



K2 Literary  
*Fall 2025*





# K2 Literary

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*fiction*

# Ryad Assani-Razaki

## The Hand of Iman

—Winner, Robert Cliche Prize 2011—

—Finalist, 2011 Governor Generals Award for French-Language Fiction—

*"[The Hand of Iman] confirms the value of this writer's work. A strong work endowed with an extraordinary sensitivity, which takes into account both the commitment—child trafficking, the burdens of the colonial past, the condition of women, emigration, run through the novel, and the aesthetic requirements that literary creation assumes."* –Le devoir

*[...] a work as layered as it is urgent ...* –The Globe and Mail

Dreaming is a luxury that few can afford. And yet, however inadvisedly, Iman dreams.

In an unnamed African country devoured by rampant urbanization and haunted by the mirages of Western prosperity, where for a few CFA francs a child can be bought and sold for slavery, Toumani's earliest education is in the tolerance of suffering. He endures one master then the next, holding his survival—his very self—with open hands.

For Iman, a black and white biracial boy with an elusive presence, the only viable option appears to be an escape to bountiful Europe, where everything must be easier. Obsessed with this idyllic elsewhere to the point of losing himself completely, he remains, for those close to him, an object of fascination difficult to define.

When Iman reaches out his hand to rescue Toumani from certain death, he sets in motion a friendship that may satisfy their need for connection but cannot fundamentally change their circumstances. What is the point of survival without hope for a more livable future? And what happens to them when they both love the same girl?

In this stunning translation of Ryad Assani-Razaki's award-winning debut novel, dreaming is luxury that few can afford. And yet, however inadvisedly, Iman dreams.



**Publication:**

English: August 2025

French: 2011

**Publisher:** House of Anansi

**Rights Sold:**

-House of Anansi  
(English, North America)

-L'Hexagone Éditeur  
(French, World)

-Verlag Klaus Wagenbach  
(Germany)

-UK/ANZ/Translation rights  
available



**RYAD ASSANI-RAZAKI** was born in 1981 in Cotonou in the West African state of Benin. His writing, something he already began in early youth, remains influenced today more than anything else by his regular visits to Benin. In 2009, his short story collection *Deux cercles* (tr. Two Circles), was awarded the the Trillium Book Award. His debut novel, the Governor General's award-nominated *La main d'Iman* (2011; tr. *The Hand of Iman*), drew from many years of research to create from the stories of people who otherwise remain unheard, in a prototypical, fictitious state in Africa as the location where the story takes place.

# Erin Brubacher

## These Songs We Know by Heart

*"A thoughtful, searching novel about connection and love in all its many forms, from fleeting encounters with strangers to bonds with chosen kin. There is a deep generosity in these reflections on art and friendship, uncertainty and loss, and a beautiful openness to the world. This book left me feeling less alone."* –Aimee Wall, author of *We, Jane*

*"Erin Brubacher's gorgeous new book is a collection of stylish, original and artfully observed sketches of 21st century romance and modern friendship, and her optimism about the tiny beautiful connections we make in life is happy-making. These Songs I Know By Heart is an odd, winsome, and winning piece of writing."* –Hannah Moscovitch, Governor General's Literary Award-winning author of *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes*

*"Brubacher's novel shows off the same flair for dramatic intimacy that makes her such a sought-after collaborator in the theatre world. It's a brisk, poetic, relatable read."*

–Aisling Murphy, *Toronto Star*



**Publication:** May 2024

**Publisher:** Book\*hug

**Rights Sold:**

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

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available

Married and divorced in her 20s, looking for friendship in her 30s, and contemplating pregnancy at 40, our narrator wonders if she's going through life out of order. But Alice, The Turtle, The Kid, and other beloveds show her that motherhood is more than giving birth, art is never finished, and love is not linear.

Through a three-day canoe trip, chance encounters, fierce female friendship, step-parenting, IVE, pandemic isolation, and quiet moments between humans, *These Songs I Know By Heart* weaves vignettes of everyday mythology into an absorbing and honest meditation on the connections in our lives. With razor-sharp reflection, humour, and most of all love, we are reminded that there's no formula to life and that instead, we must celebrate what makes the small moments of our lives extraordinary.



Photo Credit: Philippa Croft

**ERIN BRUBACHER** is a multidisciplinary artist. She is the author of the poetry collection *In the small hours: Thirty-nine months & seven days* and co-author of the hybrid, performance-based book *7th Cousins: An Automythography*. Her award-winning work in theatre has taken her to contexts including the National Arts Centre (Ottawa), the Aga Khan Museum (Toronto), Festival Internacional Cervantino (Mexico), Theater der Welt (Germany), and the Edinburgh International Festival (UK). Erin lived in ten cities before returning to Toronto, where she makes a home with her husband and four children.

# Matt Cahill

## The Stars Align for Disco Santa

Praise for *Radioland*:

*"A triumph in psychological-disaster storytelling, Radioland blasts across the airwaves with an enviable power and originality."* –The Minerva Review

*"The world of Radioland is vivid, and its character driven story makes you want to learn all there is to know about Kris and Jill, and all the interesting side characters that go along with them. Radioland lets you reap the rewards with an explosive ending as these characters finally face their demons head on. 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."*

–Ampersand Review

Marcus is living the dream. Quite literally, it turns out. One fateful day at his tech startup, he finds a sticky note on his desk containing a cryptic message about his ex-girlfriend that draws him into a labyrinthine quest through chaotic film sets, sailing the violent waves of Lake Ontario on a virus-infected author cruise, destined to land on Monster Island . . . only to discover he's been working in a stupor as a bookstore employee all this time, under the effects of a powerful medical prototype that has created a life-like inner world for him to experience, a world drawn from his and others' memories, including his ex-girlfriend, Marta, and his mysterious half-sister, Jocelyn, who happens to be the architect of the experiment.

Evoking the hit Apple TV+ series *Severance* and reminiscent of Murakami's *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, *The Stars Align for Disco Santa* is a heartfelt satire of misplaced desire and the limits of our control, a fast-paced novel that is as much about family and grief as it is an offbeat joyride through the not-so-funhouse of the psyche, asking the question: What matters?

Cover  
to  
come

**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

Manuscript 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.

# Kate Cayley

## Property

*"Beautifully bleak and ultimately tragic, Property's sole consolation results from its own singular beauty, which is paradoxical in an account of the human condition that disturbs with such grim certitude."* –Quill and Quire

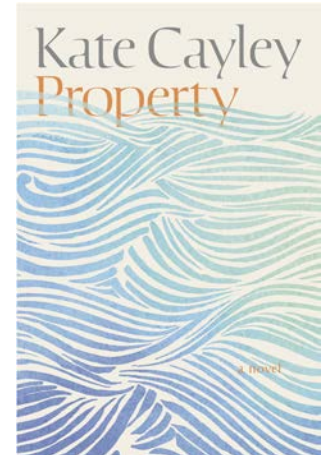
*"Cayley masterfully renders each character's inner world, showing how their fears and prejudices are amplified by loneliness. It's an unflinching tale of a community's fragile bonds."*

–Publishers Weekly

*"Holy crap! What a novel. It's about a day but also about deep time. About knowing your neighbours and not having the least clue about your neighbours — or, frankly, your loved ones. Keenly observed, superbly crafted, taut, surprising, unflinching, tender, sharply circumscribed and truly expansive, Property is a wonder."* –Anne Fleming, author of *Curiosities: A Novel*

*"Kate Cayley's Property is both minutely observed and movingly kaleidoscopic, a meditation on fate, accident, free will, and of the elusive and illusive qualities of selfhood. Its questions and hopes—layered into a single day on a single street—are a living, breathing presence."*

–Madeleine Thien, author of *The Book of Records*



**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publication:** October 2025

**Publisher:** Coach House Books

**Rights Sold:**

–Coach House Books (World)

The day begins ordinarily, and by evening, someone is dead.

*Property* takes place over the course of a single spring day in an uneasily gentrifying urban neighbourhood, through several points of view, including Nat, a queer mother of two, the younger Maddy, a failed actress and stay-at-home mum, with whom Nat has an unstable and competitive friendship, and Ilya, a young man working on the renovation of a derelict house next door to Maddy's following a catastrophic accident at an industrial building site.

Paths cross and re-cross on the small network of streets. People shop for groceries, have small and ambiguously fraught interactions with their neighbours, take their children to buy treats, work on draining the flooding basement of an old house. A group of men drink beer on a porch. A lonely man wanders. Children observe adults without the adults noticing. Threats are suspected, never from the right place. As the tension builds, the water rises in the basement of the old house, and conflicts of personality, privilege, and past history explode.

*Property* is a literary novel that blends emotional complexity with elements of satire to explore class, environmental anxiety, the guilty navel-gazing of affluent liberals, marriage, queer respectability, friendship, the shifting identities of city neighbourhoods, loneliness, the real and imaginary perils of raising children, and the ways that we hurt one another without meaning to.



Photo credit: Livia Ambros

**KATE CAYLEY** has published two short story collections, three collections of poetry, and a young adult novel, and her plays have been performed in Canada, the U.S. and the U.K. She has won the Trillium Book Award, the Mitchell Prize for Faith and Poetry, the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction, and an O. Henry Prize, and been a finalist for the Governor General's Award for Fiction, among other awards. She is a frequent writing collaborator with immersive company Zuppa Theatre, most recently on *The Archive of Missing Things* and *This Is Nowhere*, and her writing has appeared in *Best Canadian Poetry*, *Best Canadian Stories*, *Brick*, *Electric Literature*, *Joyland*, *The New Quarterly* and *The North American Review*. She lives in Toronto.



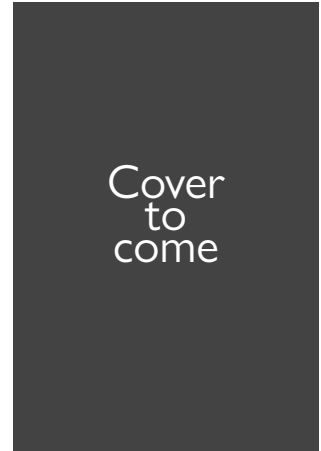
# Charlene Challenger

## The Architect to Elsewhere

Janet's life is tiny by design. She loves music and art, dancing and drinking, cats, and caring for the elderly. She wanted to be an actress. Her Maltese parents are jerks. She has never been in love and doesn't care to be. And, she's just dropped dead on her kitchen floor.

Janet now faces the last precious moments of her earthly existence, but she's not alone; Archie, a divine architect who may or may not also be a porcupine, is along for the ride. Archie's purpose is to help Janet create the afterlife of her dreams. She just has to examine the last forty-eight years of her life with all that's happened and not happened, to figure out what that means.

A poignant, cozy story taking place at the moment of death, *THE ARCHITECT TO ELSEWHERE* is an affirmation of the highs and lows of life, and living.



**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

Manuscript available



**CHARLENE CHALLENGER** is a writer and graduate of Ryerson Theatre School. Her first novel, the young adult fantasy *The Voices in Between* (Tightrope Books) was nominated for the 2015 Aurora Award for Best Young Adult Novel and long-listed for the 2015 Sunburst Award Young Adult Novel category. Its sequel, *The Myth in Distance*, was published in 2016. Her work is also featured in Stone Skin Press's *Gods, Memes and Monsters*. She lives in Pickering, Ontario with her family and her adorable house-wolves, Omi and Muffin.

# Dina Del Bucchia

## Tougher Than the Rest

Praise for *Don't Tell Me What to Do*:

*"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 *Martin John*

*"Each of the fifteen stories, mostly populated by female protagonists at less-than-perfect moments in their lives, show the work of a generous writer committed to creating characters unapologetically being themselves in all their flawed, misguided glory. These are irresistible, if not exactly admirable, women: the kind you gossip about and wish you actually knew."* —Room

*"Do not tell Dina Del Bucchia what to do, because she already knows what to do. Comedy like this only comes from an enormously rich mind, from a pounding heart, from bold and fearless guts. Reading this collection is like listening to an orchestra that knows all your secrets. Percussive and beautiful and sweepingly human, I'll be thinking about this book for the rest of my life."*

—Gabe Liedman, writer and actor

Cover  
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**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

Manuscript available

Dark, funny, charming and set in the near future, *Tougher Than the Rest* uses comic premises to explore what is increasingly untenable about contemporary urban life, what destroys our abilities to be fully human, and how we resist in small and grand ways. These stories feature women protagonists at different stages of life, and looks at class, technology, white feminism, love, friendship, the loneliness of the world, and our ability to find connections and meaning.

Taking each title from a classic rock radio song by a male musical artist, this collection reinvents the meaning of each. Springsteen's "Tougher Than the Rest" is about a low-income gig worker whose job is to moderate comments on YouTube. "Night Moves" is transformed from Bob Seger's sexually intense song about youthful sex without strings into a story about a lonely woman who buys a second-hand sex robot at the Salvation Army. In "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue," a woman grieving her husband's disappearance and possible suicide encounters talking animals and cryptids who become the tough love and reality she needs. Aerosmith's "Dream On" is the inspiration for the final story, about a social media influencer who undergoes a drastic cosmetic surgery to make her face literally adaptable to making more money for advertisers. Haunting the collection is a pervasive real estate developer whose existence touches on the lives of many of these characters in shocking, devastating and destructive ways.



**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/](http://ryanfitzpatrick.ca/modelpress/). You can check out her website at [dinadelbucchia.com](http://dinadelbucchia.com)

# Samantha Garner

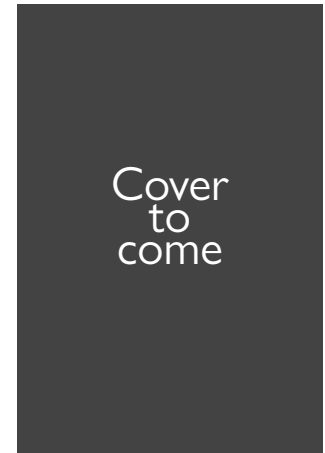
## Twist the Branch

Praise for *The Quiet is Loud*:

*"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 Quiet is Loud is highly aware of its surroundings within time and culture, demonstrating that one can be present and engaged with the story while also thinking critically."*  
–Margaryta Golovchenko, Canthius

*"Complex and vulnerable, The Quiet is Loud, is a wonderful stepping stone for those who love magical realism but might find the likes of One Hundred Years of Solitude or Love in the Time of Cholera a bit intimidating, or for readers looking to explore magical realism for the first time."*  
–Ruchika Gothoska, Hamilton Review of Books



**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

Manuscript available

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"History begins where magic ends."

In the paranoid Leitir Empire, Elis Kalevi knows that standing out is dangerous. Fear keeps the Vetsi people from asking why their stories and language are suppressed, and why the Empire insists there was no history before Leitir longships landed on Vetsi shores five centuries ago. Questioning the edicts of the Empire violates Memorylaw and is punished by something known only as "rehabilitation."

When Elis' brother Edrik loses control of the forbidden nature magic he once concealed and they're both marked for rehabilitation, they escape to follow a rumoured awakening magic in the east—and unfamiliar memories of ancient spell-song Elis starts receiving. Travelling with the only two people she trusts and two enigmatic strangers, Elis must uncover her people's buried history before her mind is overtaken by someone else's memories. Or before their deception catches up to them.

Inspired by pre-colonial Filipino culture and medieval Finland under Swedish rule, *Twist the Branch* explores the mutability of history, the power of the collective, and small actions that fracture oppressive systems. Garner draws on the historical commonalities between her two cultures in a timeless and timely story of reclaiming lost history.



**SAMANTHA GARNER's** debut novel *The Quiet is Loud* (Invisible Publishing) was shortlisted for the 2022 Kobo Emerging Writer Prize. A Canadian of Filipino-Finnish background, her character-driven fantasy and science-fiction novels explore identity and belonging. She's endlessly inspired by history, mythology, and narrative video game worlds. Find her online at [samanthagarner.ca](http://samanthagarner.ca) or @SamanthaKGarner.

# Jacquelyn Zong-Li Ross

## The Longest Way to Eat a Melon

*"Inventive and charming, these stories offer a fishbowl view of what it is to be plunked into adulthood in these absurd, impossible times."* –Lucy Corin, author of *The Swank Hotel*

*"I've been a fan of Jacquelyn Zong-Li Ross's writing for years and am so happy to see her debut collection cracking into the world. The stories in *The Longest Way to Eat a Melon*, like most of my favorite stories, feel as if they've been written from some alternate dimension just to the side of our own—they're strange and smart and funny and true. Read them, and then we can all dream against capitalism together."* –Danielle Dutton, author of *Prairie, Dresses, Art, Other*

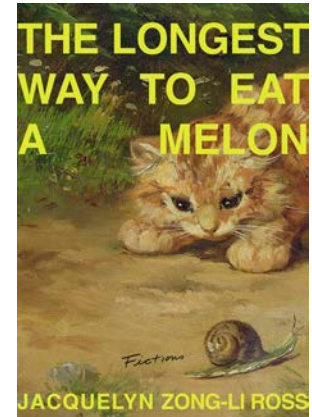
*"The turns in Ross's smart, tender, darkly hilarious narratives are dazzling. At times we sail right off the road, and the beautiful thing about this book is, we survive it every time. These are fables for the future, full of hope."* –River Halen, author of *Dream Rooms*

*"A richly layered text imbued with wit and charm. Jacquelyn Zong-Li Ross is an artist who breaks the mundanity of everyday life into artifacts. I was brought to the center of a gallery where curated notes of familiarity, the thoughts beneath my thoughts, guided me to reinterpret all that was around me. *The Longest Way to Eat a Melon* transforms everydayness into a metaphor. The meaning of life and its multitudes dance quietly underneath."* –Sheung-King, author of *Batshit Seven*

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A cheeky debut of short fictions exploring the pitfalls and minor triumphs of the creative process.

Equal parts melody and malaise, *The Longest Way to Eat a Melon* charts the activities of a cast of speakers who all grapple in their own ways with what it takes to conjure a self in the midst of discordance. A brain argues with a non-brain about how to remain productive from a place of exhaustion; two supernaturally inclined twins named Han are separated at birth; and an emerging artist overwhelmed by possibility considers how best to transform a melon into a breakthrough work of art. Incorporating elements of fable, surrealism, satire, and art and cultural criticism, these stories have a playful peculiarity to them, an interweaving of self-deprecation and curiosity, of woe and hope, of absurdity and humanity. Reader, you will want to savour every bite.



**Publication:** June 2025

**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publisher:**  
Sarabande Books

**Rights Sold:**  
-Sarabande Books (North America)  
-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



Photo credit: Maegan Hill-Carroll

**JACQUELYN ZONG-LI ROSS** is a writer and editor based in Vancouver, the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh nations. Her fiction, poetry, essays, and art criticism have appeared in *BOMB*, *C Mag*, *The Ex-Puritan*, *Fence*, *Mousse*, and alongside exhibitions and artist projects at The Bows, Centre Clark, Franz Kaka, Mercer Union, SFU Galleries, Susan Hobbes Gallery, and elsewhere. Her chapbooks include *Mayonnaise* and *Drawings on Yellow Paper* (with Katie Lyle). She publishes books at the intersection of the literary and visual arts under the small press Blank Cheque, and is currently the Art Editor of *The Capilano Review*, a west coast journal of experimental art and poetics. She holds a BFA in Studio Art from Simon Fraser University and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph.



# Miranda Schreiber

## Iris and the Dead

*"In this lyrical and original autofiction debut, Miranda Schreiber explores the coming out process of a young woman contending with depression, intergenerational trauma and an exploitative relationship with the person she looked to for help. Schreiber bravely reckons with themes of power, trust, love, loss and transformation."* –Ms. Magazine

*"Uncanny and captivating, Iris and the Dead weaves beauty into the darkness.... Schreiber's words will haunt those familiar with the feeling long after they've finished her slim novel."*  
–Roxane Hudon, *Literary Review of Canada*

*"Iris and the Dead renders love, sickness, tragedy and the sublime lyrically and incisively, equal parts beautiful and haunting."* –Nicky Taylor in Conversation with Miranda Schreiber, *Maison-neuve*

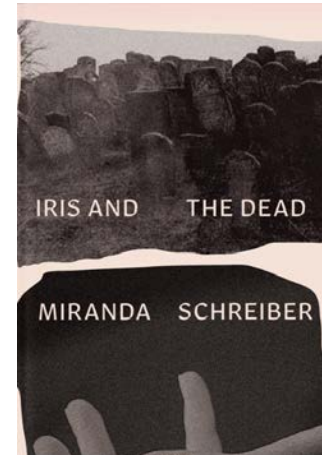
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This haunting exploration of love and desire, disability and madness, trauma and recovery, is a diaristic marvel for fans of Annie Ernaux.

Weaving personal memory with magic realism and folklore, *Iris and the Dead* asks: What if you could look back and tell someone exactly how they changed the course of your life?

For our narrator, that someone is Iris, the counsellor with whom she developed an unusual, almost violent bond. There are things she needs to tell Iris: some that she hid during the brief time they knew each other, and some that she has learned since. She was missing her mind the autumn they spent together and has since regained it.

*Iris and the Dead* unfurls the hidden power dynamics of abuse, offering a beguiling inquiry into intergenerational trauma, moral ambiguity, and queer identity.



**Publication:** June 2025

**Publisher:** Book\*hug

**Rights Sold:**

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

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



**MIRANDA SCHREIBER** is a Toronto-based writer and researcher. Her work has appeared in places like the *Toronto Star*, *The Walrus*, *The Globe and Mail*, BBC, and the *National Post*. She has been nominated for a digital publishing award by the National Media Foundation and was the recipient of the Solidarity and Pride Champion Award from the Ontario Federation of Labour. *Iris and the Dead* is her debut book.

# Sheung-King

## Batshit Seven

—Winner, 2024 Writers' Trust Atwood Gibson Fiction Prize —

"[Sheung-King] presents [Glue's] story with the restrained force of an ethnographic study. The result is . . . incredibly powerful, rendering *Batshit Seven* a highly unusual, highly effective examination of both contemporary society and the quest for identity." —Toronto Star

"Glue has an intricate understanding of what ails him and his homeland of Hong Kong, but he's paralyzed by his status as a transnational, neither here nor there. This grimly hilarious book asks if imperialism does this to us by accident, or on purpose—but also, it doesn't matter. An astonishingly unflinching account of the spiritual wasteland where 'global' 'citizens' live; how it feels to have your personhood hollowed out by market forces, empire, and migration."  
—Thea Lim, author of *An Ocean of Minutes*

"Glue is sticky. Sticky with Hong Kong heat and sex. Glue is stuck. Stuck to news of political protests and embedded in the 'complex workings of Asia,' he wishes sometimes for oblivion, but his ticker tape thoughts keep him going and keep him motoring this wonderfully strange and sage story. This is a book to be read for escape, in the best sense—escape from lasting imperialist ideas and the imperilling hollowness of late capitalism.... Escape into the soul-rebuilding pleasures of a deliciously subversive imagination." —Kyo Maclear, author of *Unearthing*

From *Canada Reads*-nominated author Sheung-King comes a satirical novel about a millennial living through the Hong Kong protests, as he struggles to make sense of modern life and the parts of himself that just won't gel.

Glen Wu (aka Glue) couldn't care less about his job. He's returned to Hong Kong to teach English, just to placate his parents. But he shows up hungover to class, barely stays awake, and prefers to spend his time smoking up at Shenzhen Bay until dawn breaks.

As he watches the city he loves fall—the protests, the brutal arrests—life continues around him. So he drinks more, picks more fights with his drug dealer friend, thinks loftier thoughts about colonialism and Franz Fanon. The very little he does care about: his sister, who deals with Hong Kong's demise by getting engaged to a rich immigration consultant; his on-and-off-again girl-friend who steals things from him; and memories of someone he once met in Canada....

When the government tightens its grip, language starts to lose all meaning for Glue, and he finds himself pulled into an unsettling venture, ultimately culminating in an act of violence.

Inventive and utterly irresistible, with QR codes woven throughout, Sheung-King's ingenious novel encapsulates the anxieties and apathies of the millennial experience. *Batshit Seven* is an ode to a beloved city, an indictment of the cycles of imperialism, and a reminder of the beautiful things left under the hype of commodified living.



**Publication:** February 2024

**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publisher:**  
Penguin Canada

**Rights Sold:**  
-Penguin Canada (World)



**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.

## AGA Wilmot

## Every Little Death

Praise for *Withered*:

*“Ellis’s recovery from their eating disorder cunningly intertwines with the ghost story as Wilmot interrogates the human desire for control over one’s body, natural forces, and even life and death.”*  
–Publishers Weekly

*“Wilmot’s fast-paced psychological-horror novel offers a fresh spin on the haunted-house trope, with well-drawn queer and trans representation at its center. This thought-provoking blend of psychological and supernatural horror will appeal to fans of Stranger Things and allegorical haunted-house novels like Carissa Orlando’s The September House.”* –Booklist

*“Withered is a compassionate exploration of mental health, hauntings, and the way grief can pull, stretch, or erode our sense of self. Told with wit and warmth, it is a triumph of love in the face of heartache and death.”* –Suzan Palumbo, Nebula and World Fantasy Award finalist

Cover  
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A visitor has arrived unexpectedly—a floating hunk of interstellar debris the size of a large mountain. It appeared in our sky one day, out of the blue, and settled immediately into an elliptical orbit around Earth. An asteroid caught by the planet’s gravity, a weapon of some kind—a god, possibly, or what remains of one.

For Aurelia “Nox” Knight and her friends, artists all, the visitor’s appearance marked the end of what they knew. What they thought would always be. All around them, the world is being transformed—pieces of the visitor meteorizing to, and through, the surface of the world and leaving only change in their wake. Sudden, irreversible, catastrophic ... iridescent, impossible change. Change of a type none could have imagined. Dreams made real at the cost of the dreamer’s life.

As the world limps on to an uncertain end, Aurelia and her friends are forced to view their own changed lives, to relitigate their dreams and do whatever possible to keep their nightmares at bay. To adapt, to transition alongside the world itself to a new state of being, or to lose oneself in the process.

*Every Little Death* is a literary novel with elements of speculative fiction and cosmic horror, that centres on a trans woman, Aurelia, and her friends as they are forced to rethink their lives, their art, and what it means to strive for legacy in a world of constant upheaval, where “death of the artist” is the only currency that remains.

**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

Manuscript available



Photo credit: Hidden Exposure Photography

**AGA WILMOT** is a writer and editor 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 AGA’s include *The Death Scene Artist* (Buckrider Books, 2018) and *Withered* (ECW Press, 2024). Find them online at [agawilmot.ca](http://agawilmot.ca).

# Jacob Wren

## Dry Your Tears to Perfect Your Aim

—Finalist, 2024 *Big Other* Book Award for Fiction—  
 —Finalist, 2024 Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction—

*“A stunning thought experiment where our hypocrisy, culpability, and compassion are all exposed, Dry Your Tears to Perfect Your Aim is a thought-provoking work of secular expiation, a knowing knot of courage and its opposite, and a defiant work of desperate grace.”*

—Eugene Lim, author of *Search History*

*“A Jacob Wren novel is known for several things: narrators undergoing neurotic self-interrogation, a consideration of the gap between theory and practice, and a certain metafictional flair when it comes to signalling the work’s own existence as a radical text. All of these authorial trademarks are sent into overdrive in Dry Your Tears to Perfect Your Aim, Wren’s introspective protest novel about the role that doubt plays in any political awakening.”* —Jean Marc Ah-Sen, Quill & Quire

*By turns a revolutionary’s memoir, an adventurer’s journal, autofiction, and speculative fiction, yet Dry Your Tears to Perfect Your Aim always stays clear and committed to its searching style, and this makes it a novel for today’s uncertain world.”*

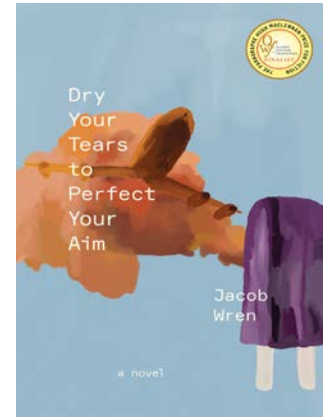
—Kaie Kellough, author of *Dominoes at the Crossroads*

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What are the best ways to support political struggles that aren’t your own? What are the fundamental principles of a utopia during war? Can we transcend the societal values we inherit? *Dry Your Tears to Perfect Your Aim* is a remarkably original, literary page-turner that explores such pressing questions of our time.

A depressed writer visits a war zone. He knows it’s a bad idea, but his curiosity and obsession that his tax dollars help to pay for foreign wars draw him there. Amid the fighting, he stumbles into a small strip of land that’s being reimagined as a grassroots, feminist, egalitarian utopia. As he learns about the principles of the collective, he moves between a fragile sense of self and the ethical considerations of writing about what he experiences but cannot truly fathom. Meanwhile, women in his life—from this reimagined society and elsewhere—underscore truths hidden in plain sight.

In these pages, real-world politics mingle with profoundly inventive fabulations. This is an anti-war novel unlike any other, an intricate study of our complicity in violent global systems and a celebration of the hope that underpins the resistance against them.



**Publication:** September 2024

**Publisher:** Book\*hug

**Rights Sold:**

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-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



**JACOB WREN** makes literature, performances, and exhibitions. His books include *Revenge Fantasies of the Politically Dispossessed*; *Polyamorous Love Song* (finalist for the Fence Modern Prize in Prose and a *Globe and Mail* Best Book of 2014); *Rich and Poor* (finalist for the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction and a *Globe and Mail* best book of 2016); and *Authenticity is a Feeling*. He is artistic co-director of the Montreal-based interdisciplinary group PME-ART. Wren lives in Montreal.



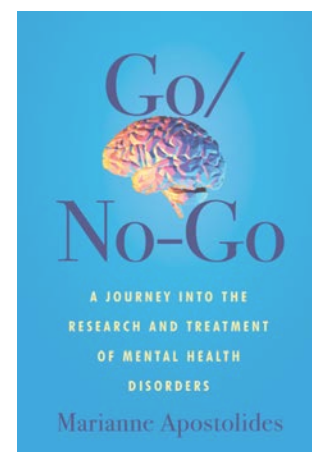
*nonfiction*

# Marianne Apostolides

## Go/No-Go: A Journey Into the Research and Treatment of Mental Health

*"Marianne Apostolides' Go/No-Go is an incisive, compelling, and brilliant look at the latest trends in mental health treatment and research. With a deft hand, Apostolides untangles the work of researchers attempting to engineer the human mind and charts the turn from community-based health care and evidence-based treatment to computational psychiatry and precision medicine. Intimate and revolutionary, Go/No-Go is required reading for anyone with a stake in mental health care." —Miranda Newman, author of Rough Magic: Living with Borderline Personality Disorder*

*"Go/No-Go is a deeply considered and mature love letter to science—as complex and nuanced as any such study must be in an era of over-simplification. Readers who, like Apostolides, feel connected to mental health research will find in it an empathetic guide to new cognitive science. Scientists and clinicians themselves can read it as a fix to the false 'love it or leave it' polarization that undermines high-stakes research—and as an opportunity to bridge complex neuroscience with the daily lives of people living with mental health disorders." —Robert Steiner, Director, Dalla Lana Fellowship in Journalism and Health Impact, University of Toronto*



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**Rights Sold:**

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Combining scientific investigation with empathy, humour, and artistic curiosity, *Go/No-Go* is a groundbreaking addition to an urgent dialogue about mental health.

In 2022, during a period of creative and emotional crisis, Marianne Apostolides stumbled upon a scientific article that would profoundly change her understanding of the human mind. Ten months later, she was interviewing the article's lead author and embarking on a complex and revelatory journey to unravel current approaches to mental health.

*Go/No-Go* documents Apostolides's quest to decipher the research underlying new treatments for mental disorders—and to understand how that research is reshaping our fundamental sense of ourselves. She talks with leading neuroscientists, gathering information about their studies, their methods, and the resulting treatments that are in the pipeline. All the while, she reflects on her own experiences, making the science more immediate, understandable, and relevant.

With propulsive writing grounded in hard data, Apostolides poses vital questions that prompt us to look at how contemporary neuroscience is redefining who we are and why we struggle. In *Go/No-Go*, we come to see the flaws and failures of the current approach to mental health—while also learning how society can change course to better support people on their own journey.



**MARIANNE APOSTOLIDES** is an award-winning author of eight books, which have been translated and published in over a dozen countries. Her books include *I Can't Get You Out of My Mind* (finalist for the Foreword INDIES Award in Science Fiction), *Deep Salt Water*, *Voluptuous Pleasure* (listed among *The Globe and Mail's* Top 100 Books of 2012), and *Swim*. She is a two-time recipient of the Chalmers Arts Fellowship and winner of the K.M. Hunter Award for Literature. Apostolides grew up in suburban New York and lives in Toronto, Canada.

Del Cowie

# This is a Throwdown: A Toronto Hip-Hop History

Drake is one of the most popular and influential artists in hip-hop, the most listened to genre of music in the world, according to streaming giant Spotify. Yet, despite Drake's overwhelming influence beyond popular culture and his fervent championing of Toronto in his lyrics, music and album covers, very little is known or documented of Toronto's rich hip-hop history

*This is A Throwdown: A Toronto Hip-Hop History* seeks to change this reality. Spanning 30 years of music history in one of the world's most diverse and unique cities, *This Is A Throwdown* traces Toronto's early, overshadowed contributions to the global phenomenon of hip-hop culture and contextualizes its present-day position as a nexus point for creatives where Drake and other Toronto hip-hop acts articulate the musical present and hint at the world's sonic future.

Cover  
to  
come

**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publication:** September 2026

**Publisher:** ECW Press

**Rights Sold:**  
-ECW Press (World)



**DEL COWIE** is an Toronto-based music journalist and editor who has worked as an associate producer for CBC Music and the Peabody and International Emmy Award-winning Netflix series *Hip Hop Evolution*. He has appeared on CBC Radio's *q*, *Here and Now*, and *Big City Small World*

Cowie was assistant editor and writer for Canadian national music publication *Exclaim!* for over a decade and has contributed to *NOW*, *NOISEY*, *XXL* and the *National Post*, among other publications. Since 2015, he produced and presented *Before the 6ix*, an ongoing panel discussion focusing on Toronto hip-hop history in association with the Toronto Public Library.

Cowie has been a member of the Polaris Music Prize jury since its 2006 inception.

# Adrienne Gruber

## Monsters, Martyrs, and Marionettes

*"In this stunning and deeply personal collection of essays, Adrienne Gruber explores modern motherhood in all its beautiful, terrifying, confusing, grotesque, joyful, sometimes mundane, sometimes ridiculous glory, in a way that is both intimate and yet wholly universal. With a poet's ear for language—unsentimental, startling, sharp as a razor—and a memoirist's knack for finding meaning in the chaotic churn of everyday life, Gruber cracks open her own heart to show you the truth in your own. Honest, tender, and firmly rooted in the body and its connection to the natural world, Monsters, Martyrs, and Marionettes is a deep, anguished howl in the dark, a love letter to a complex family, and a careful catalogue of the things we pass on, and the things we must carry on our own."* —Amy Jones, author of *Pebble & Dove*

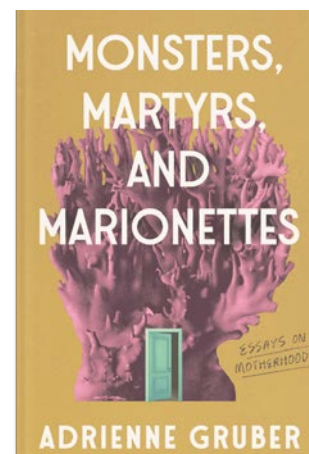
*"The essays in this book, like Gruber's articulation of the chimera, reveal a matrilineal narrative of split flesh, eyeballs, sour milk, creepy puppets, blood, illnesses, and grief that leave the nerves exposed. Gruber writes with the precision of a scalpel, revealing with great dexterity, care, and fierceness a beast that lives across lives and stories."* —Liz Ross, author of *After Birth*

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*Monsters, Martyrs, and Marionettes* is a revelatory hybrid collection that subverts the stereotypes and transcends the platitudes of family life to examine motherhood with blistering insight.

Documenting the birth and early life of her three daughters, Adrienne Gruber shares what it really means to use one's body to bring another life into the world and the lasting ramifications of that act on both parent and child. Each piece peers into the seemingly mundane to show us the mortal and emotional consequences of maternal bonds, placing experiences of "being a mom" within broader contexts—historical, literary, biological, and psychological—to speak to the ugly realities of parenthood often omitted from mainstream conversations.

Ultimately, this deeply moving, graceful collection forces us to consider how close we are to death, even in the most average of moments, and how beauty is a necessary celebration amidst the chaos of being alive.



**Publication:** May 2024

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**ADRIENNE GRUBER** is an award-winning poet and essayist originally from Saskatoon. She is the author of five chapbooks and three collections of poetry, including *Buoyancy Control* and *Q&A*, both from Book\*hug Press. She lives with her partner and their three daughters on Nexwéléxm (Bowen Island), B.C., the traditional territory of the Squamish peoples.



# Tamara Jong

## Worldly Girls: A Memoir

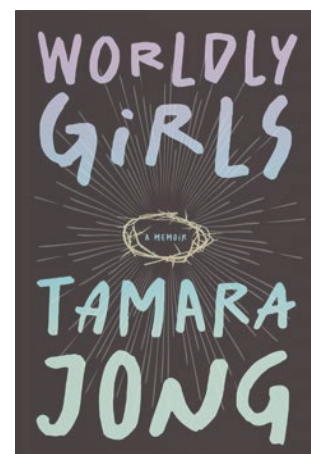
*"In Worldly Girls, Tamara Jong writes with clear-eyed honesty and emotional intelligence about the intertwined ties of family and religion. More than a memoir, this book is a tribute to women everywhere who struggle with love, depression, our relationships with our mothers and with motherhood itself. In other words, Worldly Girls is for all of us."* —Jen Sookfong Lee, author of *Superfan: How Pop Culture Broke My Heart*

*"Tamara Jong's memoir Wordly Girls is a glistening mosaic of memory. Arranged in sharp and vibrant fragments, Jong explores the jagged divisions that break and shape us, and the love that can unite us beyond faith, time, and life. This story is sharp and soft; a razor's edge to your tender heart. An unforgettable read."* —Hollay Ghadery, award-winning author of *Fuse*

Tamara Jong's powerful memoir documents the slow unravelling of her connection to her faith and the tragic history of her fractured family, shining a light into the dark corners of memory that have haunted her well into adulthood.

With clear-eyed honesty and written in sparse yet searing prose, Jong collects the fragments of her unconventional childhood, with her busy schedule of Jehovah's Witness meetings, Bible study, and door-to-door ministering. She also details her emotionally distant father and alcoholic mother's tumultuous marriage, her deep yearnings to become a mother after the loss of her own, and her struggles with mental health.

After corporate and spiritual burnout, and a suicide attempt at the age of thirty-two, Jong comes to understand that the strict religion she had long believed would protect her prevented her from pursuing her true sense of self. In a story that traverses a wide range of potent themes—including addiction, estrangement, grief, infertility, and forgiveness—the ultimate message of *Worldly Girls* is one of hope as Jong finds her own path to healing and belonging.



**Publication:** September 2025

**Publisher:** Book\*hug

**Rights Sold:**

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**TAMARA JONG** is a Tiohtià:ke (Montréal) born writer of Chinese and European ancestry. Her work has been published in the *Humber Literary Review*, *Room Magazine*, and *The Fiddlehead*, and has been both long and shortlisted for various creative non-fiction prizes. She is a graduate of The Writer's Studio at Simon Fraser University, and a former member of *Room Magazine*'s collective. She currently lives and works on Treaty 3 territory, the occupied and ancestral lands of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinabewaki, Attiwoonderonk, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (Guelph, ON). *Worldly Girls* is her first book.

# Renée Sylvestre-Williams

## The Singles Tax: No-Nonsense Financial Advice for Solo Earners

*The Singles Tax* looks at the historical decisions that explain why single people can't seem to get a break: whether that's taxes, housing, retirement or something as simple as a hotel room on a group tour. There's nothing more irritating than trying to go on a vacation and having to pay extra for the hotel room because there's an extra bed that you're not going to use but you still have to pay for it because you're travelling solo.

So you either grit your teeth and pay the single supplement or spend more time searching for an adventure that caters to solo travellers or at least won't ding your wallet.

Personal finance is used to talking to couples, whether it's about pooling finances to buy a home, spousal retirement plans where one spouse can contribute to their partner's plan or income-splitting for taxes. Couples are considered an economic household but bffs living together aren't.

Money can be a tricky subject, especially when you're single. As a solo dweller, you're responsible for all of your expenses, and it can be challenging to manage your finances efficiently. This book aims to be the ultimate intersectional guide for single people who want to take control of their financial lives and build a secure financial future.

Each chapter provides thought-provoking insights such as why can't two people just live together and be considered an economic unit? Can people get married to take advantage of the few tax benefits for couples? Will that lead to romcom shenanigans? This book delivers serviceable, battle-tested advice, all in a friendly and relatable tone.

*The Singles Tax* is equal parts a personal finance book, a historical document and a political manifesto, urging people to take action with our money and our politics.

Cover  
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**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publication:** January 2026

**Publisher:** ECW Press

**Rights Sold:**

-ECW Press

(North American English and  
Canada French rights)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



Photo credit: Kristin Eff

**RENÉE SYLVESTRE-WILLIAMS** is a Toronto-based writer and journalist and yes, she is happily single. She has spent the last 15 years writing about finance, business and investing. Renée has been published in some of North America's top publications including *The Globe and Mail*, the *Toronto Star*, *Forbes*, *Canadian Business* magazine, *MoneySense*, *WealthSimple*, and *Canadian Family Offices*.

# Felix Wong

## Shall We Talk

On May 26, 1991, Lauda Air Flight 004 broke apart mid-flight shortly after a routine layover in Bangkok, raining cargo, metal, jet fuel, and bodies over the mountains of Suphan Buri province in what remains Thailand's deadliest aviation incident to date.

When Felix Wong turns twenty-five, he chances upon a family secret: among the victims of Flight 004 was an aunt he never met, along with her newly-wed husband.

Why didn't his family tell him sooner? And why are they still refusing to speak to him about it now, three decades later?

To untangle the past, Felix decides to trace the trajectory of his aunt's life, from the crash site in Suphan Buri, where fragments of the plane can still be seen today, to his birthplace of Hong Kong, a city caught in the crossfire of the 2019 anti-extradition bill protests and on the cusp of a global pandemic. What he expects to be a straightforward trip, however, grows unexpectedly personal. As he balances the competing demands of his Chinese heritage and Canadian upbringing, he finds himself trapped in a web of family deceptions and personal secrets that challenge the very core of his identity. When an encounter with a mysterious girl threatens to evolve into romance, he must ultimately ask himself, where does he truly consider home?

Interweaving personal experience with interviews of family members whose lives have been irreversibly altered by Lauda Air Flight 004, *Shall We Talk* is a coming-of-age memoir about Felix Wong's quest to piece together a fractured family history and figure out his place in the world.

Cover  
to  
come

**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publication:** Fall 2027

**Publisher:** ECW Press

**Rights Sold:**  
-ECW Press (World rights)



**FELIX WONG** is a Chinese-Canadian writer. He has lived half his life in Vancouver and half in Hong Kong. His stories, often revolving around identity and Chinese traditions, can be found in *The Tyee*, *The Ex-Puritan*, *PRISM International*, and *Ricepaper Magazine*.

In 2019, his journey to the Lauda Air Flight 004 crash site became a feature story in *South China Morning Post*. In 2020, he was awarded a grant by the Canada Arts Council for the research and creation of *Shall We Talk*.

Felix holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph. He is currently an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Hong Kong's MA in Creative Communications and MFA in Creative Writing programs.

*children's*



# Melissa Leong

## Maggie the Magpie

Maggie the Magpie loves to save money. In fact, she's awesome at it. But, she doesn't like to spend it. No matter what. Will Maggie ever change her mind?

It can be hard to talk to kids about money, especially for adults who may not feel the most comfortable with financial matters. While many children's books teach financial literacy, few books address money beliefs and behaviours which play a huge part in how we all use money. *Money Money Magpie* is a much-needed addition to the conversation. Maggie may be someone that you recognize. She's Melissa (who made this story). She may be you.

With themes of resourcefulness, frugality, self-love and sharing, this fun tale illustrates how you can overdo a good thing. Told with humour and energy, this is a story about how money can be used to make life meaningful. And sometimes, money is best spent when shared and enjoyed with others.

Cover  
to  
come

**Format:** Picture book

**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publication:** Fall 2027

**Publisher:** Kids Can Press

**Rights Sold:**  
-Kids Can Press (World)



**MELISSA LEONG** is a sought-after speaker, national media personality and award-winning author. She's the author of the award-winning feel-good finance guide, *Happy Go Money* published in 2019 by ECW Press, is a repeat guest on *The Drew Barrymore Show* (CBS) and serves as the resident money expert on Canada's leading daytime talk show, *The Social* (CTV).

# Hajer Nakua and Farah Qaiser

## Khadija and the Elephant Toothpaste Experiment

*"Khadija and the Elephant Toothpaste Experiment clearly showcases its authors's passion for science and their desire to make the field accessible to people from all walks of life. Natalya Tariq's illustrations lovingly capture the cultural specificity of both characters and settings while remaining vibrant and appealing to young readers."* –Canadian Review of Materials

*"Farah Qaiser and Hajer Nakua show young readers that a little Muslim girl who wants to be a scientist can achieve that dream, because their message in Khadija and the Elephant Toothpaste Experiment is all about opportunity and inclusion. Ottawa illustrator Natalya Tariq uses cartoon art to give brightness and innocence to Khadija's story. There's a wide-eyed wonder to the child that is infused in every illustration.... This can only inspire all children to follow their dreams, whether into science or into the arts."* –CanLit for Little Canadians

*"The picture book illustrates how children can find their passion through play, and shows that you should never have to compromise your identity to fit in.... Khadija and the Elephant Toothpaste Experiment is well-written and beautifully illustrated."* –Quill and Quire



**Format:** Picture book

**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publication:** February 2024

**Publisher:** Second Story Press

**Rights Sold:**  
–Second Story Press (World)

Everyone can see themselves in science!

Khadija is inspired by her visit to the science fair. There are so many different scientists all wearing safety goggles and lab coats! But how come none of them are wearing a hijab?

After watching a scientist carry out the elephant toothpaste experiment, Khadija attempts to recreate it at home with mixed (and messy!) results. Surrounded by her family as they celebrate Eid, Khadija tries again....

"Salaam everyone, and Eid Mubarak!" she cries. "When I grow up, I'm going to be a scientist!"



**HAJER NAKUA** is a neuroscience PhD Candidate researching the relationship between brain organization and mental health symptoms in children at the University of Toronto. She is currently pursuing a Fulbright Fellowship exchange at Stanford University. Beyond her research, she is also a science communicator whose focus is to make science accessible to youth who have been excluded from scientific conversations. She has served as the Chair of the Organization of Human Brain Mapping (OHBM)'s Student and Postdoc Special Interest Group; a volunteer-led committee which creates events and resources to enhance the careers of graduate students and post-docs in neuroscience.

Hajer's passion to make science more accessible led her to create a science communication Instagram platform, which currently has over 5,000 followers, and is one of the only English-Arabic neuroscience communication platforms on Instagram, and as such, has cultivated a community of youth from North America and the Middle East all motivated to learn more about their brains.

**FARAH QAISER** is a genomics researcher by training, now taking a detour into the world of science policy. She holds a Master of Science from the University of Toronto, where she carried out DNA sequencing to better understand neurological disorders. Now, Farah works as the Director of Research and Policy at Evidence for Democracy to promote the use of evidence in government decision-making.

Farah is passionate about building an engaging and inclusive science culture through outreach, policy and communication efforts. Her extensive volunteer and community experience includes co-founding the Toronto Science Policy Network, writing about science and scientists for various media outlets (including *Forbes*), and organizing Wikipedia Edit-A-Thons to create pages about under-represented scientists. Farah currently serves as a member of the Canada Chief Science Advisor's Youth Council, on Let's Talk Science's Board of Directors, and on 500 Women Scientists' leadership team.



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