



# THISTLEDOWN PRESS

Fall 2020

New Titles and Selected Backlist



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### EXAMINATION AND REVIEW COPIES

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.



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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.

## Ivy's Tree

Wendy Burton

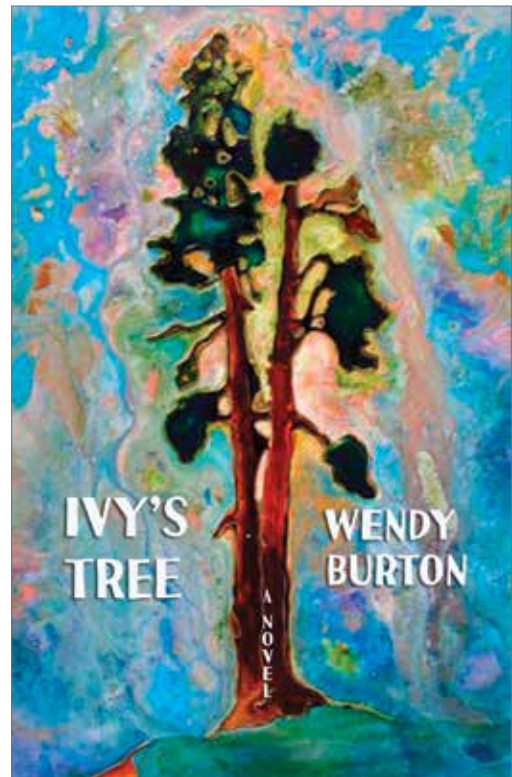
A wise and compassionate recently widowed Canadian woman must learn to negotiate the unfamiliar Japanese culture as she accepts her estranged daughter's request to join her family in Japan.

*Ivy's Tree* is the story of a 78-year-old woman learning to navigate one of the largest cities in the world: Tokyo. With a distinct sense of place — Tokyo in the fraught economic times of 2007-08 — *Ivy's Tree* is also the description of a woman coming to terms with her relationship to her family. Summoned by her only daughter to Tokyo, Ivy is newly widowed and adjusting uneasily to life without her husband. Tokyo is a daunting city for an older woman travelling alone, but more daunting is the difficult relationship between mother and daughter. Ivy has no connection with her son-in-law, a traditional Japanese salary man, and her grandsons, who do not know her.

The novel is written from Ivy's point of view. Armed with an old guide book, and keeping her travels secret from her new family, Ivy learns to negotiate an unfamiliar culture and a complex transportation system. Ivy's inner commentaries, some provided by her dead husband Jack, are at times poignant and at other times wryly amusing. When her travels are discovered, Ivy is essentially put under house arrest, and further estranged from her daughter.



WENDY BURTON studied English literature and feminist epistemology and taught work-place writing and adult education. She writes short stories, novels, and academic and creative non-fiction. She has had prose-poetry and academic non-fiction published over the past 20 years, most notably "Swimming Winter's Lake" in *Down in the Valley*, editor Trevor Carolan and "Histories of Aboriginal Adult Education" in *Contexts of Adult Education: Canadian perspectives*, edited by Fenwick, Nesbitt, & Spencer. *Ivy's Tree* is her debut novel.



NOVEL

ISBN-13: 9781771871990

ISBN-10: 1771871997

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

\$20.00 CAD / \$20.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"  
288 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC019000 (FICTION / LITERARY)

FIC044000 (FICTION / WOMEN)

THEMA CODES:

FB (FICTION — General & Literary)

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

PUB DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

### MARKETING & PROMOTION

Launch: Hornby Island, BC

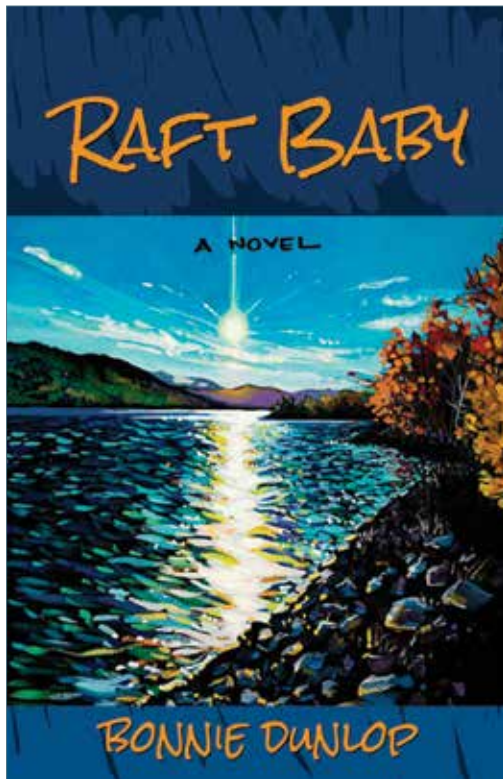
Readings: University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford or Chilliwack; North Island College, Elder College, Courtenay; Blue Heron Books, Comox; Comox Seniors Centre

Festivals:

- The Denman Island Readers and Writers Festival
- Hornby Festival 2020 (Scheduled reader)

Advertising:

- Literary Trade vehicles
- Canada-wide review copy list send-out



## NOVEL

ISBN-13: 9781771872027

ISBN-10: 1771872020

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

\$20.00 CAD / \$20.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"  
256 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

## BISACS:

FIC014000 (FICTION / HISTORICAL)

FIC044000 (FICTION / WOMEN)

## THEMA CODES:

FB (FICTION – General &amp; Literary)

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

PUB DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

## MARKETING &amp; PROMOTION

Launch: Lyric Theatre, Swift Current, SKReadings: Manning, AB (Peace River)

Saskatchewan Tour: Moose Jaw at the Public  
Library; McNally Robinson Saskatoon;  
Shaunavon, Hazlet and Eastend.

Festivals: Saskatchewan Festival of Words,  
Moose Jaw

Marketing:•

- Literary Trade vehicles
- Canada-wide review copy list send-out

## Raft Baby

### Bonnie Dunlop

A sprawling historical novel with multiple narrators and interwoven stories set in the Peace River country in the early 1900s

*Raft Baby* is a sprawling historical novel set in the Peace River country in the early 1900s, a period and a place that tested the mettle of all who came there. The novel is complex and layered, with multiple narrators and interwoven stories. Its main story, though, is the mystical tale of a young girl straddling two worlds in ways of which she is not always aware, with elements of love, sacrifice, greed, envy, heartbreaking sorrow, and unexpected twists in plot. The novel is set mostly in the past and chronicled through various voices that tell of the Raft Baby's amazing journey. We also hear directly from the Raft Baby herself, both at the beginning of the novel and at the end. Her voice is vital, true, and clear and it validates the novel's history and circumstances in the gentlest of ways.

Stylistically, Dunlop collapses time with precision and ease by effectively allowing a variety of narrators to enter her story. The story's structure, therefore, is paced through these narrations and its tensions, though tight, clear, and energetic, are also varied. This device of multiple narrators allows for unique character conflicts, sometimes in contradiction to one another.



BONNIE DUNLOP is at home in several genres — fiction, poetry and memoir. She is the author of two short story collections, *The Beauty Box*, winner of the Saskatchewan First Book Award (2004), and *Carnival Glass* (2008), which was also nominated for a SBA. Dunlop lives under the endless skies of Swift Current, Saskatchewan, but shares an affinity with the Peace River area of Alberta. As she tells it, her uncle moved to the Peace River country from Saskatchewan in the dirty thirties. Trips to the Peace River country loom large in her childhood memories although, in reality, “how many times would my entire family drive 18 hours on less than stellar roads for a visit?” When her uncle died, his roots deep in the Peace, there was a clipping in his effects titled “Raft Baby of the Peace River.” Her cousin sent her the clipping and suggested it would make a great novel. She read the clipping and set it aside for “sometime later.” That sometime later is now.



## The Mañana Treehouse

Bruce McLean

A poignant, humorous, and realistic view of an aging couple in an epic battle with Alzheimer's disease

Connie Kish won't be written off as just another sad casualty of Alzheimer's. Oddly at first, she's the caregiver, finding ways to help her husband, Max, cope with what's happening to her. When she sees that he's utterly devastated and crying in secret, she decides to let him off the hook by divorcing him. She pushes him away with all her might while he hangs onto to her for dear life. There comes a new man into her life and another woman in his. In a comedy of errors, Connie and Max come out on the other side, together again. He has matured and stepped up as the caregiver. They're awash in Alzheimer's, trying to stay afloat and looking after each other in a mirroring of love back and forth between them.

"Don't write me off," she says. "Don't let me become a forgetful old biddy saying the same thing over and over again."

"Connie Kish an old biddy? Ain't gonna happen. No way. No how."

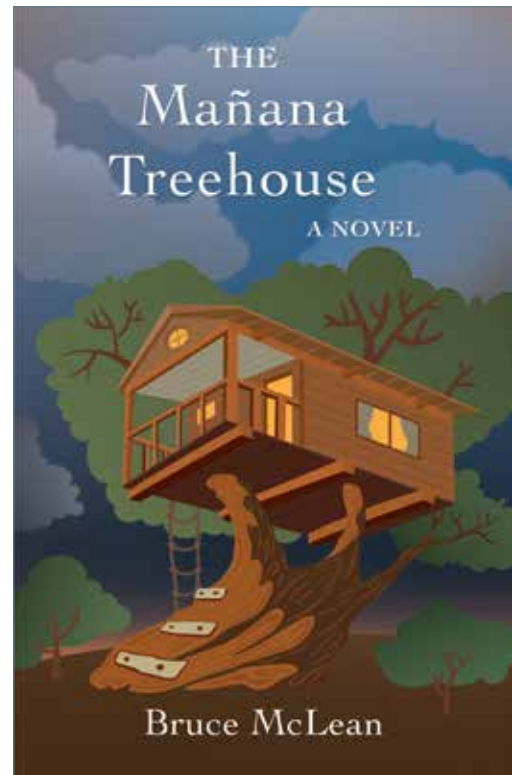
"I like the sound of it. 'Old biddy.'"

"It's too soon for you to become an old biddy," Max says. "You're going to have to wait until I become an old galoot."

"That's us. The old biddy and the old galoot. When I forget your name, I'll call you Old Galoot. And when you forget my name, you can call me Old Biddy.



Though this is BRUCE MCLEAN's first novel, he has spent his lifetime writing. He claims that his early experiences include the toughening experience of working as a rivet passer in a shipyard, deckhand on a coastal freighter, logging camp chockerman, and labourer at an oil refinery. But it was what followed that gave him his language chops. He spent thirty-five years as a newspaper reporter and in various editing jobs starting with the *Nelson Daily News*, *Trail Daily Times*, the *Columbian* (New Westminster, BC,) *Vancouver Sun*, *The Province*, *Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Telegram*, and in London, England, at the *Croydon Times* and *Sunday Express*. His storytelling in *The Mañana Treehouse* was inspired by the memory of his wife, Pauline St-Pierre Dion who spent the last seven years of her life with Alzheimer's. He became what's known as a 'bitter ender', with her all the way.



NOVEL

ISBN-13: 9781771872058

ISBN-10: 1771872055

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

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

204 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC045010 (FICTION / Family Life / Marriage & Divorce)

HEA039140 (Health & Fitness / Diseases / Alzheimer's & Dementia)

THEMA CODES:

(FICTION – General & Literary)

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

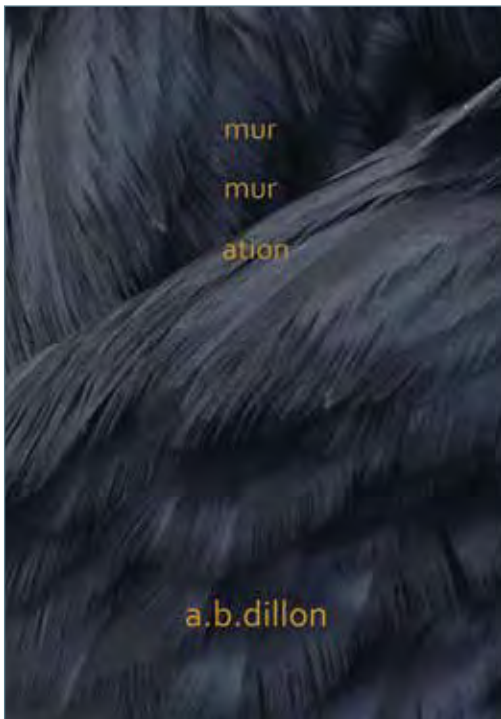
PUB DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

MARKETING & PROMOTION

- Orchestration of a full press release package sent to newspaper book critics and columnists and other media.

Advertising

- Literary Trade Magazines
- Canada-wide review copy list



## POETRY

ISBN-13: 9781771871976

ISBN-10: 1771871970

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

104 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

## BISACS:

POE011000 (Poetry/Canadian)

POEO24000 (Women Authors)

## THEMA CODES:

DCC - Modern &amp; Contemporary Poetry

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

PUB DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

## MARKETING &amp; PROMOTION

Launch: The Next Page in Inglewood (Calgary)Readings: Pages on Kensington (Calgary); Shelf Life Books, CalgaryFestivals: WORDFEST Calgary, Promotional Film by Andy MoroAdvertising

- Literary Trade vehicles
- Canada-wide review copy list send-out

## Murmuration

A.B. Dillon

Poems that transfer the remarkable ability of birds to maintain cohesion as a group in highly uncertain environments and its implications for poetic language

A.B. Dillon's newest collection is a hybrid of memoir and prose poetry, curated masterfully upon the physics of flock behaviour called murmuration, which uses the rule of sevens — the idea that an optimal balance can be achieved when the birds interact with about seven of their neighbors. This is the construct that is used for the poet to delve into personal loss, grief, and redemption.

These poems create reader intimacy through precision and expansiveness, revelation and inventiveness. The energy, playfulness, and acuity of the language pulls us up and into the swell of emotion, to subsume and vault us through the human condition. *Murmuration* is, at its core, a consideration of interconnectedness.

The poems in this collection are carefully weighed between subject matter and voice and how words form poetic patterns on their own. To explore this, Dillon uses her father's lengthy illness and death, her mother, her grandmother, the loss of her marriage, her poetry, her new love, and Crow. The imagery in *Murmuration* is corporal (heart/skin/hands), situational (room/house/balcony/church), natural (sea/ocean/sky/tree/garden/crow/), emotional (loss/regret/union), temporal (cohesion/synchrony), visual (Escher/van Gogh/chromatic palette). Crow is the omniscient voice that flies through the book, and moves through the work. Though complex on one level, the work is not abstract and the resulting poetry is accessible.



A. B. DILLON is an award-winning author and educator. Her first book, *Matronalia*, won the 2019 Alberta Writers' Guild Award for Poetry. "Miss Mercy", a selection from the book, was long-listed for the 2018 CBC Poetry Prize. Originally from Windsor, Ontario, Dillon now resides in Calgary, Alberta.



### Recent Publications:



*Matronalia*  
9781771871532



# Nothing You Can Carry

Susan Alexander

Poems rooted in the complexities of nature as an endangered holy place

*Nothing You Can Carry* is rooted in a keen, even holy, sense of place within the natural world. Today that place is haunted by anxiety over a precarious present and a darker future. These poems take an honest, sometimes ironic and sometimes broken-hearted look at how the self and society are implicated in our climate crisis and the systemic complexities surrounding it. Yet life goes on. The collection moves through environmental fears and spills into all the areas that absorb the self – memory, story, family, love. These poems are vivid and vulnerable, humorous and emotional. They summon the deeper mysteries of being human in a world that is increasingly separate from the sacred.

Alexander's poetry is specific, local, and universal at the same time. Her images are powerful and her language honed to the elemental common denominators of land, water, and sky, and the natural forces that exist in these elements.

“The writer is a talented and accomplished poet who handles the language of poetry with great authority, and the reader gets a strong sense that this is a voice rich in experience and wisdom. One also gets a sense that the poet speaks confidently on behalf of a large community of people; past and present, thus fulfilling one of the ancient roles of the poet as intermediary between humanity and the Divine.” — Lorna Goodison.



SUSAN ALEXANDER is the author of *The Dance Floor Tilts*. Her poems have received multiple awards and appeared in chapbooks, anthologies, several literary magazines in Canada and the UK, as well as on Vancouver buses and in the woods at Whistler. Most recently her suite of poems, *Vigil*, received the 2019 Ross and Davis Mitchell Prize for Faith and Poetry. Susan lives and writes on Bowen Island/ Nexwléxmx in Howe Sound/ At'l'kitsem, unceded territory of the Squamish Nation.



#### Recent Publications:



*The Dance Floor Tilts*  
97817701871525



#### SHORT STORIES

ISBN-13: 9781771871983

ISBN-10: 1771871989

\$20.00 CAD / \$20.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"  
80 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

#### BISACS:

POE011000 (Poetry/Canadian)

POE024000 (Women Authors)

POE023030 (Nature)

#### THEMA CODES:

DCC (Modern & Contemporary Poetry)

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

PUB DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

#### MARKETING & PROMOTION

Book Launch: Three key launch communities:

Vancouver, Victoria, and Bowen Island

Reading Tour: Port Townsend, Kamloops,

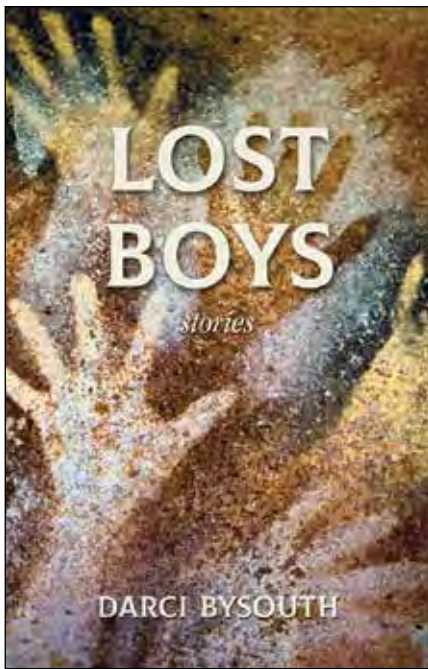
Kelowna, Mayne Island

Festivals Pending: Victoria Festival of Writers,

Denman Island Writers Festival

Advertising:

- Literary Trade vehicles
- Canada-wide review copy list send-out



## Lost Boys

Darci Bysouth

SHORT STORIES

9781771871754 | \$120.00 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

Each of the (eighteen) stories in Darci Bysouth's debut collection *Lost Boys* documents a world in the process of unravelling, as the inhabitants of these richly drawn narratives face losing what they hold most dear.

Bysouth's writing style leans toward the literary and traditional, but it does employ threads of magic realism especially as the characters' react to their loss and grief. These emotional shifts create moods that range from love to horror and from hope to confused absurdity. The story elements, though, remain traditional with accessible plots, varied and unique settings, and well-made characterizations.

## Corridor Nine

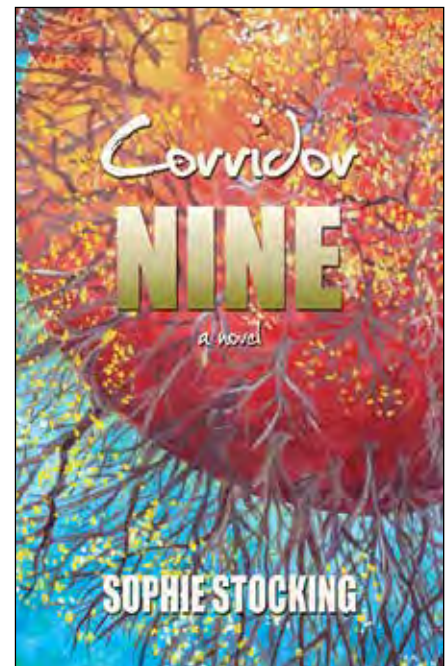
Sophie Stocking

NOVEL

9781771871815 | \$20.00 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

Seven years ago Bernadette Macomber did everything she could to cut her ties to her father Fabian, his opiate addiction, gun collection, and increasingly bizarre behaviour. She moved with her husband and four children, leaving no return address. Now, following his suicide, her father paradoxically makes contact again, and Bernadette finds herself not liberated but tethered to him ever more tightly by the bonds of familial guilt. Desperate for absolution, Bernie returns to her father's home to hunt for evidence of his insanity and to try and understand why suicide became his answer. While she remains driven in her quest to understand the power of the parent/child bond, her father, Fabian, locked into his after-life purgatory, pushes for freedom via any available loophole through the punishing bureaucracy of personal evolution. While exploring his options, he encounters his jailor, the demon/angel Bune in the afterlife space of Corridor Nine.





## An Honest Woman

JoAnn McCaig

NOVEL

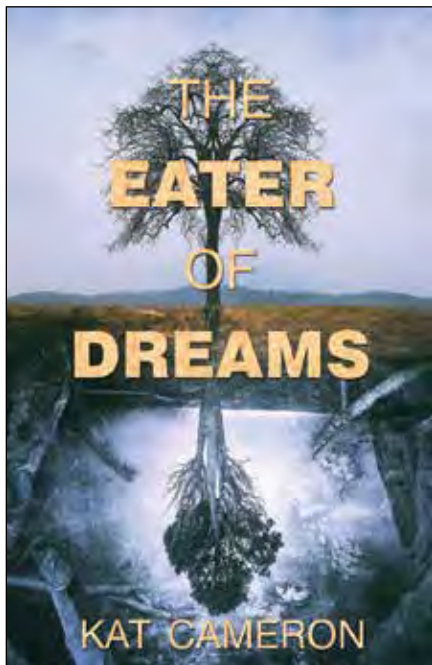
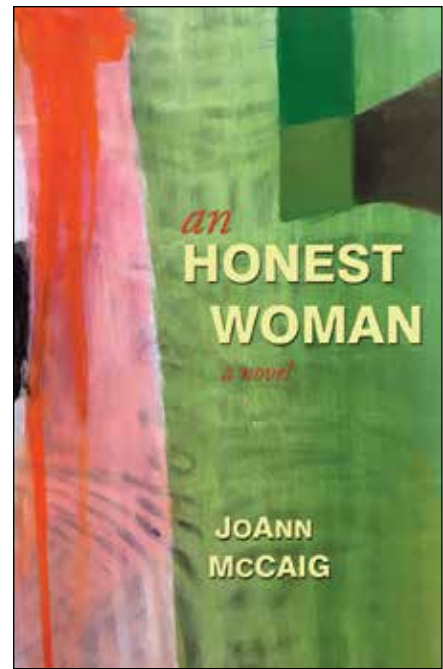
9781771871785 | \$20.00 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

“McCaig’s prose often sings: “All around her in the lineup, people are shouting into each other’s faces with a noisy social hunger which makes the word carnivorous swim into her brain.” She has fun with the friction between British classism and prairie down-to-earthiness, as when the Calgary writer tells her British lover: “Screw you, ponce,” and “No shit, Sherlock.” The interactions between mothers and sons are well written, as are encounters between a college teacher and her students. One might get lost, but there is much to enjoy here.” — Jannie Edwards, *Allberta Views*

*An Honest Woman* is an immensely gutsy novel that works to both undermine and expand its own story through an entertaining and teasing literary puzzle. While its narrative is bold enough in places to be shocking, at the same time it is biting true in its depiction of the interior life, in all its grief, banality and sexual frustration, of a single working mother raising her nearly grown sons. This is an intelligent and, especially, a brilliantly written novel.” — Sharon Butala

“This astonishing novel combines fantasy with a pellucid dissection of the seductions of writing, reading, and the imagination. *An Honest Woman* explores the inconveniences of lust, the confusion between fiction and life, and the gap between experience and irony. Brilliantly acerbic, this erotic romp through the literary and quotidian world is astutely meta-fictional, utterly compelling, and ultimately irresistible.” — Aritha van Herk



## Eater of Dreams

Kat Cameron

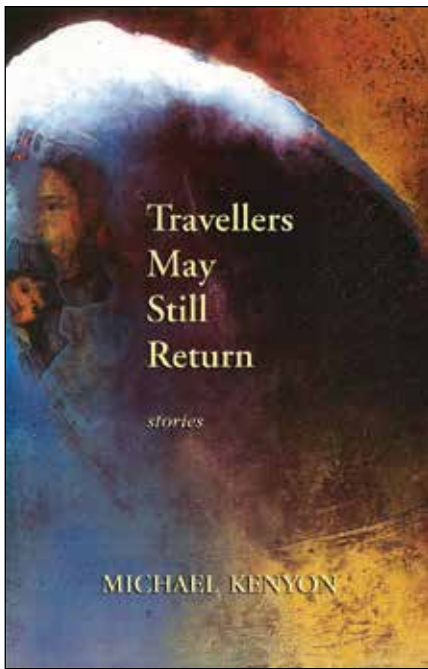
SHORT STORIES

9781771871846 | \$20.00 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

The past haunts the characters in *The Eater of Dreams*. In fifteen interconnected stories, Kat Cameron’s vivid characters — teachers, singers, writers, and misfits — examine the inner fractures in their lives. The title for the collection is taken from a Japanese folktale about the baku, a mythological creature that eats nightmares, and her tales pulsate with this energy. In the darkest moments of her characters, they find or discover the energy they need to survive, but not without breaking down the surface to see clearly who they really are. *The Eater of Dreams* is at once contemporary but also ancient in its probing; it is a collection that blurs the borders between realism and the magic that lies outside it.

“As I read “Dancing the Requiem,” by Kat Cameron, I was taken over . . . absorbed by the world of the story. I burnt the bottom out of a pot. Cameron’s is a mesmerizing story that shows the main character, Zoe, dancing on the edge of precarity — the fear of an abusive partner who surfaces in public places, the fear of economic insecurity and loneliness, and alongside these doubts, the redemptive power of art; the balance it provides; the elation of being near the creation of something bigger than oneself.” — Lisa Moore



## Travellers May Still Return

Michael Kenyon

SHORT STORIES

9781771871877 | \$20.00 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

This collection takes its visual form (novella-story-novella) from the shape of the Americas, North and South, and its psychological trajectory is from the present “daylight” world to the collective unconscious or archetypal. Carl Jung looms in the background and a fictionalized Charles Darwin dominates proceedings.

The collection’s obsessions are Darwinian diversity read into human inner life; what happens when diversity is lost to homogeneity? That is, what happens when we do not accept parts of ourselves; what happens when genre and classification engulf “freedom” and spirit. New storytelling requires diversity within mind underwritten by the implicit paradoxes of the unconscious. These characters’ journeys are as much into the psyche as into the world. Kenyon’s people often find outer form in their lives through inner exploration and vice versa. This book is full of expressions of escape and commitment, knowledge and acts, introversion and extroversion, feminine and masculine.

“The stories have the tension and smoothly crafted characters of a practiced fiction writer, woven through vivid imagery and existential questions that evoke a poetic practice. South and Central America are the main settings, and a strong sense of place as well as a tension of displacement are powerful forces in the longer novellas. While the narrative is not always easy to follow, Kenyon has created striking stories with just the enough mystery to stick in a reader’s mind, like a vivid dream half-remembered.” — Juliana Rupchan, *SaskBook Reviews*

## Glass Beads

Dawn Dumont

SHORT STORIES

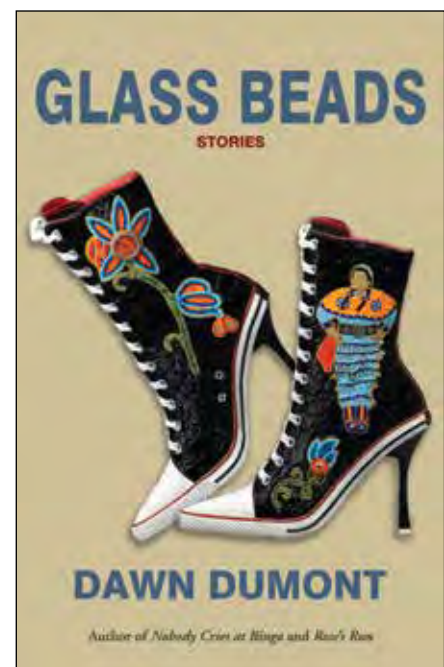
9781771871266 | \$20.00 CAD

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



## A Matins Flywheel

John Lent

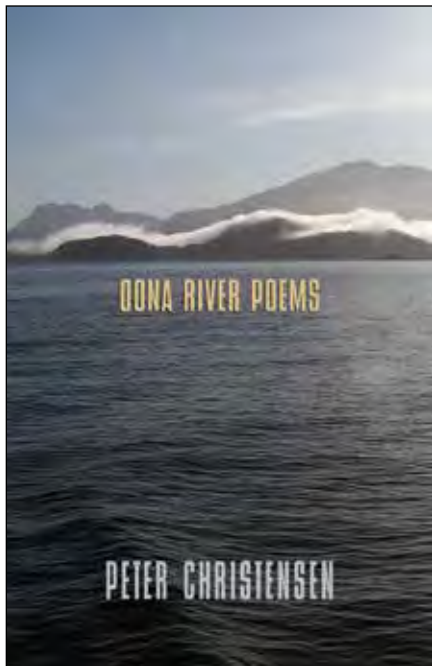
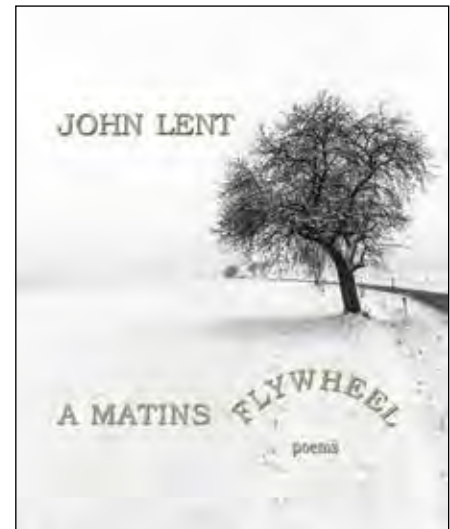
9781771871914

96 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

“All the glittering, hilarious muck of grace — that’s what’s here: all of the doggy and sun-edged textures of grace. John Lent’s *A Matins Flywheel* is a book of exquisite meditations that makes up an entire world—you just go into it, you wander around inside, and you are changed utterly by its rainy, profound, dazzling days and nights.”

— Jake Kennedy, author of *Hazard*, *The Lateral*, and *Merz Structure No. 2: Burnt by Children at Play*.

“*A Matins Flywheel* — a bibliography of the saints of poetry, literature, and music; a late-life and very personal “defence” of the living truths of art; an awesome sanctus for the beauty of the world — is John Lent’s finest and most important testament. From the complicated standpoint of someone given a “second chance” after a near-fatal heart attack and in his tenderness toward the health concerns of his beloved wife Jude, Lent actively proposes in this gorgeous text that his subject, as Patti Smith says of her own in *M Train*, is “life.” This is one of the most heartening books I’ve read in years. It is also a serious reckoning we should all take note of and be inspired by.” — Sharon Thesen



## Oona River Poems

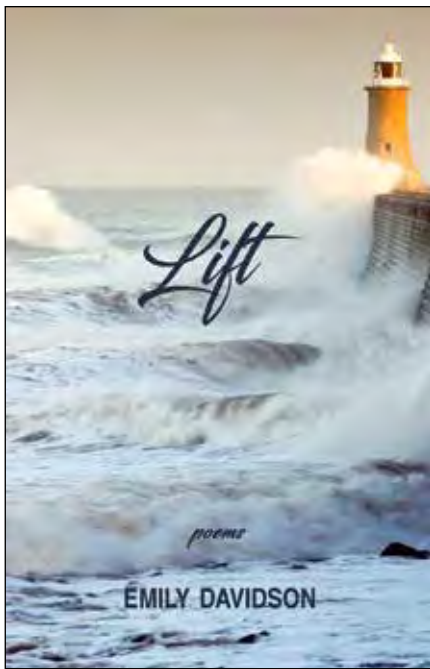
Peter Christensen

9781771871907

112 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

This collection of poems is bigger than the idea of a poet turned loose in the natural world because Peter Christensen intends the work to be also an antidote to the plethora of information, propaganda, and opinion with which we are confronted every day. His poetry is a vehicle to tell stories, to juxtapose ideas and images that share insight into human and natural affairs. He acts as a guide to the inner self and as a chronicler of the collision of nature, and human emotion and action.

Christensen juggled his literary writing career with his passion for exploring wilderness mountain areas of Alberta, BC, and Yukon. He worked as a guide, ranch hand, and park ranger. As a result, his literary career is diverse; his relationship with the natural world became his muse and is reflected in this collection. He lived in Oona River in the years it took him to write this collection.



## Lift

Emily Davidson

9781771871921

64 PAGES | \$12.95 CAD

“Whether on the West Coast or the East, Emily Davidson is an urban *flâneuse*. Vancouver — in its bridges, bistros, and condos — is a “yellow spill of the fantastic,” and her home ground, Saint John, a tumultuous city of wharves and vaulted markets, of builders and workers. The street life of coastal cities comes alive in her brilliant imagery and startling metaphors. A persuasive new voice in Canadian poetry, Davidson compels us to walk and watch with her.” — Anne Compton, Governor General’s Literary Award for Poetry

“Grounded as they are in place as being, the poems in Emily Davidson’s *Lift* cause the everyday to break and spill into wonder, longing, and grief. A child’s chant, a bird’s song become incantations. Davidson writes in language “skinned and glistening,” and it is in the pauses between words that she creates spaces “made tall enough for god to fit.” — Rhea Tregobov, author of *All Souls*’

## Snow Melts First in the Middle of the Slough

Catherine J. Stewart

9781771871945

64 PAGES | \$12.95 CAD

“Catherine Stewart is a superb guide to the Columbia River valley, as it was and is. Her view is a long one. From creatures alive 500 million years ago whose “last breath is mud,” moving through layers of ancestors with “always the pull of the river in their bones,” her book is a sinewy, rich, topophilic honouring of place and past.”

— Tim Lillburn

“Catherine Stewart’s *Snow Melts First in the Middle of the Slough* is a work bent on etching its place and time into the muck and mire of your mind, carving out a space there so you might forget these poems are not your memories. Much like the snowbound fence post in the ghazal that loans the work its title, Stewart’s first book is a surprising old friend waiting to greet you. I suggest you wave back as it doffs its white hat to the wind.”

— George Murray

“Stewart captures the imagination with an unexpected collection of themes. . . . Read as a whole, the delicate strands of the varied topics do not obviously hold together. Thoughtfulness and time reveal the complexity, honesty and vulnerability gathered within this work.”

— Denise Pauls, *Herizons*



This Hole Called January

Paula Jane Remlinger

9781771871938

64 PAGES | \$12.95 CAD

Remlinger writes of the beginning and end of things, the balance between life and death, and the spaces we live between. With humour and elegance, these poems will speak to everyone who has felt the dark days of winter closing in, physically and metaphorically.

“How small this world, how like a pyrite vein / in gold-panned rock this moment gleams.’ In line after line, with ‘their fire-bang whiff of cap guns / and smoke,’ can be found everything we need to know of life. The business of living, with a seasoning of snow.”— Susan Musgrave,  
author of *Origami Dove*

“The care Remlinger puts into writing poetry is evident in this collection, and it’s clear that she draws inspiration from a wide array of subjects.” — KylaNeufeld, *Prairie Books Now*,

Five Red Sentries

Raye Hendrickson

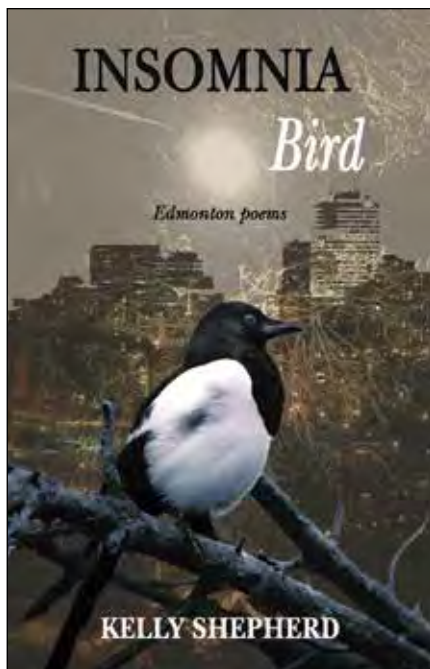
9781771871952

64 PAGES | \$12.95 CAD

“These are poems of keen observation, of questioning steeped in wisdom, of vulnerability arriving at strength. *Five Red Sentries* watches over loss and transforms it into understanding.” — Barbara Klar,  
author of *Cypress*

“Drawing on astronomy, nature and the body, Raye Hendrickson dazzles the reader with images of stars and flowers, stones and chakras in words that rearrange our way of perceiving the world and make us experience love and what it is to be alive with new eyes. In poems close to the earth and never far from memory of the prairie farm, the minimalist words spin you under to rise again in a dance of life filled with epiphanies.”

— gillian harding-russell, author of *In Another Air*



## Insomnia Bird

Kelly Shepherd

9781771871693

112 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

“Kelly Shepherd’s *Insomnia Bird* graces the landscapes of northern Alberta with its lively and brilliant poetic attention, its awesome skill and revelatory, democratic sweep. Edmonton’s blandishments are documented in various locations, from the No. 9 bus to Syncrude work camps, from homeless shelters to the nests of magpies, in a series of long poems that chart the obliterations by civic and corporate interests of tender, invisible, and sacred geographies.” — Sharon Thesen

“At the pavement-leaf interface, Kelly Shepherd brings us a cacophonous poetic mapping and catalogue of prairie-urban lip and tongue, wearing a bright safety vest, digging a (w)hole. *Insomnia Bird* is a raucous flap where the idioms of magpie (there are several) tickle the wingless sentences of parking mandates and social planners. It’s a loving uproar, it’s all Edmonton, and fun!” — Erin Mouré

“[Kelly] Shepherd’s Edmonton grows as an accretion of images: The city if “the haiku written by a dog and revised by a coyote in Mill Creek Ravine/ the “Oil Respect sticker with a hand-scrawled “S” in front of it.” Anger Flares in poems such as “the Gospel of Prosperity and There’s Another World Coming So Who Gives a Shit About This One,” and in the erasure of First Nations culture replaced by “white and beige neighbourhoods/ which photocopy themselves.” But then, when you least expect it, there are moments of stunning lyric beauty: “Blossoms so purple/ on my way home from work. last spring I stopped/ breathed them in/ then turned around/ walked back the way I came/ to buy a bottle of dark red wine—/ this is the tree.” — Jannie Edwards, *Alberta Views*

## For the Changing Moon: poems and songs

Anna Marie Sewell

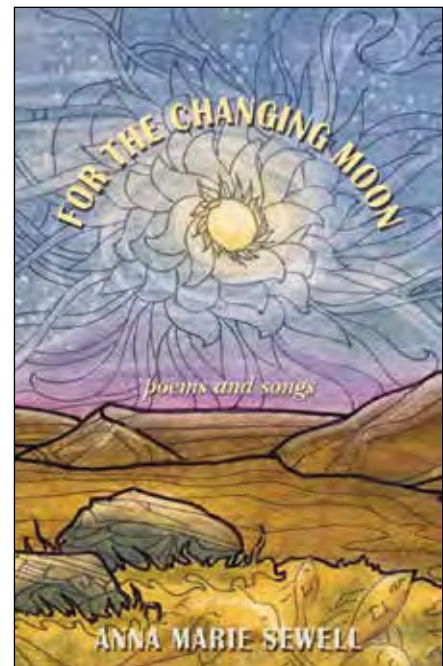
9781771871686

96 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

“Highlighting the “broken lines” that divide communities, [Sewell’s] poems challenge readers to forge new connections in defiance of settler colonialism: “In the face of this monstrous pity renew the call: / All hail the molecular divine / conjugal marvel of life.” Many of Sewell’s poems explicitly demand action, offering another means of taking poems off the page . . . Sewell demands this transgression not only in service of art but also in service of life.” — Sarah Dowling, *Canadian Literature*

“Anna Marie Sewell’s poems help us remember inner knowing. When read aloud, body memory kicks in and a re-awakening occurs, like an unearthing of wisdom we didn’t know was buried. She paints events from unapologetically Indigenous perspectives, disguised as innocent lyrics, enthusiastically unpretentious, timely and current.”

— Janet Rogers, Victoria Poet Laureate 2012-14



## Matronalia

A. B. Dillon

978171871532

152 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

A mother offers fierce counsel to her daughter to atone for a festering secret. Personal and congenital mythologies reticulate like Celtic knot work, revealing in fragments what she has tried in vain to suppress — a malaise of the heart and a hereditary disease, eased only in confessing its pathology to her daughter.

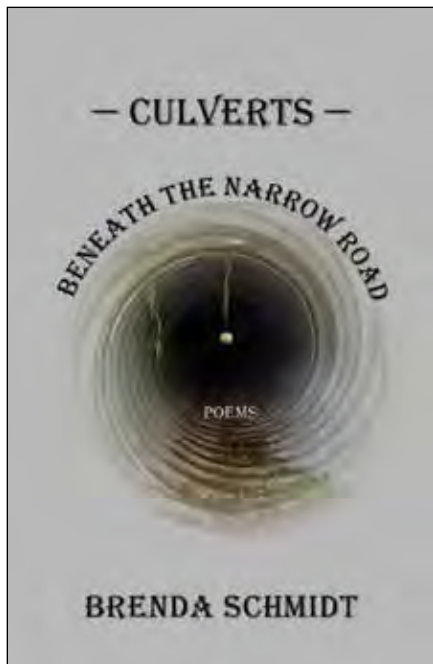
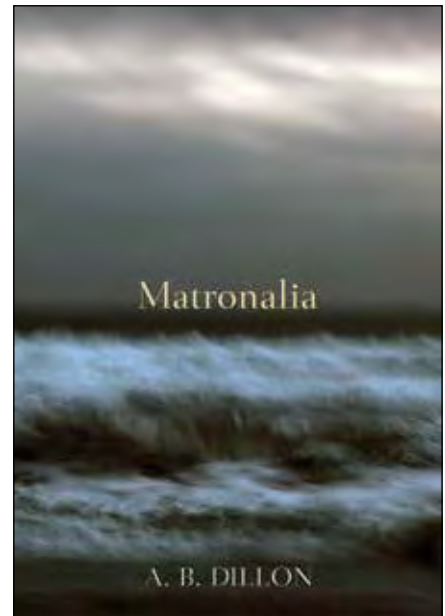
In their tone and vivid imagery, as well as emotional precision, these poems are reminiscent of the mother poems of Sharon Olds and Sylvia Plath, with the grieving defiance of Gwendolyn Brooks. Uniquely, Angela Dillon locates this specific mother's tribulations in an ancestral context: the pains, joys, and failures are not only of her time but also of every time before.

"[*Matronalia*] is extraordinary. I want to send it to my daughter. I want to send it to every mother in the world. It broke my heart, and opened my heart. I haven't read anything in years that has affected me this much."

— Susan Musgrave

"The speaker in this collection refuses to conform to modern expectations about motherhood. She doesn't organize place dates or mom's groups. Instead she urges her daughter to be resilient, rejoice in herself and engage with art. These poems are what she can't say out loud to her child: "When you have this disease, you speak in / tongues. The best way I can speak to you is in words on a page.

As a manifesto about a mother's inability to love, it fails; Dillon's beautiful poems are all heart." — Kerry Ryan, *Herizons*



## Culverts Beneath the Narrow Road

Brenda Schmidt

9781771871549

80 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

Culverts first called to Brenda Schmidt's imagination when she was a child. In and around their steel dark openings she played 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 brought to light her own, giving another sense of the connections we share and the way stories emerge and flow.

"One of the many things I enjoyed in this collection is the high / low aesthetic hard at work: it is both anti-poetry ("I use beautiful / too much, more than allowed") and steeped in a sophisticated lyricism. We sense and inhabit the Prairie landscape and the human that studies and loves it, aging, lively curious and amazed." — Miranda Pearson, *Event*



## nipê wânîn: my way back

Mika Lafond

9781771871297

184 PAGES | \$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.

"What adds significantly to Lafond's collection is the Cree translation of all her poems on each facing page. Even if you can't read Cree, to see the words lined up across from the English, and to see Lafond use Cree, untranslated, in some of her English versions, is to feel the home about which she so strongly speaks. The land and the spirit are in the language. The pairing of languages is a gift to the reader." — Bill Robertson, *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*

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

♦ *Winner of the Indigenous Literary Studios Association Award for Most Significant Book in an Alternate Format*

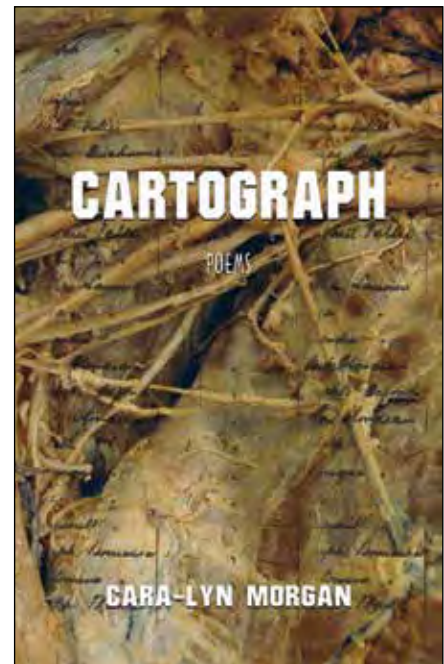
## Cartograph

Cara-Lyn Morgan

9781771871518

184 PAGES | \$20.00 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.





## Rank 6: Firestorm

Barry McDivitt

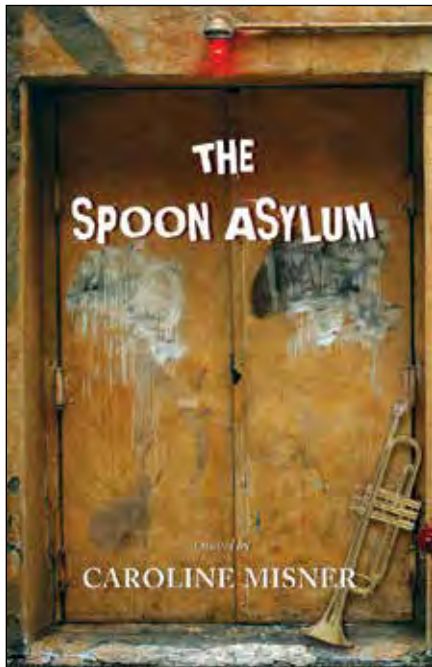
NOVEL

9781771871624 | \$15.95 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

As the large Rank 6 forest fire rages ever closer to civilization, fear and panic begin to set in when people witness its destructive power. Emily knows something about that. Her struggles with depression and her own suicidal thoughts have recently brought her face to face with death. As she rashly races into the danger to rescue a panic-stricken dog, she wonders what makes her so recklessly impulsive. Is it the seduction of the fire's awesome power, or her identification with the dog's vulnerability and helplessness? Her actions are spontaneous and thoughtlessly bold at first, but once cut off from the safety of the firefighters and alone in the fiery inferno, Emily begins to see that her actions could kill her. She realizes that she wants to live and that the dark struggles and personal battles of her life may be her redemption.

“This is an easy reading, fast-paced adventure about dealing with a natural disaster, which is occurring with frightening frequency. The added bonus is that a teen girl realizes how capable and valuable she is, and how much she has to live for.” — Patricia Jerney, *Resource Links*



## The Spoon Asylum

Caroline Misner

NOVEL

9781771871471 | \$15.95 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

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.

“Misner crafts this story with dialogue that is chock-full of wit and intellect. Despite its heavy topics, it is a book that made me laugh out loud on several occasions. . . . *The Spoon Asylum* is Canadian historical fiction at its finest and a beautifully crafted story from start to finish.”

— Ben Charles, SaskBooks Reviews

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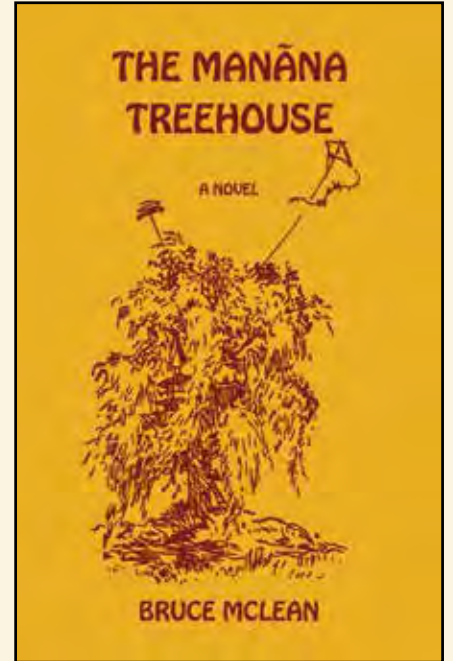
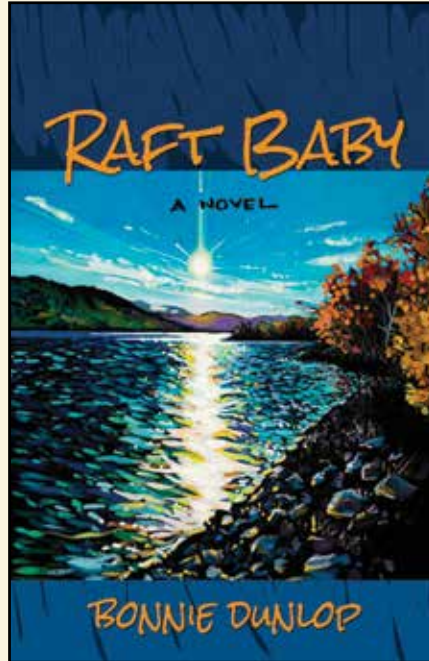
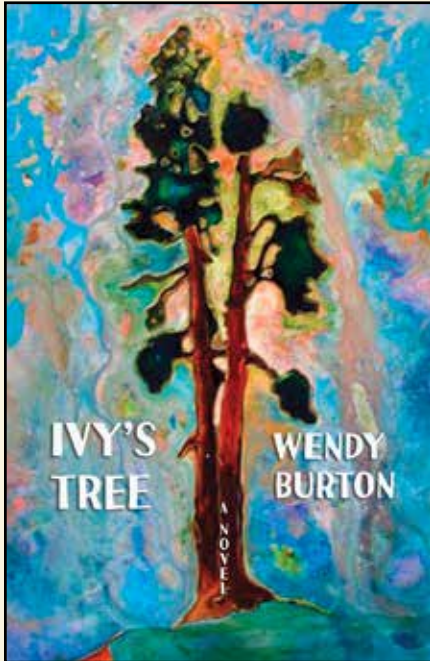
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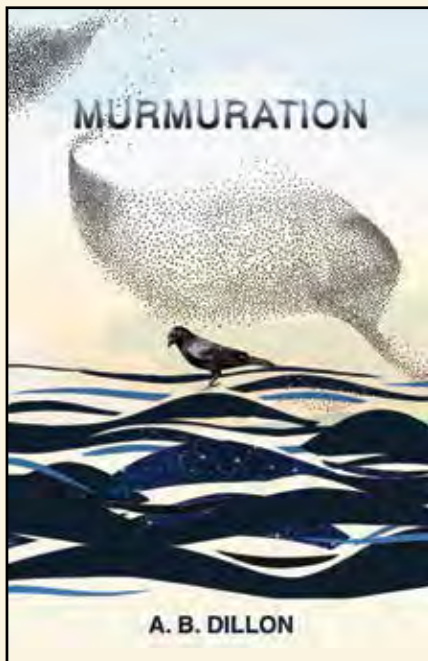
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