

# THISTLEDOWN PRESS

Fall 2018

NEW AND RECENT BACKLIST

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Examination copies will be provided upon request and invoiced after 180 days without a course adoption. Review copies may be obtained by contacting [marketing@thistledownpress.com](mailto:marketing@thistledownpress.com).

### RETURNS POLICY

Books may be returned for credit no sooner than 90 days and no later than 365 days after the invoice date of purchase. All returns not meeting these conditions will be returned to the customer at the customer's expense and the customer's account will not be credited. All returns must be forwarded to University of Toronto Press, 5201 Dufferin Street, Toronto, ON M3H 5T8.



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
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.

# Angela of the Stones

Amanda Hale

The remnants of the Revolution in Cuban life

“All of Cuba is a museum now. We live off our old Revolution,” laments Gertrudis, one in a cast of characters teetering on the verge of political change while held in the grip of the past. Cuba is the place where the grandchildren of peasants become consultant surgeons, but also the place where necessity as the mother of invention is put into extreme practise. In Havana, the buildings like the peoples’ dreams, are constantly being restored. But so too in the rural districts, in towns like Baracoa, you will find boisterous people who idolised the Fidel past and continue to mourn his passing while those like Godofredo, born in January 1959 as a victorious Fidel marched into Havana, limps along the streets of Baracoa where he encounters tourists and townspeople while maintaining his anonymity as the peanut vendor. In Amanda Hale’s stories, Cuba comes alive with a gentle humour and through the richly detailed portraits of the families of Baracoa as they struggle with the political changes that are reshaping Cuba.

Meet Daniela who flies from the roof into the arms of her unfaithful husband; Sonia who marvels at the new world of her cell-phone crazy teenagers; Tito, a world away in Miami, who rants about Obama’s handshake with Raúl Castro; and witness a corpse that travels the length of Cuba and back in a nightmare of bureaucracy, all while Ángela huddles for the night on her bench in Parque Central.



AMANDA HALE is an award-winning writer who has published three novels, two poetry chapbooks, and now her second collection of linked fictions set in the Cuban town of Baracoa. She is currently collaborating as librettist on *Pomegranate* — an opera set in ancient Pompeii. A fourth novel, *Mad Hatter*, is forthcoming.

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



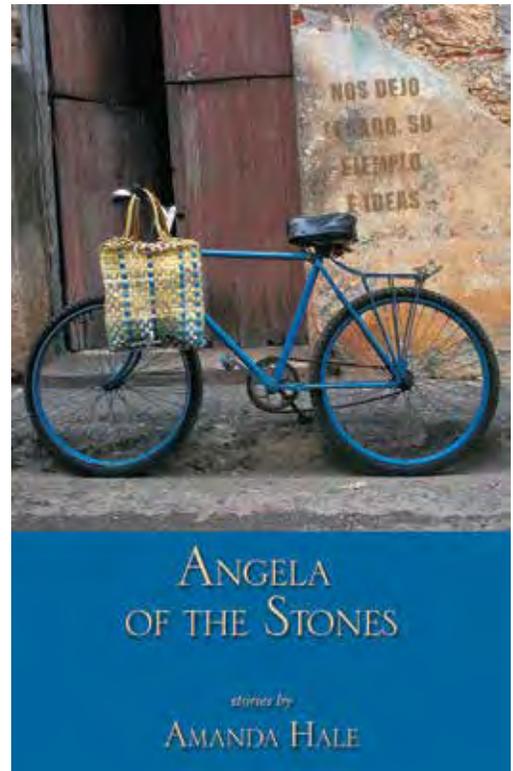
## AUTHOR'S PREVIOUS BOOKS:



*The Reddening Path* | 978-1-897235-26-3 | \$18.95

*My Sweet Curiosity* | 978-1-897235-61-4 | \$19.95

*In the Embrace of the Alligator* | 978-1-897235-87-4 | \$18.95



## SHORT STORIES

ISBN-10: 1-77187-165-2

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-165-5

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

168 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

## BISACS:

FIC029000 FICTION / SHORT STORIES

FIC019000 FICTION / LITERARY

FIC066000 FICTION / SMALL TOWN & RURAL

## THEMA CODES:

FYB - Short stories

5PB-US-H - Relating to Latin / Hispanic people

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

PUB DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2018

## MARKETING & PROMOTION

Launch Hornby Island and Toronto

### Readings:

Denman Island, at Abraxas Books,  
Courtenay at the Laughing Oyster  
Vancouver at 32 Books

Hale is currently organizing a reading tour for Manuel Verdecia, a Cuban poet/novelist, for April/May 2019. Will combine this tour with promotion of *Angela of the Stones*.

Advertising in Canadian print and online magazines

National review copy send-out



## Thorn-Field

### James Trettwer

Do you know that prickly feeling when a relationship is under duress or takes a walk?

James Trettwer's inter-linked collection of stories, *Thorn-Field*, dissects small-town life and probes into complications of those who live there. The fictional town of Liverwood's main employer is the potash mine that seems to arc over the town and everything people do. With a novel-like persistence to detail, Trettwer's stories observe how the townspeople thread their way through the thorn-fields of their relationships, which are complicated by their addictions and obsessions and by the numbing constancy of their lives. In the background the mine looms large, its four-rotor boring machines rumble deep under the earth, while six kilometers away, Livewood town life embraces their rhythm.

In assembling Trettwer's links between stories, we witness elimination of the romanticism often associated with small-town simplicity, and see the exposure of the unhappiness, corruption, and the exploitation that drive the town's human affairs. The stories disclose the fears of those whom the mine has orphaned, like Lourdes whose life forward was always fraught with uncertainty that had to be met with bravado; the stories describe all the hard-drinking and the uncertain young men like Dillon, Darryl, and Blake, or the young women driven by lust that leads to unwanted pregnancies. In *Thorn-Field* small-town life is anything but idyllic. Rather it becomes a collage of human foibles and peoples' dangerous vulnerabilities.

Scattered throughout the stories are the addicts, enablers, those obsessed with better lives and those who are resigned to small town life under the big smokestacks. *Thorn-Field* is a collection of linked short stories that examines how small town despair can cripple the spirit but also how community faith and trust can heal it.

"The characters in these linked stories don't like the universe they're in. With dramatic flair and gutsy dialogue, James Trettwer exposes their subterranean reality and their daily struggles against disappointment, pain, addiction and loneliness, and towards hope. *Thorn-Field* is a thoughtful, compassionate, accomplished debut."

— Connie Gault

#### SHORT STORIES

ISBN-10: 1-77187-170-9

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-170-9

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

196 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

#### BISACS:

FIC029000 FICTION / Short Stories single

author

FIC019000 FICTION / Literary

FIC066000 FICTION / Small Town & Rural

#### THEMA CODES:

FYB - Short stories

1KBC - Canada

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

PUB DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2018

#### MARKETING & PROMOTION

Regina Book launch (Flint or Tony Roma's)

Readings in Regina and Moose Jaw

Word on the Street, Saskatoon

National review copy send-out

Regional Advertising



JAMES TRETTWER was a winner in the Saskatchewan Writers Guild's John V. Hick's Long Manuscript Award in 2016 for this short story collection. He has also won the SWG's Short Manuscript Award. He has been most recently published in *TRANSITION*, *Spring*, and the anthology *Wanderlust: Stories on the Move*, (ThistleDown Press, 2017). James lives in Regina, Saskatchewan.



## Rank 6

Barry McDivitt

**Rank 6 is the most dangerous, aggressive, and unpredictable forest fire category and Emily is caught in its power.**

The terror of fire is known to all but when fire erupts into its most terrifying form, Rank 6, mayhem and death are often not far behind. So the question is: Why would someone willingly approach an inferno that swirls with fireballs and whirls with temperatures that can reach 1000 degrees Celsius?

For Emily who makes such a decision, there is no quick, easy answer. She already knows something about destructive power. Her struggles with depression and her own suicidal thoughts had recently brought her face to face with destruction and death. As she rashly races into that danger to rescue a panic-stricken dog, she can't say if she is seduced by the fire's powers or if it is just her identification with the dog's vulnerability and helplessness that makes her scorn the deadly risk.

Her actions are spontaneous, thoughtlessly bold at the beginning, but once cut off from the safety of the firefighters, and alone in a fiery inferno, Emily begins to realize that her reckless actions could kill her. When the thought takes hold, she knows that she really does want to live and scrambles to kick her survival instincts into gear. Instinctively, she begins to realize that the dark struggles and personal battles of her life may be part of the solution to save her life. Maybe adapting the negative qualities of her life into forces of survival, will give her the chance to stay alive. Maybe the experience that made her feel so lost can save her. Time is short and, as the terror of the fire compounds with her panic, self-doubt, injury, and exhaustion, she finally reaches deep within herself to see what is there.



BARRY MCDIVITT worked as a journalist in radio and television for more than thirty years. His previous publications include the Thistle-down titles, *Redcoats and Renegades* and *The Youngest Spy*. His stories have appeared regularly on the Global TV network and the CBC radio and TV networks, as well as in a wide variety of newspapers and magazines. He presently writes Young Adult novels and works as a communications director in high-tech. He lives in Kelowna, British Columbia.

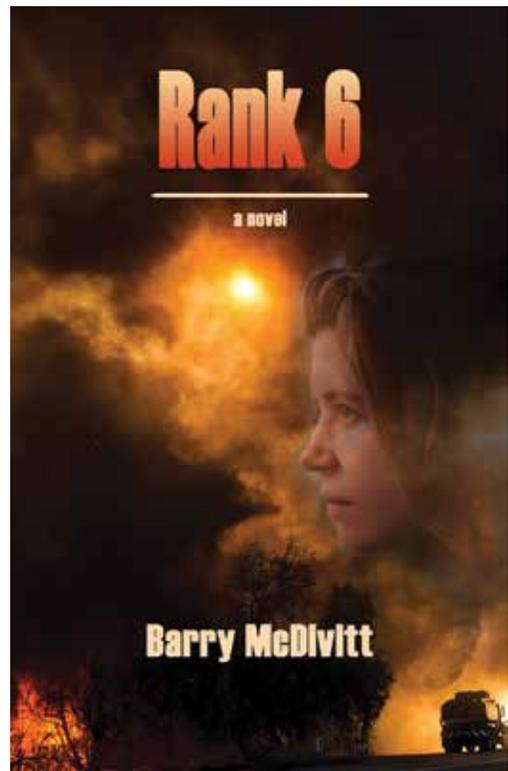


### AUTHOR'S PREVIOUS BOOKS:



*Redcoats and Renegades*  
978-1-897235-97-3 | \$15.95

*The Youngest Spy*  
978-1-897235-17-1 | \$15.95



### YOUNG ADULT NOVEL

ISBN-10: 1-77187-162-8

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-162-4

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

155 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

### BISACS:

YAF001020 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Action & Adventure / Survival Stories

YAF043010 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Nature & the Natural World / Environment

YAF058250 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Social Themes / Suicide

### THEMA CODES:

YFC — Children's / Teenage fiction: Action & adventure stories

YFB — Children's / Teenage fiction: General fiction

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

PUB DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2018

### MARKETING & PROMOTION

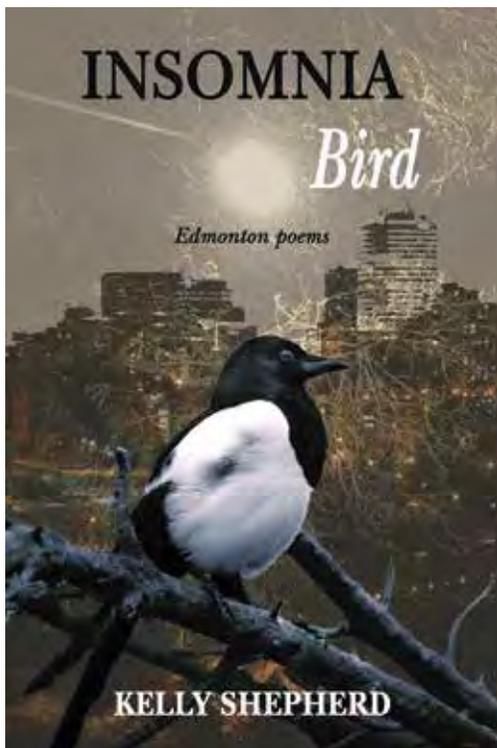
LAUNCH: Kelowna Library

### ADVERTISING:

National review copy send-out

Select Print Advertising





## Insomnia Bird

Kelly Shepherd

At times emotionally quiet and reflective and at other times overtly challenging, Shepherd's poems rely on the reader's familiarity and interest in how sleep, city, and nature hold magic.

The poems in Kelly Shepherd's *Insomnia Bird* are a cartography and a geography of Edmonton. The poems, which shift between short, individual lyric pieces and found text, emulate a black-billed magpie's nest with the subject-matter and also physically, with the words and lines. The poems generate the theme of home (the bird's nest, the city), and not feeling at home; sleeping, and the inability to sleep. The magpie (the insomnia bird) is the protagonist and the muse, the thread that connects everything to everything else in this work.

As such, Shepherd's poems move across the surface at speed, like Edmonton's NAIT train, and dive like magpies after the occasional tasty image or crumb of detail. The city, as it spreads out across the Prairies, can do nothing to prevent urban sprawl, and grows taller with each new high-rise building and office tower and sinks deeper into the ground, which is memory!

*The city with purple fingers and black feathers  
is bending branches outside the window.  
In the photosensitivity of morning,  
The city is an open window that can't hear itself think.*

While Shepherd's poems are at times critical of Edmonton's automobile culture and urban sprawl, his tone remains ironic rather than moralizing and he is consistent in his use of dark humour to avoid being didactic. With such guidance the poems effectively disclose what is not seen, what is repressed, what lies behind the scenes in the city he shares with magpies.



KELLY SHEPHERD has worked as a kindergarten teacher in South Korea, and a construction worker in northern Alberta. His first full-length poetry collection, *Shift*, was published by ThistleDown Press in 2016 and longlisted for the Edmonton Public Library's People's Choice Award in 2017. He has written six poetry chapbooks, most recently *A Hidden Bench* (the Alfred Gustav Press, 2017). Originally from Smithers, British Columbia, Kelly lives in Edmonton. He is the poetry editor for the environmental philosophy journal, *The Trumpeter*.

### POETRY

ISBN-10: 1-77187-169-5

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-169-3

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

96 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

### BISACS:

POE011000 POETRY/ Canadian

POE023030 POETRY / Subjects & Themes / Nature

### THEMA CODES:

POE011000 POETRY/ Canadian

POE023030 POETRY / Subjects & Themes / Nature

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

PUB DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2018

### MARKETING & PROMOTION

Launch at Audreys Books, Edmonton

Reading Tour:

The Kasbar (Edmonton)

The Edmonton Public Library

Calgary Shelf Life Books

Gallery Vertigo in Vernon

UBC Okanagan in Kelowna

National review copy send-out

National Advertising

### PREVIOUS BOOKS:



*Shift*

97818943458 | \$17.95



## For the Changing Moon:

### Poems and Stories

Anna Marie Sewell

**A peace-seeking Indigenous warrior reflects on being a woman.**

At a time of cultural change for Indigenous people that feels relentlessly tidal and epochal, *For the Changing Moon: Poems and Songs* records the ebb and flow of what it is to live here and now in Canada, as a woman, an Indigenous woman, a culturally mixed woman, a daughter, a mother, a peace-seeker, and a warrior.

The book includes work visually designed for the page, and work composed to be chanted, sung, and spoken amongst ourselves. We are asked to experience it as a record of the shifting times, and understand how the mood of the world can strike change in an individual, sometimes, like a rogue wave; and other times, slowly and methodically like a lunar tidal pull.

*If you can do this Can you, Can you do this?  
If we can do this, Can we? Can we do this?*

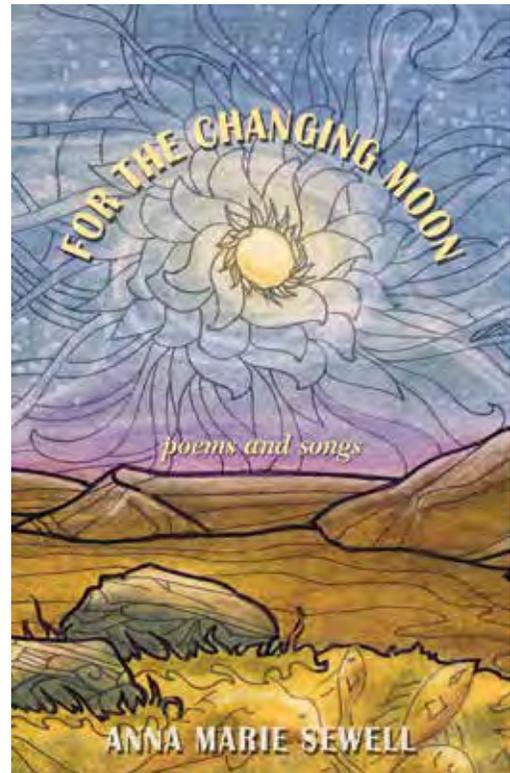
Anna Marie Sewell's poems court performance as they incorporate the energy of slam and employ the beat structures of chant. They encourage us to enter their spells and incantations always built with an ear for sound and with an eye for images of dream and wonder. Her invite and challenge is clear: "Come lovers of language, seekers of change, moon-mad prophets, come. Read and share these poems and songs, and answer them back with your own."

From this specific place, Canada, during a moment of global sea change, these poems and songs reach for the moon-mad natural soul in all of us, that part of all of us that lives to follow the Great Song..



ANNA MARIE SEWELL'S poetry is part of the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers production *Ancestors & Elders* (world premiere April 27). Her debut collection, *Fifth World Drum* (Frontenac Press, 2009) will be joined in September by *For the Changing Moon* (Thistledown Press). Anna Marie was Edmonton's 4th Poet Laureate (2011 to 2013), and created *The Poem Catcher* public art installation at Edmonton's City Hall. A multi-disciplinary artist, Anna Marie's practice centres on collaborative projects, and her writing plays across boundaries of language, culture, and worldview.

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



#### POETRY

ISBN-10: 1-77187-168-7

ISBN-13: 9978-1-77187-168-6

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

80 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

#### BISACS:

POE011000 - Poetry/Canadian

POE015000 POETRY/NATIVE AMERICAN

POE024000 POETRY/WOMEN AUTHORS

#### THEMA CODES:

DC 1KBC POETRY, CANADIAN

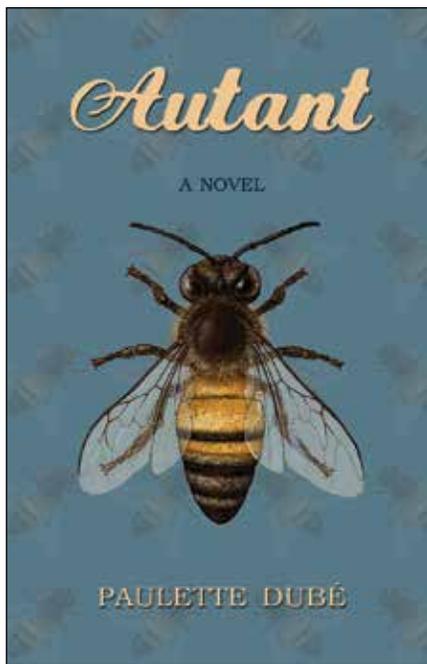
SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

PUB DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2018

#### MARKETING & PROMOTION

- NATIONAL review copy send-out
- Advertising in regional literary magazines such as *Eagle Feather News* and *Alberta Views*





## Autant

Paulette Dubé

NOVEL

978-1-77187-156-3

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

Poised between the ever-practical God and quixotically old Coyote, it is a tale told to explain the disappearance of bees in northern Alberta and becomes a sometimes not-so-subtle exploration of how old and young, male and female, humans and non-humans perceive love.

“Dubé has written a fearless novel that stands easily alongside Marian Engel’s *Bear*, or Sheila Watson’s *The Double Hook*, and has all the playfulness of Timothy Findley’s *Not Wanted on the Voyage*. As if this isn’t enough, she moves effortlessly in the realm of Gabriel García Márquez’s magic realism.” — Thomas Trofimuk, author of *This is All a Lie* and *Waiting for Columbus*

“Paulette Dubé commands a complex narrative that gives us rare, poetic glimpses of the daily life of a Franco-Alberta family in small town Alberta south of Peace River country . . . This is a story that will shock you and mystify you but above all will keep you reading to the very end.”

— Robert Hilles, author of *A Gradual Ruin*, *Line*, and *Little Pink Houses*

## The Things She’ll Be Leaving Behind

Vanessa Farnsworth

978-1-77187-157-0

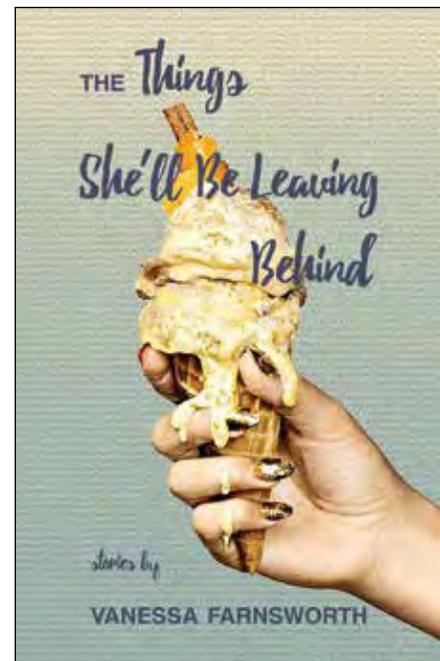
\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

The women in *The Things She’ll Be Leaving Behind* have nothing in common except that they all find themselves trying to find their footings, preserve their sanity, and just generally survive in circumstances they never thought they would encounter. They don’t always do it gracefully. Occasionally alcohol or firearms are involved. Just like in real life.

These women go toe-to-toe with chronic liars, dead grandfathers, beleaguered sons, mysterious voices, unfaithful husbands, midnight callers, spiteful sisters, and hallucinated clowns. Husbands go crazy or wayward or missing. Life hits walls and somersaults and does breathless, tactless things. And always it must be dealt with even when the means to do so seem to be entirely absent.

Filled with burnt-at-the-edges dialogue, contemporary humour, and compelling pacing, the stories in *The Things She’ll Be Leaving Behind* are inventive, energetic and thoroughly original.



## Hunting Piero

Wendy MacIntyre

NOVEL

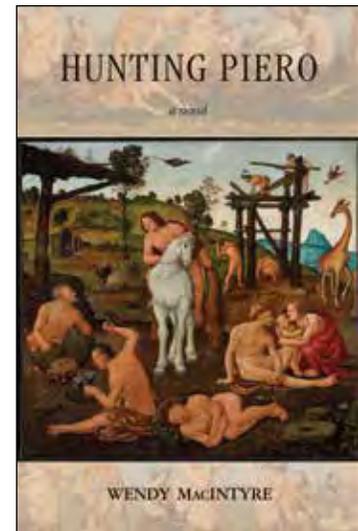
978-1-77187-147-1

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

When Agnes, as a lonely and alienated child, discovers Piero di Cosimo's empathetic paintings of animals and human-animal hybrids, she feels she is looked upon gently for the first time in her life. That moment influences her decision to become an animal rights activist, a commitment that ultimately brings her both anguish and insight.

"In *Hunting Piero*, Wendy MacIntyre and her narrator are interested in the heart that beats in us and in our works of art. Rather than examining only the beautiful and whole, her novel explores the power of art to include, explore, and sometimes transcend the monstrous, the damaged, and the grotesque in order to recognize the beauty that exists, always, somewhere within the human heart." — Jack Hodgins, author of *Spit Delaney's Island*, *Broken Ground*, and *The Master of Happy Endings*



## Rage

John Mavin

SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-141-9

\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

When our own darkness is mirrored in multi-faceted characters, do we look away in disgust or find the humanity within them? In his debut short fiction collection, John Mavin has slyly exposed themes hidden deep below the surface with breathtaking potency, eloquence, and wit.

"*Rage*, by John Mavin, is a diamond with many facets: turn its pages and you will find one insight into the human soul after another, each shining through with a brilliance that catches the light of our surroundings — no matter how dark we are at the edges. These stories emerge from the mind of a genius whose ability to explore character is restless, unbounded, precise, and prismatic. In these multivalent stories, you'll find what you're looking for, if what you're looking for is who you — and we — all are". — Wayne Compton author of *The Outer Harbour*

## You Can't Stay Here

Jasmina Odor

SHORT FICTION

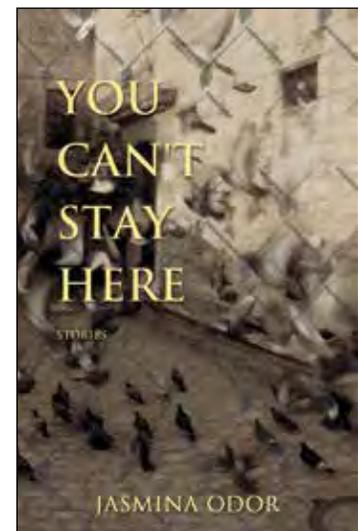
978-1-77187-144-0

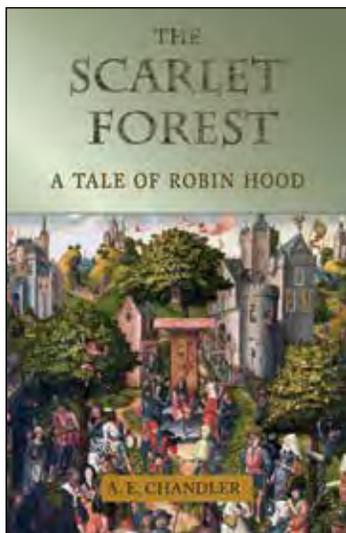
\$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

Jasmina Odor's rich, sensual writing invites us to step into the shoes of Croatian immigrants living in Canada, and the Croatian soldiers and families who remain behind. Each passionate story in this debut collection varies in perspective, and yet all share undertones of the trauma of life during wartime.

"My first impression of Jasmina Odor's work was of fiction precisely made in order to capture chaotic times, vivid emotions and lurking danger. I read her early stories but I felt then — as I still feel — that I was reading the work of an experienced writer, someone who knows things I am grateful to learn." — André Alexis, Giller Prize-winning author of *Fifteen Dogs*





## The Scarlet Forest: A Tale of Robin Hood

A. E. Chandler

NOVEL

978-1-77187-138-9

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

You are invited underneath the great greenwood tree to hear how a young man became a hero, and a hero became a legend. When Robin takes a shortcut through Sherwood Forest, the path he chooses leads not to Nottingham's archery contest, but to a life on the run from the law. Unable now to become a knight, and joined by his childhood friends, Robin Hood leads the most infamous outlaw band ever to evade the king and his sheriff.

Blending true history with new stories, popular inaccuracies, and some medieval legends, *The Scarlet Forest* brings a new life to the greenwood, which here feels as fresh as it does traditional. With an academic background in medieval English studies, Chandler captivates with this unique and nuanced reinterpretation of Robin Hood's struggles and adventures. The forest is waiting.

## Glass Beads

Dawn Dumont

SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-126-6

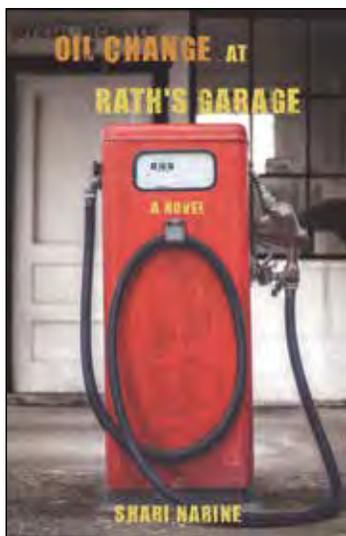
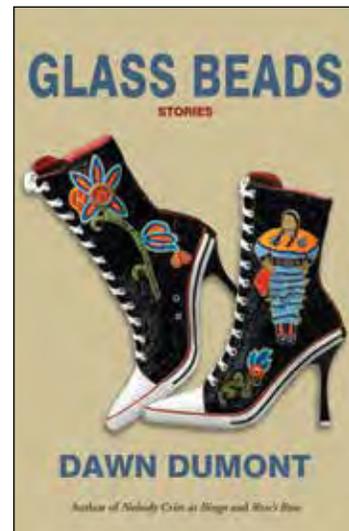
\$20.00 CAD

Available as an eBook

"*Glass Beads* is deeply political but never ideological. Its characters are full and complex. Like Catherine Hernandez's recently released novel, *Scarborough*, this book tells the stories of people vastly underrepresented in CanLit." — J.C. Sutcliffe, *Quill & Quire*

"Dumont balances characters off one another, offering a range of experiences as the four navigate 15 years through education, ceremony, politics, work, violence and love. Comparable to the complexity of Richard Van Camp's work, *Glass Beads* is a compelling representation of urban Indigenous life." — Jade Colbert, *The Globe and Mail*

♦ Nominated for the 25th Saskatchewan Book Awards for the Regina Public Library Book of the Year Award, the Muslims for Peace and Justice Fiction Award, the Rasmussen, Rasmussen & Charowsky Indigenous Peoples' Writing Award, and the Rasmussen, Rasmussen & Charowsky Indigenous Peoples' Writing Award



## Oil Change at Rath's Garage

Shari Narine

NOVEL

978-1-77187-132-7

\$20.00 CAD

Available as an eBook

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. 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. 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 women 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.

## Wanderlust: Stories on the Move

Ed. Byrna Barclay

SHORT FICTION ANTHOLOGY

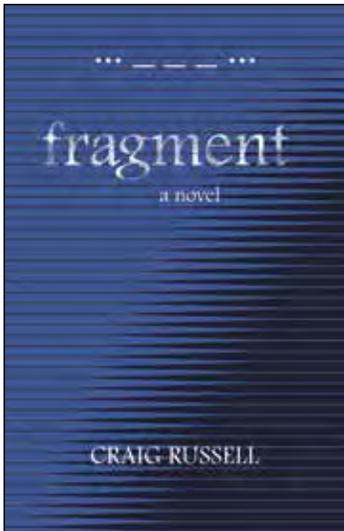
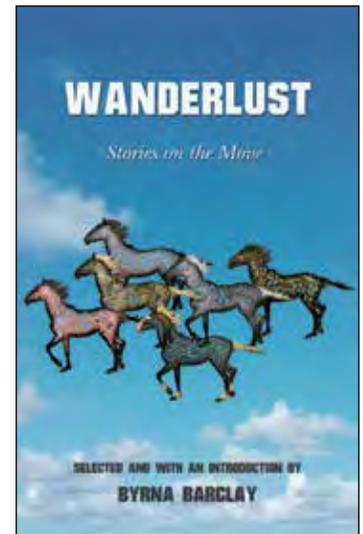
978-1-77187-135-8

\$20.00 CAD

Available as an eBook

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.

Contributors: Shelley Banks, Linda Biasotto, Linda Biasotto, Annette Bower, Brenda Niskala, Kelley-Anne Reiss, and James Trettwer



## 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.

“[Russell] does a fine job of weaving together the disparate threads of *Fragment*. The book is a page-turner; once you start, you won't be able to put it down until you reach the end.” — Don Sakers, *Analog Science Fiction and Fact Magazine*

## Cluck

Lenore Rowntree

NOVEL

978-1-77187-108-2

\$19.95 CAD

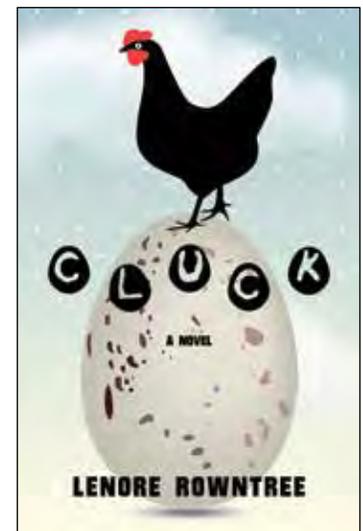
Available as an eBook

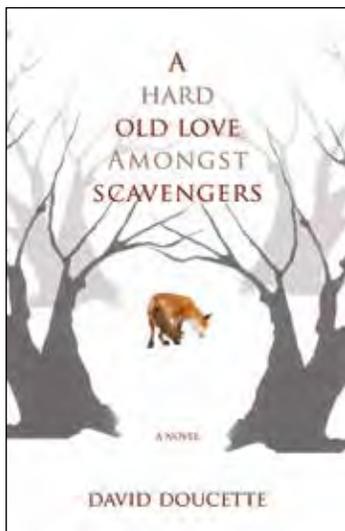
Following Rowntree's success with *Hidden Lives: Coming Out on Mental Illness*, this heartwarming story throws the reader behind the eyes of Henry, a quirky chicken farmer and radio junkie who was strongly affected by his mother's mental illness.

“In a hopeful and realistic way, Rowntree depicts the complicated experience of a character for whom conformity is not an option, and has her readers plotting along with her on the road to his ultimate triumph.” — Kerry Clare, Editor of *49th Shelf*

[*Cluck*] is an upbeat, humorous and yet also poignant and strangely believable novel — original but never daft. Henry emerges as a likeable victim who struggles hugely to find his place in the world against formidable odds. I found myself really caring for this confused and beleaguered protagonist, just ten years old near the outset, and in his fifties by the end of the novel.

— Cherie Thiessen, *BC BookWorld*





## 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.

“Style-wise, Doucette never strays from his strict narrative approach. His Joycean prose always evokes, never feels false or clichéd [...] A highly recommended, challenging, rewarding and moving work by an under-appreciated Canadian author.” — Lee Thompson, *Atlantic Books Today*

## 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*



## 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.

“. . . [the drink and song lists at the back of the book] would likely put the reader in an appropriate headspace to soak up Tarvydas’ dark and funny take on Hong Kong, a frantically paced city of blinding lights, endless noise, black rainstorms and stifling heat.” — Eric Volmers, *Calgary Herald*



## Hanne and her Brother

Bill Stenson

NOVEL

978-1-77187-114-3

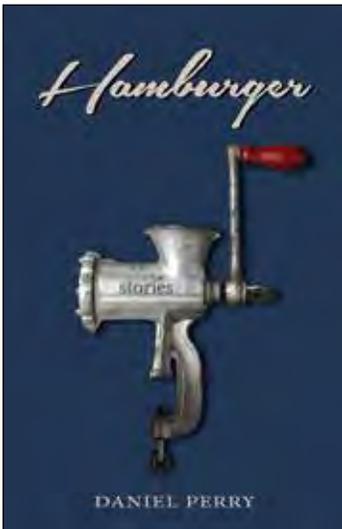
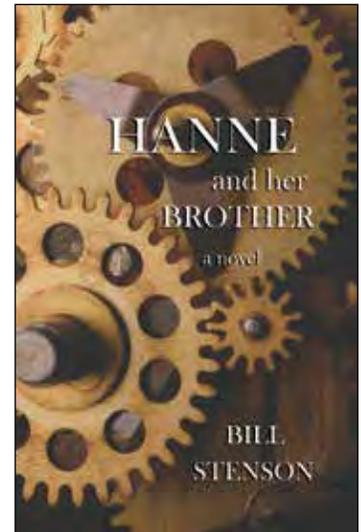
\$19.95 CAD

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)



## 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*

## Lifting Weights

Judy McCrosky

SHORT FICTION

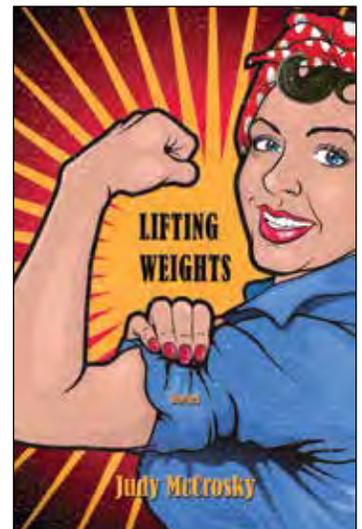
978-1-77187-105-1

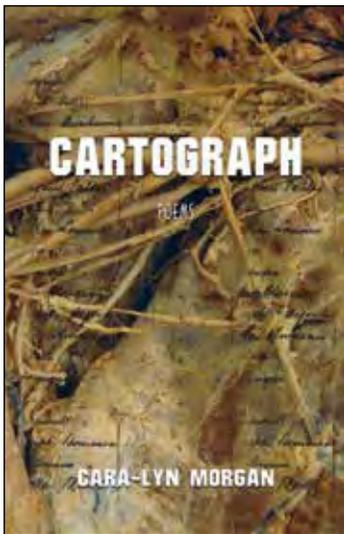
\$18.95 CAD

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*





## Cartograph

Cara-Lyn Morgan

POETRY

978-1-77187-151-8

\$17.95 CAD

From accidental injury to the deeply imbued wounds of colonization, these are poems of a woman's healing journey. Cara-Lyn Morgan metaphorically maps out the process of recovery within her own body and the landscapes around her, reclaiming the art of cartography from its colonial imposition of borders and railway lines on traditional lands. Her words create new maps and revisit the ancient ones: Vancouver Island, Georgian Bay, and the prairies all become "a merle of blackbirds," "wayward unsettling of red lilies after the thunderstorm," and "soil and sweat, sunlight and crop." She finds the medicine in each of her different voices: Métis, Trinidadian, and stretchy-pant-wearing yoga lover. In *Cartograph* she braids together these voices like sweetgrass. Within their woven map, we meet Cara-Lyn Morgan.

## Decoys

William Robertson

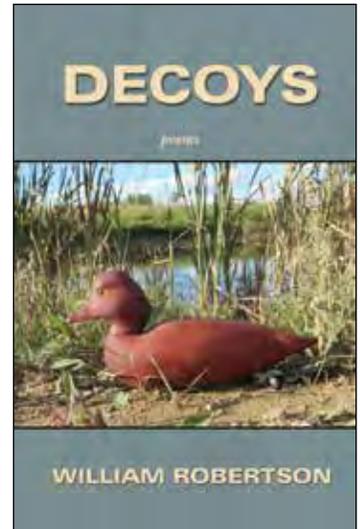
POETRY

978-1-77187-150-1

\$17.95 CAD

Bill Robertson's engaging animal encounter poems come from that place where experience segues into anecdote and anecdote into kitchen table wisdom. Walkin-paced, often wry, low-falutin in manner and speech, they channel the music of the vernacular, where 'official' walleye are still pickerel and even fish tales need no inflation to make them sing. — Don McKay

This long overdue new collection by William Robertson celebrates the transformative moments that illuminate the everyday—a raven in flight, a son's laughter, a fisherman's perfectly cast fly touching down on the surface of the stream. As the title suggests, the poems search for the true sentiment, the true image or insight to light out way, to guide us through the losses that accumulate in every human life. —Elizabeth Philips, award-winning poet and novelist, author of *Torch River* and *The Afterlife of Birds*.



## The Dance Floor Tilts

Susan Alexander

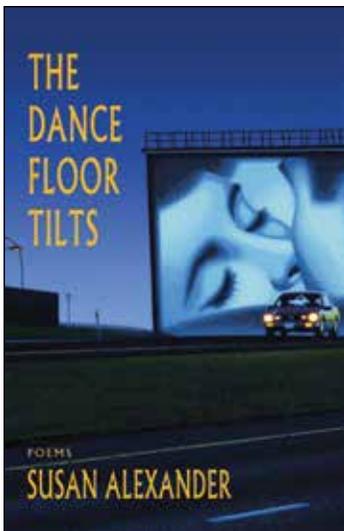
POETRY

978-1-77187-152-5

\$17.95 CAD

As the dance floor of life tilts beneath our feet, do we keep dancing? In this inspired collection of Susan Alexander's poems, we sway to the rhythms of passion and death, of family, myth and benediction. In worlds where cow-eyed goddesses steal nymph's tongues and steering wheels are taken over by octopi, there are no established signposts. The individual moments making up the tune of this poet's life offer the possibility of finding the beauty within the everyday resonance of our own existence.

"I felt as if I'd come upon a contemporary book of common prayer, each entry fresh and deeply resonant, rich with the details of daily life and the poet's desire to touch the sacred. It is in her boldness to do so, in her clear-eyed vision, and in her humble acceptance of human frailties that these poems shine." — Lorna Crozier



## Helpless Angels

Tom Wayman

POETRY

978-1-77187-131-0

\$20.00 CAD

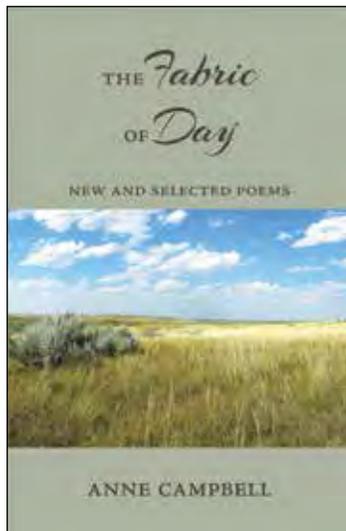
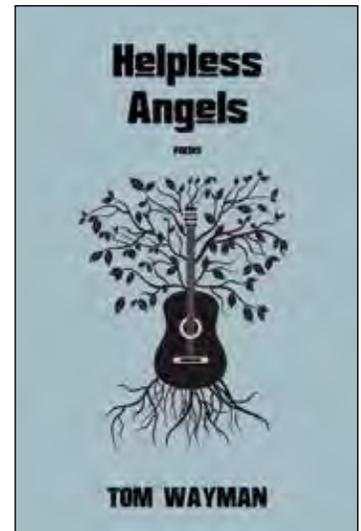
*Helpless Angels* weaves several themes together: music's impact on a life, expressed through memory; poems that are like songs; music found in or described through nature; poems that directly consider music's power; and, as a counterpoint to how music carries us through life, how art — and each of us — deals with significant loss. Wayman looks at the ubiquitousness of widespread personal access to music that began in the 1950s and has continued to expand ever since.

*Praise for Boundary Country:*

"Descriptive prose that puts in mind the rhythms and precision of Cormac McCarthy . . .

Wayman gives us nature in the eyes of a man who knows it like his own skin." — Jim Bartley,

*Globe & Mail*



## The Fabric of Day: New and Selected Poems

Anne Campbell

POETRY

978-1-77187-130-3

\$20.00 CAD

Campbell's work is 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. Her ability to illuminate common and intimate natural forces and how they play out against people's emotions and alter their lives demonstrates great lyric power full of finesse, grace, and passion. 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.

♦ *Nominated for the 25th Saskatchewan Book Awards for City of Regina Book Award and the Saskatchewan Arts Board Poetry Award*

## nipê wânîn: my way back

Mika Lafond

POETRY

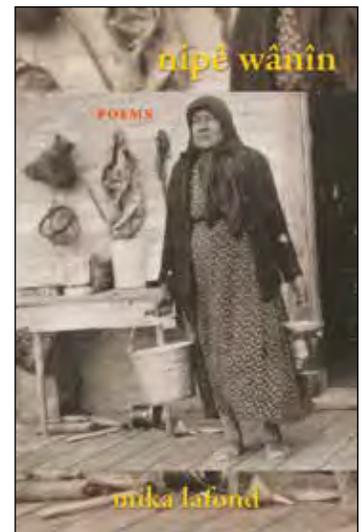
978-1-77187-129-7

\$20.00 CAD

From 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 heritage and how it has shaped her. Moving between Lafond's own Cree language and her adopted English language, the poems create a kind of cultural dialogue, on facing pages, that invests heavily in the close relationship she had with her grandmother and the teachings that were offered to her.

The descriptions of the natural world — the rain and snow, the sage and sweetgrass, and the wind and clouds — serve her poems, as do the memories of her grandmother's life and the day-to-day rituals that shaped it. Stylistically emotive but never maudlin, Lafond recreates those energies that now give her strength.

♦ *Nominated for the 25th Saskatchewan Book Award for the City of Saskatoon and Public Library Saskatoon Book Award*





## 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*

♦ Shortlisted for the 2017 Saskatchewan Book Award for Poetry

## Shift

Kelly Shepherd

POETRY

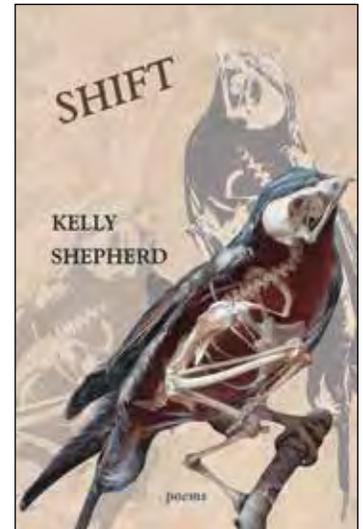
978-1-77187-104-4

\$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*

♦ Shortlisted for the 2017 Saskatchewan Book Award for First Book



## 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*



## Stepping into Traffic

K.J. Rankin

TEEN NOVEL

978-1-77187-101-3

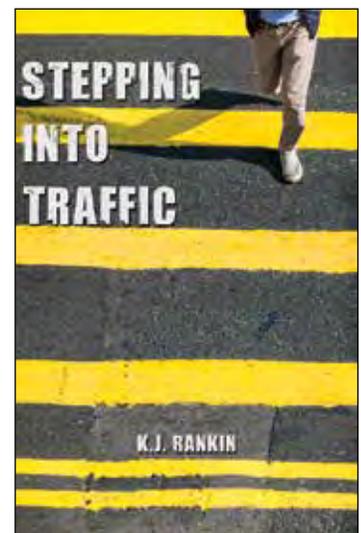
\$15.95 CAD / Ages 13+

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 Jermy, *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

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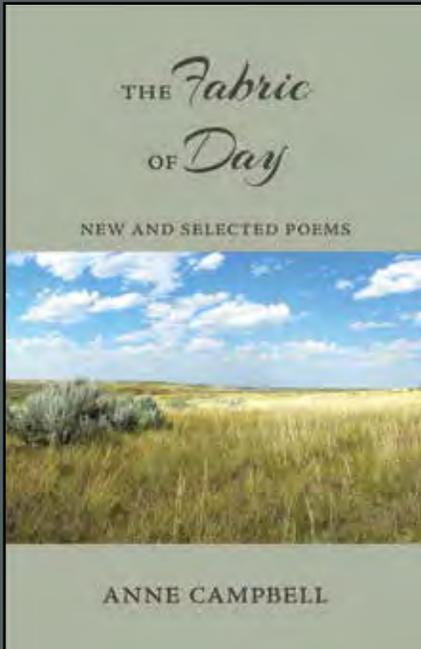
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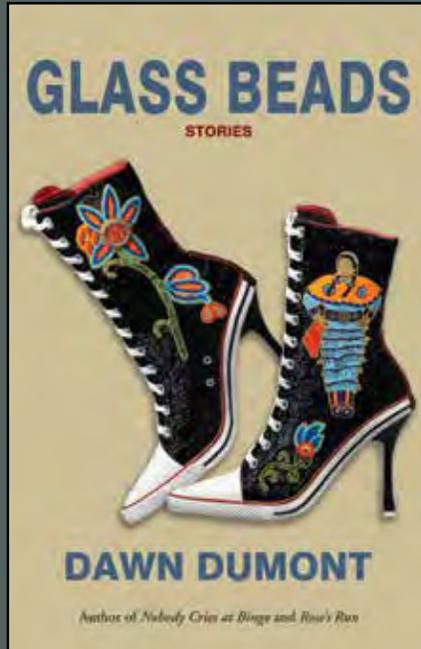
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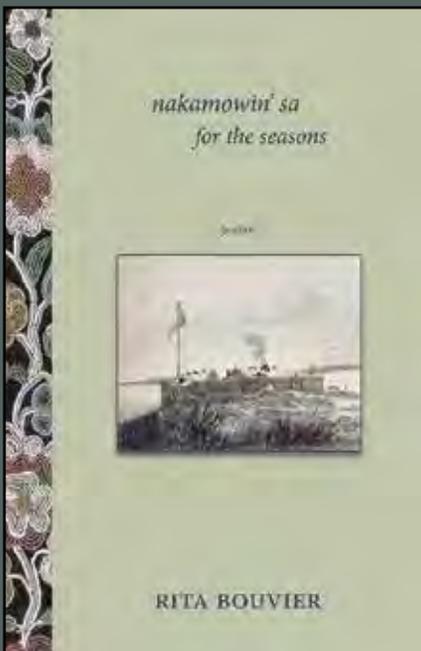
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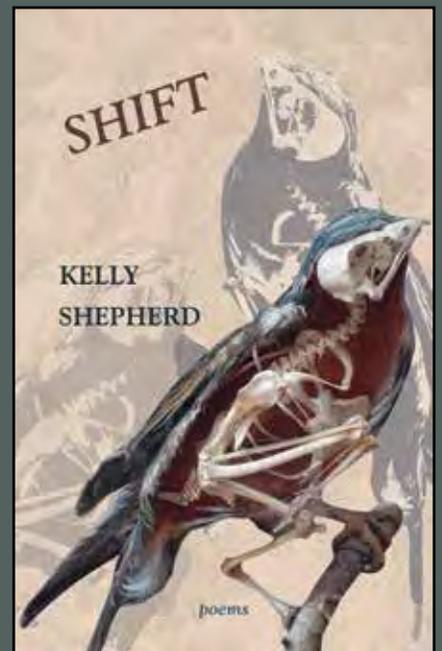
- Shortlisted for the 25th Saskatchewan Book Award for Regina Public Library Book of the Year Award, the Muslims for Peace and Justice Fiction Award, the Rasmussen, Rasmussen & Charowsky Indigenous Peoples' Writing Award, and the Rasmussen, Rasmussen & Charowsky Indigenous Peoples' Writing Award.



- Shortlisted for the 25th Saskatchewan Book Award for City of Saskatoon and Public Library Saskatoon Book Award.
- Chosen for the CBC Books list of Indigenous writers to read.



- Chosen for the CBC Books list of Indigenous writers to read.



- Longlisted for the 2017 Alberta Readers Choice Award.