reporter, Barton is also gratifyingly skeptical about the quasiscientific woo-woo that surrounds

Adriana Barton (left) and

at right, age 5, playing cello

(the latter an artsy photo

taken by Barton's mother).

cacy as medicine. She rightly debunks Tibetan, sticking primarily to the thesis that music promotes human conneccapable of improving bodily function

pects. In that regard, the book

is a slow and often pain-

ful climb from low self-

esteem and dysfunc-

tional relationships

to a kind of self-ac-

tualization through

sound, with stops

in a Zimbabwean

agrarian co-op,

where she meets

an mbira-playing

healer and wit-

the wilder claims about music's effi-"Tibetan singing bowls" as neither capable of curing cancer nor particularly tion and human connection is itself while aiding mental health.

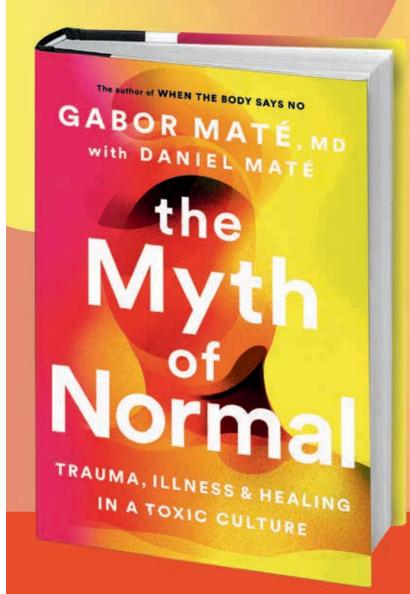
nesses a ritual of ancestral possession; a rustic retreat where she samples ayahuasca and has a kind of fractal vision of sound; and a Vancouver-based samba band where she is finally able to safely find self-expression within both her community of performers and the larger world of parents and teachers and neighbourhoods.

Barton's emphasis on rhythm and singing as the core of both music and community engagement is perhaps the biggest takeaway here. Anyone with a pulse can keep a beat, she argues, and anyone who can keep a beat can be a musician. And by positing that singing is as simple and necessary as breathing, she does a great service for those whose relationship with music has been warped by the Western conservatory tradition, with its emphasis on technical excellence over enjoyment and expression. Their number is legion, and they'll be consoled and inspired by



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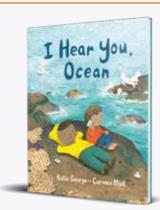
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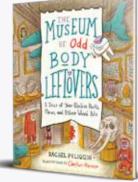


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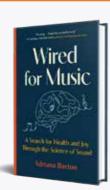
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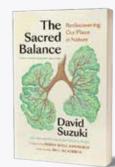
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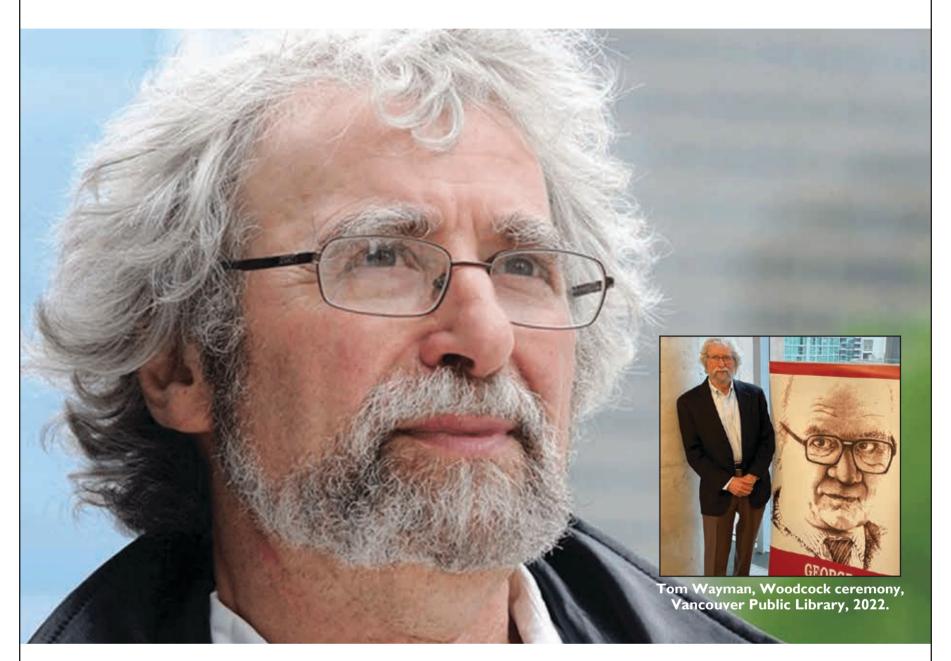


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Tom Wayman (born August 13, 1945)—a poet, essayist and novelist—helped bring into being a new movement of "work poetry" in North America and was a co-founder of the Vancouver Industrial Writers' Union, a work-writing circle that staged readings in the 1980s. He has written over twenty books of poetry, collaborated on six anthologies, and published four books of fiction

and three books of essays. He has been honoured with the Canadian Authors Association medal for poetry, the A.J.M. Smith Prize for distinguished achievement in Canadian poetry, the Acorn-Plantos Award for Peoples Poetry, and first prize in the USA Bicentennial Poetry Awards competition, and he was shortlisted for a Governor General's Literary Award for poetry.

Since 1995, BC BookWorld and the Vancouver Public Library have co-sponsored the Woodcock Award and the Writers Walk at 350 W. Georgia St. in Vancouver. This \$5000 award is also sponsored by Dr. Yosef Wosk, The Writers Trust of Canada, and Pacific BookWorld News Society.









EMOIR REVIEW

UNTIMELY DEATH

When a sister dies before their mother, Rita Moir struggles to re-find joy and "recompose the harmony of our days."

an adopted puppy.

A Recipe for Outrunning Sadness by Rita Moir (Caitlin Press \$22.95)

BY PORTIA PRIEGERT

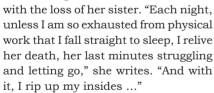
locan Valley author Rita Moir found the impetus for her latest memoir, Not of Reason: A Recipe for Outrunning Sadness, in the deaths of her beloved older sis-

ter, Judy, and their Irish-born mother, Erin. Moir reflects on love, loss and family with more openness than you might expect from your closest friends.

The book is set partly in St. Paul, Minnesota, where Judy dies first at 66, and then, six years later, Erin at 98, both from heart disease. Moir details days filled with the emotional labour of care-giving-sleepless nights, cycles of

hope and despair, urgent family enclaves and, eventually, the making of funeral arrangements and the dismantling of homes.

Her writing is most sure-footed, rich in detail and oozing love of place, when she is back home in the Slocan. But she is also coming to terms



Moir won both the BC Book Prize and the VanCity Book Prize for her 1999 memoir, Buffalo Jump: A Woman's Travels (Coteau), about her crosscountry journey of rediscovery. She has worked as a journalist, stringing for both the CBC and The Globe and Mail, and has a reporter's ability to zoom in on the telling details of poignant moments. Several times, I found myself

Given the book's subtitle, I had hoped for helpful strategies for moving through grief. Instead, I found myself wondering whether sadness might be contagious and, if not literally spread from writer to reader, at least rekindled, the way the chicken pox virus can linger latent in our bodies until stress triggers it as shingles decades later.

Moir sets out her path in the book's prologue, saying she wants not only to tell the stories of her family, but to "recompose the harmony of our days." She adds: "This story is my attempt at restoration."

But knowing how the narrative would unfold left me restless as Moir paged forward, setting the stage and getting readers up to speed on the history of a family hardy and resilient, but not especially remarkable, except in the way that all families are worlds unto themselves—their idiosyncrasies entangled in the conjoined twins of story and memory, shored up by love, duty and camaraderie. Or not. Families can be complex, though Moir's portrait is largely positive. She has no scores to settle, nor dirty laundry to air. She admires her sister for her strength, her leadership, her ability to organize.

We often avoid uncomfortable discussions about death and many among us are ill-prepared for our parents' final decline, typically a mid-life rite of passage. The transition can be profound, not only stirring up the past but also reminding us in sobering ways about our own mortality. While the death of a parent can offer the consolation of a life, if not impeccably well-lived, at least long, a particularly painful grief often

arises when a child dies first. This affront to our sense of generational order is an underlying premise of this book, although, as Moir points out, such premature passings are not as rare as we would like to think. Many people, myself included, have sat with their parents



as a sibling dies, and then, years later, watched their parents succumb.

Canada's cultural mores make grief a largely private affair. People are expected to adjust and move on. It's almost unseemly to feel deeply and mourn at length. Eight months after Judy's death, Moir wants to be happy and light footed, to outrun sadness. "I want to be magnificent, competent, ethereal. I want to rise above it all, but instead, I stumble."

Her mother offers common-sense wisdom: "The bad days come at you unbidden and can take you over, but you have to choose joy and laughter. You simply have to opt for joy."

Eventually, Moir outruns her grief. Her recipe is to give herself space for sadness, but also to plunge into life. She cooks, spends time with friends and adopts a puppy, a golden retriever that she takes to agility training, while also finding solace in yoga classes and solitary walks in nature.

Not of Reason left me feeling fragile. Your experiences likely are different than mine, as are your emotions and personality. Perhaps immersing yourself in this difficult trajectory will trigger challenging emotions. Or, perhaps, you will find a soothing salve in the kinship of story.

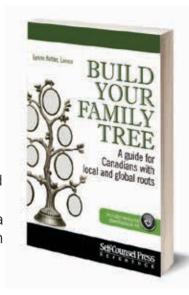
Victoria-based Portia Priegert is the editor for Galleries West and a former reporter for the Canadian Press.

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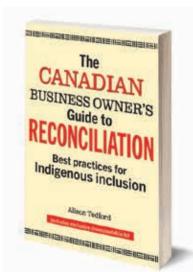


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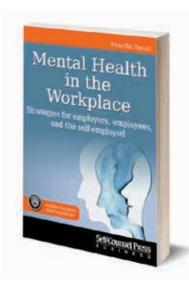


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Muggins: The Life and Afterlife of a Canadian Canine War Hero by Grant Hayter-Menzies (Heritage House \$22.95)

BY GRAHAM CHANDLER

t was the afternoon of Remembrance Day, 2015, and Grant **Hayter-Menzies** was busy signing copies of his latest book, From Stray Dog to World War I Hero: The Paris Terrier Who Joined the First Division (Potomac Books) at Tanner's Books in Sidney. The book was a biography of a heroic stray dog who had become mascot to the American First Division in WWI. Retired University of Toronto professor Dr. Sylvia Van Kirk walked up to him and asked, "Have you ever heard of **Muggins**?"

He hadn't. The professor briefly explained that Muggins was a purebred Spitz dog who lived in Victoria and had raised thousands of dollars (equivalent to a quarter-million dollars today) for wartime charities, most notably the Red Cross, between 1916 and his death in early 1920. The pooch had even become somewhat of a celebrity. Van Kirk had been researching Muggins and wanted to work with Hayter-Menzies on a project to put her subject into a book.

The author declined at first; as a biographer he generally preferred to do his own research. But when she reappeared about four years later at another of his signings—in Victoria's Bolen Books—she had him convinced to do the book on his own. It appeared to be a slam-dunk as she had already done most of the research based on newspaper and magazine entries: all he would have to do is add some context

OF WAR

A Victoria purebred Spitz raised the equivalent of a quarter-million dollars for veterans of World War I.

to the Muggins story. Which, it turns out, is where *Muggins* excels.

From upper-class Victorians even remotely connected with Muggins, to the build-up to the Great War and beyond, Hayter-Menzies deftly places readers into the scene throughout.

"The news [of war] had a galvanizing effect on Victorians," he writes. "Perhaps for the most part because the quiet seaside city was a place of retirement for former colonial military officers, whose blood never failed to run hot for a marching military band or any of the military activities that took place."

Although the question of when humans first domesticated dogs is unresolved, written records show they have been used in war at least since ancient Greek times—for communications, tracking, guarding, scouting, packing, soldier rehabilitation and as mascots. Their popularity as collection dogs may not be as well known.

From the Victorian era until after World War II, charity collection dogs were a popular sight in British train stations. They continued their charitable calling even after death, when the dogs were taxidermically stuffed and kept on display, often in doorways to charity stores or train stations. Victoria in the early 20th century took many of its cultural cues from Britain. So, a charity dog in BC's capital during the

same era is not such a stretch.

Readers first hear of Muggins in his role as a collector dog in the *Daily Colonist* of August 6, 1916, which reported on his collecting for the Italian Red Cross—organized by **Charlotte Pendray**, whose husband **Herbert** came from the BAPCO paint family. Well connected in the Victorian society scene, Herbert's ancestral home was the Queen Ann Pendray mansion in the Inner Harbour, now the popular Pendray Inn and Technoles.

Pendray Inn and Teahouse. It's around this time when Muggins really gets started. The sweet-tempered dog quickly becomes famous among passengers of liners like the Empress of Asia docking at Victoria Harbour. One passenger, a prominent American named Samuel Brown Kirkwood, was as impressed with Muggins' modus operandi as most everyone else. He loved watching the action when Muggins would enter the ships' casinos. Muggins' first line of attack was to distract the players, circling the table and nudging knees as he passed. Should that method not produce results, Muggins would begin barking, jumping up so the coins in his collection boxes rattled noisily. "If this method of advertisement did not secure the attention of the players, which was not often," Kirkwood wrote, "he did not hesitate to jump upon one of the tables and remain there until all had contributed."

Puzzlingly, Muggins did it all without a handler

Before long, Muggins was sporting postcards of himself for sale, which had a patriotic background of the Union Jack and Canada's flag of the day, the Red Ensign. Among images of him with the Prince of Wales and General **Arthur Currie**, the book's 24 illustrations include ten postcards.

Muggins' fame wasn't bound to BC. He raised funds for the Halifax Explosion of 1917, for example. Several US publications trumpeted his reputation, including a photo spread in the *New York Times* that was flanked by photos of 1917–1918 stage stars. And Muggins travelled to Seattle to help raise funds for the American Red Cross.

Muggins' charity work came to an end when he contracted pneumonia and died on January 14, 1920—a life humanely ended by a veterinarian. He was stuffed and mounted by a taxidermist (much the same as many of Britain's collection dogs) and displayed in several public locations. It seems the First World War wasn't his last fundraising effort: a few weeks after war was declared in 1939, the stuffed Muggins was displayed above the Red Cross Superfluities Store at 1218 Government Street in Victoria as an inspiration to passersby.

Hayter-Menzies never lost his original inspiration for this well-researched volume: "Had Dr. Sylvia Van Kirk not approached me to finish what she had begun, with her many years of research and deeply-held belief that Muggins' story needed to be told, I would never have had the pleasure and honour of writing this book," he concludes.

9781772033717

Graham Chandler is a freelance writer with a specialty in military and heritage stories. He holds a PhD in Archaeology.



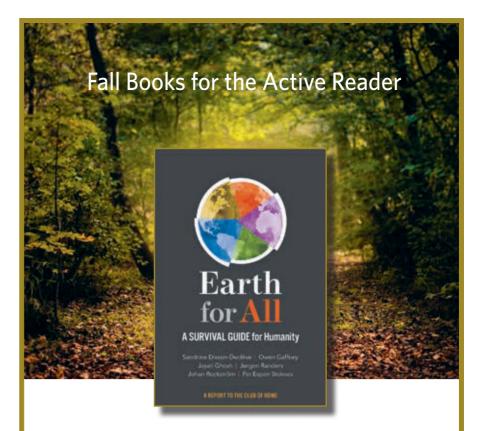
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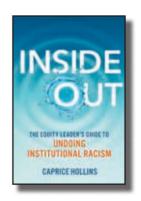
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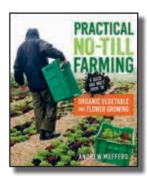
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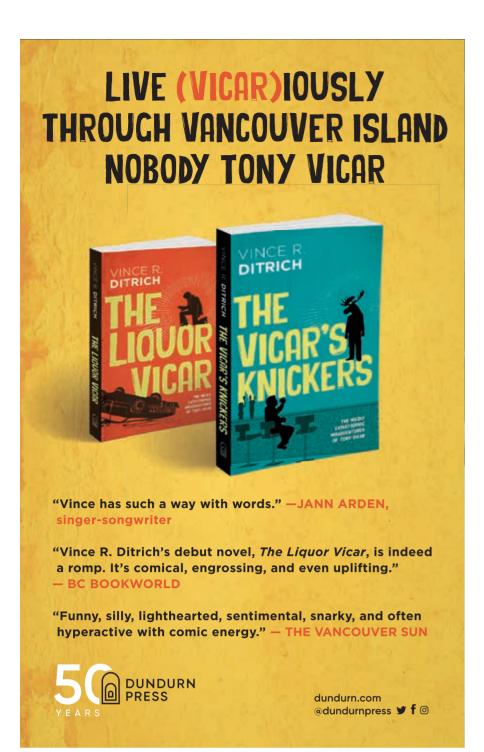
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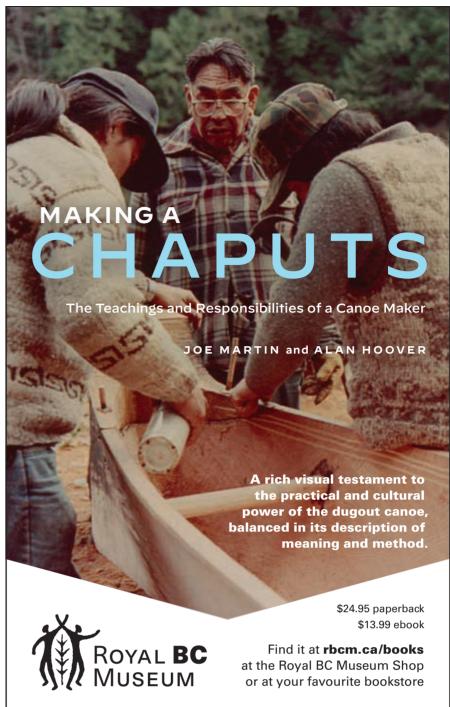






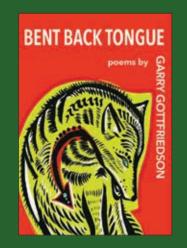


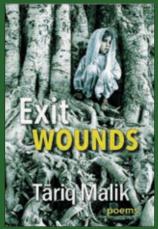


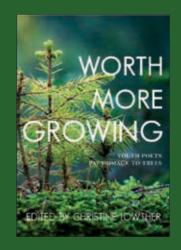


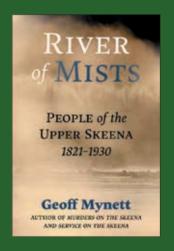


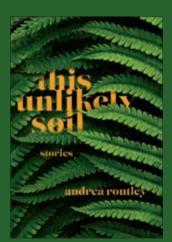
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MEMOIR INTERVIEW

A

Standing in a River of Time by Jónína Kirton (Talonbooks \$ 19.95)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

rowing up with a violent, alcoholic father and losing two of her three brothers at an early age, Jónína Kirton experienced trauma. She also turned to alcohol as a young woman before beginning a lifetime of spiritual healing and sobriety. Kirton is remarkably honest about the hard realities of her life and the people who came to her aid in Standing in a River of Time. Kirton began writing poetry, and in 2016, received a City of Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award for an Emerging Artist. Her second collection

(Talonbooks, 2017) was a finalist for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize.

of poetry, An Honest Woman

BC BookWorld: You start your memoir as your mother is dying. Was that the most trying period in your life?

Jónína Kirton: I would not describe her dying as a trying time. It was more of an awakening. As the only girl, I was very close to my mother, a beautiful woman, that I jokingly referred to as the "church lady" due to her devotion to her faith. She was a kind woman, interested in community and always learning. The way she negotiated her final days, still thinking of others and caring for her family, made me realize how selfish and self-centred I had become. Unhealed people can be very self-centred. They can't help it. They walk around with open wounds, thin skin, that is easily hurt. It is hard to think of others when you are in that kind of pain, and yet my mother managed to do this. Seeing this and witnessing the miracle of her leaving her body sent me even deeper into my own healing.

BCBW: Your father's troubled identity as a Métis man who is an alcoholic caused problems in your family. Later in life you learned that racism and colonialism were to blame for many of his destructive behaviours. Do you think he ever realized that?

JK: Despite a few attempts, one that included Antabuse, he was never able to stop drinking. Drinking led to violence, to overspending and to things like drunk driving charges. So even though my father was successful in his career and well respected by many, he lived his entire adult life in that downward shame spiral that comes with alcoholism. Not one to talk about himself, most of what I know about my father came from my mother and other family members. I was a teenager questioning our ancestry when my mother told me, "Your father hates being Native." I was told to not talk to him about

TIME TO FORGIVE, A TIME TO A TIME TO

Merging memoir and poetry, **Jónína Kirton** reveals the effects of colonization on her Métis family and her path to healing.



it, but later in life, as I uncovered the rich history of our Métis ancestors, I decided to share the stories with him. At first, he was resistant, but years later, around the time the Truth and Reconciliation Committee was in the news, he became more open. He never spoke about this to me, but I feel that between the TRC and what I shared with him he did make peace with being Indigenous. I like to think that he began to feel some pride, as shortly before his death in 2017, he told me that he wanted to get his Métis citizenship. This after a lifetime of denying he was Indigenous. No matter what happened between us, I have always loved him.

He is my dad. Not only did he and my mother give me life, I also know he tried really hard to give us kids a good life. He deserves to be at peace.

BCBW: When did you embrace your Métis heritage?

JK: I always knew that I was what we called "part-Native" but didn't know I was Métis until my forties when my cousin, an enumerator for Saskatchewan Métis, offered to confirm this. I literally fell to my knees and wept when I received the genealogy report she had put together for me. All those years of being told to not talk about our Indigenous ancestry melted away. I finally felt free.

BCBW: You also pay attention to your Icelandic heritage (on your mother's side). How has this been a source of strength for you?

JK: I end the book with a quote from my Icelandic grandmother whose name I carry. I do this because I wanted to show that Icelanders also care for this earth, and show the pride I feel about being her grandchild and being Icelandic. Grandmother was a strong woman, the mother of seventeen children, all home births. She was a joyful woman and never complained, despite living in poverty. Having her name is an honour. My Icelandic aunts and uncles embody her strength, strength that I did not fully understand until I went to Iceland in 2017. While there I saw the beauty and yet harshness of those lands. I saw what it must have taken to live there in the early days. I saw their love of story

> and poetry and realized that I get my desire to tell stories from both sides.

BCBW: In your book's foreword, Wanda John-Kehewin writes "Loss and love run through this work, which is about acceptance and healing through truth." Was detailing the healing power of truth the major aim of this book? Or did writing your memoir bring out your story of healing?

JK: There has been something very healing about documenting some of the harm I have experienced. There can be no reconciliation without truth. Abusers rarely admit to what they have done and often use gaslighting to keep you questioning reality. Truth becomes muddy, and I like clarity. In fact, when referring to my second book, An Honest Woman, Betsy Warland said, "Kirton picks over how she was raised familially and culturally like a crime scene." Her assessment was accurate, and I was tickled. Writing that book I was on a mission to expose the world that young women and girls enter. When writing, Standing in a River of Time, I felt, in fairness, that I needed to soften my gaze and share hard truths about some of the things I had done.

The title, Standing in a River of Time, comes from a teaching I once heard about time being a river with the future at our back moving towards us and the past in front

of us flowing away. I used this title as I do believe that unless one has the gift of prophesy, we can't see the future, but we can examine the past and in doing so we can make peace with things that have caused us pain. What I hoped to convey in the book was that the healing may never be done and that this is okay. The book was never intended to be a road map for healing but rather to show how messy healing can be and that accepting our imperfections could bring much needed change in the world.

Beverly Cramp is publisher of BC BookWorld.

GRAPHICNOVEL REVIEW

PICTURING

HORROR

Child survivors of the Holocaust tell their stories to artists who bring new dimensions to their testimonies.

David Schaffer and his family began in 1939

But I Live: he troubles for Three Stories of Child Survivors of the Holocaust Edited by Charlotte Schallié. Art by Barbara Yelin, Gilad Seliktar and Miriam Libicki (UTP/New Jewish Press \$29.95)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

when he'd barely started grade two. His teacher came to the Schaffer home to tell them that David, a prize-winning student, could not go back to school. As an ally of Nazi Germany, the Romanian government was expelling Jewish children from state-run classrooms.

Less than a year later, Schaffer's family and great-grandmother were ordered to leave their comfortable house because Jews were no longer allowed to live in rural areas. "In the morning we had a home and a nice garden," says Schaffer. "By that night, we owned only what we could carry on a horse cart."

The horrors grew. Forced into a ghetto, the family was ordered to board a train by soldiers with bayonets. "Sick people on stretchers had to be dragged there," says Schaffer who remembers his frail and confused great grandmother, on a makeshift rickshaw, asking, "Why did you bring me here?" She couldn't comprehend what was happening.

At their first stop in the town of Atari, Schaffer's family was put in a room of a looted house with smashed windows. A previous occupant, who had clearly been wounded, had written

"They are killing us" in Hebrew on the wall in his blood.

Later, a forced march. David Schaffer's great grandmother had to be left behind as she could not walk. Even though soldiers said his great grandmother would be taken to a nearby asylum, Schaffer knew what it meant. "The reality is we left her in the ditch near the road. She knew. That was the end of a life. One of the six million."

Schaffer's father realized they had to get away, and the family snuck into the forest that night, wandering lost. They united with another Jewish family on the run and eventually found a farmer's summer kitchen, where they were allowed to stay. But with little food or warmth, they grew weak. David gathered wood sticks to barter for milk and bread in the nearby village.

Foraging was dangerous as many

DAVID SCHAFFER'S HARROWING STORY, TITLED "A KIND OF RESISTANCE" and illustrated by Vancouver-based Miriam Libicki, is one of three graphic stories in But I Live. The other illustrated stories concern two Jewish boys, Nico and Rolf Kamp, who were hidden from German soldiers in thirteen different Amsterdam homes, titled "Thirteen Secrets" and illustrated by Gilad Seliktar of Israel; and Emmie Arbel, who survived in not one but two concentration camps in the title story, illustrated by Barbara Yelin, who lives in Munich, Germany.

mediately killed. Instead, many people resisted by transgressing the rules ... we resisted because we wanted to survive ... living

Eventually, Russian soldiers freed Romania from the Ger-

man army. A relative gave the Schaffer family shelter until they found an empty house to stay in as it still wasn't safe to return

through the horror was resistance."

to the house they were forced to leave in 1940.

continued to resist and break rules to get food.

whoever stood up or actively resisted was im-

"I have a problem with the word resistance," says Schaffer years later. "The sad truth is that

The use of graphic narratives allows the survivors' stories to seamlessly shift from an elder relating their story where it is plain to see how the Holocaust has impacted them all their life — to when they were a wide-eyed child faced with unspeakable terror, as reflected in Emmie Arbel's story. At one point, illustrations show the artist, Yelin walking with Arbel to find a coffee shop where they could sit down and talk. Arbel's favourite café is closed, and it's hard to find another one she likes. As Arbel tells Yelin, "that's too crowded for me. ... I told you, I don't like to be among many people... And I need to sit near the door with my back to the wall."

Then the next panel depicts decades earlier as women and

children are lined up at a concentration camp. "I remember us standing for hours," says Arbel, now drawn as a little girl with shorn hair, "... and mother fainted."

Arbel continues: "You know, even as a child, you learn quickly how to survive. I knew I must stay standing. I should not do anything. Because I knew if I'd go to her they would shoot me. And I was afraid. I was so afraid she was dying."

Here the art shifts back to Arbel as an older woman sitting at her desk, playing solitaire on her computer. But she is still remembering that horrible day. "So I stayed standing, she says to herself."

The graphic narratives in But I Live are powerful and relate the Holocaust stories in profound and intense ways that words alone cannot. Created for middle readers, this book is suitable for adults too.

The combination of child Holocaust

areas were out of bounds to Jews; they could be beaten, even killed, if caught. David's father was once bashed in the head with a rifle butt, I remember us standin splitting his ear down the middle. But they



(top) Barbara Yelin's lush, evocative watercolours tell I story in "But I Live"; (above) Gilad Seliktar uses elegan and bold blocks of colour in "Thirteen Secrets," the sto Rolf Kamp; and (right) Miriam Libicki depicts David Scl in loose, energetic lines and watercolour in "A Kind of

survivor stories as told to illustrators and complet narratives was the brainchild of UVic profess **Schallié**. She noticed that her thirteen-year-old resistant to reading, was taking an active intere novels. And Schallié was also interested in telli survivor stories in new ways. "I felt we need to fi approaches to testimony collections, telling the Holocaust in a richer, deeper way," she says.

"It is very important for us that graphic nov just illustrators but are actively co-creating the hi survivors. Visual storytelling in graphic narrative effective for life stories of survivors who were ch



Unique in a graphic novel, the artists discuss the making of But I Live in an inciteful chapter called "Behind the Art."





Sick people on stretchers had to be dragged there. My greatgrandmother on my mother's side was with us. She was very old,
and she couldn't walk well, so we had to bring her to the train
station in a kind of rickshaw.

"Why did you bring me here? I want to go to the kitchen," she said to my mother.
She didn't understand what was happening, I still think about that question from
time to time — Why did they bring me there? No one has ever answered me.

Emmie Arbel's it line drawings ory of Nico and haffer's history f Resistance."

ted as graphic for **Charlotte** son, who was est in graphic ing Holocaust ind some new e story of the

relists are not istory with the es is especially nildren during the Holocaust, as images often tend to be deeply imprinted in a child survivor's memory.

"The multiplicity of experiences is expressed through graphic style, color, and even the individual accents of the speakers. Each unique voice and experience is framed and represents one less voice lost to time."

Many others participated in this collaborative book project over a three-year period, such as Holocaust and human rights education professionals, historians, student teachers, high school teachers, librarians and archivists.

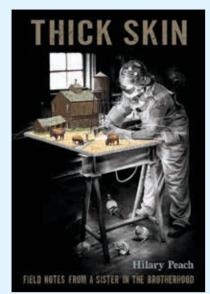
In addition to the book, all the work from the project, such as drafts of drawings, and film and audiotapes of interviews, is preserved at UVic's libraries "for future researchers to consult," says Schallié. "The stories of the survivors, however, live on through this publication."

"The wiser we can be as people, the more informed we can be as citizens and the more empathy we can have for each other. Graphic novels are not just a document in the archives, they're something people will be drawn to reading."—Miriam Libicki, artist

Beverly Cramp is publisher of BC BookWorld.



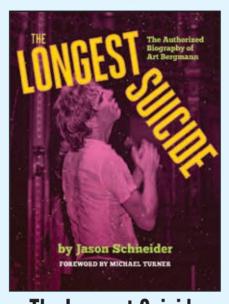
FRESH from the FORGE



Thick Skin

Field Notes from a Sister in the Brotherhood HILARY PEACH

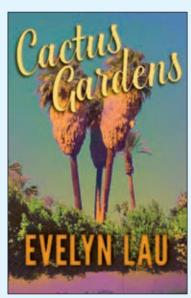
For more than two decades, Hilary Peach worked as a transient welder and one of the only women — in the Boilermakers Union. This is her story. MEMOIR | 384 PAGES | \$22 | SEPTEMBER



The Longest Suicide The Authorized Biography of Art Bergmann IASON SCHNFIDER

JASON SCHNEIDER
Introduction by Michael Turner

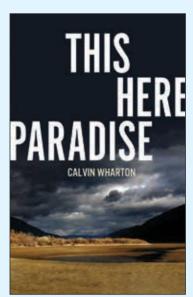
As Canada's punk poet laureate, Art Bergmann has been tearing up stages, and terrifying the music industry, for half a century. Art's story is one of rock and roll's great tales untold. Until now. MUSIC/BIOGRAPHY | 168 PAGES | \$24.95 | SEPTEMBER



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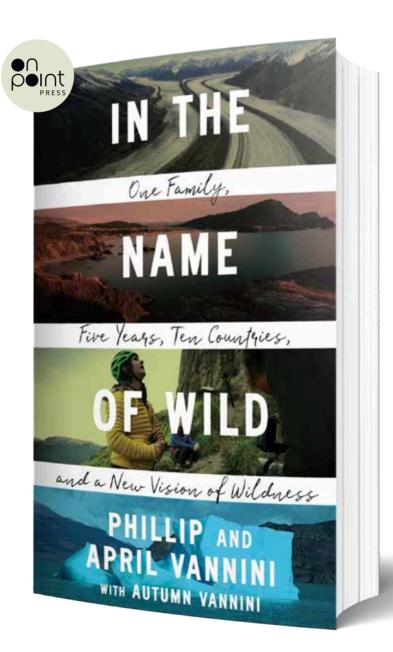
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(Ronsdale Press \$24.95)

BY MARK FORSYTHE

glimpse westward from the Ironworkers Memorial Second Narrows Crossing reveals massive orange cranes hoisting containers at the Port of Vancouver terminal, a fortress of glass towers that marks Canada's highest density, and Stanley Park's green forest rising above Burrard Inlet. Earliest European Vancouver was forged right in the centre of this view, at a small sawmill plunked atop pilings, surrounded by seemingly endless stands of timber.

In 1865 Captain Edward Stamp built his mill on 100 acres leased from the Colony of British Columbia (at 1 cent per acre). The Colony was all about expansion (at the expense of original inhabitants), and the mill's cutting rights eventually extended up the coast. Water for its boilers splashed down a wooden flume from Trout Lake, often prone to freezing in winter. Sparing no expense, Stamp also commissioned a 146-foot steam tug to work the water. A store was added in 1868 to supply mill employees-from ham to horseshoes and seaman's biscuits. Separated by race and class, most lived on mill property, although Indigenous people weren't permitted to live there. Some dwelled beside the mill at a seasonal encampment of the Squamish people called Kumkumlye, meaning "Maple Trees."

Stamp failed during a previous attempt at Port Alberni mill due to strong resistance from the Tseshaht people. He brought along two cannonades to this new venture, just in case. His only competition came from Sewell Moody's more efficient mill at Moodyville on the North Shore. However, Stamp ran his mill deep into debt, and the search began for new owners and a capable manager. (The mill later became known as Hastings Mill when nearby New Brighton changed its name to Hastings.)

Lisa Anne Smith's finely researched Hastings Mill: The Historic Times of a Vancouver Community is bursting with characters set against Vancouver's defining moments. Her interest was kindled by the late historian Chuck Davis after hearing him speak at the Old Hastings Mill Store Museum:



Lisa Anne Smith (in blue jacket) book launch, Old Hastings Mill Store Museum, Vancouver. Welcome by Musqueam Nation knowledge keeper, and artist Debra Sparrow.

THE LUMBER MILL THAT BECAME A

Vancouver was born out of a "company town," run by a colonial business, where bars and brothels flourished.

"I knew that I was going to become involved-hook, line and sinker-with Vancouver's oldest surviving building and its remarkable past," she says. Smith is a member of the Native Daughters of B.C. (founded in 1919 and still active more than a hundred years later), the group that rescued the iconic Old Hastings Mill Store from demolition in 1930 and barged it to the

foot of Alma Street, winched ashore and turned into a museum.

Hastings Mill's story includes the Great Fire of 1886 that devoured nearby Granville in about 45 minutes. Survivors congregated at the Hastings Store, the only building left standing. A plea from the mayor was carried on horseback to the telegraph at New Westminster: "To Sir John A McDonald. Our city is in ashes, three thousand people homeless, can you send any government aid." Hastings Mill manager Richard Alexander offered free wood for people to rebuild and merchandise from the store; his wife Emma spearheaded a Women's Relief Committee. Within six weeks the feisty frontier town had been rebuilt, destined to eclipse New Westminster and Victoria.

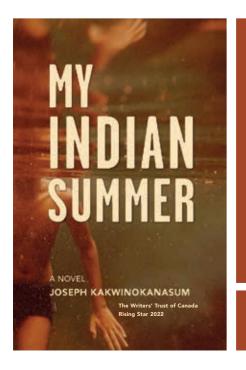
The mill was highly profitable, shipping lumber to Chile, Australia, Shanghai and other international markets. A schoolhouse was built in 1872, and Granville post office opened at the store two years later. Countless sailors came ashore-many drawn to nearby saloons and brothels; by 1881 there was also a campaign underway to build an Anglican church. The townsite around the mill expanded; CPR expansion was looming, and land speculators weren't far behind.

The mill burned down and was rebuilt. Innovation in mill technology and the transition from oxen to laboursaving steam donkeys are thoroughly detailed, as is the genesis of health care for coastal loggers when a hospital was built at the company's lumber camp at Rock Bay, north of Campbell River. There are walk-on appearances by newspaperman and future premier John Robson, Joe Fortes, the CPR's William Cornelius Van Horne, John Deighton, a.k.a. Gassy Jack (whose statue was recently toppled in Gastown), the city's first mayor, Malcolm MacLean, and future lumber magnate H.R. MacMillan. Jericho Charlie delivered goods from the Hastings Store to logging camps aboard his giant Squamish freight canoe. The store manager Calvert Simson became fluent in the Chinook trade language and was invited to one of the last potlatches before they were banned.

The implications of Vancouver's growth for Indigenous people are very much on the periphery of the Hastings Mill story-indeed, for most of BC's pioneering history. Lisa Anne Smith recognizes this and concludes with an interpretation of what life may have been like at Kumkumlye, before a "cantankerous" Captain Edward Stamp arrived. "Widely diverse cultures were about to collide full force and, for the original inhabitants of Kumkumlye and other Indigenous communities, life would be drastically altered."

Book proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Old Hastings Mill Store's efforts to maintain and further restore 9781553806417 the museum.

Mark Forsythe is author/co-author of four books and a former host of CBC Radio's BC Almanac.



FALL 2022 FICTION

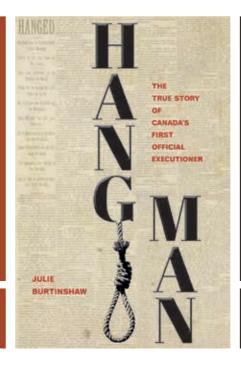
Three kohkums, a man named Crow, two best friends and a drug dealer . . . twelve-year-old Hunter Frank may be getting out of Red Rock sooner than he hoped.

Hunter's summer is a journey to understanding that some villains are also victims, and that while reconciliation may not be possible, survival is.

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2022 GEORGE RYGA AWARD FOR SOCIAL AWARENESS IN LITERATURE



Alexandra Morton received \$2,500 for the award at a reception at the Vancouver Public Library.





Not On My Watch

How a Renegade Whale Biologist Took on Governments and Industry to Save Wild Salmon (Random House) by Alexandra Morton

Alexandra Morton's story of her lifelong struggle to save wild salmon — and the ecosystem on the west coast — is a modern day "Joan of Arc" story, and her example of fighting for environmental, social, community and multicultural justice is a beacon for all activists.

FINALISTS

- Peyakow: Reclaiming Cree Dignity (Douglas & McIntyre) by Darrel J. McLeod
- Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest (Vintage) by Suzanne Simard
- Solidarity: Canada's Unknown Revolution of 1983 (Ronsdale Press) by David Spaner
- "Indian" in the Cabinet: Speaking Truth to Power (HarperCollins) by Jody Wilson-Raybould

Judges for the George Ryga Award were author and poet Trevor Carolan, VPL librarian Jane Curry and BC BookWorld publisher Beverly Cramp.

With the sponsorship of Yosef Wosk, VPL and Pacific BookWorld News Society, the annual George Ryga Award is given to a BC writer who has achieved an outstanding degree of social awareness in a new book published in the preceding calendar year.

When Life Gives You Risk, Make Risk Theatre: Three Tragedies and Six Essays by Edwin Wong (FriesenPress \$18.99)

lassicist and theatre researcher, Edwin Wong spent 13 years developing a new theory of theatre, published in 2019, The Risk Theatre Model of Tragedy: Gambling, Drama, and the Unexpected (FriesenPress) launched an international playwriting competition (risktheatre.com). Wong has now released his second book, When Life Gives You Risk, Make Risk Theatre: Three Tragedies and Six Essays. BC BookWorld talked to Wong about the origin of his theories on risk.

* BC BookWorld: When did you become interested in theatre?

Edwin Wong: During my teens, I discovered Friedrich Nietzsche. I was at Munro's Bookstore [in Victoria], and quite randomly, I bought The Birth of Tragedy. Up to then, I had been reading Hardy Boys books and comics. The Birth of Tragedy—Nietzsche's theory on how the dramatic art form of tragedy begins and ends-blew me away. I knew I had to dedicate my life to coming up with a theory of tragedy myself. Because Nietzsche was a classicist who specialized in ancient Greek and Latin, I did the same, enrolling at UVic and then going to Brown University. All this time I was reading and seeing plays, wondering



BUSINESS

From comic books to **Nietzsche**. **Edwin Wong** on risk and tragedy.

how to create a modern theory of tragedy. I'm 47 now. It's been a long time. BCBW : When did you start to focus on risk and its impact on human lives? **EW**: Back in the winter of 2006, a book in the economic section of a bookstore caught my eye: mathematician, philosopher and trader Nassim Nicholas Taleb's Fooled by Randomness: The Hidden Role of Chance in Life and in the Markets. Taleb's take is that traders blow up in the market, losing stupendous sums of money when they underestimate the impact of low-probability, high-consequence events. They plan on history repeating itself and the dangers that they can foresee. But they don't

plan for what they don't see coming. The problem is, something unexpected always happens. When I read his book, I thought: "This is exactly what happens in tragedy, in the plays of **Shakespeare** and Sophocles, of Arthur Miller and Eugene O'Neill." Tragedy can be looked at as the dramatization of risk events gone awry. It was at this point that I started writing the first book, The Risk Theatre Model of Tragedy. It was a lucky 13 years in the writing.

Edwin Wong

BCBW: Did you encounter backlash for your new ideas?

EW: The first book was criticized for hardly discussing the established theories of tragedy (by Aristotle, Hegel, Nietzsche and others). That's a fair point. The reason for this was that the first book came in at over three hundred pages, and I needed all of them to unfold how risk works in drama. I introduced a whole new dramatic vocabulary based on risk: the poetics of chaos, the opportunity cost of choice, and so on. In the second book, I've started to compare and contrast risk theatre to Aristotle's Poetics. And in the essays that I'm currently working on, I'm branching out to differentiate risk theatre from the literary theories of Nietzsche, Freud, Jung, Barthes and Foucault.

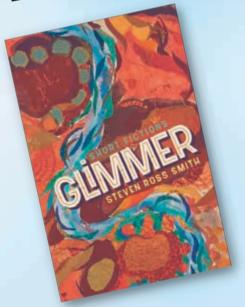
The second type of backlash to risk theatre is that it is not Aristotle's Poetics. For many theatre practitioners, Aristotle's theory of catharsis, his theory of tragedy based on the feelings of pity and fear, is the be-all and end-all. In the second book, I've extended an olive branch to the folks who want a theory based on emotion. I argue that the emotional impact of risk theatre is anticipation (for the unexpected) and apprehension (for the bad consequences that must follow).

The third type of backlash is that the idea of risk is just too vague. Risk can mean anything. That is true. But I would say that is the reason why I chose risk: it is fruitfully ambiguous.

BCBW: What will readers learn from your new book, When Life Gives You Risk, Make Risk Theatre?

EW: That theatre is a dress rehearsal for life. You go to the theatre and see the effects of risk and chance so that you can do better in life. A lot of the time, we live life based on forecasts, predictions and projections. We don't factor chance and blind luck into these calculations. Risk theatre reminds us it's not what we plan for that affects us most. The empire of chance is truly powerful, and a force to be reckoned with. 9781039135093

BC Authors from Radiant Press

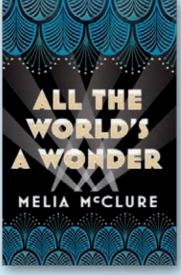


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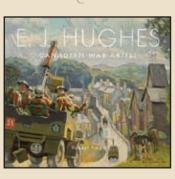
Available at radiantpress.ca & booksellers everywhere.

Humour Art Crime Poetry



Return to Solitude: More Desolation Sound Adventures with the Cougar Lady, Russell the Hermit, the Spaghetti Bandit and Others by Grant Lawrence (Harbour Publishing \$26.95)

It has been ten years since writer and CBC radio broadcaster, Grant Lawrence wrote about being a kid dragged to Desolation Sound by his parents. Now a parent himself, he continues to visit the area and all its eccentric characters as he describes in this followup memoir. The stories are humourous, jaw-dropping and sometimes sad, such as Bernard the German's demise.

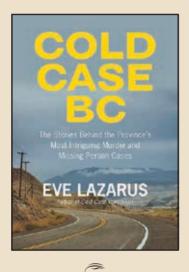


E. J. Hughes: Canadian War Artist by Robert Amos (Touchwood \$35)

Known for his quintessential BC landscapes, E.J. Hughes was also well-regarded as a Canadian war artist, work he began in 1941. In the third volume of his series about Hughes, Robert Amos showcases the artist's work in England, Wales and remote camps in Alaska. Hughes turned out to be Canada's first, last and longest-serving war artist of World War 2.

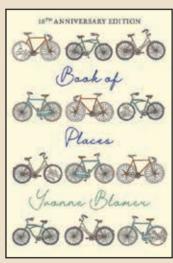
Cold Case BC: The Stories Behind the Province's Most Sensational Murder & Missing **Persons Cases by Eve Lazarus** (Arsenal Pulp \$22.95)

On the heels of her bestseller Cold Case Vancouver, Eve Lazarus turns to long forgotten murder investigations further afield. She interviews law enforcement, forensic experts and family and friends of the victims to add new life to BC historical cases, some of which date back to World War 2. Lazarus includes recently solved mysteries using new science that brought closure for victims' families.



Book of Places: 10th Anniversary Edition by Yvonne Blomer (Palimpsest \$19.95)

Type one diabetic and cyclist, Yvonne Blomer's poetry collection, Book of Places (2012) spanned countries and decades. This updated edition features new poems about cycling in Southeast Asia, and meditations on childhood and the journey of life. A grand adventure in verse.



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Full description and contest guidelines are available at: www.ravenchapbooks.ca/contest

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-Arleen Paré





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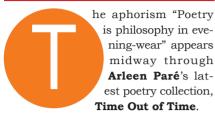


POETRY REVIEW

Time Out of Time by Arleen Paré (Caitlin \$20)

After Villon by Roger Farr (New Star \$16)

BY BRETT JOSEF GRUBISIC



The idea, courtesy of Ontario artist Kevin Heslop, is provocative, as it points out the serious side of poetry as well as the genre's affinity for aesthetic finery.

In the case of the new poetry collections by Victoria's Paré and Gabriola Island's Roger Farr, "evening-wear" takes the form of pensive and inquisitive volumes singing with reverence for two special but dead poets. Their volumes are meditations on poetic heritage and forebears—with each poet paying homage to the works, lives, and accomplishments of literary influences and inspirations. As cerebral and eulogistic as that might sound, happily, Paré's Time Out of Time and Farr's After Villon are also playful, funny, heartfelt and stimulating.

Farr's new poems could strike a casual reader as impossibly avantgarde. Dada-adjacent lines-such as "queer: when that muttnik cries prang! PRANG!," "National aqua chattis are gross mooses," and "Funcanny Valley what a face the MLA has"—are like conceptual evening-wear: perhaps made for appreciation by the cognoscenti but difficult to anyone else.

Give it time, though, honestly. Acclimate by reading through Farr's slim volume more than once. And pay close attention to the footnotes: informative,

BEWITCHED WITH DEAD POETS

Two poets pay homage to past literary stars.

clever and wry, they're invaluable little tour guides that communicate in standard English.

Farr's muse, François Villon was a legendary poet born in Paris around 1431 who died under mysterious (and,

in fact, unknown) circumstances at thirty-two. In his time, Villon was known as a thief, wanderer, bard, inmate, subversive, provocateur and gang member. He challenged literary



Arleen Paré

conventions, and he scattered slang, codes and wordplay throughout in his poems. "You use words to communicate ideas to certain people, while deceiving others," Farr writes. With innovative verse, Villon sketched the rogues, outliers and criminals of the Parisian subculture. He addressed poetic staples too: love and heartache, old age and death, lost ideals and regrets.

Farr translates Villon and composes à la Villon (and, in the poem "Compario," he offers ten different translations—including one by Google Translate—of a single quatrain of Villon's). The pieces in After Villon imagine backdrops: a note beneath the four stanzas of "Ballad of Erotic Misery"

adds, "The soundtrack to this ballad consisted of rumbling coal carts, screaming fishmongers and chestnut vendors, church bells, horse and donkeys and pigs and dogs. It would be considered Romantic to suggest it was first presented at a tavern, in front of an ex-lover's house, in court, or perhaps a bath house."

In poems like "Ballad for Friends,



Roger Farr

With Benefits," "All Standard Language Shall Be Fried," and "Ballad of Countertruths," Farr repurposes Villon's poetic tropes for twentyfirst century realities while managing to meld the dispa-

rate eras too. (Are 2022 and 1444 that different? The irreverent list of "Counter-truths"—which mocks "universal knowledge and the spooks of Truth, Law, and Fidelity"-mimics Villon's style and outlook but is applicable right here, right now for readers to attach to local circumstances.)

In "Five Ballads in Jargon," a feat of syllables and rhymes, Farr revisits poems "sometimes attributed to Villon" and thought to be composed in 1455 during the trial of the gang he was associated with. In these pieces, which "probably hummed for a century & a half before they were transcribed by ear," Farr discerns coded warnings for friends and accomplices to steer clear of the authorities.

ARLEEN PARÉ'S RELATIONSHIP TO A predecessor has fewer complications. Time Out of Time was written in "praise and celebration" of Etel Adnan (1925-2021). Born in Lebanon, Adnan worked as a journalist and professor alongside her partner, Simone Fattal, in a handful of countries after obtaining a philosophy degree in France.

For Paré, reading Time (Adnan's 2019 collection of poems) amounted to "love at first page." Paré writes, slyly, "my wife doesn't mind she knows / I have fallen in love with an arrant ideal." A record of "long-distance affection," the elegant and spare Time Out of Time describes a poet enthralled by another lesbian artist, "haunted" by her phrases and infatuated with their beauty. In the poem "Etel Adnan 3," the poet shouts out her willingness to "get lost once again / or forever / in your words," while "Etel Adnan 9" celebrates the profundity of Adnan's economical poems: "does brevity not bear / its fair share / of depth."

Whether she addresses weather (rain that's "insistent as pins"), wonderment ("the world is a staggering place"), the "freaky fragility" of the planet, social invisibility, the blessing of a long romantic partnership, or aging and death ("is there anything that does not lead in this dreamy direction"), Paré ties her observations to Adnan's poetry. In effect, she creates a dialogue—a dazzling exchange of heady ideas-between souls that never met in real life but really ought to have.

After Villon: 9781554201877 Time Out of Time: 9781773860794

Brett Josef Grubisic has published fivenovels including The Age of Cities and My Two-Faced Luck. He resides on Salt Spring Island.

TALONBOOKS SUMMER/FALL 2022 STANDING IN A RIVER OF TIME CATRIONA STRANG Jónína Kirton

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"Exceptional! ... After the international success of The Weight of Snow, translated into more than fifteen languages, Guay-Poliquin returns this fall with an ode to wilderness and adventure. [Falling Shadows] is a quest through a danger-filled forest." —Marie-France Bornais, Journal de Québec"

978-1-77201-451-8; \$19.95; Fiction Now Available

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 Métis family.

978-1-77201-379-5; \$19.95; Poetry Now Available

Un

by Ivan Drury

Drawing on the US War on Terror and the disappearances of people extrajudicially apprehended from the Middle East and North Africa, this collection of poetry interrogates the subjectivity of Western revolutionary socialism in

the early twenty-first century. 978-1-77201-376-4; \$16.95; Poetry

Now Available

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.

978-1-77201-388-7: \$16.95: Poetry Now Available





A Boy Named Tommy Douglas by Beryl Young with art by Joan Steacy (Midtown Press \$19.95)

AGES 5-8

he preacher-turnedpolitician Tommy **Douglas** (1904-1986), who is widely regarded as the father of Canada's Medicare, was inspired by what happened to him as a boy when there was no universal health care. The young Tommy needed expensive surgery to prevent his leg from being amputated, but his parents couldn't afford to pay for it.

A stroke of good fortune reverses this near tragedy, and Tommy never forgets what almost happened to himnor about other unfortunate children with parents who couldn't afford to pay surgeons. He felt it wasn't fair, and as an adult, he set out to change this injustice—as told in the graphic novel A Boy Named Tommy Douglas, written by Beryl Young.

The cinematic art by Victoria-based Joan Steacy reveals an energetic young Tommy (he was never called "Tom"), who gashes his leg to the bone after tripping and falling upon a sharp

How the dream of Medicare was born

Tommy Douglas and his fateful leg injury changed health care for all Canadians.

stone while running in a field. The sports-loving boy must stay indoors for months to let his leg heal. He can't play hockey at school with his friends or build snow forts. Instead, Tommy turns to reciting poetry by Robbie Burns.

"His friends clapped and cheered when Tommy performed at school concerts," writes Young, who traces the long period of illness that leads to hospital time where a doctor finally says the leg has to be amputated.

Young captures the tragic moment with simple but powerful words that show a child's emotions: "Amputate! Tommy couldn't get his breath. You mean cut my leg off?' The doctor nodded."

A famous bone surgeon happens to encounter Tommy crying in the hospi-

tal and agrees to perform a free operation if his parents let him use the case to teach his students. The operation works, and Tommy is able to return to playing sports and leading the life of a normal boy.

In her art, Joan Steacy captures the historical buildings and fixtures of early 20th-century Saskatchewan, including the ubiquitous grain towers with pointed roofs, woodburning stoves and coal oil lamps. While much of the book deals with Tommy Douglas' early years, the last third covers the community-minded years of his life as a pastor and then politician, including the year 1968 when Medicare is finally available to all Canadians. As the story progresses, Steacy's illustrations cleverly display 1960s artwork on walls,

starburst clocks and boxy TV sets to reflect the changing times.

We learn of Tommy's strong social conscience in his first career as a preacher in the 1930s. Young quotes him as saying, "This church won't be just for worship. We will help people in the community."

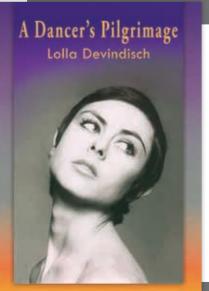
Soon it's the Great Depression when most people are desperate, with many jobless and not having enough food to eat. While consoling a farmer one day after his daughter has died of a burst appendix, Tommy makes the fateful decision to enter politics because, as Young writes, he "could do more to help people as a politician than as a church minister" by working "to pass laws to help people."

Tommy's years reciting poems as a boy made him a powerful speaker. He inspires crowds. "They believed in his dream of medical care for everyone," writes Young. "Today every Canadian, young or old, rich or poor, whether they live in a town or in the country, in the south or in the north, has the medical care they need."

More details about Tommy Douglas are provided at the end of the book. In 2004, in a CBC TV vote, he was named the greatest Canadian of all time by people across the country.9781988242415

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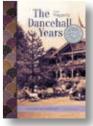
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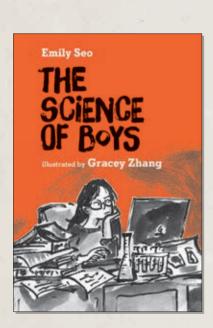
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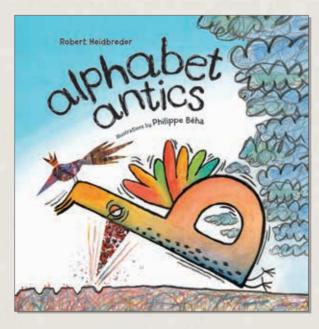
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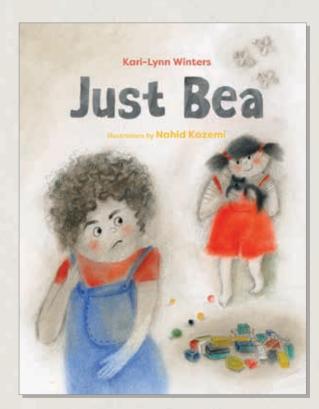
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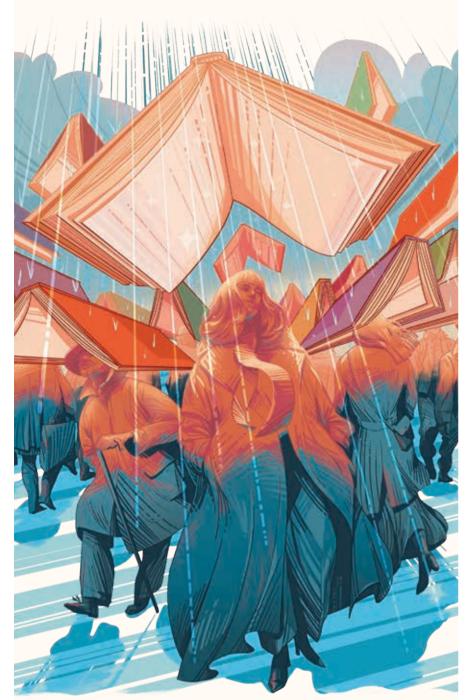


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JUJEN EFICTION REVIEW



Geek to chic

The science of fitting in at high school

The Science of Boys by Emily Seo, illustrated by Gracey Zhang (Tradewind Books \$12.95)

BY ERIN F. CHAN

uberty, popularity, peer pressure, puppy love and pop quizzes. Entering high school is nerve-racking for most kids on the cusp of teenage life. For the studious and scientific-minded Emma Sakamoto, fitting in is her biggest worry. "I want to feel good about going to school," Emma thinks. "I don't want to worry

about girls who are mean to me. I want to be liked, not a geek."

While Emma wishes she could invent a chemical reaction to convert her from "geek to chic," her best friend, Olive, is excited about all the different clubs they could join and the fact that the *Magical Creatures* TV show will be filming in town soon. However, when the effort-

lessly popular new girl in town, Poppy Sinclair, enlists Emma's help in wooing young *Magical Creatures* star Cole James, Emma pounces on the opportunity to shed her geekdom—blurting out a lie to Poppy that she's writing a book on the "science of boys" (despite knowing nothing about them). But with her father being sad and cagey, her mother not returning her calls, and Olive getting more and more upset with her, how far will Emma go to finally fit in?

Set in present-day Steveston, BC, **The Science of Boys** is the debut novel of **Emily Seo**, and the book features lively (and cute) black ink illustrations by **Gracey Zhang**. Seo, who describes the middle-grade book as being the result of her "experimentation with words," has a PhD in Chemistry from the University of British Columbia. She not only brings her scientific mind to Emma's analytical character but to the book as a whole, with the chapter titles and subtitles being different scientific terms and definitions that allude to

elements in the story (such as in the chapter "Wave Model," in which Emma describes her self-esteem as being "up and down, like light travelling in a wave"). And Seo encourages curiosity and exploration throughout the novel, as Emma tackles Poppy's boy trouble by using the scientific method, summarizing her findings as pieces of advice in her fake book: "It's true that guys like their space, but it's important to make sure he sees you from time to time. ... Make sure to stay in his visible spectrum."

Seo also gently addresses many social issues that young teens face today, such as bullying, peer pressure, body

image and social media. In one scene, Olive and Emma flip through magazines, searching for an example of misrepresentation in media for a class assignment; when Olive bemoans the fact that "there isn't a single girl in [the magazine] bigger than a size two," Emma realizes how infrequently they see ordinary girls in media: "We were bombarded with images



Emily Seo

of girls who were not only thin, they were also beautiful with perfect hair and perfect skin. How is any normal person able to compete with that?" As Emma navigates her first year of high school, it becomes increasingly apparent how these teen issues are affecting her and her peers. But in her efforts to fit in, Emma ends up learning a lot about friendship, belonging, and how teens can better understand and support each other in their struggles.

A genuine and fun-filled read, *The Science of Boys* captures many complexities in the lives of preteen girls today while encouraging curiosity and an interest in science—a subject that girls still often lack confidence in and are discouraged from pursuing.

9781926890371

Erin F. Chan (she/her) lives and works as a publishing assistant, copy editor, and graphic designer on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.



At the age of 38, Michelle Poirier Brown discovered her hidden Indigenous identity. Coming to terms with her newfound Métis heritage was compounded by having to deal with childhood trauma from an incestuous rape as well as nearly dying once when she was exposed to extreme cold. She reveals her journey of pain, belonging, hope and resilience in her debut collection of poems, You Might Be Sorry You Read This (U of Alberta Press \$19.99). The publisher says Brown's confessional poems "are polished yet unpretentious, often edgy but humorous; they explore trauma yet prioritize the poet's story. Honouring the complexities of Indigenous identity and the raw experiences of womanhood, mental illness, and queer selfhood, these narratives carry weight." Brown concludes in one of her poems that "You need / only be the simple / expression of the divine / intent / that is your life."

9781772126037

C IS FOR CURRY

Gwen Curry's Converging Waters: The Beauty and Challenges of the Broughton Archipelago (RMB \$40), with photography by Dan Hillert of Malcolm Island, explores the pebble beaches, foggy mornings, orcas, and eagles on the tree-covered islands of the northern coast of Vancouver Island at the edge of the Broughton Archipelago (including Queen Charlotte Strait, Broughton Strait, Cormorant Channel and Blackfish Sound). Converging Waters also takes a hard-hitting look at the environmental problems of the

the ex-wrestling pro turned detective is drawn into the mixed martial arts community when a UFC Championship A.J. Devlin belt goes missing and he's hired to find it. He ventures into the tight-knit MMA community, where he begins asking unwanted questions and infiltrates a secretive no-holds-barred fight club. Jed's detective work also takes him inside the world of jewel thieves, bodybuilders and yoga enthusiasts. Jed, who has developed an unhealthy fondness for banana milkshakes, may be in for a fight that he is no longer fit to handle.

Broughton and beyond. Curry's essays

on the forest industry, the cruise ship

9781771601658

industry, orcas and whales and

the devastating practices of a fish

farming industry that threaten

the BC coastal ecosystem are

Port Moody-based A.J.

Devlin has released the

third installment in

his "Hammerhead" Jed

mystery series, Five

Moves of Doom (NeW-

est \$22.95). Jed "Ham-

merhead" Ounstead,

unsettling.

E IS FOR ERIKSSON

In her third non-fiction title for younger readers ages 12 and older, Urgent Message from a Hot Planet: Navigating the Climate Crisis (Orca \$26.95). Ann Eriksson looks at the science behind

Writer and

artist Gwen

Curry.

global warming and its impact on the environment as well as sharing easy actions we can all take to ameliorate the

9781774390559

damaging effects. "Do something NOW!" is her clear message. With photographs plus illustrations by

Vancouver-based Belle Wuthrich, this book highlights young people who are 'climate heroes' and adult activists who are working to fix the problems of climate change. Eriksson is a director of the Thetis Island Nature Conservancy and has also written five adult novels. 978-1459826328



Jill Frayne

It's 1995, Whitehorse, Yukon, and family counsellor Helen Cotillard is treating fifteenyear-old Gale for her anxiety attacks. In this northern town, seeing a therapist "meant you were

failing in school, or you still wet the bed," writes Jill Frayne in her novel, Why I'm Here (NeWest \$21.95). Gale's problems stem from being separated from the person she cares most about her younger half-sister, Buddie, who lives with their violent mother and hapless stepfather in Ontario. When her stepfather makes Gale go live with her father and stepmother in Whitehorse (for Gale's safety), Buddie tells her, "Go, okay. And when I'm big, come back and get me." Jill Frayne's first book, the travel memoir Starting Out in the Afternoon (Vintage, 2003), was nominated for a Governor General's Award.

9781774390498

Creators, Innovators, and Theatremakers:

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Wong's first book upended tragic literary theory by arguing that risk is the dramatic fulcrum of the action. It also launched an international playwriting competition (risktheatre.com). His second book expands on how chance directs the action, both on and off the stage.

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Inside you will find three risk theatre tragedies by acclaimed playwrights: In Bloom (Gabriel Jason Dean), The Value (Nicholas Dunn), and Children of Combs and Watch Chains (Emily McClain). From the poppy fields of Afghanistan to the motel rooms and doctors' offices lining interstate expressways, these plays—by simulating risk—will show you how theatre is a dress rehearsal for life.

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TOMORROW, WHOEVER SAYS DRAMA WILL SAY RISK

Edwin Wong (1974-) is a classicist and theatre researcher specializing in the impact of the highly improbable. He has been invited to talk at venues from the Kennedy Center and the University of Coimbra in Portugal to international conferences held by the National New Play Network, the Canadian Association of Theatre Research, the Society of Classical Studies, and the Classical Association of the Middle West and South. His first book, *The Risk Theatre Model of Tragedy*, is igniting an international arts movement. He was educated at Brown University and lives in Victoria, Canada. Follow him on melpomeneswork.com and Twitter @TheoryOfTragedy.

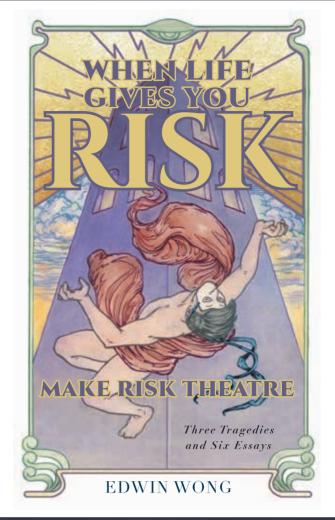






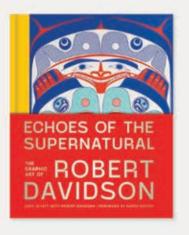
When Life Gives You Risk Make Risk Theatre

EDWIN WONG

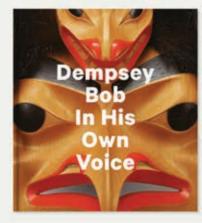


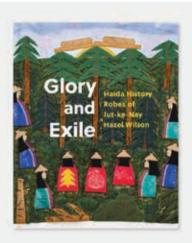
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WHO'S WHO



Stefanie Green

G IS FOR GREEN

In 2016, Canada passed federal legislation that allows eligible Canadian adults to request medical assistance in dying (MAiD). Now Dr. Stefanie Green has written a memoir, This Is Assisted Dying: A Doctor's Story of Empowering Patients at the End of Life (Scribner \$24.99), revealing the reasons a patient might seek an assisted death, how the process works, what the event itself can look like, the reactions of those involved and what it feels like to administer medications that hasten death. She co-founded the Canadian Association of MAiD Assessors and Providers, advises the BC Ministry of Health MAiD oversight committee and has hosted three national conferences on the topic. 9781668004784

H IS FOR HILL

The former Poet Laureate of New Westminster (2017-2020), Alan Hill has written his debut, full-length collection of poems, In the Blood (Caitlin \$20). Depicting a lifetime of mental illness, both his own and his brother's, Hill writes in verse of being in and out of institutions and the sibling bonds that are alternately broken and created through their shared experiences. His brother spends more of his life in institutions, which causes Hill to grapple with guilt, shame and loss. Weaving from the past to the present and back again, In the Blood looks for meaning and comfort in the confusion of childhood and the road into adulthood.

9781773860787

IIS FOR IONA

Returning home to New Denver in 1948, Lane Winslow—a former British intelligence agent—uncovers human remains next to a friend's garden, and a local restaurant is hit by arson with prejudice as a possible motive. Lane must also contend with an investigation of her RCMP husband's integrity. Questions of community and trust are at the heart of **Iona Whishaw**'s latest Lane Winslow Mystery, **Framed in Fire** (Touchwood \$16.95).

J IS FOR JOSEPH

"I was a child of an attempted genocide," says Chief Robert Joseph—Ambassador for Reconciliation Canada and a recipient of an OC and an Indspire Lifetime Achievement Award—in his memoir, Namwayut: We Are All One: A Pathway to Reconciliation (Page Two \$29.95). From his early years spent in the abusive St. Michael's Residential School, to recovery from alcoholism and trauma, to coming into his own as a leader, Joseph lays out his journey



Robert Joseph

and wisdom. "Let us remember that in spite of what we have done to ourselves, we belong and are loved," he says. "Let us—every faith, every colour, every creed—recognize our common humanity."

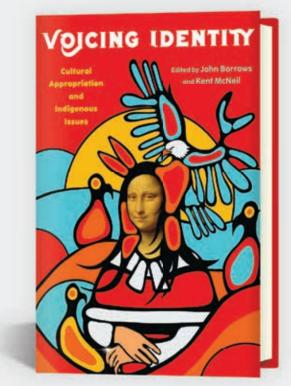
Let us accept the truth that we are all one." His son, **Bob Joseph**, wrote the bestseller *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act* (Indigenous Relations, 2018).

K IS FOR KOOL

During his lifetime, R. Yorke Edwards (1924-2011) was recognized as the 'father of nature interpretation' in Canada. His pioneering work at BC Parks with nature-centre-based interpretation programs in the 1950s and early 1960s, as well as his writings based on his belief that people needed to spend time outdoors to experience nature firsthand and that the focus should be on the "real thing." Now Richard **Kool**, a former director of public programs at the Royal BC Museum has co-edited with Robert Cannings a book of Edwards' writings and speeches, The Object's the Thing: The Writings of Yorke Edwards, A Pioneer of Heritage Interpretation in Canada (RBCM \$24.95). Yorke Edward's work still influences how we experience our heritage in parks and museums today. 9780772678515



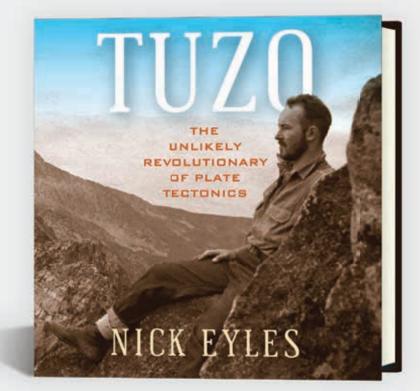
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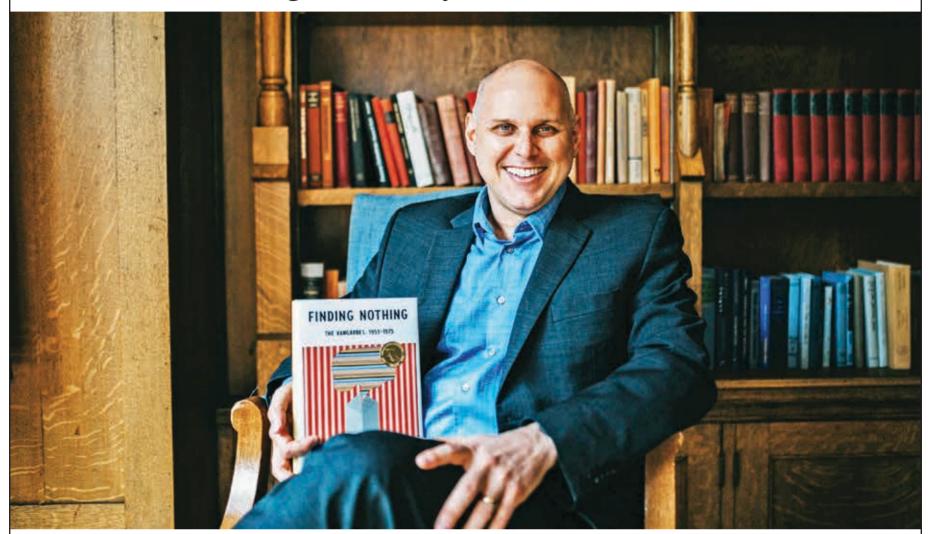




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FINDING NOTHING

The VanGardes, 1959-1975

(University of Toronto Press)

by Gregory Betts

Gregory Betts' wide-ranging summary of Vancouver's cultural life between 1959 and 1975 focuses on the writing arts, which had become experimental and inter-disciplinary during this period. Boundaries were pushed and new spaces created for intersecting arts and life. Betts argues that Vancouver was a key site then for the cultural transformations spreading across English Canada. Gregory Betts is a professor in the Faculty of Humanities at Brock University.

SHORTLISTED TITLES

Becoming Vancouver: A History (Harbour Publishing) by Daniel Francis
A Long Way to Paradise: A New History of British Columbia Politics (UBC Press) by Robert A.J. McDonald

The Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize was established in memory of Basil Stuart-Stubbs, a bibliophile, scholar and librarian who passed away in 2012. Stuart-Stubbs' many accomplishments included serving as the University Librarian at UBC Library and as the Director of UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. Stuart-Stubbs had a leadership role in many national and regional library and publishing activities. During his exceptional career, he took particular interest in the production and distribution of Canadian books and was associated with several initiatives beneficial to authors and their readers, and to Canadian publishing. Pacific BookWorld News Society co-sponsors this award with UBC Library.



WHO'S WHO

BRITISH COLUMBIA

LIS FOR LUNDY

Born in the 1960s and "fed on feminism in the '70s and '80s," Victoria-raised **Susan Lundy** intended to lead the life of a career woman. "Dress suits



Susan Lundy

were in. I could motor out of the driveway in the morning, delve into engrossing and stimulating work (setting my own hours), bring home a fat cheque," she writes in **Home** on the Strange:

Chronicles of Motherhood, Mayhem, and Matters of the Heart (Heritage House \$22.95). Then, in quick succession while on a summer co-op job in her fourth year at UVic, Lundy fell in love and married, and after a few years her daughters came along. Her career became a distant goal when she "looked into their eyes." Her book is a collection of newspaper and magazine columns covering the journey from kids to Covid and being an empty-nester.

9781772033649

M IS FOR McGREGOR

What is a good feminist and how is it learned? More particularly, how does one learn-through ideas, feelings and texts—of living in a good way? Hannah McGregor tackles these issues in A Sentimental Education (WLU Press \$24.99). Known as the podcaster behind Secret Feminist Agenda and Witch, Please, McGregor writes that this book is a "meditation on what it means to care deeply-about justice, about revolution, about changing the world-and to know that caring is necessary and yet utterly insufficient. This work will never be perfected, and it will never be completed." 9781771125574

N IS FOR NELLUTLA



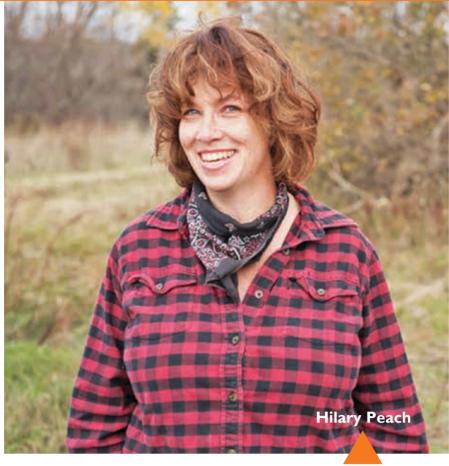
Manu Nellutla

Since his childhood days in India, **Manu Nellutla**, who now lives in Surrey, has been interested in mythological books. It led Nellutla to begin his *Janya Bharata* book series with **Janya Bharata**

(The War): A commoner's historical fiction during Mahābhārata epic (Self-published \$14.99). Set between the 7th century BCE and the 3rd century BCE, *Janya Bharata* is a fictional novel about a tribe called Ustrakarnikas. The protagonist, a common man named Mitrajit, is pulled into a feud between two cousin groups. All that Mitrajit ever wanted was to spend his life peacefully with his wife and daughter. But now he has to choose between his dharma and his family. 9798430439217

O IS FOR OCEAN CONCRETE

Employing 3,000 people serving 12 million visitors a year, Vancouver's Granville Island is known today for its food market, eateries, artisanal shopping and entertainment venues. Yet, Granville Island was once named Industrial Island. Granville Island ABC: A Family Adventure (Heritage





Alison Kelly

House \$22.95), by **Alison Kelly**, describes Granville Island's houseboat community, the range of wildlife still living there and its four parks. There are still industrial operations such as Ocean Concrete (the "O"), one of the two industries left on the Island (the other is Micon Products, which has been manufacturing screws and drill bits since 1915). Kelly is best known as one of the writers and performers for the award-winning play *Mom's the World. Granville Island ABC* is illustrated by North Vancouver's **Linda Sharp**.

P IS FOR PEACH

For more than two decades, **Hilary Peach** worked as a welder and was one
of the few women in the Boilermakers Union. She kept journals of her
experiences and has now published **Thick Skin: Field Notes from a Sis- ter in the Brotherhood** (Anvil

ter in the Brotherhood (A \$22) about working in this industry with its coded language and obscure subculture. Her work took her from BC's shipyards and pulp mills to Alberta's oil sands, Ontario's rust belt, and the northeastern US's power generating stations. Peach went on to become a West Coast performance poet, with shows at the Vancou-

ver International Writers Festival, and the Poetry Gabriola Festival, which she founded. Her debut collection of poetry, *Bolt* (Anvil, 2018), referenced her time as a welder. Peach still works as a welder on Gabriola Island, where she maintains her art practice. 9781772141955

Q IS FOR QUIRKS & QUARKS

Since 1992, Bob McDonald has been the host of CBC's Quirks & Quarks. He is known for his enthusiasm and ability to convey complex science to non-scientific audiences. He applies his sunny ways to **The Future Is Now:** Solving the Climate Crisis with Today's Technologies (Viking Canada \$32.95), which is not another "wake-up call" but rather an optimistic exploration of the technologies we already have to get us out of the climate change mess. "The astounding aspect of green energy technology is the fact that it all exists today, most of has been around for decades," writes McDonald. But it will take more than implementing these technologies: "It will require political will, economic investment, and public acceptance." As he concludes, "You can ignore it (for a while), you can come up with short-term fixes, or you can get to the source of the



problem and fix it

R IS FOR ROWNTREE



Lenore Rowntree

In Lenore Rowntree's third book of fiction, See You Later Maybe Never (Now Or Never \$19.95) a childless woman nearing sixty, Vanessa, confronts her past that includes an unsuc-

cessful love life and being forced out of her high-fashion career. Vanessa leaves Toronto for a retreat to a holistic campus. She recalls playing as a young girl while her parents' marriage disintegrated, crushes she had at school-and secretly falling for one of her students as a young teacher-in-training. Eventually, Vanessa connects with her 103-year-old Aunt Marion, an elder who continues to find ways to make life more interesting. There's disappointment, fun, humour and intelligence in this look into what it means to be seen as "old." 9781989689400

S IS FOR SPARKS



Ian Boothby

Sparks is a super hero dog that saves lives. Secretly, Sparks is really two cats, Charlie and August, that dress up in a mechanical dog suit to do their good work. Sparks is also the name of

a series of graphic novels about the exploits of Charlie and August written by North Delta–raised **Ian Boothby**, a writer known for his work on *The Simpsons* comics and in *The New Yorker* and *MAD* magazine. Boothby co-created the series with artist **Nina Matsumoto**. In the series' third title, **Sparks! Future Purrfect: A Graphic Novel** (Scholastic \$19.99), Charlie and August go on vacation to an island that holds secrets. A crazy adventure ensues. 9781338339932

T IS FOR TOBIAS

As the child of Holocaust survivors in Chile, **Eliana Tobias** grew up listening to stories of shattered communities in Europe, losing family under a Chilean military dictatorship, and later, living in Peru during an intense civil war.

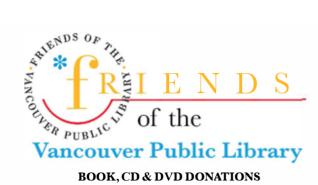
She knows firsthand how people who survive devastating circumstances carry on. Her first historical novel, *In the Belly of the Horse* (Inanna, 2017), concerns a family escaping the turmoil



Eliana Tobias

of Peru's political turmoil in the 1980s. Otilia and Salvador, a mother and son, are forced apart during the conflict. Tobias' latest novel, **When We Return** (River Grove Books \$22.05), revisits Otilia and Salvador, who have been separated for twenty years. It's 2008, and the Peruvian government is ready to make amends to its citizens following the violent guerilla movement of the last three decades. But Otilia and Salvador are stymied by the government when it denies responsibility in their legal case.

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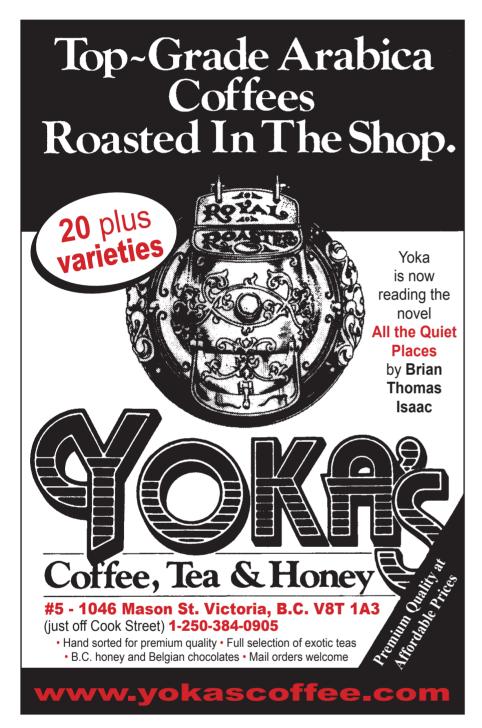
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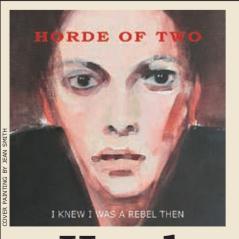
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U IS FOR URRIDAFOSSAR

Harold Rhenisch continues his love affair with Iceland (and his ongoing exploration of land and place) in his latest collection of poems, Landings: Poems from Iceland (Burton House \$20). Urridafossar, which means Trout Falls, is a popular horse-trekking destination in Iceland. It is here, while on a writer's residence, that Rhenisch composed "The Foal: Urridafossar," a paean to the scope of geological time relative to the minute span of a person's life: "where water once carried off the ice / that ground mountains into sand ... Am I, / the you I meet, the man who stepped into the sun, / or the mountain who walked back? / Fate plays these tricks with time / when time gets up on its four foal legs / and plays these tricks with fate." 9780994866967

V IS FOR VULLI

It's 2007, and Sandra Treming is released from prison, having served 25 years on a terrorism and murder conviction for her involvement in the "Berkman Brigade," an early 1980s political activist group in Mark Vulliamy's debut novel, Through Thorns (Iguana Books \$26.49). The aging revolutionary now finds herself in a strange new world of cellphones, laptops and smoking bans; her old political pals have moved on to other pursuits. Sandra must navigate through abusive authorities, religious zealots, petty thieves and unscrupulous property developers before a chance encounter with the owner of a used book store opens the door to a new life.

One of the important "firsts" in a child's life is their first camping trip, as detailed in Jane Whittingham's new picture book Wild About Camping (Nimbus \$13.95). A brother and sister set off for the woods, and each page mirrors their actions in wild animal imagery—uch as yanking cords while setting up their tent (linked to a pulling, tugging moose), to a swim in a nearby lake (floating, bobbing loons), to telling stories around the campfire (calling, hooting owls). Lively illustrations are by Bryanna Chapeskie. Whittingham is also a librarian with a passion for early literacy. 9781774710432

In 2019, atmospheric scientist Markus Rex captained the MOSAiC Expedition into the Arctic. The goal was to help hundreds of scientists from over eighty institutes around the world to research climate change year round; the method involved the icebreaker drifting through the Arctic Ocean, trapped in ice. The expedition proved to be dangerous, not least because the COVID-19 pandemic began near the same time. The team also faced storms, frostbite and cracking ice floes. There was fun too, as scientists held a Christmas party on the ice and watched polar bears "play like puppies," as related in Rex's memoir, The Greatest Polar Expedition of All Time: The Arctic Mission to the Epicenter of Climate Change (Greystone/ David Suzuki Institute \$34.95). Recommended for those who enjoy adventure, suspense and cutting-edge climate research stories. 9781771649483

Union leader, Hannan Yussuff, is one of the visionaries in Inspiring Canadians: Forty Brilliant Canadians and Their Visions for the Nation (D&M\$24.95) by Mark Bulgutch. Yussuff argues that unions are good for everyone, not just union members, because unions fight for all working people. He cites the nine-year battle for the expansion of the Canada Pension Plan, which cost the Canadian Labour Congress \$20 million. "We didn't do it for members, because pensions are usually part of our contracts," says Yussuff. "We fight because everybody is entitled to a retirement with dignity and no senior should have to live in poverty." Yussuff also points out that people with well-paying union jobs put the money back into the economy. "Take us out of the equation, and the economy will lose about \$1 billion a week," he says. 9781771623148

Z IS FOR ZHANG

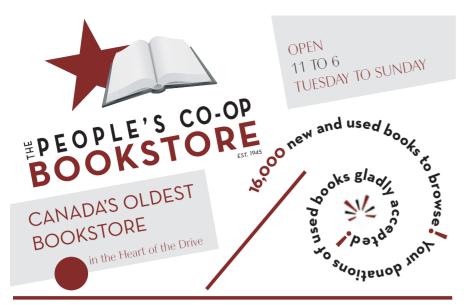


Hui Zhang

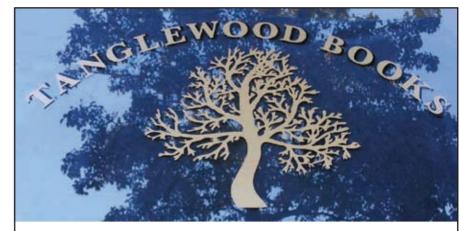
After working as a practicing lawyer in China for 18 years, Hui Zhang relocated to Vancouver with her family in 2014. Two years later, she realized her dream to continue her legal career in Canada

when she became a licensed Immigration Consultant. Her road map for navigating the labyrinth of Canadian immigration laws, Canadian Immigration Handbook: A Guide to Essential Immigration Knowledge (Self-Counsel \$49.95) is aimed at the immigration needs of prospective immigrants. Also useful for international students, foreign workers, refugee claimants, Canadians wishing to sponsor family members, and others.

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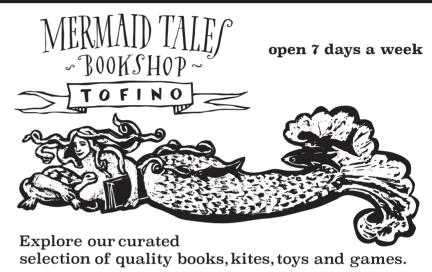
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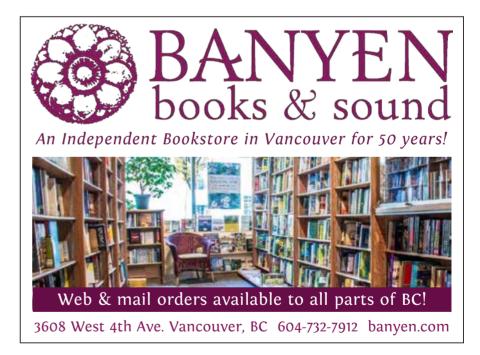
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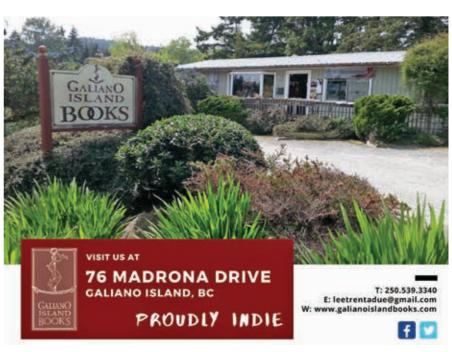


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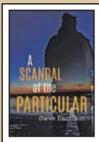
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GRAPHIC NOVEL

OBITS

Helen Potrebenko

(1940 - 2022)

ne of Vancouver's most uncompromising feminist writers, **Helen Potrebenko** died after a battle with cancer on August 10, 2022.

Born in Woking, Alberta, Potrebenko moved to Vancouver to attend university. She supported herself driving a taxi cab and wrote about the experience in her debut novel, *Taxi!* (New Star, 1975). From driving oil executives to the airport and the unemployed around Skid Row, the narrator learns about social and political problems from all corners

of Canadian society. Written in a fast-paced style, the book also puts a spotlight on the sexism women were forced to endure: "It just never occurs to them we're people and not zoo animals to be stared at," the narrator writes, "and that we have feelings and don't like being prodded and mauled by thirty different guys in one day."

In 2010, a celebration of the 35th anniversary of the publication of Taxi! was held at the Vancouver Public Library.

Potrebenko's third book, a collection of fiction and other writings, A Flight of Average Persons (New Star, 1979) expresses the author's pride in the dignity of working-class lives, particularly women disadvantaged by patriarchal societies.



Two Years on the Muckamuck Line (Lazara, 1981) detailed Potrebenko's time in a labour strike (1978 to 1983) at the Muckamuck Restaurant. The white owners of the first restaurant in Vancouver to exclusively serve Indigenous West Coast cuisine allegedly refused to negotiate.

"The Muckamuck hired scab labour and tried to keep the restaurant open,"

says Potrebenko. "Sometimes they were assisted by outside goons. When the owners finally left town, the Labour Relations Board bestirred itself to order the Muckamuck to pay a token \$10,000 because of its illegal activities." she wrote. The restaurant reopened as the Quilicum Restaurant in 1985, with new Indigenous management.

One of her last books, *Let*-

ters to Maggie (Lazara, 1999) is a series of letters about work, aging, literature, culture and homelessness. They are addressed to Potrebenko's long-time friend, social activist and feminist **Maggie Benston**, to tell her what's been happening in the world since Benston's death in 1991.

As well as driving cab, Potrebenko made her living as a lab technician, office temp, legal secretary and bookkeeper.

Beth Jankola

(1936 - 2022)

Beth Jankola, a poet and painter who frequently cited working-class environs in her books, died on April 11, 2022.

Born in a small town in southern Alberta, Jankola moved to the West Coast in the 1960s with her husband Joe. After various jobs at The Vancouver Sun and The School for the Blind in Kitsilano, she obtained a teaching degree (1966) from UBC. Later, Jankola taught at the New School in East Vancouver and it was during this period she became actively involved in the Vancouver poetry scene, publishing 14 books and chapbooks, giving readings and supporting fellow poets. She received the Bliss Carmen Award for Lyrical Poetry in 1972. She also earned a BFA (1998) from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design.

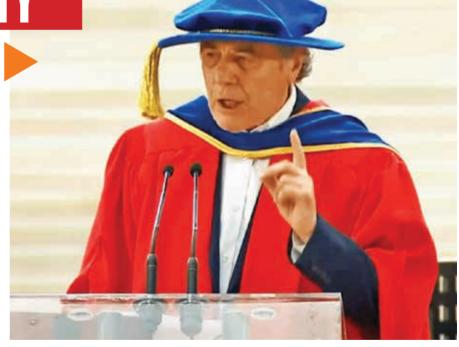
One of her mentees, poet and publisher **Mona Fertig** remembers Jankola as a beatnik. "She opened the door to my literary life. She would take me to all the Vancouver poetry readings in her Volkswagen bug when I was 17, showing me how to get into the Cecil Pub. I think I was the youngest poet there."

Jankola lent Fertig a library book called *Shakespeare and Company*. "She told me, 'You've got to read this.' I was so inspired by it that I applied for funds and started The Literary Storefront [Canada's first non-profit literary centre that operated in Gastown from 1978-85]." Beth Jankola spent her last twenty years living in Sechelt.

COMMUNITY

Doctor of letters

BC BookWorld founder and author, Alan Twigg received an honourary doctorate from SFU on June 8. Asked to provide words of wisdom for graduating students in the audience, he quoted advice given to him by Holocaust survivor, Rudy Vrba: "Whenever there's a problem, stop and ask yourself 'Is this going to be a problem for me a year from now?' You'll find 90 per cent of your problems will go away." SFU conferred a Doctor of Letters, honoris causa for his many contributions to the literary world in BC. Congratulations Dr. Twigg!



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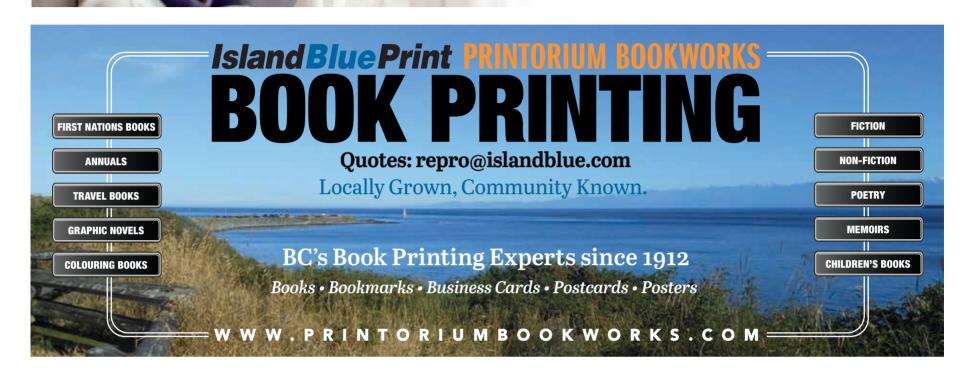




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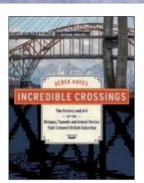
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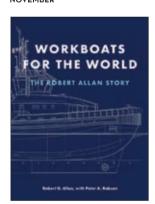
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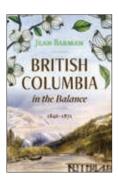
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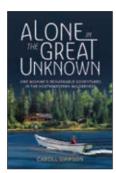
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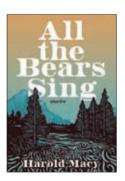
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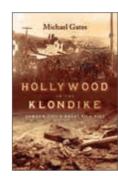
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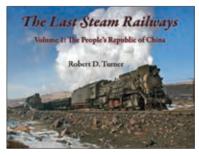
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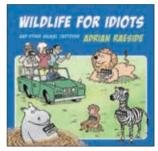
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