

**THISTLEDOWN  
PRESS**

**Fall 2016**

**New and Recent Titles**

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Distributed by University of Toronto Press**



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Thistledown Press gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the Saskatchewan Arts Board, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Government of Canada for its publishing programs.

## Cluck

Lenore Rowntree

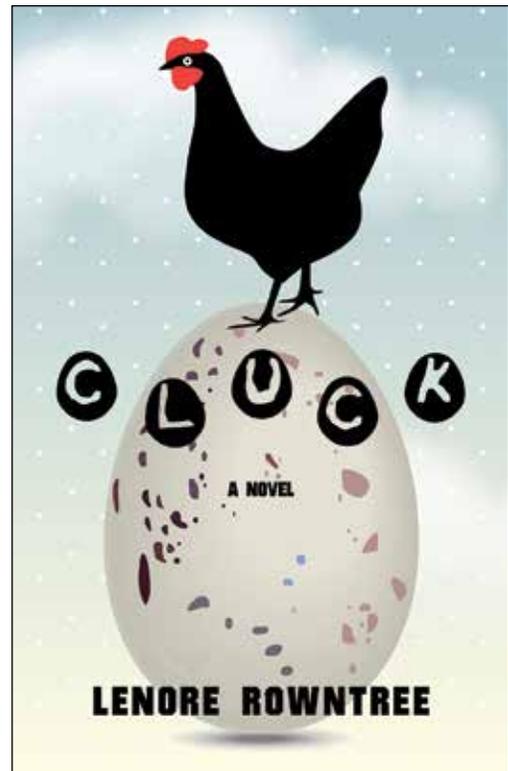
**A psychological look into the life of an awkward, yet charming young man on a quirky, funny and arresting journey, despite the challenge of a mother who lives with mental illness.**

*Cluck* is a darkly comic novel about Henry, an only child whose mother has bipolar disorder. As a teen, Henry becomes a radio junkie lost in the world of music. As a young man, he becomes obsessed with a female DJ whose evening show mysteriously beams out of Idaho and into his car while he's driving over Vancouver's Lions Gate Bridge. Henry has to live his life in the shadow cast by his mother, but he never completely gives up hope that he can find his place. In his thirties, his life slowly starts to open in positive directions, including sporadic success with chicken farming, outsider art (he calls himself a knit reactor), and romance. But it's not until Henry is in his fifties that he comes into his own and feels free to be himself, but not without one final struggle with his own quirkiness.

*Cluck* was a finalist in The Great BC Novel Contest (2013), and a version of a chapter was shortlisted for a story contest run by the American literary journal *Glimmer Train*.



LENORE ROWNTREE lives beside the heron rookery in Vancouver's Stanley Park. Her short stories and poetry have appeared in several publications including *Geist*, *Room*, *The New Quarterly*, *Other Voices*, *Exile Quarterly*, *The Tyee*, *Poet to Poet Anthology* (Guernica Editions, 2012), and *The Best Canadian Poetry Anthology* (Tightrope Books, 2010). Her self-illustrated book of children's poems, *Love Letters*, received a gold medal from the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards in 2007. Her play, *The Woods at Tender Creek*, was produced at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre (The Cultch) in 2010. She is a co-editor and contributor to the anthology, *Hidden Lives: Coming Out on Mental Illness* (Brindle & Glass, 2012), and most recently her collection of short stories, *Dovetail Joint*, was published in 2015 by Quadra Books.



### NOVEL

ISBN-10: 1-77187-108-3

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-108-2

\$19.95 CAD / \$18.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

224 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

### BISACS:

FIC019000 (FICTION / Literary)

FIC016000 (FICTION / Humorous)

FIC025000 (FICTION / Psychological)

### THEMA CODES:

FBA (Modern & contemporary fiction)

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

PUB DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2016

### MARKETING

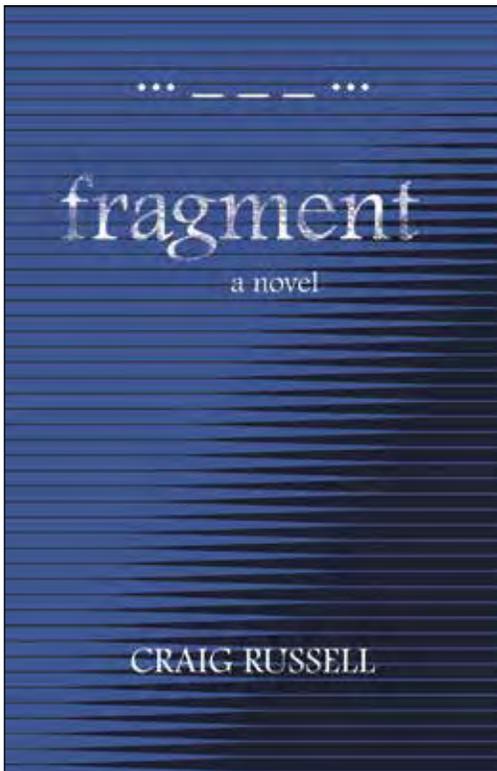
BOOK LAUNCH: Vancouver

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[www.lenorerowntree.com](http://www.lenorerowntree.com)





## NOVEL

ISBN-10: 1-77187-111-3

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-111-2

\$19.95 CAD / \$18.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

240 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

## BISACS:

FIC028010 (FICTION / Science Fiction /  
Action & Adventure)

NAT023000 (NATURE / Natural Disasters)

## THEMA CODES:

FBA (Modern &amp; contemporary fiction)

FD (Speculative fiction)

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

PUB DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2016

## MARKETING

BOOK LAUNCH: Winnipeg

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## Fragment

Craig Russell

Climate change births a gigantic iceberg in the Antarctic that threatens coastal continents as it creeps through the Drake Passage towards South America and beyond.

As the planet and the oceans warm, a cool layer of newly minted ice shields the surface of the Antarctic Ocean from the warmer, deeper waters that are melting the ice shelves. New giant icebergs float off the continent, some the size of the Island of Montreal. On one eventful day at Antarctica's Scott Base, a polar climatologist, an astronomer, and a marine biologist are caught up in something far more ominous and impactful than the common "calving off" of icebergs from the Earth's land ice. What they encounter is the most powerful event in nature they have ever experienced, the magnitude of which seems almost incomprehensible.

As the terrible force of the Fragment becomes known, it is not only the human world that will have to contend with its treachery but also the animal world of the sea. And so it is that within the survival instincts of several species lies the remedy and plan that must be forged to save millions from disaster and death. But first, as the Fragment morphs from phenomenon to global threat and begins its drift toward South America, the parade of humanity will have its way: the military with their prescriptions, the media with their exploitation of the disaster, the analysts with their desire to know more, and those few dedicated scientists who were there at its birth and will eventually be lead to action by the most unlikely of allies — a blue whale named Ring.



CRAIG RUSSELL's novel, *Black Bottle Man*, won the 2011 American Moonbeam Award gold medal for Young Adult Fantasy. It was also a finalist for the Prix Aurora Award for Best English Science Fiction or Fantasy Novel, as well as for two Manitoba Book Awards in the same year. Russell has directed a variety of theatre productions and his short play, *The Unintended Consequences of Love*, was performed at the 2006 Carol Shields Festival of New Works. His stage adaptation of *Black Bottle Man* was performed in Brandon and Winnipeg, MB, in 2015. Russell is a lawyer, supervising the land titles system in southwestern Manitoba. He lives in Brandon with his wife, where they are restoring their 1906 Victorian heritage home.



## The Path of the Jaguar

Stephen Henighan

A young Guatemalan woman is troubled with her Mayan culture, and attempts to choose a path for herself and her children: does she stay in Guatemala, or emigrate to the US?

In 1997, Guatemala is emerging from thirty-six years of civil war. Amparo Ajuix, a determined young woman who lives in a Mayan village with her husband, runs a savings club for the local women with the help of an American NGO. Eager to take advantage of Guatemala's new democracy to strengthen the culture of the Mayan people, she campaigns to switch the language of instruction in the village's primary school from Spanish to the local language of Cakchiquel.

But Amparo's life is wracked with tensions. Dona María, an older woman who influences the market where Amparo sells her handicrafts, is jealous of Amparo's savings club. Amparo's best friend, Raquel, is a born-again Protestant who disdains Amparo's devout Catholicism. Yolanda, Amparo's pretty seventeen-year-old sister, flirts with foreign men in the nearby tourist town of Antigua. Most seriously of all, Amparo's husband, Eusebio, suspects that he is not the father of her second child, with whom she is pregnant. The erosion of complicity between them poisons their marriage.

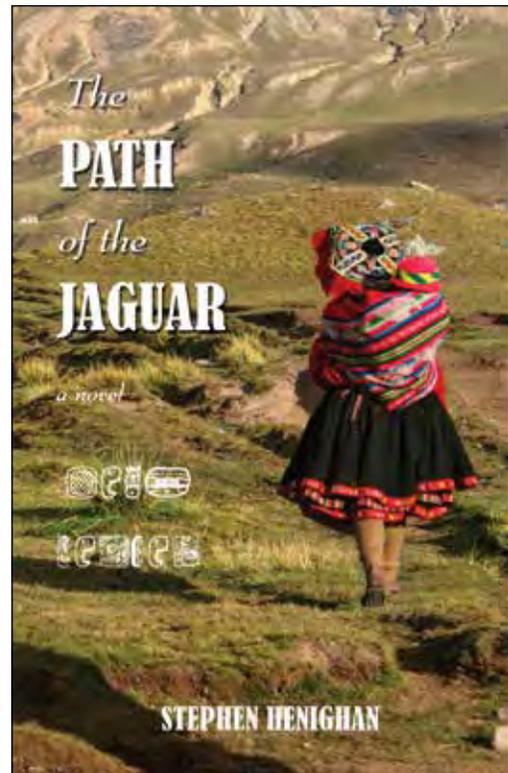
In 2003, Amparo works as a teacher in a language school for tourists in Antigua. She is tasked with the special case of a man, whom she calls Ricardo, who wishes to study her native Cakchiquel Mayan language. The experience of teaching this man confronts her with the in-between nature of her own culture. She does not speak Cakchiquel perfectly, as her parents do, yet as a Native person she cannot be completely accepted into Spanish-speaking Guatemalan society, and her Catholicism is mixed with beliefs in traditional Mayan gods. Her crisis about what to preserve and what to discard from her culture is accentuated when her son, Pablito, an enigmatic boy whom she struggles to understand, falls ill.



STEPHEN HENIGHAN is the author of three novels, including *The Streets of Winter* (2004), and three short story collections, including *A Grave in the Air* (2007). He has more than 45 publications in magazines and



anthologies worldwide, and writes an influential column on culture for *Geist*. His journalism has appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and more. He has been a finalist for the Governor General's Award, the Canada Prize in the Humanities, a McNally Robinson Fiction Prize, a National Magazine Award, and a Western Magazine Award. Henighan teaches Spanish-American literature at the University of Guelph.



### NOVEL

ISBN-10: 1-77187-123-7

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-123-5

\$19.95 CAD / \$18.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

212 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

### BISACS:

FIC019000 (FICTION / Literary)

FIC051000 (FICTION / Cultural Heritage)

TP090 (TOPICAL / Women's Interest)

### THEMA CODES:

FBA (Modern & contemporary fiction)

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

PUB DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2016

### MARKETING

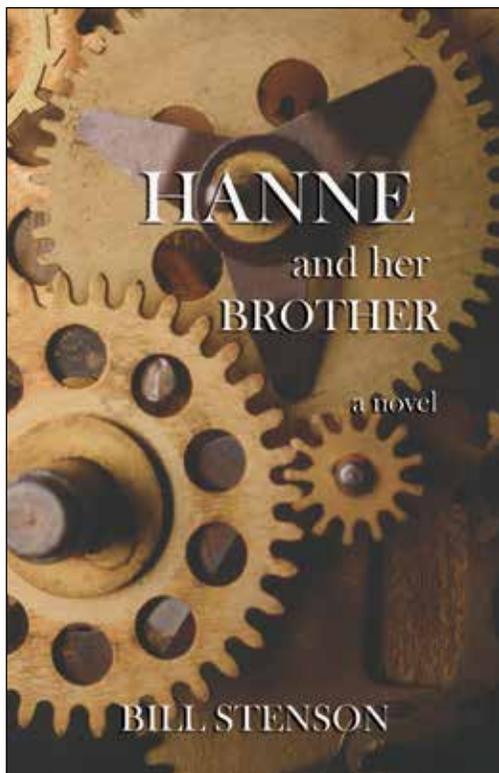
BOOK LAUNCH: Guelph

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[www.stephenhenighan.com](http://www.stephenhenighan.com)





## NOVEL

ISBN-10: 1-77187-114-8

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-114-3

\$19.95 CAD / \$18.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

296 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

## BISACS:

FIC019000 (FICTION / Literary)

FIC045000 (FICTION / Family Life)

FIC041000 (FICTION / Biographical)

## THEMA CODES:

FBA (Modern &amp; contemporary fiction)

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

PUB DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2016

## MARKETING

BOOK LAUNCH: Victoria

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## Hanne and Her Brother

Bill Stenson

A Belgian family moves to the post-WWII Cowichan Valley and the daughter must adapt to their immigration, as well as situations of death, birth, and survival in their new home.

After the death of his wife, Arthur Lemmons moves from Belgium to the Cowichan Valley of BC to begin a new life. He teaches his daughter, Hanne, the skill of repairing clocks. Trying his best in his parental role, Arthur is given to hard and fast rules that Hanne must follow. To avoid any dangerous situations, he removes her from school to be taught at home. With every passing day she has the burgeoning desire for something dramatic to happen in her life, and with the loss of her school friendships this only intensifies.

In her isolated home life, Hanne fantasizes about having a brother whom she could love and protect. Her first real experience with death comes at sixteen, followed a week later by her first sexual experience when a local boy rapes her. Hanne's unspeakable tragedy is further complicated when the boy returns the following day and, in a moment of self-preservation, she murders him and hides the body in an abandoned well.

Here begins Hanne's astonishing odyssey of evasive risk and self-protection, as she weighs her guilt against her discovery months later that she is pregnant. With the missing boy's family pursuing his whereabouts and the RCMP investigating, the tensions rise. It is only with the guidance of the community's old doctor, Hanne's neighbour, and several of the community's women that Hanne is able to weigh her pregnancy against abortion, and her guilt against confession.

Striking out to find herself more clearly, Hanne's next journey takes her east to Winnipeg and then to Eastend, Saskatchewan, before she can return to her home in the Cowichan Valley where her past can finally be reconciled.



BILL STENSON is a fiction writer born in Nelson, BC. He has had stories published in many of Canada's literary magazines, and is the author of *Translating Women* (2004) and *Svoboda* (2007). Stenson co-founded *The Claremont Review*, an international magazine that publishes young adult writers. He lives in Victoria with his wife, the poet Susan Stenson.



## A Hard Old Love Amongst Scavengers

David Doucette

A world-weary Cape Bretoner, a smart red fox with reading glasses, and a ravenous coyote pack become inexplicably intertwined in this taut tale set in Nova Scotia.

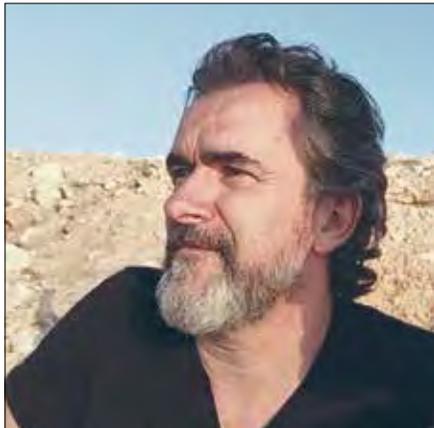
At forty-six, Miles Hann gives it all up for the little cottage he has built on the slopes of his native Ingonish, Cape Breton. Miles has circumnavigated the globe five times and in his years of wandering has grown weary of man's mendacity and pursuit of pleasure. Mostly, though, Miles is physically tired; even a trip around the harbour is a weighty prospect. He writes himself a letter to express his commitment to stay away from it all, to contemplate the animals of the slope, and to try, for even one day, to have no ill thought of others. He does not manage it, for visitors decide to climb the hill to his door. They know Miles is a quiet man, a polite man, that Miles has travelled everywhere there is to travel and that he alone must have the answers to their burning questions. Also, who else is as free to drop in on anytime you want?

Miles listens to every word of how, yet again, the world has been maligning these poor gentle folk. On their way back down his hill, though he has told them nothing, they proclaim, "Yes! Wise if ever wise there was one. The man bothers with not a soul!" Miles waves his hand and shakes his head, too, turning for the trees. "Further proof of the pride," he says, "and that everyone is a wound."

The next time that someone comes (and it is everyday now), Miles runs for the cover of his trees to hide. He spies at the same instant the little red fox that had been visiting him: "Charlie, the one who found my glasses! The one who now leads me haphazardly up the mountain proper and out onto the beautiful lonesome rockslide scree of a blackening evening. Here is one place I have not been up to in many, many years." However, lurking in the black spruce fringe is a starved coyote pack, one grown desperate and bold, one that has killed.



DAVID DOUCETTE was born in northeastern Cape Breton Island. He has travelled the world, writes, builds houses, and plays several musical instruments. *A Hard Old Love Amongst Scavengers* is his third published novel. His previous works were both finalists for the Dartmouth Book Award, one winning in 2002. He divides his time between Canada, on Cape Breton Island, and Brazil.



### NOVEL

ISBN-10: 1-77187-120-2

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-120-4

\$19.95 CAD / \$18.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

184 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

### BISACS:

FIC019000 (FICTION / Literary)

### THEMA CODES:

FBA (Modern & contemporary fiction)

FN (Myth & legend told as fiction)

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

PUB DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2016

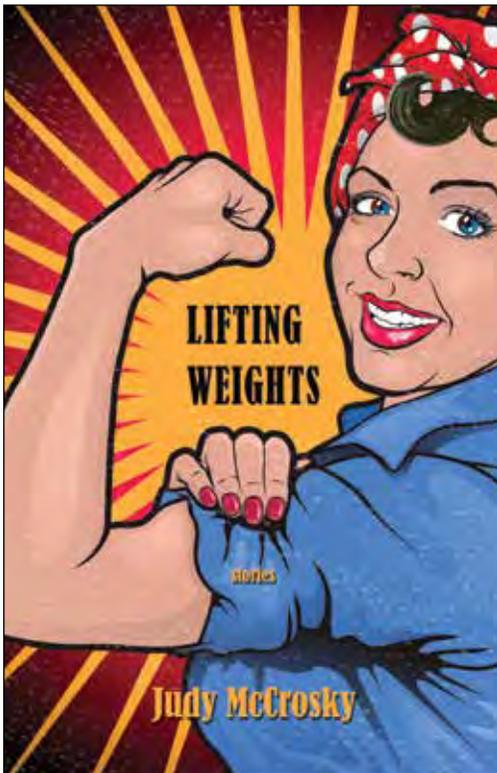
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BOOK LAUNCH: Cape Breton Island

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## SHORT FICTION

ISBN-10: 1-77187-105-9

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-105-1

\$18.95 CAD / \$17.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

144 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

## BISACS:

FIC029000 (FICTION / Short Stories)

FIC016000 (FICTION / Humorous)

## THEMA CODES:

FBA (Modern &amp; contemporary fiction)

FYB (Short stories)

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

PUB DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2016

## MARKETING

BOOK LAUNCH: Saskatoon

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## Lifting Weights

Judy McCrosky

These unconventional stories are mostly about women who trade risk and fear to gain physical and mental strength by meeting some arduous challenge.

The collective force of McCrosky's *Lifting Weights* is a raw adventure into the unknown. In "Death TV", we meet a butterfly collector whose explorations into the violent mayhem of television programming draw out society's preoccupation with watching people die as a source of entertainment. A journalist with a nose for a good story takes us inside the world of "thinking machines" as she tries to discern whether cybernetic horses conform to her dictum that living means being true to your identity. In the surreal tale "Sand Dove", an unhappy woman leaves her husband and makes her way to a small beach community where she finds an injured bird that conjures for her a sort of baby to compensate for all the miscarriages she has had. In the title story, "Lifting Weights", Jane and Sandra, future archeologists on an alien planet, have their lives tested in climbing to the surface of a dark underground cavern into which they have fallen. In their quest to survive one of them discovers a new inner strength that had always eluded her, while she solves an ancient mystery as to why the civilization on the planet became extinct.

McCrosky's imagination knows few limits, though in her quest to entertain in these twelve stories she remains true to her themes of optimism and exploration, while maintaining her central vision that our greatest fears and threats are conquerable.



JUDY MCCROSKY is the author of five books that span genres and styles. Her publications include literary works, science fiction, fantasy, romance, and non-fiction. She has published two short fiction collections, *Spin Cycle and Other Stories* (1990) and *Blow the Moon Out* (1995). Her stories have been published on three continents: North America, Europe, and Australia. She is co-editor, with Candace Jane Dorsey, of the international anthology *Land/Space*. She is an active and engaged teacher, and has taught classes and workshops in both Canada and the United States. McCrosky lives in Saskatoon.



## How To Pick Up A Maid in Statue Square

### Rea Tarvydas

The passions, pathos, and isolation of expats gathered in Hong Kong, often at a bar called The Globe, are explored in these short fictions.

The short fictions in Rea Tarvydas' debut collection collectively capture various versions of the expat life that share the feeling of being between two worlds, the experience of being neither here nor there and trying to find a way to fill that space.

The stories follow a kind of "life cycle" of expatriates in Hong Kong, a place often called the "most thrilling city on the planet". From the hedonistic first days in "How To Pick Up A Maid in Statue Square", as Fast Eddy instructs on how best to approach Filipina maids on their rest day, through the muted middle in "Rephrasing Kate", as Kate encounters a charismatic bad boy and is forced to admit her infidelities, to the inevitable end in "The Dirty Duck", as 37 realizes his inability to commit and resolves to return home to Australia — Hong Kong alters each of these characters with its frenetic mixture of capitalism and exoticism.

Characters exist between the worlds they once knew and this place which now holds them in its spell and shapes them to its ends. Their stories explore how they cope with this space where loneliness and alienation intersect, a place where insomniac young bankers forfeit their ambition by chasing deviant sexual encounters, or consume themselves with climbing the corporate ladder. It is a world where passive domestics live and work for the money they can send home, while their keepers assemble poolside to engage in conversations aroused by the expats' desire to connect to others who share their fates.



REA TARVYDAS lives and writes in Calgary, Alberta. Her stories can be found in *The New Quarterly*, *The Fiddlehead*, and *Grain*. Her work is forthcoming in the *Menopause Anthology* (Inanna, 2017). Tarvydas is the winner of the 2012 Brenda Strathern "Late Bloomers" Writing Prize, curated by the Calgary Foundation and presented at WordFest. In addition, her work has been nominated for a National Magazine Award. She has lived in Hong Kong and, as such, experienced one version of the expat life which is the genesis for this book.



#### SHORT FICTION

ISBN-10: 1-77187-117-2

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-117-4

\$18.95 CAD / \$17.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

144 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

#### BISACS:

FIC029000 (FICTION / Short Stories)

FIC048000 (FICTION / Urban)

#### THEMA CODES:

FBA (Modern & contemporary fiction)

FYB (Short stories)

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

PUB DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2016

#### MARKETING

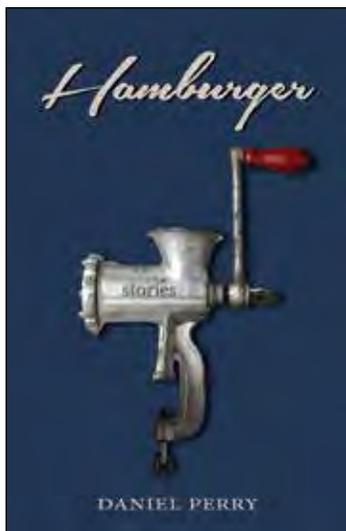
BOOK LAUNCH: Calgary

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[www.reatarvydas.com](http://www.reatarvydas.com)





## Hamburger

Daniel Perry

SHORT FICTION  
978-1-77187-097-9  
\$18.95 CAD  
Available as an eBook

The short fictions in Daniel Perry's debut collection, *Hamburger*, range from dark satirical perspectives to situational ironies and often set in motion a paradox or unresolved event with which the reader is left to grapple. These stories move the people who populate them into decisions that offer tense moments of hope and beauty.

"Perry captures entire worlds in these deft yet swooping stories — in sketches snappy and precise, he shows us the magic in the downtrodden, and gifts us images that linger long after the last page is turned." — Amanda Leduc, author of *The Miracles of Ordinary Men*

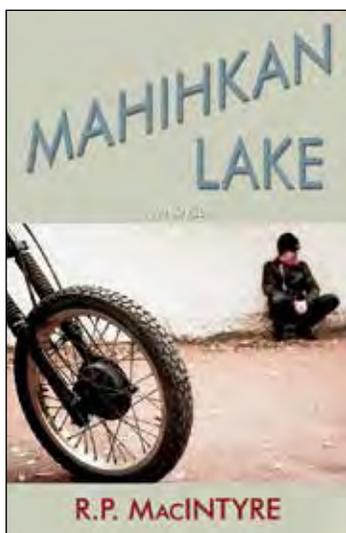
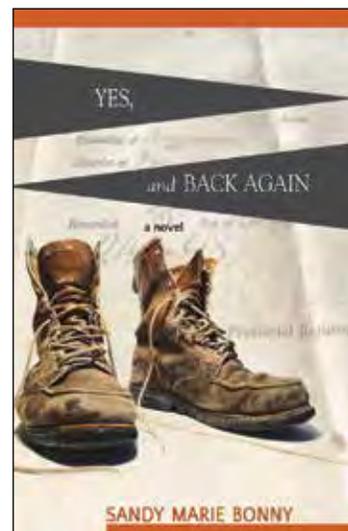
## Yes, and Back Again

Sandy Marie Bonny

NOVEL  
978-1-77187-052-8  
\$19.95 CAD  
Available as an eBook

When Tanis and Neil Cameron move to Saskatoon's west side and two of Neil's teenage students suddenly go missing, the couple is thrust into a world of deeply rooted class and racial divisions. *Yes, and Back Again* is a suspenseful and thought-provoking mystery that explores the legacy of the historic marginalization of aboriginal people in Canada, as well as the complicity inherent in being part of a silent majority.

"Haunting like a ghost story, edifying like historical fiction, puzzling like a murder mystery, touching like a love story, but unfettered by the conventions of any of these genres, Bonny's world, her people, her ghosts, are utterly and fallibly real." — David Carpenter



## Mahihkan Lake

R.P. MacIntyre

NOVEL  
978-1-77187-053-5  
\$19.95 CAD  
Available as an eBook

Denny Givens can't help but be suspicious when his adopted brother Dave gives him a letter to pass on to their estranged sister Dianne. Shortly after, a tragic accident on the road to the family cabin at Mahihkan Lake ends Dave's life and sends truck driver Harold Huckaluk on a soul-searching canoe trip. Each character must reflect on their place in the world as their fates collide.

"MacIntyre knows these people inside out, and he knows the northern bush country and the music world of small clubs and bars and one-album wonders. His one-paragraph description of a small-town bar, its smell, its colours, its pool table, and its empty promise is a gem of economy and rightness and a model for aspiring writers." — *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*

- Shortlisted for the 2016 Saskatchewan Book Award for Fiction

## Corvus

Harold Johnson

NOVEL

978-1-77187-051-1

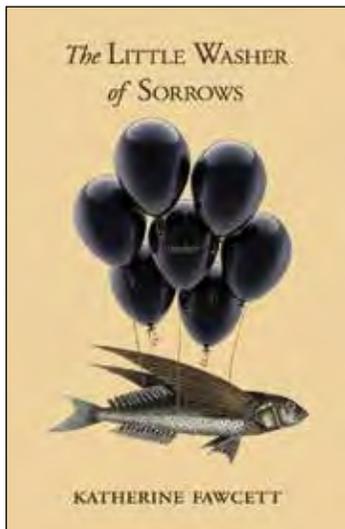
\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

Eighty years after global warming and war have devastated North America and led to a mass migration north, four citizens of La Ronge, SK attempt to rebuild their lives in a class-divided future. *Corvus* examines the illusions of security we build through technology, and presents a scathing satire of a world caught up in climate change denial and the glorification of war. By joining classical elements of speculative fiction to the traditions of aboriginal storytelling, Harold Johnson invites readers to consider the consequences of our current way of life.

“*Corvus* is an impassioned, formally innovative twist on the dystopian genre.” — Jade Colbert, *The Globe & Mail*

- Shortlisted for the 2016 Saskatchewan Book Award for Aboriginal Peoples' Writing



## The Little Washer of Sorrows

Katherine Fawcett

SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-049-8

\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

*The Little Washer of Sorrows* is a collection of short stories that explores what happens when the expected and usual are replaced with elements of the rare and strange. This dark and comical collection features engaging plot twists and elements of the macabre as characters attempt to cope with high-stakes melodramas that drift further out of their control.

“Fawcett has a flair for quiet drama and unfussy detail, and her dialogue positively fizzles. *Little Washer* startles, however, thanks to its commitment to the fantastic.” — Jason Heller, *National Public Radio Book Reviews*

## The Greatest Lover of Last Tuesday

Neil McKinnon

NOVEL

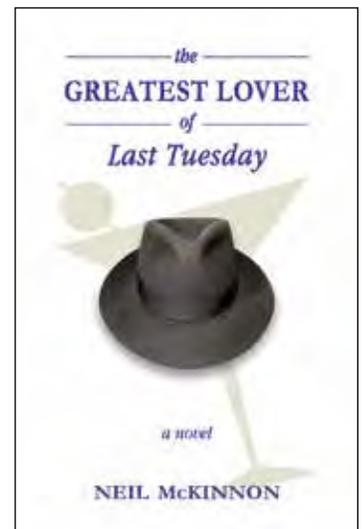
978-1-77187-062-7

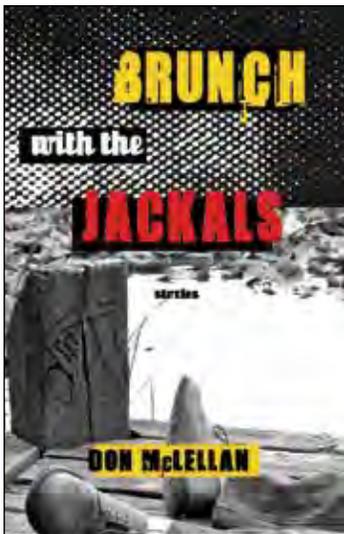
\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

Eighty-year-old Alberto Camelo has searched for love in all the wrong places. Nevertheless, he claims that his experiences have made him the world's greatest lover. This claim is belied by his ancient neighbour and closest friend Adriana who taunts, “Perhaps you are the greatest lover of last Tuesday.”

Despite his boasts, Alberto has never experienced real love. He is desired merely as a source of sympathy, an antidote to a boring marriage, and a human cash dispenser. Upon learning that Adriana also has never encountered serious romance — though she has often meandered onto the marriage mattress — a battle of wits and wills ensues.





## Brunch with the Jackals

Don McLellan

SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-050-4

\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

A man seeking the high life realizes too late that he has destroyed his possibilities for happiness. A gang leader attempts to navigate racism, greed, and mutiny within the ranks. In *Brunch with the Jackals*, Don McLellan explores the dark side of urban life through stories that combine black comedy and heart-wrenching irony, bringing forth a classically neo-noir collection where protagonists range from a young boy playing war games with toy soldiers to a terminally ill cancer patient plotting his own death.

“*Brunch with the Jackals* is an arresting second book from an intriguing literary voice that highlights emotional, physical, and psychological shadows.” — *BC Bookworld*

## What Can't Be Undone

dee Hobsbawn-Smith

SHORT FICTION

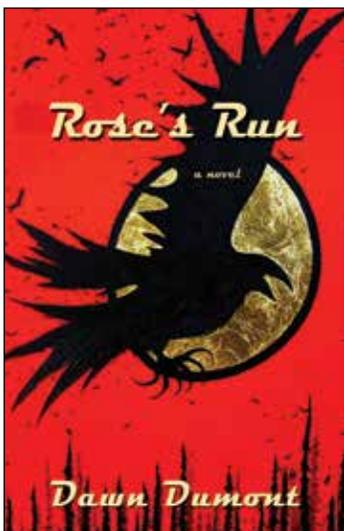
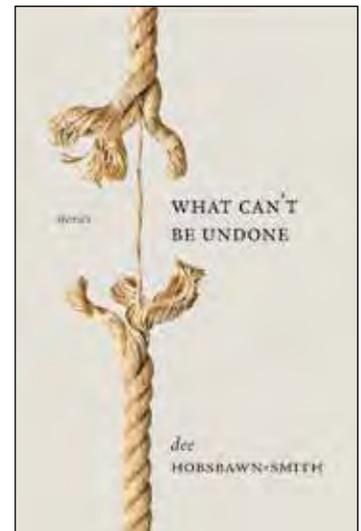
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\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

A chef loses her sense of taste and smell; a former rodeo cowboy is forced to reassess his notions of manhood; a grieving playwright observes the sad domestic drama unfolding outside his patio door; and, in two different stories, horse-crazy teenage girls catapult unexpectedly into a painful maturity. Hobsbawn-Smith brings together stories of redemption and survival as her characters face life's challenges.

“All of dee Hobsbawn-Smith's stories are written with a poetic edge. Her descriptions, particularly western landscapes, are often luxurious, lending themselves a kind of nuanced impression, a delicate fingerprint on the reader's mind.” — Lee Kvern, *Alberta Views*



## Rose's Run

Dawn Dumont

NOVEL

978-1-927068-81-6

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

Rose Okanese, a single mother of two kids, has been pushed into a corner by Rez citizens to claim some self-respect, so she decides to run the reserve's annual marathon. As fate would have it, she will also have to do battle with an ancient, inadvertently conjured demon in this tale of motherly love, friendship, lustful longing, *wihtikow* lore, and Rez humour.

“Beneath the successful facade of humour, Dumont has serious things to say about modern First Nations life. This is a winner.” — Bill Robertson, *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*

- Winner of the 2015 Saskatchewan Book Award for Fiction
- Shortlisted for the 2015-16 First Nation Communities READ Award

## We Don't Listen to Them

Sean Johnston

SHORT FICTION

978-1-927068-92-2

\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

*We Don't Listen to Them* will leave readers puzzling while they smile at the acrobatics of Johnston's words and techniques. Some of these stories border on flash fiction, while others explore writing about writing. Shifts in narrative, jumps in time, and intrusions into the narrative tension are all common here, but so, too, is pathos. This is fiction that ebbs and flows with human struggle.

"*We Don't Listen to Them* is a collection of stories with blind-depth that holds you at every turned page. Johnston has mastered the medium to the point of appearing effortless." — *The Coastal Spectator*

- Shortlisted for the 2016 ReLit Award for Short Fiction



## Motherwild

Ken Rivard

NOVEL

978-1-927068-85-4

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

It is December 1959 in Montreal when Joey Cantell rolls out from under his bed and kills a rat with his hockey stick, which he then hangs in the cup of his mother's clothes-lined bra. Joey feels threatened, confused, and psychologically compromised by his sharp-tongued mother. Set over the course of a year, *Motherwild* follows Joey as he navigates adolescence and his relationship with his mother, who continually exasperates him with her quick wit, strong will, and constant drinking.

"Rivard's writing is honest, refreshing, startling, imaginative and gets the reader emotionally involved." — W.P. Kinsella

- Shortlisted for the 2016 ReLit Award for Fiction

## Bindy's Moon

Lloyd Ratzlaff

ESSAYS/MEMOIR

978-1-77187-054-2

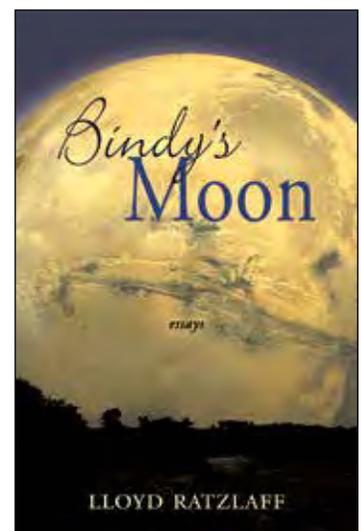
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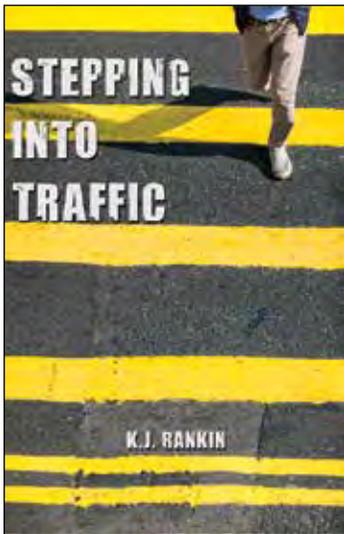
Available as an eBook

Combining elegy and joyful nostalgia in these poetic essays, Lloyd Ratzlaff takes readers on a journey from youth to philosophical maturity. With humour and grace he recounts episodes from a life spent seeking spiritual meaning, reflecting on his childhood as part of a hard-working Mennonite family, as he endeavours to come to terms with the death of his terminally ill cousin and best friend, Bindy.

"Ratzlaff, to use C.S. Lewis's phrase, finds himself surprised by joy. How he gets to that place through life's usual tribulations is the stuff of these very personal and humble essays." — Bill Robertson, *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*

- Shortlisted for the 2016 Saskatchewan Book Award for the City of Saskatoon





## Stepping Into Traffic

K.J. Rankin

TEEN NOVEL

978-1-77187-101-3

\$15.95 CAD / Ages 13+

Available as an eBook

Sebastian Till's life has been a series of bad foster home experiences which have led him to take risks and put himself in harm's way, most recently in the form of a failed break and enter. Awaiting his court appearance, Seb is placed in the care of Mrs. Ford, whom he finds familiar and comforting, and finds unlikely allies in Mr. Frogley, the elementary school janitor, and a local stray dog. However, in rekindling a childhood friendship with wealthy, manipulative Donny Malner, Seb is thrown into a world of violence, drugs, and lies.

Seb's dilemma is as great as the fear he faces: engage in the revenge he seeks and lose the closest thing he has to a home, or stand up to his mistakes, reveal his lies, and accept the consequences. Though he is not ready, Seb steps out into the traffic.

## Size of a Fist

Tara Gereaux

TEEN NOVELLA

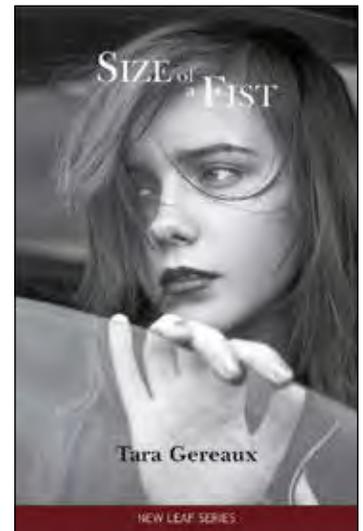
978-1-77187-059-7

\$12.95 CAD / Ages 13+

When a game of chicken escalates and local boy Jonas is struck by the car Addy and her friends are driving, Addy feels responsible and consequently vows to help the boy escape his violent home life. As Addy and Jonas' lives become intertwined, she must decide whether she wants to move to the big city with her boyfriend Craig or follow her heart down another path.

"People, especially inexperienced people, often make bad choices. Gereaux shows how those choices can change a life. This is a fast-paced and tense read. I didn't stop once." — Bill Robertson, *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*

- Shortlisted for the 2016 Saskatchewan Book Awards for First Book and Aboriginal Peoples' Writing



## Queen of the Godforsaken

Mix Hart

TEEN NOVEL

978-1-77187-063-4

\$15.95 CAD / Ages 13+

Available as an eBook

When Lydia Buckingham's family moves from urban Vancouver to an isolated farmhouse in Saskatchewan, she is appalled at her parents, the locals, and the godforsaken land that forces her to leave childhood behind. Not even handsome, hockey-obsessed farm boy Brady can lift her spirits. Lydia's parents are constantly fighting, drinking, and abandoning her and her little sister Victoria for days on end. Soon they have had enough, and they decide to set out into the brutal Saskatchewan winter. *Queen of the Godforsaken* is a fresh coming-of-age story told by a disenchanted, rebellious teen coping with life on the prairies in the 1980s, before technology made the world a smaller place.

"Mix Hart is a stunning new voice in young adult fiction, with memorable characters and a fine balance of wry humour and complex themes for mature audiences." — Beverley Brenna

## Shift

Kelly Shepherd

POETRY

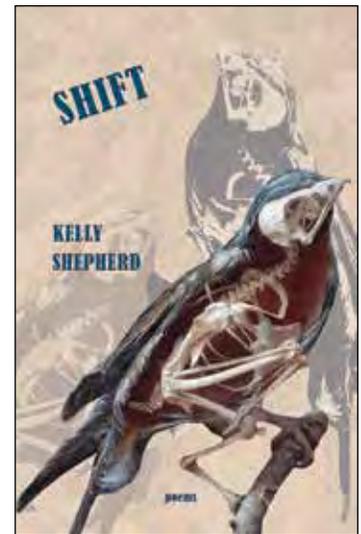
978-1-77187-104-4

\$17.95 CAD

*Shift*, the sixth collection of poetry by Kelly Shepherd, rings with the energy of eco-poetics, where human encounters with nature become transformational, and through which the many meanings of the title are explored. With awe, celebration, and ironic humour, Shepherd explores themes of connection, alienation, interspecies kinship, and the intersections of ecology and industry.

“These are poems of embodied vision from a poet who travels playfully and sometimes wearily into the earth, yet always comes back in wonder.” — Harold Rhenisch

“Shepherd sings a lyric vision of us all as hungry animals, believing in the rhyme of antlers and branches, surviving the shifting landscapes of the Canadian resource economy.” — Sonnet L’Abbé



## Wind Leaves Absence

Mary Maxwell

POETRY

978-1-77187-100-6

\$17.95 CAD

The poems in *Wind Leaves Absence* are steeped in loss and lament, as they concern the death of the poet’s family members and follow her subsequent journey through grief. Sickness and old age come to her father, and her two brothers are taken before their time, two years apart. The collection’s tone is often elegiac, but rarely maudlin, and the clipped narrative is frequently imbued with lyrical strains.

Through this emotional counterpoint to life’s implacable realities, Mary Maxwell learns that self-recrimination, denial, or anger cannot change the course of events. She teaches us that grief is a singular and deeply emotional experience, and the poems convey this intimacy. They offer a clear and empathetic path to a very specific emotional wellness.

## A Map in My Blood

Carla Braidek

POETRY

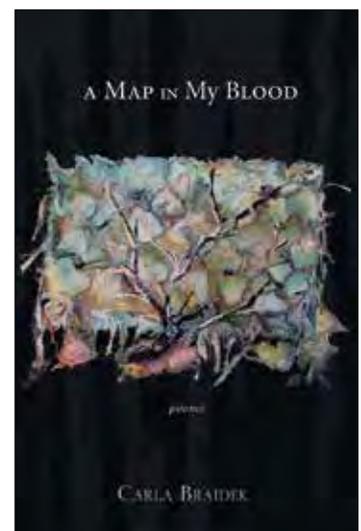
978-1-77187-096-2

\$17.95 CAD

*A Map in My Blood* is a collection informed by tradition, but its subject matter crystalizes in the personal search for meaning. In the backdrop, the boreal landscape of northern Saskatchewan comes alive as the forest, the woman, and the words share the journey to find meaning, and this is what creates beauty as much as the carefully chosen words that convey it.

“Carla Braidek offers in *A Map in My Blood* poems firmly grounded in movement and in place, in the flow of water and the flow of blood. The natural world that surrounds her and to which she is deeply attuned is for her both solace and concern. These poems map terrains not only of where she’s been, but also of where she imagines life may take her.” — Glen Sorestad

“A work of both resilience and grace.” — Lynda Monahan





## Questions for Wolf

Shannon Quinn

978-1-77187-058-0

\$12.95 CAD

*Questions for Wolf* explores damaged lives where street smarts are the only defense against self-destruction and lost hope. Shannon Quinn's dark yet delicate poems delve into a world of "inner city mortifications" as they engage the transformative power of magic and myth. From adolescent girls getting a taste of adulthood to sex workers who must hold their own on dark streets, Quinn contemplates lost innocence and life along society's margins. Her poems resonate with fresh language, impacting imagery, and a consistent, distinctive voice — all hallmarks of a burgeoning new talent.

"Rife with metaphors, the subject matter in *Questions for Wolf* can be bleak and uncomfortable, but somewhere beneath the despair and confusion, there's hope, coupled with tender and delicate prose." — Jessica Rose, *Room Magazine*

## Love is Not Anonymous

Jan Wood

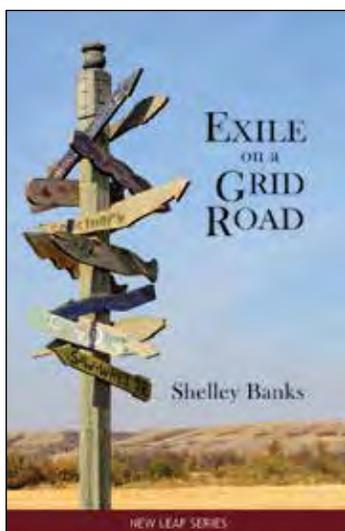
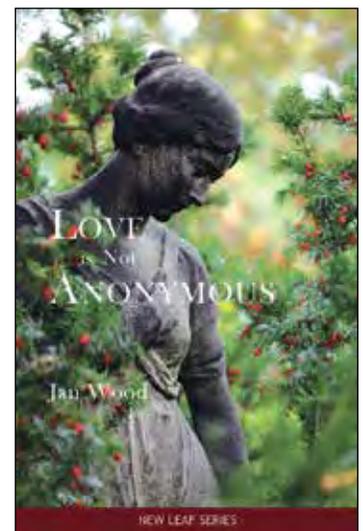
978-1-77187-056-6

\$12.95 CAD

*Love is Not Anonymous* is a spiritual journey into the many realms of love, a meditation on finding meaning and order in relationships and faith. Jan Wood explores the expectations and heartaches of women's lives and their personal journeys. The complexities of coming of age as a woman are presented with humour and parody as Wood leads us through the many realms of love, from first love and infatuation to marriage, motherhood, and even extramarital temptation.

Spiritual love and the challenges of faith are also examined as Wood juxtaposes the often-competing themes of belief and female sexuality. Overall, these poems are small confirmations that love signs its name on everyone who seeks it.

"An update on the story of innocence and experience, this one lively, fluid, and urgently feminine as the sensual intersects with the spiritual, and vice versa." — *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*



## Exile on a Grid Road

Shelley Banks

978-1-77187-057-3

\$12.95 CAD

*Exile on a Grid Road* is the poetry of observation, where all the senses are employed in the fullness of intimacy or the emptiness of solitude. It is a celebration and exploration of the human experience, from youth to adulthood and illness to well-being. Sadness, healing, humour, and forgiveness are all part of these detailed narratives of office life, failing health, and complex relationships, as Banks confronts rootlessness and disconnection. *Exile on a Grid Road* reveals the wonders to be found among the seemingly mundane details of the day to day, and how there is always time to "taste, devour, and sing."

"[Banks] maintains a willed buoyancy that finds relief from the one-damn-thing-after-another nature of life in small sensual pleasures [...] Small things, like these spare poems, can mean a great deal in a life that could be bleak, if the writer allowed it." — *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*

## nakamowin'sa for the seasons

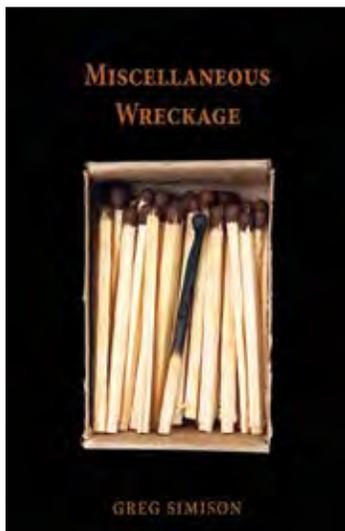
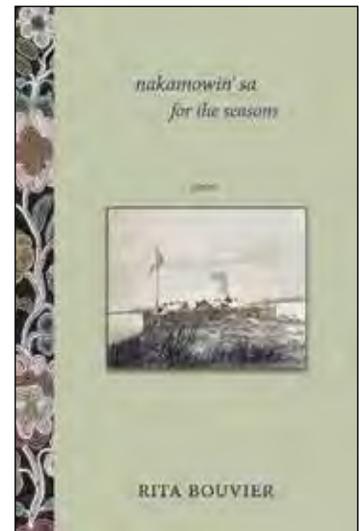
Rita Bouvier

978-1-77187-055-9  
\$17.95 CAD

These poems by Métis author Rita Bouvier attempt to reconcile the traumas caused by the deep scars of history, echoing a quiet manifesto for change, but often soaring beyond life's awkward and painful moments in order to find joy. *nakamowin'sa for the seasons* reveals our fragile relationships to one another and to nature, and encourages us to get caught up in the movement and beauty of life.

"These poems are rich in tropes about sound/silence, songs and singing. However, Bouvier's poems are not about merely listening with the ear. They are about a different way of being, of listening with the heart to words that carve out an identity." — Marilyn Dumont, *Arc Poetry Magazine*

- Shortlisted for the 2016 Saskatchewan Book Awards for Poetry, City of Saskatoon, and Aboriginal Peoples' Writing



## Miscellaneous Wreckage

Greg Simison

978-1-927068-86-1  
\$17.95 CAD

*Miscellaneous Wreckage* truly is a miscellany. There are few recurring themes or dominant sections. The work explores the poet's past lives, places he has lived, his elderly parents, his children, ex-wives, and dogs he loved.

The main unifying force in Simison's writing is his recognition of his mortality and the great beyond of death. But no matter how dark the subject matter may appear, Simison confronts it all head on with humour. This is a sit back, read, and enjoy collection with more than a laugh or two tucked within its pages.

"There are no poetry tricks, gimmicks or hysterics. These are salt of the earth, steady, sturdy poems. Think of Raymond Souster with a couple of wise scotch into him." — Michael Dennis, *Today's Book of Poetry*

## Red Curls

Tracy Hamon

978-1-927068-93-9  
\$17.95 CAD

In a series of poems that move between narrative and lyric, the personas of Austrian artist Egon Schiele and his mistress/model Valerie "Wally" Neuzil are revealed in exquisite detail. Hamon's poems resonate with Egon and Valerie's story: how they met, their intense desires, and the union and bond that would keep them together for years. She convincingly conjures a Viennese world that rejected Schiele's bohemian lifestyle only later to celebrate his artistic vision. *Red Curls* paints a fresh portrait of the revolutionary who, driven through carnal desire to paint, write, and love, liberated a generation of artists.

"Hamon glides between Schiele's real and imagined biographies with ease, in her own engrossing poetic portrait." — Jonathan Ball, *The Winnipeg Free Press*

- Winner of the 2015 City of Regina Saskatchewan Book Award



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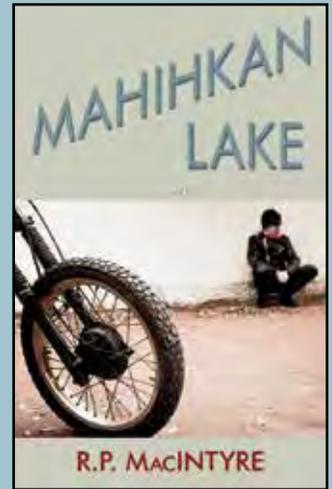
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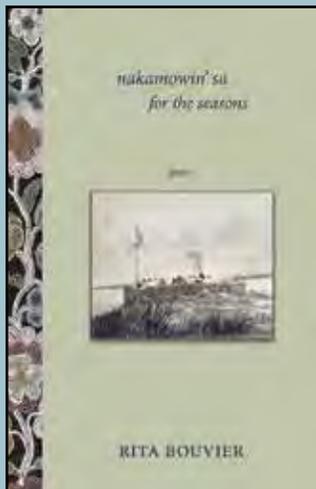
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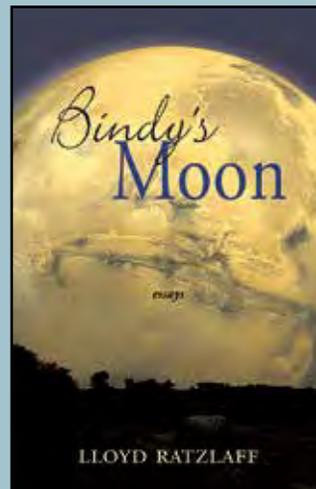
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