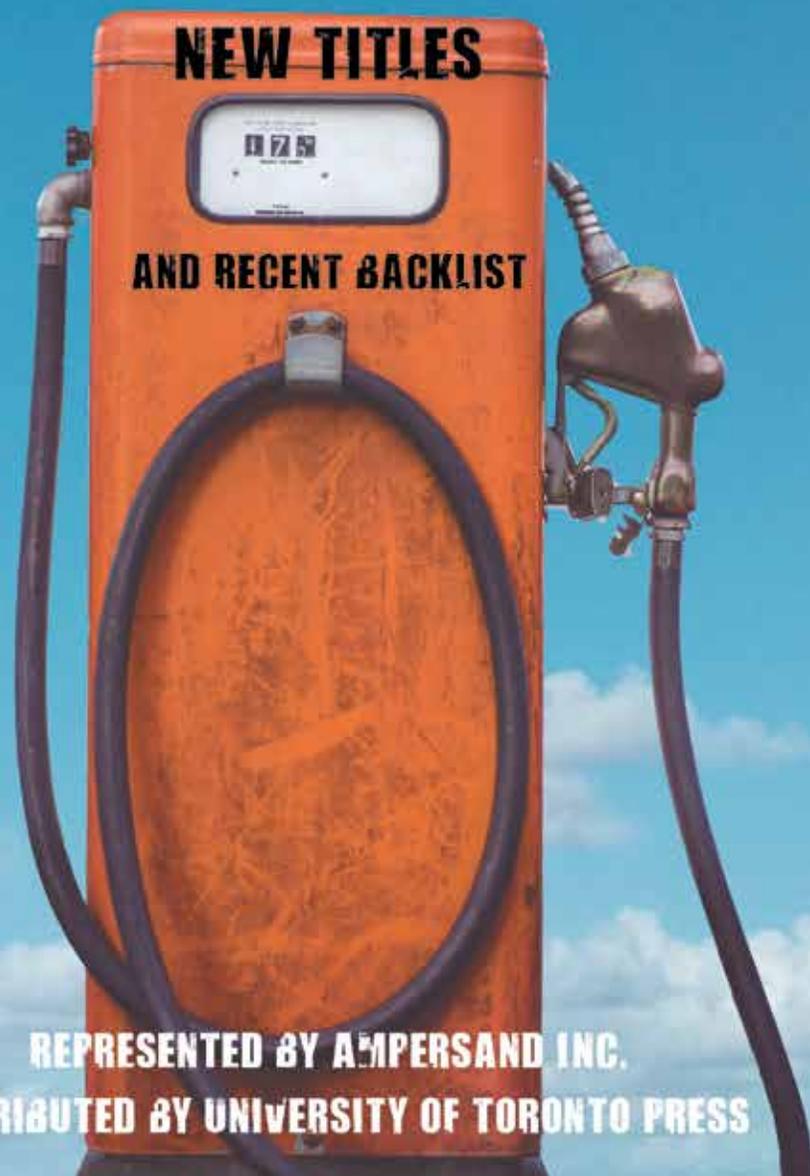


THISTLEDOWN PRESS

SPRING 2017



NEW TITLES

AND RECENT BACKLIST

**REPRESENTED BY AMPERSAND INC.
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S7K 2C3

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du Canada



Canada

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

Glass Beads

Dawn Dumont

Engaging stories of contemporary Cree friendship and cultural challenge set in an urban environment.

These twenty short stories interconnect the friendships of four First Nations people — Everett Kaiswatim, Nellie Gordon, Julie Papequash, and Nathan (Taz) Mosquito — as the collection evolves over two decades against the cultural, political, and historical backdrop of the 90s and early 2000s.

These young people are among the first of their families to live off the reserve for most of their adult lives, and must adapt and evolve. In stories like “Stranger Danger”, we watch how shy Julie, though supported by her roomies, is filled with apprehension as she goes on her first white-guy date, while years later in “Two Years Less A Day” we witness her change as her worries and vulnerability are put to the test when she is unjustly convicted in a violent melee and must serve some jail time. As well as developing her characters experientially, Dawn Dumont carefully contrasts them, as we see in the fragile and uncertain Everett and the culturally strong and independent but reckless Taz.

As the four friends experience family catastrophes, broken friendships, travel to Mexico, and the aftermath of the great tragedy of 9/11, readers are intimately connected with each struggle, whether it is with racism, isolation, finding their cultural identity, or repairing the wounds of their upbringing.



DAWN DUMONT is a columnist for the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*, the *Regina Leader-Post*, and *Eagle Feather News*. She has previously written for the *Edmonton Journal* and CBC Radio, and has worked as a stand-up comic making people laugh at clubs across North America including New York’s Comic Strip, the Comedy Club, the Improv, and Toronto’s Yuk Yuk’s and the Laugh Resort. She lives in Saskatoon.



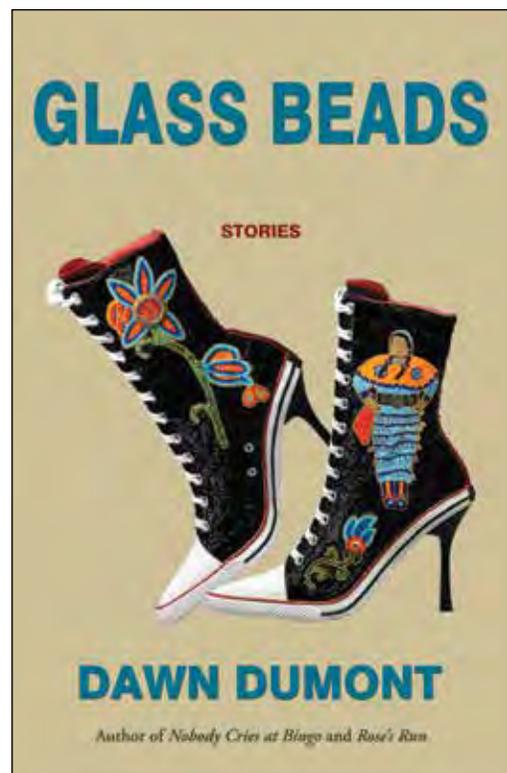
AUTHOR'S PREVIOUS BOOKS:



Rose's Run
978-1-927068-81-6
\$19.95



Nobody Cries At Bingo
978-1-897235-84-3
\$15.95



SHORT FICTION

ISBN-10: 1-77187-126-1
ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-126-6
\$20.00 CAD / \$19.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"
196 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC059000 FICTION / Native American & Aboriginal
FIC029000 FICTION / Short Stories
FIC044000 FICTION / Contemporary Women

THEMA CODES:

FYB (Short Stories)
1QF-CA-P (Canadian Prairies)

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2017

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2017

MARKETING & PROMOTION

BOOK LAUNCH: Saskatoon

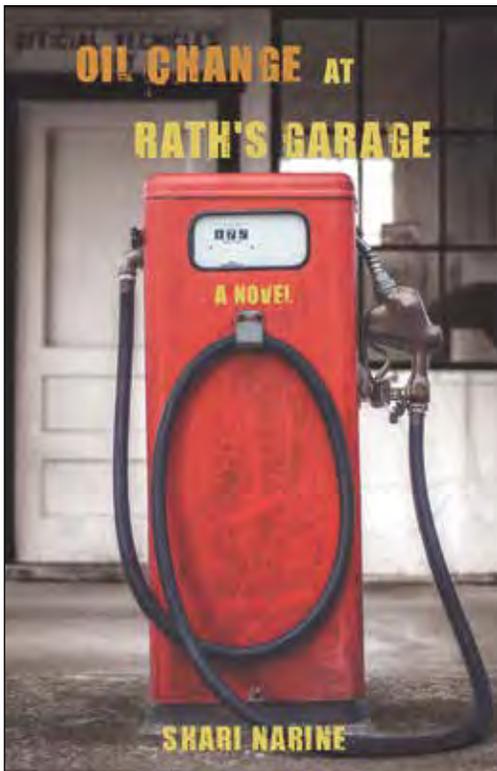
Readings in Regina, La Ronge, Prince Albert
(Spring & Fall 2017 TBA)

NATIONAL REVIEW COPY MAILING

NATIONAL ADVERTISING

www.dawndumont.ca





NOVEL

ISBN-10: 1-77187-132-6

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-132-7

\$20.00 CAD / \$19.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

292 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC045000 FICTION / Family Life

FIC066000 FICTION / Small Town & Rural

THEMA CODES:

FS (Family Life Fiction)

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2017

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2017

MARKETING & PROMOTIONBOOK LAUNCH: May 16, 2017, Audreys Books,
Edmonton

Alberta Library Tour May-June 2017 (TBA)

NATIONAL REVIEW COPY MAILING

REGIONAL ADVERTISING

Oil Change at Rath's Garage

Shari Narine

Oil Change at Rath's Garage is a novel of a father and his sons that slices open our current hook-up culture to probe the real demands of true love.

After the move to Delwood, Matt Humphreys, sixteen, comes to understand that his father, Jack, is a broken man not looking to heal after losing his wife. It has left him angry, bitter, and a drinker. Matt knows it falls on his shoulders to provide care and attention for his younger brother, Ben; he wishes he could give Ben another life other than the upheaval he's known.

Matt has once again reestablished himself — new friends, a spot on the basketball team, a girlfriend — and if he was given a chance to stay, he might just do something meaningful with his life. All it takes is a collision between the nomadic Humphreys men and the town-born-and-bred Rutger family to set their erratic lives in motion once again.

This is a story of quiet, desperate hope, the fulfillment of which depends upon altering fate, adjusting to change, and transforming one's spirit. If Matt can be the catalyst, Ben and Jack might change as well. Are a brother's love and sacrifice Matt's only pathways out of the adversity that threatens to wreck his family once again, or is it time for him to take back control of his life, put his needs first, and leave those tough challenges behind?



SHARI NARINE is an award-winning journalist who has served as editor for newspapers and magazines. Currently she works at the Aboriginal Multi Media Society (AMMSA), Playhouse Publications, in Edmonton. After having a handful of short stories published in various journals, she wrote *Oil Change at Rath's Garage*, her first novel. Narine grew up in Daysland, a small town in Alberta, and has travelled extensively within Canada and to six continents (and has ridden camels on four).



Wanderlust

Byrna Barclay, Editor

Literary stories of change-seekers and vagabonds who travel both into the world and into the human psyche.

Readers of *Wanderlust*, an anthology of travel stories, will at once feel that need to roam, the longing for surprise, the thrill of just recognizing the threat of danger, and the nomadic impulse simply to move oneself for the sake of moving, that restless and endless quest for a new beginning — even if it means the end of one life and the start of a new one.

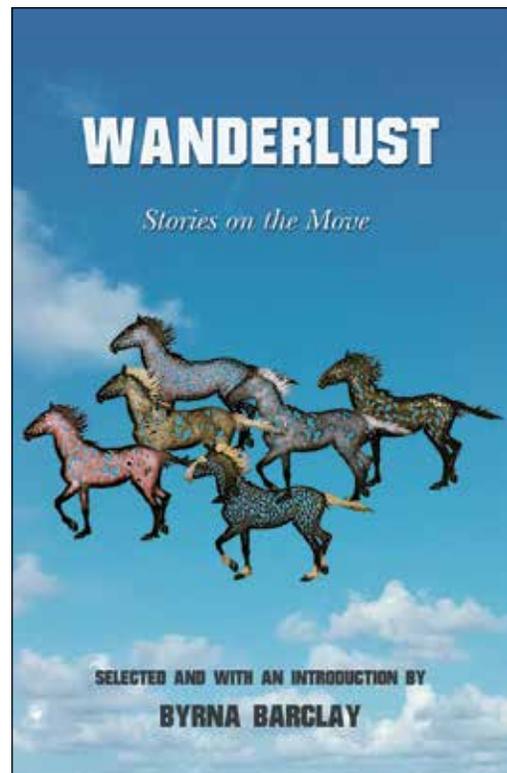
In every story a character embarks on a journey of discovery. They travel through the Nordic Viking age, experience family life in Italy, interpret the Lascaux Caves in France, climb Nicaragua's volcanoes, undertake a road trip through the villages of Mexico, and finally are brought back to the Canadian prairies. Editor and contributor Byrna Barclay draws inspiration from the philosophers who expounded on the theory that, rather than change, a person simply becomes more of what he or she already was at birth.

Anthology Contributors:

Byrna Barclay
Brenda Niskala
Linda Biasotto
James Trettwer
Shelley Banks
Kelley-Anne Riess
Annette Bower



BYRNA BARCLAY has published ten novels and short story collections including *House of the White Elephant* (Burton House Books, 2015). Her book, *Crosswinds* (Coteau, 1995), won the Saskatchewan Book Award for Fiction, and her first novel, *Summer of the Hungry Pup* (NeWest Press, 1981), won the Saskatchewan Book Award for First Novel. She was awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2005. She has served as chair of the Saskatchewan Arts Board and as president of the Saskatchewan Writers Guild and of the Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre. Barclay lives in Regina.



SHORT FICTION ANTHOLOGY

ISBN-10: 1-77187-135-0

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-135-8

\$20.00 CAD / \$19.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

196 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC003000 / Anthologies (multiple authors)

TRV026090 / Special Interest / Literary

THEMA CODES:

FYB (Short Stories)

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2017

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2017

MARKETING & PROMOTION

BOOK LAUNCH: Regina

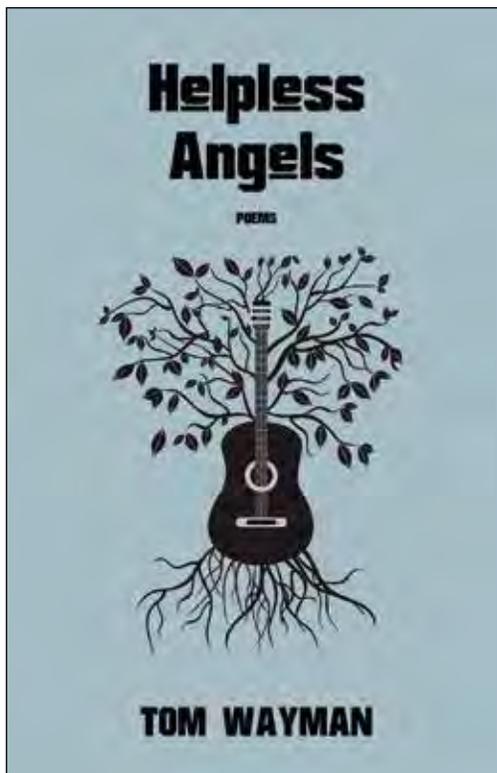
Reading: May 13, 2017, McNally Robinson,
Saskatoon

NATIONAL REVIEW COPY MAILING

NATIONAL ADVERTISING

www.byrnabarclay.com





POETRY

ISBN-10: 1-77187-131-8

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-131-0

\$20.00 CAD / \$19.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

72 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

POE011000 POETRY / Canadian

THEMA CODES:

DCF (Poetry by Individual Poets)

1KBC-CA-B (British Columbia)

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2017

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2017

MARKETING & PROMOTION

BOOK LAUNCH: May 12, 2017, Oxygen Art Centre, Nelson BC

NATIONAL REVIEW COPY MAILING

REGIONAL ADVERTISING

www.tomwayman.comHelpless Angels: A Book of Music

Tom Wayman

Wayman offers poems that directly consider music's power, and how it carries us through life.

Helpless Angels weaves several themes together: music's impact on a life, expressed through memory; poems that are like songs; music found in or described through nature; poems that directly consider music's power; and, as a counterpoint to how music carries us through life, how art — and each of us — deals with significant loss: the death of a loved one. *Helpless Angels* looks at a long-term development — the ubiquitousness of widespread personal access to music performed by others that began in the 1950s and has continued to expand ever since. The collection explores via the medium closest to music, poetry, and a number of the delightful or at least positive dimensions to this enormous change in the fabric of people's everyday lives.

"The voice that delivers this material is a smooth, accessible voice that Wayman has grown into over such a long, rich career. Like a seasoned jazz saxophone player, Wayman leans back into the music he is creating because he has paid his dues: he has reached that point of grace in improvisation, a poise that takes years to acquire." — John Lent, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, for *Dirty Snow* (2012)



TOM WAYMAN has published more than twenty poetry collections, three essay collections, two short story collections, a collection of novellas, and a novel. He has also edited six poetry anthologies. He has been Writer-in-Residence at the universities of Windsor, Alberta, Simon Fraser, Winnipeg, and Toronto. He is a co-founder of two BC alternative post-secondary ventures: the Vancouver Centre of the Kootenay School of Writing (1984–87) and the writing department of Nelson's Kootenay School of the Arts (1991–2002). He is currently a director of the Calgary Spoken Word Festival Society and of Nelson's Kootenay Literary Society, where he serves on the education committee and the Elephant Mountain Literary Festival organizing committee. Wayman lives in Winlaw, BC.

AUTHOR'S PREVIOUS BOOK:

*Boundary Country*

978-1-897235-25-6

\$18.95



The Fabric of Day: New & Selected Poems

Anne Campbell

A retrospective of poetry that reminds us that every moment we breathe, we are changed from what we were to who we are, again and again.

Throughout the years, Campbell's work has remained consistently engaging, her tone steady and trustworthy and her control of imagery precise. There are subtle changes in her presentation of the natural world and slight shifts in her metaphysical approach to space, time, and possibility. But in this retrospective there is no doubt that her strength lies in her ability to capture the transcendence that occurs when nature informs the mind and the commonplace rises to philosophical insight. Though universal in scope, the poems only give up all their richness upon slow and careful readings.

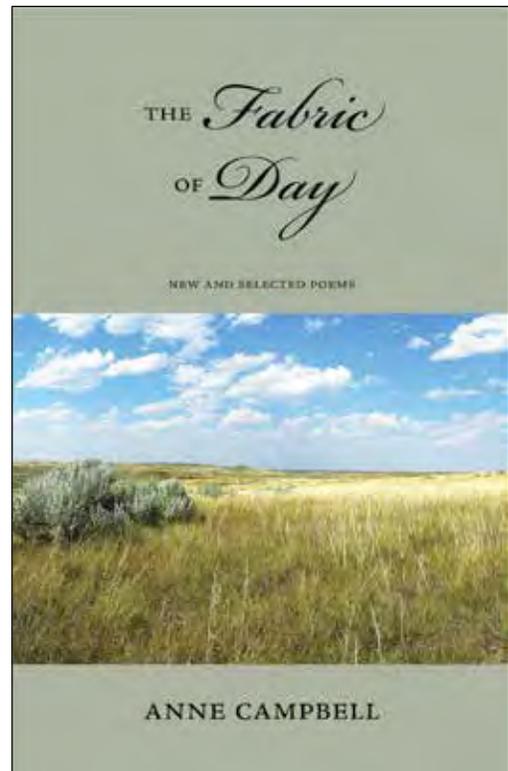
AUTHOR'S PREVIOUS BOOKS:

Angel Wings All Over (ThistleDown, 1994)
Red Earth, Yellow Stone (ThistleDown, 1989)
Death is an Anxious Mother (ThistleDown, 1986)
No Memory of a Move (Longspoon, 1983)
Soul to Touch (Hagios, 2009)
Regina's Secret Spaces: Love and Lore of Local Geography (CPRC, University of Regina, 2006)



ANNE CAMPBELL is an award-winning author of five collections of poetry and of popular non-fiction. Readings of her work, workshops, and musical compositions with Tom Schudel have taken her across Canada, the USA, and Britain. Her many awards include the City of Regina Writing Award, the Mayor's Arts Award, and the Mayor's Heritage Award.

In her work at the Regina Public Library, Campbell administered Canada's first public Writer-in-Residence program; as a long-time Saskatchewan arts and heritage activist, she served on the boards of the Writers' Union of Canada, the Writers Development Trust, the Saskatchewan Writers Guild, and, presently, the Heritage Committee of the Wascana Centre Authority. Campbell lives in Regina.



POETRY

ISBN-10: 1-77187-130-X
 ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-130-3
 \$20.00 CAD / \$19.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"
 160 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

POE011000 POETRY / Canadian
 POE024000 POETRY / Women Authors

THEMA CODES:

DC - 1KBC (Poetry, Canadian)

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2017

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2017

MARKETING & PROMOTION

BOOK LAUNCH: May 25, 2017, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina

NATIONAL REVIEW COPY MAILING

REGIONAL ADVERTISING

www.annecampbell.ca





POETRY

ISBN-10: 1-77187-129-6

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-129-7

\$20.00 CAD / \$18.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

160 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

POE011000 POETRY / Canadian

POE015000 POETRY / Native American

POE024000 POETRY / Women Authors

THEMA CODES:

DC 1KBC (Poetry, Canadian)

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2017

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2017

MARKETING & PROMOTION

BOOK LAUNCH: Saskatoon

NATIONAL REVIEW COPY MAILING

REGIONAL ADVERTISING

nipê wânîn: my way back

Mika Lafond

From her grandmother's stories comes a book of poems exploring the relationships and experience of a Cree woman.

nipê wânîn: my way back is a poetic journey of one woman discovering her Cree heritage and how it has shaped her. The poems are written in both Cree and English, on facing pages. Her pathway for the poems was paved by her grandmother's life and teachings.

I am my grandmother's thought. I was in her tears. I have shared dreams with her. I am a sprig of present produced by the past, cultivating the future.

(from "I am")

I come back to find solace in my history, to see the depth of the sky once more, to fall away to peacefulness with the stars.

(from "homebound")

silence a sign of respect
attitudes can be changed
doing
saying
all can be forgiven
kisêwâtotatowin
one love
all people, all animals, all things
my heartbeat slows, my spirit breathes
in a circle of women I find myself
with my ancestors

(from "my way back")



MIKA LAFOND is a member of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. She took a great interest in creative writing while she attended ITEP at the University of Saskatchewan through a mentorship with author Bill Robertson. Lafond and her cousin Joi Arcand started *Kimiwan Zine* in 2012 as an outlet for Indigenous visual artists and creative writers. Lafond has worked in education for ten years, has written resources for teachers, and began teaching at the U of S in 2015. Her writing is influenced by her love for her culture, language, and the importance of education. This is her first book. Lafond lives in Saskatoon.



The Path of the Jaguar

Stephen Henighan

NOVEL

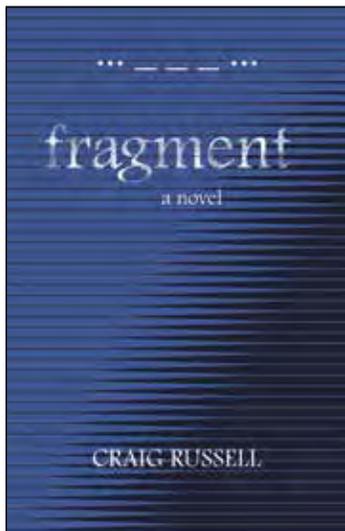
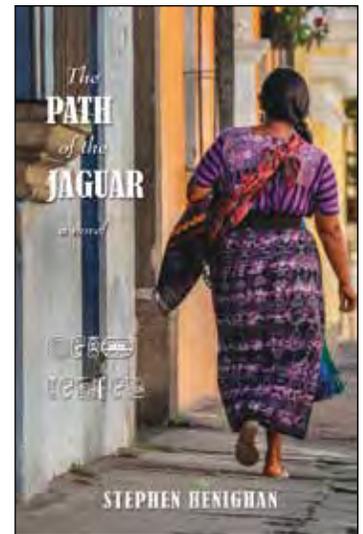
978-1-77187-123-5

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

In 1997, as Guatemala emerges from civil war, entrepreneurial Amparo Ajuix does her best to thrive in her small village, running a savings club, a handicrafts stall, and working to teach native Cakchiquel alongside Spanish in the school. Yet arising conflicts with religion, culture, and marriage deepen and threaten Amparo's identity and her family's future. *The Path of the Jaguar* is a novel of deep emotion set in a social and geographical landscape that is as unforgettable as it is unforgiving.

"One gets the sense of Henighan's own dislocation as the gateway to his empathetic, and thoroughly researched, cross-cultural literature. And while Amparo's struggle is most certainly particular to her history, in the face of lost traditions [...] Amparo's experience lends itself to the universal reality of identity under pressure." — *The Washington Independent Review of Books*



Fragment

Craig Russell

NOVEL

978-1-77187-111-2

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

When avalanching glaciers thrust a massive Antarctic ice sheet into the open ocean, the captain of an atomic submarine must risk his vessel to rescue the survivors of a smashed polar research station; in Washington, the president's top advisor scrambles to spin the disaster to suit political aims; and meanwhile, two intrepid newsmen sail south into the storm-lashed Drake Passage to discover the truth. Under the human chaos, one brave blue whale fights for the survival of his species and the creatures of the sea.

"A wonderfully thoughtful eco-thriller from one of Canada's best writers. Bravo!" — Robert J. Sawyer, Hugo Award-winning author of *Quantum Night*

A Hard Old Love Amongst Scavengers

David Doucette

NOVEL

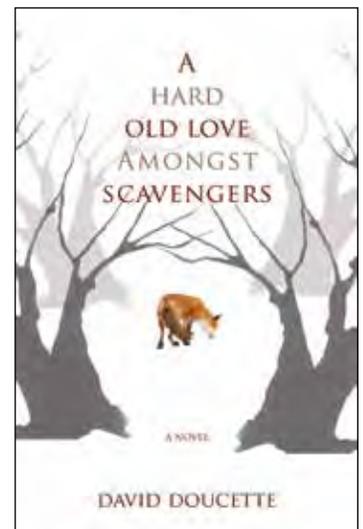
978-1-77187-120-4

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

At forty-six, Miles MacPherson returns to a cottage he built on the slopes of his native Cape Breton Island. He has travelled around the world half a dozen times and has grown weary of cars, planes, and people. He wants to read. Visitors, however, climb to his door to talk of their ailments. They leave refreshed, thank him, though he has said no word. Visits end when he needs help. He has lost his gold glasses on the mountain.

"Doucette is a prodigious talent, who has a very bright future as a novelist. His book has a breadth and a sweep that draws the reader in. I very much recommend it." — Leroy Peach, *The Cape Breton Post*, for *North of Smokey* (Cape Breton University Press, 2007)





Cluck

Lenore Rowntree

NOVEL

978-1-77187-108-2

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

Following Rowntree's success with *Hidden Lives: Coming Out on Mental Illness*, this heartwarming story throws the reader behind the eyes of Henry, a quirky chicken farmer and radio junkie who was strongly affected by his mother's mental illness. Henry defines his own path in life while reconciling his childhood, sexuality, and social awkwardness.

"This is a fantastic read: a cast of eccentric but believable and entertaining characters in a serious predicament, treated with sensitivity, authority and humour." — Kathy Page, author of *Alphabet* and *Paradise & Elsewhere*

Hanne and her Brother

Bill Stenson

NOVEL

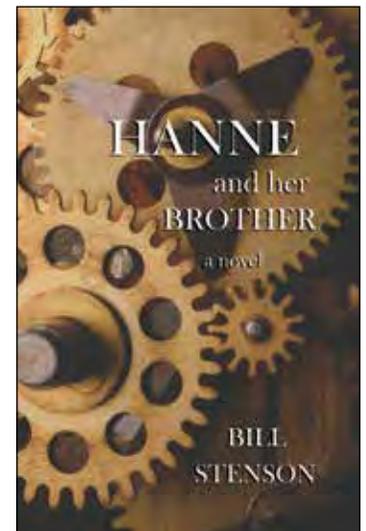
978-1-77187-114-3

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

Set in the Cowichan Valley of the 1950s and rife with a cast of characters as large with life and humour as the Canadian landscapes around them, *Hanne and her Brother* possesses an irresistible charm as it brings one young woman's tragic, yet inspiring odyssey to life. Written in an intense first-person narrative, the story explores the fragility of the human psyche and the depths of perseverance as teenage Hanne works through personal traumas and an unplanned pregnancy to find her happiness.

"Stenson's novel is an important work, a moving piece of fiction that not only casts light on a largely forgotten aspect of our history but also brings into focus our actions and attitudes today." — *The Vancouver Sun*, for *Svoboda* (2007)



How to Pick Up a Maid in Statue Square

Rea Tarvydas

SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-117-4

\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

These stories follow the lives of expatriates living in Hong Kong, a place often called the "most thrilling city on the planet". From the hedonistic first days in "How to Pick Up a Maid in Statue Square", as Fast Eddy instructs expats on how best to approach Filipina maids on their rest day, to "Rephrasing Kate", where Kate encounters a charismatic bad boy and is forced to admit her infidelities to him — Hong Kong alters those who come under its rich and exotic spell.

"Rea Tarvydas' linked stories take readers to the wet, neon streets of Hong Kong, freely inhabiting the lives of expat bankers, prostitutes and Filipina maids. It's a fast, slick, pulsing debut brimming with confidence and sharp observations of a world few have ever seen so clearly." — Trevor Cole, author of *Hope Makes Love*

Lifting Weights

Judy McCrosky

SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-105-1

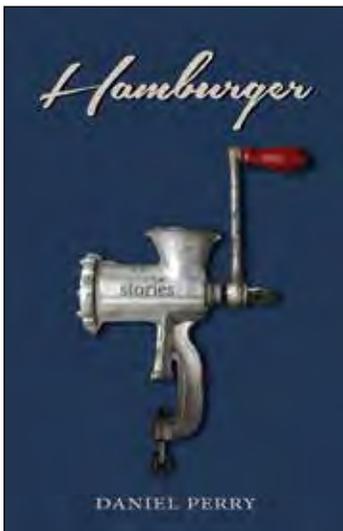
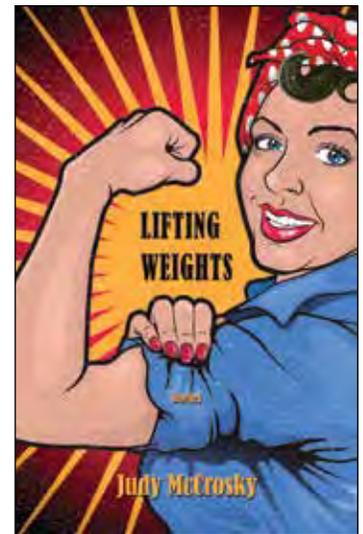
\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

This collection of twelve stories reflects Judy McCrosky's fascination with the dream-like whimsy of the worlds of science fiction and fantasy, playing with and twisting the reality we know. The ten fictions in *Lifting Weights* take the reader to weird and wonderful places that present the world in new, humorous, and unusual ways. Each tale remains true to themes of optimism and exploration, maintaining the central vision that our greatest fears and threats are always conquerable.

"McCrosky, in her fifth book, *Lifting Weights*, has a gentle, easygoing tone and style, even as she tells disturbing tales [... her] prose is clear, uncluttered, and unsentimental."

— *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*



Hamburger

Daniel Perry

SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-097-9

\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

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

"The Toronto writer's stories are entertaining, provocative and original." — *The Toronto Star*

"Daniel Perry's stories are confident and nuanced. However straightforward it may seem, *Hamburger* is much more than ordinary." — *The Winnipeg Review*

Corvus

Harold Johnson

NOVEL

978-1-77187-051-1

\$19.95 CAD

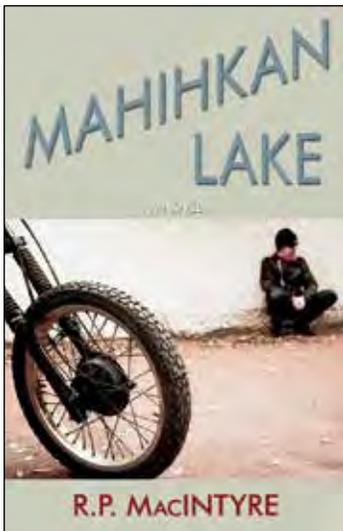
Available as an eBook

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

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

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





Mahihkan Lake

R.P. MacIntyre

NOVEL

978-1-77187-053-5

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

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

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

- Shortlisted for the 2016 Saskatchewan Book Award for Fiction

Yes, and Back Again

Sandy Marie Bonny

NOVEL

978-1-77187-052-8

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

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

"A compellingly written story of vanished narratives, particularly those of the missing women and girls of Aboriginal and Métis descent that underpin the Canadian prairies. Part homage to place and part social criticism, Bonny's novel gracefully unsettles." — Jenna Butler, author of *A Profession of Hope* and *Seldom Seen Road*



The Greatest Lover of Last Tuesday

Neil McKinnon

NOVEL

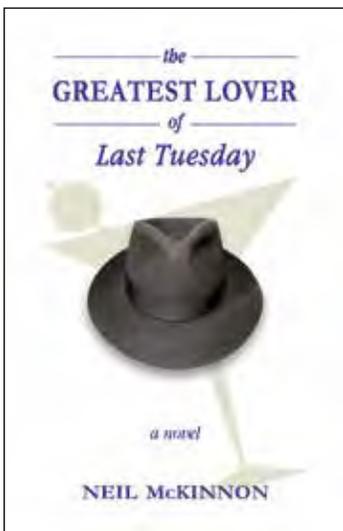
978-1-77187-062-7

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

Eighty-year-old Alberto Camelo has searched for love in all the wrong places. Despite his boasts that his experiences have made him the world's greatest lover, Alberto finds he is desired merely as a source of sympathy, an antidote to a boring marriage, and a human cash dispenser. Upon learning that his friend Adriana also has never encountered serious romance — though she has often meandered onto the marriage mattress — a battle of wits and wills ensues.

"*The Greatest Lover of Last Tuesday* creates a dialectical cloud of sexual and romantic politics and their gender-perceived differences right to the end. The wit and the insights are vast, often brilliant and repeatable. So much so, that by the end of the read, I wasn't sure whether I should be laughing or taking notes." — Ed Tasca, *El Ojo del Lago*



The Little Washer of Sorrows

Katherine Fawcett

SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-049-8

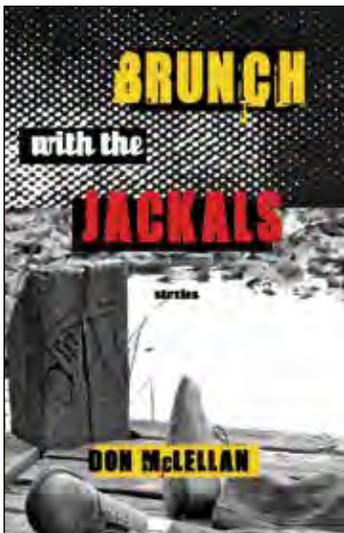
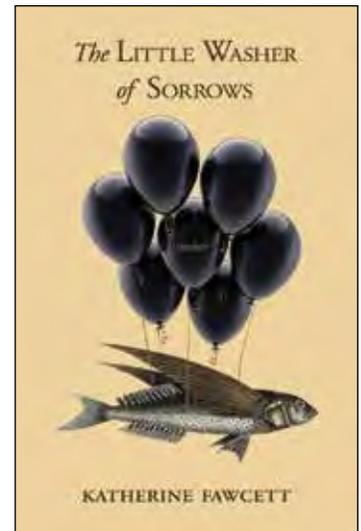
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Available as an eBook

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, mythical, 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*

- Shortlisted for the 2016 Sunburst Award for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic



Brunch with the Jackals

Don McLellan

SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-050-4

\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

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

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

What Can't Be Undone

dee Hobsbawn-Smith

SHORT FICTION

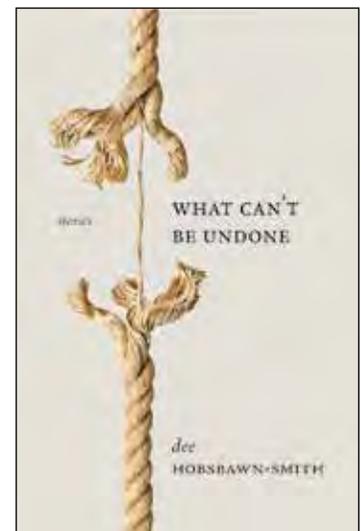
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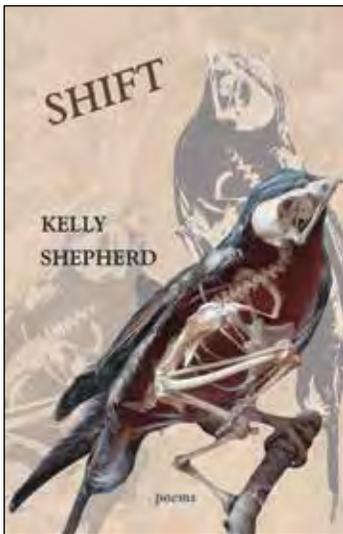
\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

A chef loses her sense of taste and smell; a former rodeo cowboy is forced to reassess his notions of manhood; a grieving playwright observes the sad domestic drama unfolding outside his patio door; and, in two different stories, horse-crazy teenage girls catapult unexpectedly into a painful maturity. Dee 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*





Shift

Kelly Shepherd

POETRY

978-1-77187-104-4

\$17.95 CAD

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

“*Shift* is exhilarating, and I count it among the best books of poetry I’ve read in the last two or three years. Shepherd writes with an unusual blend of understated verve and imaginative bravado.” — Mark Dickinson, *The Fiddlehead*

“Shepherd has a great gift for the close up, and with it the talent to bond the reader to the point of view of creatures that share with us the tragic penalty of being animate and mortal — therefore worthy of concern.” — Sid Marty, *Alberta Views*

Wind Leaves Absence

Mary Maxwell

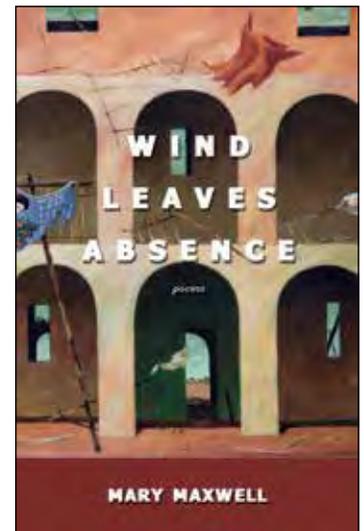
POETRY

978-1-77187-100-6

\$17.95 CAD

The poems in *Wind Leaves Absence* are steeped in loss and lament, as they concern the death of the poet’s family members and follow her subsequent journey through grief. Mary Maxwell teaches us that grief is a singular and deeply emotional experience, and the poems convey this intimacy. They offer a clear and empathetic path to a very specific emotional wellness.

“With exquisite force, this writing [...] does what poetry does best. It builds scenes and stories through sensory detail, careful rhythm, and a hard-hitting economy of words [...] Direct and accessible, this work offers an entry point to grief that many readers will appreciate.” — Bev Brenna, *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*



A Map in My Blood

Carla Braidek

POETRY

978-1-77187-096-2

\$17.95 CAD

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

“Rooted in nostalgia, *A Map in My Blood* excels in the subtleness of Braidek’s shifting tone, moving seamlessly between contentment and unease; optimism and pessimism. Graceful and lyrical, *A Map in My Blood* is quietly triumphant.” — Jessica Rose, *Room Magazine*

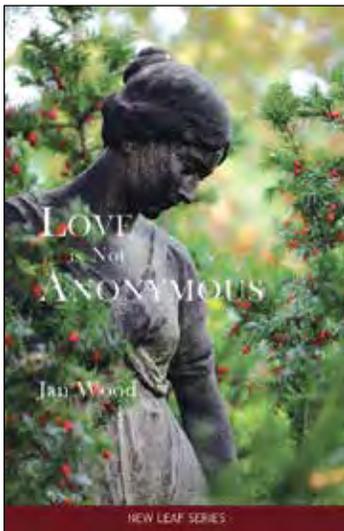
Questions for Wolf

Shannon Quinn

978-1-77187-058-0
\$12.95 CAD

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

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



Love is Not Anonymous

Jan Wood

978-1-77187-056-6
\$12.95 CAD

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

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

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

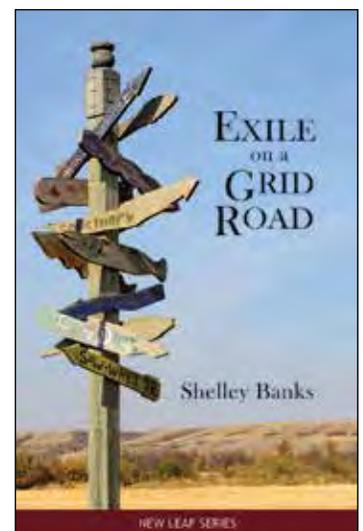
Exile on a Grid Road

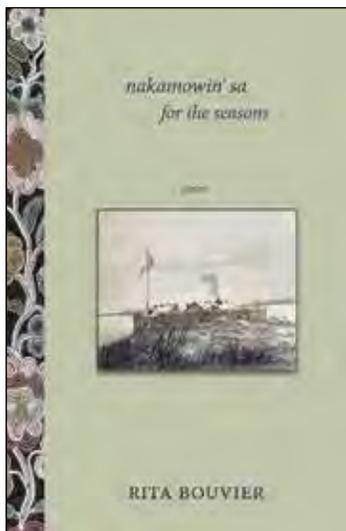
Shelley Banks

978-1-77187-057-3
\$12.95 CAD

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

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





nakamowin'sa for the seasons

Rita Bouvier

978-1-77187-055-9

\$17.95 CAD

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

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

- Winner of the 2016 Saskatchewan Book Award for Aboriginal Peoples' Writing

Red Curls

Tracy Hamon

978-1-927068-93-9

\$17.95 CAD

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

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

- Winner of the 2015 City of Regina Saskatchewan Book Award



Bindy's Moon

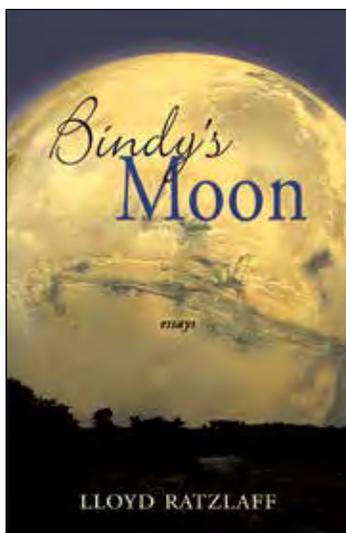
Lloyd Ratzlaff

ESSAYS/MEMOIR

978-1-77187-054-2

\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook



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

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

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

Stepping into Traffic

K.J. Rankin

TEEN NOVEL

978-1-77187-101-3

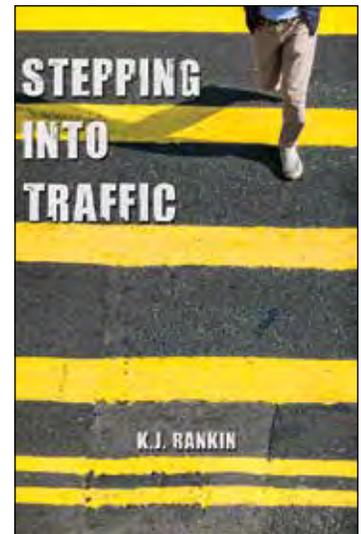
\$15.95 CAD / Ages 13+

Available as an eBook

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

Will Seb engage in the revenge he seeks and lose the closest thing he has had to a home since his parents' death, or stand up to his mistakes, reveal his lies, and accept the consequences?

"Sebastian's story is a clear demonstration of how circumstances can turn a good kid into a "juvenile delinquent". This book should make every reader think of his or her role to help those with a less advantaged upbringing." — Patricia Jerney, *Resource Links*



Size of a Fist

Tara Gereaux

TEEN NOVELLA

978-1-77187-059-7

\$12.95 CAD / Ages 13+

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

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

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

Queen of the Godforsaken

Mix Hart

TEEN NOVEL

978-1-77187-063-4

\$15.95 CAD / Ages 13+

Available as an eBook

Lydia Buckingham finds herself forced to leave comfort behind when her family moves from Vancouver to a rundown farmhouse in rural Saskatchewan. The isolation, neglect, and inability to relate to anyone at school eventually drives Lydia and her little sister Victoria to set out into the brutal prairie winter to take care of themselves. *Queen of the Godforsaken* is a frank coming-of-age story told by a disenchanted, rebellious teen coping with life on the prairies in the 1980s, before technology made the world a smaller place.

"This modern take on the essential blistering prairie novel weds lingering memories of the Battle of Batoche with the battling and shockingly neglectful but educated parents of two girls [...] The humour in this novel is really quite engaging." — Lesley Little, *Resource Links*



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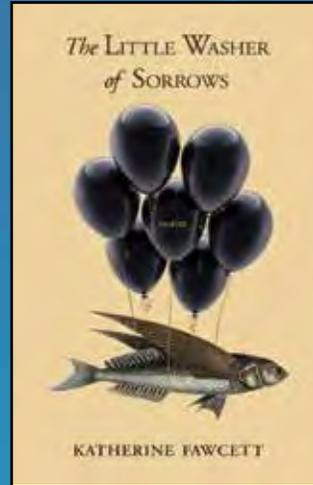
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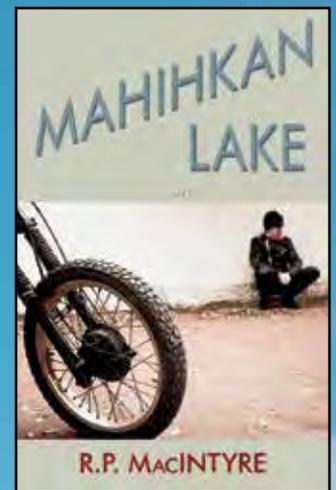
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