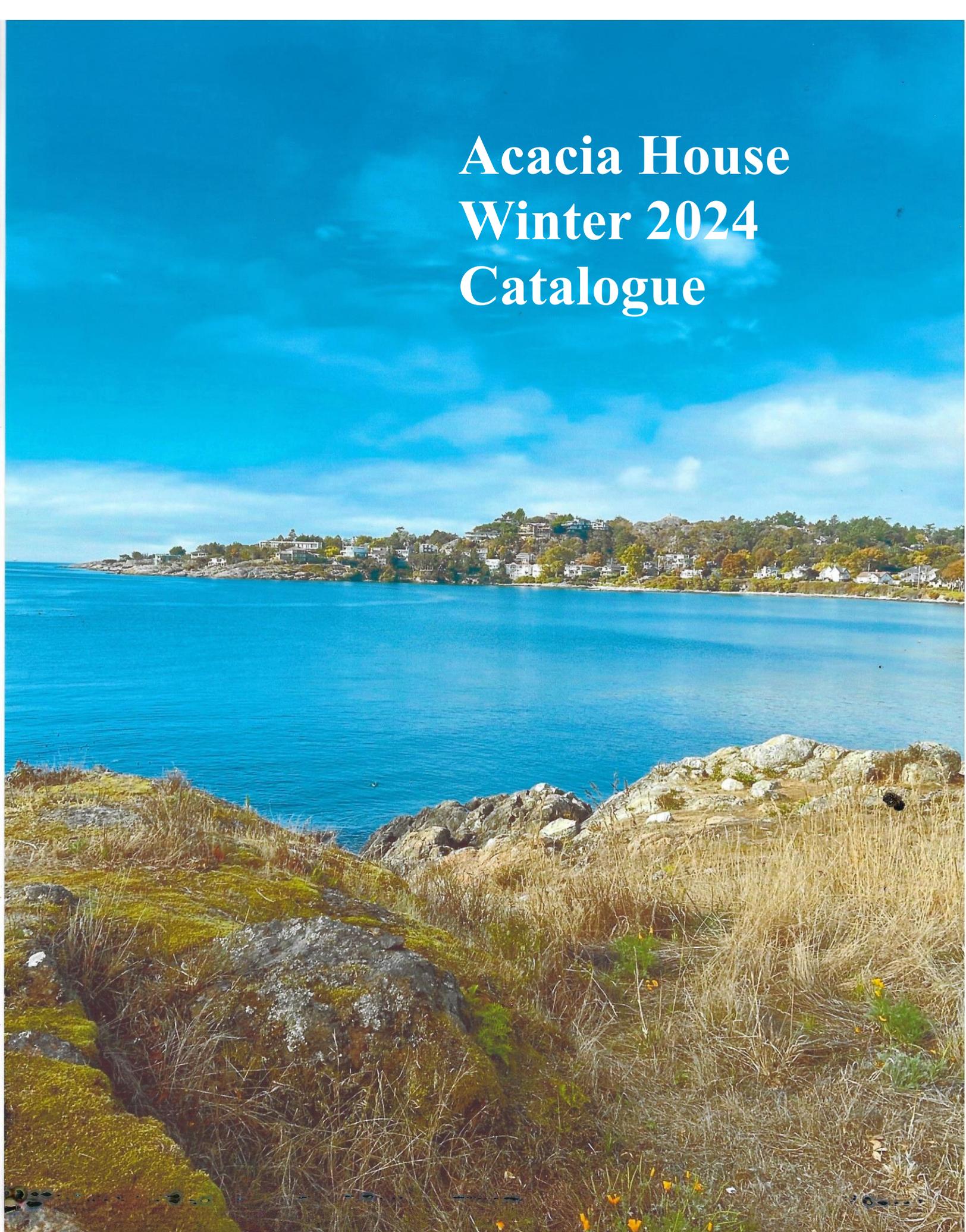


Acacia House Winter 2024 Catalogue





Bill Hanna Photo© Frank Olenski



Kathy Olenski Photo© Frank Olenski

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Dear Reader,

We invite you to look at our Winter 2024 Rights Catalogue, a list that includes works by authors represented by Acacia House, but also best selling and forthcoming titles from: Douglas & McIntyre; Fitzhenry & Whiteside; Harbour Publishing; NeWest Press; Red Deer Press; Whitecap Books and Words Indeed whom we represent for rights sales. We hope you enjoy reading through our catalogue. If you would like further information on any title(s), we can be reached by phone at (226) 387-4757 or by e-mail: bhanna.acacia@rogers.com — or you can contact our co-agents who handle rights for us in the following languages and countries:

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With all best wishes,

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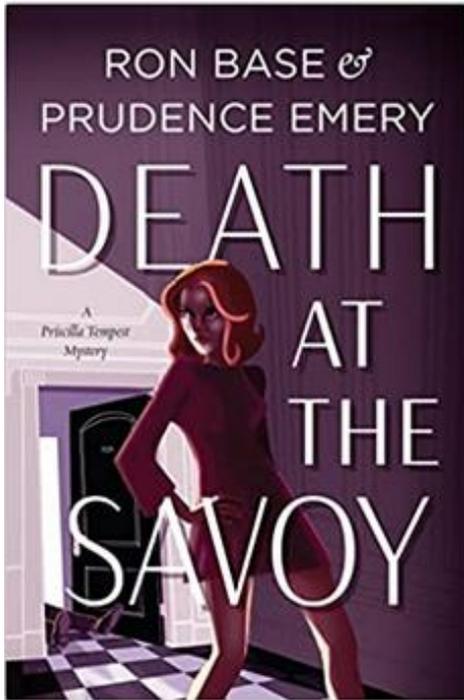
Cover Photo © Bill Hanna

Death at the Savoy

A Priscilla Tempest Mystery, Book 1

Prudence Emery and Ron Base

Mystery



The time: 1968; the location: London's Savoy, the world's most famous and luxurious hotel.

Our unlikely heroine is Priscilla Tempest, the eager-to-please head of the Savoy Press Office, a young woman who adores champagne and becoming involved with the wrong men. Currently, she has her hands full as the rich, famous, and aristocratic arrive from all over the world.

Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton are drinking too much champagne in the American Bar. The iconic American comedian Bob Hope is making demands as he is about to hold a press conference. Luciano Pavarotti is fast becoming a legend next door at the Royal Opera House. The playwright Noël Coward is forever looking for someone to share a Buck's Fizz.

And...?

Well, there is the matter of the dead body in river suite 705.

A dead body at the Savoy? Impossible! But there you have it. The dead man is a notorious international arms dealer named Amir Abraham. What's uncertain is whether he was murdered. The police are baffled.

It soon is revealed that our Priscilla had been with Amir the night before he was found dead. This brings her under the suspicious gaze not only of Scotland Yard Inspector Robert "Charger" Lightfoot, but also of her boss, the Savoy's unforgiving general manager, Clive Banville.

And was that a notorious member of the Royal Family seen leaving Amir's suite minutes before his body was discovered?

Suspected of murder, her job on the line, Priscilla had better get to the bottom of what happened in suite 705—and do it fast.

A plucky heroine! The world's most famous hotel! Swinging 1960s London in full swing! Lots of champagne! A bit of humor! And just possibly—

Death at the Savoy!

Think *Fleabag* meets Agatha Christie. How can anyone possibly resist?

Already a bestseller in France with 15,000 copies sold!

In 1968 **Prudence Emery**, a Canadian from Vancouver was offered the job as Press and Public Relations Officer at the prestigious Savoy Hotel where champagne was a daily rite. While there for five and a half years she dealt with celebrities and politicians from Canada's Prime Minister, Pierre-Elliott Trudeau, to British singer Petula Clark, musician Louis Armstrong, and actors such as Sir Laurence Olivier, Marlene Dietrich, Liza Minnelli, and Ginger Rogers among endless others. The press attaché had a farewell party in her honour at Canada House in 1973 before she returned to Toronto to launch Global Television network, the Metro Toronto Zoo, and work on her first film, which led to more than 100 other film productions which took her around the world.

She has worked with Sofia Loren, Julianne Moore, Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck, Viggo Mortensen, Jenifer Aniston, Jennifer Lopez, Robert Redford, Jeremy Irons, and the Olsen Twins among many others. Her roster of films includes ten directed by David Cronenberg.

She is also a playwright and in 2014 her comedy *Hattie's Heist* was produced. In 2020, her memoir *Nanaimo Girl* became a Canadian bestseller

Ron Base is a former newspaper and magazine journalist and movie critic. His works include 20 novels, two novellas and four nonfiction books and has been published in the United States, Canada and Great Britain. He has written screenplays and worked with such legendary filmmakers as John Borman (*Deliverance*) and Roland Joffe (*The Killing Fields*). His *Sanibel Island Sunset Detective* series now numbers fourteen.

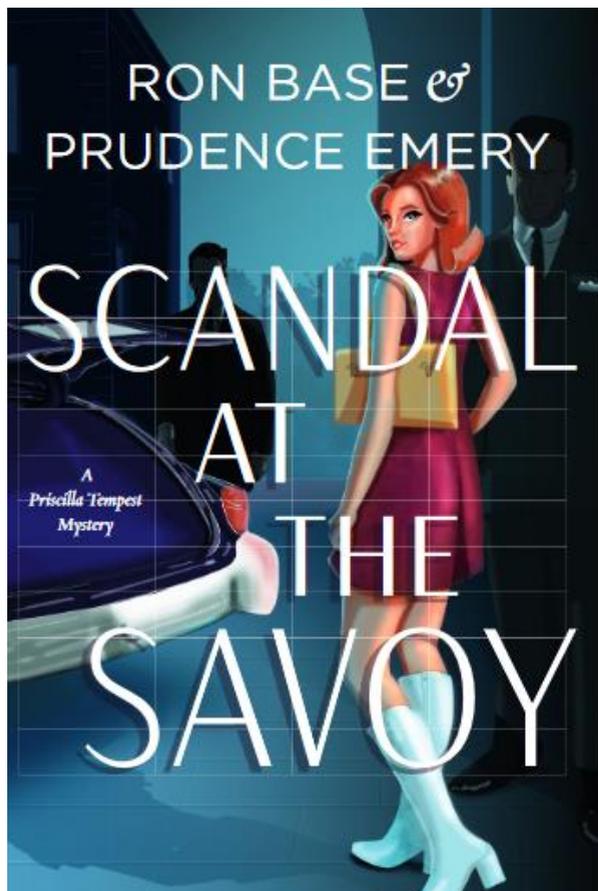
Douglas & McIntyre • Spring 2022 • French and English print and audio rights sold, Film rights optioned, all others available • 6 x 9 • 320 pages

Scandal at the Savoy

A Priscilla Tempest Mystery, Book 2

Prudence Emery and Ron Base

Mystery



The rich and famous are converging on the iconic Savoy Hotel in swinging '60s London—a famous Broadway producer with anger issues, a demanding rajah from India, a gorgeous film star with certain kinky predilections. All is as it should be—until the murder of a notorious showgirl threatens to scandalize the hotel.

The list of suspects includes Priscilla Tempest, the trouble-prone Canadian head of the Savoy Press Office. Clearing her name would be easy enough, if only she hadn't spent the night of the murder with a certain beguiling Canadian prime minister.

A Scotland Yard detective blackmails her, a notorious gangster woos her, and the press is after her. Priscilla must use wit and resourcefulness to survive the treacherous upper echelons of London society and find a killer.

This is the thrilling sequel to *Death at the Savoy*, described by *Publisher's Weekly* as “light and frothy ... perfect escapist fare”.

“The return of the glamorous Priscilla Tempest in *Scandal at the Savoy* is an occasion for great celebration. In a fast-moving mystery novel that seizes the reader from the first page, featuring unforgettable characters (including some celebrity guest stars brought to life with wit and a deftness that is both delightful and eerily vivid) Prudence Emery and Ron Base have performed a skillful literary pas-de-deux, all the while free-pouring late-60s London nostalgia that is as dry and crisp as Moët. This novel is the party you always knew was happening and always wished you'd been invited to, and Priscilla Tempest is the most captivating redhead since Brenda Starr. My advice? Turn off the phone, dim the lights, pour yourself a flute of champagne, and let *Scandal* take you away.”

— Michael Rowe, Shirley Jackson Award-finalist author of *Wild Fell* and *Enter, Night*

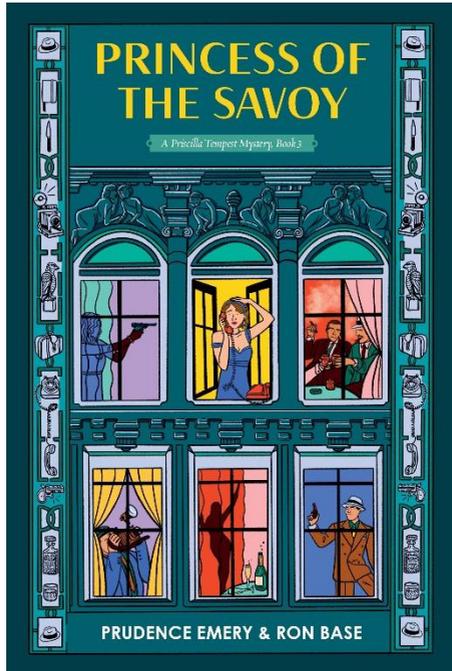
Douglas & McIntyre • 2023 • English and French print and audio rights sold, all others available
6 x 9 • 320 pages

Princess of the Savoy

Mystery

A Priscilla Tempest Mystery, Book 3

Ron Base and Prudence Emery



Check back into the Savoy in the heady days of 1968—where dark forces and murder are uninvited guests

Everything at London’s Savoy Hotel is the picture of perfection: an Italian prince is checking in, a movie star is turning heads, an irresistible English lord is taking photographs and Ms. Priscilla Tempest, head of the Savoy Press Office, is considering ordering a champagne to her desk.

But it isn’t long before a fascist plot, hatched in an English country estate, arrives to ruin Ms. Tempest’s day—and threaten British democracy.

In this third installment in Ron Base and Prudence Emery’s beloved series, reluctant Canadian crime-fighter Priscilla Tempest joins forces with her sometimes-lover, the irrepressible Fleet Street reporter Percy Hoskins, on a whirlwind adventure to untangle a deadly web of conspiracy.

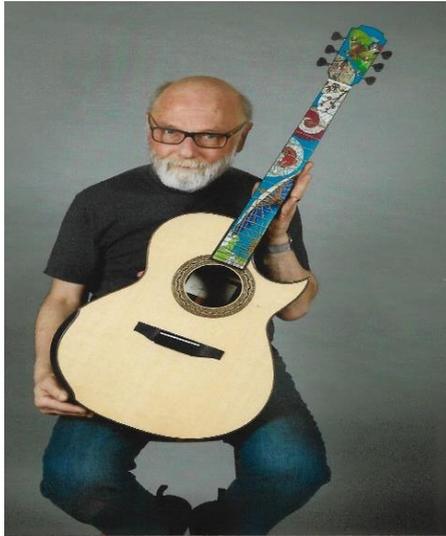
Sassy, suspenseful and always entertaining, *Princess of the Savoy* will delight readers looking to escape into a world of deadly dinner parties and dangerous affairs—where there is always time for just one more cocktail, even when democracy itself is at stake.

Douglas & McIntyre • Spring 2024 • Canadian English rights, French rights (world) sold, all others available,
6" × 9" · 288 pages • Press ready typeset fully copy edited text available

The Stradavari Formula

Fiction

William “Grit” Laskin



THE STRADIVARI FORMULA evokes writers as diverse as Louise Penny and Alan Furst presenting us with a warm-hearted, humanitarian worldview, a superbly-researched look into a fascinating milieu, and a stunning historical secret. The plot of the novel revolves around guitars, considered by many to be the world's most popular instrument. Anyone who has ever held a guitar is sure to be fascinated by this unique thriller.

Add to this mix the odd anomaly that Stradivari didn't just build violins, he also made a small number of guitars. No more than five of these exist today.

What if the greatest violin maker in history actually did have a secret formula? When that secret is discovered by two innocent guitar makers they become the target of groups determined to keep the secret safe at the same time as another group fights to make the secret made public. Events takes our protagonists from London and Paris, to Sardinia, Phoenix, and Ottawa, as they try to uncover the mystery of Stradivari. When the Art and Antiquities Fraud division of MI6 becomes involved along with Russian hackers they wonder if this is more than they can handle. For three centuries musical instrument makers and players have tried to reverse —engineer Stradivari violins. What was it that made them so exceptional, even among the other superb craftsmen of his era? To this day there have only been theories...until now.

William "Grit" Laskin, is probably the world's leading guitar neck artist and guitarmaker. His steel-string, classical and flamenco instruments are known and coveted around the world, and his current waiting list of commissions is 4 years long. Laskin is also an author. His books include *A Guitar Maker's Canvas: The Inlay Art of Grit Laskin*, his first novel, *Angel Could Smell the Fire*. *The World of Musical Instrument Makers: A Guided Tour* and most recently, *Grand Complications--50 Guitars and 50 Stories by Inlay Artist Grit Laskin*.

Fitzhenry & Whiteside • Spring 2024 • English Canada rights sold, All others available
6 x 9 334 pages • Copyedited manuscript available

Renaissance Gangster

Fiction

Daniele Bolelli



In Daniele Bolelli's podcast *History on Fire*, he covered the story of Caravaggio, a man who was both one of the greatest painters who ever lived and a gangster wanted for murder. Popular interest prompted Bolelli to write Caravaggio's story as historical fiction divided into two novels: the completed **RENAISSANCE GANGSTER**, and **PAINTED IN BLOOD**, the sequel still in the works.

The historical Caravaggio was a badass. The greatest artist of his age, he was also an outlaw, equally comfortable with a paintbrush and a sword. Over 400 years after his death, he is still the subject of books, art exhibitions, and academic treatises, testimony to his mark on popular consciousness. But the historical Caravaggio is still a mystery. Next to nothing is known for sure about what motivated him, why he regularly clashed with authorities, and what he was like in day-to-day life.

The young Caravaggio saw all the people he loved die, from plague, war, or suicide. As trauma piles on trauma, he comes to believe he is cursed. He wants to love, but believes he will bring misery and death to the objects of his affection. And so, he keeps people at bay for fear of hurting them. The only way he knows to temporarily silence his pain is through intensity-- of painting a masterpiece, of orgies of alcohol and sex, of drawing a sword and annihilating his enemies.

Caravaggio's inner struggles play out against the backdrop of the late Renaissance equivalent of hip-hop crews. This is Tupac's story, had Tupac been an artist in 17th-century Italy. In a world where the powerful do what they want and call it law, Caravaggio and his friends break the law to avoid becoming victims. When the Universe deals him terrible cards, he takes what he feels is rightfully his.

Each page in these novels is like a cage fight between the man's demons and his passion and shining genius. Like all good fights, this one is a battle with no clear winner until the very end.

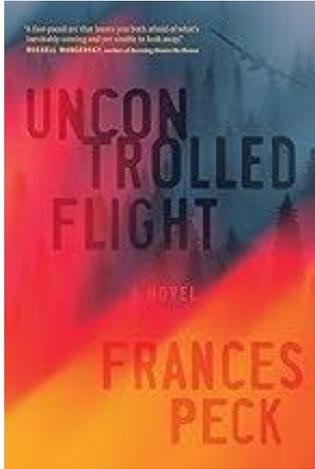
Daniele Bolelli is a podcaster, writer, and university history professor. He is the host of the podcasts *History on Fire* and *The Drunken Taoist*. He has authored several nonfiction books (including the modern classic about martial arts, *On the Warrior's Path*), and is the creator of a popular audio series on Taoism. His work has been featured in many magazines including *Wired*, *GQ* and *The Daily Mail*.

Acacia • In Manuscript • 92,000 words • All rights available

Uncontrolled Flight

Fiction

Frances Peck



Wildfire season in the British Columbia Interior. Experienced firefighting pilot Rafe Mackie loses control of his airplane while doing a routine drop and plummets to his death.

The investigation that follows unleashes revelations that forever change the lives of three people: Will, the pilot who watched his mentor crash; Sharon, the widow struggling to come to terms with her loss; and Nathalie, an accident investigator with shadowy connections to the incident. As a form of the truth emerges, these three are drawn into a tangle of secrets and lies, passion and grief, blame and forgiveness that forces them to confront the actions that brought one man's life crashing to an end.

In her second novel, Frances Peck creates another explosive literary page-turner, one that probes love, loyalty, and the ways we try to conceal and redeem our lives.

"Uncontrolled Flight is a compelling read overloaded with turbulence --emotional, historical, and literal. Peck masterfully braids three strong and divergent voices into a robust narrative urged forward by the burning landscape and the mysterious, simmering ambitions of her complex characters. As I read, I found myself switching allegiances many times and questioning the choices we all have to make under obvious and invisible pressures."--TARA MCGUIRE, author of *Holden After and Before*

"Masterfully crafted, with a complex cast of flawed and wholly relatable characters. Peck skillfully weaves multiple narratives into a riveting story that is part tragedy, part mystery -- and totally impossible to put down."--J.T. SIEMENS, author of the Sloane Donovan mystery series

"In *Uncontrolled Flight* Frances Peck skillfully navigates a taut tale of firefighting pilots, air crash investigators, and dangerously spiralling lives against authentically drawn BC settings. Her characters -- tough, damaged Nathalie; young, compromised Will; and heartbroken Sharon --gleam with originality and passion. As they careen through the loss of the heroic man who connects them all, their lives break open to reveal dark secrets and betrayals, but also treasures of courage, loyalty, and inspiring human potential for growth."--KAREN HOFMANN, author of *What Is Going to Happen Next* and *A Brief View from the Coastal Suite*

"Uncontrolled Flight is just what the title suggests: a fast-paced arc that leaves you both afraid of what's inevitably coming and yet unable to look away. Its deft complexity is like the aircraft so central to its storyline -- seemingly simple on the outside, yet packed full of connecting parts that all play a crucial role in the unfolding plot. It captures the conflicting feelings of those facing horror and loss inordinately

well."--RUSSELL WANGERSKY, award-winning author of *Burning Down the House: Fighting Fires and Losing Myself and Whirl Away*

"Frances Peck's new novel is so compelling and accomplished it's easy to forget that it's only her second. *Uncontrolled Flight* is a beautifully paced, intimate look at BC wildfires, and the casually courageous aerial firefighters who risk their lives attempting to control them. As in her debut novel, *The Broken Places*, Peck's characters' voices are multidimensional -- I flew through the pages, enjoying all the nuance of their thoughts and desires. Peck's descriptions of BC and note-perfect dialogue are equally precise. I can't recommend this book or her writing highly enough."--DANILA BOTHA, author of *Things That Cause Inappropriate Happiness* and *For All the Men (and Some of the Women) I've Known*

"*Uncontrolled Flight* begins with a plane crash that sets off a complex, emotional ride. At turns tense, sexy, and heartbreaking, each page drops us deeper into the world of Rafe, the experienced pilot who seemed to have it all, and the loved ones left grappling to understand what went wrong, who to blame, and who to protect. As their stories converge, guilt and resentments, secrets and lies, twist into a knot that no reader could stand to leave alone."--GENEVIEVE SCOTT, author of *The Damages*

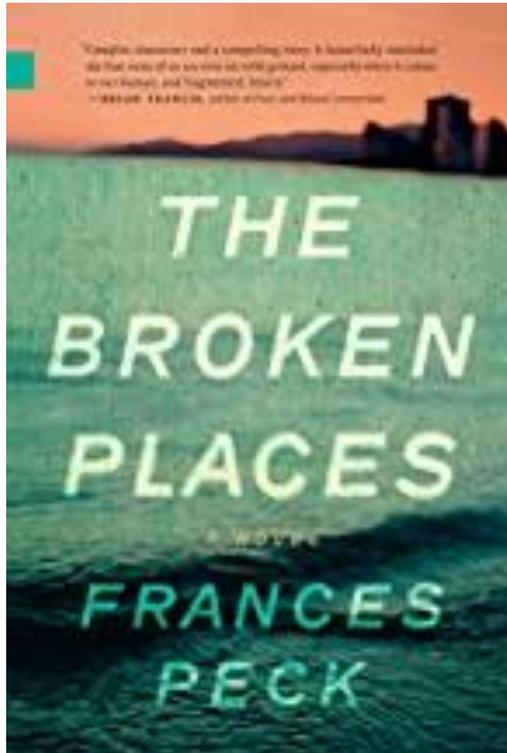
Frances Peck worked for three decades as an editor, ghostwriter, and educator, before returning to her first love, writing fiction. Her debut novel, *The Broken Places*, hailed by the *Vancouver Sun* as an "enthraling lifeboat scenario," earned glowing reviews and a wide readership. She lives in North Vancouver, British Columbia. Find out more at francespeck.com

NeWest	•	September 2023	•	All rights available except English North America and audio
5.5 x 8.5		368 pages		

The Broken Places

Fiction

Frances Peck



Vancouver. A day like any other. Kyle, a successful cosmetic surgeon, is punishing himself with a sprint up a mountain. Charlotte, wife of a tech tycoon, is combing the farm belt for local cheese and a sense of purpose. Back in the city their families go about their business: landscaping, negotiating deals, skipping school. It's a day like any other--until suddenly it's not.

When the earthquake hits, the city erupts in chaos and fear. Kyle's and Charlotte's families, along with two passersby, are thrown together in an oceanfront mansion. The conflicts that beset these wildly different people expose the fault lines beneath their relationships, as they question everything in an effort to survive and reunite with their loved ones stranded outside the city.

Frances Peck's debut novel examines the unpredictable ways in which disaster can shake up lives and test personal resilience.

"The Broken Places is a rare treat that combines high-tension narrative with true literary craft, delivering characters that readers will love to love, hate, pity, and grieve. Set against the backdrop of a devastating earthquake, the story of how a diverse group of people react to their new reality is beautifully delivered, offering many moments of masterful writing and rich, sensory engagement. Layer by layer, Peck reveals the motivations, fears and desires of her characters, doling out clues that culminate in an explosive and heartbreaking climax. Yet the novel ends with hope. Not a sweet-sugary treat, but a hope grounded firmly in believable characters and situations that resonate."~ Ruth E. Walker, author of *Living Underground*

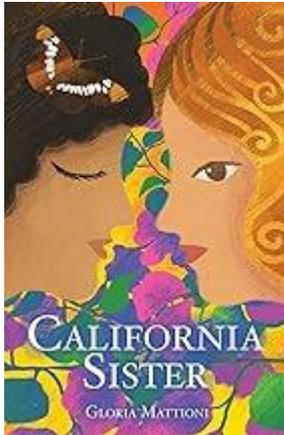
Frances Peck wrote fiction and poetry until her early twenties, when the realities of adulthood and rent steered her toward a career as a freelance writer, ghostwriter, editor, and instructor. Known for her writing and workshops on the finer points of language, she's the author of Peck's English Pointers (an online writing tool), a co-author of the HyperGrammar website, and an occasional essayist and blogger. Frances returns to her first love, fiction, with **The Broken Places**, part of the Nunatak First Fiction Series.

Newst Press • April 2022 • All rights except North American English and audio available
6 x 9 • 400 pages

California Sister

Fiction

Gloria Mattioni



A novel that will appeal to readers of Jodi Picoult, Miriam Toews and Jennifer Weiner.

Winner of the 2022 Indies Today Award for Best Contemporary Fiction. Two-Time Finalist in the 2023 Next Generation Indie Books Award. Two-Time Winner in the 2022 Firebird Book Awards. November 2023 International Book Of The Month official selection of The Pulpwood Queens and Timber Guys Book Club and Reading Nation.

It's the story of two sisters living worlds apart, one in Los Angeles and the other in Bergamo, North Italy. A story of fierce love and heartbreaking grief.

Claire Waters, an Italian mystery writer living in Los Angeles, rushes to Italy after her older sister's devastating brain hemorrhage, determined to restore her health--or help her die with dignity. Claire is a gritty decision-maker, a lone wolf who values freedom above all else. Her sister, Ondina--now on the edge of death or living a severely limited life--is wise, cautious, and sociable. They may be different, but have remained close despite the distance. Claire is faced with a dilemma impossible to solve. Would her non-verbal sister want to go on struggling, damaged as she is, or end her suffering? Forsaking her career, Claire hardly leaves her sister's side, refusing to give up the tiniest hope of healing. It takes an exhausting and lonely year for stubborn Claire to surrender enough to listen to her silent sister.

"Cathartic, poignant and sensitive, California Sister explores the fine line where selflessness and selfishness coalesce into a muddle mess. Gloria Mattioni's heartrending novel is not the first to walk such emotionally charged ground, but it might be the best!" - IndiesToday (5-star review)

"A touching novel about sisterly love. An immediate audience-grabber and practical parable about the choices we make and the priorities that matter to us."-Readers' Favorite (5-star review)

"In California Sister, Gloria Mattioni explores sibling love and navigating family, distance, and desire. A poignant story of caring and coping and of growing apart and healing together, deftly traversing California to Italy and back. A deeply touching and heartfelt narrative." David Francis, author of The Great Inland Sea, Stray Dog Winter and Wedding Bush Road

"Gloria Mattioni crafts an engrossing, emotional story of love tested by distance, experience, and health crisis... a study in contrasts between Italy and Los Angeles; two siblings who are connected by birth, love, and promises; and the difference between taking charge and stepping

aside... Highly recommended reading for women who look for emotionally charged stories of love, independence, and control." - Midwest Book Review by D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer.

"Fluidly transitioning between past to present and back again, Gloria Mattioni pits the silent desire of one sister against the needs of the other in a story that is both breathtakingly beautiful yet fearless in flaunting the ugly realities of life and death. *California Sister* will force you to think hard about who has the right to choose." Barbara Conrey, USA Today Bestselling author of *Nowhere Near Goodbye*

Gloria Mattioni is the author of the multi-award-winning novel "*California Sister*", "*Reckless-The Outrageous Lives of Nine Kick-Ass Women*" and "*Dakota Warrior-The Story of James R. Weddell*". Previously, she published in Italy a novel, "*Con Altri Occhi*", and three non-fiction books, "*Guerriero Dakota*", "*Wild Women*", and "*La Tribù dei Mangiatori di Sogni*". Born in Milan, Italy, she grew up dreaming of being a pirate, an astronaut and an explorer. Instead, she became a magazine writer and editor, and also an investigative reporter. She loves to travel, surf, and hike with her rescue dogs. In 1992, she moved to Los Angeles--a place she loves for its unique geography in the midst of ocean, desert and mountains.

Atmosphere Press

• 2022 •

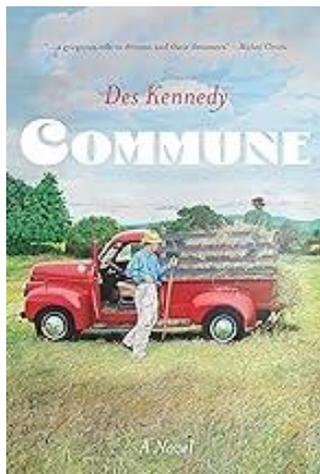
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5.5 x 8.5 • 324 Pages

Commune: A Novel

Fiction

Des Kennedy



This is the spellbinding story of six young dreamers who set out from Vancouver in the seventies to haphazardly establish a back-to-the-land commune on a small island in the Salish Sea.

Against all odds, the dream endures for half a century through fierce internecine squabbling, occasional community uproar, births and deaths, disasters in animal husbandry, the War in the Woods, RCMP raids and the blandishments of oily developers. But throughout it all what abides is the land itself, its gifts and spirits and seasonal graces. A story within a story, the tale is told by the commune's sole remaining occupant to an enigmatic stranger. Herself a recent urban exile exploring the ways of rural living, she succeeds in coaxing him through his remembrances away from grief into renewed life.

Des Kennedy brings his signature humour and intimate knowledge of gardens and woodlands to this engaging novel. Throughout *Commune*, Kennedy poses the big questions—how do we best live our lives? Build community? Create a new paradigm for raising kids, growing food and honouring the genius of our place?

“Des Kennedy's *Commune* is a gorgeous ode to dreams and their dreamers, a story of sex, soil, and sacrifice. Told with narrative verve through quicksilver prose, *Commune* conjures an agrarian idealism that feels increasingly relevant to our troubled world, rendering a uniquely BC experience powerfully universal. I loved every glorious page.” — Michael Christie, author of *Greenwood*

“*Commune* takes readers back to what I used to think was a simpler time and way of life. But this gem of a novel has helped me understand that the 1970s were just as complicated, challenging and beautiful as the decades since. Thanks to Des Kennedy's pitch-perfect prose and diverse cast of memorable characters, I was right there on the farm with the other dreamers, as I turned the pages well into the night and the next morning, too. Kennedy is a gifted storyteller.” — Terry Fallis, two-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour

“Des Kennedy reaps a harvest of delights in a gleeful, fictional memoir that explores the joys and woes of going back to the land in the 1970s. Des's love, respect, concern and hope for the natural world shine through his expressive yet playful prose.” — William Deverell, author of *Stung*, finalist for the Dashiell Hammett Prize

Des Kennedy is an award-winning journalist, broadcaster, author and environmental activist. He is the author of four books of essays including a memoir, *The Passionate Gardener* (Greystone Books, 2006), and three novels including *Climbing Patrick's Mountain* (Brindle & Glass, 2009).

Harbour Publishing •

October 2023 •

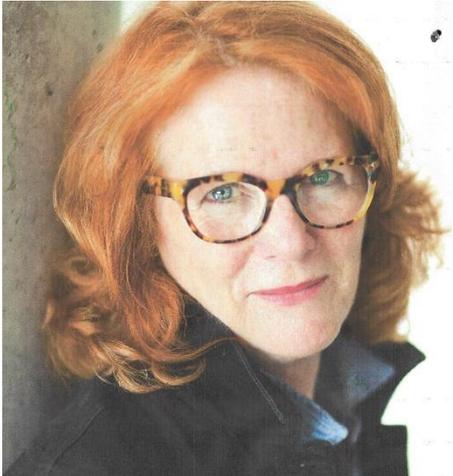
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6 x 9 • 352 pages

If It Must End

Carol McDougall

Fiction



In this modern myth, a woman feeling abandoned by life and love paddles out onto a lake, tipping the canoe and throwing her life to fate. As she sinks she falls into a singularity where time folds in on itself and she finds herself in a mystical garden, greeted by the Three Fates. Clotho holds a spindle, Lachesis measures a length of thread between outstretched arms, and Atropos holds a pair of golden scissors - the Fates weaving the mother thread of her life from birth to death.

And so begins a story that takes an ordinary life on a hero's journey. With wit and wisdom the Fates walk her through the garden of her life, allowing her to view, without judgement, the moments where she made decisions that changed her fate - those universal moments of grace where she stood at a crossroads and needed to choose – this partner or that, to bear a child or not, to run from danger or to stay. The Fates trace the arc of her life, revealing the lessons learned. As her life unfolds in moments of danger and deceit, loneliness and loss the Fates challenge her narrative, and guide her to a deeper truth - we cannot change the life we are allotted, but we can choose to find the joy within.

In the garden of the Fates she comes to understand that her life is precious *because* of the brokenness and pain, because of the bad decisions and heartbreak and loss. This is a story about accepting the hand of fate, and finding joy in all the beautiful broken places.

Carol McDougall's novel "Wake the Stone Man" received the Beacon Award for Social Justice Literature and the Frye Academy Award. Her work includes fiction, non-fiction, essays, writing for children, and video scripts. Her short fiction has been published in *Room* and presented on CBC radio.

Based in Halifax, Carol was born in Northern Ontario and has lived in Cambridge, England where she worked at the Scott Polar Research Institute. She was awarded the Mayor's Award for her contribution to literature and literacy and in 2010 received the Progress Woman of Excellence Award for the Arts.

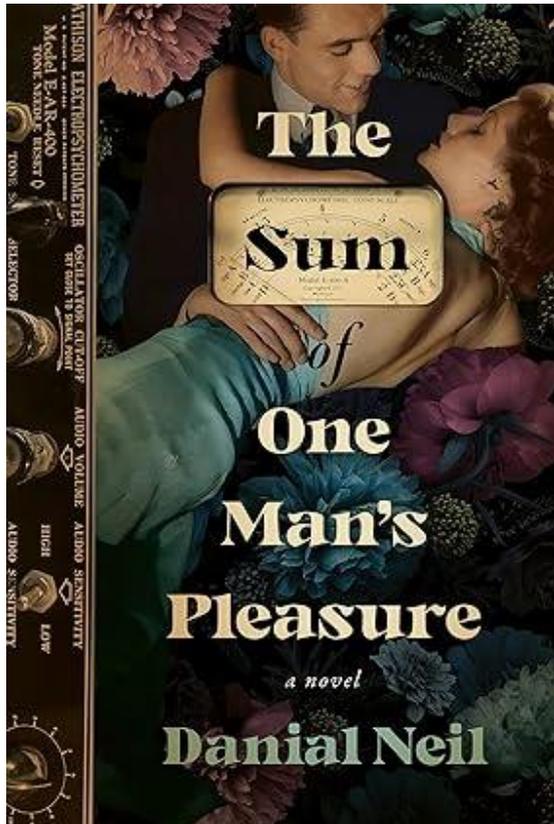
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The Sum of One Man's Pleasure *Fiction*

Danial Neil



1963 - Finn Kenny fled Ottawa after being implicated in an RCMP purge of suspected Communist sympathisers and "homosexuals", ending up on Vancouver Island working for the Spencerwood Estate alongside devoted caretakers, the Bishops. Theodore Spencer was Finn's saviour, a barroom companion who offered him a way out of his predicament. But when Spencer dies suddenly, Finn's life is turned upside down as he's forced to work with the cold, calculating lady of the house. Thrown together unexpectedly, Finn, Lady Spencer, and the Bishops are faced with the worst of one another, as they struggle to keep the estate together. Learning more about each other's lives, they must come to terms with the truth that everyone has secrets buried at the centre of themselves.

In his searching sixth novel, Danial Neil questions the stories we tell of our own lives, the version of ourselves we show to those closest, and the ways in which we are able to find common ground.

"Danial Neil, a master storyteller, embraces the mysterious and the unpredictable. Through a host of characters who appear fated to destroy the lives of others, not to mention their own, he weaves several compelling plots into a tapestry of small-town Vancouver Island life." --Ron Smith, author of *Improbable Journeys* and *The Defiant Mind*

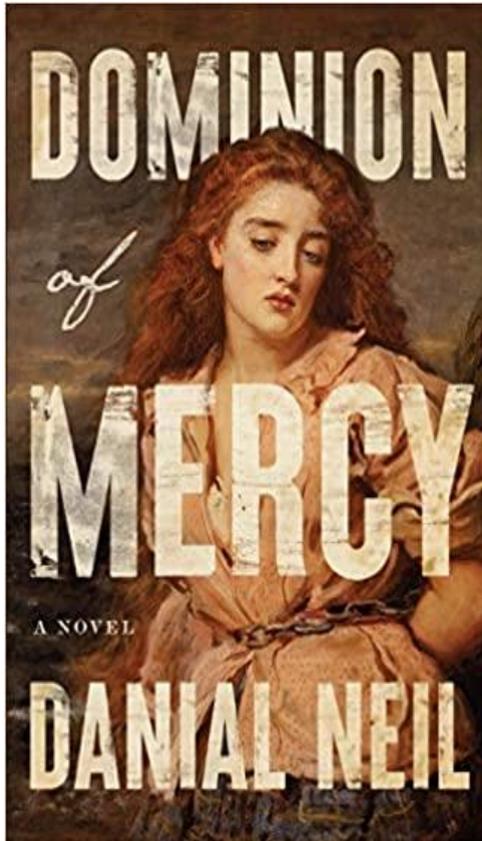
Danial Neil's poetry and fiction articulate a close relationship with the land, its felt presence in his narrative and vision. He is the author of *The Killing Jars* (Trafford 2006), *Flight of the Dragonfly* (Borealis Press 2009), *My June* (Ronsdale Press 2014), *The Trees of Calan Gray* (Oolichan Books 2015), *Dominion of Mercy* (NeWest Press 2021). *The Sum of One Man's Pleasure* is Danial's sixth published novel.

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5 x 8 • 280 pages

Dominion of Mercy

Fiction

Danial Neil



Edinburgh, 1917: Headstrong Highland lass Mary Stewart is a vibrant woman forced into the world's oldest profession in order to provide for her ailing father and younger sister in the city's Old Town. When her uncle, a well-to-do solicitor with political aspirations, thinks that her presence might impede his lofty ambitions he gives her a way out with dignity: a one-way ticket to the frontier town of Anyox, British Columbia, where nurses are needed to care for injured soldiers returning from the war.

Mary agrees to depart Scotland and leaves her sister in the care of her uncle, but finds that a past like hers is not easy to escape, and that living on the frontier has more challenges than even the darkest streets of Old Town. She must survive by her quick intelligence, but that is a quality that few women were allowed to reveal.

Danial Neil's historical epic *Dominion of Mercy* combines the gritty feel and attention to detail of HBO's *Deadwood* with the Canadian sensibility of Guy Vanderhaeghe's frontier trilogy.

"Danial Neil melds past and present, breathing life into Mary Stewart who is a survivor and force of nature. *Dominion of Mercy* is an historical novel for our times."

~ Garry Ryan, award-winning author of the Detective Lane Mystery and Blackbirds Series

Neil's first published novel was *The Killing Jars* in 2006, and then *Flight of the Dragonfly* in 2009, *My June* in 2014, and *The Trees of Calan Gray* in 2015. *Dominion of Mercy* is his fifth published novel. He has completed twenty novels since beginning his writing journey. His prose has been called hauntingly beautiful and lyrical. His poetry and fiction articulate a close relationship with the land, its felt presence in his narrative and vision. His characters arrive like guests and leave an indelible presence in a reader's experience.

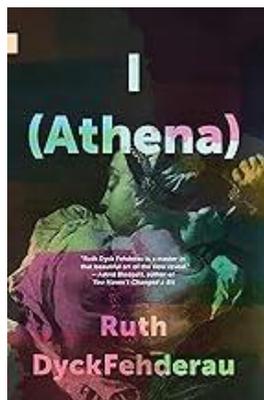
Danial

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5,5 x 8.5 • 248 pages

I (Athena)

Ruth DyckFehderau

Fiction



When Athena was a young girl in the 60s, she lost her hearing to a childhood fever but was misdiagnosed as "profoundly retarded" and institutionalized for thirty years. Now she's out of the institution, awkward and bookish, and learning to integrate with mainstream society where nothing works quite like she thinks it should. Athena researches her past, trying to understand why she was institutionalized in the first place and why the people looking after her made such a huge mistake. At the same time, she tries to find a way to live with the man who was her lover in the institution, uncovering all sorts of surprises along the way.

"Ruth Dyck Fehderau is a master in that beautiful art of the slow reveal. She has created in Athena a character I will not soon forget. Athena's story is fascinating and piercing, sometimes funny and sometimes utterly heart-rending; it is thoroughly researched and so well told. I read with wonder from the opening pages to the delightful final scene."--Astrid Blodgett, author of *You Haven't Changed a Bit*

"As Athena breaks free from her stolen years, she's plunged into a world she must make sense of. By turns funny and heart shattering, rich with mesmerising detail and unsentimental prose, her journey is a profound exploration of what it means to be human."--Fran Kimmel, author of *The Shore Girl and No Good Asking*

"In this harrowing, heartbreaking, and ultimately triumphant novel, Ruth DyckFehderau peels back the complex layers of identity and shows us, in moving, clear-eyed prose, how swiftly human rights can be stolen and how urgent is the fight to win them back."--Frances Peck, author of *The Broken Places*

"A catastrophic misdiagnosis shunts a young life off the rails, leaving young Verity Blessure to waken, again and again, to worlds that profoundly mistake her. In *I, Athena*, Ruth DyckFehderau leads us on a memorable quest for human recognition and dignity through the eyes of the irrepressible Verity (Athena). A journey full of surprises, both wrenching and joyous, *I, Athena* also uncovers along the way the endlessly resourceful bonds of longing and belonging among the socially discarded and historically spurned, immersing us in a community that remains too often unseen, unheard, unwritten, to this day. A debut novel that on multiple levels reflects a triumph of informed empathy and imagination."--Christine Wiesensthal, author of *Instruments of Surrender* and editor of *The Collected Works of Pat Lowther*

Ruth DyckFehderau has written two nonfiction books with James Bay Cree storytellers: *The Sweet Bloods of Eeyou Istchee: Stories of Diabetes and the James Bay Cree* (2017) and *E Nátamukh Miyeyimuwin: Residential School Recovery Stories of the James Bay Cree, Vol. 1* (forthcoming 2023). Her work has been translated into five languages and she has won many literary awards

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6 x 9 • 352 pages

The Desert Diaries

Fiction

Jerry Amernic



A legal drama that puts the world's biggest religion on trial

In a landmark case lawyer Elena Baranova takes on Christianity and discovers its origins, only to open wounds from her past. She is trying to build her fledgling practice after years as a prosecutor. A native of Belarus, she was raised in Boston and winds up practicing law in Canada but lives with a deep scar on her soul. She then gets caught in something that turns her life around.

Mason Dunnigan and Angus Miller are members of the Ways and Means Evangelical Church in Bangor, and have returned from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land where they toured Israel and Egypt. On the last day of their trip they are in the Temple of Luxor and shown something they cannot accept – that the entire story of the Four Gospels from the New Testament is derived from ancient Egyptian mythology. They plan to destroy the temple but will stage a trial run. They choose a remote location – the far northern tip of Newfoundland near L'Anse aux Meadows – and prepare homemade dynamite. In the ensuing blast two young men out fishing drown after their boat capsizes.

While the legal machinery plods along, Elena gets to know Mason and Angus and what drives them. She becomes absorbed in reading about Egyptian mythology and through her husband meets a professor of Roman history and leading Egyptologists. Mason and Angus have come to Canada with concealed guns which the Mounties confiscate and their conferences with Elena bring a host of issues to the fore – gun laws, abortion, separation of church and state. The novel becomes a prism through which the reader scrutinizes America from afar.

In the case Elena decides to plead not guilty on behalf of her clients. Through flashbacks with Mason and Angus the reader is immersed in the Ways and Means Evangelical Church and its powerful reach. Elena visits the church in Bangor and attends a sermon by Pastor William Finney, the man who got Mason and Angus hooked. Along the way we learn about Elena's hidden secret – how she was abused by a priest in Boston when she was 11.

Jerry Amernic is an author of fiction and non-fiction books. He has been a columnist and correspondent for daily newspapers, and is a contributor to many magazines. An avid student of history, the sciences, and archaeology, he is a member of such organizations as, the James A. Michener Society, and International Thriller Writers.

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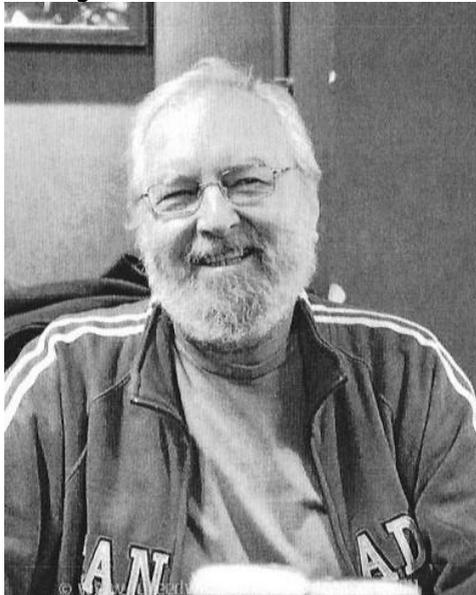


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Blake's Progress

Fiction

Ray Bennett



Harry Blake thinks he's dying. Even worse, he's in love. Again. 'Blake's Progress' by Ray Bennett is a novel of living and dying. And loving. Funny, romantic, moving and suspenseful, it is the story of a man who finds the woman of his dreams late in life only to be diagnosed with a life-changing illness. As he goes through radiotherapy that affects his personality and behaviour, Harry looks back at his life with candour and a great deal of black humour. After spending so much time in darkened rooms watching beams of light, his life now seems to have been like a movie. Growing up in England crazy about film, he became a newspaper reporter and followed his dream of going to America. From Detroit to Nashville to Hollywood and at international film festivals, his life was filled with glamorous people and places and beautiful women.

Undergoing daily radiation, his mind takes him back to his first wife Lesley, who became disillusioned; Sarah, who was too young; and Callie, an angel from Texas flying too close to the ground. Now he has found the love of his life and he is determined to keep her even as his treatment leads to manic mood swings, impotence and depression. Also, Kate is married and that too is complicated. She takes him far away from showbusiness as they explore the most romantic places in Britain from Callenish to Lindisfarne to Maiden Castle, Tintagel and Glastonbury. It is bliss but Harry throws a spanner in the works by deciding not to tell anyone about his illness. Not even Kate. Suddenly, it seems that his life is too much like a movie but, as in the best films, fate hands Harry some major twists and surprises before the final kiss.

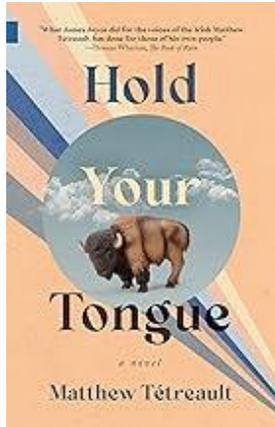
Ray Bennett is an English-Canadian writer who did his training on a small newspaper in Kent, England, called The Gravesend Reporter and ended up as European Bureau Chief for The Hollywood Reporter based in London. In between, he covered the entertainment business for big city dailies and national magazines in Canada and America. His staff positions include television columnist on The Windsor Star, managing editor of TV Guide Canada, Arts and Entertainment Editor of the Los Angeles Daily News and the Los Angeles Herald Examiner, West Coast Bureau Chief of Entertainment Weekly, Senior Editor of Video Digest and Managing Editor of special issues at The Hollywood Reporter in Los Angeles. He has interviewed countless famous movie and TV stars plus producers, directors, writers and composers in film, television, music, theatre and publishing.. 'Blake's Progress' is his first novel and he is working on a memoir of his colourful life and a caper series about a movie actor who also is a British secret agent.

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Hold Your Tongue

Matthew Tétreault

Fiction



Upon learning his great-uncle Alfred has suffered a stroke, Richard sets out for Ste. Anne, in southeastern Manitoba, to find his father and tell him the news. Waylaid by memories of his stalled romance, tales of run-ins with local Mennonites, his job working a honey wagon, and struck by visions of Métis history and secrets of his family's past, Richard confronts his desires to leave town, even as he learns to embrace his heritage.

"Inspired by deep knowledge of his French-Métis homeland, Matthew Tétreault has given us a rich, beautifully written novel. In this story you'll meet unforgettable characters who "sprang from the soil." This intricate yarn is an evocative detective story, a search for the first betrayals and deviations, a glorious patchwork of vision and memory, buoyed by love as tough and vulnerable as the land that nurtured it. The past is palpable, vibrant in these pages, full of promise, like 'seedlings.'"--Margaret Sweatman, author of *The Gunsmith's Daughter*

"The wonderful thing about *Hold Your Tongue* is that it definitely does not hold its tongue. English, French, and Michif gallop across its pages, mingling and colliding like the fractious history of the Canadian West echoing into the present. What James Joyce did for the voices of the Irish Matthew Tétreault has done for those of his own people. This earthy, wise, big-hearted novel about a Métis community's tangled past and uncertain future shouts, gossips, mourns, jokes, confesses, and sings. Before you reach the end you'll be singing along with it."--Thomas Wharton, award-winning author of *Icfields* and *The Book of Rain*

"Witty, down-to-earth, and yet transformative, Matt Tétreault's *Hold Your Tongue* sets a new benchmark for literature in Canada, folding in francophone and Métis voice and culture and navigating the tensions of family, history, self, and place. Marked both by verisimilitude and contemplation, *Hold Your Tongue* is a journey through the geography of identity that emerges speaking with a fresh, assured voice."--Conrad Scott, author of *Water Immersion*

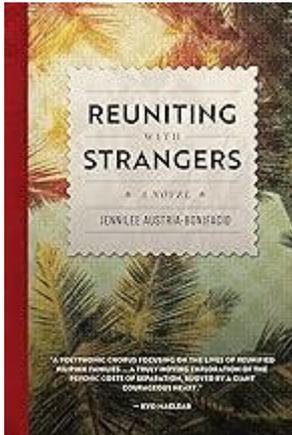
Matthew Tétreault is French-Métis from the Ste. Anne area of Manitoba. He is the author of *What Happened on the Bloodvein* (Pemmican Publications, 2015), a collection of short stories. He recently completed a PhD in Métis literature and literary history in the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta.

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Reuniting With Strangers

Fiction

Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio



Inspired by the work of Souvankham Thammavongsa, Catherine Hernandez and Wayson Choy, this unforgettable novel follows the reunification of Filipino caregiver families over one Canadian winter—and the mysterious progress of Monolith, who appears and disappears in their lives.

When five-year-old Monolith is taken from the Philippines to live with his mother in Canada, he immediately lashes out. Unable or unwilling to speak, he attacks her and destroys his new home. Everyone wants to know why—and everyone has a theory. But unlike the solid certainty his name suggests, the answer isn't so simple.

From a cliffside town in the Tagaytay highlands of the Philippines, to the Filipino communities in the desert of Osoyoos, the Arctic world of Iqaluit, the suburbs of southern Ontario, Sarnia's Chemical Valley, Montréal's Côte-des-Neiges, and Toronto's Little Manila, Austria-Bonifacio takes readers into the kaleidoscope of the Filipino diaspora, uncovering the displacement, estrangement, resilience and healing that happen behind closed doors.

As each chapter unfolds, truths are revealed in humorous, joyful, devastating and surprising ways: through an incisive caregiver's instruction manual, a custody battle over texts and e-mails, a disarmingly direct self-help guide, a series of desperate résumés, a kundiman songbook, and more.

Monolith appears again and again, as a misbehaving boy in a store, the subject of town gossip, a face in a fundraising campaign, a client in questionable care, a dying man's beacon of hope—and an unlikely new friend.

Compellingly readable, incisive and resonant, Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio's stunning debut opens a window into the homes and hearts of the Filipino-Canadian community.

““Why do we call it “the motherland” when it isn't where our mothers are?” With these words, Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio begins her extraordinary novel, inviting readers out onto the bridge that so many Filipino families navigate every day, for years, for decades, a crossing-over place of longing, confusion, anger, and complicated love. Here's the real deal, a novel that opens up the world in a new way. Be prepared for goosebumps, tears and laughter. People everywhere, and in Canada, too, have benefited from the love, labour and often blatant exploitation of Filipino women (and men) working abroad, separated from their own beloved families. This book is a double testament—to the heartbreaking human cost of such a system and to the tenacity, humour and strength of the people who survive it.”— Karen Connelly, author of *The Change Room* and *The Lizard Cage*

“These are stories that love you, leave you, and come back to you. These stories return jagged, complicated by their departure, and grown in your absence. Austria-Bonifacio documents the Filipino Canadian diaspora with the eyes of a camcorder and the heart of a Filipino surviving outside of the Philippines—holding everything. Here, there is the heat of home and the wrath of winter sticking to your skin and sincerely asking, ‘How have you been made a stranger in your own life?’ ”— Janice Lobo Sapigao, writer, educator and Poet Laureate Fellow with the Academy of American Poets

“Austria-Bonifacio invites the reader into the fractured and chaotic worlds of Filipino-Canadian families attempting to reassemble after years apart. [...] It is a poignant exploration of cultural loss. Reuniting With Strangers is an absorbing portrait of not only multiple generations of the Filipino-Canadian community, but of the simultaneity of grief and joy when building a life in a new country.”— Quill & Quire

“What’s the price of separation? How do we reconnect with the identity and culture we first knew? How much does it take to unify families? Reuniting With Strangers might just be the newest love letter to the Filipino-Canadian community.”— Inquirer

“A polyphonic chorus focusing on the lives of reunified Filipinx families—this collective of interlacing stories sings in a minor-major key of sorrow and joy, hurt and hope. Austria has invented a dazzling form of literary kundiman where all forms of love are present and invited. The result is a truly moving exploration of the psychic costs of separation, buoyed by a giant courageous heart.”— Kyo Maclear, author of *Unearthing*

“Reuniting with Strangers expertly explores the pain of migration and the bottomless hope of family. Sacrifice threads through the community—A good parent is a good provider, and a good provider is one who leaves. But when a child is abandoned over and over again, his screams are “...the only sound the heart wants to make.” This is the truth Austria-Bonifacio tells in language that is alive, contemporary, vivid. Read this book. You will see the world with fresh compassion.” — Kim Echlin, author of *Speak, Silence*

“In these astonishing stories from the perspectives of migrant caregivers, Austria forces us to witness the emotional truths of those in servitude, and desperate to get a leg in the door.”— Catherine Hernandez, award-winning author and screenwriter of *Scarborough* the book and film

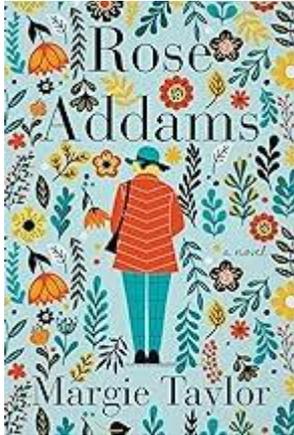
Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio is a Filipina-Canadian author, speaker and school board consultant who builds bridges between educators and Filipino families through her initiative, Filipino Talks. After completing her master’s degree in Immigration and Settlement Studies, she graduated from the Humber School for Writers and completed a residency at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. She was a finalist for the Jim Wong-Chu Emerging Writers Award and has been published in various anthologies. She lives in Toronto, ON, where she is writing her second novel.

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Rose Addams

Fiction

Margie Taylor



Rose Addams is hitting her sixties, but these days it feels like they're starting to hit back...

Her daughter, Morgan, has ditched her thesis program and moved back home to Vancouver, while her son Jason's partner has never seen eye to eye with his mother. Her husband Charles has decided to take early retirement from the university to work on his long-gestating book, and his rakish best friend Garnet has a new mistress who is way too young for their social circle. When Rose encounters a young man panhandling outside of her library office though, a chain of events is set in motion whereby Rose will have to confront all the facets of her rapidly-complicating life...

Margie Taylor loves Rose Addams. Loves her despite Rose's blind spots and anxieties. Or because of them. In this compulsively readable novel, Taylor shines a witty and compassionate light on the world of a woman navigating her sixth decade--a daring project, given how little literature has bothered. As Taylor deftly nudges her heroine past personal crises that test her convictions about motherhood, marriage and propriety, she lets Rose (and us readers) glimpse a new, deeper kind of self-knowledge that only comes with age."--Marguerite Pigeon, author of *The Endless Garment* and *Some Extremely Boring Drives*

"Readers will smile to recognize family members, friends, and themselves in this gentle skewering of a middle-class, middle-aged Vancouver woman and her circle. Hints of Jane Austen, Barbara Pym and Elizabeth Strout enliven a perspicacious account of friendships, generation gaps, unsuitable attachments, and the indignities of encroaching age. Margie Taylor has created, in *Rose Addams*, an avatar for women of a certain age who struggle to learn a new generation's perspectives and mores, but when crises arise, are heroically present with their experience and fierce commitment to the vulnerable of society."--Karen Hofmann, award-winning author of *A Brief View from the Coastal Suite* and *Echolocation*

"Margie Taylor writes with great empathy and sharp insight. Readers will root for the characters in this compelling story."--Lisa Guenther, author of *Friendly Fire*

"A beautifully crafted work, *Rose Addams* features vivid characters facing real-world problems in a narrative that reads like a thriller. I had a hard time putting this one down."--Ken McGoogan, author of *Fatal Passage* and *Lady Franklin's Revenge*

Margie Taylor is the author of three novels: *Harrow Road*; *Displaced Persons*, and *Some of Skippy's Blues*, as well as a collection of humorous essays, and a compilation of book reviews.

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Hiroshima Bomb Money

Fiction

Terry Watada



A powerful work of historical fiction that reminds us of the horrors of nuclear war, and the effects of racism.

The protagonist of **HIROSHIMA BOMB MONEY**, by **Terry Watada**, is based on the author's wife's great-aunt Chiemi, who survived the Hiroshima atom bomb for about three weeks. During her final days, she searched for her twin babies, hoping they were still alive. Also included in the novel are the stories of her fictional siblings, a brother who joined the Japanese army to fight in China and a sister who immigrated to Canada and suffered internment and exile during World War II. Being told entirely from the point of view of Japanese characters, the novel gives a new perspective on the war.

The bomb money of the title actually exists. The author's wife's family gave her a small mass of coins melted together by the bomb. Chiemi had buried the money two feet below her backyard at the beginning of the war. The radiation heat reached down far enough to fuse the coins together. It serves as a grim reminder of the horror of the atom bomb.

Hiroshima Bomb Money revolves around the true story of Chiemi Akamatsu, who survived the atom bomb despite being at Ground Zero. Though horribly disfigured and mortally injured, she spent almost three weeks searching for her twin babies. Her portion of the book covers the events leading up to the bomb and to the moment she finds her children. She then succumbs to her injuries.

The book also looks at the journeys of her brother and sister. Hideki, Chiemi's younger brother, joins the military and, like his comrades, dreams of doing his duty for the Emperor which ends in his "glorious" death in combat. His attitude changes because of the cruelty exhibited by his sergeant: the dressing downs, the humiliations, and the beatings. During his time in China, he witnesses and participates in mass slaughter, execution by beheading and burying alive members of the Chinese military and citizenship. What finally breaks him is witnessing his sergeant raping a young teenage girl in a Korean Comfort Women station. He kills him, but is not punished. The sergeant is declared a hero who "died in battle". The leaders cover up the sickening indiscretions of their sergeant. Soon thereafter, Hideki, disillusioned, gives up and dies in the blast of a suicide bomber.

Chisato Kimura (nee Akamatsu), the youngest, heeds the Emperor's advice to travel and gain knowledge of the world. Through an arranged marriage, she immigrates to Canada, where she experiences unjust and cruel immigration practices, a cheating husband, and the cruelty of the Japanese Canadian internment. The story focusses on the terrors of Hastings Park, a "distribution centre for Japanese Canadians" (including the separation of babies from their mothers) at the outbreak of WWII, and the primitive conditions in the Interior of British Columbia. The book ends in Toronto after the war when Chisato receives the bomb money (buried Japanese coins melted together due to the heat of the bomb) from Japan and comes to terms with the loss of her family.

The writing does not shy away from the brutal and inhumane actions of countries involved in war. The Japanese atrocities in China in particular are rarely discussed in Western literature, and never in Japan.

Terry Watada is a Toronto writer with many publications including three novels, five poetry collections, a short story collection, two manga, two children's books and two histories. His latest books are *Mysterious Dreams of the Dead* (Anvil Press, Vancouver 2020), a novel about the Japanese Canadian third generation, and *The Four Sufferings* (Mawenzi House Publishers, Toronto, 2020), a volume of poetry. He maintains a monthly column in the *Vancouver Bulletin* magazine.

NeWest



Spring 2024

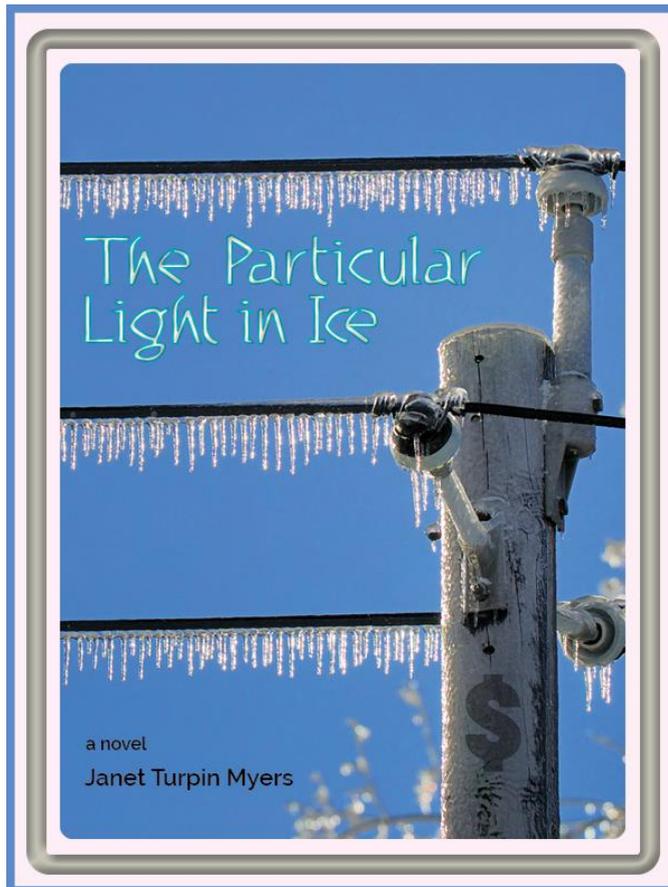


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The Particular Light In Ice

Fiction

Janet Turpin Myers



Lily Moreau, billionaire bunker-buyer and demanding mistress of a high-tech country estate, is at war over landscaping plans with her only neighbour, Django Limberger. To Lily, Django is an exasperating, tree-hugging, off-grid, “gypsy”, who lives in a “bit-of-nothing house” the size of her master bathroom. A catastrophic ice storm encases both Lily’s and Django’s world in unyielding ice, downing Lily’s hydro-electric line, stranding her powerless in her mansion, suffering alone and hungry in the freezing darkness. Django’s Christmas lights, powered by wind energy, twinkle across the ice-encrusted expanse of field that separates their two hostile houses. These are the only lights visible to Lily in the frozen darkness. She desperately needs someone’s help, but Django is the last person on earth she can ask for it. *The Particular Light In Ice* is the story of two warring neighbours forced together by an ice storm

PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR’S PREVIOUS WORKS

Nightswimming

“Have you ever read a book that just keeps surprising you with its truth and beauty at every turn of the page? A book that takes you to places you know like the back of your hand, and then flips your hand over to read the map of its lines?” *Bernadette Rule*

“...the work of an utterly sophisticated stylist, who plays the reader like a piano.” *Robert Nielsen, Potlatch Publications*

“...memory soaked language that serves as a guide through experiences we’ve all had; experiences that call back those summer evenings, with sunsets that belong on postcards.” *Pepper Parr, Burlington Gazette*

“Probably the best summer read I’ve ever come across, *Nightswimming* evokes the smell of summer, water, wooden dock, even if read in the midst of a Canadian autumn.” *Review on Goodreads*

“It’s a story for neo-hippies and true hippies, and for anybody who wants not-to-forget the exquisitely consuming fire of their first love.” *‘First Fiction’, Literary Press Group*

“Beautiful, funny, lyrical and terribly moving.” *Bernadette Rule, Artwaves, INDI 105.1FM*

“*Nightswimming* by Janet Turpin Myers is (an) engaging debut novel that harnesses the sights and sounds of the Muskokas, the momentous events of the Apollo 11 moon landings, and the stirring passions of first love. Beautiful yet funny, Myers explores the major turning points of the 60s and how these events affect us in our consciousness and our memories, in language that is lyrical and moving.” *Stephen Near, Hamilton Arts Council [21st Literary Awards](#)*.

The Last Year of Confusion

“A funny, insightful and refreshing dystopian novel with strong imagery and insights, *The Last Year of Confusion* is a biting, and yet tender, commentary on life today.” *Hamilton Arts Council, Fiction Prize, Judge’s Comments (2016)*

“A ‘Midsummer’s Night Dream’ for the 21st Century”.
Jean Rae Baxter, award-winning novelist

“For those looking to situate *The Last Year of Confusion*’s place in the Canadian canon, think Stephen Leacock wrapped in a Hudson’s Bay blanket with Joseph Boyden and the late Paul Quarrington. If this jumble of comparisons is a bit confusing to you, rest assured that Myers works hard to position her readers with her clear plot progressions and convincing relationships: stories of friendship won, maintained, and lost are thread throughout the narrative”. *Rhonda Dynes (Humber Literary Review, Issue 2, Vol 2, 2015. Pg 56)*

Janet Turpin Myers is a Canadian novelist and poet. Her debut novel, *Nightswimming*, was released by Seraphim in 2013 and her second, *The Last Year of Confusion* in 2015, again by Seraphim. Her short story, *Crashing*, won third place in the 2013 gritLIT Fiction competition. Her poems have been published in 'Hammered Out' and Tower Poetry anthologies. A tireless promoter, she has recently appeared at the Ottawa Writer's Festival; Hamilton's gritLIT Festival; Burlington's, Meet the Author series;; North Words Literary Festival;; Hamilton's LitLive Reading Series and the Junction Reads Series in Toronto

Acacia

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In manuscript

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The Blue Bomber

Fiction

John Cooper



The Blue Bomber is a fascinating novel with the main protagonist looking back on his life as he nears the end of it.

An aged man, his body lined, cracked, folded, creased by experience and pain, lies in a hospital bed, and he awaits death. Death is not unwelcome, not now; death promises peace and closure, as it always does in one way or another.

The man knows himself only as ‘the kid,’ for that is what they called him as he was growing up, and his own name, to himself, is long gone from his memory.

If the name is mentioned to him, it will slip away, eluding his grasp, the way morning mist escapes the grip of a laughing toddler, playing on the grass in the morning dew, but though his name is now a shadow, the old man’s deathscaped final days are a stream of vivid Crayola memories, a condensation, a gathering of droplets that collect into a cloud and then become a rain and a river and a flood of thoughts which come not only from his own life, but strangely for him the lives of his ancestors going back three or four generations. The kid closes his eyes and he sees images sharper than real-life, honed to perfection, carved neatly, expertly, falling away, chunks of meat, memory-flesh falling before a severe and unforgiving butcher’s blade; cut sinew; despite the nerves of his wasting body failing, the pulse in his wrist fading, amidst the feel of piss being emptied, catheter-carried into a collection bag, all sensations falling away, his life replays before him, staged easily and loosely across his brainpan by a collection of ragged actors.

John Cooper has been a journalist with the Metroland Group and has taught courses in journalism and public relations. He is the author of a number of books on African-Canadian history including *Rapid Ray: The Story of Ray Lewis* (Tundra) and *Season of Rage: Hugh Barnett and the Struggle for Civil Rights*(Tundra). He is also the author of the teen novel *The Greyhound* (Dundurn) and a true crime title *Everything runs like a Movie*(Dundurn). Cooper lives in Whitby, Ontario.

Acacia

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In Manuscript

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A Foreigner in Vienna

Fiction

Armin Hamidi



In this lively, somewhat surreal autofiction novel, Armin, an Iranian student living in Vienna, calls himself a Persian *Décadent*, and naively thinks he is an intellectual. After twenty-six years of an upper middle class life in Tehran, he says good-bye to his long-time girlfriend, his family, his job as an English teacher, and flies to Vienna to study comparative literature.

In the airport in Tehran, before he passes through the gate, the late Forough Farrokhzad (an influential Iranian poet) finds him and convinces him that he will need her voice in Vienna when he participates in discussions of feminism and literature.

Throughout the novel, Armin talks not only with himself, but also, in his over-thinking head, with many voices of influential figures of the cultural and literary scenes, and shares his doubts with them: Iranian voices like Farrokhzad and Sadegh Hedayat, and Western voices such as Franz Kafka, Karl Marx, and Richard Hoggart. He sees the similarities and differences between the image he had of Europe, and the reality there, and begins to doubt everything he has learned about life, including about feminism and racism. He has to face xenophobia, multicultural issues and fears, and all the decisions that one has to deal with in a foreign land. He is also still afraid of the Islamic Republic, and is not sure if he's allowed to write what he is writing, even though he no longer lives there.

In Vienna, the imaginary characters in his head begin to take shape more than ever, and even meet each other; Farrokhzad meets Sylvia Plath, and they share their poetry while Armin listens. Karl Marx meets George Bernard Shaw in a church and Armin participates in their conversation about religion.

He loves his studies at the university and learns more than he ever could in Iran. He discovers a (fictional) club, *The Open Secret*, where he can watch and talk about critically-acclaimed movies with figures like Slavoj Žižek, Laura Mulvey, and Roland Barthes. He finds an Austrian girlfriend. He even finds a part-time job. . But living in Vienna is not easy for someone like him, an atheist elitist who sees himself as intellectually above others

He becomes the subject of racism in his workplace and even in his own apartment, which he shares with an obnoxious young Austrian. During his almost three years in Vienna he loses his confidence, his job, and his motivation to stay. Despite his girlfriend's disapproval, he goes back. In the end, he realizes that he is actually a foreigner in Tehran, as well as in Vienna.

Armin Hamidi is originally from Tehran and has lived in Vienna since 2016. An atheist, he is interested in literature, music, cinema and cultural studies. He is also very much aware of the difficulties of getting published in the country of his birth. *A Foreigner in Vienna* is his debut novel.

Acacia • In manuscript • All rights available

The Bomber in the Basement *Fiction*

Colleen Isherwood



Scottie Bronson, a teenager from an LA suburb, who participates in a huge protest bombing in Vietnam-era California, flees, and enters Canada under the guise of a draft dodger.

When Scottie is just five, he sneaks into his brothers' friend Dylan's house to retrieve a longbow, earning the acceptance of his two older brothers and their friend. The four are inseparable until 1964, when Scottie's oldest brother Tom is drafted into the U.S. Army. When he comes back to the States two years later, he is traumatized by what he has seen and done in the Vietnamese jungle, and the Bronson family suffers along with him. Scottie drops out of school, while his brother Allan and his friend Dylan go off to university. Scottie, Allen, and Scottie's girlfriend Mary Anne visit Dylan's communal flat in San Francisco's Haight Ashbury district on the weekends, and become caught up in the anti-war movement of the time.

Then Tom commits suicide; and the anti-war protests become more personal and more violent, culminating in the Kent State massacre in May 1970.

Tom's suicide, Kent State, the looming threat of the draft, Dylan's increasing radicalization, and some words of wisdom from Scottie's father, form a deadly cocktail of emotions that makes them want to do more than simply march and carry signs. A month after Kent State, using brother Allan's scientific know-how, Scottie and the others set off an enormous bomb at the L.A. Research Center to protest Vietnam. No one is supposed to die, but someone does.

The bombers are soon on America's Most Wanted list. Scottie, now known as Barry Burns, hitchhikes to Toronto. After changing identities, jobs and cities and witnessing the capture of his co-conspirators, Scottie ends up back in Toronto after seven years on the run.

He rents the basement of a house owned by John and Katie McKittrick. Katie's new tenant's secret is gradually revealed as the story unfolds and an unlikely friendship blossoms between Scottie and his landlady.

Meanwhile, Katie has her own problems: an unfaithful husband, a boss who tries to suppress her talent as a writer, and parents who are less than supportive. Her police officer father takes an immediate dislike to her new renter.

Inspired by real events, the story includes flashbacks to the Vietnam anti-war movement of the 1960s, and the circumstances that led Barry to Katie's basement apartment. **THE BOMBER IN THE BASEMENT** is an evocation of a rapidly-changing era, an appealing story of an evolving friendship, and an exploration of the moral complexity of political actions.

Colleen McCavour Isherwood is a writer and editor, who has worked as a journalist for 45 years, producing newsletters and magazines on subjects ranging from environmental control to the hotel and restaurant business. Now retired, she has turned to fiction writing. *The Bomber in the Basement* is her first novel. Colleen lives in Toronto with her husband Steve.

Acacia

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Killings in the Kawarthas: Loves Lost

Mystery

M. M. Hill



The death of an employee at a tourist attraction brings together OPP Detective Sergeant Billy Dugan and Inspector Matt Baker on their first big case together. With the backdrop of the small towns of the Kawartha region, Dugan and Baker work to forge a partnership while they sift through the life of the victim—her wife, estranged parents, co-workers and a baffling connection to a local Indigenous lawyer.

Amid the investigation, and suffering imposter syndrome, Dugan is tempted to return to his first career and first love: baseball. A fictionalized account of his rise from a broken home in Phoenix to a star player in Baltimore forces Dugan to reflect on his hot-tempered younger self, the life he once had, and the man he has become.

Killings in the Kawarthas is 96,700 words and is the first in a planned series of character-driven, upmarket murder mysteries in the Kawartha region of Ontario. As well as a general readership, it will appeal to book clubs, senior high school grades, murder mystery fans and baseball fans.

M.M. Hill works in communications. She was in newspaper journalism beginning in the late 1980s, working full time at the national and community level as a copy editor, reporter and humour columnist in Toronto, Ottawa and the City of Kawartha Lakes. At the same time, she published freelance news, feature and travel stories in newspapers throughout Canada. Her column about life in the Kawarthas twice won an Ontario Community Newspapers Association award.

She has travelled to the U.S. and written about the Arizona Fall League for freelance feature stories in the *Ottawa Citizen*, and visited Baltimore as part of her research. The baseball minor league parts are based on the Ottawa Lynx, the Triple-A team of the Baltimore Orioles.

Acacia

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Mr. Good Evening

Mystery

JOHN MACLACHLAN GRAY



The open-and-shut case of the Fatal Flapper just won't stay closed in this thrilling and immersive novel of 1920s Vancouver, and the strange cult of Brother XII just across the water

Miss Dora Decker doesn't look like the sort of young woman capable of murder. And yet the young secretary appears to have stabbed her employer, stockbroker Ralph M. Tucker, twenty-five times with her high-heeled shoe.

Ed McCurdy, former muckraking journalist, may have traded his typewriter for a career reading radio news, but even he can see that something about the Tucker murder feels off—despite the blood-soaked evidence

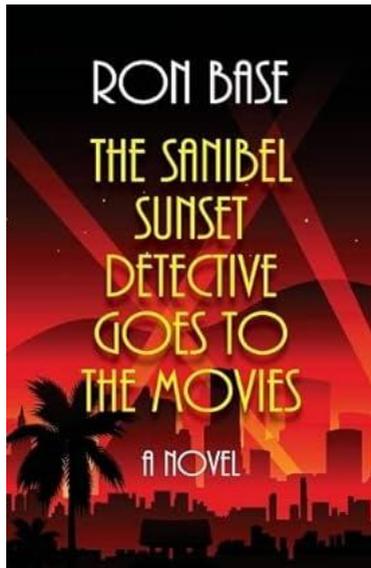
And as his on-air moniker, Mr. Good Evening, draws the wrath of the paranoid and the virtuous from far and near, McCurdy worries the next murder to make the news will be his own. McCurdy joins the host of unforgettable characters from *White Angel* and *Vile Spirits* in this liquor-soaked tale, as the story of the so-called Fatal Flapper case unfolds on the streets of gritty 1920s Vancouver—even reaching into the strange world of Brother XII's cult on Vancouver Island.

John MacLachlan Gray is a multi-talented artist. As a playwright, composer and theatre director, he has created many acclaimed productions, most notably *Billy Bishop Goes to War* (1978). As a writer, Gray has authored several books, fiction and non-fiction, including *The White Angel* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2017) and *Vile Spirits* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2021). He is an Officer of the Order of Canada. Gray lives in Vancouver, BC.

Douglas & McIntyre Spring 2024 All rights available except English Canada and audio
6" x 9" • 288 pages

The Sanibel Sunset Detective *Mystery* Goes to the Movies (14th in the series)

Ron Base



The Sanibel Sunset Detective is back--and he's in bigger trouble than ever!

The last thing Tree Callister wants is to get involved in the movie that is being shot on Sanibel Island. But the film deals with the Hollywood life of his best pal, Rex Baxter. Cast as Rex is the legendary movie star John Twist who was lured out of retirement to play the role.

Twist is a nasty, difficult drunk who needs a minder to make sure he stays sober. Tree, against his better judgment, gets dragged into the job. As filming begins, everyone involved soon comes to despise Twist. Tree has his hands full trying to keep the aging star in line.

It gets more complicated--not to mention dangerous--when a sketchy character named Shell Dean shows up accompanied by his shifty associate, Mr. Dix. Shell wants to hire Tree to find his fiancée who, he says, has been abducted by a certain famous actor currently shooting a movie in the area.

Two dead bodies show up, Rex's movie is about to collapse--and a storm is brewing. One wrong move and Tree goes to prison for the rest of his life. Or he ends up dead. As readers of the thirteen previous novels know only too well, he is adept at making all the wrong moves.

Tree finding himself nailed to a cross clad in a loincloth makes *The Sanibel Sunset Detective Goes to the Movies* the craziest, most unlikely Tree Callister adventure yet!

Ron Base is a former newspaper and magazine journalist and movie critic. His works include 20 novels, two novellas and four nonfiction books which have been published in the United States, Canada and Great Britain. He has written screenplays and worked with such legendary filmmakers as John Borman (*Deliverance*) and Roland Joffe (*The Killing Fields*). His *Sanibel Island Sunset Detective* series now numbers fourteen.

RBe Inc. March 2023
5.5 x 8.5 270 pages

All rights available except English North America

Ocean Drive

Mystery

Sam Wiebe



Small town police chief Meghan Quick and paroled killer Cameron Shaw find themselves on a collision course when the murder-by-arson of a college student sparks off gang violence along the Washington/Canada border.

His first day out of prison, paroled killer Cameron Shaw meets with a mysterious lawyer named Zoe Prentice. Zoe offers him a small fortune to infiltrate the League of Nations street gang. Cam turns her down, intending to go straight. But with no job, no family, and no prospects, he's soon compelled to take her offer.

Meanwhile, Meghan Quick, Chief of Police of the small border town of Crescent Beach, investigates the murder-by-arson of grad student Alexa Reed. In town for her mother's funeral, Alexa's behaviour during her last few days was bizarre. Why did she take down the for-sale sign at her parents' house, and why was she trying to meet with the League of Nations?

Meghan's efforts to find Alexa's killer are complicated as gang war erupts in Crescent Beach. When her son is attacked and threatened, Meghan finds few allies among the town's elite. With loyalties tested, long-buried secrets coming to light, and time running out, Meghan must find and stop Alexa's killer, while rescuing Cam from a brutal gang violence that threatens the future of Crescent Beach.

Sam Wiebe is the award-winning author of the Wakeland novels, one of the most authentic and acclaimed detective series in Canada, including *Invisible Dead* and *Cut You Down* (Random House, 2016 and 2018). Wiebe's other books include *Never Going Back* (Rapid Reads, 2020), *Last of the Independents* (Dundurn, 2014) and the Vancouver Noir anthology (Akashic Books, 2018), which he edited. He lives in New Westminster, BC.

Douglas & McIntyre

5½" × 8½" • 240 pages

• Spring 2024

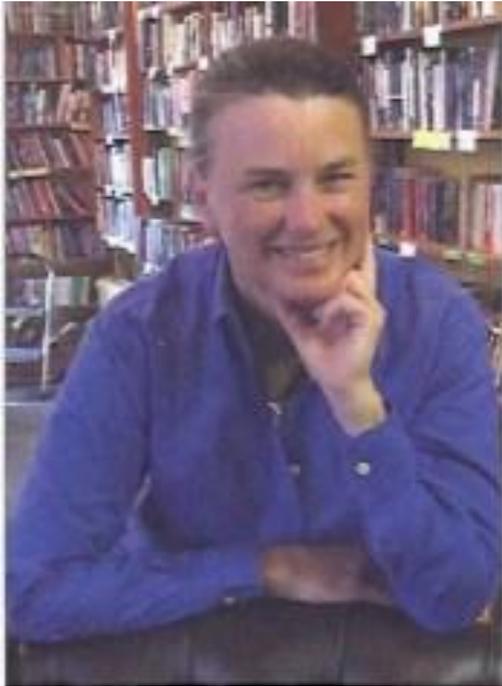
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Abyssinia

Mystery

Book One in the Spooner, Kid Detective Series

F. G. Thorsen



My name's Spooner, an' I'm a ten-year-old newsie, that means I sells newspapers. I live in San Francisco in the nineteen thirties. Better hear this right from the start, *Abysinnia* ain't a book fer kids, it's a book fer the kid in yous, the adult, an' that makes me real happy.

It tells the tale of my pal Jimmy O'Donnell who gots hisself involved with a tricky gang-a thieves. He wanted out, an' needed perfection, sos I gots the private eyes from Tate Investigations that works in the Flood Buildin' near my stand, ta help me. I'm street savvy, incorrigible, well-meanin', an' funny. I doesn't attend school no more, ona counta I gots expelled fer a reason I can't even remember now. I'm smart, like learnin' new words, an' readin' detective magazines.

There's lots-a mystery, danger, adventure, excitement, an' trouble durin' Jimmy's case, an' there's some real scary guys lurkin' in the background surprisin' me all the time. I'm real excited that I'm learnin' my detectin' ways from Tate's. Soon, I'll be able ta hang my own shingle out on my newsstand. When I'm older, I wanna be like Dick Tracy fer now I'm Spooner, Kid Detective.

Spooner and the author are currently collaborating on the second dangerous adventure, *The Bleed*, in the Spooner, Kid Detective series. Adults who enjoy reading Alan Bradley's Flavia de Luce or John Grisham's Theodore Boone series will enjoy Abyssinia

Frances G. Thorsen has been reading crime fiction since age 4. She is an educator with degrees in Classics and an M.A. Taking a year off, Frances fulfilled a lifelong dream of opening a mystery bookstore in Victoria, B.C., starting with her own 10000 book collection. She has owned Chronicles of Crime for over 18 years. A destination stop for worldwide fans, her interest in crime fiction doesn't stop there but includes: teaching crime writing, sitting on jury and conference panels, writing crime reviews for the Library Journal, editing manuscripts, and co-hosting film noir sessions. Mystery runs in her veins.

Acacia

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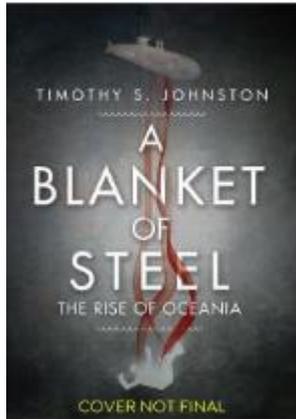
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A Blanket of Steel: The Rise of Oceania 6

Science Fiction

Timothy S. Johnston



Truman McClusky has led the underwater colonies in their fight against the world's superpowers. Climate change has devastated the surface; nations suffer famine, drought, rebellion, rising waters, and apocalyptic coastal flooding. But now, as Mac leads the underwater colonies to freedom and independence, he's faced with the gravest threat of his life: a Russian assassin, hellbent on killing Mac and everyone he cares for.

Now Mac must uncover the identity of the killer, face him in combat, and at the same time lead people in battle against the largest underwater force ever assembled. It's Mac's final test, and to win the war, he must use every tool at his disposal, including the most surprising and devastating underwater weapons ever invented. If Mac fails, all hope is lost for the future of human colonization on the ocean floors. But the assassin could be anyone ...

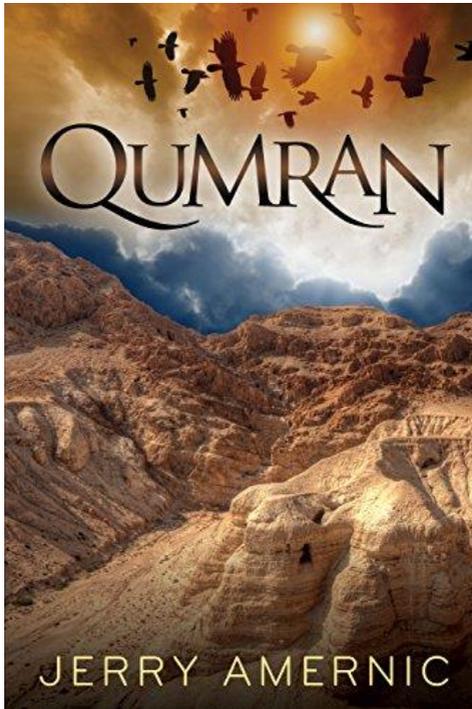
Timothy S. Johnston is the author of the Science Fiction/Thrillers, *The War Beneath*, *The Savage Deep*s, *Fatal Depth*, *The Furnace*, *The Freezer*, and *The Void*, and he has won the GLOBAL THRILLER Award, the EPIC Award, the CYGNUS Award, as well as the CLUE Award

Fitzhenry & Whiteside • Fall 2023 • All rights except English North America available
6 x 9 416 pages

Qumran

Jerry Amernic

Thriller



David Marr, archeologist and world authority on the Romans, has spent his life studying the Holy Land with all its violence and unrest that go back to the time of the scriptures. While teaching in Jerusalem, he makes the most dramatic discovery of his life just off the shore of the Dead Sea near the site of the ancient monastic settlement at Qumran. It is something that could have huge repercussions with the potential to turn the world on its side.

David first whet his appetite as a student when he played a crucial role in the 1947 discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. His later adventures with the Holy Grail and Holy Shroud brought him to the forefront of the maelstrom that develops whenever science confronts religion

The backdrop to these experiences was always war--Israel's War of Independence in 1948, the Six Day War in 1967, the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Throughout it all, he has carved a career of widespread renown, but has seen so much evidence of man's brutality to man that he is spiritually disillusioned.

As he begins to unearth clues about what he has found, he and those closest to him--his Jewish-American wife Gita, the brilliant Egyptian pathologist Jamil Hassad, and his Israeli research assistant Robbie Schueftan--all find themselves in danger. Now David the scientist, whose life has always be ruled by logic and reason, isn't certain about anything and he won't rest until he finds the truth.

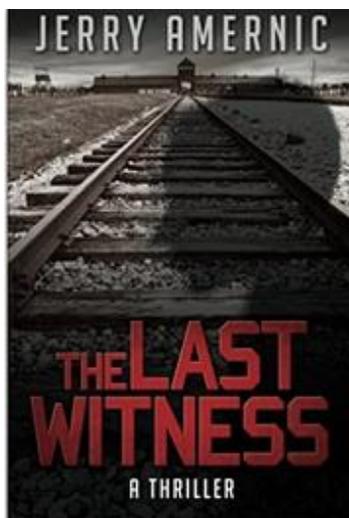
Jerry Amernic has been a newspaper reporter and columnist, feature writer for magazines, editor and teacher of writing at several community colleges in Ontario, and a media consultant. His first novel Gift of the Bambino got great reviews in Canada and the United States. His other novels, both of them historical, are The Last Witness and Qumran which garnered strong reviews. He is also the author of several non-fiction books including Victims: The Orphans of Justice, and DUTY – the Life of a Cop, which is the memoir of Julian Fantino.

Story Merchant • Available • All rights except English available
6" x 9" • 302 pages

The Last Witness

Jerry Amernic

Fiction



The year is 2039, and Jack Fisher is the last living survivor of the Holocaust. Set in a world that is abysmally complacent about events of the last century, Jack is a 100-year-old man whose worst memories took place before he was 5. His story harkens back to the Jewish ghetto of his birth and to Auschwitz where, as a little boy, he had to fend for himself to survive after losing his family. Jack becomes the central figure in a missing-person investigation when his granddaughter suddenly disappears. While assisting police, he finds himself in danger and must reach into the darkest corners of his memory to come out alive.

"Amernic expertly juxtaposes a future that seems both uninformed and uninterested in the past with a past brought vividly to life with well-researched details, squarely tackling such issues as anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial." - *Historical Novel Society*

"Jerry Amernic's *The Last Witness* is beautifully written and well-researched. It is a look into the near-future without Buck Rogers spaceships whizzing around, where the changes tend to be subtle, except where memory is concerned. In the world of 2039, certain inconvenient truths have been more or less erased. That's what makes a one hundred-year-old Auschwitz survivor so dangerous. An accomplished work, an unusual approach to an oft-written about subject, and a timely reminder about the dangers of forgetting." - Ron Base, author of the *Sansibel Sunset Detective* series and coauthor of the *Priscilla Tempest* series (*Death at the Savoy*)

Jerry Amernic's *THE LAST WITNESS* is one of the finest thrillers I've read in years. The pages turned late into the night, with real and relatable characters, impeccable dialogue and a riveting plot that provided important information as much as it entertained. Although it is a work of fiction, *THE LAST WITNESS* is framed with such historical accuracy that it should—in my opinion—be deemed required reading for high school students." - Steven Manchester, author of *The Rockin' Chair* and other works

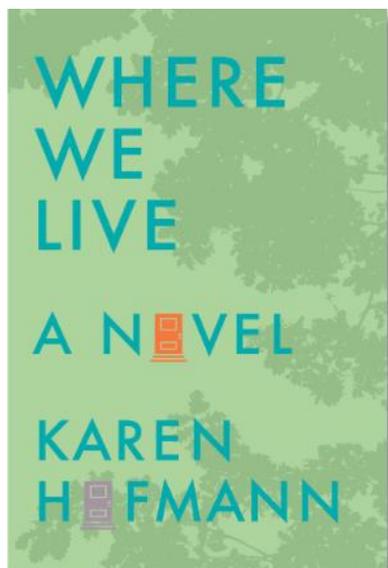
Jerry Amernic is an author of fiction and non-fiction books. He has been a columnist and correspondent for daily newspapers, and is a contributor to many magazines. An avid student of history, the sciences, and archaeology, he is a member of such organizations as the James A. Michener Society, and International Thriller Writers. In his research for the book, Jerry met with former child survivors of the Holocaust in order to better capture their experiences in his novel.

Story Merchant	•	Available	•	All rights except English available
6" x 9"	•	330 pages		

Where We Live

Fiction

Karen Hofmann



The third and final novel in the Lund sibling series, *Where We Live* continues the story of four Vancouverites, separated in childhood, reunited and now middle-aged, as they navigate urban life, work, relationships, and parenting in the late 2010s. With their familial bond shaped by their divergent adult experiences as well as their shared early childhood in a rural West Coast community, the lives of these siblings cross, separate, and rejoin yet again, in paths informed by nature and by nurture. Subject to the pressures of their environment and remembered or forgotten family history each sibling struggles to realize their aspirations in their search for a true home.

“Approaching middle age, Cleo, Mandalay, and Cliff go through a year of unsettling changes to their careers, families, homes, and hearts. As they each discover the future is not what they expected, they must re-imagine who they are and where they want to be. In deft, clear prose, author Karen Hofmann unveils the simple, miraculous transformations that are always at work, though seldom noticed, in everyday life. *Where We Live* is a fine and richly textured work of art, a story both brilliant and wise.”— Catherine Hunter, author of *After Light* and *St. Boniface Elegies*.

Karen Hofmann grew up in the Okanagan and now lives in Victoria, BC. She is the author of three previous novels: *After Alice*, *What is Going to Happen Next*, and *A Brief View from the Coastal Suite*, as well as a collection of short fiction, *Echolocation*.

NeWest	March 2024	All rights available except English North America print and audio
6 X 9	336 pages	

Agua Caliente

The Casey Tate series

Frances G. Thorsen

Mystery



“Catch them! I am glad you took over your brother’s firm. I trust you implicitly, Miss Tate.”

My skin tingled. A shiver travelled along my spine. “Nate would insist.” Mr. Fairbanks accepted my card and placed it on his desk, Tate Investigations name face up.

1934, San Francisco. Casey Tate and her investigators begin work on a cold case involving insurance fraud. Struggling to get a handle on the perpetrators, they soon realize that nothing is as it seems.

Simultaneously, a reliable source stumbles over a family secret that Casey cannot ignore - positive the discovery will lead to her brother’s murderer. As a result, she is embroiled in double trouble. Work on the separate cases collides and takes her along a reinvestigation of the past. Experience the not so dirty ‘30s by road, sea, and air as the team travels up and down the coast of Southern California and across the border to the luxurious resort Agua Caliente, Mexico. What occurs is a shocking climax.

Readers who enjoy Jacqueline Winspeare or Carola Dunn fans will enjoy this new private eye, Casey Tate

Frances G. Thorsen has been reading crime fiction since age 4. She is an educator with degrees in Classics and an M.A. Taking a year off, Frances fulfilled a lifelong dream of opening a mystery bookstore in Victoria, B.C., starting with her own 10000 book collection. She has owned Chronicles of Crime for over 14 years. A destination stop for worldwide fans, her interest in crime fiction doesn’t stop there but includes: teaching crime writing, sitting on jury and conference panels, writing crime reviews for the Library Journal, editing manuscripts, and co-hosting film noir sessions. Mystery runs in her veins.

Acacia

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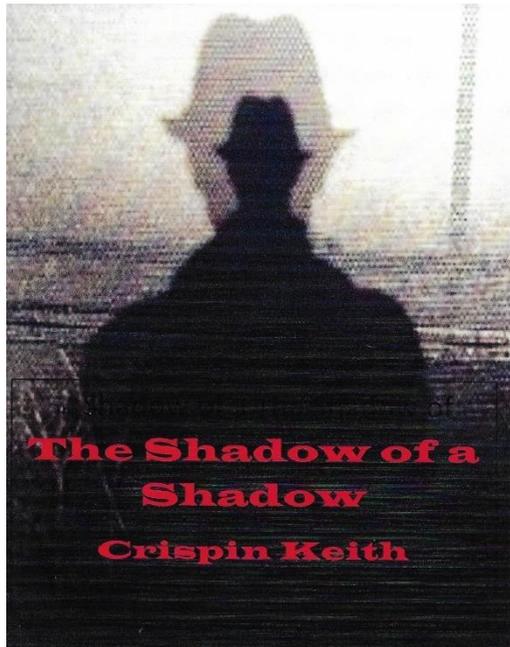
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Shadow of a Shadow *Thriller*

The first in the Lydia Twomey Series

Crispin Keith



Exploring the darkest corners of the British Intelligence Service, *Shadow of a Shadow* is the first in a series of five thrillers that are very contemporary but also recall both John LeCarré and Agatha Christie. It's a classic whodunit set against a political plot and terrorist outrages, with a lethal mix of civil service infighting and gender issues. Much of the action takes place in H11, an archive of material so sensitive that it has an "air gap": housed in the deepest basement of MI5's London HQ, it is electronically unconnected to the outside world. It is staffed by MI5 rejects and oddballs.

Lydia Twomey, a "modern suffragette", no fan of the public school and Oxbridge-educated male elite who run MI5, is sent down to H11 to investigate the death of one of the staff who supposedly died in an autoerotic accident. She finds a claustrophobic, isolated world ruled over by the charismatic Gerard Bell; Lydia is quickly convinced that the accident was murder and that one of the seven H11 staff were involved. Another murder takes place, and Lydia becomes a target herself. She is aided by her mother (a multiple sclerosis sufferer), hindered by her bosses, and targeted by Turkish gangsters with connections to MI5. As the body count rises, it becomes clear that an attempted coup d'état is about to be triggered by missing evidence in H11 and a spate of terrorist attacks. Lydia knows she can identify the killer down in H11 if she can find the missing evidence, but she doesn't know who is on her side. The terrifying climax takes place in a blacked-out H11 with the security doors jammed, leaving Lydia with a corpse and the killer.

Subsequent Titles:

2. Storm Forecast

Fact: In 2018 the handling of security threats from right wing extremists was transferred from Counter Terrorism (SO15) to MI5.

When some right-wing informers previously run by SO15 are threatened and one of them is killed, SO15 and MI5 blame each other for the leak. Lydia is directed to investigate along with SO15 officers. She suspects that the informers know of a serious plot. Her SO15 colleague, the charismatic Giles Mortimer, begins an affair with her. Is he genuinely on her side against the obstruction of their bosses, or is he a right-wing stooge who will kill her if she gets too close to the truth? Lydia's mother reveals some of Giles' disguises, but Lydia still trusts him. Will she be proven correct? The deadly climax takes place on the icy Essex marshes.

3. The Truth is a Snare

This is a tale of betrayals, banks scams, obsessive stalking, childbirth, departmental infighting, social media defamation, assassinations and official cynicism.

When Lydia is visiting her brother in Dubai, he goes missing, and she finds herself caught up in the international plot that ensnared him. Her investigation into Birmingham Islamic radicals is compromised, and she is targeted by Lebanese gangsters, mercenary assassins, senior MI6 agents and a vengeful Emirati who wants to rape and kill her. She is aided by a fraudulent young crypto-security bank employee, her ailing mother, her heavily pregnant boss and a hangdog Lincolnshire birdwatcher. It should be no contest.

4. Toxic Behaviour

It is 2020, and the Covid pandemic has struck the UK.

In London, Members of Parliament play their annual bridge match against MI5. It ends badly; a beautiful woman is poisoned by one of the seven other players—but which one, and why? Lydia is brought in to investigate alongside the Metropolitan Police Special Branch. Meanwhile, an ambitious journalist gets wind of the murder and, scenting a scoop, goes on the trail of the killer. The investigation is complicated by Covid lockdowns, an intrigue involving Russian money laundering, sex scandals and government cover-ups. Will Lydia get to the truth before she too is silenced?

5. Then Silence

Lydia and her boss Sophie Hutchings are carrying out “Deep Vetting” on three very different candidates for the post of Director of GCHQ, the UK spy centre.

A chance meeting in a Cheltenham hotel lobby comes back to haunt Lydia. She has no idea that the man trying to chat her up is one of the world's deadliest assassins. When she discovers the truth about three shocking, brutal slayings, no one believes her, including Sophie, and the plot to smear candidates for the post of GCHQ Director gathers pace.

Which of the candidates has set up the murders, and how is Lydia's boss involved? Why is the mysterious assassin always one step ahead and why has he shifted his sights to target Lydia?

The stakes are high and the killings won't stop.

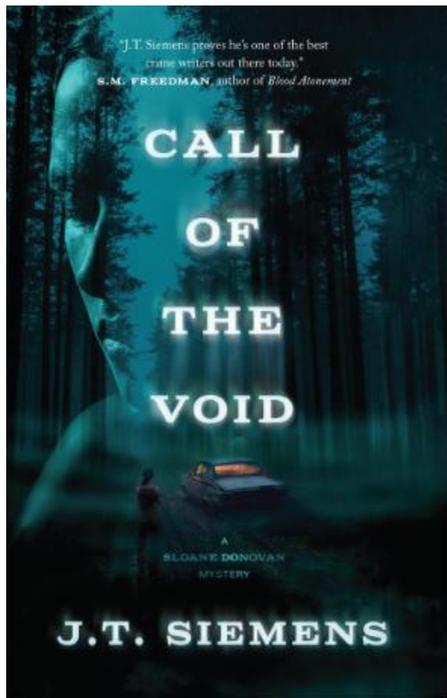
Crispin Keith has had five previous thrillers, one historical novel, and a collection of short stories published as ebooks and in paperback on Amazon, and has had numerous educational works for secondary history conventionally published.

The Book Guild manuscript	•	The Shadow of a Shadow available	•	All other titles in
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Call of the Void

Mystery

J.T. Siemens



Now a fully-fledged private investigator, Sloane Donovan is bored by her latest task of keeping a debauched starlet alive and out of the headlines as she films a movie in Vancouver. When she and her partner Wayne Capson are contacted by a grieving mother looking to resurrect the cold case of her missing daughter, Sloane finds herself inexorably drawn into a clandestine world of disappearing girls, illegal narcotics and loose ends dating back forty years.

Careening from the hardest edges of the city to creepy rural backroads where cries go unheard, Sloane's relentless quest places the people closest to her at risk, while her own personal demons threaten to devour her.

Lightning-paced and unputdownable, *Call of the Void* cements Sloane Donovan's position amid the new generation of hard-boiled sleuths

“In this masterful follow-up, J.T. Siemens proves he’s one of the best crime writers out there today. Written with grit and heart, *Call of the Void* drops Sloane Donovan into Vancouver’s sinister underbelly as her search for one missing girl unearths secrets someone would kill to keep buried.”

— S.M. Freedman, author of *Blood Atonement* |

Globe and Mail Top 100 Best Books of 2022 & Crime

Writers of Canada Awards of Excellence Finalist

J.T. Siemens has worked as a personal trainer and been a bouncer in some rough places. His first novel, *To Those Who Killed Me* was short-listed for the Arthur Ellis Unhanged Award and was published in 2022. He lives in Vancouver with his wife and two cats.

NeWest • March 2024 • All rights available except English North America print and audio
5 x 8 • 384 pages

All That's Left

Fiction

Lisa Guenther



Darby Swank's entire life changed when her Aunt Bea was brutally murdered one summer in their rural Saskatchewan community.

Following her gripping debut *Friendly Fire*, Lisa Guenther skillfully picks up Darby's story a few weeks after the dramatic finale. Building her life anew, Darby makes new and lasting friendships and connections with recently found family members, including her charismatic cousin Brynny, a young woman leading an exciting and inclusive church in rural Alberta. Darby begins to make a name for herself on the Canadian music scene.

Landing a sought after gig with an established Toronto band, Darby is thrust into the life of a working musician on the road. Still haunted by the violence hidden in her past, Darby must find a way to live at least partially in the public eye, as her music career takes off, and her Aunt Bea's art and story become more and more well known.

Guenther's second novel is a pressing account of a life wrecked by trauma, and rebuilt brick by brick with joy, love, and friendship. Guenther asks important questions of privacy, safety, and the vulnerability of artists in the public eye, while meditating on the importance of art and community.

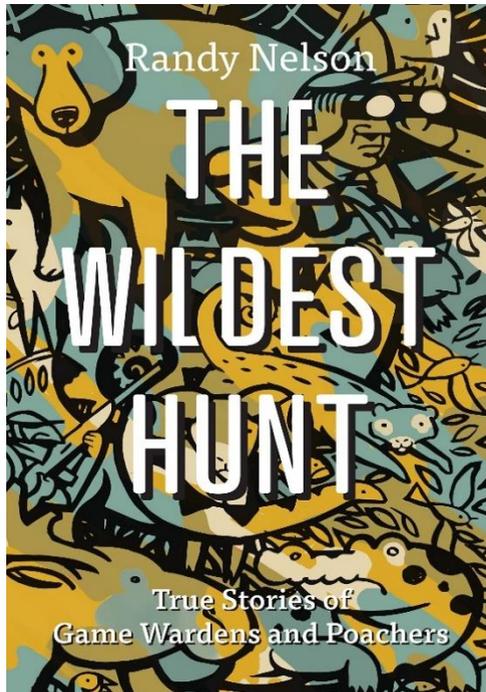
Lisa Guenther is a writer and editor in northwestern Saskatchewan. She has previously written for *Grainews* and *Country Guide*, and is currently the editor of *Canadian Cattlemen Magazine*. Her previous novel, *Friendly Fire*, was shortlisted for a Saskatchewan Book Award and placed second in the Saskatchewan Writers Guild's John V. Hicks Long Manuscript Award.

NeWest • May 2024 • All rights available except English North America print and audio
5 x 9 304 pages

The Wildest Hunt: True Stories of Game Wardens and Poachers

Randy Nelson

Adventure



A lively collection of wilder-than-fiction poaching stories from across Canada and the US, including insights from investigating officers involved in real poaching situations.

Get ready to read some of the wildest true crime imaginable. Showcasing fish and wildlife poaching stories from every province and territory in Canada and every state in the United States, decorated fishery officer Randy Nelson offers a thrilling look into a dangerous industry.

With insights gathered through thousands of phone calls and emails to investigating officers, *The Wildest Hunt* collects over one hundred North American fish and wildlife officers' stories, with tales ranging from absolutely disgusting to hysterically hilarious. Nelson takes readers across North America, from busting turtle-trafficking rings in Oklahoma to collecting a 4.5-metre beluga whale from a bus in Saskatchewan.

Randy Nelson has since become the most decorated fishery officer in the history of the British Columbia having received multiple awards, such as the international Pogue-Elms Award and the Queen's Jubilee Medal, in his thirty-five year career. Randy is an accomplished athlete, having raced in over two hundred competitions including ten marathons. He used that running ability to literally run down and catch hundreds of poachers. Randy is also the author of *Poachers, Polluters and Politics* (Harbour Publishing, 2014).

Harbour Publishing • October 2022 • all rights except English North America available
6" x 9" • 288 pages

Leave Your Plans Behind

Adventure

Noah Arshinoff



This new adventure story set in the Arctic will remind you very much of Bill Bryson.

“It was going to be the trip of a lifetime – the perfect adventure for two wannabe explorers only recently graduated from law school about to enter the corporate legal world. But this was no all-inclusive, sun-drenched, cocktail sipping, beach party type trip. That wasn’t for us. We were made of harder stuff. We were off to explore Canada’s Arctic. It was to be our last hurrah, a journey to the great white north, land of mystique, intrigue, and danger, only slightly shaded by tales of those who went before us who succumbed to the harshness of the environment. We would pitch our tent on top of permafrost rather than sleep in fancy hotels - no computers, cell phones or internet. All social interactions would be in real time face-to-face. It would be a test of our inner fortitude. We were made of frontier stock.”

“Armed with too much arrogance and the certain conviction, “how hard can this be?”, my friend Sebastien and I were saved more by luck and good fortune than any outdoors skills we thought we had.

We were right about one thing though: it turned out to be one hell of an odyssey to the ends of the Earth.

None of our pre-planning counted for much. But before we were through, we somehow managed to drive a 25-year-old rust bucket car that we bartered for a can of coke and a steak 1,500 kilometers to the tip of the Northwest Territories. We canoed the Arctic Ocean – or at least tried to, before being defeated by 4-foot waves, howling winds, mosquito armies, and temperatures that fluctuate more in a day than GameStop shares. As hypothermia beckoned, we were stranded miles from anything resembling civilization, 150 kilometers from nowhere.

But just when things seemed hopeless as we huddled under our flipped canoe for shelter, a solitary figure appeared out of the mist, walking the rain swept, barren shoreline, heading in our direction. Our rescuer wasn't a mirage. He was an Inuit man, who luckily for us, chose that moment in time to be at his traditional whaling camp, just down the shore from where we were stranded. His invitation to join him is what saved us. Living with his Inuit family, and our journey into the harsh desolate land that can be the Canadian Arctic, took us from the brink of disaster to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It was a lesson in survival. But it was also the chance to live amongst a culture few ever witness. The unexpected helping hand of numerous strangers and my enduring, yet at times tumultuous, relationship with Sebastien were some of the ingredients that went into this buffet of arctic adventures.

Good fortune? Fate? Destiny? Why were we so lucky when other Arctic wanderers weren't?

How do a people who survive in a land that can be such a hostile place, thrive in that same environment? How can two smart, well-educated, well-traveled, and well-prepared men be saved over and over by good luck rather than good brains, all the while learning the hard truth that the must-have ingredient to success is a sense of community. Appreciating life, and the raw feeling of simply being alive, are just some of the reasons why "Leave Your Plans Behind" is the real-life story that I need to tell.

Noah Arshinoff is an adventure traveler and seeker of forgotten places. He has run with the bulls in Spain, cage dived with great white sharks in South Africa, gone skydiving in Namibia and been stranded on the Arctic Coast in Canada's north. He has travelled to over 50 countries and has been to every corner of his native Canada.

Noah's vocation is as a lawyer, but he's also a business consultant and advocacy strategist with experience in the public, private, and association sectors. With a focus on global ethical business practices, he has successfully advocated for amendments to various pieces of anti-corruption legislation and policy. He has written numerous submissions to government and appeared before Parliamentary Committees to provide testimony on a wide range of issues.

Noah sits on various legal and policy-oriented bodies such as Transparency International-Canada's Legal Committee and the Canadian Bar Association's Anti-Corruption Team. As a thought leader in the field, he has published several articles and papers, most recently on how to re-imagine corporate accountability in a way that transcends national criminal law systems and has presented his ideas before the OECD and World Bank.

His passion truly lies in the mystique of frozen places and hard to reach corners of the world. He has 3 young kids and lives with his family in Ottawa.

Acacia

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In Manuscript

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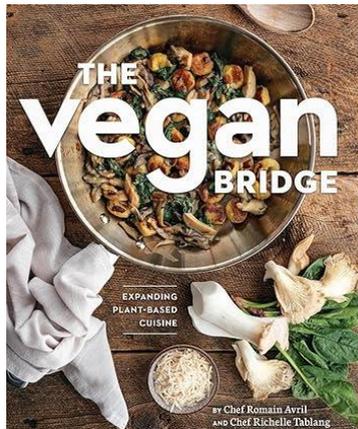
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The Vegan Bridge

Cooking

Adding Plant-Based Flare to the Carnivore's Kitchen

Romain Avril and Richelle Tablang



For the meat-eater looking to incorporate vegetarian options into their repertoire; for the novice chef trying to develop new techniques; for the home cook who wants to dazzle with recipes that are bold, flavourful, and totally unique—French-trained chefs Romain Avril and Richelle Tablang want to introduce you to the Vegan Bridge. From simple snacks and sides that add a vegan twist to a flexible meal, to showstopping vegan mains that will enthrall vegetarians and omnivores alike, Romain and Richelle demonstrate how incorporating vegan meals into everyday life can be done easily, without sacrificing taste or presentation.

Selling Points: Over 100 recipes ranging from convenient everyday snacks and smoothies to ambitious restaurant-quality entrées that will impress.

Creative menu plans that encourage carnivores to expand their palette without sacrificing flavour. Packed with kitchen tips and unique insights from two accomplished chefs.

Sample Recipes: Chive Gnocchi with Wild Mushrooms Florentine; Deep-Fried Tomatillo Tacos; Cauliflower Tikka Masala

"Beautifully and profusely illustrated throughout with full color, full page photography, *The Vegan Bridge: Adding Plant-Based Flair to the Carnivore's Kitchen* is a very special coffee-table style paperback (8.5 x 11 inches, 1.98 pounds) that will grace any personal, professional, or community library cookbook collection — and will be especially appreciated by anyone wanting to sample what vegan dishes can do for their palate pleasing, appetite satisfying offerings that will have appeal for even the most carnivore of friends and family members."— Midwest Book Review

Romain Avril is a French-trained chef, born in Paris, who is known for his creative and ambitious cooking. He discovered his passion for cooking at a young age and worked at numerous Michelin-star restaurants in France and the UK, increasingly focusing his attention on fusion and molecular gastronomy.

Richelle Tablang was born and raised in Toronto to a family of Filipino immigrants who always emphasized the value of food and its origins. After studying baking and pastry arts in Toronto, Richelle fell in love with French pastry, eventually moving to France to further her education.

Fitzhenry & Whiteside
8.5 x 11 240 pages

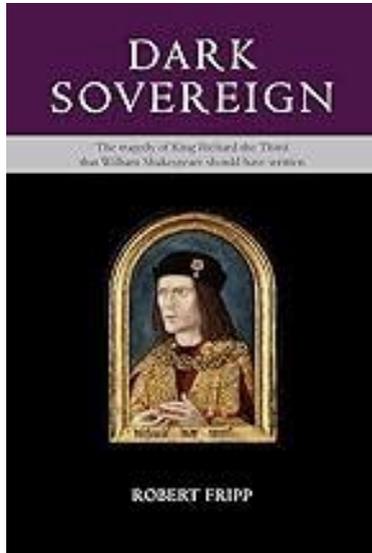
May 2023

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Dark Sovereign

Drama

Robert Fripp



William Shakespeare's "Tragedy of Richard the Third" branded King Richard with a nightmare reputation. British author Robert Fripp attacks Shakespeare's interpretation by writing "Dark Sovereign" in Shakespeare's English--a first in four centuries. Fripp's "Dark Sovereign" dramatizes the genuine tragedy of King Richard III while becoming the longest play ever written in renaissance English. Fripp produced investigative television before he set out to overturn Shakespeare's verdict on Richard III.

Backing up this reinterpretation and restoration of Richard the Third's reputation regarding the heinous accusation that he had the two princes murdered in the Tower of London, Philippa Langley, who found Richard III's skeleton under a parking lot in 2012, published a book this November. Her book came with a TV documentary, showing that the two princes appear to have been alive at least two years after Richard III was killed in battle. In short, he did not order them killed.

The distinguished scholar Northrop Frye published a fine review of Dark Sovereign and called it among "books valuable to the study of literature."

Robert Fripp had a long career as an executive investigative producer for CBC, and is the author of *Power of a Woman: Memoirs of a Turbulent Life* a work of creative nonfiction centred on Eleanor of Aquitaine dictating her memoirs and two volumes of *Wessex Tales: Eight Thousand years in the life of an English village* comprising 40 short stories.

Shillingford
5.5 x 9 240 pages

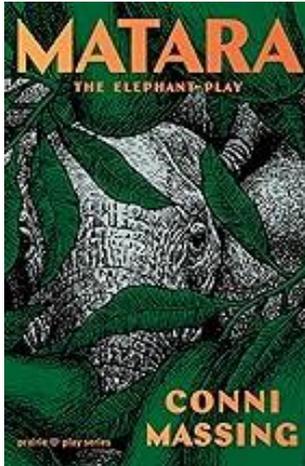
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All rights available

Matarara: The Elephant Play

Drama

Conni Massing



At a crumbling zoo, an elephant keeper, a security guard, and a newly hired media consultant have differing views over what should be done about the zoo's main attraction, the aging Sri Lankan elephant Matarara. Matarara is deteriorating by the day following the loss of her companion elephant Cheerio, and a petition is circulating to try to force the zoo's management to move her to a sanctuary. Karen, Matarara's keeper, argues adamantly that the zoo is Matarara's home and family, and that she is not strong enough to travel. Romney, the enthusiastic but increasingly stressed media consultant, thinks more about donations and galas than Matarara's life, while Marcel, the security guard and an international graduate student struggling in the last stages of his thesis, understands the perspective of the protestors even as he seeks to protect the zoo's employees.

Weaving between the perspectives of public relations, zoos as unique spaces of human animal interaction, and the question of whether or not zoos should exist at all, Conni Massing's latest play takes inspiration from real life debates that surround Lucy, the lone elephant at the Edmonton Valley Zoo, asking poignant questions about our relationships with animals, and the power dynamics and instability that surround them.

"Massing weaves [this] tale with her customary finesse." LIANE FAULDER, *The Edmonton Journal*

"The thorny idea of 'home,' what it means, what it can legitimately claim to possess, what it plants in the heart, is everywhere in Conni Massing's provocative, thoughtful, absorbing -- and genuinely strange -- new play *Matarara*." LIZ NICHOLLS, *12thnight.ca*

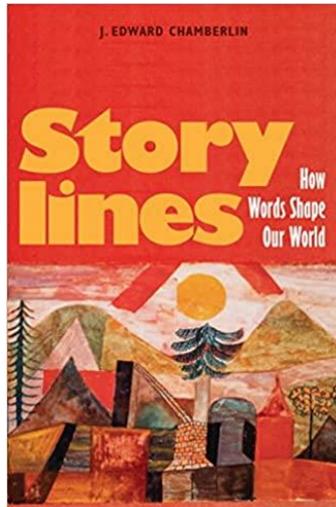
"Massing sure knows how to tell a story." COLIN MACLEAN, *Gigcity.ca*

Conni Massing is an Edmonton-based playwright and screenwriter, who has written nearly twenty stage plays as well as short films and television drama. She works steadily as a story consultant and dramaturg, and has taught screenwriting and playwriting for a variety of institutions. Conni's published work includes six of her plays and a comic memoir, *Roadtripping: On the Move with the Buffalo Gals*. Her writing has been recognized by AMPIA, the Academy of Cinema and Television, the Betty Mitchell Awards, the Writers Guild of Alberta and the Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Awards.

NeWest • October 2023 • All print rights available except English North America
5 x 9 • 104 pages

Storylines: How Words Shape Our World

Folklore/Mythology



A brilliant and timely exploration of the power of stories and songs—from both the distant past and today’s news—counters despair and disillusionment with hope and possibility.

Stories are our first and last survival strategy. For tens of thousands of years, they have told humanity what we know and what we don’t know, what to wonder about and what to watch out for. We draw comfort from our great myths, and from the storytelling of our contemporaries (including members of our families). Storytelling holds us together. And sometimes it keeps us apart..

“Ted Chamberlin will always be, first and foremost, a willing disciple to the craft of storytelling: as a listener, as a fan, and as a practitioner. Ted reminds us that stories mend and stories bring hope. This book is a great sharing of a life truly lived with the everyday wonder and celebration of The Great Mystery. I applaud you, Ted, from one storyteller to another. This was a joy to read. “

— Richard Van Camp, author of *Gather: Richard Van Camp on Storytelling*

Praise for Edward Chamberlin’s previous books

Horse: How the Horse Has Shaped Civilizations

"A philosophical history and a lyrical essay...especially eloquent on the paradox of the horse as domestic animal that also represents wildness." —Washington Post

"This remarkable and engrossing book will provide a wealth of unexpected knowledge about the role of horses in human history." —Michael Korda, author, *Horse People*

A genuine labor of love and awe and a treasure trove of equinalia, *Horse* is bound to find many delighted fans." —Los Angeles Times

Island: How Islands Transform the World

"A delightful, enlightening book that employs islands as jumping-off points for essays on a wide range of topics from A(nthropology) to Z(oology)...A slim book that takes readers on a mind-expanding journey."--KIRKUS REVIEWS

"...Chamberlin approaches his vast subject, the islands of the world, from every angle...[a] wealth of information for island enthusiasts."--LIBRARY JOURNAL

"The wealth of fascinating detail makes for an instructive and entertaining read."--
HISTORICAL NOVELS REVIEW

"Chamberlin's "Island" is an extremely pleasant read. Elegant...there are serendipitous delights..."--THE SPECTATOR (U.K.)

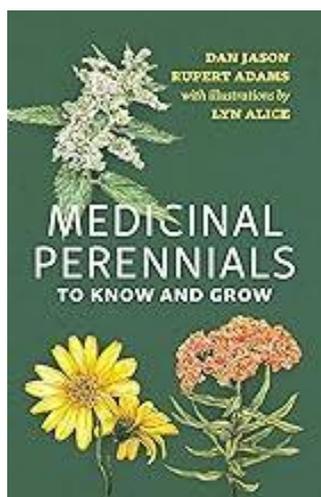
J. Edward Chamberlin is professor emeritus at the University of Toronto and was senior research associate with the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. He has worked on sovereignty and land claims throughout Canada and around the world, and has spoken widely on literary, historical and cultural issues. He is the author of several acclaimed titles, including *Horse: How the Horse Has Shaped Civilizations* (2006), which was a national bestseller, and *If This Is Your Land, Where Are Your Stories? Finding Common Ground* (2003), both published by Knopf Canada. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada, and now lives in Halfmoon Bay, BC.

Douglas & McIntyre	•	May 2023	•	all rights available except English Canada
8.5 x 5.5	•	208 pages		

Medicinal Perennials to Know and Grow

Gardening

Dan Jason and Rupert Adams, illustrated by Lyn Adams



Growing your own medicine is empowering—learn how with plant activists Dan Jason and Rupert Adams.

Many common, easy-to-grow plants can energize or soothe, stimulate the immune system, aid in sleep or digestion, help to heal injuries, change blood pressure, reverse inflammation, soothe a sore throat—and more. But how do you find or grow them, and how do you use them?

This compact book describes some of the best-known medicinal plants and provides expert information on their care and use. Accompanied by the beautiful watercolour illustrations of Lyn Alice, Dan Jason and Rupert Adams explain the nature of each plant, how to grow them, their medicinal properties and other potential perks, such as their ability to produce dyes or attract pollinators.

Dan Jason has owned and operated the mailorder seed company Salt Spring Seeds since 1986 and Rupert Adams has worked for over two decades with Dan Jason, currently growing a wide variety of vegetable, grain and herb seeds for Salt Spring Seeds and the BC Eco Seed Co-op. The medicinal perennials in this book will be beautiful, useful and environmentally positive additions to any local garden.

“Medicinal Perennials to Know and Grow is a wonderful book that inspires and provides knowledge on how to grow your own medicinal plants. This valuable information will help you to create an earth-loving garden that is biologically diverse and will provide you with beneficial and sustainable medicine for years to come. With every passing season perennial medicine plants get stronger, bigger and expand their root systems and once they are established are easy to care for. Harvesting and making medicines with plants that you have grown is a wonderful feeling, as you are in touch with every aspect from the seed to the harvest to the medicine! If you are looking for information on how to do this or expand your already growing garden, I would recommend this beautifully illustrated book that is packed full of wisdom and practical knowledge.”— Beverley Gray, Herbalist and author of *The Boreal Herbal: Wild Food and Medicine Plants of the North and Medicinal Wild Plants of Canada*.

“Anyone interested in herbs will enjoy this beautifully illustrated little guide from two people who know these plants well. Even gardeners already familiar with some of the plants profiled may be surprised to learn that they have medicinal qualities or how valuable many are to pollinators. The information on growing and using each plant is clear, practical and provides all you need to know to have a thriving garden of interesting herbs.”— Linda Gilkeson, author of *Backyard Bounty: The Complete Guide to Year-Round Organic Gardening in the Pacific Northwest*

Dan Jason lives on Salt Spring Island, BC, where he founded the mail-order seed company Salt Spring Seeds. He has written many bestselling books about growing and preparing food sustainably, including *The Whole Organic Food Book* (Raincoast Books, 2001) and *Saving Seeds as if Our Lives Depended on It* (Salt Spring Seeds, 2006).

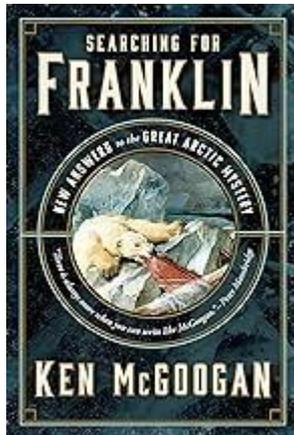
Rupert Adams specializes in growing medicinal herbs and runs his own medicinal herb and tincture business, Kairos Botanicals. Adams worked for three years as a coordinator and advisor to the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security. He currently resides and grows at Abundance Community Farm in Agassiz, BC.

Lyn Alice has studied at the American Academy of Art in Chicago and at the Denver Botanic Gardens' School of Botanical Art & Illustration.

Harbour Publishing	•	Fall 2023	•	All rights except English Canada available
5.5 x 8.5	•	120 pages		

Searching for Franklin: *History* New Answers to the Great Arctic Mystery

Ken McGoogan



Two of Arctic explorer Sir John Franklin’s expeditions were monumental failures—the last one leading to more than a hundred deaths, including his own. Yet many still see the Royal Navy man as a heroic figure who sacrificed himself to discovering the Northwest Passage.

This book, McGoogan's sixth about Arctic exploration, challenges that vision. It rejects old orthodoxies, incorporates the latest discoveries, and interweaves two main narratives.

The first treats the Royal Navy’s Arctic Overland Expedition of 1819, a harbinger-misadventure during which Franklin rejected the advice of Dene and Metis leaders and lost eleven of his twenty-one men to exhaustion, starvation, and murder. The second discovers a startling new answer to that greatest of Arctic mysteries: what was the root cause of the catastrophe that engulfed Franklin’s last expedition?

The well-preserved wrecks of Erebus and Terror—located in 2014 and 2016—promise to yield more clues about what cost the lives of the expedition members, some of whom were reduced to cannibalism. Contemporary researchers, rejecting theories of lead poisoning and botulism, continue to seek conclusive evidence both underwater and on land.

Drawing on his own research and Inuit oral accounts, McGoogan teases out many intriguing aspects of Franklin’s expeditions, including the explorer’s lethal hubris in ignoring the expert advice of the Dene leader Akaitcho. Franklin disappeared into the Arctic in 1845, yet people remain fascinated with his final doomed voyage: what happened? McGoogan will captivate readers with his first-hand account of traveling to relevant locations, visiting the graves of dead sailors, and experiencing the Arctic—one of the most dramatic and challenging landscapes on the planet.

Ken McGoogan is an award-winning and best-selling Canadian author who travels the world researching for his writing. He has published numerous fiction and non-fiction books, including several Arctic histories. His best-selling books include *Dead Reckoning* (Patrick Crean Editions, 2017), *Fatal Passage*, *50 Canadians Who Changed the World* and *Lady Franklin's Revenge* (Phyllis Bruce Books: 2001, 2013 and 2005). McGoogan is a fellow of the Explorers' Club and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society

Douglas & McIntyre • October 2023 • All rights available except English Canada and audio
6.25 x 9.25 • 360 pages

Pacific Voyages

Exploration of the Greatest Ocean

GORDON MILLER

History



“Few artists are also historians, and few historians have the talent to illustrate the people and events they study. [Gordon Miller’s] paintings of ships under sail, wrecked on a lee shore, in storms and in cities are luminous.”—*Pacific Yachting*

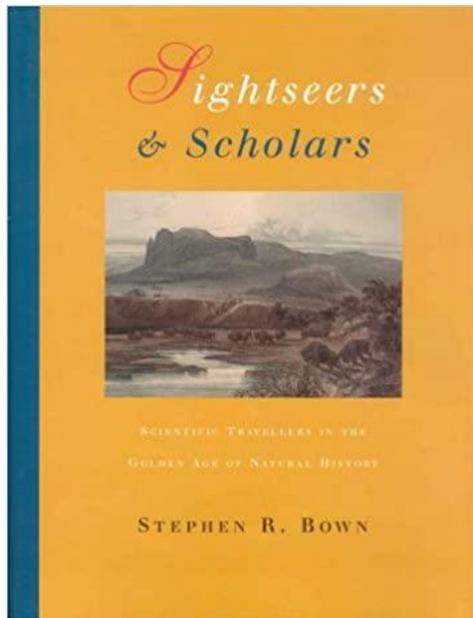
In Western myths and imagination, the Pacific is the home of soft, warm, gentle trade winds, idyllic island lagoons and waving palms—the exotic earthly paradise of escapists, adventurers and romantics. Until James Cook showed otherwise, eighteenth-century Europeans also believed this ocean to contain a great southern continent of untold riches and beauty. The islands of the South Pacific can indeed be enchanting, their charm often exceeding expectations, but as European mariners realized when they first arrived here in the sixteenth century, the Pacific Ocean is also a region of ferocious tropical cyclones, treacherous, reef-littered atolls, wearying doldrums and mind-numbing distances

This book is maritime artist and historian Gordon Miller’s tribute to the humble little ships that first ventured across the great Pacific, and the brave sailors that manned them. It is a brief, selective and condensed story of the charting, exploitation and occupation of the Pacific Ocean, mostly in small, wooden ships, with only wind and human muscle for power. These maritime pioneers united North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, the entire Pacific Ocean, all the coasts that surround it, and all the islands within. Even confined to the last four centuries of oceangoing sail, this is a large and complex story—a story brought to life by Miller’s carefully researched text and masterfully rendered maritime paintings.

Gordon Miller is a distinguished maritime artist, author (*Voyages: To the New World and Beyond*) and illustrator. In his youth he worked as a seaman, sailing the West Coast from Alaska to Seattle. Later, he was chief designer for both the Vancouver Maritime Museum and Vancouver Museum. Since 1977, he has freelanced with commissions from institutions such as the UBC Museum of Anthropology, Parks Canada, the National Film Board and the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa. His work has been used by many publishers, including Canadian Geographic and National Geographic. His paintings appear in collections in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver. He lives in Vancouver, BC.

Douglas & McIntyre • May 2023 • All rights except English North America print available
11" × 10" • 224 pages • 65 colour illustrations

Sightseers & Scholars: History Scientific Travellers In The Golden Age Of Natural History Stephen R. Bown



Sightseers and Scholars provides portraits of the explorers and naturalists who sought to explore the New World in the pre-Darwinian Age. The late 18th and early 19th centuries in Europe and America saw the dawn of a golden age of science in which society energetically sought to quantify, categorize, and rationally explain the world. The accurate cataloguing of nature was one of the goals of the age, and most plants and animals known today were collected, classified, and named in a great frenzy of scientifically-motivated exploration.

Until the publication in 1859 of Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, it was believed that there was a finite number of species on the planet and through diligent effort all of nature might be collected and then studied. *Sightseers and Scholars* profiles nine important naturalists who overturned this belief--both dedicated professionals and amateurs--who set off for what is now North and South America to discover and document the natural wonders they found there.

Their stories of adventure are punctuated with hardship, both in finding the financing to get their ventures off the ground, and the vagaries of the elements once they reached the New World, be it North or South America. Despite the odds, these explorers, either travelling with artists or as artists themselves, chronicled their adventures in both words and pictures, providing a unique portrait of the natural world in North, South and Central America before it became widely settled. Many of the species observed or discovered still bear the names of the explorers who discovered them (the Stellar Sea Lion, Douglas Fir, Townsend's Finch). Written with insight, the sometimes wry, always fascinating, text entertains the modern reader with the adventures of: William Bartram, Alexander Von Humboldt, Charles Waterton, Prince Maximillian of Wied, David Douglas, John Townsend, John Richardson, Henry Bates and John Powell.

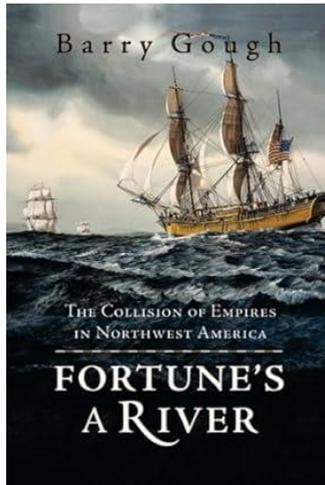
With our serious worry in this age of climate change with the growing number of species extinctions, this makes very timely reading.

"Canadian historical writer Stephen Bown's wry style and deft choice of anecdotes underscore the depth of their passion for science."-The Globe and Mail

Stephen Bown is a critically acclaimed author of eleven literary non-fiction books on the history of science, exploration and ideas. He takes a biographical and narrative approach to writing, using the techniques of fiction writing – strong storytelling, creative language, emphasizing people, their decisions, actions and motivations – to tell factually and historically accurate stories.

Acacia	•	Available	•	All rights available
7.25 x 9.50	•	256 pages		

Fortune's A River: *History* The Collision of Empires in Northwest America Barry Gough



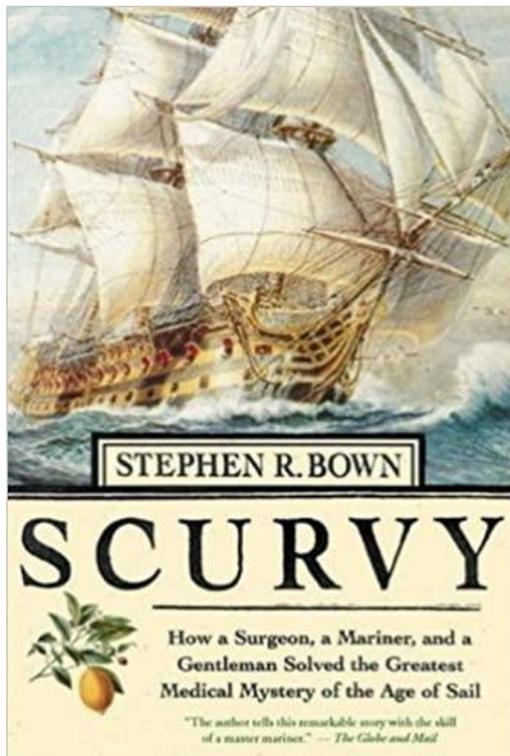
Fortune's a River is the most authoritative and readable account to date of just how British Columbia became British and how Oregon, Washington and Alaska became American. By the closing years of the 18th century, the stage was set for a major international confrontation over the Northwest Coast. Imperial Russia was firmly established in Alaska, Spain was extending its trade routes north from Mexico, Captain James Cook had claimed Northwest America for England and Captain Robert Gray had claimed the Columbia River region for the United States. Open warfare between Spain and England was narrowly averted during the Nootka Sound Controversy of 1789-1794, and again between Britain and the US in the War of 1812, when a British warship seized American property in Oregon.

In *Fortune's a River*, noted historian Barry Gough re-examines this Imperial struggle for possession of the future British Columbia and fully evokes its peculiar drama. It turned out the great powers were reluctant conquerors in this area. Russia and Spain withdrew of their own accord. Britain was in a position to dominate, but couldn't be bothered. The US vaguely wished to fulfill its manifest destiny by securing the Northwest Coast, but it was not a priority. In the end the battle was carried on by private enterprise and individuals of vision. Alexander Mackenzie established an overland route to the coast and with his partners Simon Fraser and David Thompson, set up a network of fur trading forts south to Oregon. US president Thomas Jefferson countered by sending out the Lewis and Clark expedition to strengthen American claims and an American entrepreneur, John Jacob Astor, established a lonely US outpost at Astoria. Gough examines each of the players in this territorial drama, bringing them fully to life and vividly recounting their hardships and struggles. *Fortune's a River* is a major historical work that reads like a wild west adventure.

Dr. Barry Gough was founding director of Canadian Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University and is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Fellow of King's College London and Life Member of the Association of Canadian Studies. He is author of many critically acclaimed books, including *Fortune's a River: The Collision of Empires in Northwest America* which won the John Lyman Book Award for best Canadian naval and maritime history. Gough has been writing about the history of the Pacific Coast for almost four decades, and in 2016 he was named Honourary President of the BC Historical Federation and awarded the Washington State Historical Society's Robert Gray Medal. He lives in Victoria, BC, with his wife Marilyn.

Harbour • Available • All rights available except English (print)
6 x 9 • 400 pages

Scurvy: *History* How a Surgeon, a Mariner, and a Gentleman Solved the Greatest Medical Mystery of the Age of Sail Stephen Bown



A lively recounting of how three determined individuals overcame the constraints of 18th century thinking to solve the greatest medical mystery of their era. The cure for scurvy ranks among the greatest of military successes, yet its impact on history has mostly been ignored. Stephen Bown, in this engaging and often gripping book, searches back to the earliest recorded appearance of scurvy in the 16th century, to the 18th century, when the disease was at its gum-shred, bone-snapping worst, to the early 19th century, when the preventative was finally put into service. Brown introduces us, among others, to James Lind, navy surgeon and medical detective, whose research on the disease spawned the implementation of the cure; Captain James Cook, who successfully avoided scurvy on his epic voyages; and Gilbert Blane, whose social status and charisma won over the British Navy and saved England.

Now with a new introduction linking the solution of this major Marine pandemic which raged from the 16th to the 18th centuries with the present day solution of the Covid 19 pandemic.

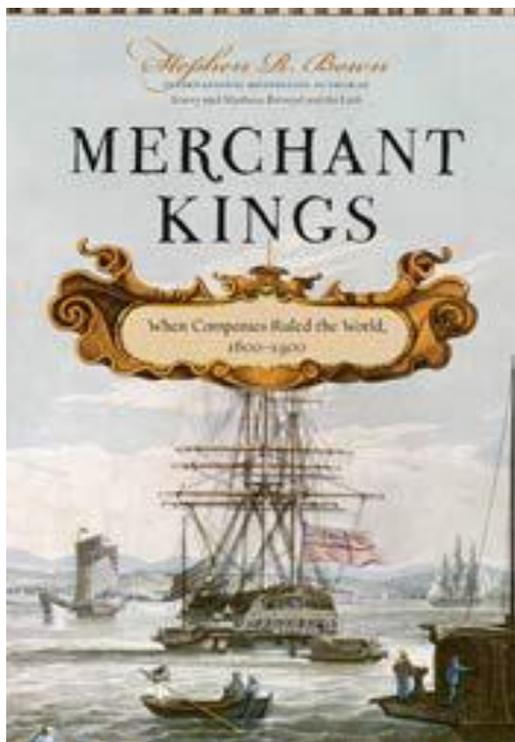
Stephen Bown is a critically acclaimed author of eight literary non-fiction books on the history of science, exploration and ideas. He takes a biographical and narrative approach using the techniques of fiction writing – strong storytelling, creative language, emphasizing people, their decisions, actions and motivations – to tell factually and historically accurate stories.

Acacia • US, UK, Canadian, Audio, Chinese (simplified), and Japanese sold, all others available
6 x 9 • 256 pages

Merchant Kings: When Companies Ruled the World, 1600–1900

History

Stephen R. Bown



Commerce meets conquest in this swashbuckling story of the six merchant-adventurers who built the modern world, as told by “Canada’s Simon Winchester” — (Globe and Mail)

Through the Age of Heroic Commerce, from the 17th to the 19th centuries, a rogue’s gallery of larger-than-life merchant kings ruled vast tracts of the globe and expanded their far-flung monopolies to generate revenue for their shareholders, feather their own nests and satisfy their vanity and curiosity.

Their exploits changed the world during an age of unfettered globalization, mirroring a world we know today as governments struggle with how to deal with the staggering power of today’s tech giants..

Merchant Kings looks at each ruling monopoly through its greatest merchant king and considers their stories together for the first time including: Jan Pieterszoon Coen of the Dutch East India Company; Pieter Stuyvesant of the Dutch West India Company; Robert Clive of the English East India Company; Alexandr Baranov of the Russian- American Company; George Simpson of the Hudson’s Bay Company; Cecil John Rhodes of the British South Africa Company.

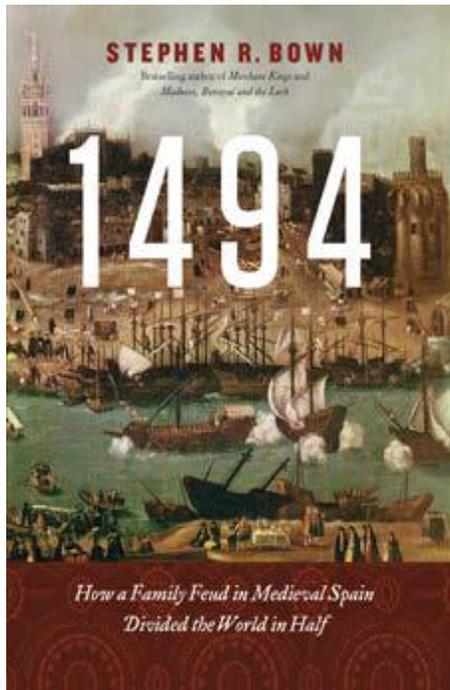
Stephen Bown is a critically acclaimed author of eleven literary non-fiction books on the history of science, exploration and ideas. He takes a biographical and narrative approach using the techniques of fiction writing – strong storytelling, creative language, emphasizing people, their decisions, actions and motivations – to tell factually and historically accurate stories.

Douglas & McIntyre • Audio, Chinese (simplified)Japanese, US and UK rights sold, all others available
6 x 9 • 312 pages

1494: How a Family Feud in Medieval Spain Divided the World in Half

HISTORY

Stephen R. Bown



The true story involving a corrupt pope — the patriarch of the family fictionalized in the hit Showtime series *The Borgias* — in an explosive feud between monarchs and the Church that divided the world in half.

When Columbus triumphantly returned from America to Spain in 1493, his discoveries inflamed an already smouldering conflict between Spain's renowned monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, and Portugal's Joao II. Which nation was to control the world's oceans? To quell the argument, Pope Alexander VI — the notorious Rodrigo Borgia — issued a proclamation laying the foundation for the Treaty of Tordesillas of 1494, an edict that created an imaginary line in the Atlantic Ocean dividing the entire known (and unknown) world between Spain and Portugal.

The edict was to have a profound influence on world history: it propelled Spain and Portugal to superpower status, steered many other European nations on a collision course and became the central grievance in two centuries of international espionage, piracy and warfare.

Stephen Bown is a critically acclaimed author of many award-winning literary non-fiction books on the history of science, exploration and ideas. He takes a biographical and narrative approach to my writing, using the techniques of fiction writing – strong storytelling, creative language, emphasizing people, their decisions, actions and motivations – to tell factually and historically accurate stories.

Douglas & McIntyre
6 x 9 • 320 pages

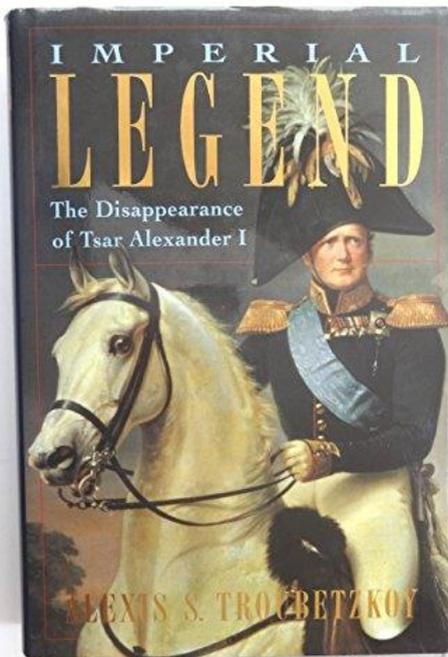
• US, Audio, Brazilian, Portuguese rights sold, all others available

Imperial Legend

History

The Disappearance of Tsar Alexander 1

Alexis Troubetzkoy



Alexander I, one of Russia's greatest emperors, beloved of his subjects for his many liberalizing works and reforms domestically, and for his astounding—and unexpected—victory over the presumably invulnerable Napoleon Bonaparte, reigned from 1801 to late 1825. But despite his many glittering successes at home and abroad, his immense power and wealth, the tsar was throughout his life a troubled man. Caught up in the personal and political maelstrom between his domineering grandmother Catherine the Great and his highly neurotic and volatile father Paul I, Alexander came to the throne as a result of a coup mounted against his father in March 1801. Although not an active participant in the plot, and reassured that the plan was to depose and exile the unpopular Paul, not to harm him, Alexander was devastated when the takeover turned violent and his father was assassinated.

That cloud under which he acceded to the throne never lifted, and throughout his reign he often confided to family and friends his desire to thrust off the burdens of state and retire to some quiet place to live out the rest of his life.

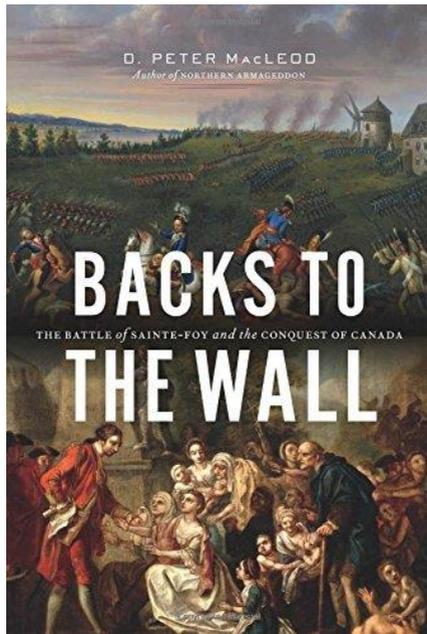
By 1825, his popularity waning, the health of his wife becoming more fragile by the day, he decided to remove himself and a bare-bones court to Taganrog, a remote town near the Crimea. A few weeks after his arrival there, he suddenly fell ill and died on November 19, 1825. Or did he? Ever since that day, rumors have swarmed that the young and still-vigorous tsar—he was only forty-eight—had staged his death to expiate the sin that refused to leave him, the sin of patricide and suggests that Feodor Kuzmich, a holy man who wandered through Russia doing good works, and Alexander were one and the same person. So widespread and persistent was the belief that Tsar Alexander and Feodor Kuzmich were one and the same that the great Leo Tolstoy planned to write a book on the subject. *Imperial Legend*, with a deft touch and a fresh voice, “solves” one of the most intriguing royal mysteries of the past two centuries.

Prince Troubetzkoy was an internationally published author with five books to his credit, including, a brief history of the Crimean War, a history of Arctic development, and a novel. More recently he authored *The St. Petersburg Connection: Russian-American Friendship from Revolution to Revolution*. A fellow of the Association of Russian-American Scholars in the U.S.A., he was Headmaster of Selwyn House School in Québec, and of Appleby College and the Toronto French School in Ontario.

Acacia ® Available ® US print rights sold , all others available
6 x 9 ® 300 pages

Backs to the Wall: HISTORY The Battle of Sainte-Foy and the Conquest of Canada

D. Peter MacLeod



The Battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759 and the subsequent capitulation of Quebec set the stage for an equally significant French-British engagement in the struggle for northeastern North America, the Battle of Sainte-Foy.

In the spring of 1760, after having suffered a brutal winter, Quebec garrison commander James Murray's troops were vulnerable and reduced to an army of skeletal invalids due to malnutrition and scurvy. Trapped in hostile territory and lacking confidence in the fortifications of Quebec, Murray planned to confront French attackers outside the walls. Instead of waiting at Montreal for the British to attack, Montcalm's successor, François-Gaston de Lévis, returned to the plains for a rematch accompanied by every combatant available--French regulars, Canadian militia and First Peoples warriors.

The ensuing Battle of Sainte-Foy was less a battle for territory than a struggle for survival between two equally desperate adversaries. If the British lost the battle, they would lose Quebec. If the French lost the battle, they would very likely lose Canada--both the French and the British had their backs to the wall.

MacLeod presents this historical event in riveting detail, from the preparation and day-by-day actions during the engagement to the compelling siege of Quebec by land and ship. *Backs to the Wall* is an accessible and engaging account of an important episode in Canadian history.

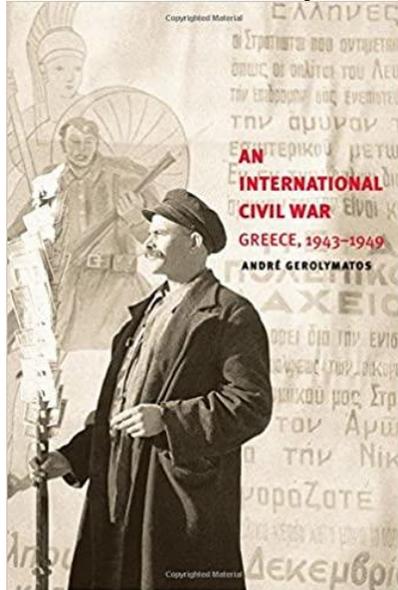
“Backs to the Wall is a welcome addition to any bookshelf, with general and academic readers alike rewarded by an incisively told story supplemented by a robust bibliography of primary and secondary sources. Thanks to Peter MacLeod, the Battle of Sainte-Foy is no longer in the shade.” ~ *Stephen Bright, Canadian Military History*

D. Peter MacLeod is the pre-Confederation historian at the Canadian War Museum, where he curated the permanent exhibits on the Seven Years' War and The Battle of the Plains of Abraham. His previous books include *The Canadian Iroquois and the Seven Years' War* (Dundurn, 2012), and *Northern Armageddon* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2008). He lives in Ottawa, Canada

Douglas & McIntyre • Available • All rights available except English North America
6 x 9 • 240 pages

An International Civil War: *HISTORY* Greece, 1943-1949

Andre Gerolymatos



An authoritative history of the Greek Civil War and its profound influence on American foreign policy and the post-Second World War period

In his comprehensive history André Gerolymatos demonstrates how the Greek Civil War played a pivotal role in the shaping of policy and politics in post-Second World War Europe and America and was a key starting point of the Cold War. Based in part on recently declassified documents from Greece, the United States, and the British Intelligence Services, this masterful study sheds new light on the aftershocks that have rocked Greece in the seven decades following the end of the bitter hostilities.

A major bestseller in Greece.

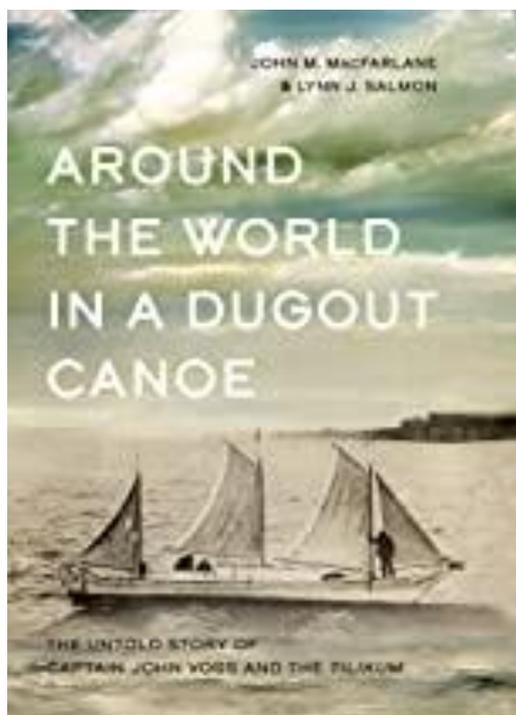
André Gerolymatos was professor and director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. His recent books included *Castles Made of Sand: A Century of Anglo-American Espionage and Intervention in the Middle East*, *The Balkan Wars* and a novel *Soldiers of Darkness* published in Greece.

Yale University Press • • Greek, Chinese (simplified) sold, all others available
6 x 9 • 432 pages

Around the world in a Dugout Canoe: the untold story of Captain John Voss and the Tilikum

History

John M. MacFarlane and Lynn J. Salmon



Anticipating fame and wealth, Captain John Voss set out from Victoria, BC, in 1901, seeking to claim the world record for the smallest vessel ever to circumnavigate the globe. For the journey, he procured an authentic dugout cedar canoe from an Indigenous village on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

For three years Voss and the *Tilikum*, aided by a rotating cast of characters, visited Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil and finally England, weathering heavy gales at sea and attracting large crowds of spectators on shore. The austere on-board conditions and simple navigational equipment Voss used throughout the voyage are a testimony to his skill and to the solid construction of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth vessel

.Both Voss and his original mate, newspaperman N.K. Luxton, later wrote about their journey in accounts compromised by poor memories, brazen egos and outright lies. Stories of murder, cannibalism and high-seas terror have been repeated elsewhere without any regard to the truth. Now, over a century later, a full and fair account of the voyage—and the magnitude of Voss’s accomplishment—is at last fully detailed.

In this groundbreaking work, the authors sift fact from fiction, critically examining the claims of Voss’s and Luxton’s manuscripts against research from libraries, archives, museums and primary sources around the world. Including unpublished photographs, letters and ephemera from the voyage, *Around the World in a Dugout Canoe* tells the real story of a little-understood character and his cedar canoe. It is an enduring story of courage, adventure, sheer luck and at times tragedy.

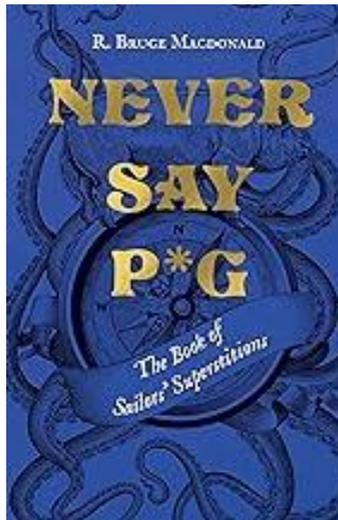
John M. MacFarlane is the curator emeritus of the Maritime Museum of British Columbia, curator of the Nauticapedia Project and author of a number of books and articles on nautical history. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (London), recipient of the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers and the SS Beaver Medal for Maritime Excellence. **Lynn J. Salmon** has written extensively on the marine history of BC and her articles have appeared in publications including *Western Mariner* and the *Times Colonist*. She worked as collections manager for eight years at the Maritime Museum of British Columbia and is senior editor of the Nauticapedia Project

Harbour • September 2019 • All rights available except English North America (print)
6 x 9 • 272 pages

Never Say P*g The Book of Sailors' Superstitions

History

R. Bruce Macdonald



The nautical reference book you never knew you needed: a compendium of all superstitions maritime and marine. Learn your A-B-Seas of sailors' guiding magic and mythos—and why you should never stir your tea with a knife, lest you invite trouble and strife.

Ever wondered why the skipper gave you a hairy eyeball when you stepped aboard the ship with your left foot? Or why a broly or a bumbershoot—for the newly seasoned sailor, an umbrella—will bring trouble aboard? Find out all this and more in *Never Say P*g*, the never-seen-before collection of maritime superstitions ranging from across the world.

From A: why killing an albatross is bad luck, but seeing one is good luck—to B: why bananas are so feared that some sailors only refer to them as “that curved yellow fruit”—to C: clapping aboard a ship will bring thunder—you'll be fluent in sailing superstitions in no time!

From sailor and author R. Bruce MacDonald—who swears he didn't know not to stir his tea with a knife—comes an indispensable guide to the ways in which we ward off bad luck at sea and attempt to keep ourselves safe by shaping fate through signs and symbols. The original “marine insurance” for sailors, superstitions offered a semblance of control amidst a dangerous and volatile life aboard, at the mercy of the weather, the crew, the ship—even pirates. Ultimately, this encyclopedia reveals that superstitions have always been with us to comfort, to charm and to ease fears. Learn them all as you sail the high seas!

R. Bruce Macdonald is a writer, sailor and artist with a passion for maritime history. MacDonald has logged over 100,000 nautical miles and, for many years, lived along the B C coast aboard *North Star* with his family. He is the author of *North Star of Herschel Island* (FriesenPress, 2012) and *Sisters of the Ice* (Lost Moose Books, 2021).

Harbour • 2022 • All rights except English North America available
5.5 x 8.5 • 224 pages

Witches, Sluts, Scolds, Viragos *History* and other unfairly maligned American women; and the man-made laws that ensnared them.

Noel Rae



“To the narrow-minded male racist chauvinist historians of the not so recent past they were witches, sluts, perjurers, termagants, traitors, thieves, cranks, hysterics, muckrakers, viragos, terrorists. To the more enlightened, better informed and sympathetic historians of today they appear in quite a different light--- Tituba was not a witch but the victim of a credulous, narrow-minded and oppressive patriarchy; Mrs. Wilkerson was not a slut with a fondness for the bottle but a warm-hearted and respectable married woman trying to extend the hand of friendship across the lines of race and class; Mary Burton may have told lies, but only because she was a naive, lonely and trusting teenager unwittingly manipulated by a ruthlessly ambitious male prosecutor; Nancy Hart was not a termagant but an intrepid lover of her country’s freedom who took up arms against its enemies. And so on, until we conclude with Carry Nation, not so much a saloon-smashing virago as a divinely-inspired crusader against the scourge of alcoholism; and Emma Goldman, maligned as a dangerous anarchist and accessory to an attempted assassination, but more fairly seen as an unswerving fighter for peace and social justice.

Since there never has been, nor ever can be, a definitive history of any event or person, the stories of these eleven women will keep changing, and these versions are only how they appear to one person at the present moment; other people at other times will no doubt see them differently. But while the stories are therefore provisional, they are the result of extensive research and are presented as far as is possible in the words of their original sources--- letters, diaries, gazettes, public records, newspapers, confessions, and memoirs. But while these documents lend authenticity, and bring the reader as close as possible to the people and events described, they too are often of questionable reliability.

However, while so much is uncertain one thing is clear: willingly or unwillingly, wittingly or unwittingly, and in vastly different ways, these women were all at the center of scenes of turmoil which would not have happened if they had not been there. So while it was a slander to call them witches, sluts, termagants and viragos, it seems reasonable enough to call them troublemakers--- trouble that was sometimes bad, but sometimes also having unexpectedly happy results.”

Praise for his previous works:

“Noel Rae expertly assembles the most consequential accounts from the era of the American slave trade. Drawing on a wide range of sources, he frames a vivid and comprehensive picture of a period in

American history about which many only have a vague understanding.”

- Ibram X. Kendi, National Book Award-winning author of *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*

“Through adept use of historical documents and artful storytelling, Rae examines nearly 300 years of American slavery and attempts to answer the question: “What was it like?” . . . To allow narrative voices, black and white, to come through, Rae draws on a remarkable assemblage of documents . . . as well as oral histories of former slaves and excerpts from the writings of free persons who lived in the South, such as the sisters Sarah and Angelina Grimké, and visitors to the South, such as seminal landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. The result is a uniquely immediate, multivoiced, specific, arresting, and illuminating look at life under slavery in America.”

- ***Booklist, starred review***

“Eyewitness testimonies to the culture and commerce of slavery, America's original sin . . . In this gathering of personal, firsthand accounts, coupled with smart commentary, popular historian and editor Rae looks into that past . . . Given the culture's apparent need to readjudicate that conflict, this book and its wealth of documents and reports make a welcome, ready reference. Essential for students of American slavery and antebellum history.”

- ***Kirkus Reviews***

Historian Noel Rae received an honors degree in history from Oxford University. *The Great Stain: Witnessing American Slavery*, *The People's War: Original Voices of the American Revolution*, *Witnessing America: The Library of Congress Book of Firsthand Accounts of Life in America*, and *This is Berlin: Radio Broadcasts from Nazi Germany*. He lives in Westchester, NY.

Acacia • In manuscript • All rights available

Just Say Yes

Bob McDonald

Memoir



A captivating and inspiring memoir of fifty years in science journalism from the host of CBC Radio's *Quirks and Quarks*.

Revered science reporter and radio host Bob McDonald has devoted a decades-long career to turning our attention away from everyday perspectives and outward to the vast, intricate wonders of our planet and universe. Now, in this revealing and captivating memoir, he looks within, offering an intimate view of the path that brought him from a blue-collar background to his long-standing role as Canada's foremost explainer of all things scientific.

It's an engrossing and often jubilant story that allows McDonald to share powerful insights on overcoming fear of failure and tackling life-transforming challenges. Early on, he describes a childhood and youth plagued by difficulties in school that eventually convinced him to drop out of university. Yet, despite the academic obstacles, his love of science burned bright. Soon, through an innate stage sense and sheer enthusiasm, he landed a gig doing high-spirited demonstrations for the public at the Ontario Science Centre, which in turn led to self-produced TV spots.

And as each hard-won, never-certain success built on the last, he arrived at the role that would make him a national figure: the witty, engaging, passionately curious host of the perennially popular CBC Radio show *Quirks and Quarks*, reporting from the frontiers of scientific exploration and rubbing elbows with such luminaries as Chris Hadfield, Buzz Aldrin and Stephen Hawking. Told with all of McDonald's trademark pace and humour, *Just Say Yes* is bound to please, surprise and inspire his numerous fans in entirely new ways.

Bob McDonald has been the host of CBC Radio's *Quirks and Quarks* since 1992. He is a regular science commentator on CBC News Network and science correspondent for CBC TV's *The National*. He has been honoured with the 2001 Michael Smith Award for science promotion from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, as well as the 2002 Sandford Fleming Medal from the Royal Canadian Institute for Science, and the 2005 McNeil Medal for the public awareness of science from the Royal Society of Canada. In November 2011, McDonald was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Douglas & McIntyre fully edited manuscript available March 2024

North American English rights sold, English audio and Commonwealth ex Canada available

Window Shopping for God

Memoir

Deborah Kimmitt



“After all that time and money, you’d think that Amazon would’ve delivered me a Deity in which I could believe with complete certainty, but it has not.”

Comedian Deborah Kimmitt has worshipped a lot of deities. She has danced with witches, whirled with Sufis and explored the Power of Now like there was no tomorrow. And she has always looked for signs. So in 2014, when a sidewalk preacher calls on her to repent, she believes she must right her relationship with her estranged brother. Over the next few months, they create a bond hastened along by his terminal cancer diagnosis—but as he dies, losing her sibling uses all her spiritual Air Miles, and she’s back in addiction with no God to call her own. With nothing left to give and no one left to fix, Kimmitt knows she needs to find new meaning in life. But the old gods just don’t seem to be listening

Window Shopping for God is the story of Kimmitt’s lifelong flip through the catalogue of beliefs—from her teen years, when a near- death experience gave her a new, less Catholic perspective, to her struggles with addiction and mental health that led her in and out of faith—and her search, as a woman in her sixties, for meaning that could finally plant her on firmer ground.

Unflinchingly honest and wildly funny, Kimmitt’s writing takes us down the serpentine routes we travel in our search for certainty, and the more familiar paths that bring us back to ourselves.

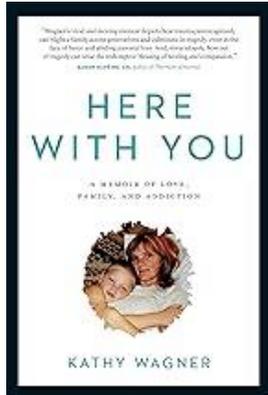
Deborah Kimmitt is a trailblazer in Canadian comedy. She has been a guest on CBC’s The Debaters for seventeen years and has a regular spot in CBC’s Winnipeg Comedy Festival and Laugh Out Loud. Her last comedy album, Downward Facing Broad, reached number 5 on iTunes. Her play Miracle Mother was shortlisted for the Governor General’s Award. She lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Douglas & McIntyre
6" × 9" · 256 pages

Spring 2024

All rights available except English Canada and audio

Here With You: *Memoir* A Memoir of Love, Family, and Addiction Kathy Wagner



The powerful story of a mother’s struggle to save her son from addiction—and the strength and hope for change that she found in her grief.

When the author’s son, Tristan, began experimenting with drugs at the age of fourteen, Kathy Wagner told herself it was just a phase. But by the time he was fifteen, she had to face the gravity of Tristan’s addiction. Unable to get him treatment without his consent, she did everything else that she could to try to save her child, from sending him to China to study kung fu with Shaolin monks, to signing him up for culinary school, to paying for his drugs in an attempt to keep him safe.

When Tristan finally began his recovery journey, six years later, Wagner was unexpectedly thrown onto her own recovery path. Learning from other parents of children struggling with addiction, she began, for the first time, to live for herself. But soon her oldest daughter needed help for her own addictions, and Tristan struggled with relapse, eventually dying by accidental fentanyl overdose.

After Tristan’s death, Wagner struggled to find herself without him and travelled the world to be alone with her pain. But she soon realized that to truly heal, she needed to come home to her family, and herself, in all their messy wonder. Told with compassion and insight, *Here With You* is a story about how addiction tore a family apart and how they came back together through shared love and a deep commitment to learning a better way. Timely and honest, it will resonate with those struggling with substance abuse, their families and anyone who wants to better understand the impact of the current drug toxicity crisis.

“Through intimately detailed descriptions of both the outer and inward journeys of grief and addiction, Kathy Wagner keeps her readers right with her. Those who have struggled with addiction, or the addictions of loved ones will appreciate Kathy’s searing honesty and will not feel so alone in their struggles. Despite the dark topics of grief and addiction, in the end, Wagner offers a message of hope and even joy.”— Cathy Sosnowsky, author of *Snapshots: A Story of Love, Loss, and Life*

“Written with novelistic skill, Kathy Wagner’s vivid and moving memoir depicts how trauma, unrecognized, can blight a family across generations and culminate in tragedy, even in the face of fierce and abiding parental love. And, miraculously, how out of tragedy can arise the redemptive blessing of healing and compassion.” — Gabor Maté M.D., CM, author of *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness and Healing in a Toxic Culture*

“*Here With You* adeptly harnesses the excruciating futility of being suspended between the person you love and the danger you know is coming. When a child overdoses, blame often lands at the feet of the mother. Kathy Wagner vividly portrays what it feels like to be ‘standing in the middle of everything that was broken’ and somehow find the strength, accountability, and agency to keep moving alongside that fear. As Wagner’s beautiful and troubled son Tristan works toward recovery, so too does his mother. This is, indeed, a celebration of life and of the intricate blessings of the recovery community. Here, you

will discover a woman facing devastation, committed to defining her life based on ‘love, hope, peace, and also grief, but never again on fear and dysfunction,’ arriving at a place of hard-won wholeness.” — Tara McGuire, author of *Holden After and Before: Love Letter for a Son Lost to Overdose*

“In *Here With You*, Kathy Wagner immerses the reader in the ups and downs of loving someone struggling with a substance use disorder. It is a story of love and pain, hope and fear, and resistance and acceptance. And it is the tale of a mother redefining herself and her relationship with her children. Most of all, Kathy tells us the truth of this story. Not just the factual truth, but the emotional truth.” — Mary Beth O'Connor, author of *From Junkie to Judge: One Woman's Triumph Over Trauma and Addiction*

Kathy Wagner is the mother of three grown children, including her son Tristan who died from fentanyl poisoning in August 2017. Since that time, Wagner has actively advocated for improved access to quality addiction recovery services and was a peer support group facilitator for Healing Hearts Canada. Her interviews have appeared on CBC's *The National*, in the *Vancouver Sun* and many local newspapers and radio shows. Wagner lives in Port Coquitlam, BC.

Douglas & McIntyre

October 2023

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6 x 9

368 pages

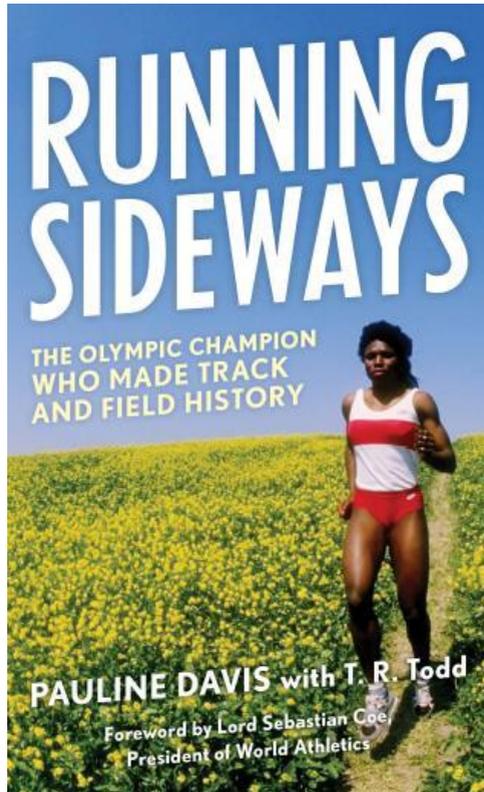
Running Sideways

Memoir/Sports

The Olympic Champion Who Made Track and Field History

Pauline Davis - With T. R. Todd

Foreword by Lord Sebastian Coe, President of World Athletics



A raw, uplifting story from one of the most important hidden figures in track and field history.

When Pauline Davis first began to run, it wasn't with any thought of future Olympic glory. A product of the poor neighborhood of Bain Town in The Bahamas, she carried the family's buckets every day to fetch fresh water—running sideways, sprinting barefoot from bullies, to get the buckets of water home without spilling. But when a seasoned track coach saw Pauline sprinting, he saw the heart of a champion. In *Running Sideways*, Pauline Davis shares her inspiring story. Born and raised in the ghetto, Pauline fought through poverty, inequality, racism, and political machinations from her own country to beat the odds and become a two-time Olympic gold medalist, the first individual gold medalist in sprinting from the Caribbean, the first woman of color on the World Athletics council, and a central figure in the Russian anti-doping campaign.

A casualty herself of the doping plague that hit track and field—she wouldn't be awarded her individual gold medal until Marion Jones' medal was infamously stripped of her medals ten years later for doping. Inspiring and exhilarating, *Running Sideways* reminds us that it doesn't matter how you start off in life - it's how you finish.

Endorsements from Donovan Bailey, Michael Johnson, Juliet Cuthbert and Richard Pound.

T.R. Todd is a journalist, biographer and novelist with experience in Canada, the Bahamas, and the United Arab Emirates where he was the senior editor of *The National*, the region's leading newspaper. Author of the novel *Storm of Hate*, the biography *The Man Behind the Bow Tie: Arthur Porter on Business, Politics and Intrigue*, and the award-winning *Pigs of Paradise: The Story of the World-Famous Swimming Pigs*, he has also published numerous articles on a wide variety of subjects. His work has appeared in newspapers across North America, including the *New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, *Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star*.

Acacia • Available • English World rights to Rowman & Littlefield, all others available

Best Mind: Weekends Biography/Memoir With Allen Ginsberg & Co.

David Aaron Greenberg



An insider's look at the legendary poet Allen Ginsberg, who was far more complex and open-hearted than he is often portrayed by historians and the mass media, *Best Mind* provides a young man's perspective on the swirl of cultural activity surrounding Ginsberg in the Nineties.

Beat luminaries like Gregory Corso, Herbert Hunke and William S. Burroughs, enigmatic figures like Jim Carroll, John Weiners and Rene Ricard, as well as Marianne Faithfull and Leonardo Di Caprio all make appearances

Best Mind offers an intimate look at the efforts of an emerging artist and writer, the early lyrics of a struggling songwriter. An expansive coming-of-age tale, it is part of an alt-lit lineage, from Jim Carroll's *The Basketball Diaries* to Patti Smith's *Just Kids*. It will appeal to readers looking for a gritty authenticity, and fascinated by New York City pre-9/11.

In a world so focused on image and surface knowledge, where social media interaction leaves sensitive souls wanting more, *Best Mind* offers an oasis of reality, examining the real lives of celebrated writers, artists and musicians in the last days of the 20th Century, and featuring never-before-published writings by Allen Ginsberg.

For those who may have seen James Franco portray Ginsberg in *Howl*, or Daniel Radcliffe in *Kill Your Darlings*, *Best Mind* is an intimate look at the older Ginsberg in his last seven years on Earth.

David Aaron Greenberg is an American artist and poet, He is the author of *Feeling Gravity's Pull* and *Trap Poems* and the co-author of *Strange Messenger* with Patti Smith and *Crowd Paintings* with Donald Baechler. Greenberg graduated from Rutgers in 1993 and now lives in New Jersey

Acacia • In manuscript • All rights available

A Real Girl

Melissa Hardy

Memoir



The no-holds-barred memoir of a woman who suffered from a serious eating disorder for fifty-two years

“Every 62 minutes at least one person dies as a direct result from an eating disorder.”

In 2018-2019, the U.S. estimated 4.39 million cases of women with eating disorders and 1.09 million cases of men. What is more, 7.8 million Americans alive in 2018-19 will develop an eating disorder in the future; the total financial costs associated with eating disorders were estimated to be \$64.7 billion in 2018-19; about 1 in 5 people with an eating disorder attempt suicide; and up to 97% of people with an eating disorder have another comorbid psychiatric condition. That’s a lot of pain and, while there are accounts and memoirs that relate individuals’ isolated struggles with an eating disorder, there are none that detail a pitched battle that raged from age fourteen to age sixty-six -- one that literally shaped and contorted an entire life. The average duration for an eating disorder is about 6 years. The author’s persisted for fifty-two.

What is more, there are no books that take into account the role played not only by society and the pressure to be thin, but also the history and evolution of eating disorders over time, the role that genetics and generational trauma play in the development of eating disorders, the conditions that made bulimia viable when it had not previously been (i.e., the ready availability of fast food and the normalization of indoor toilets), the continuum of eating disorders, and the propensity of people with eating disorders to develop other, often equally ruinous addictions.

This memoir also takes a hard look at how the mind of a person with an eating disorder malfunctions and misfires, how the eating disorder affects and often dictates every aspect of her life and how the behaviour that constitutes the disorder unfolds on a day-to-day basis.

Finally, **A Real Girl** details how she managed, after over half a century of addiction and living the lie necessary to hide and protect that addiction, to free herself from it through the use of psychedelic plants and extensive mental reprogramming.

MELISSA HARDY, who has won both the Journey Prize and the CAA's Silver Jubilee Award, has published five novels and two collections of short stories. Her work has appeared in many journals, including *The Atlantic*, *Story*, *Descant* and the *Ontario Review* and has been widely anthologized, appearing in *Best American Shortstories*, *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror* and *Best Canadian Shortstories*. Hardy, who hails originally from North Carolina, makes her home in the fishing village of Port Stanley, Ontario.

Acacia

• in Manuscript •

All rights available

The Mirror Horse

Memoir

Tamara Williamson



English/Canadian indie musician Tamara Williamson offers an unbridled account of a life in the world of horses. From her first Clever little bay pony, Stroller, to brilliant ribbon-winning Fletcher, Tamara Williamson recalls the many significant horses in her life, grappling with what it means to be horse-obsessed and what drives this desire to connect with horses. As Williamson discovers, during the tumultuous years of relationships with people and horses, these complicated equine creatures reflect back to us our best and worst selves.

Woven throughout the stories of individual horses in Williamson's life is her own story of a creative, chaotic, challenging and adventurous life. Raised by an eccentric family, with a distant mother who disappeared into alcoholism and a charismatic father who left one sunny morning with a younger woman, Williamson struggles with dyslexia, and a sense of increasing detachment. Horses, and the exacting sport of dressage, provide her with opportunities to connect, sometimes imperfectly. Her drive for accomplishment in equestrian sports, whether as a trainer or a rider, is regularly at odds with the fear that lingers from a traumatic childhood riding accident. While reckoning with the financial and psychological expense of training and competition, and with the multitude of industries that benefit from horses, Williamson never loses sight of the enormous burden of responsibility she feels toward horses and the respect she has for their individual characters, memories and instincts. On the surface, *The Mirror Horse* is a book about horses—but beyond the bridles and braided manes, Williamson crafts a complex story about courage, family, and the unexpected places where we find a reflection of our souls: As a rider you can confuse yourself with being the teacher, but horses are constantly showing us something important. They are holding up a mirror.

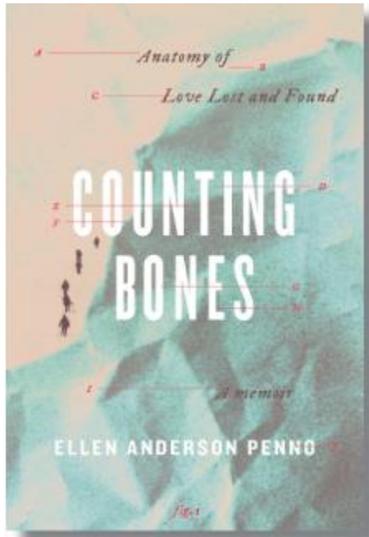
Tamara Williamson is a multidisciplinary storyteller, musician, songwriter, producer, playwright, multimedia artist, podcaster and equestrian. She has toured internationally as a musician, recording albums as a solo artist and with her band Mrs. Torrance. Her award-winning alternative musical-theatre debut *The Break-Up Diet* received rave reviews. Williamson is lifelong horse enthusiast and equestrian coach. She runs a business creating music for dressage performances.. For more information, visit www.tamarawilliamson.ca/

Douglas & McIntyre • Spring 2023 • All rights except English Canada available
6" x 9" • 272 pages • 16 B&W photographs

Counting Bones: Anatomy of Love Lost and Found

Ellen Anderson Penno

Memoir



When she was twenty-four years old, Ellen Anderson Penno lost her partner in a climbing accident while they were ascending Mount Baker in Washington’s Cascade Range. The avalanche hid his body in a crevasse just weeks before Penno was slated to begin medical school, and she soon found herself torn between deferring her studies for a year, or starting right away with a full course load.

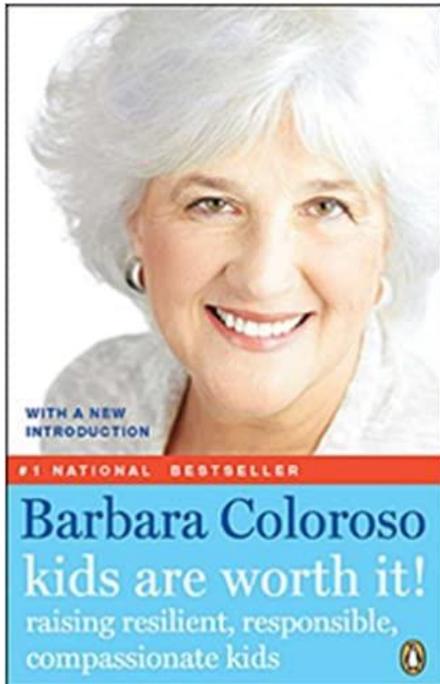
Rather than succumbing to grief and risk never beginning her medical education at all, Penno plunged deep into her studies, surrounded by death on all sides, struggling to maintain her way through her turbulent emotions and a rigorous med school schedule.

In this stirring and often mordantly funny new memoir, Ellen Anderson Penno structures a story of mourning, loss, despair and love through the lens of the classic medical text Gray’s Anatomy, showing readers what becomes of those who must rebuild their lives after tragedy strikes.

Ellen Anderson Penno is a writer and full-time medical doctor, earning an MD and MS from the University of Minnesota, with rotating surgical internship at Hennepin County Hospital, Minneapolis, and ophthalmology residency at the Mayo Clinic. She has earned a Graduate Certificate in Creative Writing from Humber College and is currently completing her Graduate Certificate in Narrative Medicine from Columbia University. She immigrated to Calgary, Alberta in 1997 where she continues to live with her adult daughters and dog pal Ed.

NeWest • April 2024 • All rights available except English North America print and audio
6 x 9 • 192 pages

Kids Are Worth It: Parenting Raising Resilient, Responsible, Compassionate Kids 3/e Barbara Coloroso



Featuring a new Introduction by bestselling author Barbara Coloroso, this parenting classic is set to teach a new generation of parents the importance of treating kids with dignity and respect. Rejecting the “quick fix” solutions of punishment and reward, Barbara uses everyday family situations—from sibling rivalry to teenage rebellion—to demonstrate sound strategies for giving children the inner discipline and self-confidence that will help them become responsible, resourceful, resilient, and compassionate adults.

The author’s powerful message is that good parenting begins with treating kids with respect. It means giving them a sense of power in their own lives, and offering them opportunities to make decisions, take responsibility for their actions, and learn from their own successes and mistakes.

In the revision, there are new chapters on bribes and threats vs. more productive alternatives, helping children fix and learn from their mistakes, bullying, telling the difference between tattling and telling and more.

The first edition was published in Canada (over 250,000 sold). United States, Australia, New Zealand and Spanish, French, German, Swedish, Slovenian, Brazilian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese rights sold, showing the universal applicability of her message.

Barbara Coloroso is an internationally recognized speaker and author in the areas of parenting, teaching, school discipline, nonviolent conflict resolution, reconciliatory justice, and grieving. Her bestselling books include *kids are worth it!* , *Parenting through Crisis*, and *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander*.

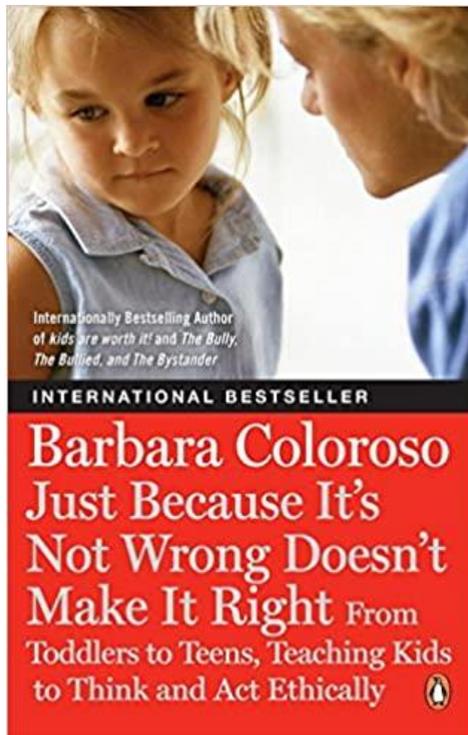
Acacia • Available • Canadian, US, Chinese (simplified characters), Czech, Hungarian, Japanese, Spanish and Vietnamese rights sold, all others available • 5.5 x 8.5 • 326 pages

Just Because It's Not Wrong Doesn't Make It Right:

PARENTING

Teaching Kids To Think And Act Ethically

Barbara Coloroso



We live in a world where children are so often given the message that the ends justify the means; where harmful, even violent behavior—in families, in communities, and around the world—goes unnoticed, unmitigated, and often unrepented; where children's ethical education can come from a T-shirt slogan or bumper sticker, an Internet site, or the evening news; where rigid moral absolutism or moral relativism has replaced true ethical thinking. In a world such as ours, *Just Because It's Not Wrong Doesn't Make It Right* is an essential tool.

Beginning with the idea that it is in us to care that we are born with an innate capacity for compassion and caring, Coloroso shows parents how to nurture and guide children's ethical lives from toddlerhood through the teen years using everyday situations at home, at school, in social settings, and in the world at large

Rich in advice and anecdotes, *Just Because It's Not Wrong Doesn't Make It Right* offers no less than an ethical vision, one rooted in deep caring, by which we and succeeding generations may not only live, but thrive.

Barbara Coloroso is an internationally recognized speaker and author on parenting, teaching, school discipline, grieving, non-violent conflict resolution, restorative justice, and bullying. A parent of three grown children and a grandparent of three, she has been for the past 40 years an educational consultant for parent groups, school districts, the medical and business communities, the criminal justice system, and for other educational associations around the world.

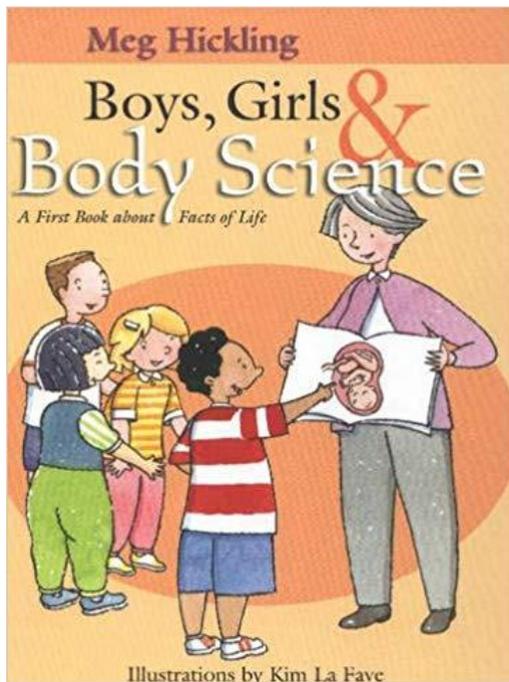
Acacia • Available • All rights available except English Canada
5.5 x 8.5 • 272 pages

Boys, Girls & Body Science:

Children's

A First Book About Facts of Life

Meg Hickling, illustrated by Kim La Fave



“an excellent resource that will make life easier for parents struggling to find the words to explain reproduction and sex to their children.” -Quill & Quire

With humour and sensitivity, *Boys, Girls & Body Science* provides no-nonsense answers for children—and parents—with questions about sex. Specifically designed for young readers, *Boys, Girls & Body Science* walks children through the wonders of their bodies in a direct, easy-to-read manner.

The story begins with Nicholas, 7, and Jenny, 5, learning about different types of science in their class - from ecology to the digestive system.

Then Meg Hickling, a guest speaker, comes to talk to them about a new type of science. Hickling talks about the “science names” for the children's body parts, about good and bad touches and about making babies. She coaches the children not to be embarrassed or shy about body science: “We are going to make this just like a science lesson, we will learn to think like a scientist and we will learn the scientific names for our private parts,” she says.

Meg Hickling is a Registered Nurse who has been teaching sexual education for over 25 years. She is an outstanding educator, and her ability to convey difficult material with sensitivity, gentle humour and warmth distinguishes her as a remarkable teacher and role model. **Kim La Fave**, a Governor General's Award-winning artist, is the illustrator of *Amos's Sweater* (by Janet Lunn) — winner of the Ruth Schwartz Children's Book Award and the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award for illustration — *Follow That Star* (by Kenneth Oppel), *I Am Small* (by Cherrie Fitch), the bestselling *The Bones and Skeleton Book* (by Steven Cumbera).

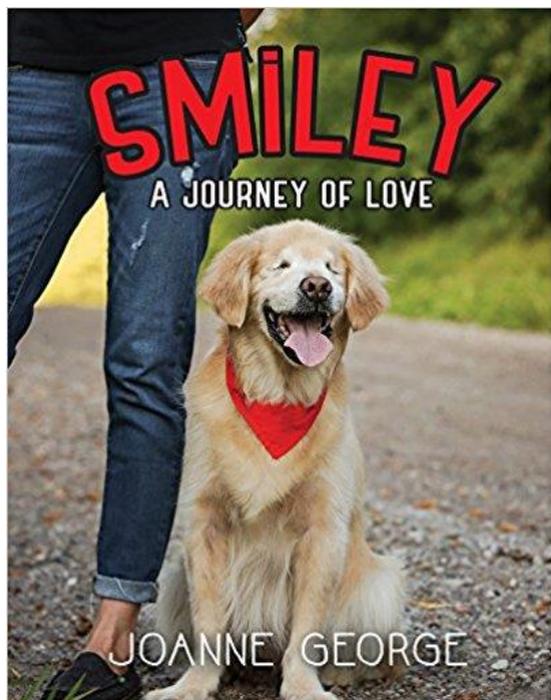
Harbour • Available • Bulgarian, Chinese, Greek, Japanese, Turkish rights sold, all others available
8.5 x 11 • 32 pages • colour

Smiley

A Journey of Love

Joanne George

PETS



While working as a veterinary technician, Joanne George heard about a puppy mill not far from the clinic and embarked on a rescue mission with her coworkers. On that special day Joanne met Smiley for the first time. He had been born without eyes and with dwarfism and because of his time in the puppy mill, Smiley was suffering from serious anxiety. While the other dogs rescued that day were found loving homes, Smiley was going to need some extra special care. Nothing happens without practice and patience and Joanne and Smiley learned both those traits together. Gradually Smiley was able to walk offleash and started greeting Joanne at the back door. She gave Smiley a loving home and he taught her patience, understanding and acceptance. It became evident that Smiley would be a wonderful therapy dog.

Winner of the 2018 Silver Birch Express Non-Fiction Award

"An appealing and upbeat biography of a winsome dog with a plucky and compassionate owner."— *Kirkus Reviews*

"Touching and engaging. . . The accessibly written, descriptive narrative, incorporating abundant photos of Smiley and interspersed with encouraging motivational quotes, addresses topics like disabilities straightforwardly and sensitively, all while conveying the importance of positive attitudes, respect, and understanding. Side information further explains concepts such as puppy mills and what therapy dogs are and the jobs they do. Many readers will find Smiley's tale affecting and inspiring."— *Booklist*

Joanne George, a dog trainer and former veterinary technician together with Smiley visited nursing homes, libraries, children's programs and schools as part of a therapy dog program with St John's Ambulance

Fitzhenry & Whiteside • 2017 • Japanese, Korean rights sold, all others available except English North America • 8.5 x 10.5 • 56 pages

Misfortune and Fame: *Popular Culture* 10 Reasons You Don't Want to be Rich (or Famous)

Paul Berton



Paul Berton takes aim at the waste and excess of consumer culture with a lively and satire-laced exposé of the rich, famous and totally miserable.

There is little argument that having enough money to meet your needs is important. But beyond that, what makes us happy? Is a lot of money the answer? Is a glamorous life actually glamorous? Must we have thousands of followers on social media, only to have the internet rabble criticize us at every turn? Amid all the fun and frivolity, there is inevitable misery and madness. A double-edged sword. A poisoned chalice. That's what this book is about: In ten punchy chapters full of anecdotes about the miseries and misfortunes of the affluent, Berton offers readers ten reasons NOT to wish for fame or fortune.

Paul Berton's previous book about consumerism, *Shopomania* (2022), was described as "a must-read primer for understanding how our thirst for acquiring and showcasing things has exacted heavy tolls on our psychology, on our society, and on the environment. Cataloguing the symptoms of our shopaholic culture, Berton shares wisdom about breaking the shackles imposed by our possessions." (Mark Cleveland, PhD, professor and Dancap Chair in Consumer Behavior, University of Western Ontario.)

"The seven deadly sins are re-assessed in Paul Berton's clever and comical take on how lovesick we are with power, money and the greatest of aphrodisiacs...fame."— Vicki Gabereau
"Paul Berton's hilariously eye-opening book will make you think twice about the wealth and celebrity we're encouraged to pursue. Being rich and famous is both delightful and terrible, and the greater the excess, the greater the distress. Sharp and engaging, *Misfortune and Fame* reminds us to be careful what we wish for."— Jamie Tennant, author of *River, Diverted*
"An antidote for envy. Funny, fascinating, forcefully written and at times unsettling. You will never look at fame and fortune the same way again."— Will Ferguson, winner of the Governor General's History Award for Popular Media: Pierre Berton Award, author of *Beauty Tips from Moose Jaw*

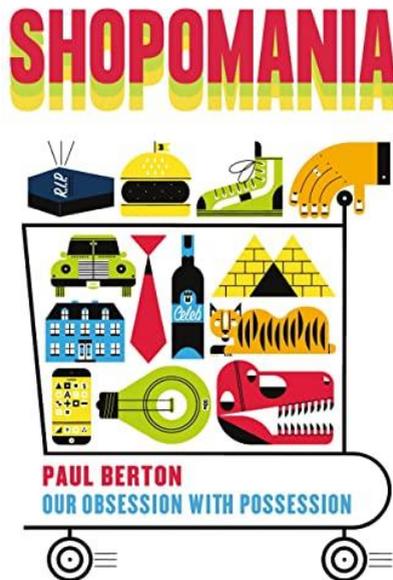
Paul Berton is an award-winning journalist and editor-in-chief of *The Hamilton Spectator*. His previous book, *Shopomania* (2022), is a thought-provoking challenge to consumerism, a sardonic exploration of the shopping habits of the rich and famous, and a self-critical look at how and why we buy so much stuff. He lives in Hamilton, ON

Douglas & McIntyre • October 2023 • All rights except English Canada available
6 x 9 • 210 pages

Shopomania: Our Obsession with Possession

Popular Culture

Paul Berton



A thought-provoking and provocative challenge to consumerism (with plenty of name-dropping and celebrity antics).

Sassy and satirical, Shopomania is an economic, environmental and social study. This light-hearted, dark-souled dictionary of coined words, or “shoponyms,” takes readers on a roller-coaster ride of avaricious antics and outrageous profligacy.

Shopping in one form or another has existed for millennia but, aside from a few slumps, each generation has outdone the previous one. In the past fifty years, shopping—and its associated carbon footprint—has grown exponentially.

Berton argues that if we invented today’s consumer culture, then we can invent something to replace it. We can do a better job of making the cycle of stuff truly circular rather than linear. We can be more environmentally, socially and politically conscious of what we buy and how it comes to us—and where it will go after we are finished with it. A species that has made shopping ubiquitous can figure all these things out with little more than co-operation and creativity, and by asking if it is really necessary to “own it now” as we have been told—endlessly—since childhood. Must we possess a thing to enjoy it? Do we really need all that stuff?

"Shopomania is the improvised explosive device that Paul Berton has planted under the concept of shopping in all its forms. More explicitly, he has used surgical tools, corrosive chemicals and a wealth of words like “clandestine” and “limoncello” to destroy our previous regard for humanity’s built structures and made objects. The Adam Curtis of retail, Berton has destroyed my last remaining pleasure in life but isn’t it better to know the truth about our stuff? Isn’t it?" — Heather Mallick, Toronto Star

Paul Berton is an award-winning journalist and editor-in-chief of The Hamilton Spectator and His weekly “editor’s desk” column in the Spectator is a must-read for 100,000 print readers.-chief.

Douglas & McIntyre • 2022 • Romanian rights sold, all others available except English North America
6" x 9" • 320 pages

52 Weeks to a Sweeter Life *Self Help*

A Workbook of Emotional Hacks, Self-Care Experiments and Other Good Ideas for Caregivers, Activists, and Helping Professionals

Farzana Doctor



A practical guide to self-care, written for helpers—the caregivers, activists, community leaders, mental health and medical professionals who are the first to help others, but the last to seek help themselves. As an activist, community organizer and social worker, Farzana Doctor has preached self-care to hundreds of people struggling with burnout and exhaustion. But for years she couldn't manage to take her own advice.

Many other helpers she knew were the same: they knew the signs of burnout, and they understood the science of self-care. Maybe they'd taken workshops on vicarious trauma; maybe they'd even taught them. But still they struggled to escape the cycle of overwork, overwhelm and recovery.

52 Weeks to a Sweeter Life is a workbook that speaks directly to these people—the helpers who struggle to pause, set boundaries or put themselves first.

The workbook contains fifty-two lessons, one for each week of the year. Each week, readers will find a simple new idea and an experiment for trying it out, with deeper dives into the material provided, but every level of participation celebrated. Throughout, Doctor embraces both community care and self-care at the same time, showing readers the overlap between the two.

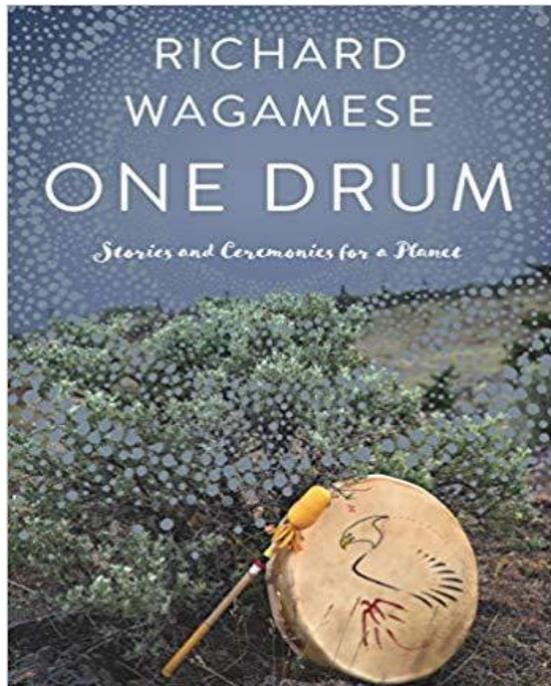
Beautifully written, direct and insightful, this workbook is a gentle and practical guide to a more balanced life, written for those who need it most.

Farzana Doctor is a Toronto-based Registered Social Worker who has been working with individuals and couples since 1993. As an activist, educator and writer, she has taught clinicians, co-written manuals for mental health providers and contributed chapters and articles about 2SLGBTQ+ issues, anti-oppression, self-care and female genital mutilation/cutting. She is the co-founder of WeSpeakOut and the End FGM Canada Network. She has written four critically acclaimed novels and a poetry collection.

Douglas & McIntyre • Spring 2024 • All rights except English Canada available
8" × 10" · 120 pages

One Drum: Stories and Ceremonies for a Planet *Spirituality*

Richard Wagamese



Over 50,000 copies sold!

“The most profound truth in the universe is this: that we are all one drum and we need each other.” —Richard Wagamese, *One Drum*

Fans of Richard Wagamese’s writing will be heartened by the news that the bestselling author left behind a manuscript he’d been working on until shortly before his death in 2017. *One Drum* welcomes readers to unite in ceremony to heal themselves and bring harmony to their lives and communities.

In *One Drum*, Wagamese wrote, “I am not a shaman. Nor am I an elder, a pipe carrier, or a celebrated traditionalist. I am merely one who has trudged the same path many of this human family has—the path of the seeker, called forward by a yearning I have not always understood.”

One Drum draws from the foundational teachings of Ojibway tradition, the Grandfather Teachings. Focusing specifically on the lessons of humility, respect and courage, the volume contains simple ceremonies that anyone anywhere can do, alone or in a group, to foster harmony and connection. Wagamese believed that there is a shaman in each of us, and we are all teachers and in the world of the spirit there is no right way or wrong way.

Writing of neglect, abuse and loss of identity, Wagamese recalled living on the street, going to jail, drinking too much, feeling rootless and afraid, and then the feeling of hope he gained from connecting with the spiritual ways of his people. He expressed the belief that ceremony has the power to unify and to heal for people of all backgrounds. “When that happens,” he wrote, “we truly become one song and one drum beating together in a common purpose—and we are on the path to being healed.”

“*One Drum* is the perfect reading companion to witness the stories, principles and ceremonies **Richard Wagamese** believed in, and took to for strength and renewal as one of Canada’s most beloved authors. These were the places Wagamese went to compose his literary masterpieces ... *One Drum* is a field of medicines for everyone. *Mahsi cho.*”- *Richard Van Camp*

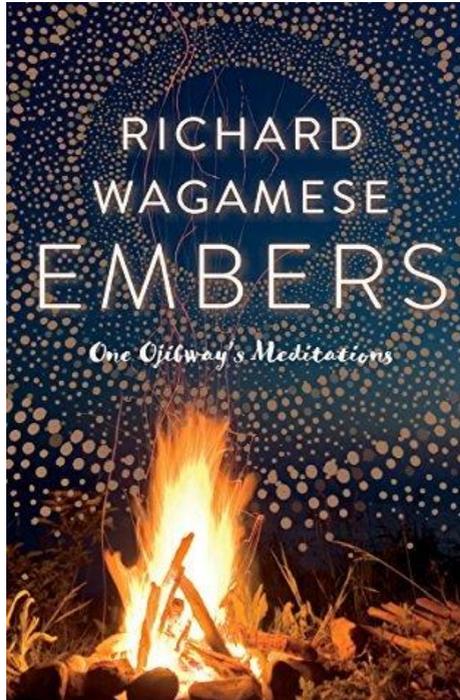
Douglas & McIntyre • Available • All rights available
5.5 x 8 • 192 pages

Embers

Spirituality

One Ojibway's Meditations

Richard Wagamese



|Over 100,000 copies sold!

"Life sometimes is hard. There are challenges. There are difficulties. There is pain. As a younger man I sought to avoid them and only ever caused myself more of the same. These days I choose to face life head on—and I have become a comet. I arc across the sky of my life and the harder times are the friction that lets the worn and tired bits drop away. It's a good way to travel; eventually I will wear away all resistance until all there is left of me is light. I can live towards that end."

—Richard Wagamese, *Embers*

In this carefully curated selection of everyday reflections, Richard Wagamese finds lessons in both the mundane and sublime as he muses on the universe, drawing inspiration from working in the bush—sawing and cutting and stacking wood for winter as well as the smudge ceremony to bring him closer to the Creator.

Embers is perhaps Richard Wagamese's most personal volume. Honest, evocative and articulate, he explores the various manifestations of grief, joy, recovery, beauty, gratitude, physicality and spirituality—concepts many find hard to express. But for Wagamese, spirituality is multifaceted. Within these pages, readers will find hard-won and concrete wisdom on how to feel the joy in the everyday things. Wagamese does not seek to be a teacher or guru, but these observations made along his own journey to become, as he says, "a spiritual bad-ass," make inspiring reading.

Richard Wagamese was one of Canada's foremost First Nations authors and storytellers. He was the author of thirteen books including *Indian Horse*, the People's Choice winner in the Canada Reads Competition and a feature film. He held Honorary Doctor of Letters degrees from Thompson Rivers University and Lakehead University

Douglas & McIntyre • Available • All rights available except English North America
5.5 x 8 • 176 pages

Richard Wagamese Selected *Spirituality*

Edited by Drew Hayden Taylor



A new curated collection of Richard Wagamese's short writings.

.Richard Wagamese, one of Canada's most celebrated Indigenous authors and storytellers, was a writer of breathtaking honesty and inspiration. Always striving to be a better, stronger person, Wagamese shared his journey through writing, encouraging others to do the same

Following the success of *Embers*, which has **sold over one hundred thousand copies** since its release in 2016, this new collection of Wagamese's non-fiction works, curated by editor Drew Hayden Taylor, brings together more of the prolific author's short writings, many for the first time in print, and celebrates his ability to inspire. Drawing from Wagamese's essays and columns, along with preserved social media and blog posts, this beautifully designed volume is a tribute to Wagamese's literary legacy.

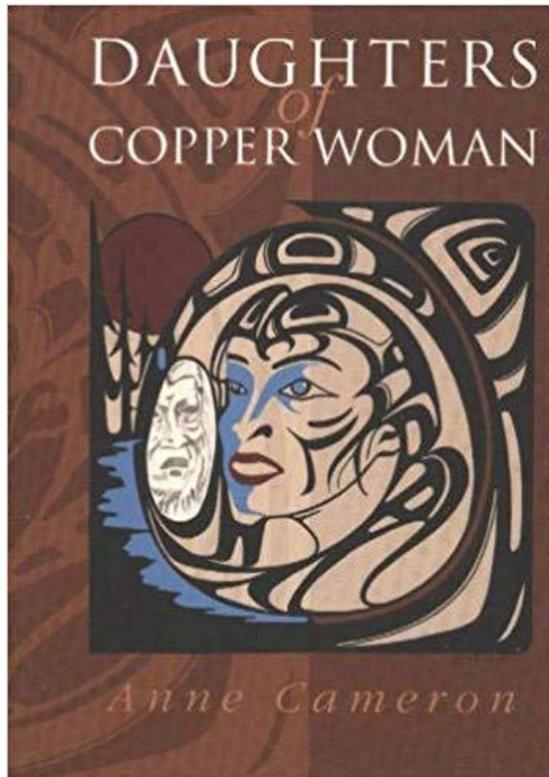
Drew Hayden Taylor is an award-winning playwright, novelist, scriptwriter and journalist. He was born and still lives on the Curve Lake First Nation in Central Ontario. Taylor has authored nearly thirty books, including *Take Us to Your Chief* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2016). He also edited *Me Funny, Me Sexy and Me Artsy* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2005, 2008 and 2015), and has been nominated for two Governor General's Awards.

Douglas & McIntyre • September 2021 • All rights except English North America available
5.5 x 8 • 176 pages

Daughters of Copper Woman Revised Edition

Spirituality

Anne Cameron



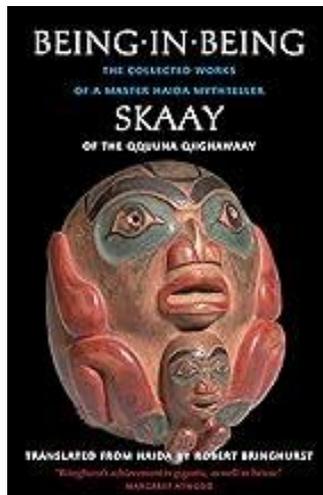
Since its first publication in 1981, *Daughters of Copper Woman* has become an underground classic, selling over 200,000 copies. Now in this second edition it includes many pieces cut from the original as well as fresh material added by the author. Here finally, is the complete version of the ground- breaking bestseller.

In this, her best-loved work, Anne Cameron has created a timeless retelling of northwest coast indigenous myths that together create a sublime image of the social and spiritual power of woman. Cameron weaves together the lives of legendary and imaginary characters, creating a work of fiction with an intensity of style matched by the power of its subject.

Anne Cameron began as a screenwriter at an early age. In 1979, her film *Dreamspeaker*, directed by Claude Jutra, won seven Canadian Film Awards, including best script. After being published as a novel, *Dreamspeaker* went on to win the Gibson Award for Literature. She has published more than 30 books, including the underground classic *Daughters of Copper Woman*.

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5,25 x 7,25 200 pages

Being in Being: *Spirituality* The Collected Works of a Master Haida Mythteller Skaay (Author), Robert Bringhurst(Translator)



Being in Being contains three masterpieces by legendary Haida mythteller Skaay of the Qquuna Qiighawaay. The shortest recounts the high points of the legend of his family. The second, Raven Travelling, is the longest and most complex version of the story of the Raven ever recorded on the Northwest Coast. The third is The Qquuna Cycle, a narrative poem of nearly 5,500 lines, one of the true masterpieces of North American literature.

Robert Bringhurst's eloquent and vivid translations of these works are supplemented by explanatory notes that supply the needed background information.

Skaay of the Qquuna Qiighawaay was born in the Haida village of Qquuna about 1827. During Skaay's lifetime, the face of Haida Gwaii was transformed but the traditions he was born to and grew up with were those of the precolonial, preindustrial, preliterate Haida world. So great were his talents as a storyteller and poet that he remains the most important figure in all of Haida literature.

Robert Bringhurst, winner of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence and former Guggenheim Fellow in poetry, trained initially in the sciences at MIT but has made his career in the humanities. He is also an officer of the Order of Canada and the recipient of two honorary doctorates. He lives on Quadra Island, BC.

Douglas & McIntyre

October 2023

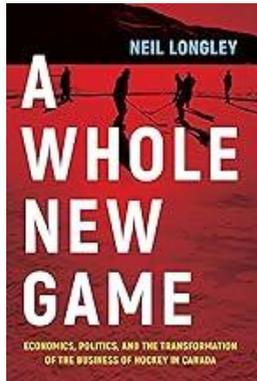
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5.5 x 8.5

400 pages

A Whole New Game: Sports Economics, Politics, and the Transformation of the Business of Hockey in Canada

Neil Longley



Hockey used to be Canada's game. What happened? A renowned sports expert details the sellout of a sport Canada once dominated to big-money U.S. corporatization and enumerates the effects, including declining amateur participation and audience size.

Hockey is still Canada's most popular spectator sport. Yet, many fans question how organized hockey serves the country of its origin as they watch the NHL expand ever deeper into an indifferent American south, taking the best young Canadian talent and leaving major Canadian markets in Quebec, the Maritimes and the Prairies in the cold.

Minor hockey, once the pride of smaller communities, now serves as a brutal corporate feeder system for the NHL, treating underpaid teenagers like chattels, often shipping players as young as fourteen far away from their homes and families on short notice. Neil Longley contrasts the current state of the game with the way it was before the expansion era, when hockey teams were nurtured and supported at the community level, a system still practiced in much of Europe. In one of the most perceptive and authoritative analyses yet written on modern hockey history, Professor Longley finds no magic formula for putting heart and local pride back in Canada's game, but makes a strong case for placing today's corporate system "in a more realistic, less-Disneyfied, less sanitized, context."

"A Whole New Game is a unique book by someone uniquely qualified to write it—A Canadian on the evolution of Canadian hockey over the last 50 years. From a central thesis—that hockey reflects the world around it—Professor Longley provides an engaging tour de force of the crucial changes in Canadian society that led to the present state of hockey in Canada. Political ideology, Quebec sovereignty, and tensions between the provinces in the West and East all played a role. Nothing is missed, from junior hockey on up to the NHL. I read very few works in a single sitting, but I couldn't put this book down until I learned the entire story."— Rodney Fort, Ph.D. University of Michigan

"Hockey is a simple game. Put puck in net. But the business of hockey is far more complex. In A Whole New Game, Neil Longley guides us through the remarkable transformation of our game over the last half-century. It's a hockey story, but in many ways, it's also the story of Canada."— James Duthie, TSN hockey analyst

“Canadians have long needed a look at their national game that is filtered through the prism of the vast changes in our society over the last one hundred years or so. Neil Longley has done it, looking at how hockey has changed in Canada, not necessarily for the good, in the face of French-English relations as well as economic, political and social upheaval. This is a valuable addition to the library of any serious hockey fan.”— David Shoalts, author of *Hockey Fight in Canada: The Big Media Faceoff Over the NHL*

“Riveting, revealing and well-researched. Hockey fans everywhere will want to read Neil Longley’s interlocking political, economic and social analysis of the monumental changes which have occurred to what was “Canada’s Game”. Longley pulls no punches in tackling the big issues: Quebec’s identity, western alienation, discrimination, the “exploitative nature” of junior hockey leagues, the precipitous drop in the percentage of Canadians playing in the NHL, the thirty-year Stanley Cup drought for Canadian teams, and most importantly the American business domination of what has become sports entertainment. Thought-provoking, to be sure.”— Gary Smith, author of *Ice War Diplomat: Hockey Meets Cold War Politics at the 1972 Summit Series*

“Longley’s book explains the dismal performance of Canadian NHL clubs over the last three decades. It is a remarkable analysis of the evolution of ice hockey, through its elite junior leagues, the WHA and the NHL. It tracks the economic impact of the Americanization and globalization of hockey, meshing it with Canadian politics, as well as the sociological and cultural aspects of hockey. Longley combines useful statistics with anecdotes, recalling episodes and players that hockey fans still cherish.”— Marc Lavoie, professor emeritus, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa and author of *Avantage Numérique: L’argent et la Ligue Nationale de Hockey (Numerical Advantage: Money and the NHL)*

Neil Longley, Professor Emeritus in the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, holds a PhD in Economics from Washington State University and is currently the Director of Business at Nevada State University in Greater Las Vegas. In addition to publishing widely in the field of sports economics, he was the recipient of the 2010-2011 Outstanding Research Award for the Isenberg School of Management. He lives in Las Vegas, NV.

Douglas & McIntyre • October 2023 • All rights available except English Canada
6 x 9 • 288 pages

Shifting Gears

Sports

Coast to Coast on the Trans Am Bike Race

Meaghan Marie Hackinen



Meaghan Marie Hackinen's follow-up to her award-nominated debut *South Away* charts her unforgettable, twenty-five-day journey on the Trans Am Bike Race: a coast-to-coast ride across the entire North American continent from Oregon to Virginia. Without the aid of a support crew, Hackinen must rely entirely on her wits, ingenuity and sheer determination to finish this extremely challenging feat. A sports story with a unique theme, Hackinen writes about the Trans Am Bike Race as a cultural whole, as she encounters consequences and unforeseen repercussions of an underground, unregulated athletic endeavour. *Shifting Gears* is another expertly-delivered travelogue and a thrilling glimpse into a world of athletes driven to impossible lengths.

"If you aren't already in love with the bicycle and the open road, perhaps this book will pull you into Hackinen's slipstream."--Yvonne Blomer, author of *Sugar Ride: Cycling From Hanoi to Kuala Lumpur*

"Vividly written, telling the authentic story of long-distance cycling -- with all its setbacks, obstacles, emotions, craziness, rewards, and weirdness."--Stefan Barth, author of *Ultracycling & Bikepacking - All You Need to Know!*, Founder of SBU Coaching

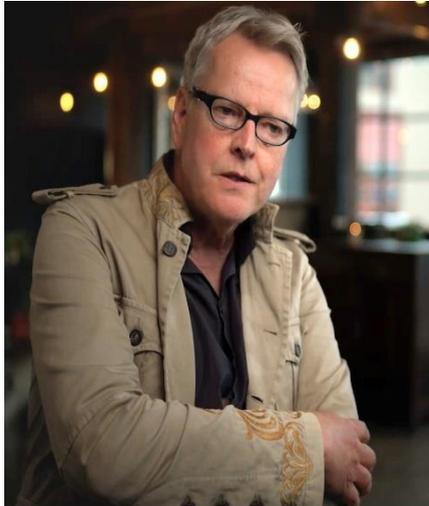
"Witty, insightful, unfiltered, and brutally honest, Meaghan Hackinen opens our eyes to the emotional rollercoaster and perils every ultra-distance cyclist faces. Hackinen takes us along for the ride in this gritty, raw account of her 2017 self-supported race across America. She comes clean about rookie mistakes, self-discovery, hardships, heartache, and the unbreakable bonds forged between fellow riders. This exhilarating read will inspire and resonate with every adventure cycling enthusiast."--Robert Biron, *Salty Beard Bikepacking*

Meaghan Marie Hackinen is a writer and cyclist from Vancouver, BC. Her two-wheeled adventures have taken her from Haida Gwaii to Mexico's high plateaus, across Canada and the United States, and, most recently, from North Cape to Tarifa along some of Europe's highest paved roads. Her writing explores relationships, experiences on the road, and encounters with wild places. Her creative non-fiction, poetry, and prose can be found in literary journals and cycling magazines. She has an MFA in Writing from the University of Saskatchewan and currently resides in Kelowna, BC.

NeWest • October 2023 • All print rights available except English North America
6 x 9 • 240 pages

Flight Risk: The Tourist on Trial *Travel*

STEVE BURGESS



A cutting look at the real price of our holidays.

Travel was once a marker of sophistication.

Now the tourist is just as likely to be viewed as one locust in an annihilating swarm. Tourists face tough questions: When does economic opportunity become exploitation? How do we justify the use of climate-changing jet fuel?

And how can we be sure our tourist dollars aren't propping up corrupt and brutal regimes?

Now, as the world returns to travel, Steven Burgess asks: Can we defend our wanderlust to a skeptical jury of our peers? Or is the tourist guilty of the charges—from voyeurism to desecration—levelled against them by everyone from environmentalists to exhausted locals to superior-feeling fellow tourists who have traded in the tour bus for “authentic experiences”?

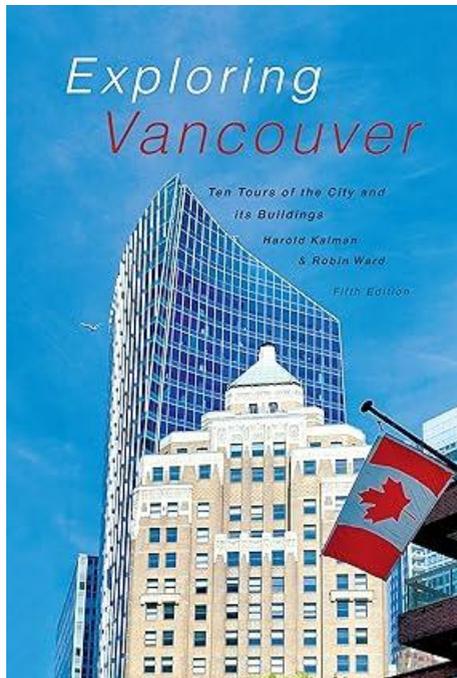
In this smart and sharply funny interrogation of our right to roam, Burgess looks into the traveller's soul, sharing the stories of some of his most important travels, from Rome to Tana Toraja, and looking to studies and experts around the world for insight into why we travel and how we could do it better. And throughout, he tells the story of a month in Japan—his first trip outside North America—and the whirlwind cross-cultural romance that brought him there, and took him on a journey around the country in search of wonder and maybe even love.

Steve Burgess is a writer and broadcaster whose honours include two Canadian National Magazine awards.

Douglas & McIntyre • Spring 2024 • All rights except English Canada available
6" x 9" • 272 pages

Exploring Vancouver: Ten Tours *Travel* of the City and its Buildings (5/e)

Harold Kalman and Robin Ward



This new edition of the classic urban guidebook brings the city's architectural story up to date.

Harold Kalman and Robin Ward, long-time chroniclers of Vancouver, offer an authoritative and highly readable book about Vancouver's most interesting places and explain how, why and by whom the city's urban environment was created.

Containing more than four hundred entries, ten self-guided tours highlight significant buildings from all eras in the city and its metro region, and feature new projects that transform the skyline more radically than ever before. The tours—organized by neighbourhood and planned variously for walking, cycling, car and transit—reveal Vancouver in a constant state of reinvention, fuelled by real estate speculation, immigration and the egos of civic boosters, developers and architects.

Today, this dynamic is colliding with architectural and urban planning responses to climate change. For the first time in the series, this edition includes the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples' role in the narrative, including information on several substantial local projects shaped by these communities and Nations.

For wayfinding, entries are numbered and keyed to maps. A glossary of architectural terms and styles is provided. Exploring Vancouver is the perfect companion for curious visitors and citizens of this fascinating metropolis alike.

Harold Kalman is a specialist in architectural history and heritage conservation. He is the author of many texts, including *A History of Canadian Architecture* (Oxford University Press, 1994), *Heritage Planning* (Routledge, 2020), and *Exploring Ottawa* (Figure 1 Publishing, 2017). He is a member of the Order of Canada and holds appointments at the universities of Victoria and Hong Kong.

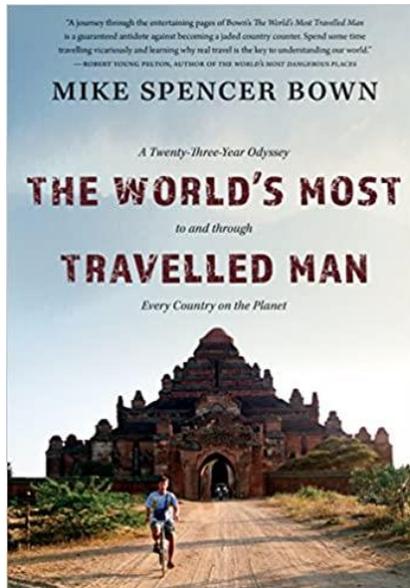
Robin Ward is an architectural critic, writer, photographer, and graphic artist. He wrote a weekly column on architecture for the *Vancouver Sun* for more than a decade. He is the author of *Robin Ward's Vancouver* and *Robin Ward's Heritage West Coast* (1990, 1993), as well as architectural guides to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Bangkok.

Harbour Publishing • Spring 2023 • All rights available except English North America • 6 x 9 368 pages

The World's Most Travelled Man Travel

A Twenty-Three-Year Odyssey to and through Every Country on the Planet

Mike Spencer Bown



In 1990, Calgary-born Mike Spencer Bown packed a backpack and began a journey that would eventually take him through each of the world's 195 countries and span more than two decades. From relaxing on the white sand beaches of Bali to waiting out blizzards in Tibetan caves, Bown trekked from country to country, driven by a desire to see the world in the most authentic way possible, not to just collect stamps on his passport. Eventually, he began to earn international recognition for some of his more unconventional destinations--such as a memorable trip to war-torn Mogadishu.

The World's Most Travelled Man is an eye-opening account of the universal human experience as seen from each corner of the changing world. Blending a romantic connection to nature through solitude and the social examination of culture, Bown fully immerses himself in each experience, however diverse, dangerous or dirty, veering way, way off the backpacker circuit to see the world through an unparalleled perspective. *The World's Most Travelled Man* is a journey of global proportions shared with the humility of a man who simply wants to satisfy his own curiosity and live life to the fullest.

“His prose manages to be both blunt and stimulating as he, quite successfully, condenses his adventures in 195 countries down to a digestible travelogue. From his accounts of traveling through the Middle East in the early aughts to gaining minor-celebrity status in Ireland, readers catch a glimpse of what it means to truly experience the human condition in all its forms. A delightful odyssey in itself, Bown’s first book will inspire readers to seek out a new experience, even if it’s just around the corner.” -*(Booklist)*

“This book is endlessly fascinating.” *(Publisher's Weekly)*

“an impressive literary première... Where he engages with the landscape and locals, his writing is fresh and illuminating. His account of his travels in the countries of north-central and Central Africa is stellar, especially his intimate-yet-dangerous escapades in the eastern Congo with rainforest Bambuti pygmies... These are great tales of travel adventure. *(Winnipeg's Free Press)*

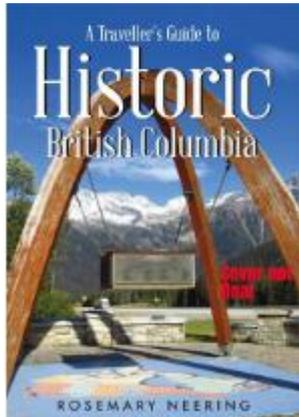
Mike Spencer Bown was last spotted in Canmore, Alberta, but probably won't be there long. This is his first book.

Douglas & McIntyre • Available • German rights sold, All others except English available
6.25 x 9.5 • 352 pages

A Traveller's Guide to Historic British Columbia: Revised and Updated

Travel

Rosemary Neering



Revised and completely updated, this new edition of the much-loved A Traveller's Guide to Historic British Columbia takes travellers, armchair and actual, on a road trip through the province's history. This classic handbook follows main roads and back roads to historic sites, heritage experiences and the narratives of the past. The stories of First Nations, ethnic minorities, and incoming settlers weave a rich tapestry that underlies the region's present. Included in this new edition are First Nations experiences, displays and museums that limn indigenous heritage; details of changing museums and revamped and newly designated heritage sites; and notes of sites and buildings that sadly have slipped away

The author blends quirky tales with evidence of landscape change, tragic timelines with soaring successes, accounts of relatively recent big-city historic buildings with the signs and tales of thousands of years ago. Not a history of British Columbia, but an introduction to the ever-changing ways of experiencing that history in all its variations, this book will live in glove compartments, on screens, and on bookshelves as curious travellers happily discover the country of the past.

Rosemary Neering is fascinated by the stories that underlie British Columbia and will take any excuse for a road trip along the province's byways. Listening to tales told in a café deep in the hinterland, exploring dusty backroads, and checking out small-town museums and almost deserted historic sites are among her favourite occupations. She is the author of a plethora of books that explore the province she loves, including *Wild West Women: Travellers, Adventurers and Rebels* and *Down the Road: Journeys through Small-Town British Columbia*. She lives in Victoria with her partner Joe Thompson, where she plays tennis and makes pottery.

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6 x 9 • 400 Pages

Acacia House Publishing Services Ltd.
687 Oliver Street,
Victoria BC V8S 4W2 Canada

