

Thistledown Press

Spring 2018

**New Titles &
Recent Backlist**



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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.

Autant

Paulette Dubé

A tale woven over the course of four days and fifty-four years, based on the relationship between bees, angels, spirits, and one Franco-Albertan family.

“If heaven is full of angels like me, hell must be empty.” So begins, *Autant*, a tale woven over the course of four days and fifty-four years, based on the relationship between bees and one Franco-Albertan family, the Morasses, of Autant, Alberta. Tension emerges in the balance of power between siblings, between seen and unseen forces of good and evil, between perception and reality, between loyalty and traitors, and between what we are taught and what we actually learn.

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.

As easily as sunlight bends through a jar of clear golden honey mead, we witness an angel sitting atop the fridge in the kitchen, watching his favourite set of lights twirl about in their respective orbits. Everyone oblivious to his presence except for six-year-old Bella, whose gift it is to see such beings, and Lily, the “other angel”, sent by Coyote to mix things up a bit.

Autant reminds us that life can be more exciting when you believe that magic is real and Dubé’s expansion of this idea in the story through characters and plot, and her lively and controlled blending of fantastical elements with the everyday occurrences of the Morasses family help keep this magic alive.



Because her parents “made it to a hospital on time,” PAULETTE DUBÉ was born in Westlock, Alberta. Growing up in the French village of Legal, she watched her third sister being born on the kitchen table and was hooked on “magic,” as her dad called it. Today, she relies heavily on the good fortune of living in Jasper National Park with her family for her daily dose of magic realism. *Talon*, her first novel, made the shortlists for the 1999 Canadian Literary Awards, the Alberta Writers’ Guild Best Novel Award (2003) and the Starburst Award (2003). Her

poetry garnered a number of rewards including the Milton Acorn Memorial People’s Poetry Award (1994), the CBC Alberta Anthology (1998) and the CBC Literary Awards (2005).



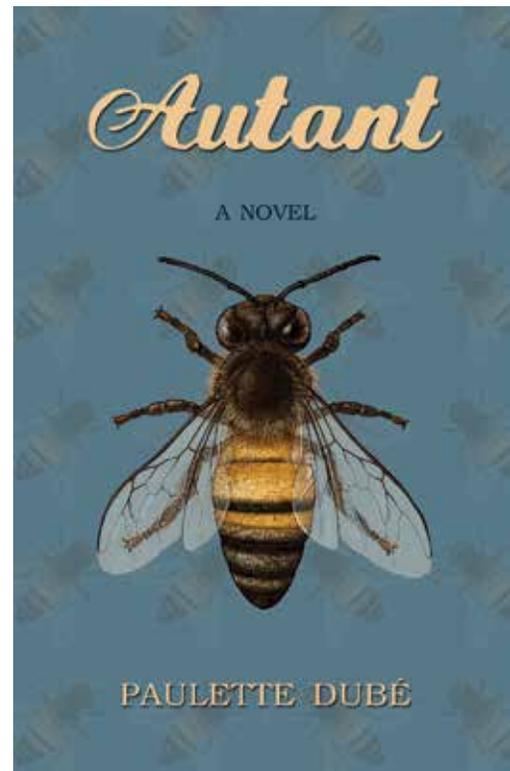
AUTHOR’S PREVIOUS BOOKS:



Gaits

978-1-897235-74-4

\$17.95



NOVEL

ISBN-10: 1-77187-156-3

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-156-3

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

114 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC045000 FICTION / Family Life

FIC066000 FICTION / Small Town & Rural

FIC061000 FICTION / Magical Realism

THEMA CODES:

FS (Family Life Fiction)

FMM (Magical realism)

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2018

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2018

MARKETING & PROMOTION

BOOK LAUNCH: Jasper, AB

NATIONAL REVIEW COPY MAILING

SELECTIVE PRINT ADVERTISING





The Things She'll Be Leaving Behind Vanessa Farnsworth

Stories of women trying to get their footings, preserve their sanity, and survive in circumstances they never thought they would find themselves in.

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.



VANESSA FARNSWORTH is a freelance writer and long-time resident of the BC Interior. Her short fiction has appeared in literary journals across Canada and in the US, including *The Dalhousie Review*, *dANdelion*, *filling Station*, *The New Quarterly*, *PRECIPiCe*, *QWERTY*, and *Reed Magazine*. Her memoir, *Rain on a Distant Roof: A Personal Journey Through Lyme Disease in Canada* (Signature Editions), was widely acclaimed when it was published in 2013.

SHORT FICTION

ISBN-10: 1-77187-157-1

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-157-0

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

171 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC029000 FICTION / Short Stories (single author)

FIC044000 FICTION / Women

FIC016000 FICTION / Humorous / General

THEMA CODES:

FYB (Short stories)

FU (Humorous fiction)

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2018

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2018

MARKETING & PROMOTION

BOOK LAUNCH: Creston, BC

NATIONAL REVIEW COPY MAILING

SELECTIVE PRINT ADVERTISING

www.vanessafarnsworth.ca



The Spoon Asylum

Caroline Misner

At the height of the Great Depression, Haven Cattrell discovers the joys and heartaches of jazz at an exclusive summer camp for girls.

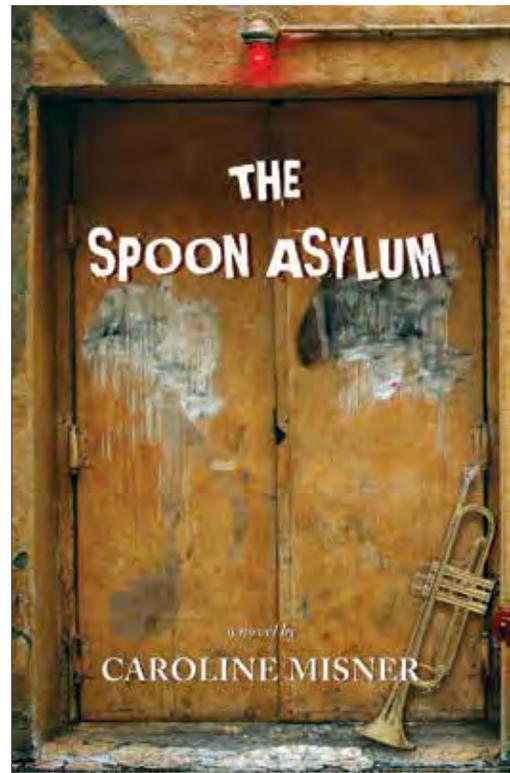
It is the summer of 1933 and young Haven Cattrell, seeking work, finds himself abandoned in the small northern Ontario town of Davisville. At an exclusive summer camp for girls he befriends Wetherby Moss and his son Jude who introduce him to the joys and heartaches of jazz.

Jazz had taken a hard blow, during the first-half of the 1930s. Although there was still work to be had for some in places like New York, musicians in other parts of the country were barely existing on what venues remained. Wetherby and Jude had come from that reality and, as Haven mastered the jazz trumpet, he learns the horrifying truth about why Wetherby, his mentor, had to flee his home in Detroit and find sanctuary with his son among the unique subculture of rural Northern Ontario.

But Haven's story is bigger than his love of jazz. It is the story of the racism that haunted black jazz musicians in the 30s, and how that racism found its way to Davisville. It is the story of how love can blind young men and save them from themselves, and it is the story of how important it is to dream when the chaos and hard times around you want to drag you down.



CAROLINE MISNER's work has appeared in numerous publications in the US, Canada, India, and the UK. She has been nominated for the prestigious McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize for the short story "Strange Fruit;" in 2011 another short story and a poem were nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She lives in the beautiful Haliburton Highlands of Northern Ontario where she continues to draw inspiration for her work. She is the author of the young adult fantasy series, *The Daughters of Eldox*.



YOUNG ADULT NOVEL

ISBN-10: 1-77187-155-5

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-155-6

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

233 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

YAF036000 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Literary

YAF024040 YOUNG ADULT FICTION /
Historical / Canada

YAF058190 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Social
Themes / Prejudice & Racism

THEMA CODES:

YFT (Children's / Teenage fiction: Historical
fiction)

YXH (Children's / Teenage: Personal & social
issues: Racism & multiculturalism)

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2018

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2018

MARKETING & PROMOTION

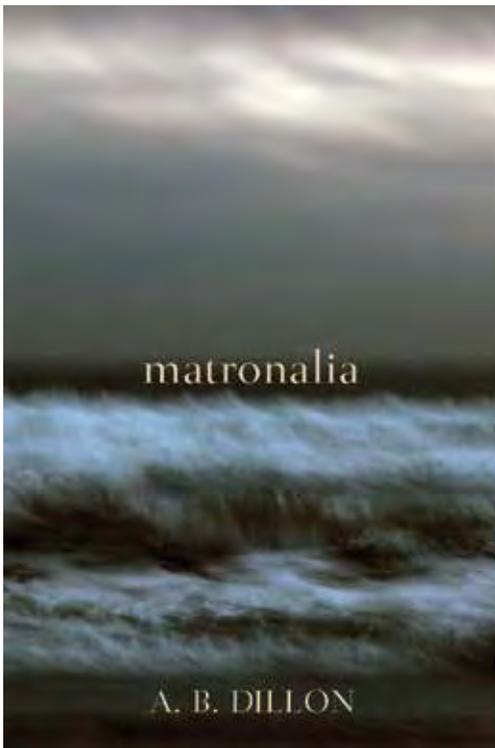
BOOK LAUNCH: Brampton, ON

Readings in Peterborough, Brampton, and
Haliburton (TBA)

NATIONAL REVIEW COPY MAILING

SELECTIVE PRINT ADVERTISING

www.carolinemisner.com



Matronalia

A. B. Dillon

Matronalia interlaces ancestral disorders and personal tribulations to reveal what often remains unsaid from mother to daughter.

A mother reveals a festering secret to her daughter after years of trying to conceal it. Since her daughter's birth, she has been suffering from a disease that causes bizarre symptoms: sudden calcification, the growth and disintegration of extra ribs, coral splinters in the heart, unrelenting depression. As the mother examines the pathology of her disease, she offers her daughter fierce and harrowing advice on everything from sex to survival to love.

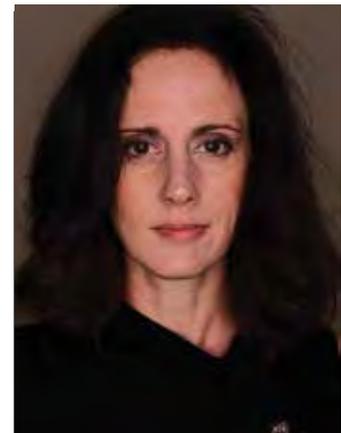
*A mother is a recorder, a journal, an illimitable, constant aperture.
We are seers, voyeurs of the worst order.*

Part ode, part prayer, and part manifesto, *Matronalia* interlaces ancestral legacies and personal tribulations to reveal what often remains unsaid from mother to daughter. The energy, intelligence and grace of the language and imagination is itself antidote to the dilemmas and shame they explore. *Matronalia* is, in essence, a confession that evolves into a love poem.

*Go to art when you are lost, my darling.
Stand before something that breaks you.*



A. B. DILLON was born in 1968 in Owen Sound, Ontario. She now lives in Calgary, Alberta, where she devotes her time to writing and counselling. Her poetry has been featured in *FreeFall*, *Café Beano Anthology* and the *Calgary Herald*. She has also been published in *Swerve*, *Avenue Magazine* and *Where Calgary*. This is her first collection of poetry.



POETRY

ISBN-10: 1-77187-153-9

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-153-2

\$20.00 CAD / \$20.00 USD / 5" X 7.5"

144 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

POE011000 POETRY / Canadian

POE024000 POETRY / Women Authors

FAM032000 FAMILY & RELATIONSHIPS /
Parenting / Motherhood

THEMA CODES:

DC (Poetry)

DCF (Poetry by individual poets)

VFVX (Intergenerational relationships:
advice & issues)

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2018

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2018

MARKETING & PROMOTION

BOOK LAUNCH: Calgary

Readings at local bookstores (TBA)

NATIONAL REVIEW COPY MAILING

SELECTIVE PRINT ADVERTISING



Culverts Beneath the Narrow Road

Brenda Schmidt

Insightful and often humorous, *Culverts Beneath the Narrow Road* takes us on a journey of connecting people and nature through the unassuming culvert.

A culvert anchors a key scene in Alfred Hitchcock's movie *The 39 Steps* and a scene in *Two for the Road* starring Audrey Hepburn and Albert Finney. Culverts appear in books by Tony Burgess, Dennis Cooley, Alice Munro, Annie Proulx, and Virginia Woolf. Culverts called to Brenda Schmidt's imagination as well. As a child she played in and around their steel dark openings and took risks. In the daring poetry and prose of *Culverts Beneath the Narrow Road* the risk-taking continues. In her journeys, she asked people from all walks of life — construction workers, farmers, biologists, writers, musicians — about their culvert stories. Their recollections of experiences with or near culverts, both dark and light, gave voice to her own experiences, providing another sense of the connections we share and the way stories emerge and flow. Schmidt does this by using the stories as a jumping off point when they call up her own memories. She expands on interview quotes, stretching and bending them to create new stories and poems.



BRENDA SCHMIDT is a naturalist and visual artist living in Creighton, a mining town on the Canadian Shield in northern Saskatchewan, where she explores creative paths between the natural and digital worlds. Author of four books of poetry, including *More Than Three Feet of Ice* (ThistleDown, 2005) and *A Haunting Sun* (ThistleDown, 2001), as well as a book of essays, her work has been published, performed, shown and broadcast across Canada and was part of a poetry installation at the University of Exeter (UK). A past reviewer of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry for *Quill & Quire*, she founded the Ore Samples Writers Series in 2016 and currently serves on the Sage Hill Writing board of directors. Her work is included in *The Best of The Best Canadian Poetry in English: Tenth Anniversary Edition* (Tightrope, 2017). She is the seventh Saskatchewan Poet Laureate (April 2017 to December 2018).



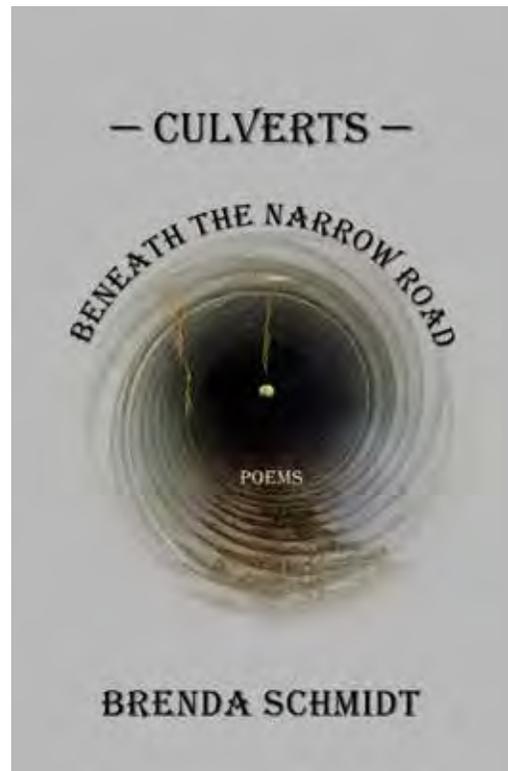
AUTHOR'S PREVIOUS BOOKS:



More Than Three Feet of Ice
978-1-894345-89-7
\$15.95



A Haunting Sun
978-1-894345-34-7
\$9.95



POETRY

ISBN-10: 1-77187-154-7
ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-154-9
\$20.00 CAD / \$20.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"
80 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

POE011000 POETRY / Canadian
POE024000 POETRY / Women Authors
POE023030 POETRY / Nature

THEMA CODES:

DC (Poetry)
DCF (Poetry by individual poets)
WN (Nature and the Natural World)

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2018

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2018

MARKETING & PROMOTION

BOOK LAUNCH: Regina, SK

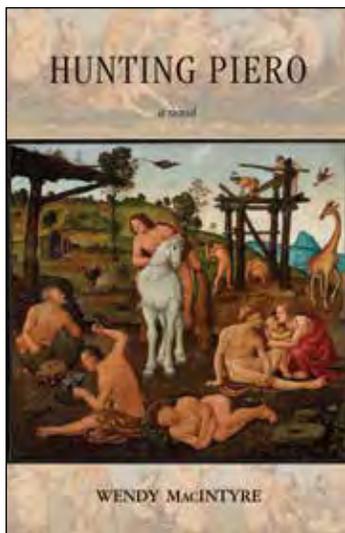
Saskatchewan book tour (TBA)

NATIONAL REVIEW COPY MAILING

SELECTIVE PRINT ADVERTISING

www.brendaschmidt.blogspot.ca





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 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. Her story is echoed by chapters from di Cosimo's perspective as he pits his solitary vision, of a golden age when animals did indeed speak, against the dictatorial grip in which Savonarola, destroyer of secular art and culture, holds the city of Florence.

Hunting Piero is the tale of a passionate moral quest, and equally, a story of redemption and of love tested by tragic missteps and their deadly consequences.

Rage

John Mavin

SHORT FICTION

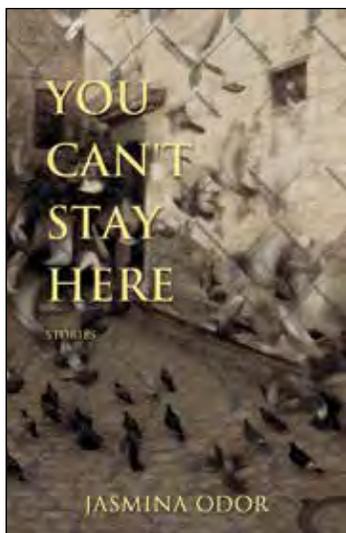
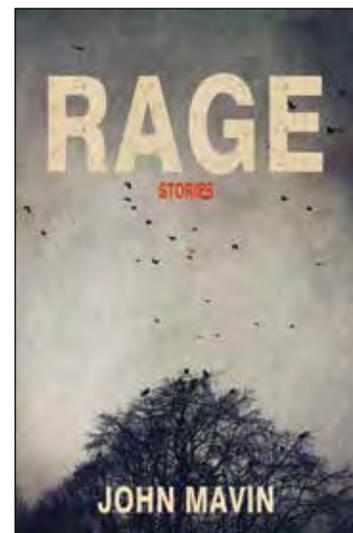
978-1-77187-141-9

\$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

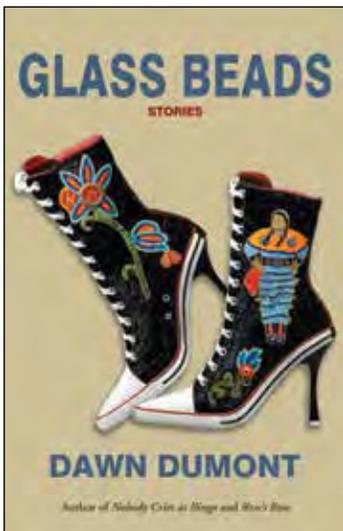
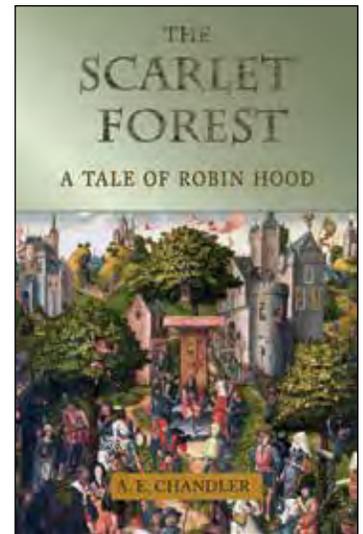
978-1-77187-138-9

\$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

This collection of stories follows the interconnected friendships of four First Nations people as they navigate life in the city, being the first of their families to live off the reserve.

"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*

Oil Change at Rath's Garage

Shari Narine

NOVEL

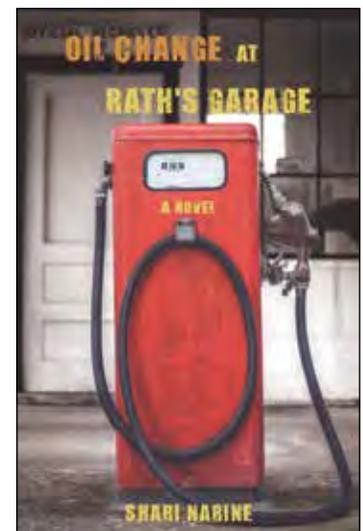
978-1-77187-132-7

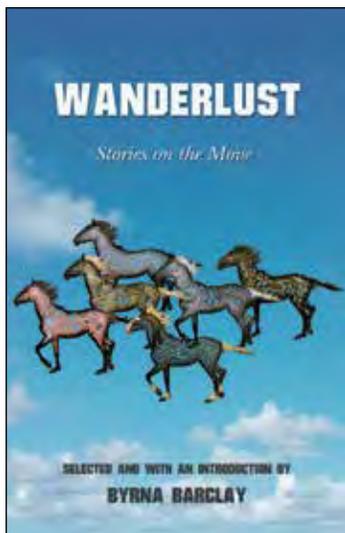
\$20.00 CAD

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.

Characters embark on journeys of discovery, from the Nordic Viking age to experiencing family life in Italy, interpreting the Lascaux Caves in France to climbing Nicaragua's volcanoes, undertaking a road trip through the villages of Mexico or across 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.

Hanne and her Brother

Bill Stenson

NOVEL

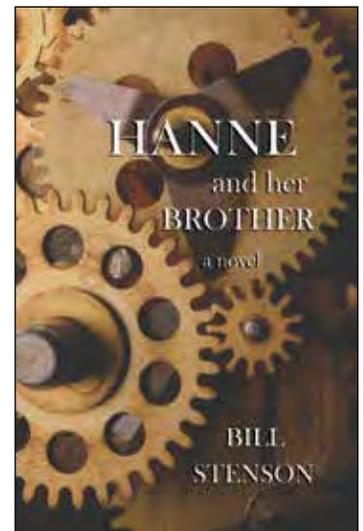
978-1-77187-114-3

\$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)



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.

"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*

Lifting Weights

Judy McCrosky

SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-105-1

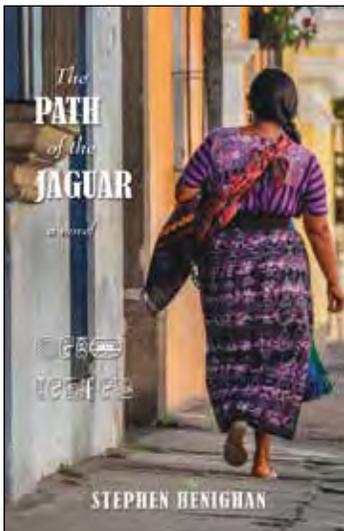
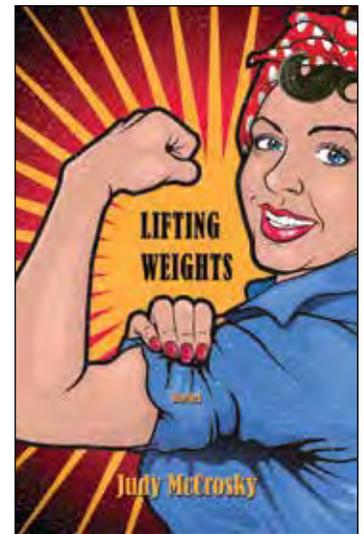
\$18.95 CAD

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*



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

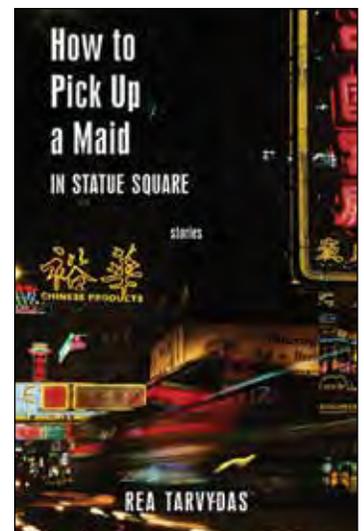
978-1-77187-117-4

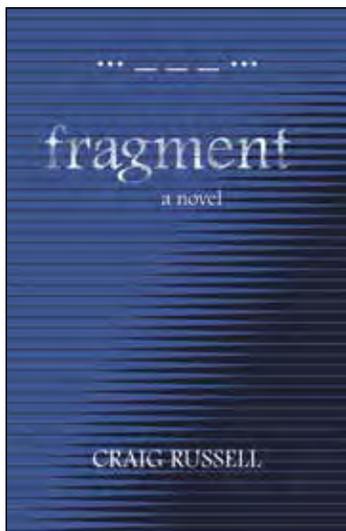
\$18.95 CAD

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*





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*

Hamburger

Daniel Perry

SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-097-9

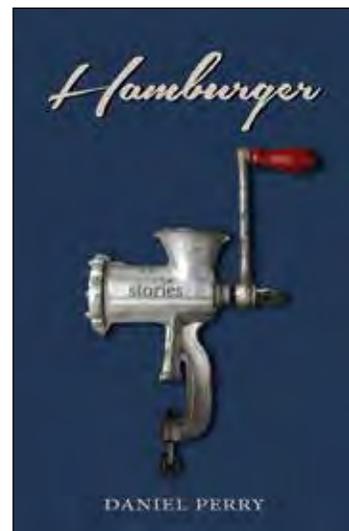
\$18.95 CAD

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

Cartograph

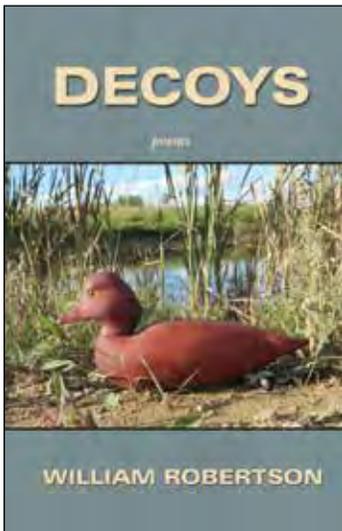
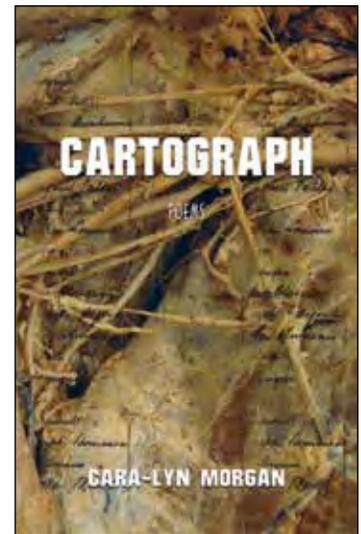
Cara-Lyn Morgan

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

William Robertson leads us through the beauty he finds within the simplicity of an honest life. His poems explore how his roles as father and grandfather allow him to share his love of the natural world, and his passions ignite, especially when he writes about his love of birds. He is modest in his knowledge of nature, humble in knowing that there is too much ever to appreciate fully when armed with our curiosity alone. And so, he sees himself as a sort of decoy, a lure for wild birds, knowing if he succeeds we might discover what he has discovered: "In the creek, birds I'll probably never name explain their desire." He writes as if quiet devotion just might release their thoughts.

This collection is one that will delight Canadian readers, as in these pages we get to know one who has truly loved the smallest and simplest creatures of Mother Nature, and within them found the extraordinary beauty of this land.

The Dance Floor Tilts

Susan Alexander

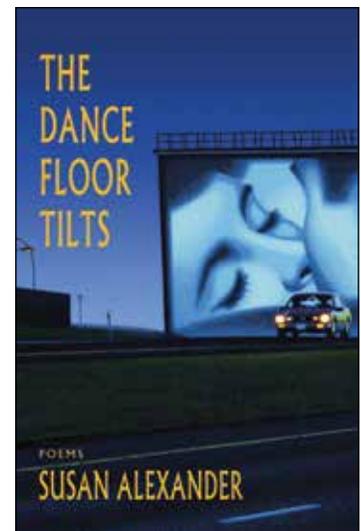
POETRY

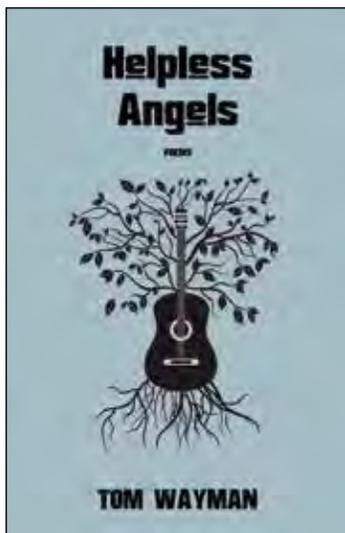
978-1-77187-152-5

\$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

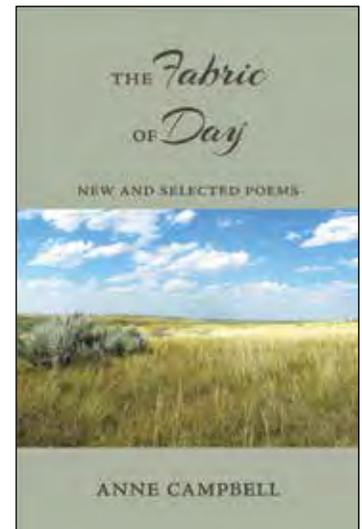
POETRY

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.

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



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.

A Map in My Blood

Carla Braidek

POETRY

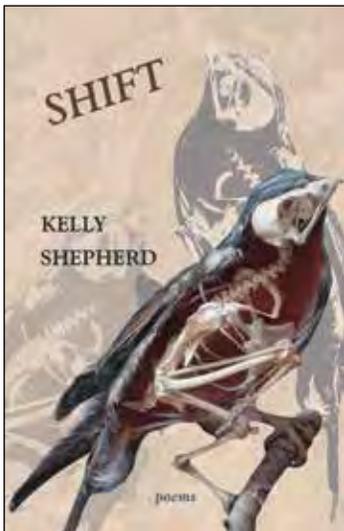
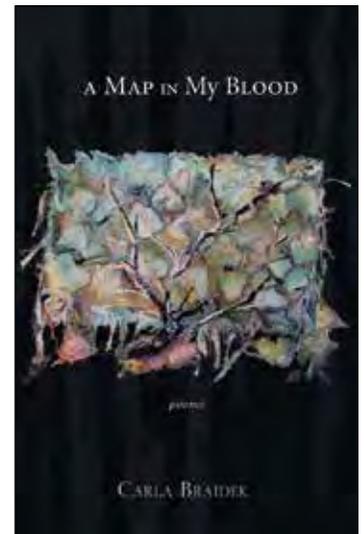
978-1-77187-096-2

\$17.95 CAD

A Map in My Blood is a collection informed by tradition, but its subject matter crystalizes 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

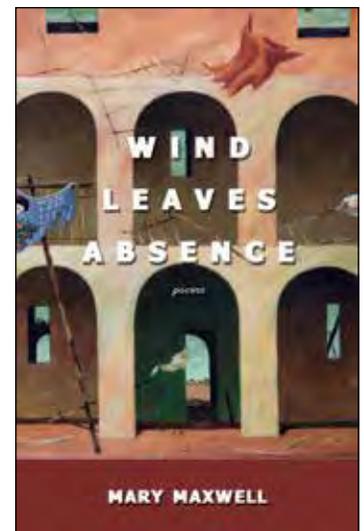
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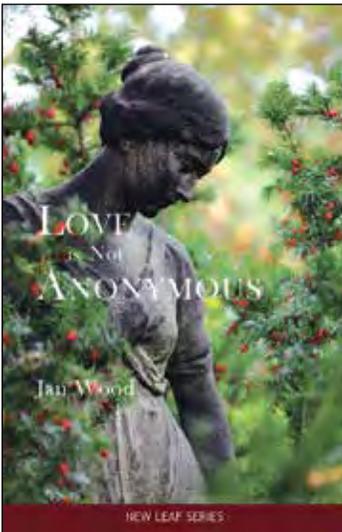
\$17.95 CAD

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





Love is Not Anonymous

Jan Wood

POETRY

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

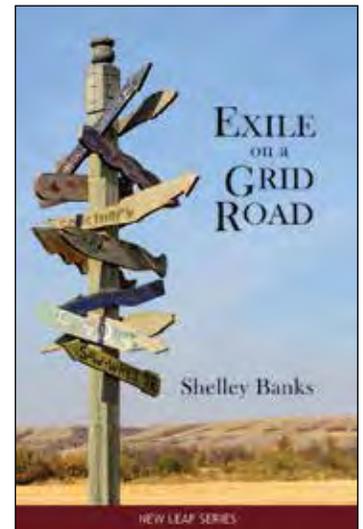
POETRY

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*



Questions for Wolf

Shannon Quinn

POETRY

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*

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

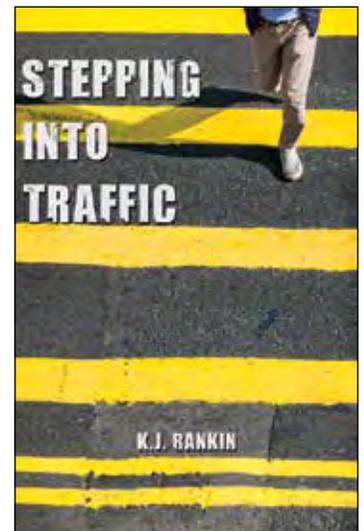
\$15.95 CAD / Ages 13+

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 Jermeay, *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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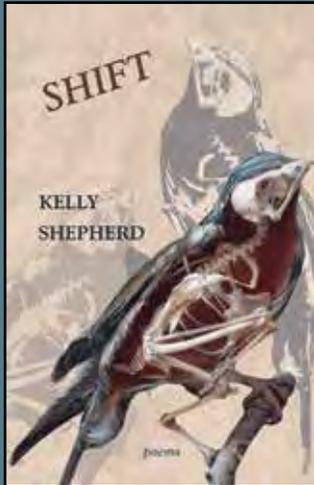
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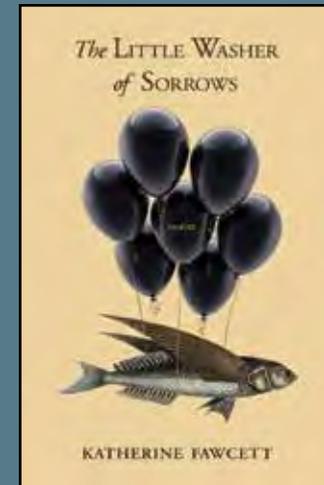
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