

Thistledown Press

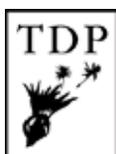


Spring 2015

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The Little Washer of Sorrows

Katherine Fawcett

The Little Washer of Sorrows embraces a world of freaks, fables, and folklore in an engaging collection of witty and revealing stories.

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. The book's emotional impact is created with strong, richly drawn characters facing universal issues in unusual settings. The collection is both dark and comical with engaging plot twists and elements of the macabre as characters attempt to cope with high-stakes melodramas that drift further out of their control.

The collection's opening story "Captcha" begins with a perfect wife — mathematical genius and Kokanee beer model Margo — sending her husband Pete off to work before setting about her household chores. When she finds Pete's filing cabinet unlocked, curiosity gets the best of her and she makes a life-changing discovery. The oddity increases in "Johnny Longsword's Third Option" where a male stripper sits impatiently in a mysterious waiting room reflecting on his life as the by-the-books gatekeeper tests his patience. In the title story, Greg is convinced that the assistant estate manager at a bankruptcy office, green-eyed Fiona, is an Irish banshee. Could she be a mythological fairy who has appeared as a prophet of doom, washing the dirty laundry of a person whose demise is approaching?

The threat of something sinister lingers beneath the surface in many of Fawcett's stories, as she explores the messy "what ifs?" of life and the ever-present paradox of free will.

"*The Little Washer of Sorrows* is smart, ferociously funny and astonishingly inventive." — Susan Juby, author of *The Woefield Poultry Collective* and *The Alice MacLeod Trilogy*



Katherine Fawcett was born in Montreal, raised in Calgary, has lived in Japan, and now calls Pemberton, British Columbia home. She began her career as a sports reporter before venturing into freelance journalism and commercial writing.



After becoming a mother and turning forty, Katherine could no longer ignore her tendency to flout the boundary between real and imagined and has since turned her hand to fiction. Her short fiction has been published in *Wordworks*, *Event*, *Freefall*, *subTerrain*, and *Other Voices*. She teaches music in Whistler, BC, plays violin with the Sea to Sky Orchestra and the fiddle whenever possible.

The LITTLE WASHER of SORROWS



KATHERINE FAWCETT

SHORT FICTION

ISBN-10: 1-77187-049-4

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-049-8

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

208 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC029000 (FICTION / Short Stories (single author))

FIC061000 (FICTION / Magical Realism)

FIC010000 (FICTION / Fairy Tales, Folk Tales, Legends & Mythology)

SHIP DATE: MARCH 15, 2015

PUB DATE: MARCH 30, 2015

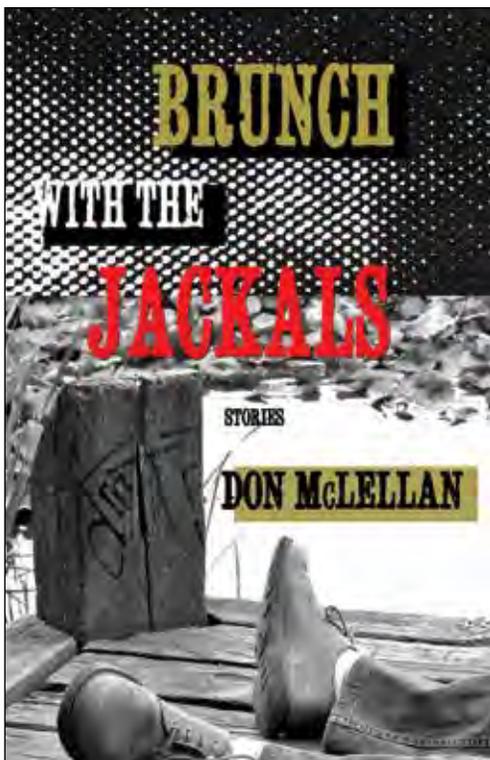
MARKETING & AWARDS RECOGNITION

- Book launch: Whistler
- Longlisted for 2014 Carter V. Cooper/Exile Short Fiction Competition
- Longlisted for the 2011 CBC Short Story Prize

ISBN 978-1-77187-050-4



9 781771 870504



SHORT FICTION

ISBN-10: 1-77187-050-8

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-050-4

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

160 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC019000 (FICTION / Literary)

FIC029000 (FICTION / Short Stories (single author))

FIC050000 (FICTION / Crime)

SHIP DATE: MARCH 15, 2015

PUB DATE: MARCH 30, 2015

MARKETING & AWARDS RECOGNITION

- Online book launch: www.donmclellan.com
- Finalist for the 2009 ReLit Award

ISBN 978-1-77187-050-4



Brunch with the Jackals

Don McLellan

McLellan gives the literary treatment to crime fiction in a collection of darkly comical neo-noir tales of questionable morality and the seedy underside of contemporary urban life.

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. An aspiring writer assesses and obsesses over a crime close to home as a young neighbour's boyfriend is on trial for her murder. In *Brunch with the Jackals*, Don McLellan explores the dark side of urban life through stories that combine black comedy, observational invective, 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.

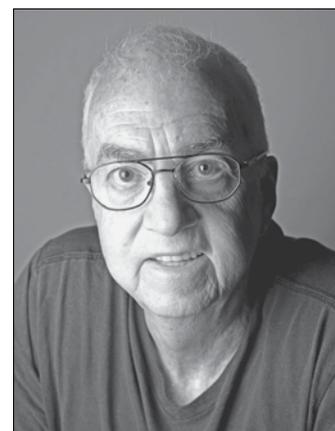
Featuring an abundance of twisting plots, seedy villains, and anti-heroes with questionable moral compasses, McLellan's subjects hearken back to the era of dames and dirty cops, with observations and dialogue delivered in the stark and sometimes eloquent language of classic noir.

Brunch with the Jackals is both a throwback to and an advance on the "hard-boiled" style of forerunners like Raymond Chandler and Mickey Spillane. At times clipped and edgy, the tone never completely gives way to bleakness or brooding, but hovers on the boundaries between light and darkness. Mistrust and betrayal drive the plots, death lurks in the shadows, and blood is often spilled, demonstrating McLellan's love of the literary grotesque.

"Like all memorable writing, [McLellan's] stories take us to another world and hold us there. Spare and subtle, they will linger in your mind long after the last page." — John Lekich, Governor General's Award finalist for *The Loser's Club*



Don McLellan has worked as a journalist in Canada, South Korea and Hong Kong, and his journalism has been featured in countless publications including *Vancouver*, *Equity*, *V*, and *Toronto Life*. His short fiction has been published in *Descant*, *Joyland*, and *The Dalhousie Review*, and his debut story collection, *In the Quiet After Slaughter* (Libros Libertad), was a 2009 ReLit Award finalist. McLellan currently edits a trade magazine in Vancouver.



What Can't Be Undone

dee Hobsbawn-Smith

A debut collection of gritty short fiction anchored strongly in the complexities of the vast Western Canadian landscape.

In her first collection of short fiction, dee Hobsbawn-Smith creates protagonists struggling to navigate the troubles common to life everywhere, including children attempting to make their parents proud, the collapse of romantic relationships, and dealing with death and loss. Her stories are rife with the disasters of homelessness, domestic violence, and child abuse, and expose the difficulties that arise in relationships between brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, and parents and children.

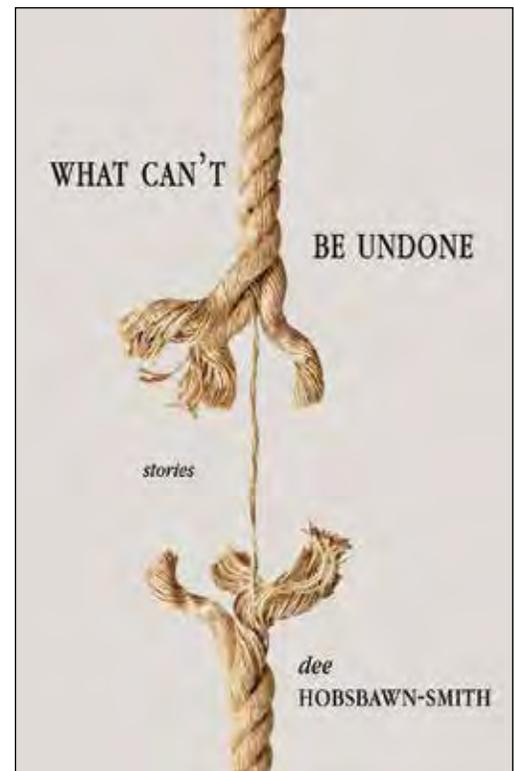
What Can't Be Undone is a collection anchored in the Western Canadian landscape, and the natural imagery which has become synonymous to the area reigns supreme. These stories are powerfully influenced by local colour. Horses' hooves echo from coulee walls, bluejays, crows, and eagles announce the seasons, and coyotes wail from distant valleys as Hobsbawn-Smith travels with her protagonists across rolling prairies, unforgiving mountain ranges, and along coastal highways.

Hobsbawn-Smith introduces readers to characters of all ages, from a teenager navigating her crush on an older man in "Exercise Girls" to the recently widowed seamstress who rediscovers her zest for life in "Needful Things". Loss is explored on various levels, from the ending of friendships and romantic relationships in stories such as "The Good Husband" and "Fallen Sparrow", to a mother's paralyzing fear of her children's death in "The Quinzie". Hobsbawn-Smith combines keen observation with an unflinching eye on her characters' flaws to bring into painful focus the challenges of coming to terms with loss.

"dee Hobsbawn-Smith's stories begin when love and comfort have faded . . . these fine stories are parables of resiliency." — David Carpenter, author of *Welcome to Canada*



dee Hobsbawn-Smith's award-winning poetry, essays, fiction, and journalism have appeared in Canadian, American, and international literary journals, newspapers, magazines, and anthologies including *The Malahat Review*, *Gastronomica*, and *Western Living*. Her first book of poetry, *Wildness Rushing In* (Hagos Press) was published in 2014. She recently completed her M.F.A. in Writing at the University of Saskatchewan, and she is an alumna of the Sage Hill Writing Experience. Hobsbawn-Smith lives west of Saskatoon.



SHORT FICTION

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FIC045000 (FICTION / Family Life)

FIC019000 (FICTION / Literary)

SHIP DATE: MARCH 15, 2015

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MARKETING & AWARDS RECOGNITION

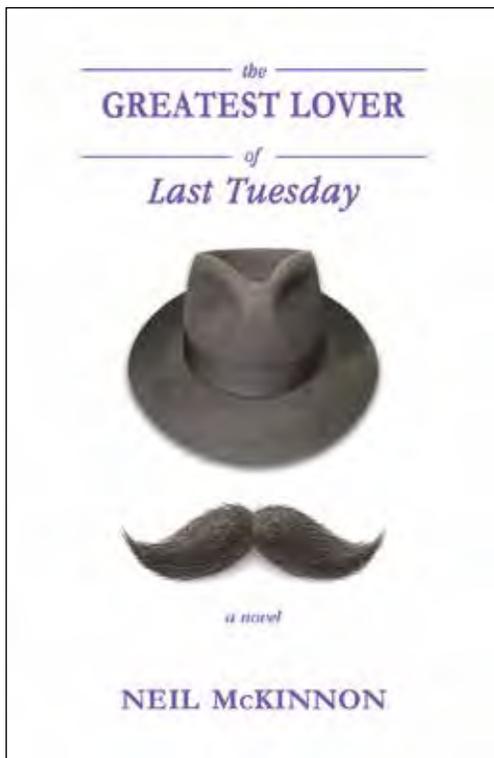
- Book launch: Saskatoon
- Website: www.deehobsbawnsmith.com
- Shortlisted for *The New Quarterly's* 2014 Peter Hinchcliffe Fiction Award
- Winner of 2012 gritLIT Writing Competition for poetry

ISBN 978-1-927068-89-2



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NOVEL

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ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-062-7

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

240 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC016000 (FICTION / HUMOROUS)

HUM008000 (HUMOR / TOPIC / ADULT)

FIC027250 (FICTION / ROMANCE / ROMANTIC COMEDY)

SHIP DATE: MARCH 15, 2015

PUB DATE: MARCH 30, 2015

MARKETING & AWARDS RECOGNITION

- Book launch: Vancouver
- Finalist for the 2007 Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour and the 2007 Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Fiction

ISBN 978-1-77187-062-7



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The Greatest Lover of Last Tuesday

Neil McKinnon

A romantic octogenarian who claims to be the World's Greatest Lover recounts a lifetime of lascivious liaisons in this humorous romp.

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."

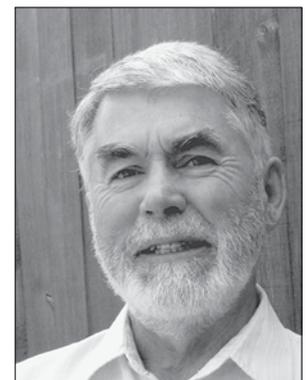
Despite his claims, Alberto has never experienced real love. He is desired merely as a source of sympathy, an antidote to a boring marriage, an instrument of retribution, and a human cash dispenser. He hopes to experience true intimacy before he departs this world for what he terms "a less than inspiring place." 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 ensue. The pair challenges one another with their opposing ideas about love and romance before discovering the secret of real love.

Vivid Latin American landscapes and cityscapes provide a rich backdrop as Alberto's story unfolds among mountains, lakes, cathedrals, and restaurants. Romantic tropes are turned on their heads as parrots shout profanities from the corner of a café and a young woman turns the tables by using all her wit and wiles to woo a circus strong-man.

The Greatest Lover of Last Tuesday follows Alberto's quest to climb to the summit and stand alone as a virtuoso in the realm of love. This uproarious novel will appeal to anyone with an open mind and a well-developed funny bone, as McKinnon skillfully handles serious topics such as intimacy and the nature of love with humour and imagination.



Neil McKinnon was raised in Saskatchewan and served in the Royal Canadian Navy before working as a businessman, archaeologist, university lecturer, and freelance writer in China, Japan, Mexico, Canada, and the United States. His articles have appeared in Canadian, Japanese, Mexican, and US publications, and his book *Tuckahoe Slidebottle* (ThistleDown Press, 2006) was short-listed for the Stephen Leacock Award for humour and the Alberta Literary Award for short fiction. He has served on literary juries and has edited and published academically. When not visiting family in Vancouver, McKinnon lives in Mexico.



Bindy's Moon

Lloyd Ratzlaff

In a genre-crossing autobiography set on the Canadian prairies, a former minister attempts to come to terms with his spirituality during the death of his soul-brother, Bindy.

In a series of reflections focused on his hard-working Mennonite family and touching on childhood exploits from shoplifting and go-kart racing to the fear of dying (which arises during the rehearsal for a school Christmas concert), 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 examining life as the parent of adult children and confidante to a terminally ill friend.

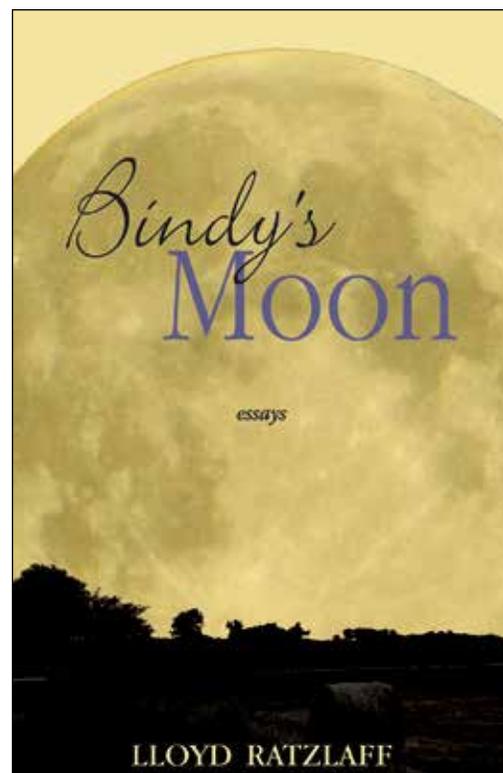
Never straying far from his spiritual probing, Ratzlaff's essays are informed by nature and the changing seasons which influence his life in seemingly magical ways. Small enlightenments arise from interactions with the natural world, ranging from a spring equinox on the seventh anniversary of his father's death to the author's waking to the songs of a robin who comes each spring to live on the riverbank across St. Henry Avenue. Even a small gopher scurrying off and standing like a signpost between graves prompts an exploration of mortality.

Humour and honesty define this spiritual journey, as the boy who grew up speaking an ethnically Mennonite language discovers that the rigidity and unease of this tongue will become, in part, the catalyst for his own writing and an impetus to spiritual movement. *Bindy's Moon* invites readers to explore the challenges posed by scepticism and the simultaneous desire to believe, weighing the gravity of doctrinairism against the spirit's boundless energy. Ratzlaff offers a unique example of what many others have experienced, combining humour and quiet reflection in a poignant prairie coming-of-age autobiography.

+ 3rd place winner 2014 John V. Hicks Long Manuscript Award



Bindy's Moon is the third book in Lloyd Ratzlaff's series of literary essays. Ratzlaff is also the editor of an anthology of seniors' writings published by READ Saskatoon and a columnist for the *Prairie Messenger Catholic Journal*. He has served on the boards of several writing organizations and taught writing classes for the University of Saskatchewan Certificate of Art & Design program and the Western Development Museum. Ratzlaff lives in Saskatoon.



ESSAYS

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ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-054-2

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

128 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

LCO010000 (LITERARY COLLECTIONS / Essays)

BIO007000 (BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Literary)

OCC019000 (BODY, MIND & SPIRIT / Inspiration & Personal Growth)

SHIP DATE: MARCH 15, 2015

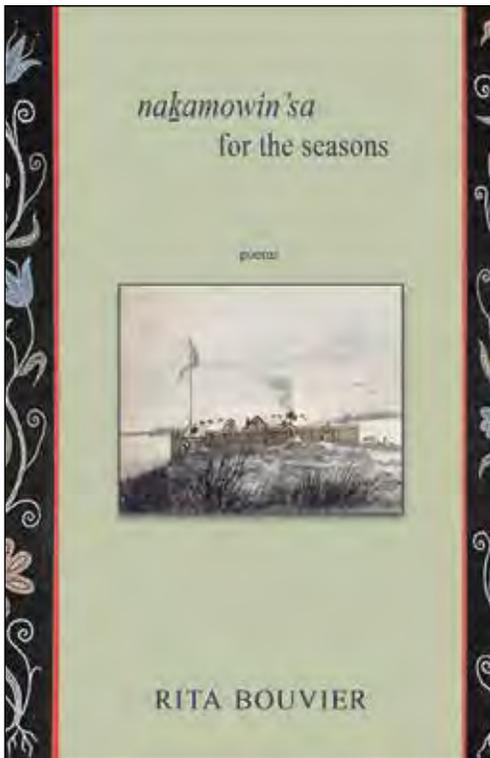
PUB DATE: MARCH 30, 2015

MARKETING & AWARDS RECOGNITION

- Book launch: Saskatoon
- Shortlisted for two Saskatchewan Book Awards in 2006 (Non-fiction and City of Saskatoon) for *Backwater Mystic Blues*

ISBN 978-1-77187-054-2





POETRY

ISBN-10: 1-77187-055-9

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-055-9

\$17.95 CAD / \$16.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

80 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

POE011000 (POETRY / Canadian)

POE015000 (POETRY / Native American)

POE024000 (POETRY / Women Authors)

SHIP DATE: MARCH 15, 2015

PUB DATE: MARCH 30, 2015

MARKETING & AWARDS RECOGNITION

- Book launch: Saskatoon
- Winner 2010 Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network's Practitioner Award
- Nominated for Saskatchewan Book Awards in 2000, 2004, and 2008

ISBN 978-1-77187-055-9



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nakamowin'sa for the seasons

Rita Bouvier

In her third collection of poetry, Rita Bouvier channels the seasonal rhythms in an examination of contemporary indigenous and Métis affinity.

Rita Bouvier's third collection of poetry *nakamowin'sa for the seasons* reflects her experiences as a Métis woman and as a guide to the history of relations with indigenous peoples and the thinking that gives rise to injustice and inequity in the world. Her poems often 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. Drawing on her family connections to the Île-à-la-Crosse region — once a hub of the fur trade in the old Northwest Territories — Bouvier injects colour into her poetry through the motif of *nakamowin'sa* or “wordsongs” and her use of Cree/Michif language. As her ideas are revealed in the work, she illustrates how much has changed as Western ideals have seeped into indigenous culture.

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.

Bouvier celebrates the joys and trials of family life with poems such as “ten turned sixteen” and “my grandmother's hands” and offers her own take on history in “songs to sing” and “measured time”. Through explorations of Métis identity in “I have something important to say” and “indigenous man 2”, she captures the essence of a life that can be joyful one minute and then filled with agony the next. This is a collection that encourages the reader to become caught in the movement and beauty of life — to dance, to breathe, to listen, and, of course, to sing.



Rita Bouvier is an educator and a writer. She has published two collections of poetry with ThistleDown Press, *Blueberry Clouds* (1999) and *papîyâhtak* (2004), and has been nominated for several Saskatchewan Book Awards. Bouvier's poetry has been translated into Spanish and German, and her work has appeared in literary anthologies, musicals, and television productions. Bouvier lives in Saskatoon.



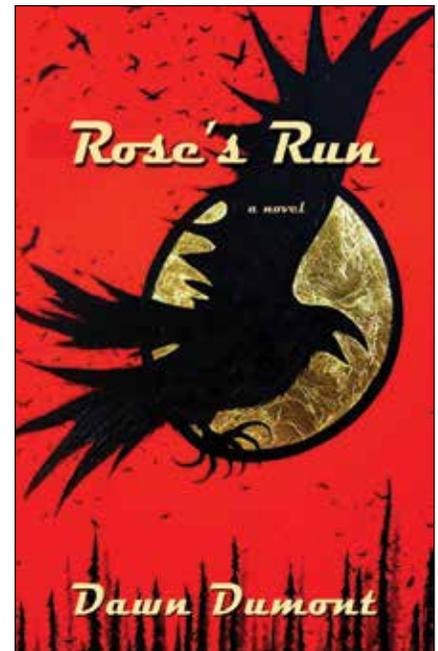
Rose's Run

Dawn Dumont

Rose Okanese, a single mother with two kids, has been pushed into a corner by Rez citizens to claim some self-respect, and she decides that the fastest way to do that is to run the reserve's annual marathon. Though Rose smokes, hasn't run in twenty years, and initially has little motivation, she announces her intention to run the race. As fate will have it, one rather huge unforeseen outcome of her decision is that she will have to do battle with an old inadvertently conjured demon that feeds off the strength of women. In no time the Rez is in an uproar.

With a cast of unusual characters, Dumont interweaves a tale of motherly love, friendship, lustful longing, *wihtikow* lore, and Rez humour, and keeps the hoopla going until the race is done. Will Rose send the demon back to where it came from before the spirit claims her teen daughter? Will she get back together with her philandering, rock musician husband? More importantly, will she get this all done before her big, face-saving race with Dahlia Ingram, a woman whom God has designed for one purpose: to run long distances at high speeds with effortless grace?

"*Rose's Run* is unlike any other book I've ever read: it's part Lee Maracle, part Stephen King, part Eden Robinson, and a whole lot of fun... What a read. What a writer. Wow!" — Richard Van Camp, author of *The Lesser Blessed* and *Godless but Loyal to Heaven*



NOVEL
978-1-927068-81-6
\$19.95 CAD / \$18.95 USD
304 / TRADE PAPER
Available as an eBook

After You've Gone

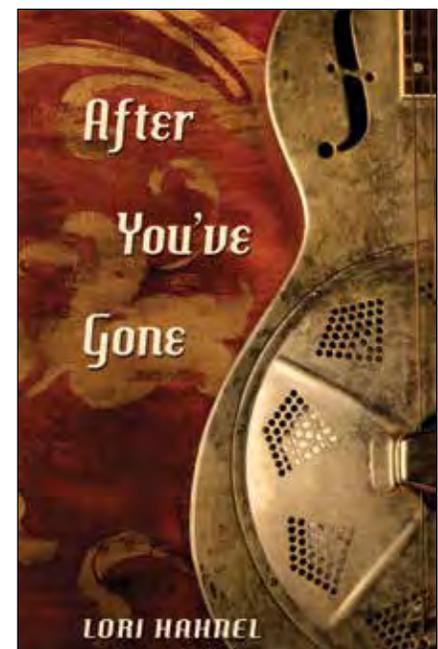
Lori Hahnel

After You've Gone is the story of two generations of musicians, a jazz grandmother and a punk granddaughter, who each struggle with balancing life, love, and art in their respective eras. In 1935 Regina, Lita, a young woman of gypsy ancestry, develops a passion for playing the guitar. When she joins a Regina jazz combo and falls in love with the group's lead singer, Lita's fate is sealed.

Interspersed with Lita's story is that of her grand-daughter Elsa who, in 1983, has become the lead singer/songwriter and guitarist of Speed Queen, a Regina punk band. Her boyfriend Mark Taggart is also in a punk band. In love with the music scene, with each other, and with their new baby, they decide their musical prospects would be better in Seattle than in Regina, a move that will prove to bring about significant changes.

Though fifty years exist between Lita and Elsa, they encounter similar circumstances as they face the daunting risks of the musician's life. The pain of rejection and betrayal has to be managed, just as the responsibility of commitments must be maintained.

"*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*



NOVEL
978-1-927068-90-8
\$19.95 CAD / \$18.95 USD
267 PAGES / TRADE PAPER
Available as an eBook



NOVEL

978-1-927068-85-4

\$19.95 CAD / \$18.95 USD

390 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

Available as an eBook

Motherwild

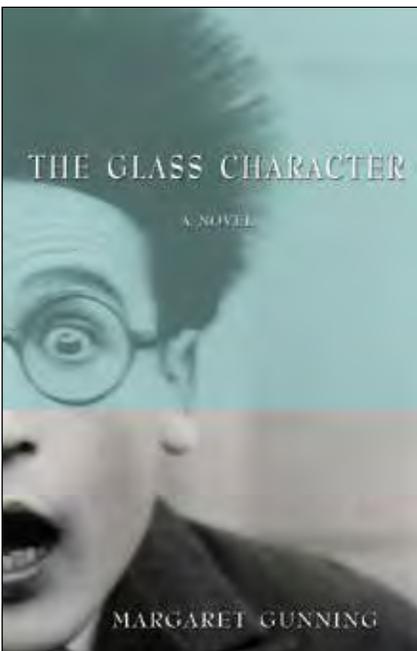
Ken Rivard

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.

Joey's move to maturity is fraught with false steps and deeply dangerous feelings in this unvarnished journey which depicts the struggle to survive on a sometimes violent, sometimes loving, always alive Montreal working-class street in the 1960s. Set over the course of a year, Joey Cantell tries to figure out his relationship with his mother, who continually exasperates him with her quick wit, strong will, and constant drinking. Then there is Celine Lesage, the girl who lives downstairs whose similarity to his mother drives him mad but attracts him in a way no one else can.

Most of Joey's relationships flow from his connection to Celine and his mother, and most of his experience comes from studying their ways. But a pervasive melancholy overrides certain days as Joey struggles with thoughts of what his mother might do to herself or what he might do to her.

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



NOVEL

978-1-927068-88-5

\$19.95 CAD / \$18.95 USD

307 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

Available as an eBook

The Glass Character

Margaret Gunning

The Glass Character is a story of obsessive love and ruthless ambition set in the heady days of the Jazz Age in the 1920s. It was a time when people went to the movies almost every day, living vicariously through their heroes: Valentino, Garbo, Fairbanks, and Pickford. But comedians were the biggest draw, and broad slapstick the order of the day, with one very significant exception. Standing beside Keaton and Chaplin in popularity and prowess was a slight, diffident man named Harold Lloyd — the silent era's most influential comedian.

For sixteen-year-old Jane, he was a living god and though Lloyd had as many female followers as Gilbert or Barrymore, Jane knew no one could adore him more than she did, and no one would be willing to sacrifice more to be part of his life. There is in her story a naïveté in the voice and a wide-eyed innocence in the events, but as guileless as Jane may seem, her unaffected vision reveals much about the politics of the major studios, the power plays of the directors and producers, and the prima donna and egotistical Hollywood stars who ruled the movies. Her story also reveals much about the human heart and our desire to love against all the impossible odds.

"Margaret Gunning writes with uncanny grace and unflinching clarity . . ." — *Montreal Gazette*

Parallel Rivers

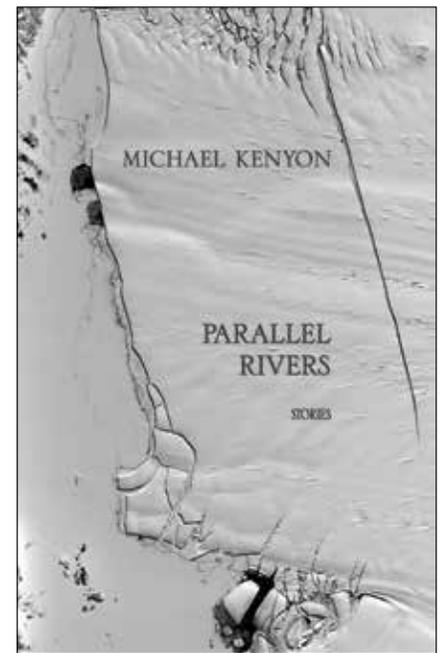
Michael Kenyon

Parallel Rivers is a collection of stories that were coaxed into existence from Kenyon's interest in seeing what fiction might learn from film, particularly the German, French, Italian, and Japanese cinema of the 70s. While Kenyon's fictions are often immersed in postmodern sensibilities, adding the rituals and techniques and experiments of film to the process changes some of the ground rules.

The collection has two sections that run stylistically parallel to each other. The first section consists of short, often surreal or uncomfortable fictions; the second contains longer stories of larger, more realistic worlds. The settings of these tales dance from India to New York, Africa to Vancouver Island, and highlights include "Canaries Sing in Russian Airspace", where we witness the disintegration of a Canadian circus in Russia, and the collection's closing piece, "That Time in Palm Springs", a moving memory lament of a man caring for his morbidly obese father.

Kenyon's fictions exist as dreams exist, yet within this framework truth is revealed and the full play of language exercised.

"Kenyon is a master of style and, to brilliant effect, works to re-enact the tricks of the human psyche." — Gillian Harding-Russell



SHORT FICTION
978-1-927068-82-3
\$18.95 CAD / \$17.95 USD
267 PAGES / TRADE PAPER
Available as an eBook

We Don't Listen to Them

Sean Johnston

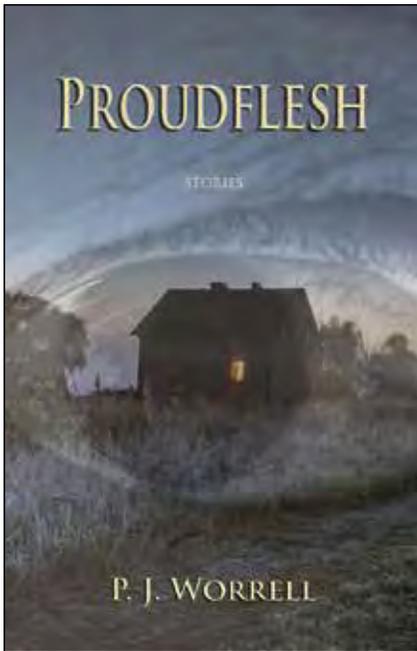
In an inviting and challenging series of fictions, Sean Johnston's *We Don't Listen to Them* will leave readers puzzling while they smile at the acrobatics of his words and techniques. Some of Johnston's stories border on "flash fiction" where incidents rather than an actual narrative drive the story. In the opening piece "How Blue" a boy is caught in the vortex of his father who drinks, his mother who condones, and a church representative who reforms. There is no plot, just Ronnie eating his purple ice cream and thinking his way through the maze.

Several stories explore writing about writing. In the story "We Don't Celebrate That", the narrator, a writer, explains how rules can be absurdly imposed on writers in a futile attempt to govern the writing process.

Shifts in narrative, jumps in time, intrusions into the narrative tension are all common here. But so too is pathos, and though the world turns upside down in Johnston's stories, as logic and reality are violated, this is fiction that also ebbs and flows with human struggle, that is recognizable and relatable and, despite the challenges and uncertainties placed in the reader's path, there is always a way to see more clearly than we think we do.



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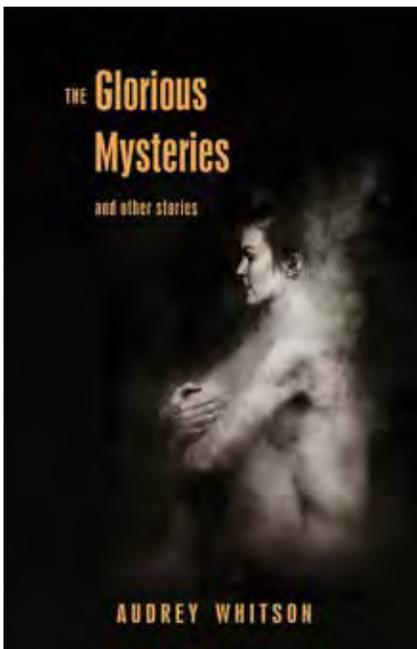
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Proudflesh

P.J. Worrell

P. J. Worrell understands girls who dream of being wives and mothers in safe cozy homes who then find out that trying hard to secure that life does not necessarily make it happen. In *Proudflesh*, readers will not find heartwarming sentimentality but mature literary prose with surprising twists and indeterminate endings and women of intense substance and spirit. Her work is imbued with the feminism that early literary pioneers like Margaret Laurence and Alice Munro introduced in their fiction, and although the individual stories ride off into different horizons, collectively their ideas stress that when faced with a choice between self-fulfillment and goodness, many will sacrifice goodness in order to have their needs met.

Writing through a social worker's lens, Worrell knows what it is like to be dependent, mentally ill, or at the end of one's life. She writes close to the bone. Her characters may not be heroically dashing or intrepid, but they stare death in the face without flinching, and this is what makes *Proudflesh* such an important first book.



SHORT FICTION

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The Glorious Mysteries

Audrey Whitson

At the core of almost every story in Audrey Whitson's collection is a female protagonist on a searching journey towards meaning and personal validity. Regardless of whether she is a small child on an Alberta farm, a middle-class woman in California or a nurse struggling with her faith, there is a constant and undeniable authenticity of voice that is arrestingly intimate. This palpable honesty enables the reader to feel fully involved in each character's journey and cements their personalities in the mind. *The Glorious Mysteries* has a unique spiritual edge and readers will find it alluringly imbued with secretive, significant, and mysterious events.

"Engrossing and searching. These stories deal with the mysteries at the heart of childhood, family, and life. Audrey Whitson is a writer to watch." — Mary Borsky, author of *Influence of the Moon and Cobalt Blue*

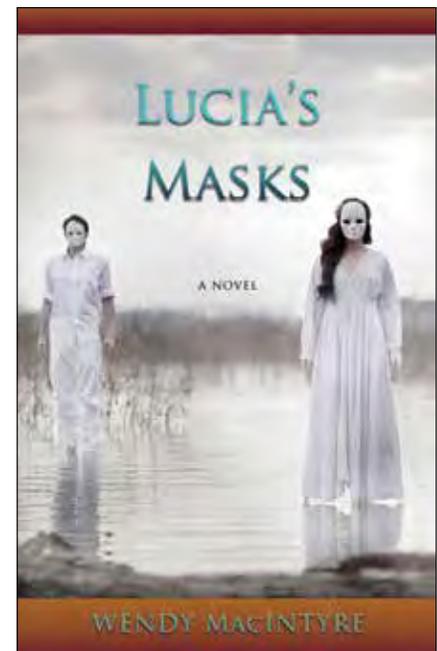
• Shortlisted for the 2014 Howard O. Hagan Alberta Literary Award for Short Story

Lucia's Masks

Wendy MacIntyre

Lucia's Masks follows a group of six strangers who meet by chance while each one is fleeing the barbaric and thought-controlling totalitarian regime of The City. As they journey to the North, where they hope they can be free of the ever-present Eye and establish a free society, their individual stories become interwoven.

Told from the perspective of Lucia, a sculptress and lover of art who was forced by The City to clean office buildings, the companions on the road to freedom must confront their own minds, which have become so contaminated by the world they long to escape that their own psyches threaten to become their most insurmountable obstacle. Then, one day, as the bickering and frailties increase between hedonist and philanderer Outpacer, bookworm Bird Girl, 88-year-old Harry who detests the elderly, and dominant Candace, they discover an old box with six Greek tragedy masks inside. These masks, possessors of uncanny powers, are destined to be the key to their fortunes.



NOVEL

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A Nose for Death

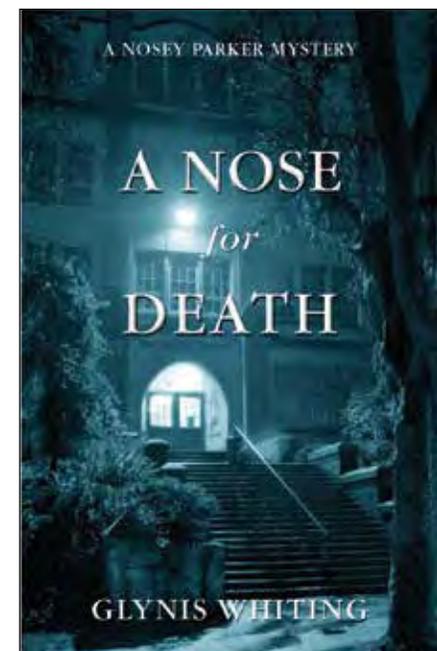
Glynis Whiting

Chemist Dr. Joan Parker's ability to identify scents rivals any other person on the planet. She can distinguish cane sugar from beet sugar, burning pine from spruce, and a man on the make from a man on the take. Combining scents and flavours for the food industry is her occupation and her passion.

At first Joan is confused when she receives an invitation to the class reunion from Madden High, a school from which she never graduated as her family had moved following the death of her father. When a murder takes place at the reunion, Joan becomes the prime suspect and she must turn her olfactory skills to the investigation to prove her innocence.

Joan's ability to understand the effects of all of the senses on human emotion and behaviour leads Joan "Nosey" Parker to the killer in *A Nose for Death* and a new reputation as a serious crime-solver.

"Glynis Whiting gets it right straight out of the gate. It's hard to imagine a more perfect setting for a murder than a high school reunion." — John Moore, *BC BookWorld*



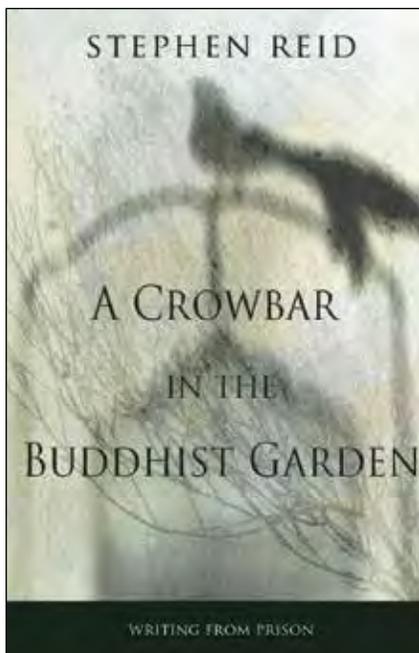
NOVEL

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ESSAY

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A Crowbar in the Buddhist Garden

Stephen Reid

Stephen Reid has grown old in prison and seen more than his share of its solitude, vicious cycles, and subculture relationships. He has participated in the economics of contraband, the incredible escapes, the intimacies of torture, the miscarriages of justice, and witnessed the innocent souls whose childhood destinies doomed them to prison life.

He has learned that everything is bearable, that the painful separation of family, children, and friend is tolerable, and that sorrow must be kept close, buried in a secret garden of the self, if one is to survive and give others who love you hope.

Each of the essays in this collection is a recognition of how Reid's imprisonment has shaped his life. Whether describing his fractured boyhood or the escalation in crimes that led to his imprisonment, the common refrain of "prison life" remains as Reid measures the integrity of books in the prison library, describes the violence and primal intimidation inherent in all-male communities, and comments on the torment and solace of solitary confinement.

• Winner of the 2013 Butler Book Prize



CREATIVE NON-FICTION

978-1-927068-48-9

\$18.95 CAD / \$17.95 USD

324 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

Available as an eBook

The Deaf House

Joanne Weber

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 balanced with joy and victory. It is the true story of a deaf woman overcoming the most profound obstacles to find her true self.

Weber combines the narrative tools of a novelist with a keen documentarian perspective to effectively provide the reader with rare insight and profound truths about the lives of the deaf. Her narrative elicits an unexpected and profound emotional response through a powerful story of an indomitable woman's clearance of incredible obstacles to uncover 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 the 2014 Non-Fiction and City of Regina Saskatchewan Book Awards

The Hills Are Shadows

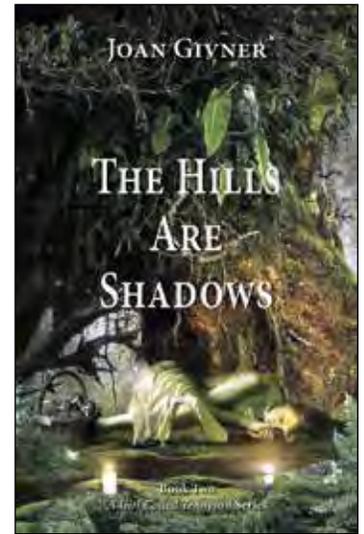
Joan Givner

978-1-927068-91-5

\$12.95 CAD / AGES: 9 TO 13

It was supposed to be a homecoming and reunion, but when Anne Tennyson Miller (Tenn to her friends and family) returns to Driftwood Bay with her new friend Una, they find a ghost town. Something has gone terribly wrong in the world. The sea is rising fast, and everyone — almost everyone — has fled to the hills. Danger and treachery lurk on a highway littered with abandoned cars and possessions, and the girls, along with two young strangers who conceal a mystery of their own, head across country.

“Givner’s characters are so real that the reader will have no problem identifying with them.” — *CM Magazine*



Sophie, In Shadow

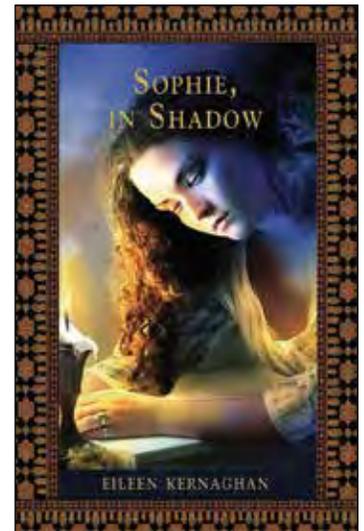
Eileen Kernaghan

978-1-927068-94-6

\$15.95 CAD / AGES 14+

It’s 1914. Sixteen-year-old Sophie Pritchard, orphaned two years earlier by a famous sea disaster, is about to begin a new life in the unfamiliar world of British India. For Sophie, still devastated by her parent’s death, India proves a dangerously unsettling environment. Are her terrifying experiences in Kali’s temple and the Park Street cemetery hallucinations, or has she somehow been drawn back through the centuries as a witness to dark places in Calcutta’s past?

Sophie it seems has become an unwilling traveller in a timeless zone where past, present, and future co-exist. Kidnapping, enemy spies, and terrorist plots all play their part against the background of a world at war and growing unrest in the Indian subcontinent. Soon Sophie’s powers of precognition will be called upon to help thwart a conspiracy that could incite a bloodbath in Calcutta, and deliver India into enemy hands.



Living with the Hawk

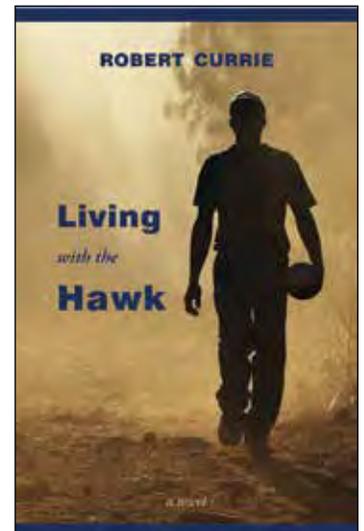
Robert Currie

978-1-927068-39-7

\$15.95 CAD / AGES 14+

Blake Russell took care of and protected his younger brother Blair. But once they reached high school and began playing football, the ground rules changed. Blake, a senior and team quarterback, moved in different circles with friends who partied, drank, bullied the younger players, and abused the girls they could attract. As the differences between Blake and Blair became more apparent, the discovery of a body in a field north of town set loose devastating actions that would sever their brotherly bond and divide the Russell family forever.

“The writing is clear and direct in its effect, and the issues raised — bullying in general and the abuse of women and of aboriginals in particular — are dealt with honestly and memorably.” — Greg Hollingshead





POETRY

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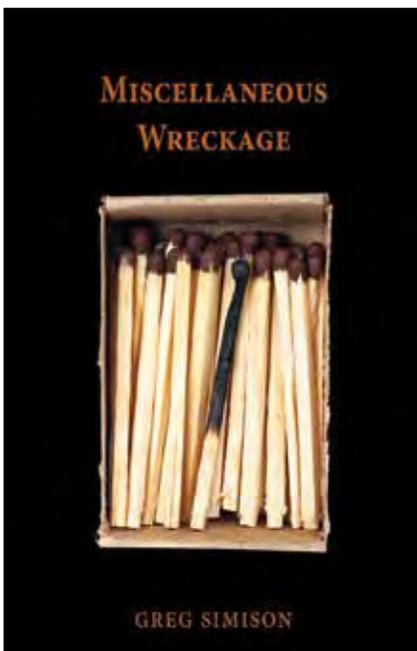
Red Curls

Tracy Hamon

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. Dividing the work into three sections, equal energy is given to the artist, his model, and the alluring energy of Viennese eroticism. Creating intimacy through the use of first person and exposing drama through the use of the third, Hamon’s poems resonate with Egon’s and Valerie’s story: how they met, their intense desires, and the union and bond that would keep them together for years. *Red Curls* chronicles lives but in the retelling, captures the enterprise and intensity of Schiele as he pushed the culture of desire to new heights.

The various poetic forms featured in the collection let the reader visualize the art and lives of Schiele and Neuzil - from their financial struggles to the artist’s time in prison. 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 liberated a generation of artists driven through carnal desire to paint, write, and love.

“These are poems that revel in non-conformity and glisten with the joy of how the world might be seen.”— Michael Trussler



POETRY

978-1-927068-86-1

\$17.95 CAD / \$16.95 USD

96 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

Miscellaneous Wreckage

Greg Simison

Miscellaneous Wreckage truly is a miscellany. There are few recurring themes or dominant sections, and the subject matter of the poems is all over the map: exploring 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. As he says, “After all, you may as well laugh at death. Raging against death is as futile as raging against the wind in Saskatchewan.”

Miscellaneous Wreckage is a sit back, read, and enjoy collection with more than a laugh or two tucked within its pages.

“The poems in *Miscellaneous Wreckage* are always approachable, marked as they are by a sense of humour and a light touch, by surprising turns of phrase and clever twists of thought.” — Robert Currie

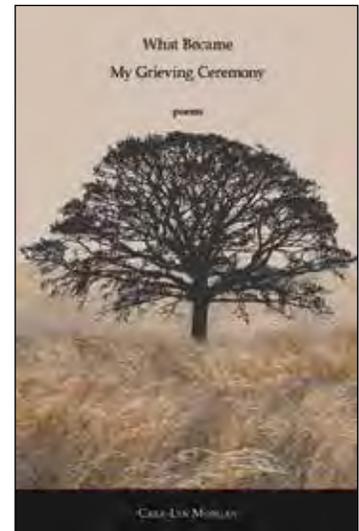
What Became My Grieving Ceremony

Cara-Lyn Morgan

978-1-927068-84-7

\$17.95 CAD

“Elegant and empathic, this fine book plumbs not only grief, but takes us through its rites: the anticipation of loss and its initial sting; the shouldering of a despair so vivid it hurts to succumb to memory’s unheralded quietude. Drawing from her Métis and Trinidadian heritage, Morgan counterpoints the unassuaged suffering of her people with her family’s, experiencing them as only one alert person can. Open yourself to these poems, become their host, and live their affirmative message as your own.” —John Barton



Not the First Thing I’ve Missed

Fionncara MacEoin

978-1-927068-83-0

\$17.95 CAD

“How do you write about despair? Beside Rockwell’s oatmeal and fishing rods, MacEoin’s version of the world doesn’t have a chance. Life inside and outside the institution is one proliferation of the progressive tense . . . that mutated world where present, past, and future are one. “You could call it living,” moving from “bed to chair/bed to chair” where time is a “barrier to be broken” because no one wants the depressives. These poems stagger and drool. Sometimes, they brawl. Nothing like Purdy’s fisticuffs in a northern bar, this landscape is inside the head, the one in the mirror, the hospital bed.” — Susan Stenson



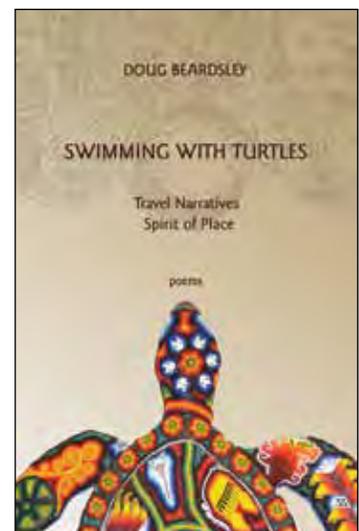
Swimming with Turtles: Spirit of Place

Doug Beardsley

978-1-927068-87-8

\$17.95 CAD

“A pastiche of travel, Doug Beardsley’s *Spirit of Place* is where the adventurous reader wants to go afar and meld with the paradisiacal of exotic places still in existence on an increasingly degradable earth. In Beardsley’s travel narratives we have the right tonic for that restless global traveller. This poet has soul and I wish soul replaced the gold standard, but in this workaday consumer world, what is to be said is truly said by Beardsley. There is biting honesty, a hard edge to this volume.” — Joe Rosenblatt



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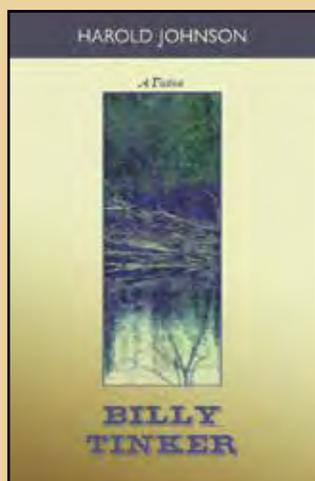
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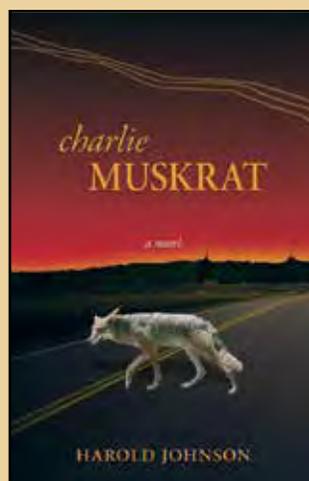
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