



Backlist

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fiction

Anita Anand

A Convergence of Solitudes

—Nominated for 2023 Forest of Reading® Evergreen Award™—

—Finalist, 2022 QWF Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction—

—Gold Medal Winner, 2023 Independent Publisher Book Awards for Multicultural Fiction—

“A Convergence of Solitudes is an ambitious novel structured as a double album and focusing on two different families. Over the decades that their stories unfold, members of both clans grapple with solitude in its myriad forms. The novel paints a multicultural portrait of Montreal as characters converge on the city from around the world: India, Vietnam, England, Ireland. Fans of seventies prog rock will catch the sly references to Quebec superstars Harmonium. Anita Anand has created an impressive opus.” –Neil Smith, author of *Jones*

A story of identity, connection and forgiveness, *A Convergence of Solitudes* shares the lives of two families across Partition of India, Operation Babylift in Vietnam, and two referendums in Quebec.

Sunil and Hima, teenage lovers, bravely defy taboos in pre-Partition India to come together as their country divides in two. They move across the world to Montreal and raise a family, but Sunil shows symptoms of schizophrenia, shattering their newfound peace. As a teenager, their daughter Rani becomes obsessed with Quebecois supergroup Sensibilité—and, in particular, the band’s charismatic, nationalistic frontman, Serge Giglio—whose music connects Rani to the province’s struggle for cultural freedom. A chance encounter leads Rani to babysit Mélanie, Serge’s adopted daughter from Vietnam, bringing her fleetingly within his inner circle.

Years later, Rani, now a college guidance counselor, discovers that Mélanie has booked an appointment to discuss her future at the school. Unmoved by her father’s staunch patriotism and her British mother’s bourgeois ways, Mélanie is struggling with deep uncertainty about her identity and belonging. As the two women’s lives become more and more intertwined, Rani’s fascination with Mélanie’s father’s music becomes a strange shadow amidst their friendship.



Publication: May 2022

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:

(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/translation rights on behalf of client publisher)

-Les Éditions de Ta Mère
(French, World)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



Photo Credit: Alexis Laflamme

ANITA ANAND is an author, translator and language teacher from Montreal. She is the winner of the 2015 QWF Concordia University First Book Prize for *Swing in the House and Other Stories*, which was also shortlisted for the 2016 Relit Award for Fiction and the Montreal Literary Diversity Prize. Her translation of *Nirliit*, by Juliana Léveillé-Trudel was nominated for the 2018 John Glassco Prize. She has also translated Fanie Demeule’s novel *Déterrer les os*, known in English as *Lightness*.

Marianne Apostolides

I Can't Get You Out of My Mind

—Finalist, 2020 Foreword INDIES, Science Fiction Category—

"Apostolides has established herself as a writer who takes on the most intimate, perverse, and complicated elements of human desire fearlessly and intellectually. She has a slightly terrifying ability to ride the most emotionally charged idea to its devastating conclusion."

—Canadian Notes & Queries

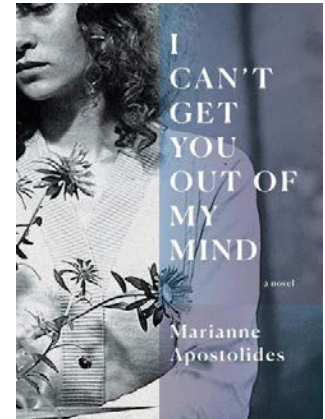
"Marianne Apostolides' latest book, I Can't Get You Out of My Mind, interlaces an intellectually-engaging discourse on attachment and desire with an intimate picture of the primary character, Ariadne ... The narrative is both agonizing and darkly humorous." —Canadian Literature

"What I Can't Get You Out of My Mind does masterfully is examine love through the lens of Ariadne, poetically weaving in the philosophy and literary writings that inform her understanding of the world ... the book is captivating, inquisitive, and provocative." —Room Magazine

What does it mean to say "I love you"?

Ariadne is a single, fortysomething writer and mother embroiled in an affair with a married man. At the core of her current manuscript, a book about the declaration of love, is the need to understand why: why her lover has returned to his wife, why their relationship still lingers in her mind, why she's unable to conquer her longing. To make ends meet while writing, she joins a research study in which she's paid to live with an AI device called Dirk.

But the study quickly enters uncharted territory. Capable of mapping Ariadne's brain—and, to some extent, reading her mind—Dirk calls into question issues of both privacy and consciousness: how we communicate our thoughts to others, what it means to embody our desires, and whether we ought to act on them.



Publication: April 2020

Publisher: Book*hug
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/
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Rights Sold:
-Martina (Macedonia)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



Photo credit: Jorjas Photography

MARIANNE APOSTOLIDES is the author of seven books, three of which have been translated. She is a two-time recipient of a Chalmers Arts Fellowship, and winner of the 2017 K.M. Hunter Award for Literature. Born in suburban New York, Marianne now lives in Toronto.

Nic Brewer

Suture

—Nominated for 2022 ReLit Award for Fiction—
—Nominated for 2021 Foreword INDIES (LGBT category)—

“Suture is a daring, visceral debut that examines the painful side of the creative process. Blending body horror with meditations on love, art, and forgiveness, this novel will startle and captivate you.” –Catriona Wright, author of *Difficult People*

“Nic Brewer’s Suture is a fleshy, flashy, not-for-the-faint-of-heart tale that poetically reimagines artmaking into the gory-yet-tender body horror that it has—perhaps—always figuratively been. Hold on to your guts.” –John Elizabeth Stintzi, author of *Vanishing Monuments* and *My Volcano*

“Suture is Nic Brewer’s transgressively taught storytelling. The notes in these pages write desire, connection and art from the body’s vivid capacity for tenderness where the hard stuff tears. A nimble, fearless debut.”

–Canisia Lubrin, Griffin Poetry Prize-winning author of *The Dyzgraphxst*

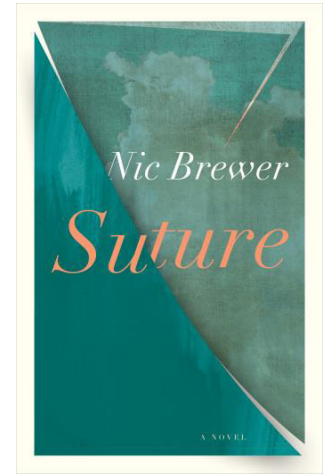
“I read this book with wonder—Brewer’s confident prose swept me along. Hers is sure, sharp writing that doesn’t flinch from tenderness. I felt this book in my body. I ached (in my heart and bones, along an old, spidery scar that split my chest in two) long after I set it down. What a privilege to read this work.” –Gillian Wigmore, author of *Glory*

To make her films, Eva must take out her eyes and use them as batteries. To make her art, Finn must cut open her chest and remove her lungs and heart. To write her novels, Grace must use her blood to power the word processor.

Suture shares three interweaving stories of artists tearing themselves open to make art. Each artist baffles their family, or harms their loved ones, with their necessary sacrifices. Eva’s wife worries about her mental health; Finn’s teenager follows in her footsteps, using forearm bones for drumsticks; Grace’s network constantly worries about the prolific writer’s penchant for self-harm, and the over-use of her vitals for art.

The result is a hyper-real exploration of the cruelties we commit and forgive in ourselves and others. Brewer brings a unique perspective to mental illness while exploring how support systems in relationships—spousal, parental, familial—can be both helpful and damaging.

This exciting debut novel is a highly original meditation on the fractures within us, and the importance of empathy as medicine and glue.



Publication: September 2021

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:
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-Audio: Book*hug (World)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



Photo credit: Becca Lamire Photography

NIC BREWER is a queer, autistic writer, and editor. She writes fiction, mostly. She is the co-founder of *FronD*, an online literary journal for prose by LGBTQI2SA writers, and formerly co-managed the micropress *words(on)pages*. She doesn’t look like her author photo, doesn’t have an MFA, and really wants to hear about what you love most in the world. She lives in Kitchener, ON, with her wife and their dog. *Suture* is her debut novel.

Grant Buday

In the Belly of the Sphinx

"Fans of tall tales, good lively writing, appealing characters, Wildean one-liners, wacky plots and/or unabashed entertainment — Buday's eighth novel can do no wrong." –Vancouver Sun

"It's a fast-paced novel that describes a lively, dangerous, and often humorous chase"
–The BC Review

"This charming coming-of-age story . . . brings to life the Victorian era on B.C.'s West Coast."
–Montecristo

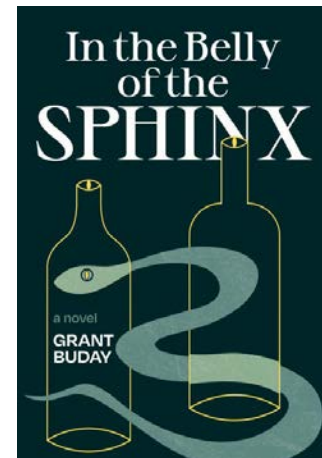
"Buday's brilliant use of language and evocation of early years in the city of Victoria keeps us firmly ensconced in the colonial version of the Victorian era ... One is inevitably reminded of a modern-day Charles Dickens . . . Buday has contributed yet another smart, impeccably researched, highly literate yet never stuffy, slyly hilarious and thoroughly engaging book for his fans." –BC Bookworld

Grant Buday's new novel is an eccentric coming-of-age story that captures the late-Victorian fascination with ancient Egypt, auras, and the afterlife.

Smart, stubborn, and forthright Pearl Greyland-Smith is nine years old when we first meet her, in 1882. She lives with her widowed mother, Florence, in Victoria's James Bay neighbourhood. Pearl's father was a Hussar who died in Afghanistan, or that's what Florence has always told Pearl. But when an Irish woman named Cassidy arrives at their door and addresses Florence as Sinead, Pearl begins to realize she may not know very much about her origins at all.

An avid reader with a rich inner life, as Pearl grows up she nonetheless confronts the scarcity of choices available to women. Yet while lacking in certain amenities, Pearl and Florence's days are anything but dull, populated by characters easily at home in a Dickens novel: the earnest and enigmatic amateur scientist Charles Gloster, their bawdy, theosophist housemaid Carpy, inspector Osmo Beattie, and imperialist newspaper columnist Harry Hearne. Then a fateful encounter at a solstice fête throws Pearl's whole future into question.

This delightful coming-of-age story, imbued with the Victorian fascination for auras and the afterlife, will appeal to readers of Patrick DeWitt and Eleanor Catton. Once again Grant Buday has turned distant West Coast history upside down and created a vivid world intimately relevant to us today.



Publication: October 2023

Publisher:
Touchwood Editions

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Rights Sold:
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/
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-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



Photo credit: Eden Buday

GRANT BUDAY is the author of the novels *Dragonflies*, *White Lung*, *Sack of Teeth*, *Rootbound*, *The Delusionist*, *Atomic Road* and *Orphans of Empire*, the memoir *Stranger on a Strange Island*, and the travel memoir *Golden Goa*. His novels have twice been nominated for the City of Vancouver book prize. His articles and essays have been published in Canadian magazines, and his short fiction has appeared in *The Journey Prize Anthology* and *Best Canadian Short Stories*. He lives on Mayne Island, British Columbia.

Matt Cahill

Radioland

—Nominated for 2023 Foreword INDIES (Thriller category)—

"It has magic. It has murder. It has music. It has everything I was looking for and it is a literary thriller you are definitely not going to want to miss." –Emily Breitkopf, The Ampersand Review

"I loved the compellingly visceral descriptions and the fabulously rich prose. A triumph in psychological-disaster storytelling, Radioland blasts across the airwaves with an enviable power and originality." –Lisa de Nikolits, The Minerva Reader

"Twisting and turning between rock musician Kris and 'house cleanser' Jill, Radioland serves up a terrifying, dangerous and electrifying tale that pinpoints where we belong and who we belong to. A wildly weird look at an off-kilter world full of crime and fear, Matt Cahill's new novel will keep you up at night wondering what's real and what isn't."

–Michelle Berry, author of *Everything Turns Away* and *The Prisoner and the Chaplain*

In *Radioland*, Matt Cahill's mesmerizing new literary thriller, music, fame and magic wind together in an eerie mystery.

There are whispers about murders on the scene in Toronto, from bartenders, hairdressers and others who trade in rumours. When the bodies are found they are altered in disturbing ways. No one knows who the killer could be. Perhaps it is Kris, a troubled musician who has just reached a level of fame only to have his life collapse around him. Perhaps it is Jill, a sensitive with a dangerous magic that calls strangers to her.

As Kris struggles to deal with a childhood experience of sexual abuse he finds a strange advertisement on a hydro pole. By answering it he begins texting Jill, another lost soul reaching out for connection. In bits and pieces, they share their stories, discovering truths about themselves and the people surrounding them, until they must face the danger that is stalking them both.

Radioland explores the absurdity of fame, the legacy of trauma, and the morbid dangers unearthed as we seek a greater understanding of ourselves.



Publication: October 2022

Publisher:

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Rights Sold:

–Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books
(North America)

–Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



Photo credit: Ingrid Paulson

MATT CAHILL is a Toronto writer. His novel, *The Society of Experience* (Wolsak & Wynn), was picked as one of the top reads of 2015 by *Harper's Bazaar*. His short stories have appeared with *Found Press*, *The Quarantine Review*, and *Fusion Fragment*. His essay "On Madness Within Imagination" was selected for *Best Canadian Essays 2017*. He has a private practice as a psychotherapist.

Matt Cahill

The Society of Experience

—Nominated for the 2016 Sunburst Awards—

“The Society of Experience is a psychological journey through the abandoned corridors of the human spirit.” –Harper's Bazaar, 15 Best Books of Fall 2015

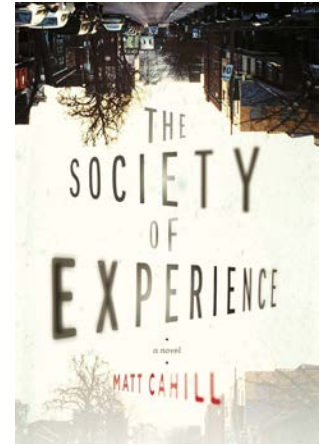
“A swirling confident debut, supported by crisp prose without misstep, and containing many more original ideas than books three times its slender size. Sly and slippery fun—I thought of Ben Marcus and J. G. Ballard ... writers who say don't worry I know what I'm doing as they break from the pack.” –Tony Burgess, author of *Pontypool Changes Everything* and *The n-Body Problem*

“Matt Cahill's debut novel, The Society of Experience, explores the dangers of magical thinking in a most entertaining way. Both thoughtful and humorous, twisty and fun, this is transporting storytelling (in more ways than one).”

–Andrew Pyper, author of *The Demonologist* and *The Damned*

When his father—a distinguished writer—unexpectedly passes away, Derrick van der Lem's insulated world implodes, leaving a much stranger and crueler place than the one he knew. In the midst of his downward spiral, the mysterious Society of Experience asks him to take part in a baffling science experiment involving time travel, with the possibility of changing his life and pulling him out of his rut. When the experiment begins to untangle, Derrick finds himself out of his depth and in the middle of a nightmare, with only the company of a beautiful stranger to steer him from chaos to heartbreak. Meanwhile, who are the Society, and what are their true intentions for Derrick? Is time travel real, or is it yet another contrivance the Society has invented?

Part Philip K. Dick, part mystery, *The Society of Experience* is an inventive, fast-paced story of a man's journey through streets, alleyways, and deserted buildings, for a better future.



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: October 2015

Publisher:

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books

Rights Sold:

–Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider
(North America)

–Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available

Dina Del Bucchia

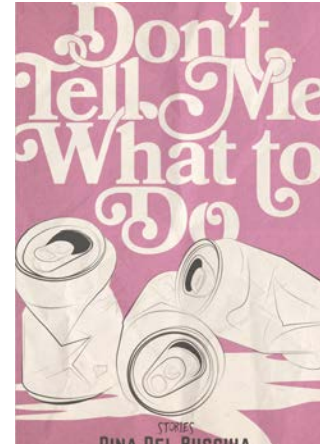
Don't Tell Me What to Do

"A confident collection of 15 witty, tightly crafted tales of theft, artisanal doghouses, and funeral crashing ... This is an exhilarating fiction debut." –Publishers Weekly (starred review)

"A large part of the success of this book comes from Del Bucchia's willness to realize the full potential—however outlandish—of her often-quirky premises ... Del Bucchia holds real situations and emotions up to a funhouse mirror, and the world is shown to be both sillier and sadder than we expected." –Quill and Quire (starred review)

"These are evocative, memorable characters. Captivating stories, with tight, polished writing. All told in a shockingly unique voice." –Toronto Star

"Dina Del Bucchia writes into and out of a very Vancouver tradition, following the line of writers like DM Fraser, while paludifying her own perky collision of community, class, and bra clasps." –Anakana Schofield, author of *Oh my*



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: September 2017

Publisher: Arsenal Pulp Press

Rights Sold:
-Arsenal Pulp Press (World)

An offbeat story collection about strange, imperfect people doing strange, imperfect things.

In poet Dina Del Bucchia's debut story collection, an older woman becomes obsessed with the state of her lawn, a pet architect jeopardizes her relationship with her wife over a wild bird, a cement mixer helps a woman fulfill her dreams, a former model becomes a cult leader through social media, a teenaged girl is preoccupied with making shopping-haul videos, and a young woman goes on a crime spree thanks to a basement containing \$35,000 in coins.

These funny and strange stories are populated by weirdos and misfits trying out new ways of being in the world; sometimes they succeed and sometimes they fail, and sometimes they end up in a slapstick sex scene that culminates with broken furniture. Disarming and bittersweet, *Don't Tell Me What to Do* isn't scared to tell the truth about those of us who are emotional, who care too much about things that might seem ridiculous, and who are beautifully, perfectly flawed.



DINA DEL BUCCHIA Dina Del Bucchia is a writer, podcaster, literary event host, editor, creative writing instructor and otter and dress enthusiast living in Vancouver on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh people. She is the author of the short story collection, *Don't Tell Me What to Do*, and four collections of poetry: *Coping with Emotions and Otters*, *Blind Items*, *Rom Com*, written with Daniel Zomparelli, and, *It's a Big Deal!* She is the Artistic Director of the Real Vancouver Writers' Series, hosts the podcast, *Can't Lit*, with Jen Sookfong Lee and is on the editorial board of *fine.press*. Her chapbook, *Douche Process*, is available online at ryanfitzpatrick.ca/modelpress/. You can check out her website at dinadelbucchia.com

J.J. Dupuis

Umboi Island (Book 3 in the Creature X Mysteries)

“Dupuis’s entertaining third Creature X mystery (after 2021’s Lake Crescent) smoothly combines scientific mystery and action. Fans of Lincoln Child’s Jeremy Logan books will hope this series has a long run.” –Publishers Weekly

“First and foremost a romp and an evolutionary step forward for the Boys Own Adventure genre ... While writing a hunt for a mythological creature, Dupuis has managed a few blows in getting rid of other dinosaurs altogether.” –True Crime Fiction

“Umboi Island is a tremendously fun murder mystery, full of savvy characters, sensory depictions of a lush jungle, and morbid lawlessness.” –Delphic Reviews



The *Creature X* team travels to Papua New Guinea to investigate sightings of a surviving pterosaur.

Laura Reagan, host of *Creature X*, wants to leave North America behind and step out from the shadow of her father’s cryptozoological research. She leads her team to Umboi Island, off the coast of Papua New Guinea, to shoot a cryptozoological documentary about the mysterious ropen, a bioluminescent pterosaur-like creature that has somehow survived extinction. They’re sharing a camp with a U.K.-based team of scientists, and not all of their hosts are extending a warm welcome.

In a stroke of luck, Laura and some team members see a mysterious purple light above the trees. Could it actually be what they’re searching for? But the hunt for the ropen takes a drastic turn when a body turns up in the *Creature X* camp, and it belongs to someone from the team’s past. With walkie-talkies and satellite phones down, Laura and her team are stuck on the island with a murderer—and no chance of help.

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: March 2022

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

-Dundurn
(North America, English)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



JEFF DUPUIS is a Toronto-based writer. His fiction, satire and poetry have appeared in *Foliate Oak*, the *Spadina Literary Review*, *Valve*, *The Lapine* and *University of Toronto Magazine*. J.J. was a regular contributor to *The Barnstormer*. He is the co-founder of *The Quarantine Review*, an ongoing literary journal based on the COVID-19 pandemic.

When not in front of a computer, he can be found haunting the river valleys of Toronto, where he lives and works.

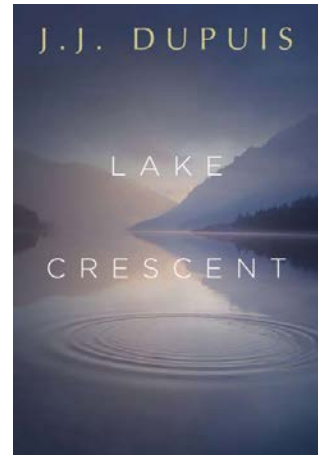
J.J. Dupuis

Lake Crescent (Book 2 in the Creature X Mysteries)

"Dupuis nicely captures the feeling of Robert's Arm with its quirky residents and slowly builds tension as what begins as a fish tale develops into a gripping murder mystery. With luck, Laura and her friends will be back soon." –Publishers Weekly

"What starts as a hunt for the lake monster Cressie, quickly turns into an enjoyable whodunnit with a plot that brings to mind both Raymond Chandler and Neil Gaiman."
–Eduard Habsburg-Lothringen, writer and diplomat

"A mysterious and interesting romp into Canadian cryptid history! Readers — especially Atlantic Canadians — will enjoy this 'deep dive' into the legend of Cressie, the mythical eel-like serpent that supposedly inhabits Lake Crescent in Newfoundland and Labrador. Lake Crescent: A Creature X Mystery by J.J. Dupuis will keep you guessing until the end."
–Timothy S. Johnston, award-winning author of *The Tanner Sequence* series



A TV documentary crew explores murky waters in search of legendary lake monster Cressie, only to dredge up a body instead.

Laura Reagan, host of the cryptozoological documentary series *Creature X*, and her team are in Newfoundland shooting an episode about Cressie, a legendary giant eel. Things don't start off great: scientific evidence is scarce, stories keep changing, and the locals are throwing a wrench into the production. But what began as a simple TV shoot takes a drastic turn when the crew pulls a body from the depths of Lake Crescent.

For Laura, unravelling the cold case means unearthing long-buried secrets about the most prominent citizens of the remote town of Robert's Arm. With time running out, she and her team must put the pieces together and expose the killer before more blood is spilled.

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: July 2021

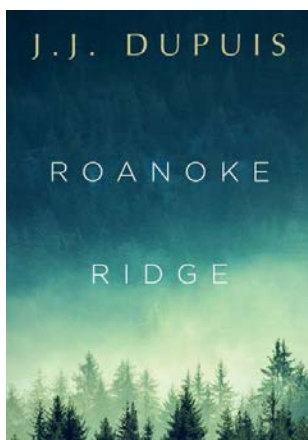
Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

-Dundurn
(North America, English)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available

Roanoke Ridge (Book 1 in the Creature X Mysteries)



"A fun, engaging read, written with lots of informed insider insight on a fascinating field — and with some neat cameos from the real world of Sasquatch research and investigation."

–Dr. Darren Naish, palaeozoologist, University of Southampton

"With Roanoke Ridge, J.J. Dupuis gives us a mystery centring around that primal human need to believe that something is out there. The book is mischievous, zany, and fast-paced, and it skewers our pop-culture lust the whole way through." –Jeff Parker, author of *Where Bears Roam the Streets*

"Brilliant . . . indeed an excellent book." –Maureen Jennings, author of the *Murdoch Mysteries* series

Laura Reagan ventures into the Oregon woods in search of her mentor, who vanished amidst a rash of Bigfoot sightings.

When Bigfoot researcher Professor Berton Sorel goes missing in the temperate rainforest of Roanoke Ridge, Oregon, help is summoned in the form of his former star pupil, Laura Reagan, online science populist and avowed skeptic. But what begins as a simple search-and-rescue operation takes a drastic turn when a body is discovered—and the body isn't the professor.

Caught in the fallout of the suspicious death, perplexed by a sudden wave of Bigfoot sightings, and still desperately searching for Professor Sorel, Reagan reluctantly admits two things: one, that her old mentor was right about there being secrets hidden in Roanoke Ridge, and two, that it's up to her to uncover them.

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: March 2020

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

-Dundurn
(North America, English)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available

Cary Fagan

The Animals

"Funny, provocative, magical, and warmly engaging." –The Vancouver Sun

"The Animals is a peculiar and weirdly compelling fable, a version of Where the Wild Things Are, but for adults of the kind who find the world as strange as the films of Wes Anderson."

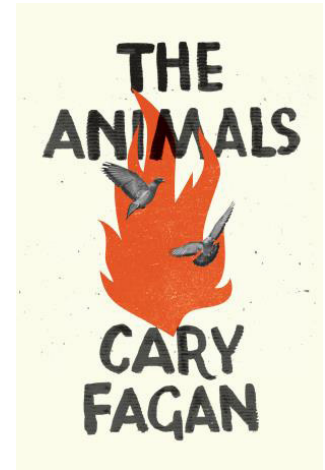
–Antanas Sileika, author of *Provisionally Yours*

"Charming, sad, hopeful and compelling, The Animals burns with intelligence, wry wit, and compassion."–Gary Barwin, author of *Yiddish for Pirates*

In a quaint tourist village, Dorn makes miniature-scale models displayed in the local shops. Yet life is far from idyllic; he suffers under the thumb of a rich, philandering younger brother and an unloving father, and cannot find the courage to admit his love to Ravenna, the ungainly schoolteacher.

Life takes a strange turn when the government-sponsored "Wild Home Project" is introduced and wolves, rats, minks, otters, and bears move into villagers' homes. Soon, Dorn receives a mysterious commission, finds a body in a park, and has several run-ins with a former classmate-turned police officer. When fire breaks out, Dorn takes on the unlikely role of hero in the hope of changing the course of his life.

A realist novel with the air of a fairy tale, *The Animals* is a surprising, funny, and thought-provoking story that explores the nature of relationships faunal and human and reminds us of the challenges of finding one's place in society ... and that living with a wolf is not a very good idea.



Publication: October 2022

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:

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Photo Credit: Josh Levine

CARY FAGAN is the author of eight previous novels and five books of short stories, including *The Student*, *Great Adventures for the Faint of Heart*, and *A Bird's Eye*. He has been nominated for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Writers' Trust Fiction Award, the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, and has won the Toronto Book Award and the Canadian Jewish Book Award for Fiction. He is also an acclaimed writer of books for children, having won the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award, the IODE Jean Throop Book Award, a Mr. Christie Silver Medal, the Joan Betty Stuchner—Oy Vey!—Funniest Children's Book Award, and the Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature for Young People. Fagan's work has been translated into French, Italian, German, Dutch, Spanish, Catalan, Turkish, Russian, Polish, Chinese, Korean and Persian. He still lives in his hometown of Toronto.

Samantha Garner

The Quiet is Loud

—Nominated, 2022 Kobo Emerging Writer Prize—

“The Quiet is Loud is a zeitgeist zirconia, a choker of sparkling speculation for Gen Z readers whose reading tastes are migrating toward adult literary spec fic. For her debut novel, Toronto writer Samantha Garner pours her curiosity into an approachable, recognizable narrative... Garner wears her spec fic, geek, and SF influences on her sleeve, and The Quiet Is Loud is a warm welcome to the more literary part of that universe.” –Understorey Magazine

“The smallest, most personal details give the novel its viscosity. Garner’s touch is subtle and effective: I could sense the coolness in the air, hear the rustle of the trees opening up to a steely blue-tinged sky. I could smell the longsilog cooking in the kitchen, taste the sweet-and-sour bite into a crispy boot-shaped chicken nugget. I could shuffle Freya’s tarot deck, run my finger along the cards’ edges and corners frayed by the passage of time, hold in my hands the comforting heft of promised answers. All of these details braid together into a story that at once feels so easily real and also glimmers with possibility, that fantastical tug of and yet.” –Marias at Sampaguitas

“The Quiet is Loud made me believe wholeheartedly in the paradextrous powers of its characters and their world, so wholeheartedly that at times I forgot that what I was reading was not possible. Garner’s is an exciting new voice.” –Liz Harmer, author of *The Amateurs and Strange Loops*

The perfect marriage of literary and speculative fiction for readers of Kazuo Ishiguro and NK Jemisin.

When Freya Tanangco was ten, she dreamed of her mother’s death days before it happened. Freya’s life since has been spent in hiding: from the troubled literary legacy created by her author father, and from the scrutiny of a society that is hostile to vekers—people who, like her, have enhanced mental abilities.

When her prophetic dreams take a dangerous turn, Freya finds herself increasingly forced to sacrifice her own anonymity—and the fragile safety that comes with it—in order to protect those around her.

Interwoven with themes of Filipino Canadian and mixed-race identity, fantastical elements from Norse and Filipino mythology, and tarot card symbolism, *The Quiet Is Loud* is an intergenerational tale about the consequences of secrets and what happens when we refuse to let others tell our stories for us.



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: May 2021

Publisher: Invisible Publishing
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/
translation rights)

Rights Sold:

-Invisible Publishing (World)
-Piper Verlag (Germany)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



SAMANTHA GARNER is the author of *The Quiet is Loud*, published by Invisible Publishing and shortlisted for the 2022 Kobo Emerging Writer Prize. A Canadian of mixed Filipino-Finnish background, her character-driven fantasy novels explore themes of identity and belonging.

When not writing, Samantha can be found daydreaming in a video game or boring a loved one with the latest historical fact she’s learned. She’s also created several zines, and has been blogging since the Geocities glory days of the late ’90s. She can be found online at samanthagarner.ca and on Instagram and Twitter at @samanthakgarner.

Derek Mascarenhas

Coconut Dreams

"This charming collection of stories resides between a suburban childhood in Canada and inherited, often mythic, tales from Goa that belong to the elders. Characters decide on love with rings lost at sea and soothe babies with stories of elephants in mountains. The voices in these stories are from people who seem far away and yet are inside us. Prepare to be delighted."

–Kim Echlin, author of *Under the Visible Life*

"The stories in Derek Mascarenhas's Coconut Dreams remind one of the high stakes in a child's world, the way that danger looms just fractionally outside safety. Like all proper enchantments, these vignettes are dark, light, strange, and vivid such that they delight and charm in equal portions." –Kathryn Kuitenbrouwer, author of *All the Broken Things*

"In this evocative collection, Derek Mascarenhas takes up the fictional Pinto family and turns it gently in his hands, revealing new truths—and new questions—with every shift in point of view. A moving, multifaceted debut." –Alissa York, author of *The Naturalist*

Coconut Dreams explores the lives of the Pinto family through seventeen linked short stories. Starting with a ghost story set in Goa, India in the 1950s, the collection shifts to the unique perspectives of two adolescents, Aiden and Ally Pinto. Both first generation Canadians, these siblings tackle their adventures in a predominantly white suburb with innocence, intelligence and a timid foot in two distinct cultures. Derek Mascarenhas takes a fresh look at the world of the new immigrant and the South Asian experience in Canada. In these stories, a daughter questions her father's love at an Ikea grand opening; an aunt remembers a safari-gone-wrong in Kenya; an uncle's unrequited love is confronted at a Hamilton Goan Association picnic; a boy tests his faith amidst a school-yard brawl; and a childhood love letter is exchanged during the building of a backyard deck. Singularly and collectively, these stories will move the reader with their engaging narratives and authentic voices.



Publication: April 2019

Publisher:

Book*hug
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/
translation rights on behalf of
client publisher)

Rights Sold:

–Les Éditions l'Interligne
(French Canada)
–Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available

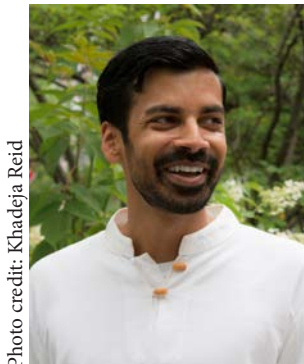


Photo credit: Khadeja Reid

DEREK MASCARENHAS is a graduate of the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies Creative Writing Program, a finalist and runner-up for the Penguin Random House of Canada Student Award for Fiction, and a nominee for the Marina Nemat Award. His fiction has been published in places such as *Joyland*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *Switchback*, *Maple Tree Literary Supplement*, *Cosmonauts Avenue*, and *The Antigonish Review*. Derek is one of four children born to parents who emigrated from Goa, India, and settled in Burlington, Ontario. A backpacker who has traveled across six continents, Derek currently resides in Toronto. *Coconut Dreams* is his first book.

Susan Perly

Death Valley

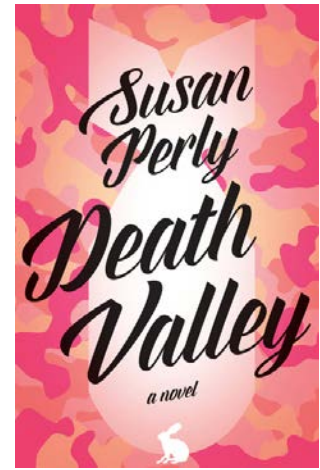
—Nominated for the 2016 Scotiabank Giller Prize—

"The novel defies genre, mashing up generous helpings of pulp fiction and spaghetti westerns with an abridged history lesson on America's nuclear heritage.... Hypnotic in its weirdness, Death Valley laments a world that has played host to the Cold War, the atomic bomb, and warbig and small from Vietnam to Iraq." –Toronto Star

"Reading Death Valley is like going on a road trip into the hallucinatory landscape of the CIA's repressed memories. Hypnotic and startling, with a cast of troubled artists and agents, this sensual novel is a lush fever dream of power, politics, betrayal and revenge. With scenes so vivid and unflinching and downright bizarre, this novel gets under your skin like the desert sand at its core." –Jennifer LoveGrove, author of Watch How We Walk

"Equal parts Twin Peaks and Alice in Wonderland, Susan Perly's Death Valley is a film-noir-spy-western—hallucinogenic, thought-provoking and bizarre enough to satisfy anyone who thinks about art, nuclear fallout, classic films, conspiracies or love. It's wild enough to be fiction, and real enough to blow your mind." –Michelle Berry, author of Interference and Blind Crescent

Legendary war photographer Vivienne Pink has five days to photograph servicemen about to deploy for active combat. Racing to meet her deadline she heads to Las Vegas where she'll capture images of men who may die the next day—and where she'll confront an abuser from her past to force a reckoning. Accompanied by her husband, a celebrated novelist, and her best friend, a former CIA spook, Vivienne heads out into the Nevada desert in search of adrenaline, vengeance and the perfect shot. Told in a vivid, hallucinogenic realism, *Death Valley* is a sexy, fast-paced tale that's part Pynchon, part Tarantino and so radioactive you'll need a Geiger counter.



Publication: May 2016

Publisher:

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/
translation rights on behalf of
client publisher)

Rights Sold:

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



Photo credit: Dennis Lee

SUSAN PERLY has worked as a journalist, war correspondent and radio producer for the CBC. In the early '80s her Letters from Latin America for Peter Gzowski's Morningside reported from locales such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Chiapas. During the Iran–Iraq war she broadcast Letters from Baghdad, and she produced many documentaries for the weekly program Sunday Morning. Perly is the author of the jazz novel *Love Street*, and her short stories have appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies. She lives in Toronto with her husband, the poet Dennis Lee.

Susan Perly

Stella Atlantis

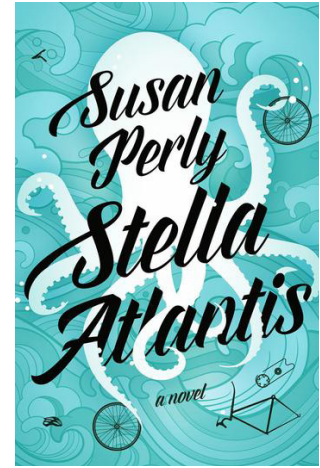
"Perly whirls a flaming sword to ignite a high-voltage world that feels unknown yet familiar: that half-forgotten, beloved place where we were supposed to be born. Elemental genius."

—Kathleen Winter, author of *Annabel* and *Lost in September*

With the dead you can go anywhere.

When novelist Johnny Coma's daughter comes back from the dead as a talking octopus, will he be finally be able to write her story? Will his estranged wife, renowned war photographer Vivienne Pink, even believe him? In *Stella Atlantis*, the stunning follow-up to her visionary desert novel *Death Valley*, Susan Perly returns to the lives of these troubled artists, haunted by the death of their young daughter, Stella, killed on the sidewalk outside their home, as they search for healing in separate cities and with new lovers.

Moving in and out of Toronto, Amsterdam and Barcelona, across the Mediterranean to Ibiza and out to the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean, Perly's prose enacts grieving itself in the twinned stories of Johnny and Vivienne. Playfully dark and filled with beautiful flights of imagery, this is a story of fathers and daughters, of love lost and love reborn, of the redemptive power of art, the transformative power of the sea and how we can dare to reach for radiance and redemption.



Publication: November 2020

Publisher:

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/
translation rights on behalf of
client publisher)

Rights Sold:

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available

A.G. Pasquella

Welcome to the Weird America: Three Novellas

—Nominated for 2023 Foreword INDIES (Science Fiction category)—

“This book is like the biggest carton of Neapolitan ice cream you could ever dream of, but instead of chocolate, the third flavour is a lit stick of dynamite.”

—Jack Pendarvis, writer for *Adventure Time* and *Steven Universe*

“Full of Altmanesque observations with a good twist of Hunter S. Thompson but uniquely, completely A.G. Pasquella!” —Lisa de Nikolits, *The Minerva Reader*

A.G. Pasquella’s *Welcome to the Weird America* brings together three of his brilliant, fabulist novellas, each of which is filled with strange language and extraordinary surprises. In *Why Not a Spider Monkey Jesus?*, written like a comic-book adventure without the images, a talking chimpanzee becomes a televangelist. In *NewTown*, the author’s love letter to science fiction, a teenage boy named Sammy joins a motley band of rebels intent on overthrowing the bungling admiral of a huge spaceship. And in *The This & the That*, Pasquella takes us back to the old weird America, an America of hucksters and hobos, cartoons and carnivals.

From questions about money and God to environmental collapse, to the intersection of humanity and technology, A.G. Pasquella tackles complex subjects with beautifully surreal prose and a deep delight in the tradition of weird fiction. These mesmerizing, upending stories will have readers setting off on a fascinating journey down an unknown road with no destination, or end, in sight.



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: October 2022

Publisher:

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books

Rights Sold:

-Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books
(North America, English)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



Photo credit: Julia Chan

A.G. PASQUELLA'S writing has appeared in various spots including *McSweeney's*, *Wholphin*, *The Believer*, *Black Book*, *Broken Pencil* and *Little Brother*. Pasquella’s story “I Was A Teenage Minotaur”, originally published by *Joyland*, was included in *Imaginarium 2013: The Best Canadian Speculative Writing*. Pasquella has published three novellas: *Why Not A Spider Monkey Jesus?* (Which also appeared as a thirty-page excerpt in *McSweeney's* #11), *NewTown* and *The This & The That*. He is the co-editor (along with Terri Favro) of *PAC’N HEAT: A Noir Homage to Ms. Pac-Man*.

When he’s not writing, A.G. makes music with his band *Miracle Beard*. He lives in Toronto.

A.G. Pasquella

Season of Smoke (Book 3 in the Jack Palace Series)

"It's hard to change. It's even harder to leave your past behind. What gets you through? Street smarts. Friends. A powerful right hook. And love. In this story, quick and sharp as a knife, we're plunged into a cutthroat world of betrayal, loyalty, addiction and hope. Jack Palace is tougher than us, has seen more nasty things—heck, he's caused them—but in the end he wants the same things we all want, a good life and a chance at happiness. And in this gripping story, he tries to get them while dodging those who really, really don't want him to succeed. Season of Smoke is as compelling as a mobster and as good company as a best friend. With as many surprises as life itself, it's a thriller with real heart." –Gary Barwin, author of *Yiddish for Pirates*

"Pasquella easily captures the seamy side of Toronto and gives readers an array of memorable bad guys. Devotees of gritty crime fiction will eagerly await Jack's next outing." –Publishers Weekly

"Pure hard-boiled comfort food: dangerous characters and tight spots always putting the squeeze on a tough guy we can root for. Jack Palace is fun to spend time with—especially if you like your fun a little bloody and bruised." –Andrew Pyper, author of *The Residence*

It looks like ex-con Jack Palace's troubles will never end when he is pressured by the mob to kill one of his best friends.

Jack Palace is trying to go legit with his own security company—but his old life keeps trying to pull him back in. A mobster named Sammy DiAngelo wants revenge for a killing that happened in Jack's past. DiAngelo blames Jack's friend Grover for the murder, and gives Jack an ultimatum: kill Grover or be killed himself. Meanwhile, Grover has plans of his own. He wants to rip off the mob, and he needs Jack's help to do it.

Jack is desperate to start a new life with Suzanne, a woman from his past ... but is he desperate enough to kill?



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: February 2021

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

-Dundurn
(North America, English/French)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available

A.G. Pasquella

Carve the Heart (Book 2 in the Jack Palace Series)

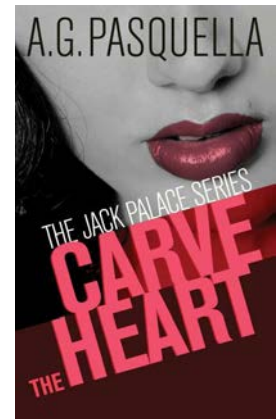
"Sharply written, suspenseful and often funny as hell, Carve the Heart smashes its way through the streets of a noirishly entertaining Toronto the Bad like an out-of-control car chase. This is a book up to its shapely ass in double crosses, hot stakes poker games, rescue plans that go sideways, broken noses, strippers, bikers, drug heists, hot sex, plot twists and bottomless tumblers of smoky Scotch sipped in an illegal casino tucked away somewhere in Kensington Market."

—Terri Favro, author of *Sputnik's Children*

"Pasquella vividly captures the dog-eat-dog existence of the Toronto underworld."

—Publishers Weekly

"Getting impatient with hard-boiled conventions? Try this." —Booklist



Ex-con Jack Palace returns in a world of violence, heartbreak, and revenge.

Cassandra, the woman who broke Jack Palace's heart, is suddenly back in his life. She owes \$600,000 to a brutal gangster who has threatened her life, and she needs Jack's help. Meanwhile, Melody, Jack's new girlfriend, has set a dangerous plan of her own in motion. Things start to get violent when Cassandra suddenly disappears. But not everyone believes Cassandra is in danger. Is Jack being set up?

Bikers, mobsters, and strippers collide as Jack storms the mean streets of Toronto searching for Cassandra. To find her, he must rip open old wounds and confront new enemies. But as loyalties falter and secrets are revealed, Jack begins to wonder who he can really trust. If he doesn't figure it out fast, he—and everyone he cares about—could end up dead.

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: November 2019

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

-Dreamscape (Audio)

-Dundurn

(North America, English/French)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



Yard Dog (Book 1 in the Jack Palace Series)

"The writing here is very impressive: gritty and profane but also (in the right places) tender and quite moving." —Booklist

"A rusty syringe of lurid pulp thrills. Pasquella's love of old school crime fiction is clear, but like a beer bottle smashed across your jaw, he's jolted the genre into the 21st century."

—Elan Mastai, author of *All Our Wrong Todays*

"An old-school noir romp through the belly of the city, splashing sex and violence all over Spadina Avenue. Pasquella confidently squeezes pulp right out of the pavement and onto the page."

—Andrew F. Sullivan, author of *Waste and All We Want is Everything*

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: November 2018

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

-Dundurn

(North America, English/French)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available

Honour-bound ex-mob enforcer Jack Palace owes a life-debt to Tommy, the wild son of a Mafia boss. After being released from prison, Jack hits the streets to collect money for Tommy to repay his debt. Meanwhile, Tommy's father is on his deathbed and other gangsters are waiting to seize control.

Jack plans a better, safer life for himself and his girlfriend Suzanne but after Tommy's father dies, Jack finds himself caught in the crossfire of a mob war, doing things he never wanted to do, for people he never wanted to work for in the first place.

Now Jack has to navigate through hit men, backstabbers, and gritty neighborhoods toward a love, and life, that is far from certain.

Goodfellas meets Richard Stark, *Yard Dog* is a hard-boiled and fast-paced story with a motley cast of lethal characters including a yacht-owning assassin, a loyal Triad member with the patience of a saint, an emotionally sensitive mob heavy, and a legion of scofflaws. It's old-school noir with an updated twist—faster, funnier and sexy as hell.

Sheung-King

You are Eating an Orange. You are Naked.

—Finalist, 2021 Governor General's Literary Award—

—Finalist, 2021 Amazon Canada First Novel Award—

—Nominated for *Canada Reads* 2021—

—A *Globe and Mail* Best Book Debut of 2020 —

"Sheung-King has written a wonderfully unexpected and maverick love story but also a novel of ideas that hopscoches between Toronto, Macau, Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Prague. It is enchanting, funny, and a joy to read." —Kyo Maclear, author of *Birds Art Life*

"A tale of two rich and rootless people that oozes the horror and confusion of love, while staying somehow still desperately romantic, and so gloriously sad. This novel is also about something else: it gives the cold shoulder to the dominant gaze and its demands to control the Asian body, carving out a thrilling space beyond whiteness. I didn't want it to end."

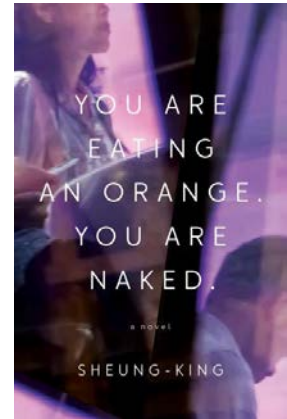
—Thea Lim, author of *An Ocean of Minutes*, a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize

"You Are Eating an Orange. You Are Naked. is like Sally Rooney's Normal People but for transnational millennials always on the move, at home nowhere and everywhere at once. A refreshing, innovative debut that isn't afraid to challenge every trope we know—about life and fiction itself."

—Shazia Hafiz Ramji, *The Humber Literary Review*

A young translator living in Toronto frequently travels abroad—to Hong Kong, Macau, Prague, Tokyo—often with his unnamed lover. In restaurants and hotel rooms, the couple begin telling folk tales to each other, perhaps as a way to fill the undefined space between them. Theirs is a comic and enigmatic relationship in which emotions are often muted and sometimes masked by verbal play and philosophical questions, and further complicated by the woman's frequent unexplained disappearances.

You Are Eating an Orange. You Are Naked. is an intimate novel of memory and longing that challenges Western tropes and Orientalism. Embracing the playful surrealism of Haruki Murakami and the atmospheric narratives of filmmaker Wong Kar-wai, Sheung-King's debut is at once lyrical and punctuated, and wholly unique, and marks the arrival of a bold new voice in Canadian literature.



Publication: October 2020

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publisher:

Book*hug

(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/translation rights on behalf of client publisher)

Rights Sold:

-Fluent Films (Film, option)

-Les Éditions L'Interligne
(World French)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



SHEUNG-KING's debut novel, *You are Eating an Orange. You are Naked*, was a finalist for the 2021 Governor General's Award and Amazon Canada First Novel Award, longlisted for *Canada Reads* 2021 and named one of the best book debuts by the *Globe and Mail*. Sheung-King taught creative writing at the University of Guelph and is now the creative writing coach at Avenues: The World School, Shenzhen. He holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Guelph.

Jaspreet Singh

Face: A Novel of the Anthropocene

"Face is an interwoven novel that takes readers on a series of journeys. At its core, it's an exploration of climate anxiety and how individual people to address or ignore facts—and whether we can trust what we see with our own eyes." –Buzzfeed

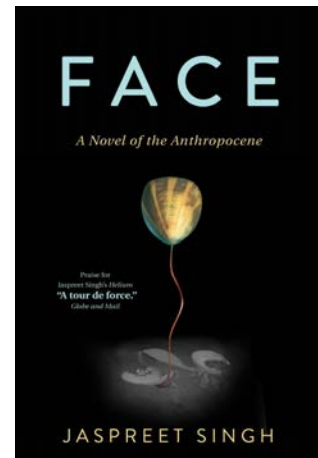
"Dense with observation, this scalpel-sharp narrative flinches from nothing. It approaches memory, family, history, and the great oncoming disaster of the Anthropocene with courage bordering on fury." –Premee Mohamed, author of *The Annual Migration of Clouds*

"Face is a mesmerizing novel about science and climate research in the Anthropocene ... [that] manages to convey some of the most wonderful aspects of doing science, and at the same time (via the character of a ruthless palaeontologist) the dark, criminal side all scientists must remain vigilant about." –Helmut Weissert, professor of Earth Sciences, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

"Face sweeps us up in a science journalist's struggle to forge meaning from her own, and the earth's, fractured memories. Murder mystery, ghost story, science novel? Singh gives us an unsettling novel of ideas that questions the power of the stories we tell—about science, history, and our own lives—even as it employs that power to probe climate guilt and anxiety."
–Susan M. Gaines, author of *Accidentals* and *Carbon Dreams*

Jaspreet Singh's much anticipated third novel traces a past crime that suddenly becomes confrontable on another continent. Lila, a brilliant Indian-born science journalist, and Lucia, an aspiring European-born writer, meet at a creative writing workshop in Calgary. Both try to use fiction to work through real-life trauma, but their entangled paths may reach all the way back to Lila's time as a geology student in the foothills of the Himalayas.

How best to tell Lila's story and follow the links between a fossil fraud in India, an ice core archive in Canada, the Burgess Shale quarry, and a climate change laboratory in Germany? As their detective work unfolds, the two women encounter some of today's most urgent and fascinating science, as well as the many shapes of internal criticism in the sciences. They also come face to face with ecological grief and human-non-human entanglements. With this playful and deeply serious genre-blurring work, Singh gives a new direction to the novel in the Anthropocene.

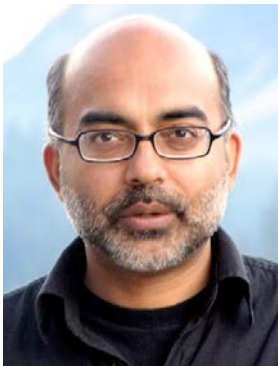


Publication: May 2022

Publisher:
TouchWood Editions

Rights Sold:
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/
translation rights on behalf of
client publisher)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



JASPREET SINGH's non-fiction has appeared in *Granta*, *Brick*, and the *New York Times*. He is the author of the novels *Chef* and *Helium*, the story collection *Seventeen Tomatoes*, the poetry collection *November*, and most recently, the memoir *My Mother, My Translator*. His work has been published internationally and has been translated into several languages. He lives in Calgary.

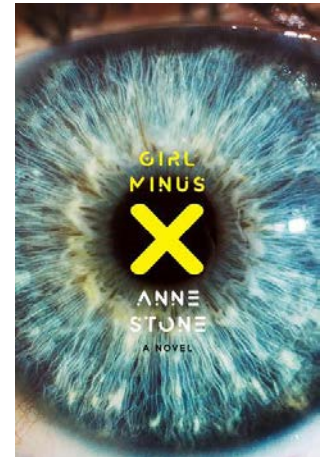
Anne Stone

Girl Minus X

"Stone's brilliant, breathless novel will put readers in mind of Emily St. John Mandel and Margaret Atwood." –Publishers Weekly

"Girl Minus X is what happens when great writing meets a mesmeric, page-turning plot. The best speculative fiction captures what we dimly imagine but intimately feel; and this book wins in its gripping tale of intense social crises, complicated family members, dismal pressures from school and a young woman awakening to her own uncanny power. Anne Stone will captivate both teens and adults alike." –David Chariandy, author of *Soucouyant* and *Brother*

"What if you could let go of your trauma? Now, what if that process was forced on you by a virus that robbed you of all memories? Girl Minus X explores the bonds between humans surviving mid-apocalypse. Nobody writes like Anne Stone. Get prepared for the unthinkable."
–Emily Pohl-Weary, author of *Not Your Ordinary Wolf Girl* and *Ghost Sick*



Publication: October 2020

Publisher:

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/
translation rights on behalf of
client publisher)

Rights Sold:

-OrangeSky Audio/Findaway
(Audio, World English)
-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available

As the world around them collapses under the weight of a slow, creeping virus that erodes memory, fifteen-year-old Dany and her five-year-old sister are on the edge of their own personal apocalypse—fearing separation at the hands of child services. When a dangerous new strain of the virus emerges, Dany careens headlong into crisis, determined to save her sister. Together with her best friend and reluctant history teacher, they must flee the city. Along the way, Dany faces a series of devastating choices: Can she make the dangerous attempt to break her aunt out of the prison-hospice? And just how much is Dany willing to sacrifice to ensure her sister and her friends survive?

Girl Minus X is a meditation on the gift that is memory and its hidden costs, pitting a fear of forgetting against a desire to erase the past.

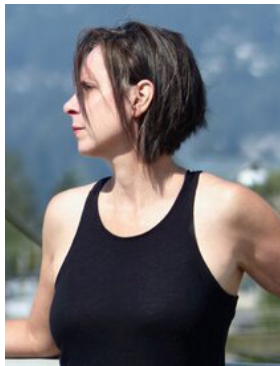


Photo credit: Hiromi Goto

ANNE STONE is the author of three novels, *Delible* (2007), *Hush* (1999) and *jacks: a gothic gospel* (1998). She is currently at work on a collection of short fiction. She spent her childhood in Toronto, lived in Montreal, and now makes her home in Vancouver, where she teaches Creative Writing and Literature at Capilano University.

Moez Surani

The Legend of Baraffo

"A lucid dream of a novel, a fable fierce in its moral clarity and gorgeous at the line level."

–Omar El Akkad, Scotiabank Giller Prize-winning author of *What Strange Paradise*

"Seamlessly pivoting from fairy tale to one of caution, Surani's novel is a sly exploration of power and all that's crushed to maintain it. His language is hypnotic and lush from beginning to end."

–Monique Truong, author of *The Sweetest Fruits*

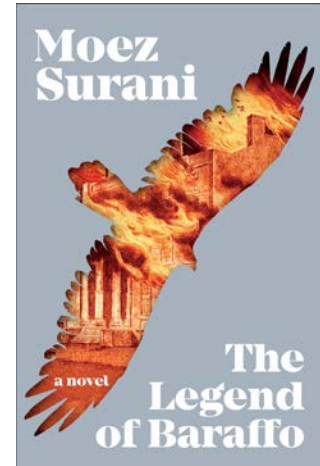
"Moez Surani's The Legend of Baraffo is about revolution and love, political will and will not, hunger striking, friendship, and tender romance. It's about imprisonment, charisma and wit, wordplay and poetry, and the unrelenting search for what is just. Babello, a political prisoner, and Mazzu, an orphan training to be Mayor, are as vivid as any two characters you are ever going to meet. They are indelible and deep and burn bright. This novel is like a lamp underground—it's absolutely brilliant." –Lisa Moore, author of *This Is How We Love*

A mythic work of sweeping literary imagination, *The Legend of Baraffo* speaks to our current social climate and the ingredients for progress.

In Baraffo, a town gripped by revolutionary fervour, a young boy is grappling with the motivations of an arsonist now imprisoned. Why, Mazzu asks, did Babello burn an empty building? Is the mayor, the chief aide, Giulietta—who the boy adores—the prisoner's supporters, or Babello himself to be believed?

When Mazzu decides for himself, and helps Babello to escape in a mesmerizing spectacle, it ignites in the townspeople a desire for more upheaval, and they push for revolution. Years later, now mayor himself, Mazzu toils to quell the roiling instability that Babello unleashed, failing to do so through politics, but succeeding through art and the enchantment of exalted love.

Within an extraordinary world, this coming-of-age story—of a boy and a town—asks prescient questions about the nature of social change: is it better accelerated by those who seek total transformation, or attained by those trying to work within the system?



Publication: September 2023

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:

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-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



MOEZ SURANI'S writing has been published internationally, including in *Harper's Magazine*, *Best American Experimental Writing* 2016, *Best Canadian Poetry*, and *The Globe and Mail*. He has received a Chalmers Arts Fellowship, which supported research in India and East Africa, and he has been an artist-in-residence in Finland, Italy, Latvia, Myanmar, Switzerland, Taiwan, the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada and at MacDowell in the United States. He is the author of four poetry books: *Reticent Bodies* (2009), *Floating Life* (2012), *Operations* (2016), and *Are the Rivers in Your Poems Real* (2019). Surani lives in Toronto.

Aimee Wall

We, Jane

- Nominated for the 2022 Amazon First Novel Award
- Nominated for the 2022 ReLit Award—
- Nominated for the 2021 Scotiabank Giller Prize—
- Shortlisted, BMO Winterset Award—
- Shortlisted, Paragraphe Hugh McLennan Prize for Fiction—
- Shortlisted, Concordia University First Book Prize—
- Longlisted, Grand Prix du livre de Montréal 2021—

"We, Jane is an ode to the power of vulnerability, the potential intensity of connections between women, and the importance of continuing to support women even when it seems impossible."
—The Miramichi Review

"The book is ultimately a feminist tale, one that shows how complicated and manipulative relationships between women can be, while implying the necessity of coming together for a greater purpose. We, Jane is captivating, well written, and mostly an important read for any woman who, through loss, wants to find a new beginning." —Montreal Review of Books

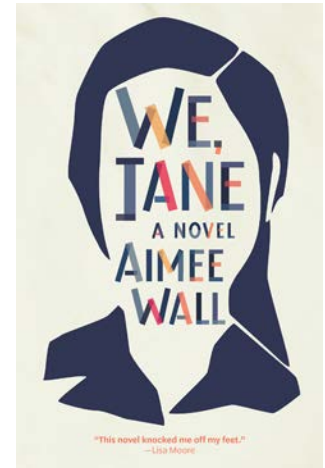
"Wall's first novel is still electric in its fragmented, almost screenplay-like prose that dizzies the mind. The fragments capture abortion's place in public discourse faithfully: something we gesture to, tip toe around, but never quite say openly ... We, Jane provides a personal, honest glimpse into the big questions we as women ask out loud and the small, private ones we only think about."
—Canthius

A remarkable debut about intergenerational female relationships and resistance found in the unlikeliest of places, *We, Jane* explores the precarity of rural existence and the essential nature of abortion.

Searching for meaning in her Montreal life, Marthe begins an intense friendship with an older woman, also from Newfoundland, who tells her a story about purpose, about a duty to fulfill. It's back home, and it goes by the name of Jane.

Marthe travels back to a small community on the island with the older woman to continue the work of an underground movement in 60s Chicago: abortion services performed by women, always referred to as Jane. She commits to learning how to continue this legacy and protect such essential knowledge. But the nobility of her task and the reality of small-town life compete, and personal fractures within their group begin to grow.

We, Jane probes the importance of care work by women for women, underscores the complexity of relationships in close circles, and beautifully captures the inevitable heartache of understanding home.



Publication: April 2021

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:

(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/ translation rights on behalf of client publisher)

-Perce Neige (World French)
-minimum fax (Italy)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



Photo credit: Richmond Lam

Newfoundland-born **AIMEE WALL** is a writer and translator. Her essays, short fiction, and criticism have appeared in numerous publications, including *Maisonnette*, *Matrix Magazine*, the *Montreal Review of Books*, and *Lemon Hound*. Wall's translations include Vickie Gendreau's novels *Testament* (2016) and *Drama Queens* (2019), and *Sports and Pastimes* by Jean-Philippe Baril Guérard (2017). She lives in Montreal. *We, Jane* is her first novel.

Andrew Wilmot

The Death Scene Artist

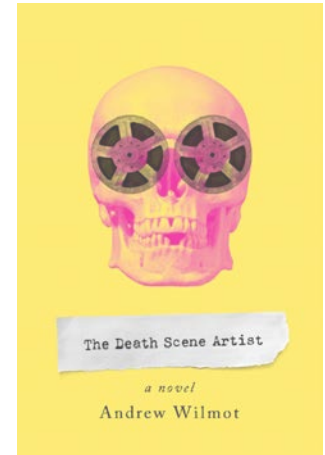
"From the jaw-dropping opening pages when we meet a protagonist perusing their remarkable inventory of 'outfits,' up to the very last page, this novel kept me riveted. This is a wonderful book, surreal, disturbing and liberating in the very best way." –Suzette Mayr, author of *Monoceros*

*"Wilmot brings a sensually complete sense of reality to the unreal worlds of on- and off-screen Hollywood. Wilmot's serious play with language and with form makes *The Death Scene Artist* a hypnotic, surprising novel that doesn't sacrifice emotion for irony."*
–Nathan Ripley, author of *Find You in the Dark*

M_____ is dying of cancer. Only thirty-two, an extra with a meagre list of credits to their name and afraid of being forgotten, M_____ starts recounting the strange, fantastic and ultimately tragic path of their love affair with the world's greatest living "redshirt"—a man who has died or appeared dead in nearly eight hundred film and television roles.

In a compelling narrative of blog entries interspersed with film script excerpts, *The Death Scene Artist* immerses readers in a three-act surrealist exploration of the obsessive fault-finding of body dysmorphia and the dangerous desires of a man who has lived several hundred half-minute lives without having ever experienced his own.

Written in a semi-epistolary format mimicking that of a blog, *The Death Scene Artist* is a three-act surrealist exploration of film industry supplementals, the Cinderella complex, sexual denial, fear of commitment, and the dangerous predilections of a man who has lived several hundred half-minute lives without having ever experienced his own.



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: October 2018

Publisher:

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books

Rights Sold:

-Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books
(North America)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



ANDREW WILMOT is a writer, editor, and painter based out of Toronto, Ontario. They have won awards for fiction, short fiction, and screenwriting, including the Friends of Merril Short Story Contest and ECW Press's Best New Speculative Novel Contest. For seven years they served as co-publisher and co-EIC of the Ignite- and British Fantasy Award-nominated *Anathema: Spec from the Margins*. Their credits include myriad online and in-print publications and anthologies. They are also on the editorial advisory board for Poplar Press, the speculative fiction imprint of Wolsak & Wynn. Books of Andrew's include *The Death Scene Artist* (Buckrider Books, 2018) and *Withered* (ECW Press, 2024). Find them online at andrewwilmot.ca

Daniel Innes and Christina Wong

Denison Avenue

—Finalist, *Canada Reads* 2024—

—Finalist, 2024 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction—

—Finalist, 2024 Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writers Award—

“In Denison Avenue, we watch a recent widow desperately tread water in a city drowning under waves of gentrification. This tender lyrical novel is an anthem of grief, a swan song to cities as we know them and the loved ones we lose along the way.”

—Catherine Hernandez, author and screenwriter of *Scarborough*, the novel and film

“Christina Wong writes from the perspective of an elderly immigrant widow who collects bottles and cans in the streets and alleys of Toronto. It’s a thoughtful account of a difficult journey in a vanishing neighbourhood, complete with time capsule illustrations of Chinatown and Kensington Market by Daniel Innes. Denison Avenue is designed for people like me who fall in between the cracks of culture. I enjoyed reading the phonetic Cantonese and Toisan dialect translations in English that connected me to familiar languages and my neighbourhood.”

—Sook-Yin Lee, filmmaker, musician, and broadcaster



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: May 2023

Publisher: ECW Press

Rights Sold:

-ECW Press (World)

-Film and TV rights available

What happens when home moves further away from you? How do you find it again?

Weaving memories, the past, and the present, graphic novel-novella *Denison Avenue* follows 71-year-old Wong Cho Sum, living in Toronto’s Chinatown-Kensington Market. Following the death of her husband Henry, she decides to take up collecting bottles and cans, as a way to deal with her grief.

On her walks through Toronto, Cho Sum reflects on the life that she had with Henry and the one she must rebuild without him, all the while navigating language barriers, how seniors are viewed, and the changes taking place in her neighbourhood and community.

Told in the form of a double-sided book that encompasses a graphic narrative (wordless images) on one side and a series of vignettes, on the other, *Denison Avenue* combines fiction with local history, weaving past and present, a poignant meditation on grief, loss, and memory.



DANIEL INNES’S extensive portfolio includes painting, installation, graphic and textile design, illustration, sign painting, and tattooing. He uses traditional commercial art techniques, with a focus on the process. He has a special interest in creating works that have the possibility of an immersive physical experience.

Daniel was born in the north end of Toronto and has lived in the Spadina–Chinatown neighbourhood for over 20 years. Watching the neighbourhood change over the years has ended his love affair with Toronto. His time is now spent between Toronto and his studio (Hase House, an artist residency project) in Hyōgo, Japan.

CHRISTINA WONG is an interdisciplinary artist based in Toronto, primarily working as a playwright and writer, who also dabbles in sound installations, audio documentaries, community oral history projects, and photography. Themes of loss and its many iterations, memory, and the portrayal of everyday life have been running threads in her work. Her plays have been performed at Factory Studio, Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace, and Palmerston Library Theatre. Her work has also appeared in *TOK Magazine*, *Spacing*, at the Gladstone Hotel’s Art Hut, and on CJRU 1280AM.

Christina grew up with the sights, smells, and sounds of Toronto’s Chinatown and Kensington Market neighbourhoods, which have shaped her identity and view of the world.



Dan K. Woo

Taobao: Stories

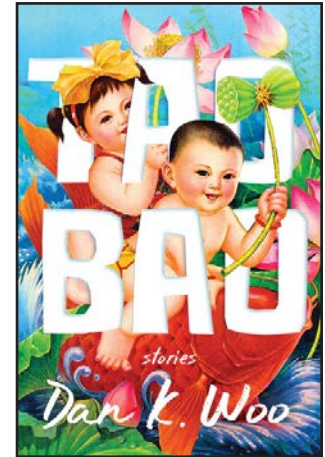
"The effect of the Taobao is striking. Woo's stories make for difficult, often discomforting, but necessary reading. They linger, not always easily, but like the best writing should, long after the book is done." –Aaron Schneider, The Temz Review

"Woo details the shabbiness of urban slums, where derelict buildings and underground tunnels are used to house the city's poorest residents. While the riches of an online merchant like Taobao beckon to everyone, for many, everyday life is a struggle filled with compromises."

–Andrea Geary, Winnipeg Free Press

"Taobao means 'seeking treasure' in Mandarin, and this debut collection by the talented Dan K. Woo is a treasure trove. Set in different places across China, the stories contrast the lives of men and women, locals and foreigners, city dwellers and rural folks and the well off and the hard up, while exposing cultural clashes and delving into sexism and racism. Like Ren Hang's photographs, the stories also serve as snapshots of the sexuality of young people in modern-day China. I really loved this book." –Neil Smith, author of *Boo* and *Jones*

"I loved this book! Taobao is a surreal, bluntly hilarious and fable-like journey through a contemporary and lively China. Woo's short story collection subverts stereotypes, immersing readers in the complicated lives of young people fumbling through family expectations and strict Chinese traditions, all the while discovering and rebelling against their ordinary and/or extraordinary destinies. Written with careful nuance, honesty and tenderness, Woo's characters and world teem with the chaos and complexities of modern-day life. A must-read for readers of short stories." –Lindsay Wong, author of *My Summer of Love* and *Misfortune and The Woo-Woo*



Publication: June 2022

Publisher:

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books

Rights Sold:

(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/translation rights on behalf of client publisher)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available

In twelve spare, fable-like short stories Dan K. Woo introduces us to a fascinating cast of characters from different regions of China. From rural villages to bustling cities, Woo deftly charts the paths of young people searching for love, meaning and happiness in a country that is often misunderstood in North America. Whether they are participating in a marriage market to appease their mother, working as a delivery boy in Beijing or dealing with trauma in a hospital in Shanghai, we see these young people push against both tradition and the lightning-fast economy to try and make their way in often difficult situations. Woo brings remarkable empathy to these dreamlike stories and their twists and turns, which will linger long in readers' minds. Through it all, the spectre of Taobao—China's online retail giant—hovers, providing everything the characters might need or want, while also acting as a thread that ties together a captivating and complex collection of stories set in a captivating and complex country.



Photo credit: Gong Shoupeng

DAN K. WOO's family came to Canada in the 1970s. His grandfather was a fire captain and the first firefighter to die on duty in British Hong Kong, partly a result of the British colonial system. In 2018, Woo won the Ken Klonsky Award for *Learning How to Love China* (Quattro Books). His writing has appeared in such publications as the *South China Morning Post*, *Quill & Quire* and *China Daily USA*. A Toronto native, he lives with his partner in the city and writes in his free time. He is currently studying at the Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst and SANS Institute.

Lindsay Zier-Vogel

Letters to Amelia

"A tender portrait of heartbreak and a thoughtful ode to new motherhood. Letters to Amelia is an endorsement of finding our own ways to heal, and a celebration of that big, messy, wonderful journey of coming into one's own. Charming and beautifully rendered, this is a big-hearted hopeful novel, full of life and love."

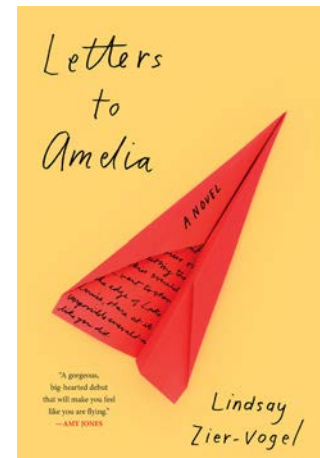
—Stacey May Fowles, author of *Baseball Life Advice: Loving the Game that Saved Me*

"When we think of Amelia Earhart, we think enigmatic adventurer and feminist pioneer—and, of course, of her mysterious disappearance. But in Letters to Amelia, we meet a different Amelia Earhart, as seen through the eyes of Grace, the novel's protagonist, a young library tech tasked with reading her letters: an Amelia who is funny, charming, joyful, sad, and most of all, full of life. Zier-Vogel writes with uncanny empathy about heartbreak, friendship, motherhood, and the common threads that connect women across time, geography, and even between earth and sky. Letters to Amelia is a gorgeous, big-hearted debut that will make you feel like you are flying, and Zier-Vogel is a writer whose career is about to soar." —Amy Jones, author of *Every Little Piece of Me*

"Brimming over with Lindsay Zier-Vogel's obvious love for the story of Amelia Earhart, Letters to Amelia is a wonderful novel about flight and passion, about love-letters and reaching out; a novel about how we never know quite what's coming next, but still keep launching ourselves into the blue tomorrow." —Jon McGregor, Booker Prize longlisted author of *Reservoir 13*

"Letters to Amelia invites us to hold our heroines close and to take heart—it is gentle and joyous, full of tenderness, alive and sturdy with hope."

—Anne Michaels, author of *Fugitive Pieces* and *The Winter Vault*



Publication: September 2021

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:

(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/translation rights on behalf of client publisher)

—Translation/UK/ANZ rights available

Grace Porter is reeling from grief after her partner of seven years unexpectedly leaves. Amidst her heartache, the thirty-year-old library tech is tasked with reading newly discovered letters that Amelia Earhart wrote to her lover, Gene Vidal. She becomes captivated by the famous pilot who disappeared in 1937. Letter by letter, Grace understands more about Amelia while piecing her own life back together.

When Grace discovers she is pregnant, her life becomes more intertwined with the aviation hero and she begins to write her own letters to Amelia. While navigating her third trimester—amidst new conspiracy theories about Amelia's mysterious disappearance, the search for her remains, and the impending publication of her private letters—Grace goes on a pilgrimage of her own.

Underscoring the power of reading and writing letters for self-discovery, *Letters to Amelia* is, above all, a story of the essential need for connection—and our universal ability to find hope in the face of fear.



LINDSAY ZIER-VOGEL is a Toronto-based writer, arts educator and the creator of the internationally-acclaimed Love Lettering Project. After studying contemporary dance, she received her MA in Creative Writing from the University of Toronto. Her writing has been widely published in Canada and the U.K. Since 2001, she has been teaching creative writing workshops in schools and communities. Her hand-bound books are housed in the permanent collection at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library in Toronto. As the creator of the Love Lettering Project, Lindsay has asked people all over the world to write love letters to their communities and hide them for strangers to find, spreading place-based love. Lindsay also writes children's books. Because of The Love Lettering Project, CBC Radio has deemed Lindsay a "national treasure." *Letters to Amelia* is her first book.

nonfiction

Gary Barwin

Imagining Imagining: Essays on Language, Identity and Infinity

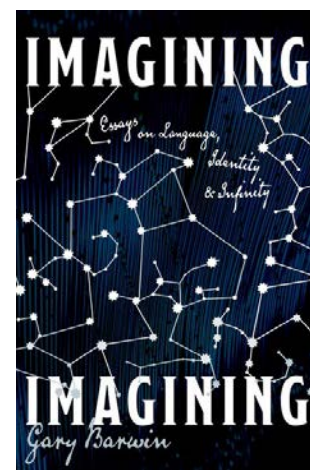
"Reading Gary Barwin is like zipping from one awe-inspiring corner of the galaxy to the next and being privy to the intricate, inner connections of everything you see along the way. From life with beloved dogs through to ampersands, first kisses and the invisible, entangled bonds of diaspora, this book plays witness to the interconnected moments of our lives in all of their splendour and surprise. Barwin is a master at detailing the invisible—and sometimes unexpected—threads that illuminate and bind a life together, and reading this book will make you come away from it that much more appreciative of the threads that illuminate your own."

—Amanda Leduc, author of *The Centaur's Wife* and *Disfigured: On Fairy Tales, Disability, and Making Space*

"It makes sense that a Canadian writer born in Northern Ireland to South African Jewish parents of Lithuanian descent might ask 'Where is home?' and might write from and towards this question. But one soon discovers in Gary Barwin's Imagining Imagining that he not only finds his home in language but invites us into it with warmth, humour and a roving curiosity, sharing his own journeys in relation to words, to writing, to publishing. There is a Yiddish saying—'the tongue is not in exile'—and Imagining Imagining, a generous work of home seeking and home building, invites us to speak the world into being together." —David Naimon, Between the Covers podcast

Award-winning author Gary Barwin has written poems, novels and books for children. He's composed music, created multimedia art and performed around the world. Now he has turned his talented pen to essays.

In *Imagining Imagining: Essays on Language, Identity and Infinity*, Barwin thinks deeply about big ideas: story and identity; art and death; how we communicate and why we dream. From his childhood home in Ireland to his long-time home in Hamilton, Barwin shares the thoughts that keep him up at night (literally) and the ideas that keep him creating. Filled with witty asides, wise stories and a generosity of spirit that is unmistakable, these are essays that readers will turn to again and again.



Publication: November 2023

Publisher: Wolsak & Wynn

Rights Sold:

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-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



Photo credit: George Qua-Enoo

GARY BARWIN Gary Barwin is a writer, composer and multidisciplinary artist and the author of twenty-six books including *Nothing the Same*, *Everything Haunted: The Ballad of Motl the Cowboy*, which won the Canadian Jewish Literary Award. His national bestselling novel *Yiddish for Pirates* won the Leacock Medal for Humour and the Canadian Jewish Literary Award, was a finalist for the Governor General's Award for Fiction and the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and was long-listed for *Canada Reads*.

Barwin has been writer-in-residence at University of Toronto (Scarborough), Laurier, Western University, McMaster University and the Hamilton Public Library, Hillfield Strathallan College, Sheridan College and Young Voices E-Writer-in-Residence at the Toronto Public Library. He has taught creative writing at a number of colleges and universities, to at-risk youth in Hamilton through the ArtForms program and currently mentors through the Vancouver Manuscript Intensive. His writing has been published in hundreds of magazines and journals internationally and his writing, music, media works and visuals have been presented and broadcast internationally. Though born in Northern Ireland to South African parents of Ashkenazi descent, Barwin lives in Hamilton, Ontario, and at garybarwin.com.

Michelle Bilodeau and Karen Cleveland

The New Wedding Book: A Guide to Ditching All the Rules

*"We're in an age of redefinition, when so many 'traditional' institutions are getting a much-needed update, and the wedding business is no exception. I've always been cringed out by the 'classic' North American wedding standard, but this book takes an industry steeped in capitalist excess, heteronormativity, and conformism and shows skeptics like me that getting married can actually be an accessible, personal, and—*gasp*—romantic process, after all."*

—Amanda Montell, author of *Wordslut: A Feminist Guide to Taking Back the English Language* and *Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism*

"Relationships are not one-size fits all so why should weddings be? This book outlines the many ways you can make sure that your big day is not another generic pre-scripted event, but a daz-zling reflection of your unique love."

—Cynthia Loyst, bestselling author of *Find Your Pleasure: The Art Of Living A More Joyful Life*

"This book is mandatory reading for every modern woman who wants to actually enjoy her journey to marriage. It's the best time in history to be a woman with ambition—and society's wedding culture has some catching up to do. You are holding a hilarious and heart-felt permission slip and guide to plan your wedding and life on your terms."

—Charreah K. Jackson, coach and author of *Boss Bride: The Powerful Woman's Playbook for Love + Success*

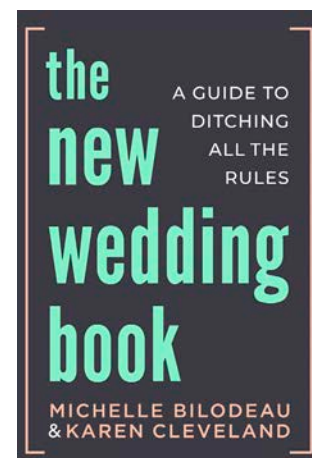
Plan your wedding without the weight of outdated customs and get hitched in a way that is authentic, fun, and true to who you are.

"But you're getting married! You have to!"

That empty statement is on the other end of everything from jaw-droppingly expensive dresses, staged proposal engagement photo shoots, and reception selfie stations. From the minute they become engaged, there's a script that couples are pressured to follow.

By breaking down the antiquated traditions of that #blessedweddingday, this book will help betrothed pairs throw the icky bridal traditions to the curb in honour of getting the wedding of their actual dreams—not the one we've been force-fed for decades by the wedding industrial complex.

Inspiring couples to plan their wedding in a way that is meaningful to them, *The New Wedding Book* debunks the "traditions," makes sense of realistic budgets, offers brilliant advice from real-life couples, and confronts the crushing pressure for weddings to be perfect.



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: April 2021

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

-Tantor Media

(Audio, World English)

-Dundurn (North America, English)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



MICHELLE BILODEAU and **KAREN CLEVELAND** are Toronto-based writers. They are friends, frequent collaborators and regular media contributors. They met as colleagues when working at a magazine. Karen asked Michelle to lunch for dating advice and the rest was history.

Between them, they have written for most of the major publications in Canada, including, the *Toronto Star*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Fashion Magazine*, *Refinery29* Canada and more. They have also both appeared on television, including *CP24*, *The Social*, *eTalk* and the like.

They allege to be clever, charming and (a little bit) funny.

Eden Boudreau

Crying Wolf

"Boudreau's early passion for writing and reading turned out to be key to her recovery. On the advice of her therapist, she took up her pen and joined a writing retreat with a literary idol. In the end, she weighed the potential shame of going public with a trial against taking charge of her own story and how it would be told. Crying Wolf is the result of that choice: a battle cry for women who have survived assault." –Suzanne Kamata, Foreword Reviews

"Eden Boudreau's debut memoir is a searing and unflinching record of the assault and aftermath of sexual violence. Admirers of Alice Sebold and Sarah Polley should make room on their shelf for this evocative account of rape by a third partner within a polyamorous marriage—and the internal and systemic wounds which occur as a result. With her incisive wit, heartbreaking insight, and riveting storytelling, Boudreau has earned my admiration as both a talented writer and a steadfast survivor." –Amber Cowie, author of *Last One Alive*

"Crying Wolf is a phoenix rising from the ash of Boudreau's pain. In her stunning and eloquent debut, Boudreau takes readers on a harrowing journey through some of her darkest days, while holding a mirror to a society that perpetuates the shaming of those who live in the margins. Readers will close Crying Wolf with a sense of having been changed by the story of healing and returning to oneself, but most of all, will find themselves hopeful for the future."

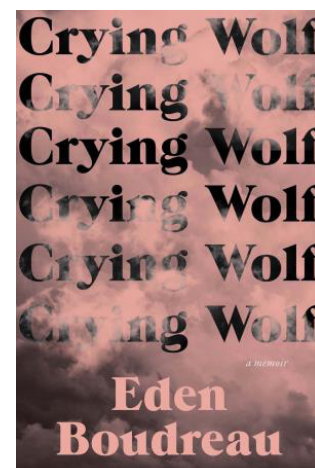
–Kelly S. Thompson, bestselling author of *Girls Need Not Apply* and *Still, I Cannot Save You*

It's a tale as old as time. Girl meets boy. Boy wants girl. Girl says no. Boy takes what he wants anyway. After a violent sexual assault, Eden Boudreau was faced with a choice: call the police and explain that a man who wasn't her husband, who she had agreed to go on a date with, had just raped her. Or go home and pray that, in the morning, it would be only a nightmare.

In the years that followed, Eden was met with disbelief by strangers, friends, and the authorities, often as a result of stigma towards her non-monogamy, sex positivity, and bisexuality. Societal conditioning of acceptable female sexuality silenced her to a point of despair, leading to addiction and even attempted suicide. It was through the act of writing that she began to heal.

Crying Wolf is a gripping memoir that shares the raw path to recovery after violence and spotlights the ways survivors are too often demonized or ignored when they belong to marginalized communities.

Boudreau heralds a new era for others who were dismissed for "crying wolf." After all, women prevailing to change society for others is a tale as old as time, too.



Publication: March 2023

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:

(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/translation rights on behalf of client publisher)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



Photo credit: Eden Boudreau

EDEN BOUDREAU was born and raised in a small rural area just outside Halifax. In 2016, she relocated to Ontario with her husband and three sons. As a bisexual, polyamorous woman who has survived her fair share of adversity, Eden's work draws on her life experiences to inspire vulnerable and relatable stories. Her essays have been featured in *Flare*, *Today's Parent*, and *Runner's World*, amongst others. She is the host and creator of The Lonely Writers Podcast, aimed at destigmatizing mental health struggles during the writing process. Boudreau lives in Georgina, Ontario. *Crying Wolf* is her first book.

River Halen

Dream Rooms

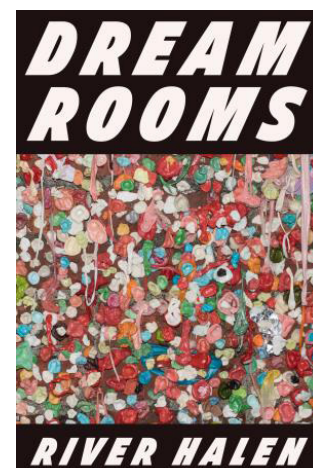
"These pages are like the best conversations I have had with poets, relentlessly pushing through the mystery together. There is no choice but to learn a new way to hold what we think we know or drop it on the ground. 'When you hurt one of us you hurt us all,' writes River Halen in a book I would buy for you if I knew you, driven to share this brilliant conversation."

—CAConrad, author of *AMANDA PARADISE: Resurrect Extinct Vibration*

"A quick-witted, momentum-filled, tender rebellion of a book."

—Chase Joynt, director of *Framing Agnes* and co-author of *You Only Live Twice: Sex, Death and Transition*

Part essay, part poem, part fever dream journal entry, *Dream Rooms* is a book about personal revolution, about unravelling a worldview to make space for different selves and realities. Set in the years that led up to author River Halen coming out as trans, this collection concerns itself with what sits on the surface of daily life, hidden in plain view, hungry for address—what it means to take a stranger's pet rabbit to the vet in a year of accelerating extinctions, to lose your clothes to a moth infestation then buy a duvet made of fossil fuels, to learn your bookshelf is full of work written by rapists and rape apologists, to consider a birth control device as a narrative about bodies and their possibilities, then pull the string. Deeply queer and trans not only in its content but in its thinking, *Dream Rooms* invites readers to that place in consciousness where fear and desire, hidden information and common knowledge brush up against each other and are mutually transformed.



Publication: October 2022

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:

(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/translation rights on behalf of client publisher)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available

Photo credit: Justine Latour



RIVER HALEN is a non-binary transgender writer of Catalan and Danish descent born in Surrey, BC, on unceded Coast Salish land and now living in Tio'tia:ke (Montreal). Their poems and essays dealing with relation, ecology, transformation, and sexuality have been published widely in Canada, the U.S., Australia, and Japan. They have been shortlisted for the Trillium Book Award for Poetry and a National Magazine Award and selected for inclusion in *Best Canadian Essays*.

Erika Nielsen

Sound Mind: From Chaos to Composure

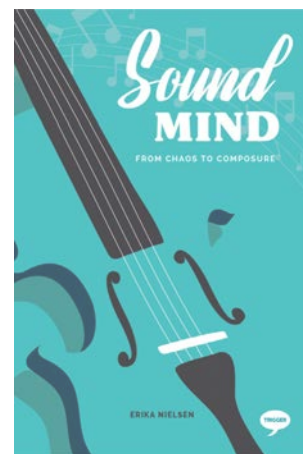
—Winner, 2019 Nautilus Book Awards—

—Winner, Canada Book Awards—

—Finalist, 2020 Next Generation Indie Book Awards—

“Erika Nielsen has done what few others have achieved in the ever-widening bipolar disorder literature: combine a first-person account with an instructional guide for self-care. She tells the story of how she discovered her bipolar disorder and learned to live with it, continued to make use of her musical talents, and learned to achieve her goals within the limits the disorder imposes. Readers will appreciate her insightful recommendations for managing the disorder on a day-to-day basis. This book will be especially helpful to those who learn by example.”

—David J. Miklowitz, Director Integrative Study Center in Mood Disorders, UCLA Semel Institute and author of *The Bipolar Disorder Survival Guide*



Subjects: Memoir/self-help, mental health

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: March 2019

Publisher: Trigger Publishing

Rights Sold:

-Trigger Publishing (World English)

-Translation rights available

Erika Nielsen, a young cellist, believed the extreme euphoric highs and crushing lows she experienced were a normal part of being a musician—that they made her more creative, productive, and in demand. When she became the musician she always dreamed of being Principal Cellist of an orchestra, she embarked on gruelling red-eye commutes, an impossible workload, and experienced alarming symptoms had her—and others—question her choices. Meanwhile, Erika suspected that she had something more than just “normal” ups and downs. That all ended when, in a frenzy of hypomania, Erika consulted a psychiatrist, who gave her a shocking diagnosis: bipolar disorder, type I. Now faced with treating a major mental illness, Erika was forced to turn her frenetic life around.

Sound Mind: From Chaos to Composure chronicles Erika’s journey through accepting her diagnosis, learning about her condition, and through one habit at a time, taking the necessary steps towards a new normal in learning to live with a mental illness. Erika covers everything from finding the right medication to nutrition to developing a support team, and offers useful tips and insights that will help readers of all ages take charge of their own lives and their own mental health.

Both a practical guide for those living with bipolar disorder and other mental health conditions, and an inspiring story about Erika’s journey to cope with it, *Sound Mind* is a valuable resource for anyone struggling with mental health issues, as well as their friends and family. With actionable steps and a positive message, *Sound Mind* is dedicated to offering hope and ending the stigma towards mental illness.

ERIKA NIELSEN is a multi-genre Canadian cellist who defies the odds of mental illness in her first book, *Sound Mind: From Chaos to Composure*. Erika has a multi-faceted career as a chamber musician, collaborative artist, orchestral player and educator, with a musicianship that spans Baroque and Classical traditions to Contemporary and Popular genres. She has had the privilege of performing with artists such as Grammy-winning Kanye West for both MTV Canada and *Live at the Concert Hall* series, and with Juno-winning Johnny Reid for *Canada’s Walk of Fame*. Based in Toronto, she performs as a chamber musician, as well as rock albums with *Classic Albums Live*, with 25-piece Toronto Motown band The Big Sound, and throughout Canada and the USA with ELO tribute Strange Magic. As a writer, Erika is a blog contributor to *BPHope*, a magazine for people with bipolar disorder, and is the author of wellness and mental health blog, *Sound Mind*. A passionate educator, Erika maintains a busy private studio and recently joined the faculty of National Music Camp of Canada. Also a visual artist, her collection of paintings, *Chromaticism*, has been showcased in both Toronto and Sudbury.

Visit Erika’s website at www.celloerika.com. You can also find her on www.soundmindbook.com.



Photo credit: Trish Lindström

Bahar Orang

Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty

"A strikingly lyric thoughtful new voice, Orang writes with the knowledge that feeling is intelligence and thought is sensory. 'What happens to beauty when it's removed from its own dirt?' Beauty is tangled with language, with a lover, with medicine, flowers, ocean, care, and compassion. These explorations are insightful, incisive, and beautiful—and yes, touching."

—Gary Barwin, Scotiabank Giller Prize-shortlisted author of *Yiddish for Pirates*

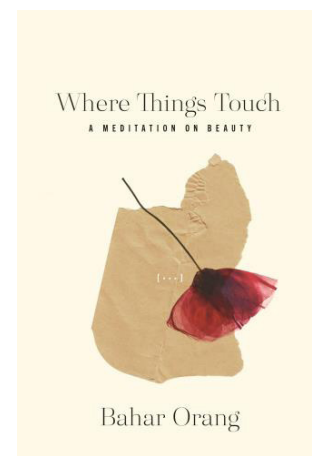
"Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty is an erotic conversation with the manifold relations of beauty. Refracted through the lens of caregiving and caretaking, Bahar Orang's lyric voice roams through poetry, Persian myth, and hospitals to enchant the everyday, returning us to an intimacy beyond the page—back to the body. Orang guides us with heart-centred intelligence in this beautiful and wise book." —Shazia Hafiz Ramji, author of *Port of Being*

To devote oneself to the study of beauty is to offer footnotes to the universe for all the places and all the moments that one observes beauty. I can no longer grab beauty by her wrists and demand articulation or meaning. I can only take account of where things touch.

Part lyric essay, part prose poetry, *Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty* grapples with the manifold meanings and possibilities of beauty.

Drawing on her experiences as a physician-in-training, Orang considers clinical encounters and how they relate to the concept and very idea of beauty. Such considerations lead her to questions about intimacy, queerness, home, memory, love, and other aspects of human experience. Throughout, beauty is ultimately imagined as something inextricably tied to care: the care of lovers, on patients, of art and literature and the various non-human worlds that surround us.

Eloquent and meditative in its approach, beauty, here, beyond base expectations of frivolity and superficiality, is conceived of as a thing to recover. *Where Things Touch* is an exploration of an essential human pleasure, a necessary freedom by which to challenge what we know of ourselves and the world we inhabit.



Subjects: Essays, aesthetics

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Photo credit: Mel Mikhail

BAHAR ORANG is a writer and physician-in-training living in Toronto. She has a BASc from McMaster University and an MA in Comparative Literature, from the University of Toronto. She completed her MD at McMaster University, and is now completing specialty training in psychiatry in Toronto. Her poetry and essays have been published in such places as *GUTS*, *Hamilton Arts & Letters*, *CMAJ*, and *Ars Medica*. *Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty* is her first book.

Amanda Orlando

Everyone's Welcome: The Art of Living and Eating Allergen Free

"Amanda Orlando hasn't let her food allergies stop her from making food a treasured part of her life." –The New Family Podcast

"If you or someone you love has severe food allergies and dietary restrictions, Amanda Orlando's new cookbook is for you ... Everyone's Welcome is definitely a book for kitchen novices as well as more experienced cooks with dietary conditions to consider. But Orlando's offerings transcend the book's allergen-free focus, underlined by the subtitle: The Art of Living and Eating Allergen Free with an emphasis on the art of living and eating ... a delight." –EAT

Based on her experiences with anaphylaxis and living in a family with multiple food allergies, author Amanda Orlando grew up with few resources about coping with anaphylaxis both in her own kitchen and in other's. Through years of self-education, Amanda collected recipes, found substitutions, and food brands to suit her requirements. Having previously published another cookbook for allergen-free desserts, and a popular online platform through her blog and writing projects, Amanda is eager to further share her knowledge and experiences. It's resources like these that she wished she had while growing up.

The recipes in *Everyone's Welcome* dispel the myth that allergen-free foods are also flavour-free and fun-free. The allergens that each recipe is free from are clearly listed. Ranging from breakfast to dinner, and quick snacks, there is something for everyone. The simplicity of the recipes will suit readers who are on the go, such as students, busy parents, professionals, and those with little time to cook. Recipes will be accompanied by Amanda's stunning photography.

Recent statistics show that in the United States, 8% of children have food allergies, and among that number, almost 40% have a history of severe allergic reactions to food and 30% have multiple food allergies. In Canada, food allergies are present in 10% of children in urban areas, and 6% who are in rural areas. Food allergies are on the rise, and this book will be increasingly useful not just to immediate sufferers, but to their family, their friends, coworkers, teachers, and camp counsellors; it's a book for all ages.



Subjects: Cooking, lifestyle

Agent: Kelvin Kong

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AMANDA ORLANDO is the author and photographer of *Allergen-Free Desserts*, and is the co-founder of EverydayAllergenFree.com, a site for teens and young adults living with food allergies. In her spare time she loves to cook and bake, and can be found in the kitchen for hours on end. Her photography is inspired by bright, fresh ingredients and her family's Italian recipes. Her focus is inclusivity for people with allergies or other dietary restrictions; in her kitchen, everyone's welcome. Amanda currently lives in Toronto.

Hana Shafi

Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty: Affirmations for the Real World

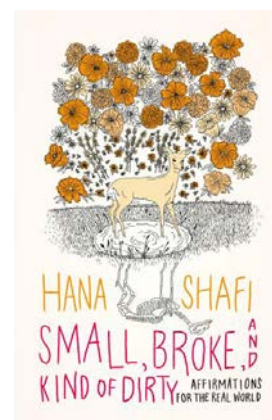
“With her brash wit and honesty on display, this is the book that Frizz Kid/Hana Shafi fans (and new fans) have been waiting for.” —Vivek Shraya, author of The Subtweet

“Reading this book not only makes us feel more hopeful, it might just make us smarter, too.” —Bif Naked, Singer and songwriter

Let’s get one thing straight: *Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty: Affirmations for the Real World* is not a book of advice. You’re not going to find a step-by-step guide to meditation here, or even reminders to drink lots of water and get enough sleep. Those things are all good for you, but that’s not what Hana Shafi wants to talk about.

Instead, *Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty*—built around art from Shafi’s popular online affirmation series—focuses on our common and never-ending journey of self-discovery. It explores the ways in which the world can all too often wear us down, and reminds us to remember our worth, even when it’s hard to do so. Drawing on her experience as a millennial woman of colour, and writing with humour and a healthy dose of irreverence, Shafi delves into body politics and pop culture, racism and feminism, friendship, and allyship. Through it all, she remains positive without being saccharine, and hopeful without being naive.

So no, this is not an advice book: it’s a call to action, one that asks us to remember that we are valid as we are—flaws and all—and to not let the bastards grind us down.



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HANA SHAFI (a.k.a. Frizz Kid) is a writer and artist. Her visual art and writing frequently explores themes such as feminism, body politics, racism, and pop culture. Her first book, *It Begins with the Body*, was listed by CBC as one of the Best Poetry Books of 2018. A graduate of Ryerson University’s Journalism Program, she has published articles in *The Walrus*, *Hazlitt*, *THIS Magazine*, and *Torontoist*, and has been featured on BuzzFeed, CBC, and in *Flare*, *Shameless*, and *The New York Times*. Known on

Instagram for her weekly affirmation series, Shafi is the recipient of the 2017 Women Who Inspire Award, from the Canadian Council for Muslim Women. Born in Dubai, Shafi immigrated with her family to Mississauga, in 1996. She lives and works in Toronto.

Erin Wunker

Notes from a Feminist Killjoy: Essays on Everyday Life

—Winner, 2017 Evelyn Richardson Non-fiction Award —
 —Winner, 2017 Margaret and John Savage First Book Award —
 —Finalist for the 2017 Atlantic Book Award for Scholarly Writing—
 —Quill and Quire 2016 Book of the Year Selection—
 —Best Book of 2017, *The Coast* Halifax—

"This book offers a powerful plea for a feminism that is willing to kill any joy that derives from inequality and injustice. All feminist killjoys will want this book on their shelves!"

—Sara Ahmed, former director of the Centre for Feminist Research and professor of Race and Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths (London), and author of *Living a Feminist Life*

"Wunker renders the label 'feminist killjoy' one that readers can be proud to wear."

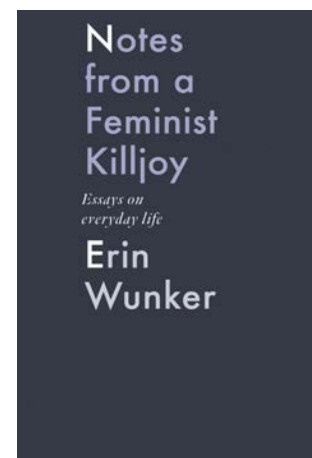
—Becky Robertson, Quill and Quire (starred review)

"Notes from a Feminist Killjoy is an answer to what is needed now—a self-consciously contingent rejoinder to the question of 'who needs feminism?'"—Christina Turner, rabble.ca

Erin Wunker is a feminist killjoy, and she thinks you should be one, too.

Following in the tradition of Sara Ahmed (the originator of the concept "feminist killjoy"), Wunker brings memoir, theory, literary criticism, pop culture, and feminist thinking together in this collection of essays that take up Ahmed's project as a multi-faceted lens through which to read the world from a feminist point of view.

Neither totemic nor complete, the non-fiction essays that make up *Notes from a Feminist Killjoy: Essays on Everyday Life* attempt to think publicly about why we need feminism, and especially why we need the figure of the feminist killjoy, now. From the complicated practices of being a mother and a feminist, to building friendship amongst women as a community-building and -sustaining project, to writing that addresses rape culture from the Canadian context and beyond, *Notes from a Feminist Killjoy: Essays on Everyday Life* invites the reader into a conversation about gender, feminism, and living in our inequitable world.



Subjects: Essays, feminism

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Photo credit: Bart Vautour

ERIN WUNKER is Chair of the Board of the national non-profit organization Canadian Women in the Literary Arts (www.cwila.com) and co-founder, writer, and managing editor of the feminist academic blog Hook & Eye: Fast Feminism, Slow Academe. She teaches courses in Canadian literature and cultural production with a special focus on cultural production by women. She lives in Halifax with her partner, their daughter, and Marley the dog. *Notes from a Feminist Killjoy* is Wunker's first book.

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