



Backlist

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fiction

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*

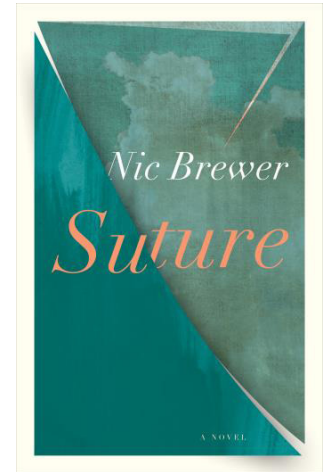
“I read this book with wonder—Brewer’s confident prose swept me along. Hers is sure, sharp writing that doesn’t flinch from tenderness. I felt this book in my body. I ached (in my heart and bones, along an old, spidery scar that split my chest in two) long after I set it down. What a privilege to read 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:
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/
translation rights on behalf of
client publisher)

-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.

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

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

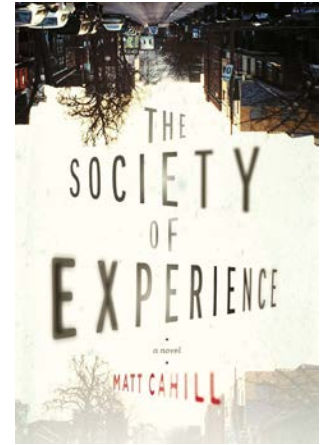
“A swirling confident debut, supported by crisp prose without misstep, and containing many more original ideas than books three times its slender size. Sly and slippery fun—I thought of Ben Marcus and J. G. Ballard ... writers who say don't worry I know what I'm doing as they break from the pack.” –Tony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

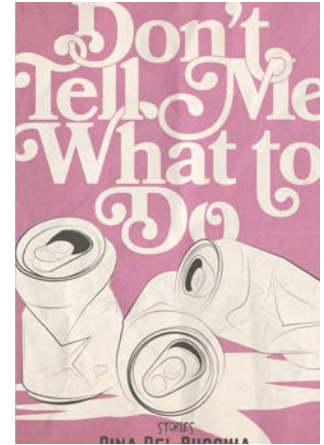
Don't Tell Me What to Do

"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.

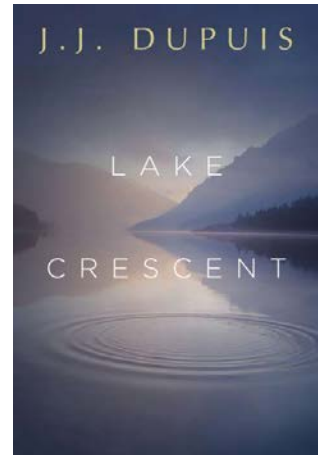
J.J. Dupuis

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

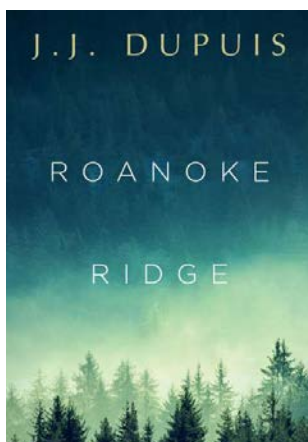
Publisher: Dundurn

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."

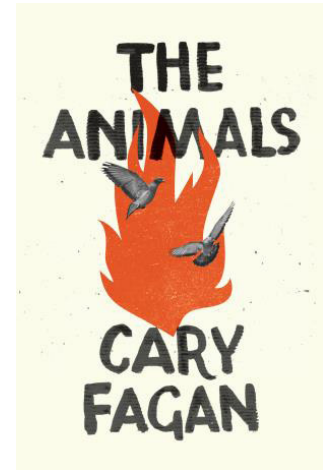
–Antanas Sileika, author of Provisionally Yours

"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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-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



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 a mixed-race Canadian fantasy author whose outsider characters find self-definition through small rebellion. Her work draws from Filipino and Finnish history, folklore, and culture to explore belonging in the in-between. Samantha’s debut novel *The Quiet is Loud* (Invisible Publishing) was shortlisted for the 2022 Kobo Emerging Writer Prize. She also writes multi-genre poetry, stories, folklore essays, and the occasional zine. Find her online at samanthagarner.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.



A.G. Pasquella

Welcome to the Weird America: Three Novellas

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

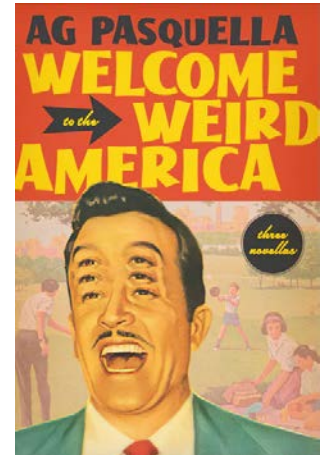
“This book is like the biggest carton of Neapolitan ice cream you could ever dream of, but instead of chocolate, the third flavour is a lit stick of dynamite.”

—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



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: November 2019

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

-Dreamscape (Audio)

-Dundurn

(North America, English/French)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available

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.



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."

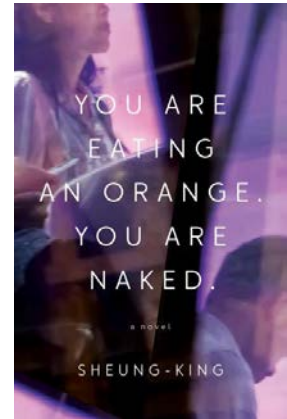
—Thea Lim, author of *An Ocean of Minutes*, a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize

"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.

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*

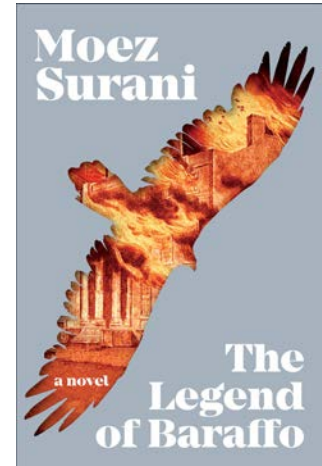
"Moez Surani's The Legend of Baraffo is about revolution and love, political will and will not, hunger striking, friendship, and tender romance. It's about imprisonment, charisma and wit, wordplay and poetry, and the unrelenting search for what is just. Babello, a political prisoner, and Mazzu, an orphan 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:

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

-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."

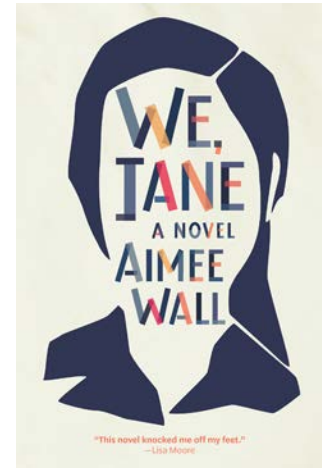
—Canthius

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 *Maisonneuve*, *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

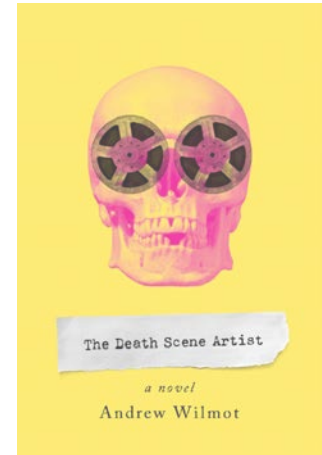
"From the jaw-dropping opening pages when we meet a protagonist perusing their remarkable inventory of 'outfits,' up to the very last page, this novel kept me riveted. This is a wonderful book, surreal, disturbing and liberating in the very best way." –Suzette Mayr, author of *Monoceros*

*"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



Photo credit: Hidden Exposure Photography

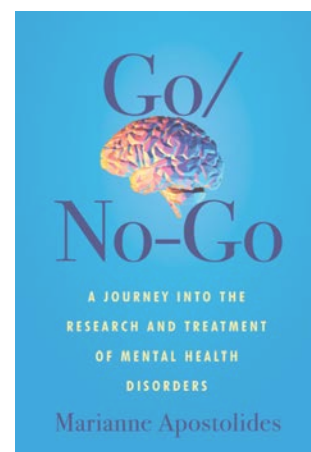
ANDREW WILMOT is a writer, editor, and painter based out of Toronto, Ontario. They have won awards for fiction, short fiction, and screenwriting, including the Friends of Merril Short Story Contest and ECW Press's Best New Speculative Novel Contest. For seven years they served as co-publisher and co-EIC 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

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



Publication: October 2025

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:

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

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available

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.

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

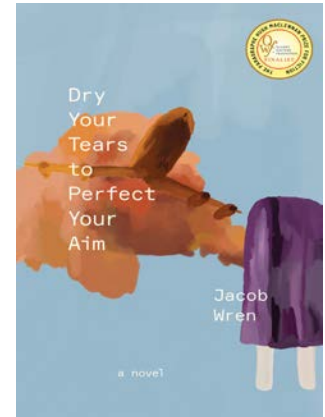
By turns a revolutionary’s memoir, an adventurer’s journal, autofiction, and speculative fiction, yet Dry Your Tears to Perfect Your Aim always stays clear and committed to its searching style, and this makes it a novel for today’s uncertain world.”

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

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:

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

-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

Gary Barwin

Imagining Imagining: Essays on Language, Identity and Infinity

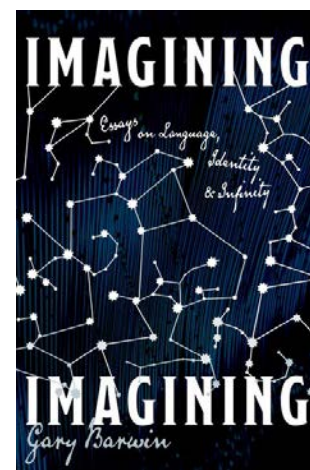
"Reading Gary Barwin is like zipping from one awe-inspiring corner of the galaxy to the next and being privy to the intricate, inner connections of everything you see along the way. From life with beloved dogs through to ampersands, first kisses and the invisible, entangled bonds of diaspora, this book 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:

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

-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*

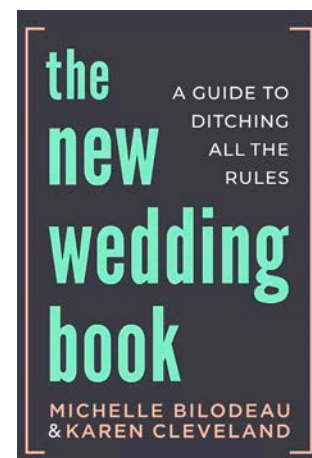
Plan your wedding without the weight of outdated customs and get hitched in a way that is authentic, fun, and true to who you are.

"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:

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(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."

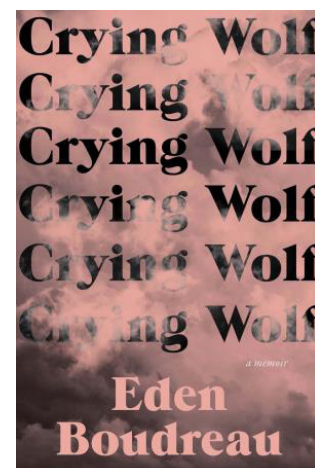
–Kelly S. Thompson, bestselling author of *Girls Need Not Apply* and *Still, I Cannot Save You*

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:

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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.

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*

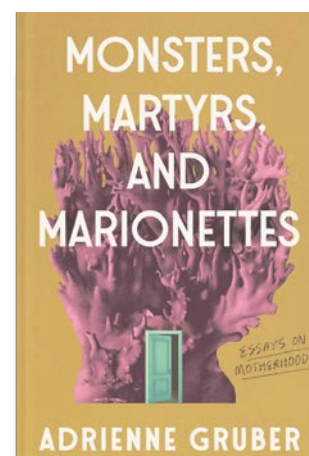
"The essays in this book, like Gruber's articulation of the chimera, reveal a matrilineal narrative of split flesh, eyeballs, sour milk, creepy puppets, blood, illnesses, and grief that leave the nerves exposed. Gruber writes with the precision of a scalpel, revealing with great dexterity, care, and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

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.

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 Nexwléx̓m (Bowen Island), B.C., the traditional territory of the Squamish peoples.



Publication: May 2024

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:

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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.

Photo credit: Trish Lindström



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.

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*

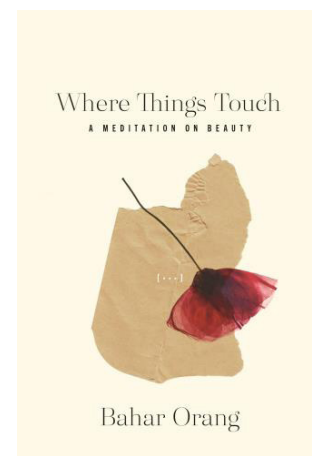
"Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty is an erotic conversation with the manifold relations of beauty. Refracted through the lens of caregiving and caretaking, Bahar Orang's lyric voice roams through poetry, Persian myth, and hospitals to enchant the everyday, returning us to an intimacy beyond 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

Publication: May 2020

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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

Publication: April 2019

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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.

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."

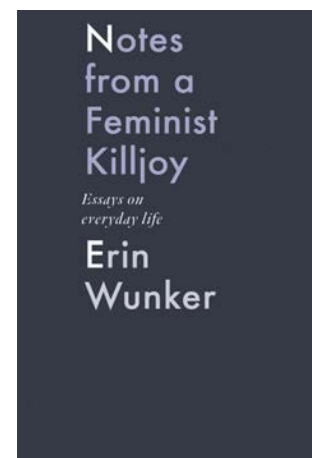
—Becky Robertson, Quill and Quire (starred review)

"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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