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Spring/Summer 2016

New and Recent Titles



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Hamburger

Daniel Perry

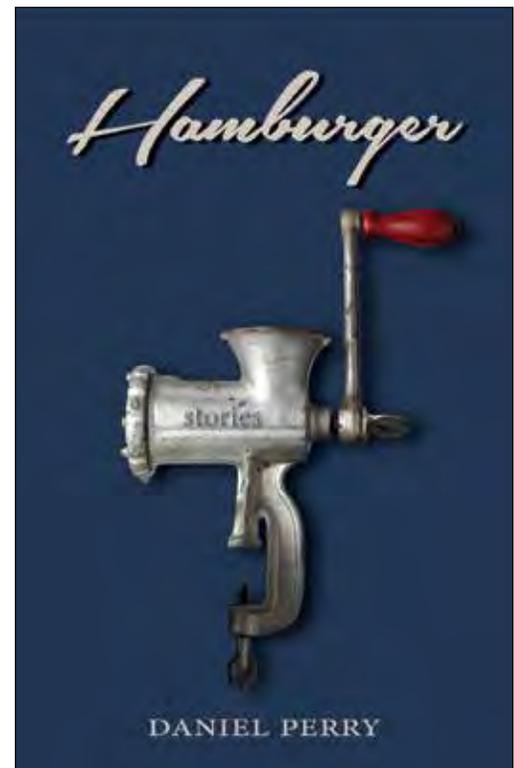
Inventive short fictions that skew and capture contemporary trends and events in entertaining fashion

The stories in this collection represent the coming of age of a young writer. His earliest published work is here along with his later more sophisticated literary efforts. Perry's fiction explores contemporary life mostly in urban centres like Toronto, though they are not bound by this parameter with stories also set in places such as Venice and Nicaragua. The pieces range from dark satirical perspectives to situational ironies and explore a wide variety of events like wedding receptions, poverty, family life, travel, urban fear, dating, and disenfranchisement. The stories fit well into the urban fiction motif and although they frequently carry images of struggle, fatigue, and loss, they move the people who populate them into decisions that offer tense moments of hope and beauty. Not always plot specific, the stories frequently set in motion a paradox or unresolved event with which the reader is left to grapple.

For example, in the story "The Locked Out", a young man who has been out late must weigh a decision of whether or not to wake his shift-working girlfriend to get into their apartment. The story "I Think I'll Tell Her Today", finds a domestic in a complicated sexual relationship with her employer, but the question of who is using whom is not entirely clear. In "The Short Life Of Gary Q Stuffholder", a young woman attends a wedding party without her boyfriend and wades through various forms of imagined pathos heaped on by the other guests. In the title story "Hamburger", a man waits in the heat of a restaurant thinking about all the things wrong with his dating life, creating a pictures of disdain and self-loathing while a young waitress hovers expectantly.



Daniel Perry is the author of the short fiction collections *Hamburger* (ThistleDown, 2016) and *Nobody Looks That Young Here* (Guernica, 2018). His stories have appeared in *The Dalhousie Review*, *Exile: The Literary Quarterly*, *The Prairie Journal of Canadian Literature*, *SubTerrain*, *Riddle Fence*, *Little Fiction*, and other magazines, as well as the anthologies *Hearing Voices* (Bareback, 2014), *The Lion and the Aardvark* (Stone Skin, 2013) and *CVC Book Two* (Exile, 2012). Originally from small-town Southwestern Ontario, Perry obtained a Master of Arts degree from the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto, and has lived in that city since 2006.



SHORT FICTION

ISBN-10: 1-77187-097-4

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-097-9

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

160 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC029000 (FICTION / Short Stories)

FIC061000 (FICTION / Humorous)

FIC010000 (FICTION / Urban)

THEMA CODES: FYB (Short stories)

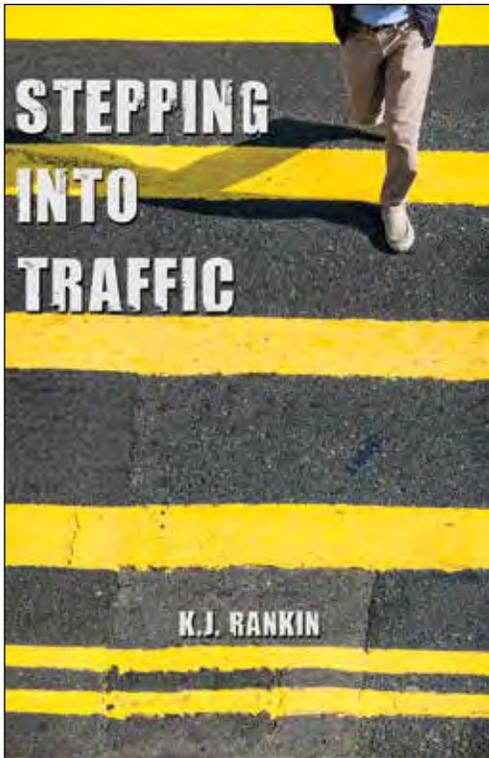
SHIP DATE: MAY 1, 2016

PUB DATE: APRIL 15, 2016

ISBN 978-1-77187-097-9



9 781771 870979



YOUNG ADULT NOVEL

ISBN-10: 1-77187-101-6

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-101-3

\$15.95 CAD / \$14.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

146 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

AGES: 13+

BISACS:

JUV039020 (JUVENILE FICTION / Social Issues / Adolescence)

JUV021000 (JUVENILE FICTION / Law & Crime)

JUV013050 (JUVENILE FICTION / Family)

THEMA CODES:

YFB: (Children's/Teenage Fiction: General)

YXH: (Children's/Teenage Personal and Social Issues)

SHIP DATE: MAY 1, 2016

PUB DATE: APRIL 15, 2016

Stepping into Traffic

K.J. Rankin

An orphaned teen learns the pitfall of lies in his search to find love and security.

The title *Stepping into Traffic* is a play on words (and a metaphor) reflecting the protagonist's actions. When we meet Sebastian (Seb) he is already taking risks and putting himself in harm's way as he and a couple of his friends carry out a failed break and enter and are arrested. As we get to know Seb we discover his life has been a series of bad foster experiences that have left him numb to the memories of his dead parents, and poor in his judgement of how to fit in. Much of his foster care has been damaging to his self-esteem and moral codes. He is not strong and his fears begin to mount.

Awaiting his court appearance, Seb is placed in his eighth foster home in seven years in the company of Mrs. Ford, a foster home caregiver, whom Seb finds familiar and comforting. Memories of his early home life flood him and he begins to find a sense of well-being and trust. However, Seb's troubles soon reappear in the form of wealthy, manipulative drug dealer Donny Malner. Lured by Donny's social power and blind to Danny's ruthlessness, Seb seeks his approval. Soon he is entwined in Danny's drug-dealing world where violence and lies direct most actions. Though Mrs. Ford continues to stand by him, he knows he is betraying her trust. Soon Seb is caught up in a wave of violent circumstance that neither Mrs. Ford nor his unusual mentor the school janitor, Mr. Frogly, can help him out of.

In a final showdown with Donny and gangland members, Seb must decide what he will do. His dilemma is as great as the fear he faces: engage in the revenge he seeks and lose the closest thing he has had to a home, or stand up to his mistakes, reveal his lies, and accept the consequences. Though he is not ready, Sebastian steps out into the traffic.



K.J. Rankin is a regular book reviewer with *CM Magazine* — a major source for both school librarians and teachers. She is a writer and editor of children's stories and also facilitates adult and seniors' creative writing workshops, most of which focus on memoir. Rankin lives in Toronto and this is her first novel.



ISBN 978-1-77187-101-3



9 781771 871013

Shift

Kelly Shepherd

Shift rings with the energy of eco-poetics where human encounters with nature become transformational.

Kelly Shepherd's poetry is filled with awe and celebration, sadness, and ironic humour as he explores themes of human relationships with the natural world, including connection, alienation, and the negative impacts of human activity on nature; interspecies kinship — ecological as well as animistic and shamanic; and, intersections of ecology and industry.

Shepherd uses numerous voices and perspectives, and such arrangements bring about a variety of moods. Whether his subjects are starlings or tamaracks, woodchucks or grizzly bears, the ever-present magic of nature guides not only the mode but directs each poem's tone toward some unique perspective:

Some spiders know the correct use of magic
knots to tie a cluster of Oregon grape
into one single dusty purple berry. If a

black bear swallows it under the right moon
he or she will become a powerful shaman,
able to speak the languages of spiders.

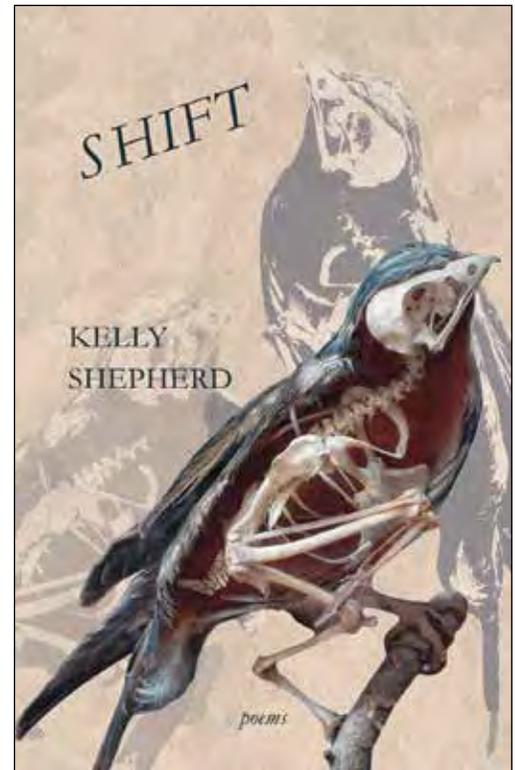
But while there is a dominance of the natural world found in the poems, they also reflect the numerous meanings of the title: a shift of perspective or point of view, physically moving or shifting position, transforming or changing form or physical appearance, shifting gears while driving a vehicle, working the night shift. Living and working on the land and bodily experiences of specific places also have their place in Shepherd's poems. These portraits ensure a kind of visceral connection or memory to the poems as they invite reader comparisons to their own work experiences.



Kelly Shepherd has been part of numerous poetry reading events including creative collaborations with other writers, musicians, and visual artists. He has written five poetry chapbooks: *The First Metaphor* (2014); *Fort McMurray Tricksters* (2014); *if one petal falls* (2012); and, *the bony world* (2010). His writing has been published in *The Goose*, *The Coastal Spectator*, and *Geist*. Originally from Smithers, British Columbia, Kelly currently lives and teaches in Edmonton.



ISBN 978-1-77187-104-4



POETRY

ISBN-10: 1-77187-104-0

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-104-4

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

80 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

POE011000 (POETRY/Canadian)

POE023030 (POETRY/Nature)

POE003000 (POETRY/Inspirational & Religious)

THEMA CODES:

DCC (Modern & contemporary poetry)

DCF (Poetry by individual poets)

WN (Nature and the natural world)

SHIP DATE: MAY 1, 2016

PUB DATE: APRIL 15, 2016

A Map in My Blood

Carla Braidek

Carla Braidek's poetry celebrates the work and play of being a woman.

Traditional poetry continues to hold its place in contemporary literature, in part because of the emergence of women whose writing is informed by tradition but whose subject matter crystalizes in the personal search for meaning. This work represents a search through life, querying events and ideas. Thoughts are offered and ideas considered, but no real conclusion is reached as life's constant flux shifts the perspective and importance of every event. Everyday moments and seemingly inconsequential acts are allowed their due while peace and strength show through the loss and effort.

In the backdrop to the poems, the boreal forest comes alive, poems begin there:

I spent the entire day walking poplar brush and spruce groves
stretched out for a bit in waist-high grass in the meadow beyond the birches
worked my slow way beneath the willows where beaver wore a path
through stones that rim the slough next to Little Winter Lake

And poems end there:

young throats yip
coyote pups on the ridge
beckon the moon as feet slap boards
stretched to the drowning sun
leap into rippled silver

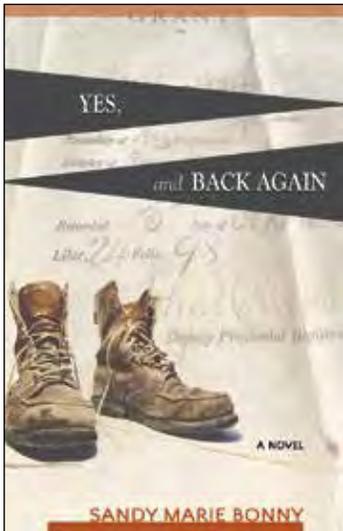
In these poems, the forest, the woman, and the poem share the work for meaning, and this is what creates their beauty as much as the carefully chosen words that convey it.



Carla Braidek lives and writes in the boreal forest near Big River, Saskatchewan. Her book *Carrying the Sun* (ThistleDown, 2005) was shortlisted for the Saskatchewan Book Award for Poetry. Her work is also published in her chapbook *Quickening*, the Hagios Press anthology *New Saskatchewan Poets*, and various literary magazines. Her poetry was included in the full-length documentary, *Unplugged — Emma 2010 Collaboration*, that was filmed during that time.



POETRY
ISBN-10: 1-77187-096-6
ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-096-2
\$17.95 CAD / \$16.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"
80 PAGES / TRADE PAPER
BISACS:
POE011000 (POETRY/Canadian)
POE024000 (POETRY/Women Authors)
THEMA CODES:
DCC (POETRY Modern & Contemporary)
DCF (POETRY single author)
SHIP DATE: MAY 1, 2016
PUB DATE: APRIL 15, 2016



Yes, and Back Again

Sandy Marie Bonny

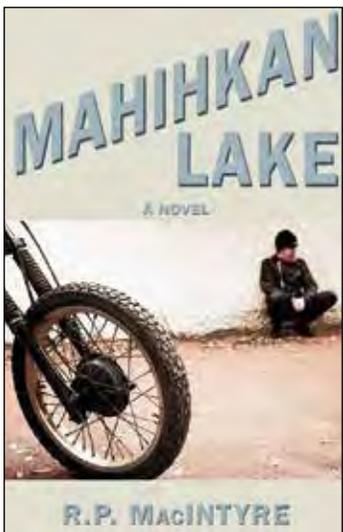
NOVEL

978-1-77187-052-8

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

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 are 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.



Mahihkan Lake

R.P. MacIntyre

NOVEL

978-1-77187-053-5

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

Available as an eBook

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.

Corvus

Harold Johnson

NOVEL

978-1-77187-051-1

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

Available as an eBook

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.

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.



The Little Washer of Sorrows

Katherine Fawcett

SHORT FICTION

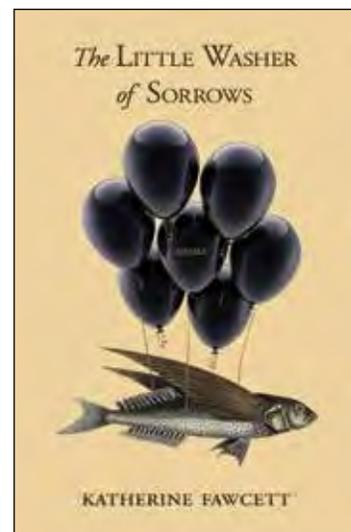
978-1-77187-049-8

\$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 fizzes. *Little Washer* startles, however, thanks to its commitment to the fantastic.” — Jason Heller, *National Public Radio Book Reviews*



What Can't Be Undone

dee Hobsbawn-Smith

SHORT FICTION

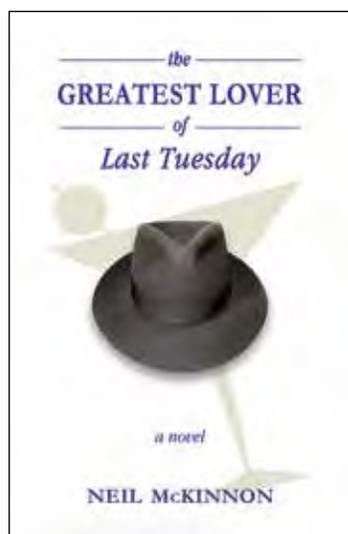
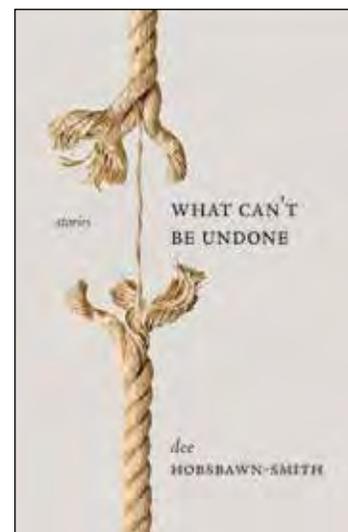
978-1-927068-89-2

\$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.

“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*



The Greatest Lover of Last Tuesday

Neil McKinnon

NOVEL

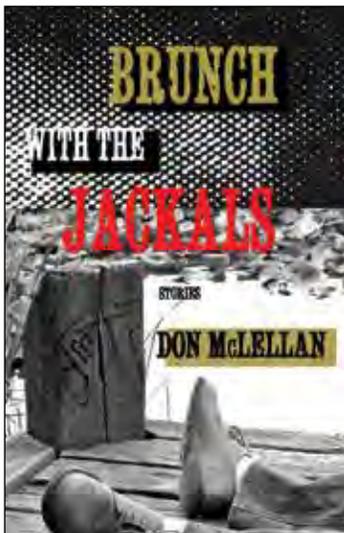
978-1-77187-062-7

\$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

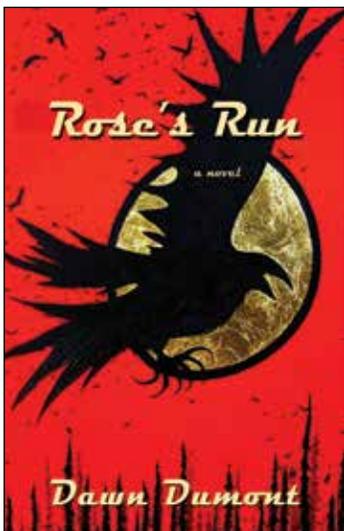
978-1-77187-050-4

\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

A man seeking the high life realizes too late that he has destroyed his possibilities for happiness. 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 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



Rose's Run

Dawn Dumont

NOVEL

978-1-927068-81-6

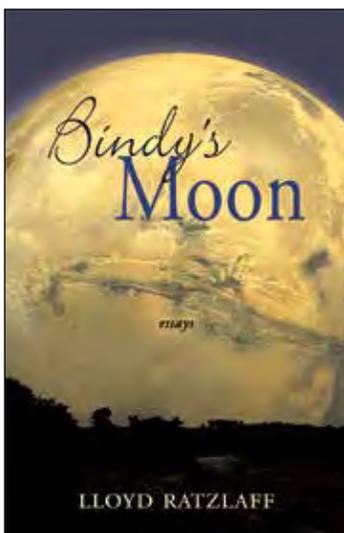
\$19.95 CAD

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, *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.” — Saskatoon StarPhoenix

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



Bindy's Moon

Lloyd Ratzlaff

978-1-77187-054-2

\$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.

“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

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

Queen of the Godforsaken

Mix Hart

TEEN NOVEL

ISBN-10: 1-77187-063-X

ISBN-13: 978-1-771870-63-4

\$15.95 CAD / \$14.95 USD / Ages 14+

Available as an eBook

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.

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.



Size of a Fist

Tara Gereaux

TEEN NOVELLA

ISBN-10: 1-77187-059-1

ISBN-13: 978-1-771870-59-7

\$12.95 CDN / \$11.95 USD

Living in a small working class town has never suited Addy. On the night before her move to the city, her 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*





nakamowin'sa for the seasons

Rita Bouvier

978-1-77187-055-9
\$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.

"... a fine collection of poetry." — Bill Robertson, *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*



Red Curls

Tracy Hamon

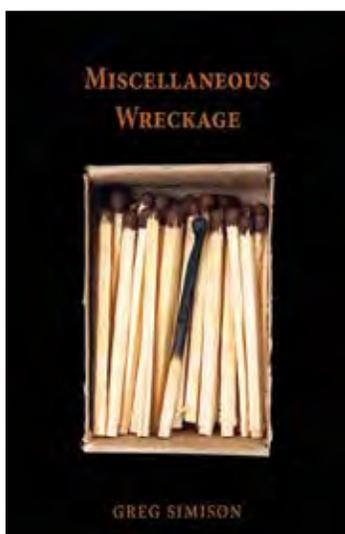
978-1-927068-93-9
\$17.95 CAD / \$16.95 USD

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.

"This collection is an inspired pastiche of devotion to the tormented artist . . ." — *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*

• 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.

"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." — *Today's Book of Poetry*

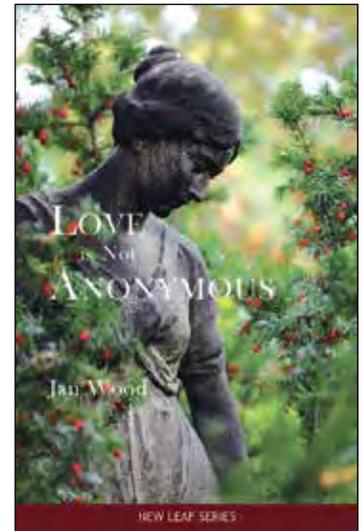
Love Is Not Anonymous

Jan Wood

978-1-77187-056-6

\$12.95 CDN / \$11.95 USD

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.



Exile on a Grid Road

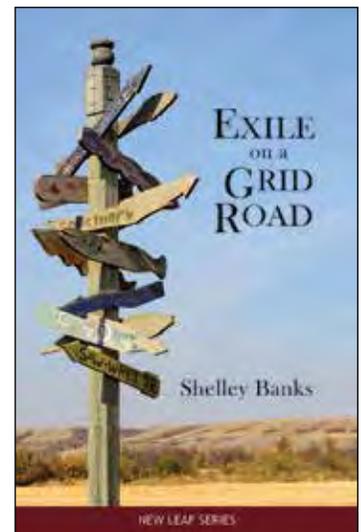
Shelley Banks

978-1-77187-057-3

\$12.95 CDN / \$11.95 USD

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



Questions for Wolf

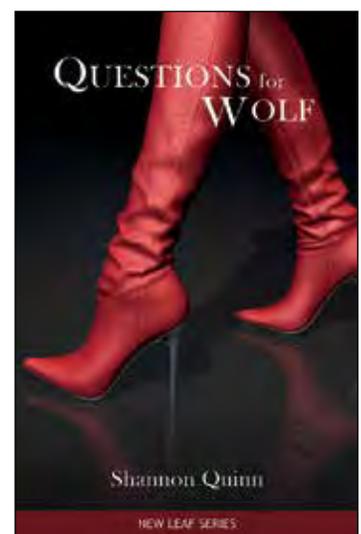
Shannon Quinn

978-1-77187-058-0

\$12.95 CDN / \$11.95 USD

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.

“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



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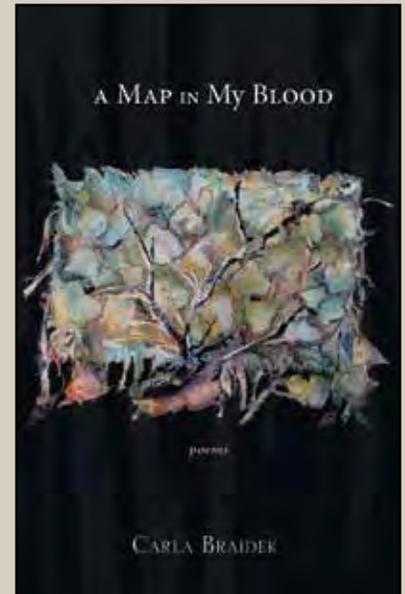
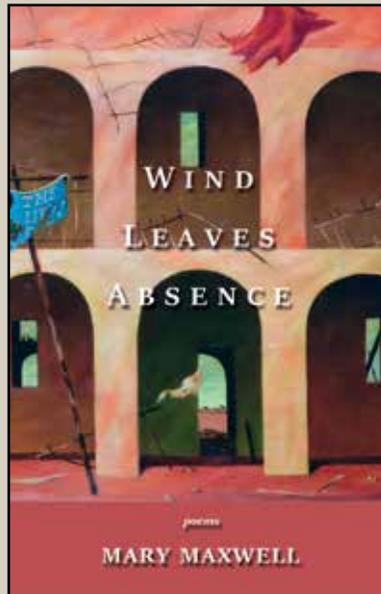
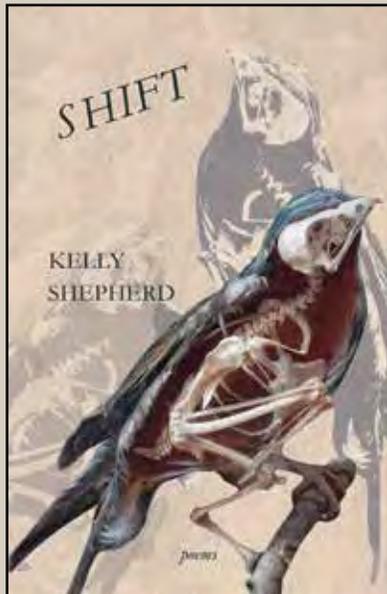
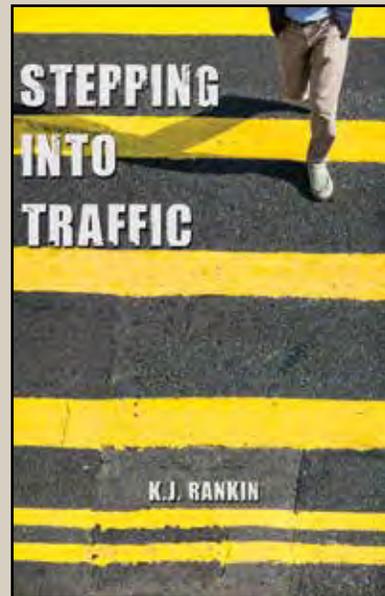
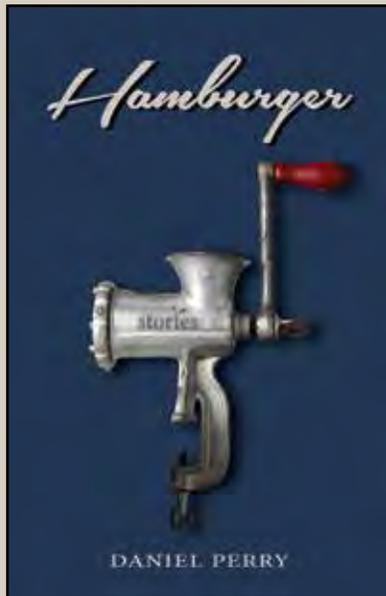
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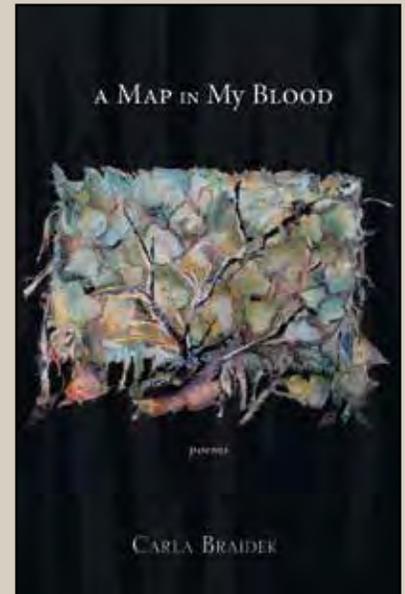
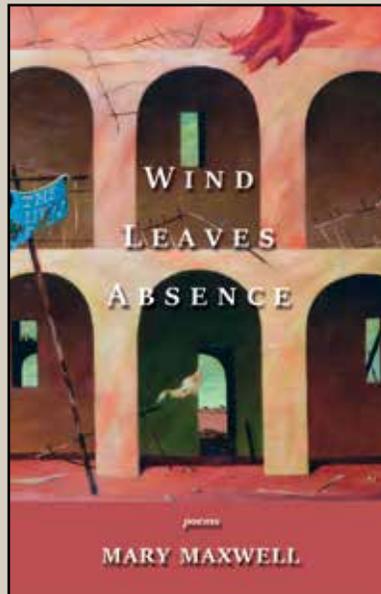
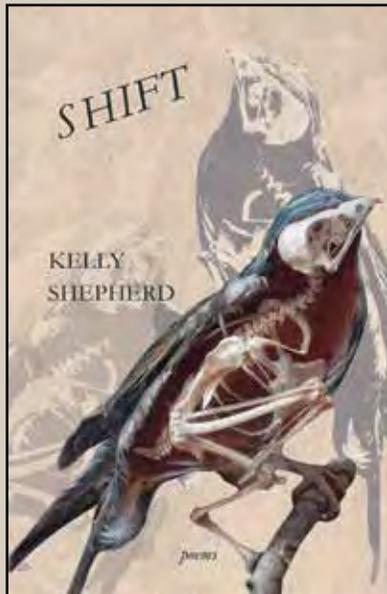
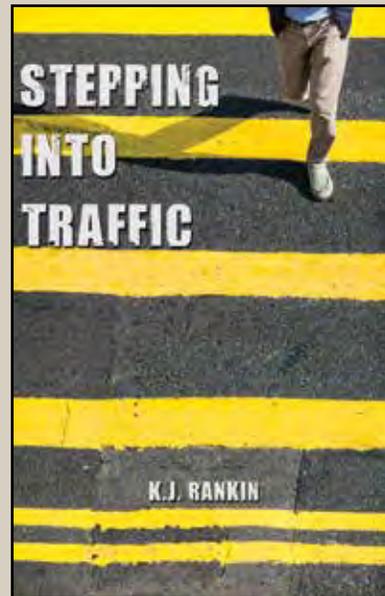
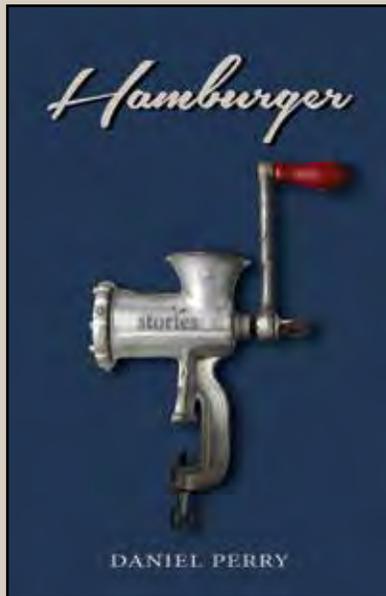
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