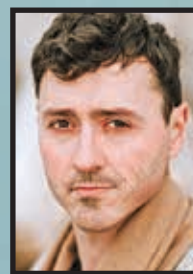


YOUR FREE GUIDE TO BOOKS & AUTHORS

**BC**  
**BOOKWORLD**

VOL. 37 • NO. 4 • Winter 2023-2024



**JASON  
JOBIN**

Grit, humour  
and incurable  
cancer.

P 12

# CHARLOTTE GILL

Uncovering secrets in a mixed-race family memoir  
while ending a 20-year silence with her father.

See page 7

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**GRANT  
BUDAY**

Women in colonial  
Victoria. P 17



**HIGH SEAS DANGER**

Early European sailors & the  
first woman to circumnavigate  
the earth on a sailing ship.

P 20-21



**PERRY  
BULWER**

20 years in the Child  
of God cult. P 9





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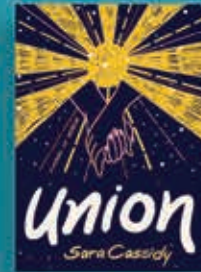
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# BC TOP SELLERS

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Our Lady of Mile End  
(stories)  
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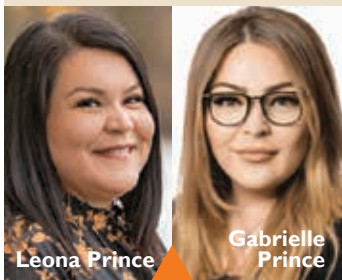
**Iona Whishaw**  
To Track a Traitor:  
A Lane Winslow Mystery  
(TouchWood Editions \$18.95)

**Perry Bulwer**  
Misguided: My Jesus Freak  
Life in a Domsday Cult  
(New Star \$26)

**Sam George, Jill Yonit Goldberg,  
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Residential School  
(UBC Press \$19.95)

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Searching for Franklin:  
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(Sandhill Book  
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(Ronsdale \$19.95)

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Jane Wilde**  
Gumboot Guys:  
Nautical Adventures on  
British Columbia's  
North Coast  
(Caitlin \$26)

**Lucia Frangione**  
Grazie  
(Talonbooks \$21.95)

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

# PEOPLE



Naomi Klein

## IDENTITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Two years after joining UBC as an associate professor in 2021, *New York Times* best-selling author and activist **Naomi Klein** has published **Doppelganger: A Trip into the Mirror World** (Knopf Canada \$38).

Klein's new treatise veers from her usual Big Idea books to blending memoir with political and cultural insights as she delves into what she calls the "mirror world"—our destabilized present that is rife with doubles and confusion; where far right movements playact solidarity with the working class; AI-generated content blurs the line between genuine and spurious; and so many people are projecting their own carefully curated digital doubles into the social media sphere. Klein unravels it all.

The idea for *Doppelganger* started with Klein's experience of being frequently mistaken for her own doppelganger, US

author **Naomi Wolf**. It was disconcerting for Klein because Wolf had converted from her nineties feminist icon role to becoming a promoter of right-wing conspiracy theories and alliances, and a frequent pundit on Fox News.

"This book is a departure for me," Klein says. "It's more personal, more experimental, and while it's not *about* my doppelganger in any traditional sense, it does explore what it feels like to watch one's identity slip away in the digital ether, an experience many more of us will have in the age of AI. Mostly, it's an attempt to grapple with the wildness of right now—with conspiracy cultures surging and strange left-right alliances emerging and nobody seeming to be quite what they seem. *Doppelganger* is my attempt at a usable map of our moment in history—but to make it, I had to get lost a few times."

9781039006898

SEBASTIAN NEVOLS PHOTO

## Ho Ho Humbug

Five years ago, fellow writers began sharing their bad Christmas stories with **JJ Lee**. He admits that the first one made him laugh out loud. "It was just so horrible and beautiful," he says. Then when more blue yuletide stories kept coming his way, Lee admits to becoming a collector of these "woeful true-life tales."

Now Lee has edited a collection for **Better Next Year: An anthology of Christmas Epiphanies** (Tidewater \$24.95).

He includes people such as: a call centre employee threatened with losing his poorly-paid, soul-destroying job on Christmas Eve; a girl and her younger sister taken by their mother to spend Christmas holidays at a women's shelter and later, their grandparent's double wide trailer; an impoverished Cree boy looking for a Christmas tree when he thinks his mother and her boyfriend are off on a bender and have shrugged off the holiday celebrations; and a mother dealing with the first Christmas after her adopted baby son is returned to his birth mother. For good measure, Lee also writes about one of his own bad Christmas tales.

Most fall into the category of black humour but all tend to have something approaching a heartwarming twist at the end. And all are page turners. Recommended for tucking up and reading over the holidays. 9781990160271



**JJ Lee has previously been shortlisted for the Governor General, Hilary Weston and Charles Taylor prizes for non-fiction.**

ILYA HERB PHOTO

**Darrel J. McLeod lives in Sooke and divides his time between writing and singing in a jazz band.**

The story revolves around a Nehiyaw (Cree) man named James, who leaves the comforts of a white, middle-class neighbourhood in Vancouver to reconnect with his roots when he accepts a job as a school principal in a Dakelh region of BC. But James is unprepared for the poverty, cultural disruption and abuse. While he finds some of what he is looking for in the Dakelh culture, James struggles with some of his own past demons. His resolution involves a compromise that might or might not work.

9781771623629



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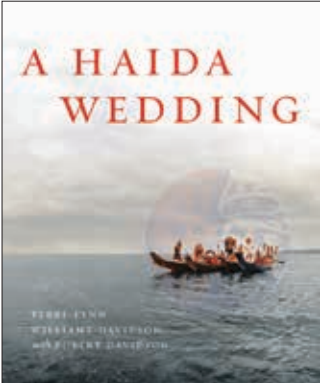
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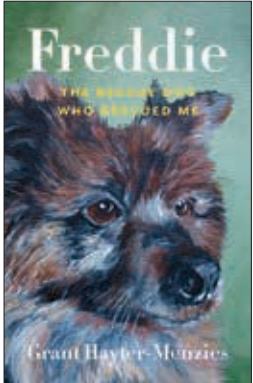
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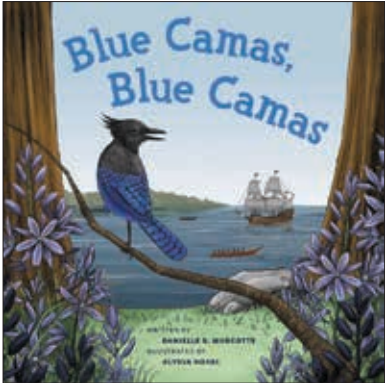
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**Fleece and Fibre**  
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Francine McCabe

*A fascinating look at the region's vibrant fleece and fibre community and the land-based textile economy.*

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*The poignant story of a Lkwungen community and a group of Irish settlers who see the land in very different ways.*

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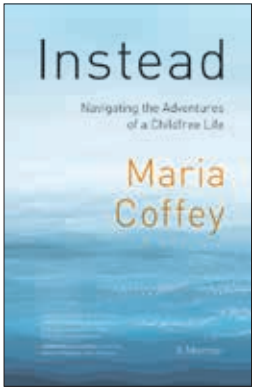
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**Grizzly Bear Science and the Art of a Wilderness Life**  
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*Natural history highlighted by forty years of grizzly bear research and family life in the Flathead Valley.*

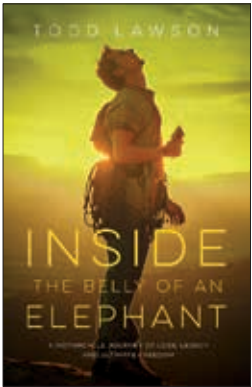
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Maria Coffey

*A compelling memoir about opting for adventure instead of motherhood, and the life-long outcomes of that choice.*

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Todd Lawson

*An adventurous motorcycle journey of loss, legacy and freedom through South America and Africa.*

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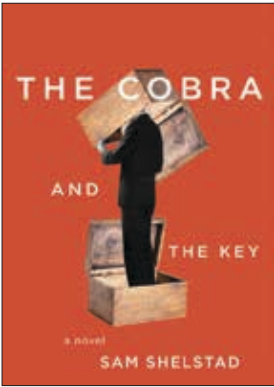


**Gone Viking III**  
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David George Gordon

*A history of how oysters shaped the environment, cultures, and economies of the Northwest.*

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# PEOPLE

## Hippies, quilts & friendships

**A**lready a skilled quilter when she moved to a northern coastal area in the late seventies, **Kristin Miller** not only exhibited her work at art galleries, she bartered quilts like they were money, and drew together large networks of people through communal quilting projects.

Her first glimpse of north coast nautical life was in 1977 when Miller visited Function Junction on the Prince Rupert waterfront, which she describes as “a dilapidated tugboat base taken over by sea-struck hippies” in her memoir, **Knots and Stitches: Community Quilts Across the Harbour** (Caitlin \$26).



Kristin Miller

Two years later, Miller and her fiancé bought a boat to cross from Prince Rupert to an inlet across the harbour called Salt Lakes, which was not a lake at all, rather a “huddle of wind-bleached shanties on the shore,” says Miller. They used \$800 and one of Miller’s handmade quilts to purchase the boat. The marriage didn’t last but Miller stayed at Salt Lakes for many more years where she became “a quilter, a seamstress, a mender of fabric.”

As babies were being born around the harbour, Miller and her neighbours began making baby quilts as a communal activity. This expanded to wedding quilts and a network of over a hundred women, a few children and some men. As they began drifting away from the Prince Rupert area (Miller now lives in Powell River), the quilting network continued to make communal quilts—more than 130 to date. Miller’s book also details the wonders and hardships of rural coastal lifestyles. 9781773861203



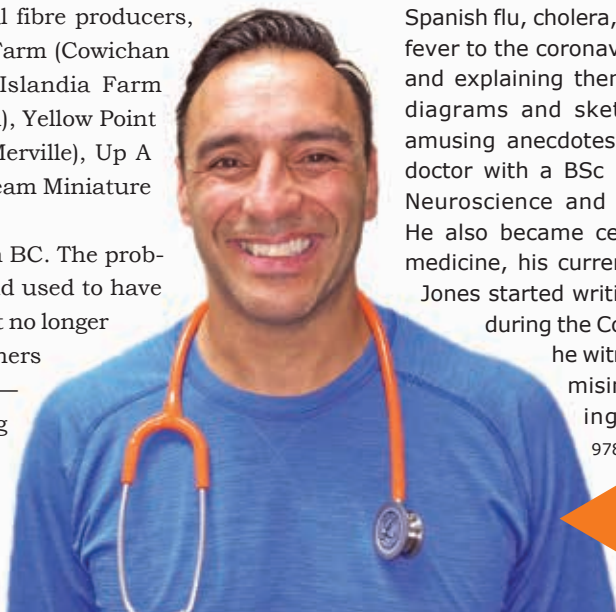
Francine McCabe

# 100-mile FASHION

“The wool blanket draped over the couch, the cashmere sweater warming your shoulders, the cotton bedding you’ll climb into tonight—they all started from the ground somewhere,” writes fibre artist **Francine McCabe** of Chemainus in **Fleece and Fibre: Textile Producers of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands** (Heritage House \$34.95) “Do you ever wonder where the fibre grew and how it was processed to become the useful item it is today?” McCabe asks, a question she grappled with while trying to avoid the damaging environmental footprint of micro fibres and “fast fashion” (cheaply made clothing from synthetic materials, usually made overseas) before researching the small-scale fibre producers within a day’s drive of her home.

McCabe discovered over 40 plant and animal fibre producers, including: Flax to Linen (Victoria), Rabbit Hole Farm (Cowichan Bay), Spring Valley Farms (Denman Island), Islandia Farm (Gabriola Island), Swallows Keep (Galiano Island), Yellow Point Farm (Ladysmith), Mountain View Icelandics (Merville), Up A Creek Farm & Fibre Mill (Qualicum), and Millstream Miniature Llamas (Victoria).

Clearly, we have an abundance of raw fibre in BC. The problem, maintains McCabe, is that Vancouver Island used to have several small family-run fibre processing mills but no longer does. That is about to change as McCabe and others are working to build a regional textile economy—called a fibreshed. For wool lovers, anyone wanting to meet and support members of BC’s fibre farming community and localize their wardrobes, or for those who love the beauty and integrity of rural life, this book is for you. 9781772034530



Allen Jones, M.D.

## Infections for DUMMIES

**I**t’s rare for a book about infections to appeal equally to the lay public as well as healthcare professionals. **Allen Jones**, M.D. of Vancouver accomplishes this with **The Hidden Zoo Inside You: An Illustrated Guide to Pesky Organisms and Pandemics** (Granville Island Pub. \$39.95), a primer about hundreds of infections—everything from the plague, Spanish flu, cholera, smallpox and ebola fever to the coronavirus—by describing and explaining them with handwritten diagrams and sketches, often using amusing anecdotes. Jones is a family doctor with a BSc in Zoology, MSc in Neuroscience and an MD from UBC. He also became certified in addiction medicine, his current area of practice.

Jones started writing *The Hidden Zoo* during the Covid pandemic when he witnessed the extent of misinformation regarding the coronavirus. 9781989467664



City of Victoria Butler Book Prize winner **Pauline Holdstock** (middle) with **Brian Butler** (left) and Mayor **Marianne Alto**,

## Victoria Book Prizes

**C**onfessions with **Keith: From the Journals of Vita Glass** (Biblioasis \$22.95), is a novel about a mother and writer going through a midlife crisis at the same time as her husband, which she humourously chronicles in her journal, has earned **Pauline Holdstock** the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize.

The winner of the City of Victoria Children’s Book Prize was illustrator **Julie McLaughlin** for **Little Pine Cone: Wildfires and the Natural World** (Orca \$21.95) featuring detailed art that integrates science with storytelling by meteorologist, **Johanna Wagstaffe**.

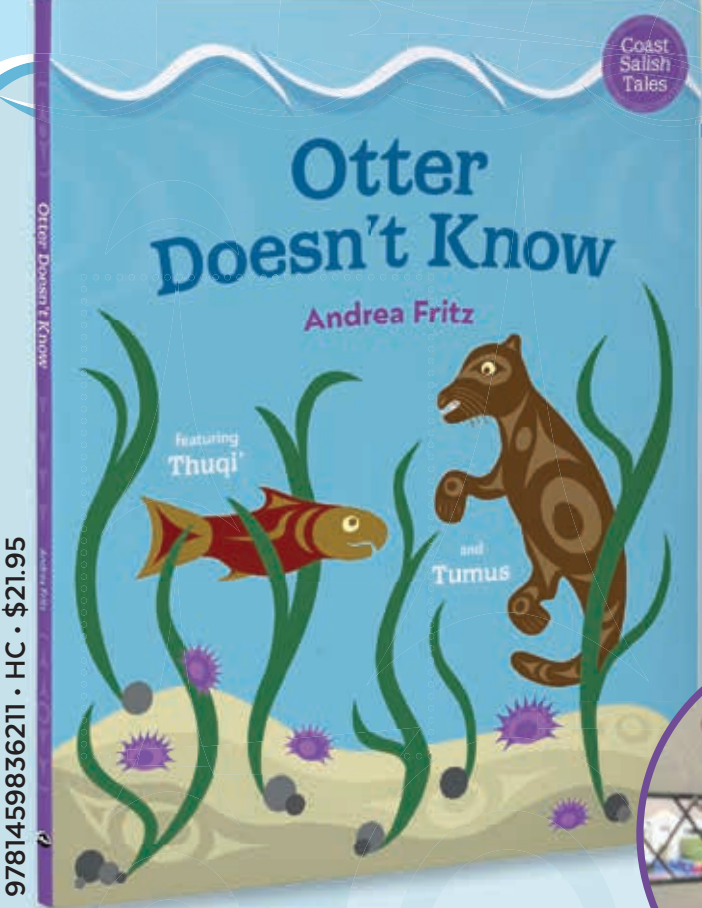
The Victoria Book Prizes started 20 years ago with the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize that is awarded to a Greater Victoria author for the best book in the categories of fiction, non-fiction or poetry. The City of Victoria Children’s Book Prize recognizes exceptional literature for children and young adults and is awarded to a Greater Victoria author or illustrator. The prize was established in 2008 by the late Mel Bolen of Bolen Books.



Children’s Book Prize winner **Julie McLaughlin** (left) with Mayor **Alto**.



# Let kindness and bravery lead the way



“A heartwarming tale that encourages readers to persevere despite uncertainty...A gem of Coast Salish storytelling” —*Kirkus Reviews*



Author and artist **Andrea Fritz** uses Indigenous storytelling techniques and art to share the culture and language of the Hul’q’umi’num’-speaking Peoples

The Hul’q’umi’num’ language is spoken by many First Nations on the east coast of Vancouver Island and along the Salish Sea in British Columbia. The language is guttural, precise and fun once you get the hang of a few sounds not used in English. My auntie Sally Norris used to say that if you didn’t grow up speaking the language, you might not be able to say some of the words properly, “but that should never stop you from trying!” Hul’q’umi’num’ is meant to be spoken, shared and experienced as part of a broader cultural journey—a journey that brings you closer to those who came before you, those who discovered what there was on our land and how to talk about it.

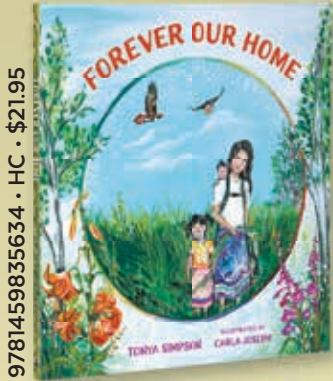
In reading this book and doing your best to learn the new-to-you sounds of the Hul’q’umi’num’ language, you are starting your own journey toward understanding how knowing something’s name connects you deeply with that thing. Thuqi’ swims the oceans and rivers to help feed us, and she also shows us ways that we can be better in our own lives. We can face our fears, be kind to those around us and remember that having family and friends to support us makes life easier. Knowing the names of Thuqi’ and Tumus will help you meaningfully talk about them and the lessons they teach us with those in your life.

Remember what Auntie Sally says: You won’t get everything right, but that’s okay. What’s important is connecting to the story and passing on what you learn to those around you. Huy tseep q’u—thank you to each and every one of you.

—Andrea Fritz



## More books by Indigenous storytellers





# EXTREME CLOSE-UP

**Almost Brown:**  
**A Mixed-Race Family Memoir**  
by **Charlotte Gill** (Viking \$36)

BY ODETTE AUGER

**S**tacking filters of culture and personality creates a vignette effect, a technique **Charlotte Gill** employs when she explores themes of identity in **Almost Brown**. Gill's father is the main subject of the vignette and the central theme that other threads wrap around.

Gill introduces her father in an extreme close-up, like an absorbed child watching a sleeping parent. She has reconciled with him after decades of estrangement. Moving into a slow pan of the detritus of her elderly father's life, the sensation is like watching someone taking stock of a home, as Gill pores over her father's house where he lives alone. In one poignant moment, she describes the "arsenal of medication on the south end of the coffee table."

Drawing the reader in through a growing intimacy, Gill's memoir unravels with a journal-like inventory of places, relations, interactions and roles. She holds her mother's English Catholic upbringing in one hand and her father's Jat Sikh heritage in the other. "In my family, we seldom talked about race," writes Gill. "Our house was a refuge, the place where we could be ourselves, a unit, without differences and unevenness." Though, when Gill reaches her teens, distinctions do arise in how she is treated differently from her brother—from fetching drinks for her dad, to a sharper eye on how she dresses.

Gill examines cultural disparities and similarities ranging from spiritual beliefs to communication and parenting styles. "From my dad, I've learned ... what's the point of lamenting one's losses and setbacks if misfortune, just like happiness, springs from a divine source, the will of God? Put on a brave face! Suffer in style! This emotional restraint aligned very well with the British stiff upper lip."

In the sixth chapter, a broader scope is introduced when Gill gives a concise history of how the partition of India has had intergenerational impacts on her family's journey. With life chapters in India, Nairobi, Toronto and New York state, Gill includes the forks in that path such as when her father marries her white mother and her grandfather disassociates from them. A sense of loss seeps into the story. "It seemed like an unyielding way to be," writes Gill of her grandfather. "But we didn't know his heart. I didn't know his history, the places he'd come from, all that he'd seen and done." Her own father never mentions his youth in Kenya, and all

**Charlotte Gill's memoir details growing up as the daughter of a Jat Sikh father and an English Catholic mother and, after a long painful separation, reconnecting with her father and her biracial identity.**



**Charlotte Gill, father and brother: "In my family, we seldom talked about race."**

events before his medical school training in the UK are muted.

And then Gill faces the disorienting responses from other people. "What are you?" is a question she faced many times and mixed-race readers of every kind will recognize the wide-ranging intentions, from friendly curiosity to toothy malice. Throughout, Gill shares the experiences she had at different ages and her different capacities for understanding. "They knew precisely what question to ask, almost right from the start. Why did I have dark circles around my eyes? Why were my lips purple and not pink? I began to see

myself through other peoples' eyes," writes Gill.

Not wanting to "see colour" can be viewed as a survival strategy, an attempt to move above prejudice and distinctions. Gill describes it succinctly, through the ways of her English mother who "never mentioned skin tone or race—not hers, ours, or our father's. I only saw you as mine," she says even now." As a mixed-race reader, I recognize this mom, whose ability to rise above such prejudice set the benchmark. It's admirable, and perhaps even a convenient conditioning, to sidestep ugliness and uncomfortable truths.

This led to a disconnect for Gill: "I lived semi-gratefully in the gap, if not purely Caucasian, then sufficiently off-white to be lumped in with my peers in the majority. I didn't protest or correct." Gill describes sun tanning with her white friends, applying sunscreen needlessly. "It took me quite a while to realize that I wasn't a white girl, at least not all the way through—a painfully slow epiphany that wouldn't resolve for quite some time, if it ever did at all."

Undercurrents are unspoken and curious children will seek truths in their own way. "We destroyed our things almost as quickly as they came in the door," says Gill. "We cut them to ribbons, hungry to understand how things worked beneath the surface." Similarly, children will also express discord in one way or another, and Gill and her siblings were no different. "We ripped heads off dolls and bashed our Rubik's cubes with hammers. These objects were inadequate substitutes for the things they were meant to make up for," writes Gill. "We macerated our belongings as a form of protest, a response to something brewing in our house like a bad ferment, if only we had the words to describe it."

Gill grows up to claim those words, and in this memoir, she includes details that she later revisits to get a clearer view; a watchful tone is a constant presence in her writing. As a young girl, Gill notes her father's weekends away in passing. These absences, however, are made concrete when she later describes her mother sifting through the family credit card statements. Secrets are uncovered and her parents separate; after their divorce, a deepening silence emerges between Gill and her father.

Her own path bends firmly away from his expectations—pursuing degrees in writing, not health sciences and spending summers tree planting, as shared in her second book, *Eating Dirt* (Greystone Books in association with the David Suzuki Foundation, 2011). Gill's family has always been on the move, and similarly, her individual path circles back to a deeper and new understanding of her mother and father. By the end of the book, Gill has disentangled the differences and disconnections in her family story with the fine-tuned focus required to unravel knots.

9780735243033

“It took me quite a while to realize that I wasn't a white girl, at least not all the way through—a painfully slow epiphany that wouldn't resolve for quite some time, if it ever did at all. — **CHARLOTTE GILL**”

*Odette Auger, a member of Sagamok Anishnawbek through her mother, lives as a guest in toq qaym 1xw (Kla-hoose), 1əʔamən qaym1xw (Tla'amin), ʔop qaym1xw (Homalco) territories. She was recently awarded first place for Best Environmental Coverage by the Native American Journalism Association (NAJA), along with two awards in Best Column (second place) and Best Feature category (third place).*



# ASK FOR THESE WHERE BOOKS ARE SOLD

From the creator of

**FOR BETTER  
OR FOR WORSE**

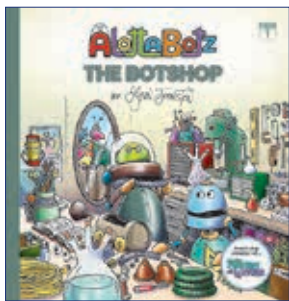
Lynn Johnston



## MARVELLOUS THINGS

Book #2

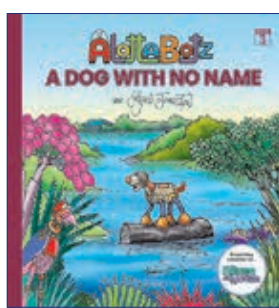
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## A DOG WITH NO NAME

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Lynn Johnston Productions Inc. Dec 2023



## FOX IN A BOX

by Eva Klassen  
Socks and rocks and blocks and clocks, Fox loves everything in his box. But when he realizes he can no longer fit inside, Fox decides he must take action! He discovers the warmth he feels when he gives his best friend a clock, then a gift of something useful to another forest friend... *Fox in a Box* is a heartwarming story that reminds us happiness is not found in the accumulation of stuff, but in the joy of giving and the people we love.

9781999244804 \$24.99 hc Big Mind Books



## WESTERN CANADA

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Marty Gilbert

Marty Gilbert's collection of iconic images showcases the diverse landscapes of our two most western provinces. British Columbia borders the rugged coastline of the Pacific Ocean on the west with the incredible Rocky Mountain range bordering the east into Alberta. With an artist's eye, Gilbert offers a glorious pictorial view of everything from pristine mountains and lakes, rolling grasslands, national park views, major cityscapes and much more. A beautiful coffee-table book.

9781999143619 \$36.95 hc Gilbert Fine Art



## MONSTERS NEED LOVE TOO

Troy Townsin

Monsters come in all shapes and sizes - big ones, small ones, even hairy ones. Some have spikes, some have claws, some eat BUGS, but in the end what they all need is hugs and love. This sweet board book is a great read-aloud one for kids at bedtime.

9781928131168 \$19.95

Polyglot Publishing

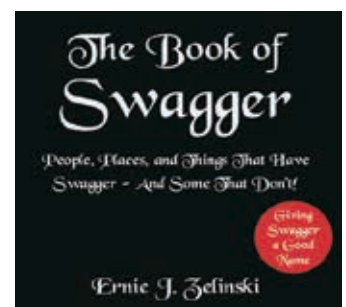


## The BEST CHRISTMAS EVER

Nancy Hundal

Twins Toby and Ella are sick of Christmas: their Mom is so busy baking, decorating and shopping that there's no time for fun! What about building a snowman? What about reading Christmas stories around the fire? But when Mom's careful holiday plans start to unravel, the twins see a wonderful new side to Mom . . . and to Christmas!

9781988242507 \$17.95 Midtown Press



## The BOOK of SWAGGER

Ernie J. Zelinski

Do you have swagger - living life with flair, great taste and confidence? This interesting little book offers up "top 10" lists of people, places and things with swagger (and some that don't). Find the world's top restaurants with swagger, the most swagger worthy cars, the top ten movies ever with the most swagger...and swagger on!

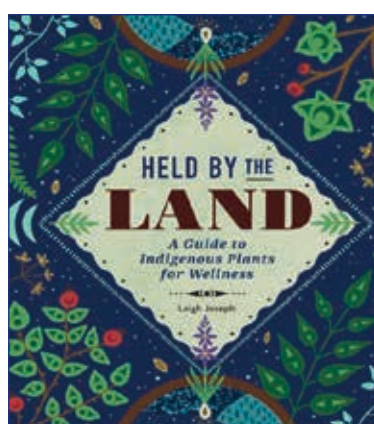
9781927452073 \$22.95 pb VIP Publishing



## The bestselling Whitewater Cooks series

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**Get together** this winter and impress friends and family with your culinary talents by serving meals using these tried and true innovative recipes. With six books in the series, collect them all and find them today at your local retailer.



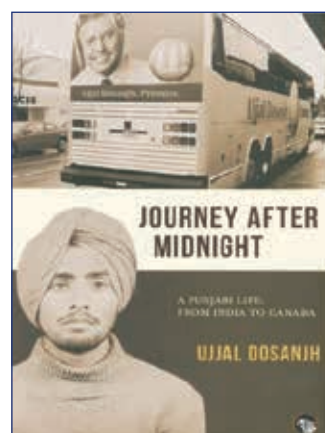
## HELD BY THE LAND

A Guide to Indigenous Plants for Wellness

Leigh Joseph

Author Leigh Joseph, an ethnobotanist and a member of the Squamish Nation, provides a beautifully illustrated essential introduction to Indigenous plant knowledge. The Indigenous Peoples of North America have long traditions of using native plants as medicine as well as for food. *Held by the Land* honors and shares some of these traditions. The book also acts as a field guide to plants that remain vital to the indigenous communities found throughout the Pacific Northwest.

9781577152941 \$32.99 hc Wellfleet Press



## JOURNEY AFTER MIDNIGHT

A Punjabi Life: From India to Canada

Ujjal Dosanjh

This autobiography is the compelling story of a former premier of British Columbia, the first person of Indian origin to lead a government in the western world. Ujjal Dosanjh recounts his many experiences from his early life in rural Punjab, to emigrating to the UK, then to Canada. He discusses the immigrant experience, post-Independence politics in Punjab, the Punjabi diaspora and the inner workings of the democratic process in Canada. A fascinating read.

9789354471278 \$26.95 paperback edition

Speaking Tiger Press/U Dosanjh



## The PAST is NEVER DEAD

A Novel by Ujjal Dosanjh

This is the story of a rural Punjabi family's search for a better life in Britain. It follows Kalu, a young man of a low caste hoping to find a new life of dignity in a new country. Instead he finds the stranglehold of caste over Sikh immigrants. But even as it exposes the horror and obstinacy of caste, the novel pays tribute to the tenacity of the human spirit and its capacity for hope. Ujjal Dosanjh is a former premier of British Columbia among his many other achievements.

9789354474958 \$19.95 pb

Speaking Tiger/U Dosanjh



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Misguided:  
My Jesus Freak Life In a Doomsday Cult  
by Perry Bulwer (New Star \$26)

BY JOHN MOORE

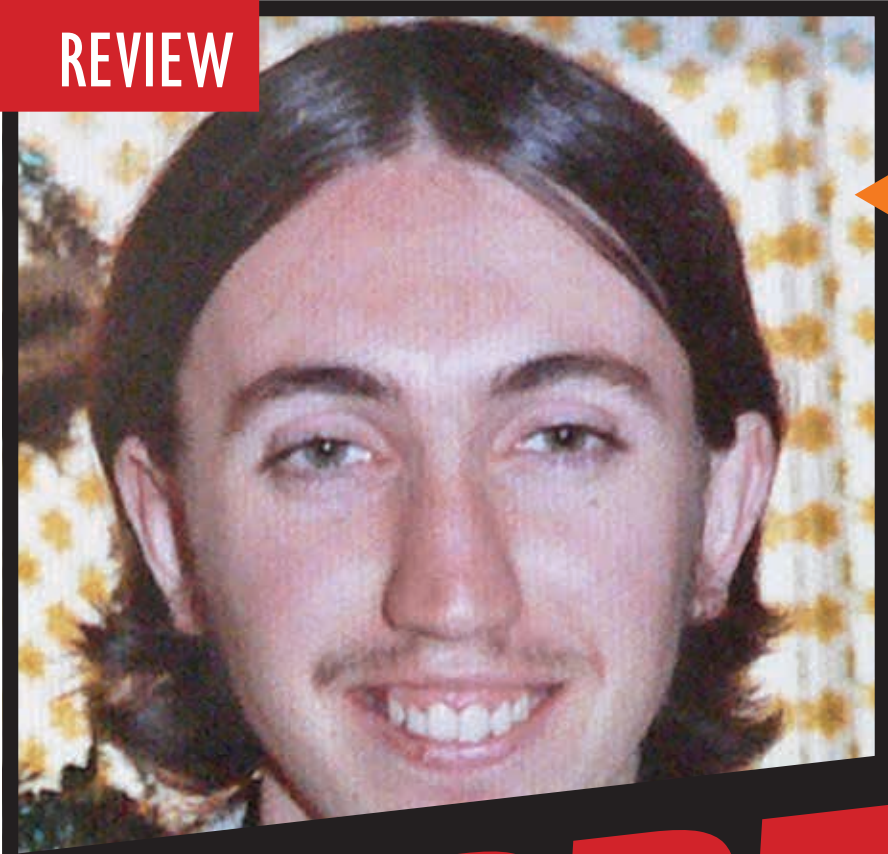
**P**erry Bulwer’s account of his 20 years as a “Jesus freak” in an apocalyptic cult should be required reading for those whose children are undergoing the baptism of fire euphemistically described as “young adulthood” in parenting manuals. The combination of adult emotions and ideas with an almost total lack of adult experience is as pleasant to be around as a carafe of nitroglycerine.

So when an idealistic yet listless, unmotivated, young person comes home one day, no longer unpredictably sullen or angry but smiling serenely as if they’ve come through the rapids and hit calm water, parents are inclined to heave huge sighs of relief. Unfortunately, it may mean your child has either discovered heroin or been “fished” by a cult and you should seek help from mental health professionals at once.

Like many late boomers, Bulwer missed the 1967 Summer of Love and got stuck with the hand-me-down, tie-dyed, Be-In t-shirt. Growing up in a small Vancouver Island city, Port Alberni, where a stable future meant a good job at the mill, Bulwer was sixteen in 1972 and the vaguely inclusive ideals of universal love, peace and goodwill of the Now Generation were starting to spin into a hedonistic crash dive of careless sex, harder drugs and mindless heavy metal music.

Despite his Catholic upbringing and a secondary education that failed to provide him with critical thinking skills, Bulwer was intelligent enough to realize Flower Power had been wilting into something much uglier than an unloved houseplant since the infamous 1969 Rolling Stones Altamont concert where a Black man was beaten to death by Hells Angels gang members employed as “security.” Philosophically and emotionally adrift, Perry was ripe for recruitment by any organized group that claimed to have exclusive copyright on The Truth.

At that vulnerable time in his life, he could have become a Marxist, a Maoist, a chanting Buddhist, a Hare Krishna, a convert jihadist or convert Zionist, joined the French Foreign Legion or the US Marines. It would have made no difference. What he was seeking was a world view—a vision of truth and a code of behaviour that would give him a sense of direction, purpose and meaning that he was unequipped and unable to define for himself. For the Children of God, Bulwer was “fresh



Perry Bulwer in his cult days.

**T. Lobsang Rampa**, and **Carlos Castaneda**’s equally bogus accounts of Yaqui shaman Don Juan weren’t getting them through the existential “morning after.” In spiritual distress, some hippies turned to a guy they remembered from Sunday school, Jesus of Nazareth. The Hare Krishnas and chanting Buddhists who’d replaced panhandling hippies on the sidewalks were joined by Jesus freaks. Berg’s minions were there to welcome them like lost sheep returned to the fold.

Cults are always with us. In times of social confidence and economic prosperity they’re mostly harmless, like benign tumours, providing an outlet for people whose intellectual frailty compels them to seek supernatural

causes and remedies for their despair. But in times of political, social and economic insecurity and mass despair (the last 50 years, for instance), cults easily become malignant.

The most dangerous cults are those that tailgate established religions. In our nominally Judeo-Christian derived culture, co-opting Jesus was a cynical no-brainer for a would-be Messiah like Berg. His Children of God Communes, funded by legions of come-to-Jesus panhandlers, morphed into The Divine Family, then The Family; and lied about rescuing people from drug and alcohol addictions as it practised pedophilia, vicious corporal punishment for backsliders and advocated “flirty fishing” (sexual recruitment) of new converts. Berg’s “Mo Letters” to converts are case studies in opportunistic megalomania, demonstrating the fascism inherent in all cults centered around a leader or “prophet” instead of being based on a depersonalized spiritual doctrine.



DESPITE HAVING WASTED TWENTY OF THE best years of his life, Perry Bulwer was lucky. He had just enough of the right stuff to walk away at the age of 36. Smart enough to grasp **Socrates**’ assertion that the first step toward wisdom is to realize you know nothing, he started educating himself at the library and developing critical thinking that might have truly saved him twenty years earlier. He went to university and became a lawyer advocating for cult survivors, especially children born and raised within cults.

Numerous accounts by survivors of the Children of God have been published, some more lurid than others. Bulwer’s mostly avoids sensationalism to deliver a true account of the spiritual journey of a lonely soul who took the wrong path but had the sense to recognize it, turn around and survive the long hard walk back to sanity.

9781554202058

John Moore writes and rants from Garibaldi Highlands.

# TRAPPED

## How a BC teen was ensnared for 20 years by the infamous Child of God cult.

meat” and they descended on him like vultures who’d missed lunch.

He didn’t know the friendly young men he met in a Port Alberni diner were missionaries from a cult group created by a shadowy American evangelical hustler and self-proclaimed prophet, **David Berg**, a man so immodest he liked to be called Mo, short for Moses. Bulwer didn’t know they had been trained to recognize and target vulnerable young people by a man who’d been literally born and raised in the tent revival subculture that was a popular feature of life in the American South and Midwest for the first half of the 20th century BTM (before television).



BORN IN 1919, DAVID BERG HAD BEEN INVOLVED with that subculture as it evolved from gypsy tents to regular Sunday morning radio broadcasts to televised “crusades” that filled stadiums where self-appointed apostles of God smacked shills planted in audiences on the forehead to cast out demons and demanded they throw away their crutches and rise from their wheelchairs and *praise Jesus!* It was the age of bogus faith-healing theatrics of mouth-foaming frauds like **Jimmy Swaggart** (subject of three scandals involving prostitutes in the late 1980s and early 90s), and

**Oral Roberts** (who parlayed his tax-free status into a financial empire including a university).

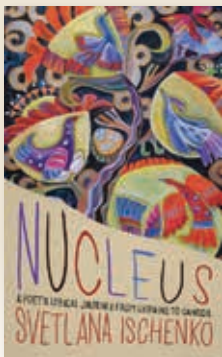
Distrusting the risks of celebrity (no doubt he’d seen the film *Elmer Gantry*), David Berg chose the darker path of the reclusive prophet. Despite being in his forties in the 1960s, he sensed his moment had come. The most numerous and potentially wealthiest generation of the 20th century were waking up from the Swinging Sixties/Now Generation/Flower Power party with an apocalyptic spiritual hangover. Tattered copies of *I Ching*, the faux-Tibetan fictions of



Perry Bulwer called to the Bar in 2003.



# Cold out? Five good reasons to stay inside!



## Nucleus: A Poet's Lyrical Journey from Ukraine to Canada

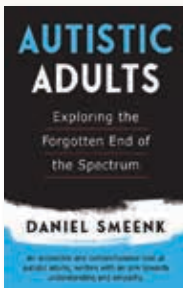
Svetlana Ischenko

Ischenko tackles the creative tension between her identity as a Ukrainian poet with deeply Ukrainian sensibilities and an immigrant poet enthused by her adopted country.

By slowly beginning to write in Canada in English she achieves a sense of centredness beyond language and culture — a nucleus of identity.

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Daniel Smeenck

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—SHARON BUTALA, author of Season of Fury and Wonder

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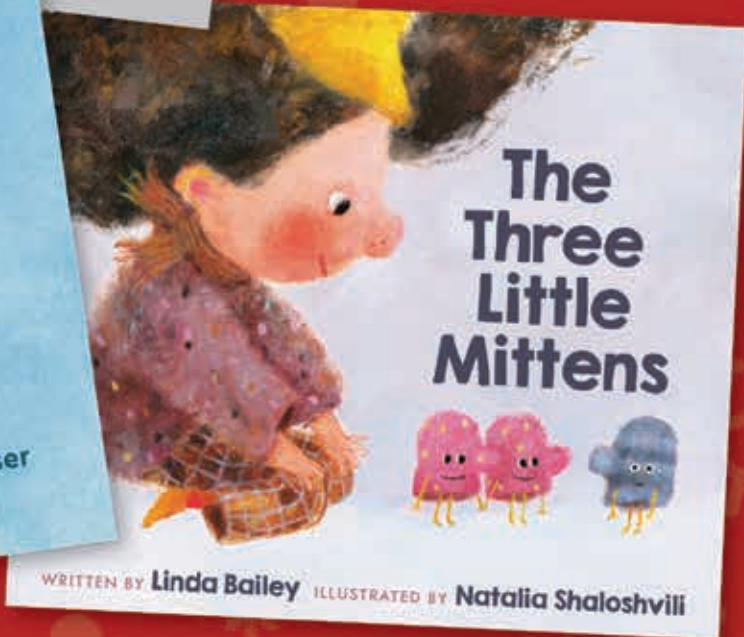
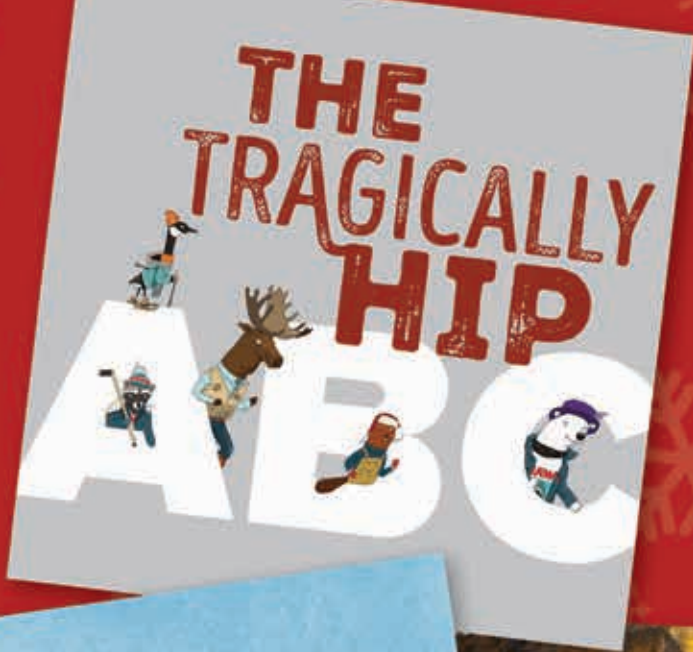


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# BOOK PRIZES

BY HEIDI GRECO

**I**t didn't come as a big surprise that the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize winner was **Billy-Ray Belcourt's A Minor Chorus** (Hamish Hamilton) as Belcourt seems to have been making a sweep of so many awards of late. He was modest in his response, expressing hope that his work might serve to "intervene" towards Reconciliation.



**Billy-Ray Belcourt, Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize winner**

The Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize was awarded to **Otoniya J. Okot Bitek's A is for Acholi** (Wolsak & Wynn) a book the jury praised for being "Ambitious, playful, funny and at times oracular" with "...a quiet but confident feminism." As Otoniya recently moved out of the province, the acceptance speech was given by her sister, **Cecilia**.

The third award announced, the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize, provided one of the saddest moments of the evening, as **Karen Bakker**, author of the winning title, **The Sounds of Life: How Digital Technology Is Bringing Us Closer to the Worlds of Animals and Plants** (Princeton University Press) had died over the summer. Her husband, **Phillippe LeBillon** offered a beautiful acceptance speech, describing his wife as a scientist and poet who explored the world of sound, whether the songs of whales or the peeps of high-flying bats. He announced that the second book in her proposed trilogy, *Gaia's Web: How Digital Environmentalism Can Combat Climate Change, Restore Biodiversity, Cultivate Empathy, and Regenerate the Earth* (The MIT Press), would still be published, but bemoaned the fact that the third volume will not see the light of day.

The book that won the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize was **Kwändūr** (Conundrum), a collection about Dene and Arctic Peoples by **Cole Pauls** who is a comic artist, illustrator and printmaker. Pauls was unable to attend, but sent thanks to many, especially those who had translated his work.

Vancouver's **Rachel Hartman** took the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize for **In the Serpent's Wake** (Penguin Teen), a tale the jury called "A storm of a book, capable of break-



**Chief Robert Joseph, Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award winner**

## Glitz, glamour & great books

**Heidi Greco goes to the BC & Yukon Book Prizes gala**

A room full of writers and publishers at the UBC Golf Clubhouse on September 26, most in their best finery—what an exciting place to be on a rainy Sunday evening. And with spoken-word poet **Jillian Christmas** as our enthusiastic emcee, we were ready to celebrate the 2023 BC & Yukon Book Prizes presentation gala.



**Celebrating the BC publishing community at the BC Book Prizes.**

ing open our cherished labels and containers." In her thanks, Hartman spoke of our collective "responsibility to the place where we live"—a theme that proved to echo over the course of the evening.

And then came the prize for picture books, along with a dare from **Jillian Christmas** to shout out the name of our favourite such book from childhood—a wonderful exercise in the middle of a rich meal—to hear adults shouting out titles, so many of them silly ones.

Winner of the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize was **That's My Sweater!** (Scholastic) by **Jessika von Innerebner** who was



**Michael Hathaway, Jim Deva Prize for Writing that Provokes winner**

unable to attend. However, educator **Kathryn Shoemaker** read out a statement sent to her by the author. She got a good laugh when, in response to the author's "Thanks to the kind soul who is reading these remarks" she burst in with her own, "You're welcome!"

One of the newer awards is the Jim Deva Prize for Writing that Provokes. Deva was instrumental in leading the fight against censorship in BC, especially as it relates to sexual expression and identity. The winner, **What a Mushroom Lives For: Matsutake and the Worlds They Make** (Princeton University Press), by **Michael J. Hathaway**, a professor at SFU, caused the jury to remark that the book "...changed our understanding of our planet," and "We'll never look the same way at fungi again." When Hathaway spoke, he reminded us that "we're breathing fungal spores." Much to think about regarding a book that definitely *provokes*.

Winner of the Bill Duthie Booksellers' Award was **Namwayut: We Are All One: A Pathway to Reconciliation** (Page Two), which met with huge cheers even when it was only announced as a finalist. The author, Chief **Robert Joseph** got the biggest laugh of the night by saying, "Good thing I won. I'm not a good loser!" But beyond that, his words of wisdom may well be the ones that resonate the longest among those of us who heard him speak about the importance of story and truth.



**Rachel Hartman, Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize winner**

That theme of Reconciliation carried on in words from **Adeline Weber**, Commissioner of the Yukon, and the Honourable **Janet Austin**, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. Austin announced that the prolific **Robin Stevenson** of Victoria was winner of this year's Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence. Winner of the Yukon's Borealis Prize was haiku writer and community activist, **Katherine Munro** (who writes as **kjmunro**).

The only element missing from the evening's celebration was a public acknowledgment—a brief round of introductions, perhaps some applause—of the publishers who were in attendance. For without them and their willingness to take on the work of authors, often unknowns, there'd be no need for an awards ceremony such as this, as there would be no books to celebrate.

*Heidi Greco lives and works in Surrey, on lands of the Semiahmoo First Nation, a place of stories and reliance on the bounty of the ocean.*



The Wild Mandrake  
by Jason Jobin (Dundurn \$23.99)

BY SONJA PINTO

*“There’s just something to hospitals, like you’re living inside the walls of a house, and there is a family living in the actual house, and you hear them and see parts of their lives through old nail holes where paintings used to hang, and feel the vibrations of their steps, but they never realize you’re there.”*

JASON JOBIN

**H**aving seen his fair share of hospital hallways, **Jason Jobin** knows these spaces all too well. In his memoir **The Wild Mandrake**, Jobin recounts endlessly passing through Victoria’s Royal Jubilee Hospital, the Vancouver General Hospital and various specialist waiting rooms of medical buildings all over BC in a narrative that is sarcastic, insightful and often self-aware.

His initial cancer diagnosis, treatment and multiple remissions are told with a wit that balances out the visceral details and offers a stark look into the (literally) nauseating effects of how the body responds to chemotherapy.

Jobin begins with a memory of the first lump found in his neck—he jokes, *Is it cancer?* only to learn “it turns out to actually be cancer.” This gritty humour is balanced out by gleams of insight about grave illness: “Some situations only pretend to be choices and it’s important to identify them immediately,” he writes. The choiceless quality of illness haunts Jobin, whose prose often returns to the inescapable stale stillness brought on by chemotherapy: “Sit inside for days. Skip workouts. Eat old crackers and canned fruit.”

Jobin isn’t shy about describing the explicit details of his treatments, such as an instance when “blood trickles from the injection site... This bruise even bigger, blooming like a crop circle.”

As a reader, I could almost feel the needles being poked through Jobin’s veins and the effects of each confusion-causing antipsychotic prescribed to deal with the pain; the agony of each night spent with fever and fluids stinging through the blood stream. “It’s indecent,” Jobin writes, “but that’s what sickness is; that’s what dying is.” Jobin sums up the pain of treatment best in his description of the poisonous plant known as wild mandrake, from which etoposide is extracted and used in chemo treatment. Jobin learns this extract “will damage my DNA and, hopefully, damage it enough,” to eradicate the cancer.

In the early days of diagnosis, Jobin tells few people about the cancer—he’d rather “maintain the illusion” of normalcy. Though Jobin writes extensively about how his body changes in treatment, there is a sense of disconnect between himself and others. He receives sympathetic notes in the mail, but finds he “can never write anything interesting or profound in cards, even though that feels crucial.”

*The Wild Mandrake* bleeds uncertainty, an understandable characteristic of a book about someone whose

# DOCTOR, DOCTOR, GIVE ME THE NEWS

How **Jason Jobin** lives with (a bad case of) incurable cancer—some days with humour, other days with grit.

cancer is deemed incurable. Jobin says he is left to navigate a world with “no markers for where I’ll go.” Instead of permanent recovery, there is instead acceptance of cancer’s cyclical hold on his body: “Remission is like air: you only appreciate it when it’s gone,” he writes.

As Jobin undergoes treatment, the landscape around him seems to take

on the flesh and fragility of his own human body. Jobin sees “the sky as a grey wound.” After enough rounds of chemo, Jobin envisions himself fused with the environment: “I am mustard gas and platinum now, alchemical, inhuman ... cold IV tubes wrapped around me like kelp.” The hospitals themselves seem to degrade around him. In his

first remission, Jobin develops stomach pains and frequent periods of illness. He visits the doctor, who tells him that he’s “being a hypochondriac.” The doctors eventually find the cancer *has* returned, but not until Jobin has returned again to the emergency room.

Jobin’s memoir documents the mundane as much as the existential. He spends most of his time living in Victoria, a city “like a pinball machine where you cannot fully lose your quarter,” he says. While undergoing treatment, Jobin holds down meagrely paying jobs at the deli, the gas station, the university and government offices. There are beacons of joy in the ordinary such as kind mentors at the university, thoughtful girlfriends and quiet nights at the gym.

It is Jobin’s wry acceptance that becomes the antidote for all the gloom: “It’s nice to think that someone, somewhere, survives via miraculous remission, but no one does. No chance. All percentages approach zero. Everyone is gone,” he says. There is no neat ending to this story about the presence and absence of cancer. Those who are afflicted can only wait in hospital treatment wards says Jobin, “held up by a hope that we will be the last ones here.”

9781459750746

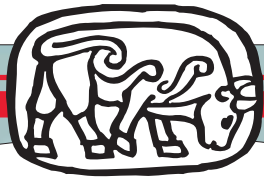
*Sonja Pinto is a writer, photographer and printmaker. They reside on the unceded territories of the ɬəkwəŋən peoples (Victoria, BC).*



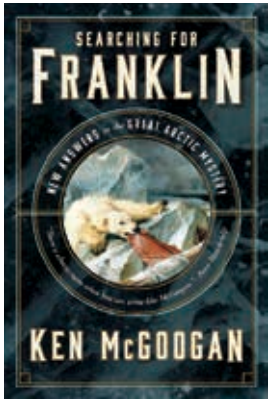
Jason Jobin earned an MFA in writing at UVic. His stories have been published in the Writers Trust/M&S Journey Prize anthology and he was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize in 2020.

CHELSEY WARREN PHOTO





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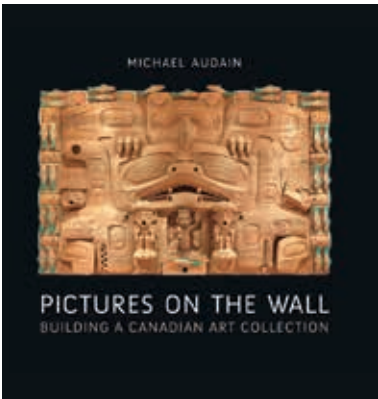
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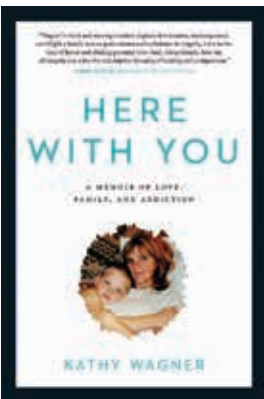


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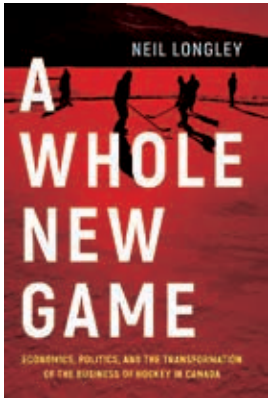
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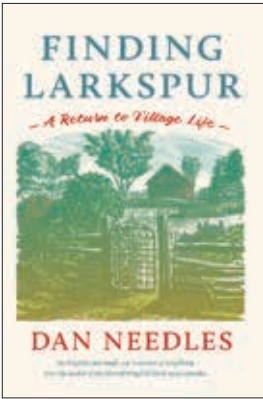


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“Jigsaws as metaphors, speak to our continual efforts to solve the miraculous puzzle of our own lives and to the questions these puzzles pose.”

—M.A.C. Farrant  
(pictured with Bill Bovine, aka Bill Farrant, her son)

# THE ZEN OF JIGSAW PUZZLES

Jigsaw:  
A Puzzle in Ninety-Three Pieces  
by M.A.C. Farrant  
(Talonbooks \$17.95)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

Puzzles “found me,” says **M.A.C. Farrant** in her book of short stories **Jigsaw: A Puzzle in Ninety-Three Pieces**.

Friends had given Farrant and her husband a jigsaw puzzle during the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic to help cope with stress. “I wasn’t looking for them. But if a door opens, I always figure walk through it. You might end up in a closet, but you might also end up heading in a playful new direction, one you hadn’t considered before,” she adds. Farrant’s 93 short stories, inspired by her “puzzling,” are full of humour, irreverence and insights into the puzzle that is life. (If you want to know why there is a cow lounging on a sofa on the book jacket cover, read story #22, “With Reference to Cows.”)

**M.A.C. Farrant** on how a jigsaw dropout became a Master Puzzler and how a herd of cows began wandering through her book.



**BC BookWorld:** Was the Covid lockdown really the first time you attempted a jigsaw puzzle?

**M.A.C. Farrant:** No, the Covid puzzles weren’t the first. There was one other, an ill-fated jigsaw years ago of a bear holding a salmon. It was Christmas and I had a Christmas card image in my head of a happy family working together on a jigsaw puzzle over the holidays. When the kids saw the pile of unsorted pieces on the card table, they balked, then laughed and said: “No way, not ever!” **Terry** (my husband) and I carried on with the puzzle but managed to

only piece the sky, the head of the fish and a few trees. By then it was nearly March and the puzzle had become a burden. You could spend hours and hours working on it and find only one matching piece so that soon enough night would be falling with no supper in sight. It was a revelation when I told myself that some things in life could go unfinished and Terry agreed. Actually, pretty much everything could go unfinished, we decided, and especially this jigsaw puzzle, which we had come to hate.

**BCBW:** How often do you work on jigsaw puzzles?

**MF:** I came to my current interest in jigsaw puzzles as a jaded innocent. That one experience years before had killed my interest in them. Then, midway through the pandemic, friends loaned me two Wentworth Wooden puzzles, the elite of jigsaw puzzles with their “whimsy” pieces, inviting images, and smaller piece-count: 250, or 500. My friends thought the puzzles would help take my mind off case counts, death tolls, and variants. And they were right! Not only that, I enjoyed doing them.

So that is how it started, how jigsaw puzzles found me again. This curiosity and playfulness about jigsaw puzzles are what propelled me to write *Jigsaw*.

Now, I’ve become a happy assembler. I enjoy the fabulous sense of completion when I finish one. It’s called the “puzzler’s high,” I’m told.

**BCBW:** What is the most insightful thing you learned from puzzling?

**MF:** There are several:

Jigsaw puzzles are something we can control, unlike most of life, and most definitely, unlike time.

The picture on the jigsaw puzzle box



is your guide to solving the puzzle. In life the guide is seldom as clear.

Working on a jigsaw puzzle is like riding on a train; it's a single-track experience. Over and over you are sorting through and then interlocking puzzle pieces. This can be an exciting thing to do because your journey has a destination. Unlike your life, you know exactly where the journey ends.

In assembling a jigsaw, start with the edges then everything will fall into place.

As a beginner, never attempt a puzzle that has over 250 pieces. Once you have completed the requisite ten thousand hours of puzzle labour and are now a Master Puzzler, you can you move onto the larger puzzles.

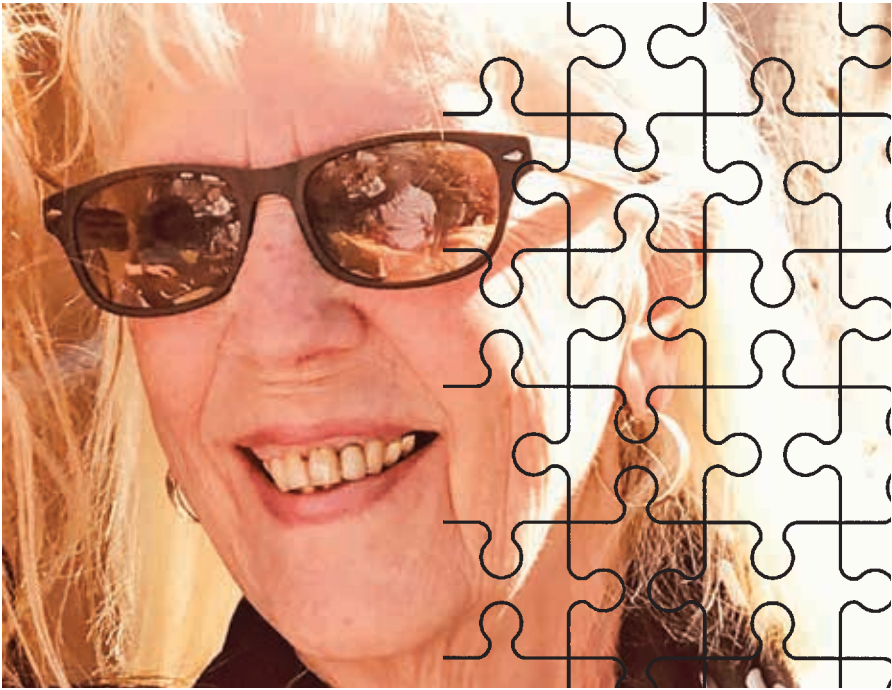
Working on a jigsaw puzzle is an act of devotion.

**BCBW:** How long did it take you to recognize the metaphor for art in jigsaw puzzles?

**MF:** This happened pretty quickly, after my initial research into the history of jigsaws, that is, and coming upon some astounding facts such as, the global dollar value of jigsaw sales in 2019 was 9.96 billion and that in North America seven jigsaw puzzles are sold every minute. Every minute! The jigsaw puzzle industry is an enormous one. What, I began wondering, is going on?

Jigsaws as metaphors, speak to our continual efforts to solve the miraculous puzzle of our own lives and to the questions these puzzles pose. For example, *The Puzzle of Good and Evil*, *Of Staying Sane*, *Of Discord*, *Of Love*, *Of Raising Children*, *Of Beauty*, *Of Why Are We Here?* *Of What Happens Next?* These puzzles are endless!

A jigsaw as a metaphor can also be



“The global dollar value of jigsaw sales in 2019 was 9.96 billion and that in North America seven jigsaw puzzles are sold every minute. Every minute! The jigsaw puzzle industry is an enormous one. What, I began wondering, is going on?”

a mystery, a conundrum, a riddle, an enigma.

**BCBW:** When did you get the idea to tell your short stories about people, jigsaw puzzles and the puzzle that is life?

**MF:** As I leaned into the subject of jigsaw puzzles, both actual and as metaphors, many subjects presented themselves. Besides art as guides to the ineffable, roads and pathways, other

things appeared: Buddhism, faith, bits of memoir, science, the universe, haiku poems, surrealism, and chickens. Even cows beckoned and found a place in the book.

**BCBW:** Not everyone becomes as enamoured with puzzles as you did (your husband, for example, became a “jigsaw dropout” after completing his first puzzle). What is it about your

personality that makes you a “puzzler?”

**MF:** I, too, was a jigsaw dropout but, really, that state of mind can change. Jigsaws can enter your life as a source of meditation, pleasure, even joy. For me, curiosity, perseverance, focus, and the need for play in my life, (and the need for occasional distraction from the world scene) are what I now bring to a puzzle.

**BCBW:** Anything else you want to add?

**MF:** Yes, I'd like to return to the cows. They began wandering through the book as I was writing it like a herd of friendly muses and were such a delightful presence that I had to include them. There was something earthy, solid and grounding about them and I hope some of these qualities entered the book. Cows are why there's an image of one on the cover—a painting by American artist **Ethan Harper**.

They took such a hold of me that, in support of *Jigsaw's* release, I created several videos about a fictional Literary Cow Festival, which are posted online at [thinairfestival.ca](http://thinairfestival.ca). My “interview” with Artistic Director, **Bill Bovine** (aka **Bill Farrant**, my son), is my favourite of the three I did. Here's a bit of that interview:

*Bill Bovine: I was quite taken aback by the cow on the book cover. It's a fine representation of my friend, Larry, may he rest in packaging. Did you have any contact with his family? Were they aware of his likeness being portrayed on the cover?*

*Author: No, uh, this is an artistic, uh, endeavour, uh, the painting. I think it's a generic cow. Any, uh, likeness to your friend, Larry, is I, I, I, uh, believe, purely accidental.*

*Bill Bovine: Fair enough, fair enough.*  
9781772015430

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15 BC BOOKWORLD • WINTER 2023-2024



**The Eventful Life of Philip Hankin: Worldwide Traveller and Witness to British Columbia's Early History**  
by Geoff Mynett (Caitlin Press \$26)

BY TOM HAWTHORN

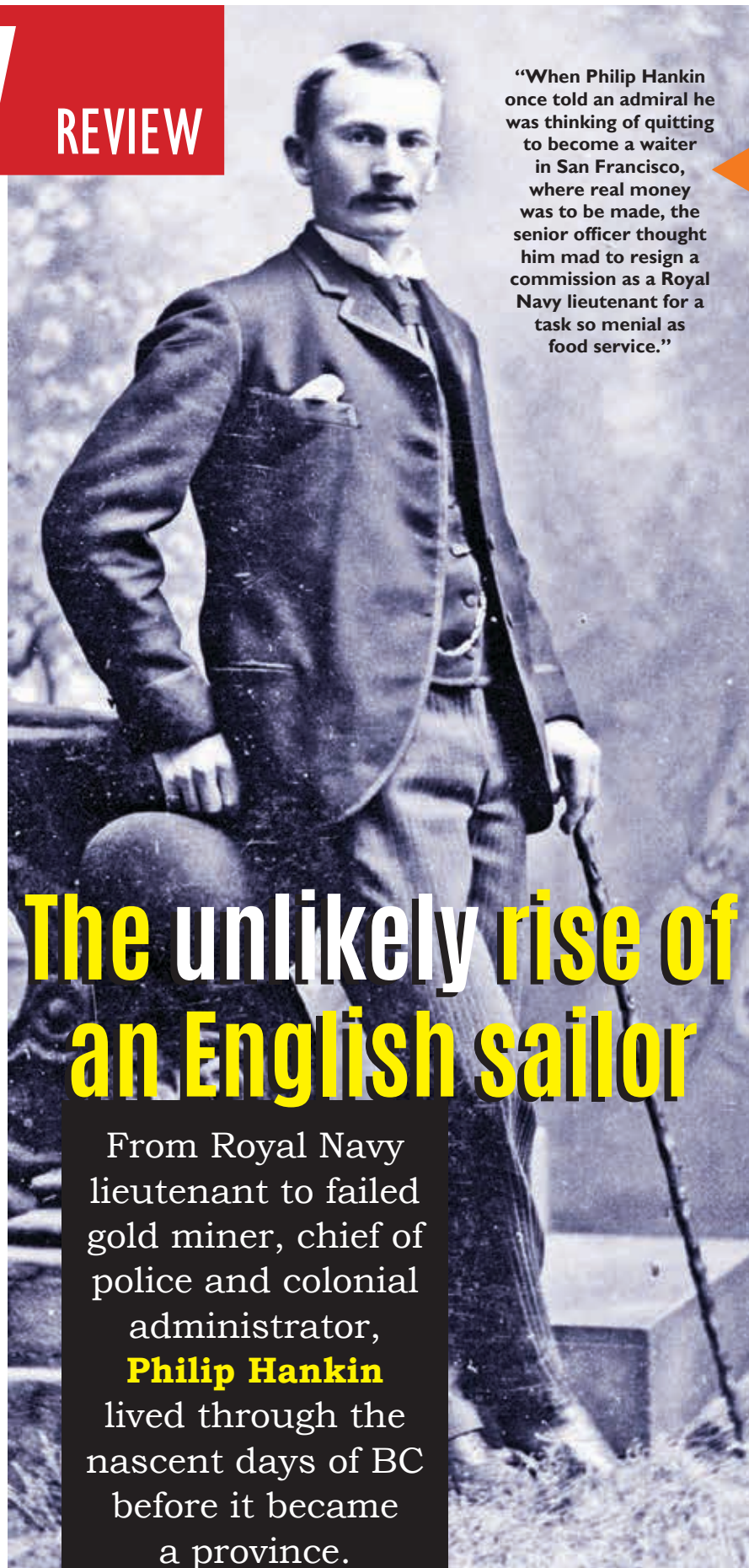
After 15 years in the Royal Navy, which he joined as a lad of 13, **Philip Hankin** decided to leave his native England in 1864 to return to a bucolic land he had enjoyed during his service. The journey back to Vancouver Island took weeks.

He endured third-class passage to Panama aboard a West India packet steamer, arriving to discover he had just missed the steamer to San Francisco. Twelve days of tropical heat and insect misery passed. Conditions were little better when he finally steamed north. Steerage passengers ate while standing at a swinging table to which knives and forks had been chained to avoid thievery. Robbery and pickpocketing were constant threats aboard ship.

Hankin eventually arrived in Esquimalt, then made his way to nearby Victoria, which he had left several years earlier. Friends greeted him warmly, though he realized "there was a difference between being a lieutenant in the Navy and a working man trying to make a living." He was determined not to become one of the city's dissolute failures. "I would never be seen in a drinking saloon or be persuaded to play cards," he wrote in his memoirs. Unable to find work, he took the last of his dwindling savings and made his way across the Strait of Georgia and up the Fraser River to Fort Yale. Out of options, he was going to seek a fortune by working the gold streams of the Cariboo.

At Yale, he could not afford the stagecoach, so he began walking. He carried two blankets, a haversack of bread, cheese, cooked meat and drinking water from the Fraser or springs along the way. At night, he slept on the roadside, his boots and coat serving as a pillow. When opportunity arose, he'd grab a meal of beans and biscuit with thick coffee at a roadhouse.

After 20 days tramping, he arrived in Barkerville with a half dollar in his pocket. He spent it on bread and butter, which he ate with coffee while sitting



"When Philip Hankin once told an admiral he was thinking of quitting to become a waiter in San Francisco, where real money was to be made, the senior officer thought him mad to resign a commission as a Royal Navy lieutenant for a task so menial as food service."

## The unlikely rise of an English sailor

From Royal Navy lieutenant to failed gold miner, chief of police and colonial administrator, **Philip Hankin** lived through the nascent days of BC before it became a province.

for hours beside a stove. There was still snow on the ground at that elevation in May and he would have to sleep outdoors, as he could afford no hotel bed.

Months later, he would return from his sojourn in the gold fields just as he had arrived—penniless. Yet, in a remarkably short time, through hard work, a charming personality and lucky timing, he rose in just five years to become the administrator of the

entire colonial government of British Columbia.

His unlikely rise is told in entertaining and informative style in **Geoff Mynett's** wonderful, understated and thoroughly enjoyable biography, **The Eventful Life of Philip Hankin**, which uses Hankin's memoir as a building block.

Mynett, a retired English-born lawyer who has written several well-

received BC biographies and histories to his credit, including *Murders on the Skeena* (Caitlin, 2021), has done the hard slog of filling in the details as best as possible in a remarkable life filled with surprising cameos.

Here is Hankin cooking curry for the **Queen of Hawaii**. Here is Hankin escorting Lady **Jane Franklin**, the world-famous widow of the Arctic explorer, up the Fraser River. Here is Hankin in India befriending the Prince of Wales, the future **Edward VII**, who presents him an autographed photograph.

And here is Hankin aboard the screw frigate *HMS Sutlej* to negotiate the surrender of the members of Ahousaht who were suspected of having killed the captain and three crew members of the trading sloop *Kingfisher*. The show-down ends in bloodshed and death.

Mynett has a lawyer's attention to detail and a writer's appreciation for the telling anecdote. When Hankin once told an admiral he was thinking of quitting to become a waiter in San Francisco, where real money was to be made, the senior officer thought him mad to resign a commission as a Royal Navy lieutenant for a task so menial as food service. To keep him in the navy, the admiral set off a series of favourable appointments where Hankin wound up as first lieutenant of the paddle steamer *HMS Hecate*, which was to be the primary surveying vessel for the Colony of Vancouver Island (at that time not joined with the Colony of BC).

The maritime aficionado will find much here to enjoy about 19th-Century ships and their operation, while those like me who are not immersed in the subject will not object to these informative digressions.

Today, Hankin Island rests in Barkeley Sound and Hankin Range runs between Nimpkish and Bonanza Lakes on northern Vancouver Island, but otherwise Hankin has been a forgotten figure. The names of many of his contemporaries grace streets in downtown Vancouver and Victoria.

From chasing slavers off the coast of Africa to hobnobbing with royalty, Hankin's incredible, improbable, yes, eventful life is well captured in Mynett's biography.

9781773861197

*Tom Hawthorn is the author of The Year Canadians Lost Their Minds and Found Their Country (D&M, 2017) and Deadlines (Harbour, 2012). His anecdotal history of baseball in Vancouver will be published next year.*



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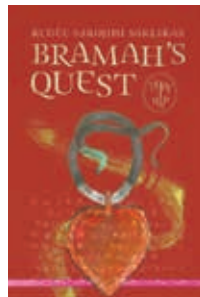
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# A MURDERESS, HER DAUGHTER

& the budding *Real Wives* of Colonialist Victoria

Caroline Woodward reviews *In the Belly of the Sphinx*  
by Grant Buday (TouchWood / Brindle & Glass \$25)

It is 1874 and sixteen-year-old Florence boards the 3rd class train bound for Chicago from New York City in a coach reeking of smoke, beer and unwashed humanity. We readers sidle in alongside the nervous, young thief—and accused murderess, as she was called in that era—and in short order, we learn she likely began her journey in Montreal.

Florence eventually lands in Victoria after a long boat ride north from San Francisco.

I do so love a gripping historical mystery wherein the author grabs you by the neck, holds you up against the wall for the urgent and necessary telling of an incredible story and finally lets you go, dazzled. The reader of *In the Belly of the Sphinx*, emerges from a fully-imagined “other world,” one populated with Pinkerton detectives, a gallant husar in uniform, an oily little policeman, a most wonderfully precocious little girl called Pearl, a blowhard imperialist editor who never doubted a word he wrote, malicious private school girls in training to become the Real Wives of Colonialist Victoria, and an Irish maid called Carpy (for Carpenter), who attends Theosophist meetings and speaks of her husband, who perished in a Cumberland coal mine, thusly: “*We should’ve gone to Pittsburgh...There were plenty of coal mines there to die in. He weren’t strong. He tried barbering, but his feet hurt and his hands went numb. He thought he might be a cowboy but hurt his spine. He tried whaling but got the vomits.*”

These were desperate times for making a hardscrabble living and yet many strains of mysticism, complete with seances, a fascination with exotic rituals and images from India and Egypt, tea leaf and tarot card reading parties, were all in high fashion with the monied classes in Canada as well as Europe. Florence, our desperate murderess and mother of Pearl (yes, author **Grant Buday** is possessed of a wonderfully droll sense of humour throughout) settles in Victoria, BC



EDEN BUDAY PHOTO

Grant Buday has twice been nominated for the City of Vancouver book prize.

where she clings to church-going respectability. She sees it as an essential ritual if she is ever to marry off her daughter to someone decently educated and professional, perhaps even landed gentry, or at least someone upwardly mobile with means like a successful businessman, who might rescue them both from the ever-lurking shame and reality of poverty.



GRANT BUDAY’S BRILLIANT USE OF LANGUAGE and evocation of early years in the city of Victoria keeps us firmly ensconced in the colonial version of the Victorian era. His own familiarity with a wide variety of blue collar work, like mass production bakeries in Vancouver as told in *White Lung* (Anvil, 1999) or his memoir about moving to Mayne Island from Main Street, Vancouver,

*Stranger on a Strange Island* (New Star, 2011) wherein he becomes the king of the Recycling Depot, add delicious veracity to this novel as well. So when Pearl falls into a compost bin from the roof of a three-storey rooming house in mid-winter and finds it pleasantly warm, earthy yet fragrant, with coffee grounds most predominant, we accept this to be a highly credible description without the need to replicate her adventure! One is inevitably reminded of a modern-day **Charles Dickens**.

While the genteel are hosting seances to expand the perceptions of sixth sense en groupe, in Florence and Pearl’s modest home at the breakfast table we hear Carpy pouring the tea (Darjeeling), the clip-clop of the milk-wagon’s horse on the front street and from somewhere beyond their back

lane, the soft explosion of yet another bottle made by their ale-making neighbour. Buday’s portraits of early Victoria life include: a dreamlike campfire scene on the beach during a November gale, where bedraggled Pearl is welcomed by kind, Songhees women; **Judge Begbie**—infamously nicknamed “the hanging judge”—singing arias in Italian in the smoky Lord Nelson pub; and later we discover, via late night forays down narrow cobblestone alleys, a cubbyhole shop presided over by a skilled wigmaker in Chinatown. We also meet Charles Gloster, amateur scientist, photographer, world traveller and investigator of exotic religious rituals, another Theosophist like Carpy. He only lacks a wife, it would appear and he courts friendless yet reluctant Florence who is, quite possibly, not quite a widow. Then Florence’s front door is invaded by a scruffy Belfast woman who calls her Sinead Molloy, and Florence’s carefully respectable dance becomes a jig, which is now, as they say, well and truly up.

Through the muddy new civic streets fringed by giant Douglas firs on the outskirts, to the groomed grounds of Craigdarroch and the social event of the year hosted by a famously cranky **Lady Dunsmuir**, skips our picaresque Pearl, the little girl who becomes a tall and no less audacious teen. She climbs, leaps and finally, weary and disheartened, plods these city streets. But not for long! She chafes at her lot in life, longing to be a pirate, a poet, or some form of dashing rogue, instead of teetering on the edge of respectable behaviour, forever wondering about an absent and possibly fictitious father. She reads a great many books (“I thirst for knowledge,” she says) and then makes one life-altering decision, which is where the belly of a sphinx enters the plot, no thanks to over-indulging in rum-spiked punch at the Dunsmuir gala.

Grant Buday has contributed yet another smart, impeccably researched, highly literate yet never stuffy, slyly hilarious and thoroughly engaging book for his fans. May the latter increase exponentially as this writer deserves a wide readership.

9781990071157

Caroline Woodward reads and writes in the village of New Denver, BC.





The SS *Princess Maquinna* steaming out of Vancouver Harbour.

# A DAY ABOARD THE PRINCESS MAQUINNA, C. 1924

**The Best Loved Boat:**  
The *Princess Maquinna* by Ian Kennedy  
(Harbour \$34.95)

BY TREVOR CAROLAN

One of 19 ships operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company during almost a century of BC marine service, the SS *Princess Maquinna* began her legendary career in 1913. Built to survive the notoriously dangerous waters off the west coast of Vancouver Island that she plied for forty years, as Comox resident **Ian Kennedy** reveals, no boat was better loved there than the indomitable *Maquinna*.

Drawing on interviews, published historical accounts and archival research, Kennedy's narrative in **The Best Loved Boat** provides us with a reconstructed summer journey, stop-by-stop, of a typical *Maquinna* voyage in her heyday, circa 1924. The seven-day odyssey of 770 nautical miles (1420 km) north from Victoria to Quatsino Sound and back, with meals, ran you \$39. Promotional brochures touted the *Maquinna's* elegant dining room, white-jacket waiter service, comfortable cabins, and the opportunity of meeting unique and colourful characters from far-flung settlements, logging and fish camps, mills and mines along the vast Pacific—with spectacular natural scenery and wildlife awaiting photographers. What also awaited adventure travellers was an anthropological voyage into one of the Earth's last imperially "discovered" regions, where summers could be idyllic, but where winters brought gale-force winds and treacherous foggy reefs that tested the ablest crews.

Elegant white-jacket waiter service and comfortable cabins for some, cramped four-bed bunks or outside on the deck for others. Despite colonial class divides, the good ship *Maquinna's* whistle was often, "the most welcome sound on the West Coast."



Captain Edward Gillam (centre, next to nurse) with *Princess Maquinna's* officers.

The *Maquinna* departed Victoria three times a month. Her route north could make up to 40 stops at diverse locations, some now well-known—Port Renfrew, Bamfield, Port Alberni, Ucluelet, Tofino, Clayoquot and the pulp mill at Port Alice. Others less so—Clooose, the thriving whaling stations at Sechart and Cachalot, Kakawis with its residential school, Ahousaht, Nitinat Bay and Captain Cook's old shelter at Nootka Sound. A working cargo vessel, the *Maquinna* hauled everything from

unrefrigerated sides of beef, fruit and vegetables, to construction and domestic staples, oil, gasoline, livestock, feed and machinery. Skippered masterfully for 16 years by Captain **Edward Gillam**, what she lugged on her return was a blueprint of BC's colonial economy—sawn lumber, coal, whale oil and bone meal, tons of canned salmon, metal ores, pilchard oil, pottery clay and millions in gold bars from Zeballos. She was the west coasters' indispensable courier for medicines, liquor and the

Royal Mail (as it was known in those days).

Unpredictable environments compelled an informal shipboard democracy, but Kennedy notes it was still a colonial era and class distinctions prevailed. Fifty first-class cabins were available for those who could afford them. Second-class passage got you the share of a four-bunk, lower deck berth. Thrifty souls could sit out their journey in the main lounge, while, as the fare schedule announced, "Indians and Orientals" who worked the coastal fish plants in large numbers were compelled to remain outside on the forward deck in makeshift shelters at half the first-class fare; heaven help you with the weather.



WHEN THE EXPLOSIVE 1897 DISCOVERY OF gold in the Klondike galvanized every available ship for northern runs to the Yukon, at the urging of Victoria's business community the CPR invested \$531,000 and bought 14 ships. Its new superintendent Captain **James Troup** quickly set about constructing additional vessels, including the proudly Esquimalt-built SS *Princess Maquinna*.

Troup echoed European tradition in naming the vessel after a princess. However, he proposed the daughter of **Chief Maquinna**, who had dominated the west coast of Vancouver Island from Nootka Sound when Captain **George Vancouver** arrived. Remarkably, Troup's empire-minded CPR bosses agreed. Perhaps the proverb "money talks" lent a hand: already the company was planning for a new phase of coastal business—tourism. What better magnet than echoing BC's own historic nobility? It proved a brilliant stroke of frontier respect from the outset.

Kennedy's account details daily life among remote coastal settlements. Ramshackle wharves were a constant





Harold Monks and Margery (Madge) McCannel with the docked SS Princess Maquinna in the background, Tofino, 1921.

challenge to Gillam’s crew, and loadings and discharge of freight and passengers were commonly conducted by rowboat, Indigenous dugout canoe, and whatever floatables arose. Shipboard life in the dining room, lounge and among “deck class” outsiders in the racially segregated times is depicted with an honest appreciation of BC society of the day. We learn of biological expeditions by American scholars that included young women wearing the outlandish garb of men’s trousers! Other reports detail the founding of the Dominion Life Saving—later called “the West Coast”—Trail, along the jagged “Graveyard of the Pacific” stretch for shipwrecked mariners.

The *Maquinna* spawned new ventures like **George Fraser**’s world-renowned horticultural gardens at Ucluelet and early visitor coach tours to Long Beach. At Bamfield’s “All Red Line” station, the trans-global British telegraph service could send a message around the world at the blinding speed of 10 to 14 hours. Its Christmas dances offered bachelor staff the chance to mingle socially with female passengers.

Similarly, coastal marriages “were often timed so the newlyweds could leave on the southbound trip of the *Princess Maquinna*.” Indeed, the good ship *Maquinna*’s whistle was often, “the most welcome sound on the West Coast.”

After WW II, the steady growth of roads linking Port Hardy and other northern Vancouver Island towns began the slow demise of the West Coast cargo service. Growing air traffic shaved off passenger trade and the Princess ships couldn’t compete. By 1953, the aging *Maquinna*’s boilers were clapped-out. Decommissioned, she was stripped down and sold as an unglamorous ore-barge to haul copper ore from Alaska. Ten years later she was broken up for scrap. But what a story Kennedy spins of the grand old *Princess Maquinna*. Like reading **Ethel Wilson**, we’re given a slice of life from a formative, more rugged time in BC that for history hounds is unforgettable.

9781990776403

For a time, Trevor Carolan’s family co-owned another venerable BC coaster, the tug *Florence Filberg*.



Passengers aboard the SS Princess Maquinna.

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**Pacific Voyages:  
The Story of Sail in the Great Ocean  
by Gordon Miller  
(D&M \$59.95)**

BY GRAHAM CHANDLER

**I**n Victoria's Maritime Museum of BC there sits a vintage 38-foot Nuuchah-nulth whaling canoe that looks decidedly non-traditional. She has a deck, a keel, a cockpit, a cabin, three masts, higher gunwales, and a Chinook name meaning "friend": *Tilikum*. The story behind her starts one night in the spring of 1901 at a Vancouver waterfront bar where an enterprising young journalist named **Norman Luxton** was sniffing out potential stories.

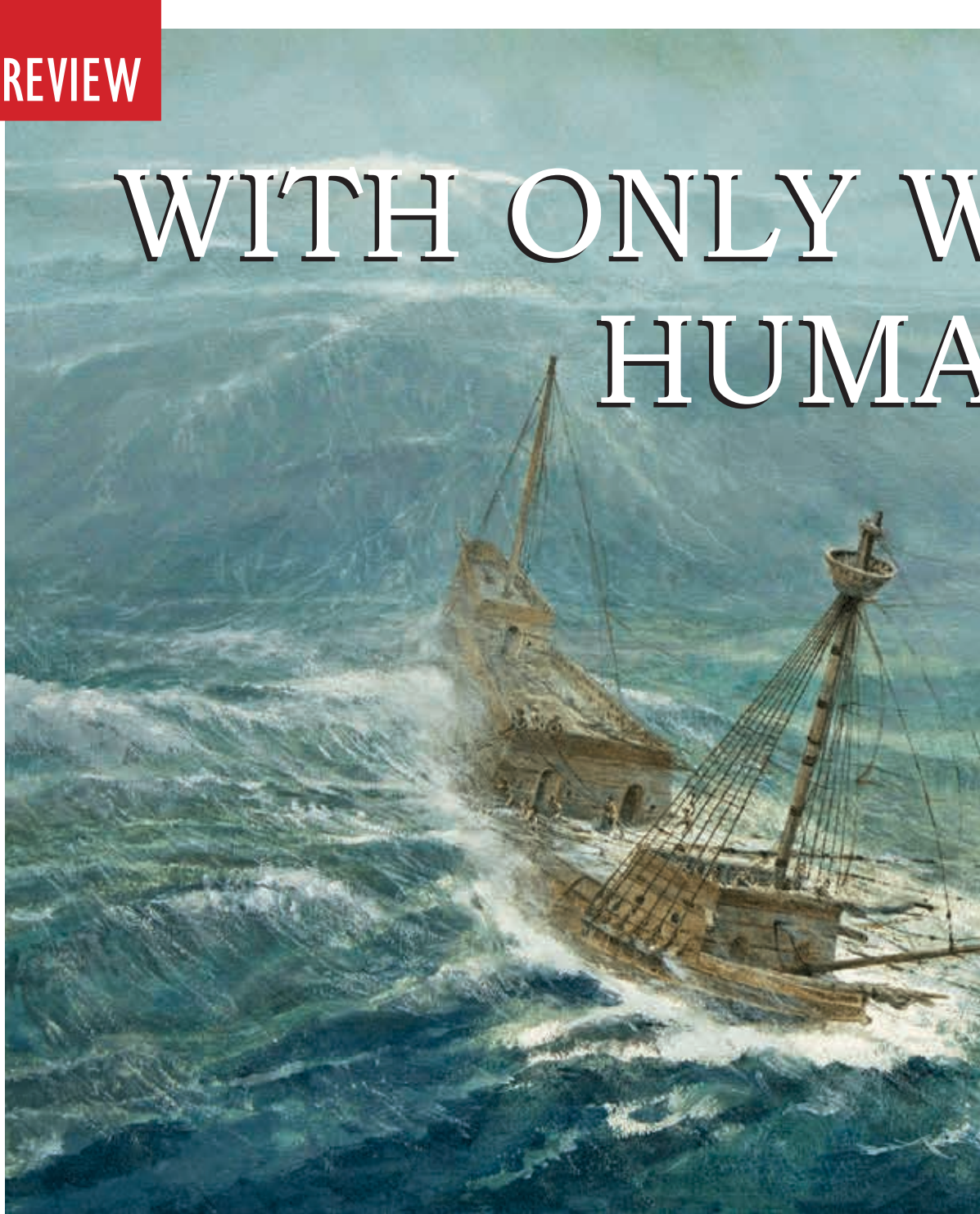
There Luxton met an adventurous sailor named **John Voss**, who was looking for work. Just three years earlier, the legendary **Joshua Slocum** had circumnavigated the globe in a small sailboat; and over beers Voss and Luxton made a sizeable bet—do the same but in a smaller boat. Voss pulled it off in *Tilikum* and made history.

It's a swashbuckling story capping off what **Gordon Miller** sums up as his book's broader theme: "...the story of the European discovery, charting, exploitation and occupation of the Pacific Ocean, mostly in small wooden ships, with only wind and human muscle for power."

It starts with **Ferdinand Magellan** more than 500 years ago, whose ship *Victoria* was the first to circumnavigate the world. His armada of five small armed ships set sail from Spain on September 20, 1519 aiming for what were then called the Spice Islands.

But before we go much further, be advised this volume is far from being just a history book. Miller brings its stories alive with descriptions so vivid you can almost feel, see and smell the often-unbelievable conditions the intrepid sailors endured on so many of those voyages.

Like Magellan's story, where mid-trip, their food had run out and the crews resorted to "eating a mixture of biscuit crumbs and rat droppings, then ate the rats, until they too were gone," writes Miller. "They caught the occasional shark, but were finally reduced to eating sawdust, and boiling and chewing



Gordon Miller's watercolour, *The Los Reyes Dismasted* depicts the ship's struggle to survive a vicious cyclone on its way to the north Pacific. It barely survived, limping into a town on the Mexican coast four months later.

leather chaffing gear from the rigging just to put something in their stomachs." When the armada finally limped back into harbour nearly three years later, Magellan was dead and *Victoria* was the only surviving ship. And of the original 250 sailors, only a weakened 18 were left.



GORDAN MILLER INCLUDES BOTH THE WELL-KNOWN and the lesser-known. Many readers will be familiar with names like **James Cook**, **Charles Darwin**, or the mutiny on the *Bounty* saga. But likely not others, like **France's La Pérouse** in 1786 who was anxious to capture some of the prestige Cook had gained for Britain. His expedition surveyed unmapped areas of the northwest coast, Kamchatka, and Australia, and anthropological data on Indigenous populations—achievements Miller calls "considerable...precise and beautiful charts and drawings, and extensive observations..."

Another of the lesser-known Pacific sailing adventures is the sad but entertaining War of Jenkins' Ear, declared by the British against Spain in October 1739. Under it, the plan was to dispatch a fleet of six men-of-war ships and a company of 500 soldiers to the Pacific "to take, burn, sink, or otherwise destroy the ships and vessels belonging to Spain." One Commodore **George Anson** was given the job to prepare and lead the force. He dutifully proceeded to Portsmouth only to find a navy utterly unprepared for war. To top up his crew numbers, Anson engaged press gangs to kidnap farm boys, scour local jails, and draft old, sick and crippled soldiers. Of those unsuitable 259 so recruited, the average age was 55, all were disabled in some way, and nearly all died from disease or injury before they even reached the Pacific. Miller calls it "one of the most terrible and costly voyages in British maritime history." Nonetheless, four years later, after vanquishing the Spanish, Anson returned a hero with three treasure-laden ships.

But at what cost? Just 188 original members were aboard as nearly 1,400 had died, mostly from disease and starvation. It didn't matter to the "higher-ups": Anson was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty.

Closer to home, readers will enjoy the extensive coverage of the BC coast including: Nootka Sound, Juan de Fuca and Georgia Straits, Hastings Mill, Friendly Cove (where the first ship on the northwest coast was built), and much, much more.

The 19th century saw a new era in commercial sailboats: the clippers, known for their speed alone.



The first ship built on the northwest coast was the *North West* at Friendly Cove on Vancouver Island. Watercolour painting by Gordon Miller.





# & SCLE VER

Miller uses a prime example to illustrate: *Thermopylae*, said to be the loveliest and one of the fastest. She made the nearly 15,000 mile passage from Gravesend to Melbourne in 60 days, a time no steamship could hope to match, and a record never equalled under sail. It was said that “she could do seven knots in a breeze that wouldn’t extinguish a candle.”

But as the old saying goes, all good things must come to an end. Sailing cargo ships were no exception. As steamships improved, sailing ships were lost in the spray. They could keep to sea as long as there was food and water, while the steamer could keep going only as long as her coal lasted. Even though the wind was always free, the last commercial square-rigger to visit BC was *Pamir*, towed out of Vancouver on January 5, 1946.

★  
NOT ONLY IS VANCOUVER-BASED MILLER SKILLED AT DETAILED research and making history more than an academic pursuit, he’s a distinguished maritime artist and illustrator as well as experienced west coast sailor and museum designer. His paintings grace collections in the US and Canada; and no less than 60 adorn this tome.

Along the way, he leaves readers a few challenges like, what is a flute, a pinnacle, a bergentina, or a galliot? Look these up for your next cocktail party. He includes a 23-page appendix with drawings to scale as well as detailed text on each. And wraps it up with a solid bibliography.

It’s a masterful volume equally at home on your coffee table or library reference stacks.

“The Pacific is perhaps, upon the whole, no more boisterous than other oceans, though I feel quite safe in saying that it is not more pacific except in name.” So summed Joshua Slocum.

*Graham Chandler is a Vancouver-based freelance writer with over 700 published works, many with anthropological and heritage themes. He holds a PhD in archaeology from the University of London, UK.*



Illustration of Frances Barkley by Kimiko Fraser, 2023

## The remarkable Frances Barkley

The first woman to circumnavigate the earth on a sailing ship.

**Frances Barkley:**  
**Eighteenth-century Seafarer**  
by **Cathy Converse** (Heritage \$12.95)

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

**F**resh out of convent school in France where she had studied French, history and culture, seventeen-year-old **Frances Trevor** was back with her British family in 1786 when she met twenty-six-year-old sea captain **Charles Barkley**. Frances fell in love and married the seagoing merchant after a six-week courtship.

This was a time when large parts of the world were still being explored, and many parts of North America were uncharted. Yet the appeal of making fortunes by buying goods from remote places and selling them for huge mark-ups where such goods were in demand, took sailors on long sea voyages that often meant leaving their families behind for years at a time. It was unheard of for a wife to accompany her merchant mariner husband on the high seas, but Frances was hellbent on joining Charles. “I had only been on a ship once before,” Frances says in **Frances Barkley: Eighteenth-century Seafarer** by **Cathy Converse**, which references Frances’ written recollections called *Reminiscences*, compiled in the years before her death in 1845. “I was both excited for the adventure that lay before us and sad, for I knew that it would be a long time before I saw my family again.” Admitting she was naïve, Frances nonetheless was determined, declaring: “I did not want to be separated from my dear husband.”

Thus began Frances Barkley’s journeys from November 1786 to Decem-

ber 1794, as she became the first known woman to *openly* circumnavigate the earth on a sailing ship, and also the first European woman to visit the Pacific Northwest (there are stories of women disguised as men aboard ships in previous years). She gave birth to two children during this period, one of whom died and was buried at sea near what is known today as Sulawesi, Indonesia.

★  
SEA OTTERS FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST were worth a fortune in China where they could be traded for goods such as tea, silk and porcelain that were highly sought after in Britain. Although there were already many ships in the merchant sea trade, few had voyaged around the world. It was risky and expensive. If successful, the Barkleys would be rich. But they also faced hardship, disease, fierce seas that could have taken them to a watery grave, and capture by pirates as well as imprisonment by enemy forces during war. There was also the beauty and awe of new lands and social high times in the homes of rich foreigners.



Cathy Converse

★  
THE BARKLEY’S DESCENDANTS later scattered around the world including Vancouver Island, which is why Frances Barkley’s original *Reminiscences* ended up in the BC Archives. A previous book *The Remarkable World of Frances Barkley* (Gray’s, 1978) was written by **Beth Hill** (1924–1997), and later reissued and expanded with the help of Victoria’s Cathy Converse as *The Remarkable World of Frances Barkley 1769-1845* (Heritage, 2003). Converse has continued to do more research by interviewing marine historians and ships’ masters to fill in extra details and more context for Frances’ story in *Frances Barkley: Eighteenth-century Seafarer*.



# GRAPHIC NOVELS

**The Bund:  
A Graphic History of  
Jewish Labour Resistance**  
by Sharon Rudahl and Paul Buhle,  
illustrated by Michael Kluckner  
(Between The Lines \$34.95)

BY DAVID LESTER



Following up on the success of *The Rooming House: The West Coast in the Seventies* (Midtown, 2022), Vancouverite

**Michael Kluckner** has illustrated **The Bund: A Graphic History of Jewish Labour Resistance**.

A virtually forgotten piece of political history, *The Bund* is an important addition to the canon of graphic literature depicting resistance against tyranny.

The Bund was founded in Vilnius in 1897 by a small group of Jewish workers and intellectuals from the “Pale of Settlement” areas in tsarist Russia.

The group organized against industrial exploitation and fought against the murderous Soviet and Nazi regimes. Through all this, The Bund kept secular and progressive ideas alive. Prominent Bundists included **Pati Kremer** (1867–1943), a Russian revolutionary socialist, and **Bernard Goldstein** (1889–1959) who helped smuggle in arms in preparation for the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

*The Bund* was co-written by **Sharon Rudahl**, a graphic novelist in her own right, and a key figure in the groundbreaking feminist *Wimmen’s Comix*, an underground comics anthology published from 1972 to 1992, and **Paul Buhle**, a veteran of work on almost 30 non-fiction graphic novels.

Kluckner’s previous graphic novels are *Julia* (Midtown Press, 2018); *2050: A Post-Apocalyptic Murder Mystery* (Midtown Press, 2016) and *Toshiko* (Midtown Press, 2015).

*BC BookWorld* caught up with Kluckner to talk about *The Bund*.

**BC BookWorld:** Quite a leap from the West Coast in the 70s to tsarist Russia.

**Michael Kluckner:** The shift in locale and time was interesting. I could say I passed Horse 101 in art school and drew a lot of beards for *The Rooming House* so I was well-prepared. The image research was fairly straightforward thanks to the Internet. I was able to find photographs (to draw from) of some of the quite minor Bundists as well as the recurring characters like Pati Kremer, Bernard Goldstein, and **Lenin** of course. The rural Ukrainian and Polish scenes were re-imagined from historic photo sites, and there are photos online of, for example, the tsar’s crown and the Kremlin, which repeat throughout the book in different roles.

**BCBW:** Your previous graphic novels were in black and white. How was it to work in full colour?

**MK:** I had been playing around, adding some flat watercolour to black-and-white ink drawings like the “woodcuts” in *The Rooming House*—colouring them in with patches of watercolour rather than really “painting,”—and it worked out very well. I used a kind of “poverty palette” of umbers and ochres, with a couple of dull greys, for the Bundists and peasants, and a brighter palette of blues and reds for the panels of the



Artwork by Michael Kluckner, *The Bund: A Graphic History of Jewish Labour Resistance*

## HAUNTED BY OUR KNOWLEDGE

From the west coast of BC  
to tsarist Russia, **Michael Kluckner**  
talks about *The Bund*.

aristocracy. I also drew quite a number of cartooned maps using digital colour, for example to show the Pale of Settlement in Ukraine / Poland / Russia where Jews were confined. Showing the geography of their oppression was one of the tasks I wanted the book to accomplish.

Another thing was figuring out Polish, Yiddish and Russian placards and signs for a few of the pages. I didn’t want any English in the graphics. The publisher had a linguist check all of them, I believe!

**BCBW:** You normally write and illustrate your own books. What was it like collaborating with the legendary Sharon and Paul?

**MK:** Both were very supportive and Sharon’s script was easy to follow. It became a question of splitting it out into about 100 pages, with the inevitable need to start a chapter on a right-hand page and stage the narrative so that I could use a two-page spread for some important and dramatic moments. **Devin Clancy**, the production designer at Between the Lines, picked up a few vignettes from drawings and repeated them, even reversed them, on a few pages to enrich the layout. All in all, it was a great collaboration, and so 21st century: Paul’s in the eastern US, Sharon’s in LA, BTL is in Toronto. The first time I saw them was in a Zoom presentation at a San Francisco library in October.

**BCBW:** Is there a particularly profound moment in the book that stood out to you as a historian and artist?

**MK:** The book is haunted by our knowledge of the pending Holocaust. The Warsaw ghetto scenes were difficult, as was the page almost at the end where the women and children in Vilna (in Lithuania, now known as Vilnius), in sorrow and with dignity, are being forced onto a truck at gunpoint to be driven to an extermination camp. And, of course, Russia had invaded Ukraine (yet again) just a few months before I began work on the book. Learning more about Imperial Russia and the oppression over centuries of its neighbours, Jewish as well as every nationality nearby, was disturbing. I think the couple of pages I enjoyed drawing most were about Japan beating the crap out of Russia in their 1905 war.

**BCBW:** Any future graphic novels or book projects in the works?

**MK:** I’m going back to the future, as it were, with a book called *Surviving Vancouver* that will be out next spring. It is like my old works of watercolour illustrations and a text mixing historic and current information. Then I may work on a sequel to *The Rooming House*—I received so many fascinating emails from people recounting their own lives and adventures in the 70s and thereafter. There are more stories to be told, and the graphic novel format works well.

9781771136365



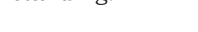
★  
Twenty-five years in the making, **What’s Fear Got to Do With It?** by **Ivana Filipovich** (Conundrum \$18) is set during a single evening at the Richmond Night Market, North America’s largest night market. Two women, Eva and Mia, share the same boyfriend, Max—a feared member of the city’s criminal underground. It is not love that motivates this triangle, but power, money and fear. BC-based Filipovich has had her work published in Slovenia, Sweden and Serbia.

9781772620887



★  
Edited by **Bevan Thomas** and **Hannah Myers**, **Through the Labyrinths of the Mind** (Cloudscape \$20) is a graphic novel anthology of 11 stories that tackle depression, anxiety, PTSD, OCD and other mental health issues with empathy and understanding.

9781927742204



★  
**Couches Get Lonely Too** (Lulu.com \$26) by **Sima Elizabeth Shefrin** is her entirely embroidered graphic account of

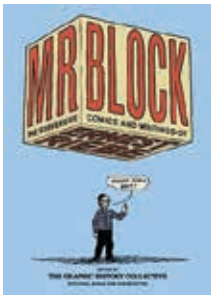


living through the Covid-19 years. The book promises humour and wisdom. Gabriola Island-based Shefrin runs a website called *Stitching for Social Change*, where you can learn about her quilts, community projects, illustrations and workshops, all of which are interlaced with her vision for a better world.

Contact: [stitchingforsocialchange.ca](mailto:stitchingforsocialchange.ca)

★  
**Mr. Block: The Subversive Comics and Writings of Ernest Riebe** (Between the Lines \$34.95) is a remarkable collection, both as labour history, and comics history. Mr. Block, a bumbling,





boss-loving, anti-union blockhead was created by **Ernest Riebe**, a member of the Industrial Workers of the World. The strip first appeared in 1912 in the *Industrial Worker*. Riebe combined comics and humour to burst the bubble of workers who placed faith in a capitalist system that exploited them. **Joe Hill** even wrote a song about Mr. Block, to the tune of *It Looks to Me Like a Big Time Tonight*. The anthology was edited by the Graphic History Collective, with **Paul Buhle** and **Iain McIntyre**.

9781771136099

Vancouver-based writer and illustrator **Claire Lordon**'s graphic memoir **One in a Million** (Candlewick \$16.99) tells her story of living with a brain tumour in high school. After multiple surgeries, the tumour was removed. She survived the ordeal thanks to her art and the support of friends. For teens and young adults.

9781536213676

Eight years in the making, **Phobos and Deimos: Interplanetary high school drama graphic novel** by **Jonathon Dalton** (Cloudscape \$35) follows Maida Kilwa, a teenage refugee from Mars. Adapting to her new life on Earth, she navigates high school and a troubling dystopian government. Maida is torn between security and the fires of rebellion. Dalton wrote *Phobos and Deimos* after teaching in East London for a year and thinking a lot about class and migration. He is president of the Cloudscape Comics Society in Vancouver.

9781927742525

Mystery and magic for ages 8-12 in **Doña Quixote: Rise of the Knight** (Henry Holt \$14.99) by **Rey Terciero** and illustrated by **Monica Magaña**. A middle-schooler in a small Texas town, Lucia, wearing her grandfather's magical helmet discovers the town mayor is secretly a shapeshifting beast of Mexican lore. Her parents think she's imagining things. But that won't deter her from stopping the mayor from unleashing evil on their town. Magaña lives in Vancouver.

9781250795526



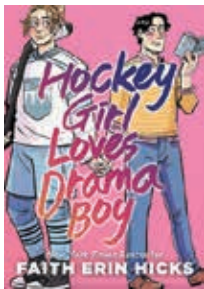
Monica Magaña, illustrator of *Doña Quixote: Rise of the Knight*

Keeping it real for ages 6 to 9, **Pup and Dragon: How to Catch an Elf** (Sourcebooks/Wonderland \$12.99) by **Alice Walstead** and illustrated by Vancouver's **Paul Gill** tells a charming story of two best friends, Pup and Dragon who are trying to catch one of Santa's little helpers on Christmas Eve—only they have no idea what a Santa is, let alone an elf. Their adventure leads to an understanding of Christmas.

9781728270517

Third in the "Paws" graphic novel series for middle graders is **Priya Puts Herself First** (Razorbill \$12.99) by **Nathan Fairbairn** and illustrated by **Michele Assarasakorn**. The story revolves around the Baby-Sitters Club for pets, and this time, the team of best dog-walkers in town must overcome personal challenges—Priya's family is being evicted and Gabby wants to be internet famous. Fairbairn is an Eisner-nominated comic creator. Assarasakorn has worked for Marvel and DC. Both live in Vancouver.

9780593351970



**Hockey Girl Loves Drama Boy** by **Faith Erin Hicks** (First Second \$17.99) follows Alix, a hot-head who is desperate to play in the Women's U18

team, but she must first learn to control her temper. To help, she enlists the calm and poised Ezra, a boy from the drama club. The two become close, but will it be more than just a friendship? Hicks is a Vancouver-based Eisner Award winner. Ages 14-18. 9781250838728

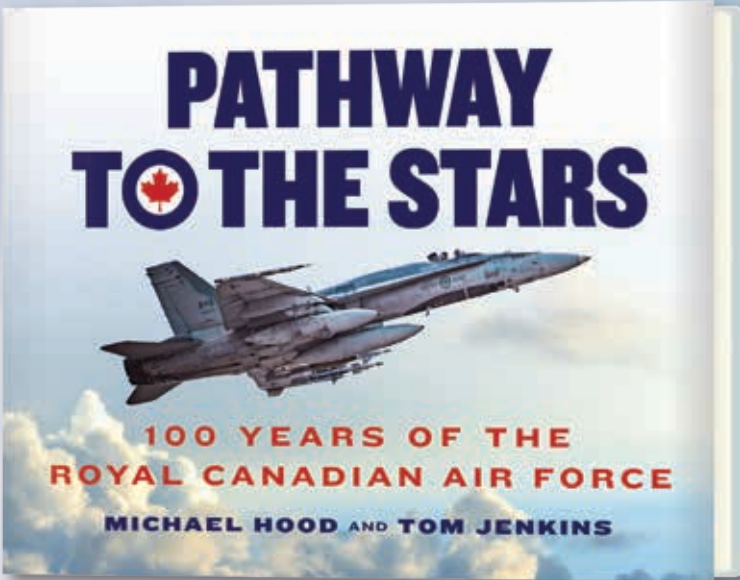
Though not BC-based authors or illustrators, Arsenal Pulp Press has issued English translations of **Can Dundar** and **Anwar's Erdoğan: A Graphic Biography: The Rise of Turkey's Modern Autocrat** (\$28.95) and **40 Men and 12 Rifles: Indochina 1954** (\$32.95) by **Marcelino Truong**, about love, beauty and war in 1950s Indochina.

Erdoğan: 9781551529219;  
40 Men and 12 Rifles: 9781551529233

*David Lester is a graphic novelist, musician and BC BookWorld designer.*

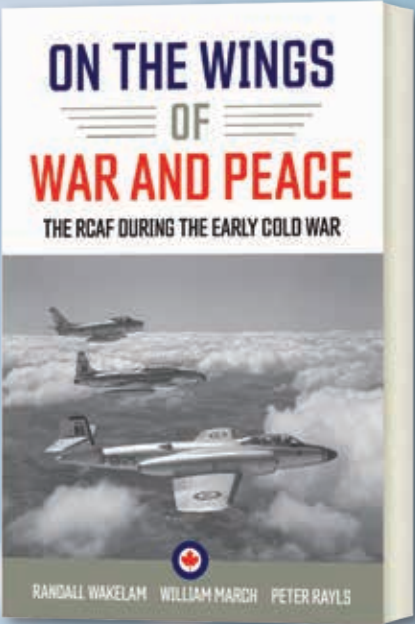
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Author of *Canada's Army: Waging War and Keeping the Peace*

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Since the invasion of Ukraine, **Svetlana Ischenko's** focus on Ukrainian culture, language and literature has intensified.

**Nucleus:**  
A Poet's Lyrical Journey from  
Ukraine to Canada by Svetlana Ischenko  
(Ronsdale \$18.95)

**A**s the invasion of Ukraine careens onward, poet **Svetlana Ischenko** dives deep into the literary landscape of identity. With deeply-held Ukrainian sensibilities, she optimistically writes about life in Canada as an immigrant using sonnets and lyrical poems.

In her introductory essay to **Nucleus**, Ischenko examines the adage "Poetry is what gets lost in translation." Does a person's identity get lost when that person becomes an immigrant and tries to translate their self into a new self, in a new country? And if a person writes poems and is deeply attached to their original country, its language and culture, how will that "translation" work, exactly?

Ischenko is an award-winning poet, translator, actress, playwright, artist and teacher. She lives in North Vancouver. *BC BookWorld* asked Ischenko to reflect on the themes of *Nucleus* in the following interview.



**BC BOOKWORLD:** *Nucleus* tackles the creative tensions you have encountered as a Ukrainian immigrant in Canada. Can you describe those tensions?

**Svetlana Ischenko:** When I first came to Canada, I saw myself as a Ukrainian in Canada, but after a while, I thought of myself as a Ukrainian-Canadian. I haven't been able to return to Ukraine since the invasion (and am desperate to, as my mother is alone in my home city of Mykolaiv), but I've gone back to Ukraine every couple of years since I came to Canada, and while there, I've noticed I've acquired a Canadian "flavour." At first, I thought this might mean I was losing my sense of being Ukrainian. That brought a certain tension which I sometimes expressed in poetry. But the longer I've lived in Canada, and the more I've learned about Canada's history, its cultures, and the

# NOT LOST IN TRANSLATION



diversity that is so key to Canada, the more I've assumed a Canadian identity into my Ukrainian identity. Whereas before I saw the world from the perspective of one country and culture, now I can look at the world from multiple perspectives.

**BCBW:** Does your poetry take on an added profundity in light of the invasion of Ukraine?

**Ischenko:** Hopefully, yes. But my answer comes out of complicated feelings. I'm sad to say yes here because it sometimes seems to me that it took a war to draw world attention to Ukrainian literature and culture. Ukrainian literature is still often seen as a kind of Russian sub-literature, when the truth is that Ukrainian literature has always existed powerfully in its own right.

As heinous as the invasion of Ukraine has been, and as tragic, it has motivated Ukrainian people to clarify their identity. At the same time, it has highlighted the wide scope of Ukrainian literature and made for the addition of some unique Ukrainian-language masterpieces to the world's literary treasures.

When it comes to my own efforts, since the invasion of Ukraine, the focus in my poems on Ukrainian culture, language and literature has intensified. I just hope that my pieces bring readers illumination and understanding of what it is to be Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Canadian.

**BCBW:** One of the concerns of your poetry is with the nature of identity as seen through both language and being an immigrant. Can you illuminate this dynamic?

**Ischenko:** As an immigrant in Canada, I've had to find my way at every turn through language. Gesturing isn't enough, especially if you're a writer.

I've been fortunate in that I've also been a stage actress, painter and dancer, so I've been able to express myself through other forms of art and compensate for my lack of fluency in English.

Still, the dynamic for me has always been to try to use English as well as possible, while not losing my Ukrainian. Of course, by not losing my Ukrainian I mean not only language

but individual identity. It's an ongoing process. I enjoy the process. It's made me think about what identity is, and about how a sense of self might be dictated by language.

I can say that as an immigrant I have struggled language-wise. But when I gradually got to the point where I could write poems in English, it only widened my possibilities as a person and enriched my identity.

**BCBW:** Is there a parallel to your work as an actress in that acting is a kind of translation of words and physical movement?

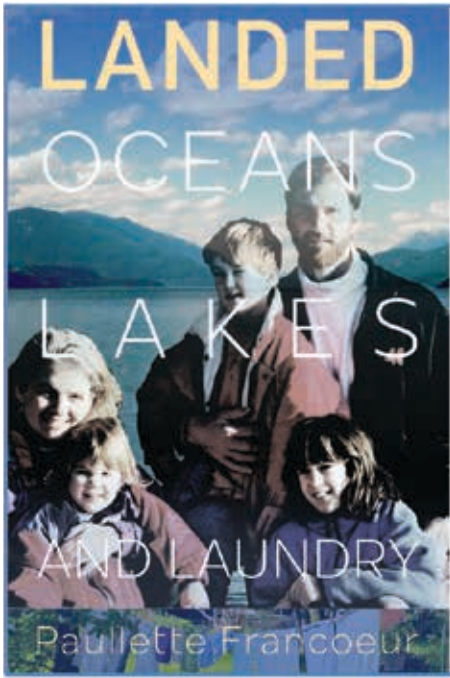
**Ischenko:** Yes, I think there is a parallel. For me, acting is very much a kind of translation of words and physical movement. Acting has helped me understand my own motivation for choosing certain words—why I might use this or that “action” in a poem. And, yes, I “translate” physical movement into words. I remember a stage director saying to me, “Don't reply right away. Process the words of the stage partners through your body. Give me your physical reaction. And only then, voice your reply.”

I tend to stage-direct my own poetry. I tell myself: do the action in your thoughts and feelings and then produce it in a written version. This isn't to say that I don't often simply discover what I want to say as I write. But sometimes, in the context of a particular poem, writing for me is like putting myself into a role or character. I have the imagery in front of me like in a movie, frame by frame, and build a poem that goes with that imagery based on my understanding of the character—except the character is myself. I've probably become more aware of doing this as I've written more often in two languages.

**BCBW:** What is your next literary project?

**Ischenko:** Right now, I'm busy with non-writing artistic activities. Recently, I completed a painting project and had a couple of art exhibits. I tend to move between different forms of art. I'll go back to working with words soon, I think! It will be my own poetry or translation of Ukrainian poetry into English, or Canadian English-language poetry into Ukrainian.

9781553807070



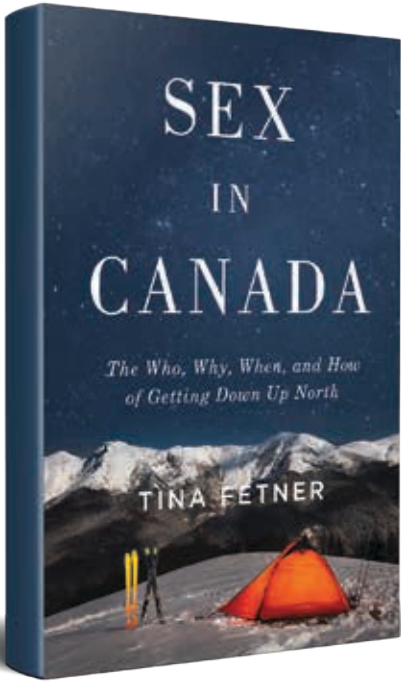
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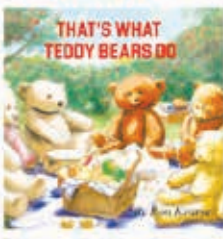


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*There are a gull's feathers  
on the waters of the Pacific  
like bright white boats —  
no Ottoman-Turk hordes,  
no blood in the Cossack's wound.  
The new world —  
history from scratch.  
We aren't ashes and dust.  
What are we here, in this  
edge-of-the-world place?  
A gull's feathers in the ocean.*

— **Svetlana Ischenko**, from **Nucleus: A Poet's Lyrical Journey from Ukraine to Canada**

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# Grizzlies ⇌ Elders ⇌ Wildlife ⇌ Bompa



**Grizzly Bear Science and the Art of a Wilderness Life: Forty Years of Research in the Flathead Valley by Bruce McLellan** (RMB \$32)

In his mid-20s, Bruce McLellan built a log cabin near the Flathead River where he raised a family among bears, wolves and mountain lions. He also began what is likely the longest study of grizzly bears (now in its 43<sup>rd</sup> year). This book covers the fascinating stories of both the McLellans and the grizzlies.

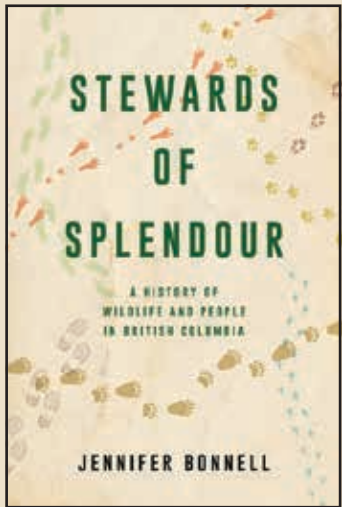


**The Days of Augusta by Mary Augusta Tappage Evans, edited by Jean E. Speare with photography by Robert Keziere** (Harbour \$24.95)

Born in the Cariboo, Mary Augusta Tappage Evans (1888–1978) was the granddaughter of a Soda Creek chief (maternal) and a Métis (paternal) who came west following the defeat of Louis Riel. Her oral history, recorded by a neighbour, Jean Speare, is a contemporary classic now back in print telling of drastic changes Augusta witnessed.

**Stewards of Splendour: A History of Wildlife and People in British Columbia by Jennifer Bonnell** (RBCM \$34.95)

Duncan-raised Jennifer Bonnell conducted over 80 interviews and drew upon a rich body of literature to examine the changing values BC people have towards wildlife. She begins in 1774, exploring the ways that Indigenous communities, and later government and stakeholder groups, have sought to manage wildlife practices and wilderness resources in the province.



**Bompa's Insect Expedition by David Suzuki and Tanya Lloyd Kyi with illustrations by Qin Leng** (Greystone \$23.95)

Inspired by David Suzuki's adventures with his own grandkids, "Bompa" (Flemish for grandfather) takes his twin grandkids on an adventure into nature. At first, they are disappointed as Bompa goes no further than outside the house door. But what wonders he shows them! Art by Qin Leng highlights a world we often overlook.



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## POETRY REVIEW

# THRASHING WITH LIFE

From a coiled rattlesnake to dangerous father figures, **Rodney DeCroo** relives encounters with nightmarish creatures.

**Fishing for Leviathan by Rodney DeCroo** (Anvil \$18)

BY HEIDI GRECO

A gigantic fish, its mouth full of pointy teeth, leers out from the cover of **Rodney DeCroo's** third published collection of poems.

Looking at the image more closely, one discovers a tiny diver suspended by a rope that I can only hope is also a source of oxygen. The metaphor of the little dangling man in precarious straits is not at all unreasonable for the contents of the book.

In the poem that shares the book's title, the narrator and his brothers manage to filch a bunch of fishing supplies at the hardware store before heading to the river where they toss their lines. When one of them pulls in a catfish, they marvel at its size and ugliness, comparing it to a "sea monster" something "like the Leviathan Pastor Bob preached about / last Sunday!" Yet despite their exaggerated descriptions and bravado, while the fish still struggles, the scene turns to one of tender caring:

Picking the catfish up, cradled  
slick against my arms, I placed  
it in the shallow water where, listing

on its side, we thought it dead;  
until it wildly thrashed with life  
as we yelled it back into the river.

And for me, it's in lines such as these where DeCroo proves his mettle as a poet. Look closer for yourself: "cradled / slick against my arms"—an image clear as one from a film, slippery and wet. Or even stronger, the closing where the fish not only jerks its body, but "wildly thrashes" and not just as a struggle to escape, but that it does so "with life!" And then the perfection of that verb in the final line "as we *yelled* it back into the river" (where I inserted my own italics).

He's been compared by some to the famed **Charles Bukowski**, though aside from some shared themes and scenes—primarily those related to working and drinking—I don't see a lot of commonalities in the ways the poems work. While Bukowski tends to favour short, choppy lines, DeCroo's lines wander, often leaving me in doubt as to how he determines where a line break should occur.

But then even as I am having this thought, he calls me out (or it feels that way) when he writes about a woman who:

...asks me questions about  
line breaks  
using technical terms I don't know.  
When I reply I just do what  
feels right  
she looks away as if I'd said



*If you lie down in a field,  
she will find you there*

by Colleen Brown

While in the middle of a divorce and in the process of reinventing herself, Doris Brown died suddenly in 1974. Two years later, a serial killer confessed to her murder. What propels this book is a desire to recover Doris' life, which has been obscured by the spectacle of her death. Essays and memories by Doris Brown's youngest children, Colleen and Laura, appear alongside spoken word anecdotes that contain the family's oral history and tell us who she was.



Available at [radiantpress.ca](http://radiantpress.ca) & booksellers everywhere.





something lewd,  
clutches her wine glass to her chest,  
joins a knot of guests discussing  
found poetry as disruptive practice  
undermining the fascist  
implications  
of the lyric poem.

And yet, as if to balance an outsider’s critique, in another piece he asks:

Who  
can you trust if you  
can’t trust the voices  
in your head or your own poem?

And voice, whether inside or outside his head, is an element that’s part of Rodney DeCroat’s identity. In many circles he’s better known as a musician, a calling with more opportunities for paying gigs than that of a poet. It’s worth making a stop at YouTube and calling up some of his performances. I find them an odd combination of **Dylan** and maybe **Tom Waits**, while at the same time summoning the spirit of **Leonard Cohen**.

But back to the Bukowski comparison: there are similarities—most striking to me in the ways they both write about the ordinary aspects of life, especially its pains. Both men seem to have shared the credo espoused by the late Vancouver Downtown East-side poet **Bud Osborn**, whose guiding principle was poetry as “fidelity to lived experience.” Such lived experience is, for most of us, not the same kind of experiences DeCroat has known.

One of the most unforgettable poems is about his father, a man he claims got a certain pleasure from hurting others:

...he was a dangerous man,  
an ex-marine

who said he enjoyed killing.  
He called it going into winter—  
a state of emotional detachment  
where anything was possible;  
where he said a man found  
himself.  
That’s why he worked in bars.  
There was always someone  
willing to fight.

Sadly, that man isn’t the only one in his life who relied on violence to get his way. Another of his mother’s husbands “...beat her on weekends when he’d / get drunk watching war movies.” The action in the poem’s final line, occurring after a scene with a rifle, is sure to break your heart with the horror it conveys.

Yet not all the pains he remembers are inflicted by family. It’s the viewpoint of the helpless child that he creates—again with wonderful language—in a piece called *Serpent and I*:

In Beaufort, South Carolina  
on the dirt road near the trailer  
a rattlesnake unravelled  
its long muscle, slid in dust  
between my small, bare legs  
and torn sneakers untouched  
by the spade-shaped head  
as urine ran down my thighs.

He isn’t bitten, and is rescued by his mother who wants him to rest, but he’s haunted by nightmare visions of the dry-skinned serpent, just the way I am sure to be haunted by many of the poems in this startling new book.

9781772142136

*Heidi Greco not only reads poems but writes them. She currently has a manuscript making the rounds with publishers while she continues writing, albeit with fingers crossed.*

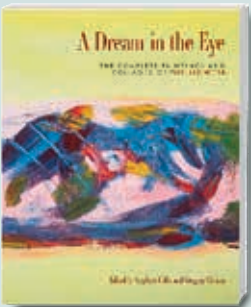
## NEW THIS FALL *from* TALONBOOKS



### A Family of Dreamers Samantha Nock

In this debut collection, Samantha Nock weaves together threads of fat liberation, desirability politics, and heartbreak while working through her existence as a young Indigenous woman coming of age in the city. “Each poem is an elegy and an ode – to family, to the Ancestors, to the Land, to northern BC, to one’s own body ... By the book’s end, I felt that I had witnessed something rare and beautiful.”

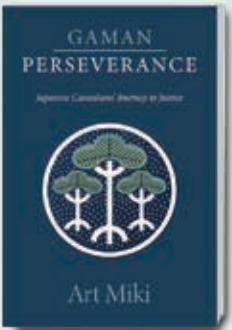
—Billy-Ray Belcourt



### A Dream in the Eye The Complete Paintings and Collages of Phyllis Webb

Edited by Stephen Collis

Seventy-four paintings and eighty photocollages by the brilliant poet Phyllis Webb. Introductions by Stephen Collis and art historian and curator Laurie White, as well some of Webb’s own reflections on her visual work, and an essay by Betsy Warland.



### Gaman Perseverance

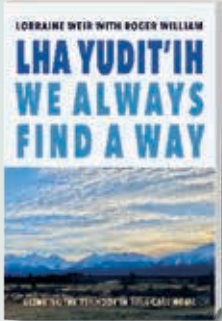
Japanese Canadians’ Journey to Justice  
by Art Miki

This revealing memoir by the former president of the National Association of Japanese Canadians describes the long journey towards resolution for the historic injustice that deprived Japanese Canadians of their basic human rights during and after World War II.

“All Canadians, regardless of ancestry, will benefit by learning about Art and about an important part of Canadian history that may not be widely known.”

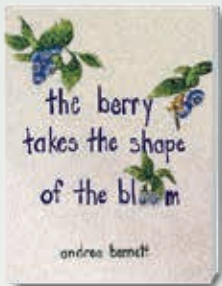
—Phil Fontaine

Former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations



### Lha yudit'ih We Always Find a Way Bringing the Tsilhqot'in Title Case Home Lorraine Weir & Chief Roger William

A community oral history of Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia, the first case in Canada to result in a declaration of Aboriginal Rights and Title to a specific piece of land. Told from the perspective of the Plaintiff, Chief Roger William, joined by fifty Xeni Gwet'ins, Tsilhqot'ins, and allies.



### the berry takes the shape of the bloom andrea bennett

*the berry takes the shape of the bloom* originated as a gesture towards optimism after loss and pain, difficulty and fear. These poems, which capture particular moments in time, may recur in any given present: sometimes what surfaces is anxiety or anger, sometimes love or eagerness.





# NEW STAR BOOKS



## PERRY BULWER MISGUIDED: MY JESUS FREAK LIFE IN A DOOMSDAY CULT

'A detailed, heart-felt look inside the most notorious Christian sect to emerge from the spiritual counterculture of the 1970s.'

— Don Lattin, former religion writer at the *San Francisco Chronicle* and author of *Jesus Freaks*

'Definitely a book you will want to read!'

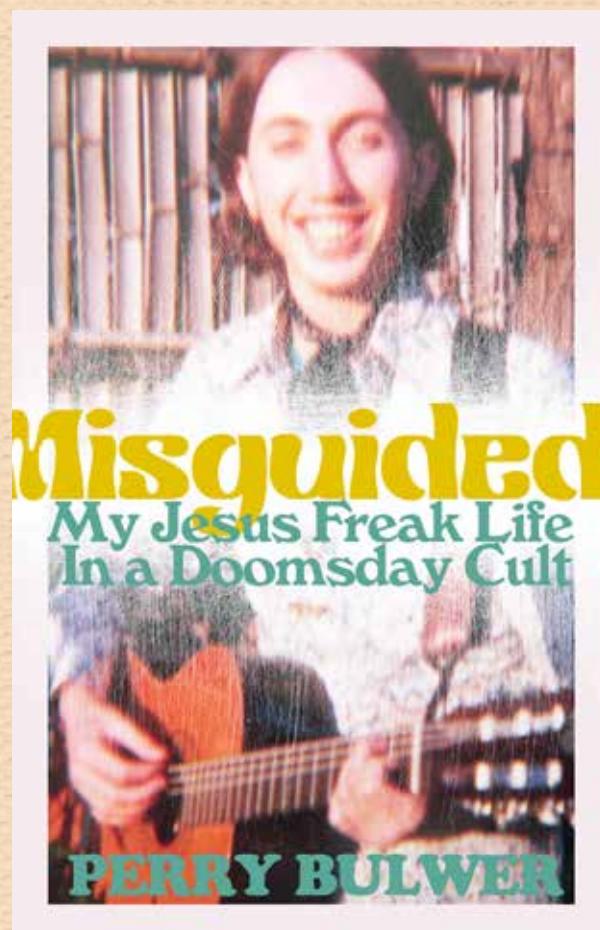
— Janja Lulich, PhD, Author of *Take Back Your Life: Recovering from Cults and Abusive Relationships*

'Informative and fascinating... an exceptional story.'

— Brett Josef Grubisic, *Vancouver Sun*

'A deeply personal and richly informative study that shows how a shy but smart (and rather religious) working class kid gets drawn into an emotionally and physically abusive cult'

— Stephen Kent, Emeritus Professor, University of Alberta



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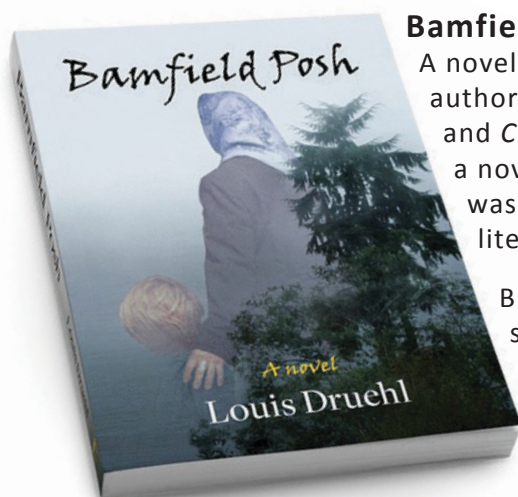
**The Hidden Zoo Inside You**  
An Illustrated Guide to Pesky Organisms and Pandemics  
Hand-written and drawn by Dr. Allen Jones, M.D.  
Ages 12 to 99 | Pub Date Nov 20th

"The content is surprisingly broad and detailed. The enlightening illustrations accompanied by ample humour make this volume much more interesting reading than cut and dried medical or scientific papers. It will definitely delight the lay public with any interest in these topics."

Dr. Anthony W. Chow  
Professor of Infectious Diseases UBC



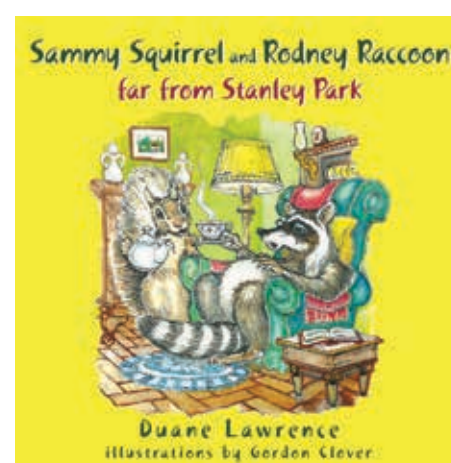
Plagues and pandemics are the constant companions of humankind. Everyone on the left is a bacteria. Everyone on the right is a virus. Let's explore them to create context for what coronavirus is up to.



### Bamfield Posh

A novel by Louis Druehl, author of *Pacific Seaweeds* and *Cedar, Salmon and Weed* a novel about Bamfield that was put on Allen Twigg's literary map of BC.

British war bride and son find freedom from English elitism in a tumultuous west coast fishing village.  
Pub Date Nov 20th



### Sammy Squirrel & Rodney Raccoon far from Stanley Park

For young readers, rafting to Japan with animal's help by Duane Lawrence



### Luminous

An artist's Guide to Radical Creativity by Linda Dayan Frimer

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GRANVILLE ISLAND  
PUBLISHING



Crushed Wild Mint  
by Jess Housty  
(Nightwood \$19.95)

BY ODETTE AUGER

In her debut poetry collection, **Jess Housty** explores themes of living fully—with luxuriant roots in home soil—with an unusual breadth and depth.

They create layered realities and worlds with their words. Even as a Hailzaqv survivor of genocide, while mothering two young sons, they find a way to transform what they have been through, as they write in their poem “Breath” when they ask: “What if we howled roses?”

Housty, of Heiltsuk and mixed settler ancestry, lives in their ancestral home in the town of Bella Bella. They are a writer and grassroots activist serving their community as a herbalist and land-based educator alongside broader work in the non-profit and philanthropic sectors.

Housty is a poet who knows the work of cleaning up an oil spill as well as what it’s like to spend their days growing food with, and for, Elders. Holding the causes of wounds and the wound itself in both hands, they ask, “how can we treat both things with gentleness?”

Blood memory and what carries forward through generations are universal themes

# Grinding rose petals with & BONE & TEETH

A Heiltsuk survivor’s earthy ode to land, love and ancestral wisdom.



Cover art by Angela Yen

haunting “Bowing to Yarrow I.” Speaking to our deeper ways of knowing, it is a poem about plant medicine and the art of honouring.

Energy of place fuels the poems, unfolding glimpses and pulling us into Housty’s world. They have a particular talent for communicating inter-connection and respect. “mirror/touch synesthesia” deftly describes their

experience when “hot blood is relieved by cool October air, and gutting an animal includes blessing.”

Time moves differently through this volume with ghosted gardens and voices from ear-

lier times sharing teachings forward through Housty’s poems. Reading Housty’s words, the reader sees the little child who loved their grandmother, and who shares teachings forward, sometimes openly as in their poem “Gwani taught me” that reveals moments where berries intertwine with internalizing sacredness:

That the ways our bodies are nurtured and our fingertips stained are how we internalize sacredness. That the motions of reaching, of bending, of delicately picking, are how we externalize love.

“Máʔuala (Hailzaqvʔa for two people walking together)” is an example of how the poet’s writing becomes a place where prayers weave in and out, gently guiding towards reorienting:

Less palm to palm  
and more palm to water,  
sole to shore, brow to sun,  
brow to rain.

The cover art by **Angela Yen** aptly captures the sense of bone and teeth grinding rose petals, crushing wild mint. The reader begins to see the earthy poet, writing with “motherland” beneath your nails and “deer’s wisdom compacted in your heels” in the poem “You are inseparable.”

Lines in “Luáʔ (ghost)” also serve to describe the space Housty has carved for readers:

What makes this space safe  
is love, who, with scarred and  
swollen knuckles, turns away  
hardness at the door  
and gently closes it  
behind us again.

By the end of the volume, we begin to feel the circle described in “Where does mercy exist?”:

The hum comes from all  
around me now: some of us  
are speaking to our neighbours,  
some to our lovers, some to our  
children and some to our ancestors,  
but we all talk low and slow  
to make the night into a ritual  
of connection.

Like the bowl of “sixty-eight golden plums” left at the door, Housty’s poems are a gift inviting us to walk with past, present and future. 9780889714502

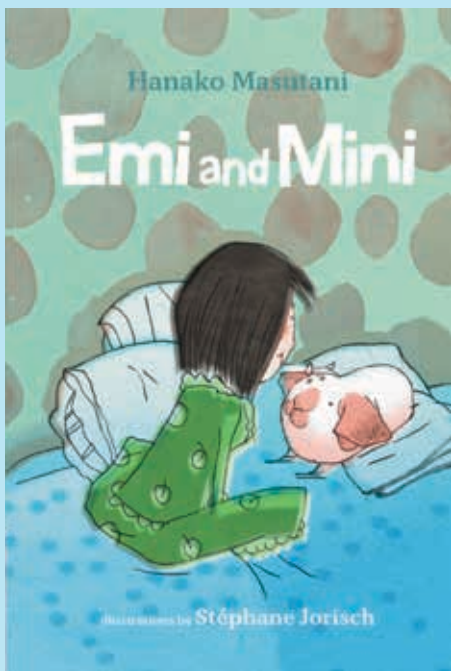
*Odette Auger, a member of Sagamok Anishnawbek through her mother, lives as a guest in toq qaym ɪxʷ (Klahoose), ɪəʔamən qaymɪxʷ (Tlaʔamin), ʔop qaymɪxʷ (Homalco) territories.*



Jess Housty



# NEW from Tradewind Books



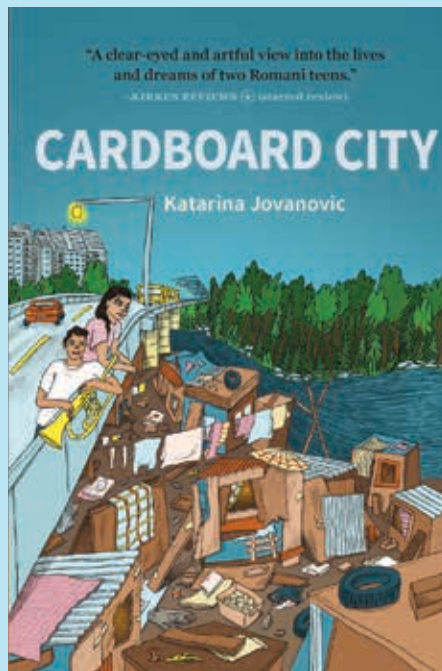
**Hanako Masutani • Stéphane Jorisch**

“A charming and original story . . . (an) unreservedly recommended pick for family, school and community library storybook collections for young readers.”

—MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

“A familiar tale of big changes and animal love that many readers will relate to.”

—SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL



**Katarina Jovanovic**

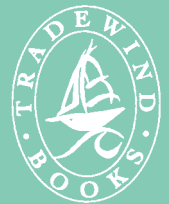
“A cleareyed and artful view into the lives and dreams of two Romani teens.”

—KIRKUS REVIEWS (starred review)

“An endearing fictional story . . . with an ending that is beautiful, sweet, and heartbreaking, (that) reminds us that there are seldom easy solutions to complex problems.”

—QUILL AND QUIRE (starred review)

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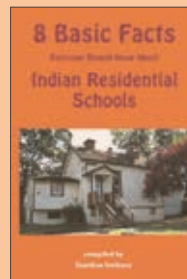
## BRING TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION TOGETHER AGAIN!

Two new books compiled by Gordon Switzer

### 8 Basic Facts Everyone Should Know About Indian Residential Schools

This book will be of interest to anyone seeking the facts about IRS system. Wishing to dig deeper into the records, the book *8 Basic Facts Everyone Should Know About Indian Residential Schools* engages in historical research, examining overlooked documents to uncover forgotten facts. Includes illustrations and passages from the “Truth and Reconciliation” documents as well as passages from the writings of a woman who taught in IRS schools across Canada.

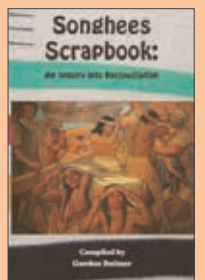
\$16.95 - 212 pages, ISBN: 9781896627335



### Songhees Scrapbook: An Inquiry into Reconciliation

The Songhees were the first aboriginal group to move to Victoria harbour when the Hudson's Bay Company built its new fort in 1843. *Songhees Scrapbook* gives their history from the earliest records up until 1911 and shows how the Songhees adapted to new circumstances while maintaining their strong community ties and traditions, continuing to this day. Photos and illustrations are included.

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Racing Hearts  
by Melinda Di Lorenzo  
(Orca \$10.95) Ages 12+

BY BEVERLY CRAMP

Being an unpopular, unfit girl at high school is difficult for Sienna but it got much worse when her best friend died in **Melinda Di Lorenzo's** novel **Racing Hearts**. Overcome by grief, Sienna returns for the new school year. Readers are immediately plunged into Sienna's vulnerable state of mind as she stands in line at the cafeteria: "My head is down. My eyes are on my tray. I'm doing my best not to look around," says Sienna. "I don't want to know if anyone is watching me. I don't want to know if anyone is *not* watching me. That would be worse. The other kids pretending like they can't see me. Like they don't know who I am or what happened five months ago. Because five months ago is when Stacey died. *No*, says a voice in my head. *That's not quite right, is it?* Five months ago is when Stacy killed herself."

The only reason Sienna is back at school is because her father urged her to go. "He doesn't want me to lie in my bed anymore," says Sienna. "It scares him."

It doesn't get easier when a bully in the cafeteria tosses a tater tot at Sienna. Surprisingly another student, one of the high school jocks, Blake Romano, steps up and morally supports her. The same day a package arrives for Sienna for an amateur triathlon. As a joke, Stacey had signed them up for it before she died. With Blake's offer to train with her, Sienna, who doesn't even have a swimsuit let alone a bike, begins the long road to get ready. Eventually a romance builds between Sienna and Blake.

Di Lorenzo was bullied as a teen and draws on the experience to accurately depict Sienna's struggles. Di Lorenzo also writes romance novels and that is reflected in her portrayal of the relationship between Sienna and Blake. Importantly, Di Lorenzo's novel highlights how sports are for everyone,

# Teens tackling problems

YA novels that take on the death of a best friend, fighting injustice and rescuing a loved one.

and that connecting and bonding with others is necessary for good health.

9781459836808



WHEN CONFRONTED WITH wrong-doings and human harms such as global warming, young people often respond with stress and depression. Not so in **Philip Symons'** "Secret Agents" series of YA books. Two sisters, a cousin and an international friend join forces to investigate social injustices—becoming secret agents in the process. In **Secret Agents' Dutch Treat** (Self-published \$19.95) the four teens are visiting their aunt in the Netherlands when they run into a gang that lures young women into prostitution. They set about turn-



Secret Agents' Dutch Treat  
by Philip Symons

ing the gang into the police but it's a dangerous mission. Two previous self-published novels in the series include: *Pender Harbour's Secret Agents* (2021) about exposing corporate misrepresentation concerning global warming facts; and *Secret Agents Defang a Dragon* (2020), in which the two sisters and cousin work to save democracy. Each book includes an appendix with information about real life instances that inspired the stories.

9780973492842



**HOW TO BE FOUND** (ARSENAL PULP \$19.95) BY **Emily Pohl-Weary** is a YA novel about two inner-city teens and best friends, introvert Michie and extrovert Trissa. One day, Trissa disappears, leaving Michie on a desperate search in unfamiliar territory: the backrooms of luxury nightclubs, dark alleyways, and the online sex industry. While Michie searches, a serial killer is targeting girls in the city. Emily Pohl-Weary holds a PhD in Adult Education and Community Development from the UofT. For over a decade, she ran writing workshops for street-involved youth in Toronto. She currently teaches at UBC's School of Creative Writing.

9781551529356



Melinda  
Di Lorenzo



Hanako Masutani

## KIDS: 6-8

Former creative director of *Ricepaper* magazine, **Hanako Masutani** has published the children's book (ages 6-8), **Emi and Mini** (Tradewind \$21.95), about a girl who wants a dog but instead settles for a hamster she names Mini. Emi has recently moved with her single mother to the big city and is missing the friends and family she left behind. Her cousins have a dog, which is what Emi wants for her birthday but because of the apartment's pet rules, she must settle for a smaller animal in a cage. At first, Emi doesn't tell anyone about her new pet but then Mini escapes from her cage. During the ensuing search Emi realizes how much she has learned to love and confide her daily difficulties in Mini. A story of change, resilience and the search for a hamster. Emi and Mini is illustrated by Stéphane Jorisich.

9781926890203



## Middle Grade

One of BC's, and Canada's most prolific children's authors, **Julie Lawson** has published more than thirty books for young people. Her latest, **Out of the Dark** (Nimbus \$14.95), is a middle grade novel (ages 8-12) about a teenaged girl enduring the aftermath of the Halifax Explosion in 1917, the First World War and the onset of the Great Influenza pandemic that killed millions of people around the world. It's a follow-up to Lawson's award-winning *A Blinding Light* (Nimbus, 2017) also set in the same period and place. The characters are different but the themes are similar: the divide between the rich and poor, locals and immigrants, as well as the human bonds that arise in times of tragedy.

9781774712344





# WHO'S WHO

## BRITISH COLUMBIA



ZED PAYNE PHOTO

### A IS FOR AUDAIN

"During the course of my life, instead of attending hockey or baseball games, I chose to spend my leisure time in art museums," says developer and art collector **Michael Audain** in **Pictures on the Wall: Building a Canadian Art Collection** (D&M \$60). Audain began collecting art as a teenager. Later, with his wife **Yoshiko Karasawa**, the collection grew to one of the most notable private collections in the country. Audain writes candidly about 75 significant works from his collection, and includes colour photographs of each artwork. Audain is the founder and chairman of Polygon Homes, and wrote the memoir, *One Man in His Time* (Harbour, 2021).

9781771623742

### B IS FOR BROWN

"Because the spectacle of her murder overwhelms the entirety of her perfectly human and unremarkable existence, I lost my mother as a way of creating meaning," declares **Colleen Brown** in her memoir, **If you lie down in a field, she will find you there** (Radiant \$20.00). To reclaim memories of her mother **Doris**' life after her death at the hands of a serial killer, as an

adult Brown conducted interviews with her siblings. Then she created a portrait of her mother through fragments, conversations and memories. Brown is primarily known as a sculptor with a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art and Design and an MFA from Bard College.

9781989274941

### C IS FOR COLBY



Sasha Colby

**Irina Nikifortchuk**, a nineteen-year-old Ukrainian school teacher, was abducted to be a forced laborer in the Leica camera factory in Nazi Germany. The story of her life unearths mysteries concerning nightmarish times during World War II, and how Irina was rescued by the heiress to the Leica factory, **Elsie Kühn-Leitz**, and eventually found her way to Canada. These tales of survival were discovered by **Sasha Colby**, Irina's granddaughter, in **The Matryoshka Memoirs: A Story of Ukrainian Forced Labour, the Leica Camera Factory, and Nazi Resistance** (ECW \$24.95).

9781770417359

**Colleen Brown** is the General Manager of Vancouver Poetry House, a not-for-profit supporting spoken word artists.

### D IS FOR DANIAL

In a sweeping saga set in the late 1950s and early 1960s when the Canadian government purged hundreds of employees suspected of being communist sympathizers or homosexuals, **Danial Neil** follows the fictional character Finn Kenny in **The Sum of One Man's Pleasure** (NeWest \$22.95) as he flees Ottawa for Vancouver Island. Here Finn works for a wealthy man he befriended in his previous life as a bureaucrat. When that friend dies, Finn is thrust into an existential moment and must speak out for himself. Publicity states that in this, his sixth novel, Neil questions "the stories we make of our own lives, the versions of ourselves we show to those closest to us, and the ways we find common ground in this world."



Danial Neil

9781774390788

### E IS FOR EMILIA

**Emilia Symington-Fedy** exposes the oppression of 90's rape culture and sexual coercion among teenagers in her hometown in **Skid Dogs** (D&M \$26.95). A brutal murder on the railroad tracks of the small town of Armstrong where Symington-Fedy grew up, brings her back home to comfort her alarmed mother. As the media shifts focus on the young girl killed for being alone on the tracks, as opposed to the murderer at large, Symington-Fedy is confronted with the scars that were left by the sexual violence she and her high school friends experienced. Symington-Fedy has over 25 playwrighting credits, co-founded The Chop in Vancouver, and has been an essayist at CBC radio for 20 years.



Emilia Symington-Fedy

9781771623643

### F IS FOR FRANCOEUR



Paulette Francoeur

Having lived and worked in a variety of BC places and jobs, from Creston where she was raised to nearby Trail and further away in Pleasant Camp (population: 11), Victoria and back to Creston, **Paulette Francoeur** has turned to writing a family memoir, **Landed: Oceans, Lakes, and Laundry** (Maa Press \$25). It tells how her husband went from struggling to read to getting his degree at the University of Victoria; sacrifices the family made; and chaotic adventures that included homelessness, broken vehicles, tight budgets and even a Viking funeral. Francoeur recently started a mobile bookstore business called Kootenay Authors.

9781777812928



Diego Rivera's *Maternidad (Motherhood)*, 1954, oil on canvas, one of the featured works in Michael Audain's *Pictures on the Wall: Building a Canadian Art Collection*.





Ron Kears

## G IS FOR GOUGH

Barry Gough has released his 21st title, **The Curious Passage of Richard Blanshard** (Harbour \$38.95) about the first governor of Vancouver Island (it was not yet a province). No, not **James Douglas**—rather it was **Richard Blanshard** who came from England in 1850. He arrived at Vancouver's Island (as it was called in those days) for what would be a three-year stint during which he clashed with the powerful Hudson's Bay Company—run by Chief Factor James Douglas (who later became the first governor of the colony of BC). Blanshard gets his due here after being long forgotten for his important role in warning London of American border aggressions including a planned invasion of Haida Gwaii. While he had his failures, Blanshard's time illuminates the difficulties of the clash between European and Pacific Northwest cultures.

Richard Blanshard

9781990776380

## H IS FOR HOOD

Kelowna-based **Michael Hood** has co-authored with **Tom Jenkins**, **Pathway to the Stars: 100 Years of the Royal Canadian Air Force** (Aevo UTP \$39.95). The illustrated text tells the story of the people, the technologies and the events that shaped the RCAF from 1924 to 2024. The book explores the many ways in which the RCAF contributed to advances in aviation over the past century, from the invention of the G-suit, the development of the first helicopter landing system on a naval ship, to the design of the first flight-

safety organization for investigating crashes. Hood is a retired Lieutenant-General and the former Commander of the RCAF.

9781487547431

## I IS FOR IMMEGA

Retired aerospace engineer and entrepreneur, **Guy Immega**, has published his debut sci-fi novel **Super-Earth Mother: The AI that Engineered a Brave New World** (EDGE \$20.95). The story journeys into the heart of humanity, artificial intelligence and the uncharted realms of life beyond our home planet. It shows how humans could colonize the 300 million habitable planets in the Milky Way. Immega's company, Kinetic Sciences Inc., built experimental robots for the ISS space station, robots to clean up nuclear waste and invented miniature fingerprint sensors for cell phones. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer and has a lifelong interest in sub-Saharan Africa.

9781770532274

## J IS FOR JON

In **Triumph and Solidarity: BC Communists in the Early Years of the Great Depression** (Athabasca Univ. Press \$34.99) **Jon Bartlett** follows the activities of BC communists from the onset of the Great Depression (and their opposition to the relief camps) to the coming of the Popular Front and involvement with workers' efforts to resist wage cutbacks in mines, mills, and the logging and fishing industries. He also delves into the forms of cultural resistance practiced by communists, from newspapers to popular songs. With **Rika Ruebsaat**, Bartlett has sung and produced seven albums of traditional Canadian songs, and presented workshops and lectures in schools and universities.

9781771993951

## K IS FOR KEARSE

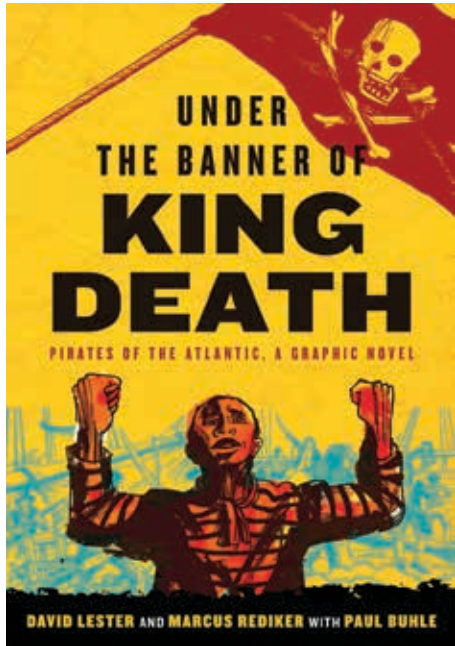
In 2018, **Ron Kears** edited the anthology, **Sharing Our Journeys: Queer Elders Share Their Stories** (Filidh) about senior LGBTQ+ members from Alexandra Neighbourhood House in Crescent Beach, Surrey, speaking openly about coming out in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. With recent social movements like Black Lives Matter, he says it's time for BIPOC and trans elders to tell their stories too, which he edited for **Sharing Our Journeys 2 (Queer BIPOC Elders Tell Their Stories)** (Filidh \$20.50). "This is a segment of the community that we rarely hear from," says Kears. "They tell us what it was like to grow up queer both inside and outside of North America." A portion of book sales are donated to support the queer and multicultural programs at Alexandra Neighbourhood House.

9781927848708



Jon Bartlett

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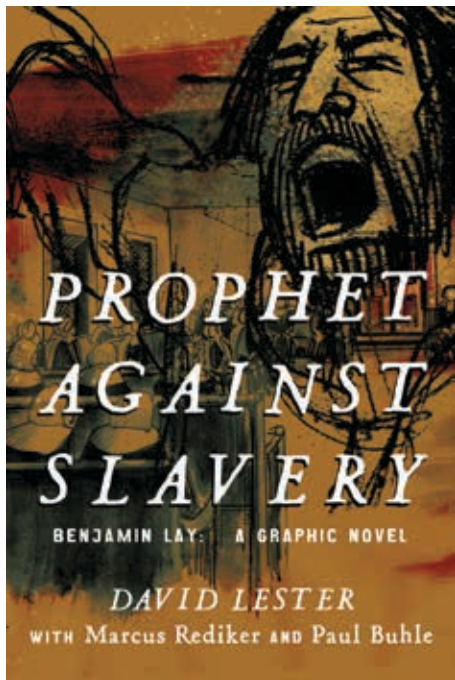
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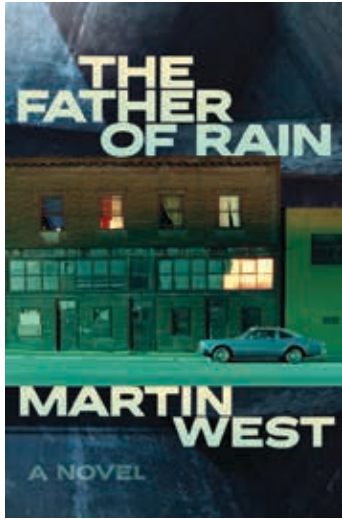
"...stunning artwork."—**Jason Lutes**, author of *Berlin*

Editions are forthcoming in the UK; Japan; Italy; Korea; Spain; Thailand and Catalonia.

## Beacon Press

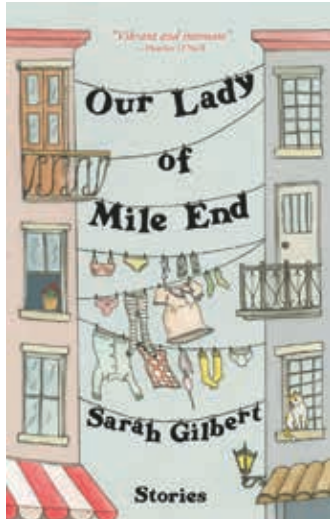
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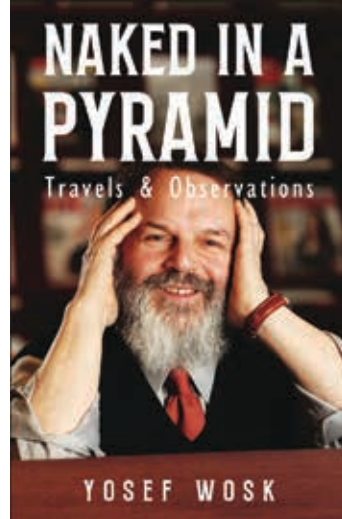
Mysteriously, a father disappears from his family home. A few months later, the mother vanishes too. As police investigations drag on, the mystery remains unsolved. 17-year-old Cirrus now lives alone with his grandmother. Unsatisfied with the reports from Detective Fielding, he soon starts his own investigation into who his parents really were.

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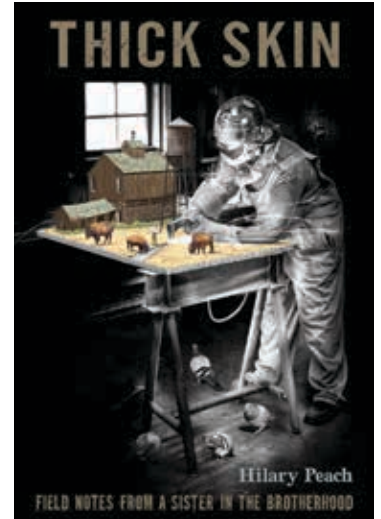
"Sarah Gilbert writes of an old neighbourhood that is disappearing and being born anew. Her stories are as vibrant and intimate as drinking a cup of coffee on a stoop while gossiping with a neighbour in their housecoat." — Heather O'Neill, author of *When We Lost Their Heads*

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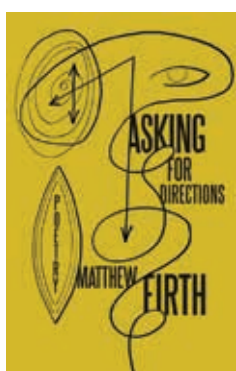
Hilary Peach worked as a welder for 20 years in the male dominated trade of boilermaking. This is her story. "This is a wonderful book — not just funny but a rare, insider's look at the life of a travelling welder — fascinating." — Kate Braid, author of *Hammer & Nail*

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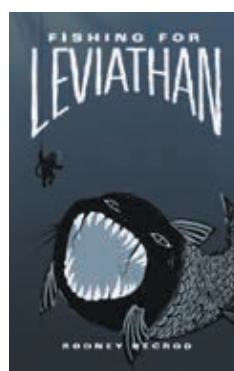
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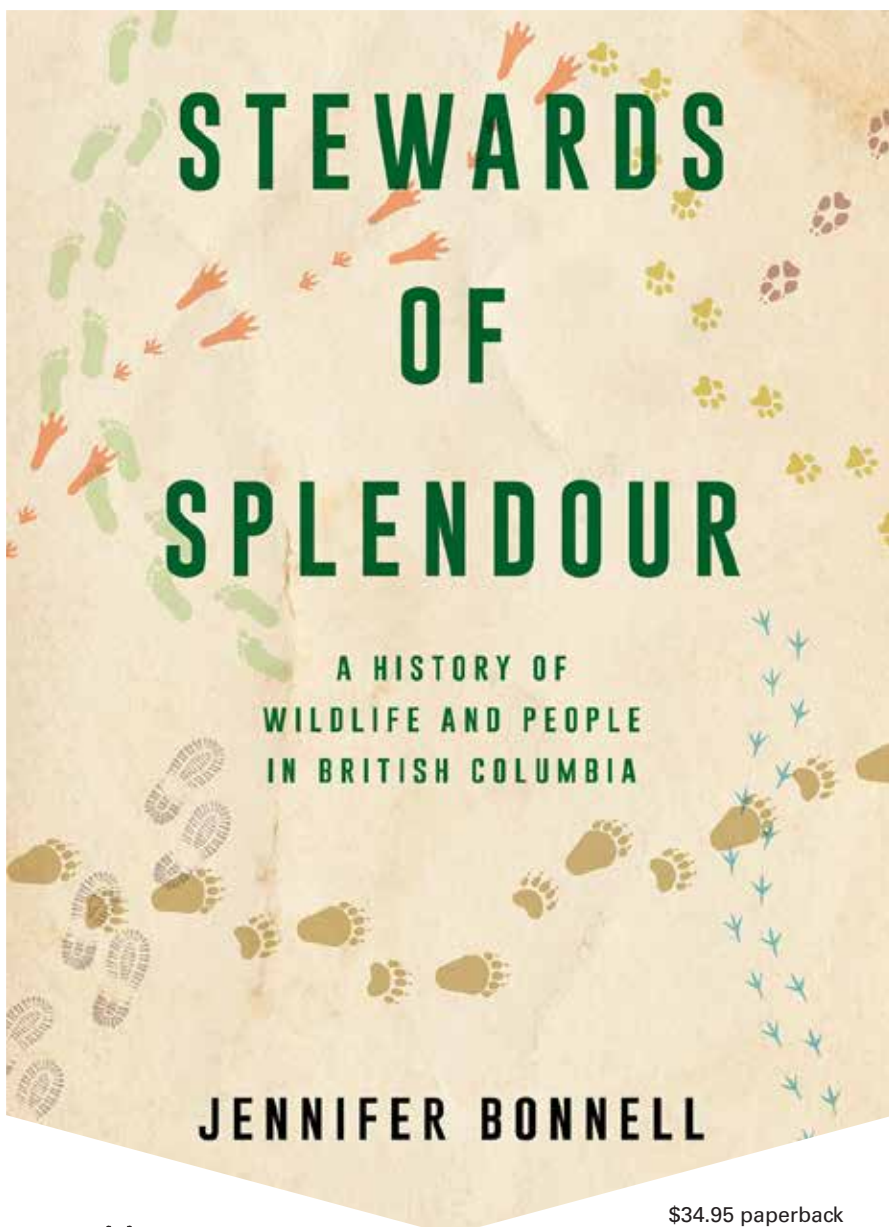
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L IS FOR LOWTHER

Award-winning former Tofino Poet Laureate **Christine Lowther's** **Hazard, Home** (Caitlin \$20) is a poetry collection concerned with urbanization, climate change and loss of biodiversity. Lowther's nature poetry is penned from a decolonial perspective in the context of stolen lands, and displaced people and cultures. *Hazard, Home* bears witness to the devastating impact of human development on earth, but also celebrates the beauty of nature, while sounding a clarion call for change.

9781773861241

M IS FOR MENZIES

Five years ago, activist **Heather Menzies** began exploring the Ipperwash crisis and the broken treaty behind it. Her ancestors, Scottish immigrants, had settled on Nishnaabe treaty land in the early 1830s. She visited **Cully George** to offer condolences for the 1995 police-shooting death of her brother, **Dudley George** as he attempted to reclaim the Nishnaabeg territory at Stoney Point. Menzies had been asked by Cully George and others to help them write their collective stories. But there was a challenge that went with that invitation... "the challenge to learn to listen, and to change at a level deep enough to be called transformation," says Menzie in her memoir **Meeting My Treaty Kin: A Journey Toward Reconciliation** (On Point Press/UBC Press \$29.95). Menzies adds that her story is "a very personal account of how I came to implicate myself in Canada's colonial history. Finally! I'd spent most of my life conveniently ignoring it." 9780774890663

N IS FOR NICK

"My boss, a 16-year-old girl named **Susan**, was mad when I teased her about a guy, so she threw a dart at me, supposedly to scare me," says **Nick Marino**, in **East Side Story: Growing Up at the PNE** (Arsenal Pulp \$21.95). "She threw it a little too hard, however, and it caught me in the forearm that I'd instinctively raised to block it." Marino survived this early "job hazard," and recounts many other incidents from the six summers he spent working at the PNE as a teen in this humorous, captivating memoir. He also explores the history of the fair that started over a century ago, in 1910. Marino is a comedian and elementary school teacher in Vancouver.

9781551529332

O IS FOR O'BONSAWIN

**Decolonizing Sport** (Fernwood \$29) recounts how Indigenous sports were appropriated by colonizers in the process of dispossession of land and culture. Examples include residential schools' use of hockey and lacrosse as a subjugating force as well as using Indigenous mascots and names without permission for sport teams. Indigenous People have themselves subverted colonial sport rules as a way of liberation from colonialism. The book was edited by **Janice Forsyth, Christine O'Bonsawin, Russell Field** and **Murray G. Phillips**. O'Bonsawin is an Associate Professor of History and Indigenous Studies at UVic. 9781773636344



Christine Lowther



Nick Marino's employee badge at the PNE in Vancouver, 1984.

P IS FOR PETTI

**Petti Fong** deep dives into the exploration of loneliness and what it can teach us in **Alone Together** (Orca \$26.95) for ages 9–12. During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, people were, in many cases, forced to be comfortable self-isolating like never before, leading Fong to investigate what it means to be lonely and what we can do about it. She discusses how superheroes can teach us about being alone, how to take a stand against loneliness and how being alone can ultimately bring us closer together. Fong is a journalist, educator and author who has been featured in the *Vancouver Sun*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star*, CBC and *The Economist*. 9781459837232

Q IS FOR QIUQI

Inspiring children to ask and explore the answers to their own big questions about the world, **What Will I Discover** (Greystone \$22.95),



Cathy Stonehouse

for ages 3 to 6, also encourages them to take an interest in the often ignored areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Even though it seems as if scientists know everything about the world, author **Tanya Lloyd Kyi** fosters scientific curiosity by showing children that there are many more mysteries in our world that are currently unsolved. Illustrator **Rachel Qiuqi** brings to life the young scientist featured in this kidlit book. With over ten years of experience, Qiuqi's goal is to tell unique stories through her art. 9781771648615



Petti Fong



Andrea Routley

R IS FOR ROUTLEY

In her latest collection of short stories, **This Unlikely Soil** (Caitlin \$24.95), **Andrea Routley** explores the relationships, politics and identity issues of queer women. Each story embraces complex worlds with enough emotion and depth to make readers care about these characters. Routley dissects loneliness, conflict, online dating, coming out as queer, and relationship problems that her characters encounter. Her debut collection, *Jane and the Whales* (Caitlin, 2013) was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award.

978177860985

S IS FOR STONEHOUSE

"As I wrote, I became interested in the yawning gap between the word 'home' and the actual place my mother was then living," writes **Cathy Stonehouse** in her latest poetry collection **Dream House** (Nightwood \$19.95). "I also considered my own complex feelings about the house I grew up in, and how poetry and the imagination can function as a kind of home in the absence of one." Stonehouse delivers a deeply personal "investigation of female embodiment" focusing on pregnancy, the aging mind and history. The book is comprised of a long poem in six sections that was finished in the wake of her mother's death. The metaphors and figurative language will be relatable to anyone who has lost a parent and is rediscovering one's own sense of home.

9780889714625

T IS FOR TANAKA



C.A. Tanaka

Ichiro is about to turn seventeen in his senior year at high school. He's got a crush on a girl called Lexie and has just started working part-time at a restaurant that proudly touts "inclusivity." Ichiro also has a secret—he is trans (although he hasn't had surgery or started hormones) and recently began experimenting with drag. He worries how his friends will react when they find out. Eventually all is revealed in **C.A. Tanaka's** YA novel, **Baby Drag Queen** (Orca Soundings \$10.95), for ages 12+. A graduate of The Writer's Studio program at SFU, Vancouver-based Tanaka is a multiracial trans writer. They are the executive director for the Storytelling with Drag Queens Foundation.

9781459835337



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# WHO'S WHO BC



Andrea Warner

## U IS FOR RISE UP

In **Rise Up and Sing! Power, Protest, and Activism in Music** (Greystone \$26.95), **Andrea Warner** introduces young teens to the impact music yields over social justice issues, and highlights contemporary musicians such as **Beyoncé** and **Billie Eilish** alongside iconic artists like **Nina Simone** and **John Lennon**. Warner explores how core messages spread through music can inspire social transformation. *Rise Up!* is illustrated by Vancouver's **Louise Reimer**.

9781771648981

## V IS FOR VO

**Nancy Vo's Boobies** (Groundwood \$19.99) for ages 3-6, humorously explores the concept of breasts for children. Shortlisted for the Governor General's Award for Young People's Literature (Illustrated Books), Vo's title emphasizes that only mammals have breasts, which they use to feed milk to babies. Employing stencil art and a retro colour scheme, she illustrates the diversity of human breasts, and their evolution and variation in other animals.

9781773066929

## W IS FOR WAGNER

In **Here With You: A Memoir of Love, Family, and Addiction** (D&M \$26.95), **Kathy Wagner** shares the harrowing story of her son **Tristan's** death from a fentanyl overdose, and how she tried to save him from addiction. "People used to know what they were buying and had a pretty good idea of how it might affect them," she says. "It's not a matter of any one drug being more dangerous than before; it's that street drugs are now being mixed with increasingly toxic

Kathy Wagner

JENN FONTAINE PHOTO

drugs." The book provides a poignant look into how addiction tore one family apart and the healing journey they undertook, shedding light on the current illicit drug crisis.

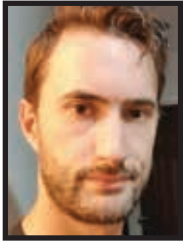
9781771623667

## X MARKS THE SPOT

The fifth edition of **Toward Sustainable Communities** (New Society \$59.99) by **Mark Roseland, Margaret Stout** and **Maria Spiliotopoulou** shows that communities are the place to start when creating healthy, equitable and economically viable places. This newly-illustrated, full-colour format with new case studies explores the concept of "community capital," whether in rural or urban areas, and is packed with solutions. It's a resource for professionals, policymakers, educators and anyone interested in creating equitable and sustainable communities. Mark Roseland lives in North Vancouver.

9780865719743

## Y IS FOR YOUTUBE



Logan Macnair

It was all because of a YouTube video that Peter Riley achieves Internet fame. Riley, a fictional character in **Logan Macnair's** novel **Troll** (Now or Never \$19.95) creates a right-wing conspiracy theorist character called "Petrol Riley" for a drama class assignment. Problem is that Petrol is taken seriously by thousands of YouTube viewers who idolize him. The more hateful Petrol is, the more loyal his followers grow. Eventually Peter must decide whether fame or truth is more important. Macnair is a Burnaby-based prof and researcher who investigates the online narrative, recruitment and propaganda campaigns of extremist movements.


9781989689479

## Z IS FOR VAN ZANTEN

**The Imposter** (Histria \$39.99) by **Johanna van Zanten** provides a sweeping overview of the war years in Europe through the tribulations of a young woman from a poor German family who accepts a job as the concession shop operator with the railroad. After travelling across northern Europe, she meets and marries a Dutchman. They move to a farm near her husband's hometown in Holland to raise their family. Then the Nazis invade and the woman must decide where her loyalties lie. Van Zanten immigrated to Canada from The Netherlands in 1982. She divides her time between Canada and Mexico. 9781592113767



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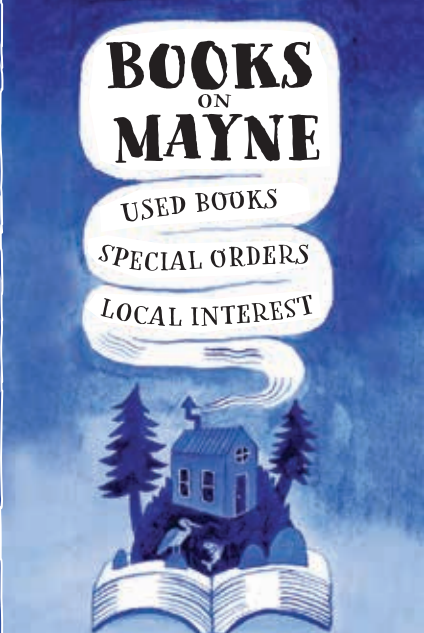


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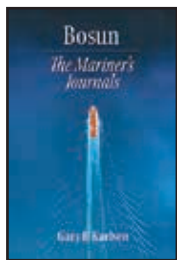
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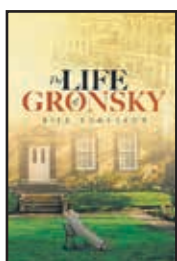
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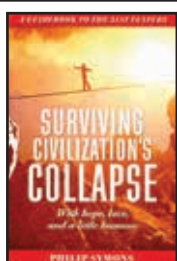
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# COMMUNITY

## LETTERS

### Caught in the cookie jar

A blustery day in the Comox Valley!  
A time for me to stay inside, listen to  
branches cracking, and try to accom-  
plish something of value. Have another  
cuppa tea.

I made a list of all the good help given  
me to bring **All the Bears Sing** [*BC  
BookWorld*, Spring 2023 cover story] to  
a full and glorious life... The reviews in  
several notable media are humbling in-  
deed, reinforcing a feeling of being caught  
with my grubby paw in the jar of still  
warm chocolate chip cookies. Roald Dahl  
suggests "...You must have a degree of  
humility. The writer who thinks that his  
work is marvelous is heading for trouble."

Harold Macy

Merville

### Rubymusic karma

Thank you, Alex Varty for your fair com-  
ment [review of **Rubymusic: A Popular  
History of Women's Music and Culture**,  
*BC BookWorld*, Autumn 2023] and thank  
you David Lester for the incredible layout  
... Thank you so much for your sensitive  
and very creative work. Wow. David de-  
signed my first Rubymusic poster back  
in 1981, so this brings it all around in  
such a karmic way. And I don't usually  
use that word!

Connie Kuhns

Salt Spring Island

## ANNIVERSARY

### Greystone turns 30

"For our anniversary in  
2023, we've taken the  
year to celebrate our  
growth into an interna-  
tionally renowned pub-  
lisher of books about  
nature, science, health,  
and more, while also  
looking back on the  
incredible voices we've  
published in the last  
thirty years, including  
luminaries of environ-  
mental writing such as  
**David Suzuki**, **Pe-  
ter Wohlleben**, and  
**Candace Savage**,"  
says Greystone Books  
publisher, **Jen Gauth-  
ier**. "At a time when  
Canada is facing the  
worst wildfire season  
on record, we're look-  
ing forward to continu-  
ing our legacy: publish-  
ing books that show  
readers how we can  
respect, protect, and  
care for the environ-  
ment—and how we can  
create a future with  
both ourselves and the  
planet in mind."



## OBIT

### Karen Bakker (1971-2023)

Rhodes Scholar and UBC professor,  
**Karen Bakker** died suddenly  
on August 14, 2023. Bakker  
recently won the Hubert Evans  
Nonfiction Prize for *The Sounds  
of Life: How Digital Technology Is  
Bringing Us Closer to the Worlds of Animals  
and Plants* (Princeton Univ. Press, 2022), which  
was accepted posthumously by her husband  
**Phillippe LeBillon**.

Born in Montreal and raised in Ottawa, Bak-  
ker joined UBC in 2002. With her husband and  
two daughters, Bakker split her time between  
their home in Vancouver and Brittany, France.

Bakker wrote two popular science books  
for children under the pen name, Karen Le  
Billon. *French Kids Eat Everything* (HarperCol-  
lins, 2012) was published in 15 countries. Her  
follow-up title was *Getting to Yum: The 7 Secrets  
of Raising Eager Eaters* (HarperCollins, 2014).

As an academic, Bakker published over  
100 articles and seven scholarly books. She  
was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship,  
Stanford University's Annenberg Fellowship in  
Communication, Canada's "Top 40 Under 40,"  
and a Trudeau Foundation Fellowship.

## OBIT

### Paul Grescoe (1939-2023)

A newspaper and magazine  
writer before he began  
authoring books, **Paul  
Grescoe** of Bowen Is-  
land died after a stroke  
on March 12, 2023.

Born in Winnipeg on December  
14, 1939 to immigrant parents from  
what is now Ukraine, Grescoe got his  
start as a news reporter while still in  
his teens. He worked for a variety of  
newspapers across Canada before  
settling in the Vancouver area in the  
1970s where he co-founded *Vancou-  
ver Magazine* with **Ron Stern**.

Grescoe began his career as an au-  
thor in 1985 with *The Money Rustlers:  
Self-Made Millionaires of the New West*  
(Viking, 1985), a study he wrote with  
**David Cruise** on the new breed of  
millionaires in Canada's West. He also  
wrote biographies of business people



Paul and Audrey Grescoe

including one about BC's first billion-  
aire **Jimmy Pattison** called *Jimmy:  
An Autobiography* (Seal-Bantam,  
1987). Pattison and Grescoe originally  
wanted their book to be called *You  
Gotta Wanna*, a characteristic Pat-  
tison expression, but their Toronto  
publisher vetoed the idea.

In the 1990s, Grescoe delved into  
fiction with two mysteries about a  
Ukrainian-Canadian detective who  
worked in Vancouver, named Dan  
Rudnicki, in *Flesh Wound* (D&M, 1991)

followed by *Blood Vessel* (M&S, 1993).

With his wife **Audrey Grescoe**,  
Paul wrote three important collec-  
tions of Canadian correspondence:  
*The Book of Letters* (MW&R, 2002);  
*The Book of War Letters: 100 Years  
of Private Canadian Correspondence*  
(M&S, 2004); and *The Book of Love  
Letters: Canadian Kinship, Friendship  
and Romance* (M&S, 2005).

His son **Taras Grescoe**, based in  
Montreal, also came to prominence  
as a non-fiction writer in 2000. In a  
celebration of his father's life in *The  
Globe and Mail*, Taras Grescoe re-  
counted his father's last days: "On an  
unseasonable cold Saturday morning,  
Paul drove into Snug Harbour to pick  
up a newspaper. After trudging up his  
snow-covered driveway, paper in hand,  
he suffered a stroke, his third. After  
15 days, during which friends and  
family came to his bedside, he slipped  
away. A newsman to the end, he was  
cremated with a copy of *The Globe and  
Mail* tucked under one arm."

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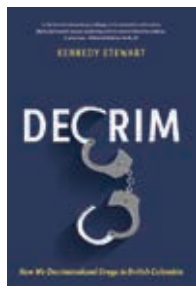
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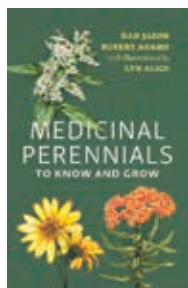
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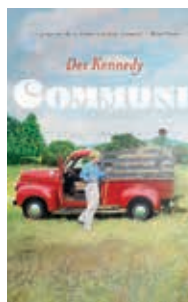
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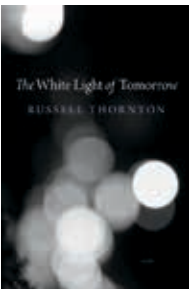
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