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Mahihkan Lake
R.P. MacIntyre

After their adopted brother Dave commits suicide, estranged siblings Denny and Dianne Givens head north to Mahihkan Lake to spread his ashes and confront the ghosts of their youth.

When former musician Denny Givens is paid a surprise visit by his adopted older brother Dave — a stuttering, motorcycle-riding rebel with a burn-scarred face — and instructed to give a letter to their younger sister Dianne, Denny is immediately suspicious. As soon as Dave departs for the rundown family cabin at Mahihkan Lake, Denny tears open the note which cryptically states that a man called Jimmy Matheson is searching for Dianne. Before Denny has the chance to investigate, a tragic accident ends Dave’s life and plunges his alcoholic brother into a downward spiral and a stint in rehab.

Despite her demanding personal life that includes taking care of their abusive mother who suffers from Alzheimer’s, Dianne picks Denny up at rehab and accompanies him home where they discover Denny’s girlfriend has stolen his remaining cash and fled. With nothing but ten dollars and a Martin guitar in his possession, Denny decides to move into the family cabin, and Dianne offers to drive him to Mahihkan Lake where they can spread their brother’s ashes and seek closure over their troubled past.

Meanwhile Harold Huckaluk is on a similar journey towards redemption after a road accident leads to the suspension of his trucking license and the loss of his assets. Divorced and estranged from his family, Harold decides to use his new freedom to canoe the Mahihkan River to the lake where he also owns a cabin. Soon the emotional toll of Harold’s past and the physical beating sustained during the trip become too much, and Harold’s sanity begins to slip, leading him to suspect that the two ravens and yellow-eyed wolf he keeps seeing are following him.

Previous Thistledown titles:

R.P. MacIntyre is best known for his award-winning young adult fiction. He has also written for television, radio, and the stage, and has edited and compiled over thirty-five anthologies of YA fiction, one of which won the Canadian Librarian Association’s Book of the Year in 1997. Mahihkan Lake is his seventh book and his first adult novel.
Yes, and Back Again
Sandy Marie Bonny

When Tanis and Neil Cameron move to Saskatoon’s west side and two of Neil’s teenage students suddenly go missing, the couple are thrust into a world of deeply rooted class and racial divisions.

Tanis and Neil have just purchased their dream home on Saskatoon’s west side: a fixer-upper with plenty of character and an abundance of history to uncover. The house, however, also comes with a crumbling garage tagged with gang symbols, a mysteriously sealed attic, and apprehensive neighbours who rarely go out after dark. Home improvements take a back seat for Neil as he dives into his first full-time teaching position at an inner-city high school, and when Tanis uncovers a pair of ancient work boots hidden in the attic, she welcomes the challenge of finding their owner.

Tanis soon makes contact with Celia Tanner, the now-elderly granddaughter of the home’s original owner. Celia was raised in the house by her spinster aunt Phidelma but has little knowledge of her Métis family’s heritage. Curious about the lives of her home’s previous owners, Tanis offers her services as researcher to uncover details of Saskatchewan’s post-war Métis urbanization, which are revealed through flashbacks to the 1900s through to the 1950s.

Meanwhile, as Tanis and Neil struggle to develop a sense of belonging in a neighbourhood marked by race and class divisions, Neil is thrust into the middle of a crisis. Three weeks into the school year two aboriginal teen girls have gone missing, and Neil is a prime suspect. Historical and contemporary narratives meet as Tanis and Neil each uncover the secrets of their own mysteries and come to realize the difficulty in remaining objective when the truth is inherently complex.

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.

Previous Thistledown titles:

SANDY MARIE BONNY is a writer, visual artist, and science educator whose short fiction has appeared in literary journals and anthologies including Prairie Fire, Grain, and The Danforth Review, and was featured in Coming Attractions 11, Oberon Press’ annual anthology of up-and-coming Canadian fiction writers. Yes, and Back Again is her first novel. Bonny lives in Saskatoon.
Corvus
Harold Johnson

Eighty years after global warming and war have destroyed most of North America and led to a mass migration north, four citizens of La Ronge attempt to rebuild their lives in the class-divided dystopian future.

Eighty years have passed since flash floods, droughts, and tornadoes ravaged the North American landscape and mass migrations to the north led to decade-long wars. In the thriving city of La Ronge, George Taylor and Lenore Hanson are lawyers who rarely interact with members of the lower classes from the impoverished suburb of Regis or the independently thriving Ashram outside the city. They live in a world of personalized Platforms, self-driving cars, and cutting-edge Organic Recreational Vehicles (ORVs), where upward mobility literally means living among the incredibly wealthy in the sky city Bel Arial.

When Lenore befriends political dissenter and fellow war veteran Richard Warner, and George accidentally crash-lands his ORV near the mountain-sheltered haven of a First Nations community, they become exposed to new ways of thinking. As the lives of these near-strangers become intertwined, each is forced to confront the past before their relationships and lives unravel.

Taking its title from the Latin name for the trickster bird of First Nations and Norse mythology, 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.

Previous Thistledown titles:

Harold Johnson is the author of four novels and one work of non-fiction. After a stint in the Canadian Navy, Johnson became a packsack miner and logger across northern and western Canada. In 1991 he quit the mines to pursue a bachelor’s degree in law from the University of Saskatchewan and a Master of Law degree from Harvard University. He now works as a Crown Prosecutor in La Ronge, Saskatchewan and lives with his wife Joan at the north end of Montreal Lake where they continue the traditions of trapping and commercial fishing common to Johnson’s Cree background.
Queen of the Godforsaken
Mix Hart

When Lydia’s family moves from urban Vancouver to an isolated farmhouse in Saskatchewan, she is appalled: at her parents, the locals, and especially the godforsaken land that forces her to leave childhood behind.

Lydia Buckingham is an ice queen. She wasn’t always that way, but after her parents uproot the family and drag her and her younger sister, Victoria, across the country to live on the abandoned family homestead in rural Saskatchewan, Lydia is forced to adapt in order to survive. At first the girls see this as an adventure, a chance to collect prairie relics, take care of animals, learn to drive in the fields, and find out more about the fascinating history of Batoche. A harsh reality soon sets in, as Lydia’s father seems unable to secure steady employment and her mother becomes depressed and suicidal.

Despite her interest in the local history, Lydia finds herself unable to relate to her peers at school or to her surroundings. The only people who see through her hard exterior are the handsome, hockey-obsessed farm boy Brady and two elderly Francophone neighbours, Grand’Mere and her son Napoleon. To top it all, off Lydia’s parents are constantly fighting, drinking, and abandoning their daughters for days on end. Soon the sisters have had enough, and they decide to set out alone into the brutal Saskatchewan winter.

Queen of the Godforsaken is a coming-of-age story filled with unique twists as Lydia must not only look out for herself but must also act as a surrogate parent to her younger sister when their own parents prove themselves to be selfish and negligent. Mix Hart adds a new voice to the canon of stories about teenage angst, alienation, and rebellion. This novel will appeal to teenagers curious about growing up before technology made the world a smaller and less isolated place, as well as to adults who remember growing up on the prairies during the 1980s.

Mix Hart writes novels, picture books, the Peter Not-Pizzaface junior fiction series, and is a blogger at Musings . . . by Mix Hart. Hart has lived across Canada, from the Pacific to the Atlantic coasts including the Yukon, and also in the United Kingdom. She currently resides in Kelowna, British Columbia, where she and her husband are parents to three daughters. Queen of the Godforsaken is her first young adult novel.
**Love is Not Anonymous**

Jan Wood

*Love is Not Anonymous* is an exploration of the expectations and heartaches often projected onto women’s lives and their spiritual journeys. The complexities of coming of age as a woman are presented with humour and parody as Wood leads us on a journey 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 examined as Wood juxtaposes the competing themes of belief and female sexuality. She examines the pain and injustice to which women are subjected in the realms of both love and faith and searches for order and meaning in the two most complicated territories of human experience.

Jan Wood’s poetry and flash fiction have appeared in many anthologies and literary journals, winning accolades in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario. She won the poetry award at the Word Guild Canadian Christian Writing Awards three times and was selected Poet Laureate for Utmost Christian Writers from 2008 to 2010. Wood lives in Big River, Saskatchewan.

**Exile on a Grid Road**

Shelley Banks

*Exile on a Grid Road* is a celebration and exploration of the human experience, from youth to adulthood and illness to wellbeing. Sadness, healing, humour, and forgiveness are all part of these detailed narratives of office life, failing health, and complex relationships, as Banks confronts the rootlessness and disconnection common to contemporary experience. *Exile on a Grid Road* reveals the wonders to be found among the seemingly mundane details of the day to day.

“Whether at home in, or exiled from, the workplace or the grid road, the harsh light of diagnosis or the muted tones of loss, Banks’ poems touch the shadows and expanses of our lives with tender precision.” — Gerald Hill

Shelley Banks was born in a small town in the British Columbia Rockies, raised in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, and has worked and studied across Canada. She has been a newspaper reporter, freelance writer, and editor, and her poetry, fiction, and non-fiction have been published in *Grain*, *CV2*, *The Antigonish Review*, and other Canadian literary magazines. Banks lives in Regina.
Questions for Wolf
Shannon Quinn

Questions for Wolf explores damaged lives where street smarts are the only defense against self-destruction and lost hope. Quinn’s 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. Questions for Wolf celebrates the defiance of expectation.

“Quinn has created beautiful and necessary poems between these covers, poems that are full of awareness, tenderness, and power. . . There is a hunger and desire in these poems to show us what it means to be alive in this world, at this time.” — Don Domanski

SHANNON QUINN’s poetry, short fiction, and creative non-fiction have appeared in literary journals in Canada, the US, and the UK including Room, subTerrain, THIS, and Maisoneneuve. She has worked as a writer and producer for CBC Radio One and written for The Globe & Mail. Quinn currently works for the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto.

Size of a Fist
Tara Gereaux

Living in a small working class town has never suited Addy. On the night before her move to the city, Addy’s bags are packed and she has visited her favourite spots one last time. But though Addy is prepared, her boyfriend Craig wants to spend their final night partying with friends at the cemetery.

At the party, Addy notices a boy named Jonas hovering in the bushes. When a game of chicken escalates and 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. As Addy and Jonas’ lives become intertwined, Addy must decide whether she wants to leave for the city with Craig or follow her heart down another path.

“This is a brave and astonishing work, harshly beautiful, with a note of hope beating under the difficulties that these young characters endure.” — Luanne Armstrong, author of I’ll Be Home Soon

TARA GEREAUX is a writer Métis from the Qu’Appelle Valley. She has worked as a researcher, writer, and story editor in film and television, and her writing has been published in several Canadian literary magazines. She won Event’s 14th Annual Creative Non-Fiction Competition as well as several other screenwriting fellowships and non-fiction prizes. Size of a Fist is her first published work. Gereaux lives in Regina.
The Little Washer of Sorrows
Katherine Fawcett

SHORT FICTION
978-1-771870-49-8
$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.

“Katherine Fawcett works magic here, whips imagination, wit, and anarchy into gold. Each story finds a place where our culture is already strange and jumps off from there.” — Fred Stenson, author of The Great Karoo

What Can’t Be Undone
dee Hobsbawn-Smith

SHORT FICTION
978-1-927068-89-2
$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.

“These fine stories are parables of resiliency.” — David Carpenter, author of Welcome to Canada

The Greatest Lover of Last Tuesday
Neil McKinnon

NOVEL
978-1-771870-62-7
$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 claims, 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.
Recent Fiction

Brunch with the Jackals
Don McLellan

SHORT FICTION
978-1-771870-50-4
$18.95 CAD
Available as an eBook

A man seeking the high life realizes too late that he has destroyed his possibilities for happiness. Four junkies wait anxiously for a drug dealer who seems to have forgotten their existence. 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 in a collection of neo-noir fiction whose protagonists range from a young boy playing war games with toy soldiers to a terminally ill cancer patient plotting his own death.

Rose’s Run
Dawn Dumont

NOVEL
978-1-927068-81-6
$19.95 CAD
Available as an eBook

Rose Okanese, a single mother with 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, wîhkîkw 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.” — Saskatoon StarPhoenix

• Winner of the Fiction Award at the 2015 Saskatchewan Book Awards

After You’ve Gone
Lori Hahnel

NOVEL
978-1-927068-90-8
$19.95 CAD
Available as an eBook

After You’ve Gone is the story of two generations of musicians, a jazz grandmother in 1935 Regina and a punk granddaughter in the 1980s, who each struggle with balancing life, love, and art in their respective eras. Lita, a young woman of gypsy ancestry, develops a passion for playing the guitar, joins a Regina jazz combo, and falls in love with the group’s lead singer. Interspersed with Lita’s story is that of her grand-daughter Elsa, the lead singer/songwriter and guitarist of punk band Speed Queen.

“After You’ve Gone vibrates with authenticity: two eras, two young women caught up in the giddy thrall of love and music and feckless men.” — Lee Kvern, author of The Matter of Sylvie and Seven Ways to Sunday

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Dawn Dumont

NOVEL
978-1-927068-81-6
$19.95 CAD
Available as an eBook

Rose Okanese, a single mother with 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, wîhkîkw 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.” — Saskatoon StarPhoenix

• Winner of the Fiction Award at the 2015 Saskatchewan Book Awards
Parallel Rivers
Michael Kenyon

SHORT FICTION
978-1-927068-82-3
$18.95 CAD
Available as an eBook

Parallel Rivers explores Kenyon’s interest in seeing what fiction might learn from film, particularly the German, French, Italian, and Japanese cinema of the 1970s. The collection has two sections that run stylistically parallel to each other. The first section consists of short, often surreal and uncomfortable fictions; the second contains longer stories of larger, more realistic worlds. Kenyon’s fictions exist as dreams exist, yet within this framework truth is revealed and the full play of language exercised.

“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

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 several stories 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 also 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

Motherwild
Ken Rivard

NOVEL
978-1-927068-85-4
$19.95 CAD
Available as an eBook

It is December 1959 when a Montreal boy named 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 tries to figure out 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
Recent Non-Fiction

Bindy’s Moon
Lloyd Ratzlaff

978-1-771870-54-2
$18.95 CAD / $17.95 USD
Available as an eBook

In a series of reflections focused on his hard-working Mennonite family, Lloyd Ratzlaff takes readers on a journey from youth to philosophical maturity. Combining elegy and joyful nostalgia in these poetic essays, Ratzlaff recounts his youthful struggles before going on to analyze his first marriage and his time in seminary and as a minister, and to examine life as the parent of adult children and confidante to a terminally ill friend.

Humour and honesty define this spiritual journey, and *Bindy’s Moon* invites readers to explore the challenges posed by scepticism and the simultaneous desire to believe in a poignant prairie coming-of-age autobiography.

• Third place winner of the 2014 John V. Hicks Long Manuscript Award

A Crowbar in the Buddhist Garden
Stephen Reid

978-1-927068-03-8
$18.95 CAD / $17.95 USD
Available as an eBook

Each of the essays in this collection is a recognition of how Stephen Reid’s imprisonment has shaped his life. Some describe his fractured boyhood and the escalation in crimes that led to his imprisonment, others detail the seductive rush and notoriety of the criminal life. But in each essay the refrain is “prison life”.

“Nobody in the world writes like Reid. This book isn’t your usual chronological tell-all. It is both a gripping read and an intellectual exploration of our flawed penal system.” — The Globe & Mail

• Winner of the 2013 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize

The Deaf House
Joanne Weber

978-1-927068-48-9
$18.95 CAD / $17.95 USD
Available as an eBook

The Deaf House is Joanne Weber’s life story: the story of a woman who grew up deaf and became an advocate for the deaf. It is a story of loss, pain, and defeat as a deaf woman overcomes profound obstacles to find her true self. As much as it is a story of struggle, it is also one of the importance of love, compromise, and how even the most fiercely independent among us sometimes need the understanding and support of those we love.

• Shortlisted for two 2014 Saskatchewan Book Awards for Non-Fiction and City of Regina
nakamowin’sa for the seasons

Rita Bouvier

978-1-771870-55-9
$17.95 CAD / $16.95 USD

Rita Bouvier’s third collection of poetry reflects her experiences as a Métis woman, as her poems focus on the sacred relationship to the land and changing seasons that is central to the imaginative and creative thinking of the Cree, Dene, and Métis cultures. Images of the natural world and a people often forgotten by history dominate the collection as Bouvier creates an awareness that Saskatchewan is a place rich not only in natural resources but also flush with history and stories that have made it distinctive. *nakamowin’sa for the seasons* reveals our fragile relationships to one another and to the natural world that sustains us.

Red Curls

Tracy Hamon

978-1-927068-93-9
$17.95 CAD / $16.95 USD

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. Hamon convincingly conjures a Viennese world that rejected Schiele’s bohemian lifestyle only to later 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.

• Winner of the Regina Book Award at the 2015 Saskatchewan Book Awards

Miscellaneous Wreckage

Greg Simison

978-1-927068-86-1
$17.95 CAD / $16.95 USD

*Miscellaneous Wreckage* truly is a miscellany. There are few recurring themes or dominant sections, and instead 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.
Publishing Canadian Literature since 1975

Winner of the 2013 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize

Winner of the 2010 ReLit Award for Novel

Winner of the 2009 Creative Non-Fiction Collective Reader’s Choice Award

Winner of the 2007 City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize

Winner of the 2005 City of Edmonton Book Prize

Winner of the 2001 ReLit Award for Poetry

Winner of the 2001 Aurora Award for Young Adult Novel

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