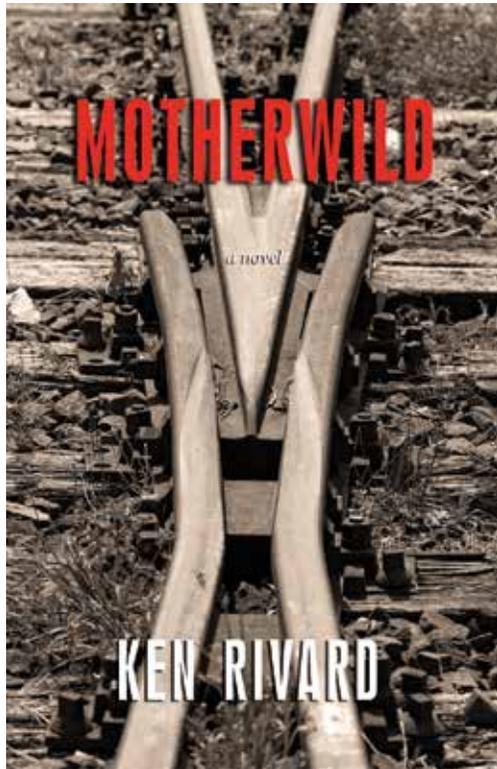


## Motherwild

Ken Rivard



### NOVEL

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*Motherwild* is an unvarnished journey, a celebration and depiction of the struggle to survive on a sometimes violent, sometimes loving, always alive Montreal working-class street. Set over the course of a year beginning in December 1959, Joey Cantell tries to figure out his relationship with his mother, who exasperates him throughout his adolescence with her quick wit, strong will, and constant drinking.

Then there is Celine Lesage, a girl living downstairs in the apartment block who reminds him of his mother. Celine too is a puzzle that simultaneously drives him mad and attracts him like no one else.

A pervasive melancholy overrides certain days as Joey struggles with thoughts of what his mother might do to herself or what he might do to her. Tension builds as Joey wonders if he can trust himself not to carry out his violent plan. Will his fantasies of Celine ever become reality? Then an incredible event occurs that will change him for the rest of his life.

*Motherwild* is a tense drama about the growth to maturity and a teen son's desperate relationship with his mother, but it is also the story of a working-class family and the social conditions of working-class life in the 1960s.



Ken Rivard was born and raised in Montreal. He is the author of ten published books of poetry, fiction, and children's literature. His writing has appeared in numerous anthologies, in many regional and national publications, and on the CBC. His books have been finalists for the Writers Guild of Alberta Book Awards and the City Of

Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize. He has worked as a juror for both the Alberta and Saskatchewan book awards and has been the Writer-in-Residence for the Calgary Public Library and the Writers Guild of Alberta. He lives in Calgary.

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