



HOUSE OF ANANSI

RIGHTS
2024



ANANSI

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ANANSI

Fiction



I NEVER SAID THAT I WAS BRAVE

A Novel

A taut tale of unequal friendship.

Set between the 1970s and 2010, *I Never Said That I Was Brave* examines the complicated relationship between two women as they navigate a culture vastly different from their parents'. Motivated by guilt and confusion, the unnamed narrator recounts the shifting dynamics of her lifelong friendship with Miriam, a charismatic astrophysicist who focuses on dark matter. As childhood immigrants to Canada from Uganda, the girls are able to assimilate (though not always easily). In adulthood, they chafe against the deeply held traditions and expectations of their South Asian community and their own internalized beliefs about women.

As the narrator follows her memories on their unpredictable and unreliable paths, the reader is taken along on a devastating journey, one which blurs distinctions between right and wrong, victim and manipulator, life and death.

TASNEEM JAMAL was born in Mbarara, Uganda, and immigrated to Canada in 1975. Her debut novel *Where the Air Is Sweet* was published to critical acclaim in 2014. That same year she was named one of 12 rising CanLit stars on CBC's annual list of Writers to Watch. Her writing has appeared in *Chatelaine*, *Saturday Night* magazine, and the *Literary Review of Canada*. She is the Writing Coach of the X Page Storytelling Workshop and an editor at *The New Quarterly* literary magazine. She lives in Kitchener.

Pub Date: 13 August 2024

Extent: 224 pp

Trim: 5.50 in x 8.50 in

Rights Held: World all languages



ANANSI



KEEP

A Novel

A timely tale of ownership and loss, loneliness and connection, and a meditation on all the stuff in our lives.

Home staging is an art of erasure. But in some cases—no matter how much clutter you remove, or how many coats of white paint you apply—stains bleed through, and memories rise from the walls like ghosts. Harriet, an elderly poet whose eccentricities have been compounded by years of living alone, must sell her beloved house. Having been recently diagnosed with dementia, she is being moved into a care facility against her wishes. When stagers Eleanor and Jacob are hired for the job, they quickly find themselves immersed in Harriet's brimming and mysterious world, but as they struggle to help her, their own lives are unravelling.

Keep is a meditation on all the stuff in our lives—from the singular, handcrafted artifact to indelible, mass-produced plastics. As Jenny Haysom excavates the material of our domestic spaces, she centres the people within them and celebrates the power of memory, even when it falters.

JENNY HAYSOM has published her writing in magazines across Canada. Her debut poetry collection, *Dividing the Wayside*, won the Archibald Lampman Award and was shortlisted for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award. Jenny lived in Ottawa for nearly thirty years, on the unceded, ancestral lands of the Algonquin Nation, and has recently returned to Nova Scotia, in Mi'kma'ki, where she grew up.

Pub Date: 1 October 2024

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Trim: 5.25 in x 8.00 in

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ANANSI



INNIE SHADOWS

A Novel

A taut and unsparing novel about a community plagued by violence, drugs, corruption, and prejudice—but where love and justice prevail.

The unidentifiable remains of a body are discovered in a field in Shadow Heights, a neighbourhood on the outskirts of Cape Town, South Africa. Ley, the youngest detective at her precinct, is assigned the case and quickly begins her investigation. Soon after, Ley receives a phone call saying that Carl, a friend struggling with a meth addiction, has gone missing after being linked to the Drug King of Shadow Heights. Meanwhile, a local church group believe they are cleansing the area by burning sinners, starting with homosexuals.

The search for Carl and the truth leads the reader through the vibrant lives of the residents of Shadow Heights. Violence, poverty, and shame plague the neighbourhood, but there is also love, acceptance, and hope to be found among friends and family in the shadows of everyday life.

A pioneering work of fiction in which the dispossessed tell their own stories, *Innie Shadows* is the first novel to be translated from Kaaps, a dialect of Afrikaans that was until recently a spoken language only.

OLIVIA M. COETZEE was born in Mariental, a small town in southern Namibia. She found her voice and words in the township of Electric City, which is in Eerste Rivier, Cape Town. She is a passionate advocate for Kaaps being a written language as well as a spoken one. She has an MA in creative writing from the University of Cape Town.

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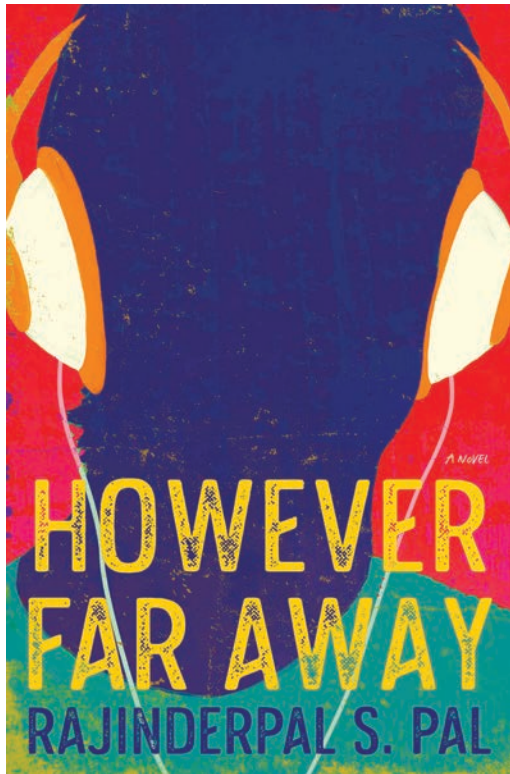
Extent: 144 pp

Trim: 5.25 in x 8.00 in

Rights Held: World all languages, excl. South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique.



ANANSI



HOWEVER FAR AWAY

A Novel

A sweeping family saga about love, loss, and acceptance—set against the backdrop of a Sikh wedding.

On the morning of his nephew's wedding, Devinder Gill is certain the delicate balance of his life will not be upset. Dev is married to Kuldip, and together they have two young children in Vancouver's Kitsilano neighbourhood. But Dev also has a secret: an affair with his first love, an Irish Canadian woman named Emily Rice, who recently returned to Canada after nine years abroad. Today, both women will attend the wedding.

As the day progresses through the traditional Sikh marriage rituals, the circumstances that led to this precarious situation are revealed through the alternating perspectives of Devinder, Emily, and Kuldip. Dev fails to recognize the building threats—an unwelcome guest, a wandering daughter, a repentant father—and by day's end must accept that he does not have the control over his life that he imagined. Will the balance be maintained, or will the fragile house of cards come tumbling down?

A stunning debut by a talented new voice, *However Far Away* is an unforgettable story about family secrets, painful compromises, and the promises we break to ourselves and others.

RAJINDERPAL S. PAL is a critically acclaimed writer and stage performer. He is the author of two collections of award-winning poetry, *pappaji wrote poetry in a language i cannot read* and *pulse*. Born in India and raised in Great Britain, Pal has lived in many cities across North America and now resides in Toronto. *However Far Away* is his first novel.

Pub Date: 6 August 2024

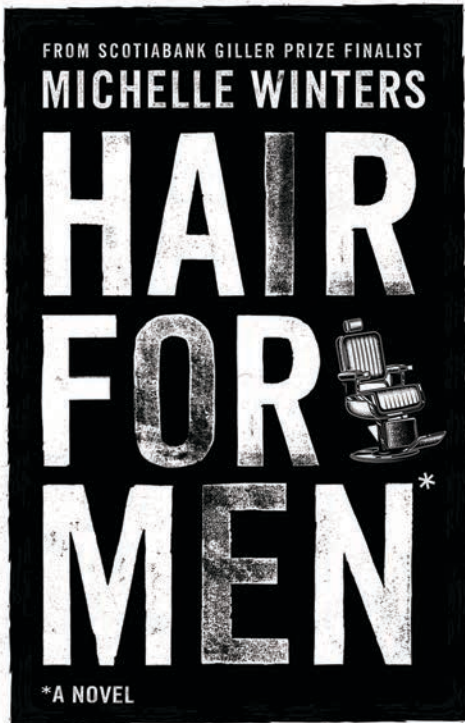
Extent: 384 pp

Trim: 5.25 in x 8.00 in

Rights Held: World all languages excl. India.



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HAIR FOR MEN

A Novel

The second novel by Scotiabank Giller Prize finalist Michelle Winters teems with hot towel shaves and the steady thrum of female rage.

Spurred by adolescent trauma, Louise adopts a life of hardcore punk violence until she stumbles into a job at a mysterious men's hair salon, where her unique relationship with her clientele shows her a more perfect world—or so it seems. When that world is overturned, she flees to a marina on the East Coast, where she lives free from reminders of her past—except the duffle-bagged ones she jettisons nightly in a forsaken cove. But on the day of the Tragically Hip's 2016 farewell performance in Kingston, a man surfaces from the Bay of Fundy, rousing long-dormant urges and giving Louise an unexpected gift: the chance to make things right.

Funny, warm, and furious, *Hair for Men* is a subversive exploration of gender, forgiveness, and chucking convention.

MICHELLE WINTERS is a writer, painter, and translator born and raised in Saint John, NB. Her debut novel, *I Am a Truck*, was shortlisted for the 2017 Scotiabank Giller Prize. Her work has been published in *This Magazine*, *Dragnet*, *Taddle Creek*, and the *Humber Literary Review*. She is the translator of *Daniil and Vanya* by Marie-Hélène Larochelle. She lives in Toronto.

Pub Date: 20 August 2024

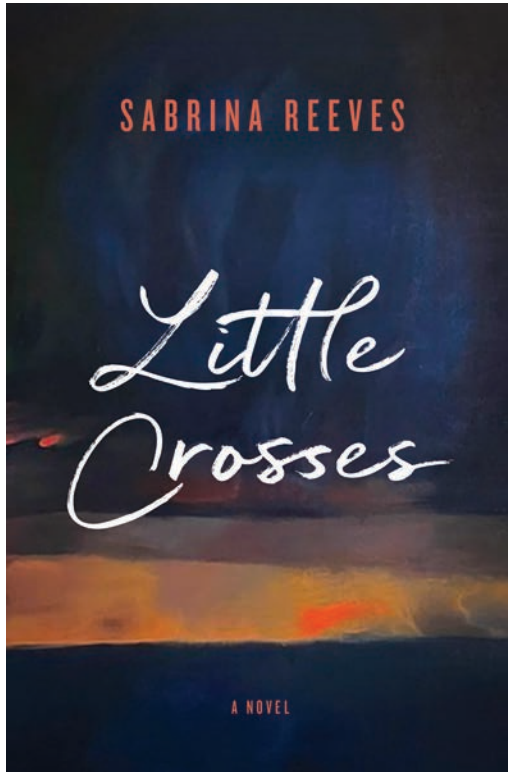
Extent: 216 pp

Trim: 5.25 in x 8.00 in

Rights Held: World all languages.



ANANSI



LITTLE CROSSES

A Novel

A daughter examines her complicated relationship with a charismatic, narcissistic mother who now lives with alcohol-related dementia.

When Cassie Wolfe brings her mother, Nina, to the Albuquerque Presbyterian Hospital to be detoxed, the doctors ask her to write a profile of the patient. But how can she fit Nina into a Word document? The last two years have left Cassie stunned, unable to reconcile this shell of a woman lying in the hospital bed with the force of nature that was her mother. Nina was an iconoclast—a painter and architect who could wield a chainsaw as easily as discuss politics or play the Emperor’s Concerto on the piano. She was passionate and driven. As Cassie reflects on her life with Nina, she begins to wonder whether drive is simply another word for anxiety. Were Nina’s “dark moods” the sign of deeper depression? Cassie finds that she can look back on her mother’s life with a critical eye but when her gaze turns to her own and how she’s raising her own daughters, her grief changes shape as she sees how her choices and values are a direct reflection of Nina’s.

SABRINA REEVES grew up in Boston and New York and currently lives in Montreal. Her artistic practice has primarily been in writing performance texts and plays. She founded the performance company Bluemouth Inc., with whom she’s written and staged over twelve original works and performed all over the world. In 2018, she completed an MFA in creative writing at Concordia University, where she was awarded the Dean of Arts and Sciences Award for Excellence in Creative Writing.

Pub Date: 19 March 2024

Extent: 300 pp

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DANGEROUS MEMORY

Coming of Age in the Decade of Greed

A bold book of rage, hope, and challenge exposing how the political decisions of the 1980s continue to haunt us today.

The 1980s is remembered with nostalgia as a harmless decade of big hair, colourful clothes, and catchy pop songs. It was anything but. In *Dangerous Memory*, Charlie Angus undertakes a major rethink of the cultural and political shifts of an era that unleashed an unprecedented looting of the economy, the environment, and the common good that continue to haunt North Americans today.

But the 1980s was also a time of resistance, creativity, and hope. In a world that stood on the brink of global annihilation, millions of ordinary people stepped up to save the planet and fight for human rights. As an idealistic eighteen-year-old, Charlie Angus quit school to play in a punk band and work with the homeless and refugees in Toronto's east end.

Expertly weaving his story within the larger narrative of the times, Angus traces today's economic, environmental, and social problems to their roots in the 1980s. Planting the seeds of change, he challenges us to take action to confront widespread injustice and massive systemic inequity to create a better world.

CHARLIE ANGUS is a nationally recognized politician, author, and musician. He has published nine books, including Trillium Book Award finalist *Cobalt: Cradle of the Demon Metals, Birth of a Mining Superpower*. As an elected member of Parliament for twenty years, he has earned a reputation as a fierce fighter for social justice and Indigenous rights. Angus was the founding member of Toronto punk band L'étranger, and he is now the leader of the roots band Grievous Angels. He lives in Cobalt, Ontario, with his wife, Brit Griffin. They have three children.

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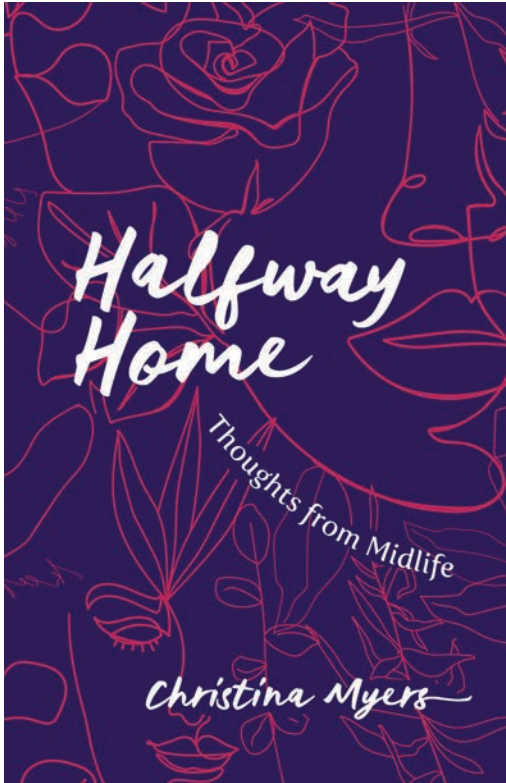
Extent: 352 pp

Trim: 5.50 in x 8.50 in

Rights Held: World all languages.



ANANSI



HALFWAY HOME

Thoughts from Midlife

Award-winning author Christina Myers navigates the uncharted territory of midlife in a time of rapid social, cultural, and environmental change.

Modern midlife is finding oneself halfway home but without any reliable maps for the route ahead. With wit and warmth, these personal essays move from a first bra to first hot flashes to consider the lessons we learn through media and culture—and from each other—about bodies, sexuality, fatphobia, gender roles, and what we should want in life. Christina Myers explores the ways that beauty standards and cultural expectations around femininity have shaped our identities and how we might shed those going forward; the power of friendships and the value of having other women to learn from; the anxiety of moving through motherhood into menopause in a time of global environmental crisis and political upheaval; and the uncertainty of how this stage of life should unfold, as old systems shift and crumble. Though our maps for midlife are never identical, we discover familiar paths and common landmarks in each other's stories; these essays remind us there are others on this trail with us, just behind or just ahead, out of sight. We are not alone.

CHRISTINA MYERS is a writer, editor, and former journalist. Her novel *The List of Last Chances* (2021) was longlisted for the Leacock Medal. She edited the award-winning anthology *BIG* (2020), and her work has appeared in anthologies, magazines, and newspapers. An alumnus of the Writer's Studio at Simon Fraser University, she now teaches creative writing through SFU's continuing studies. She is a member of Da'naxda'xw First Nation and lives in Surrey, British Columbia.

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IN EXILE

Rupture, Reunion, and My Grandmother's Secret Life

In a deeply personal investigation, award-winning journalist Sadiya Ansari takes us across three continents and back a century as she seeks the truth behind a family secret. Why did her grandmother Tahira abandon her seven children to follow a man from Karachi to a tiny village in Punjab? And though she eventually left the man, Tahira remained estranged from her children for nearly two decades. Who was she in those years when she was no longer a wife or mother? For Sadiya herself, uninterested in marriage and children, the question begets another: What space is available to women who defy cultural expectations?

Through her inquiry, Sadiya discovers what her daadi's life was like during that separation and she confronts difficult historical truths: the pervasiveness of child marriage, how Partition made refugees of millions of families like hers, and how the national freedoms achieved in 1947 did not extend to women's lives. She sees the threads of this history woven through each generation after, and finds an unexpected sense of belonging in a culture that, at first blush, shuns women for wanting lives of their own.

SADIYA ANSARI is a Pakistani Canadian journalist based in London. Her work has appeared in the *Guardian*, *VICE*, *Refinery29*, *Maclean's*, *The Walrus*, and the *Globe and Mail*, among others. She has reported from North America, Asia, and Europe, and her work has changed legislation and won awards. She is co-founder of the Canadian Journalists of Colour, a 2021 R. James Travers Foreign Corresponding Fellow, and a 2023–24 Asper Visiting Professor at the University of British Columbia.

Pub Date: 13 August 2024

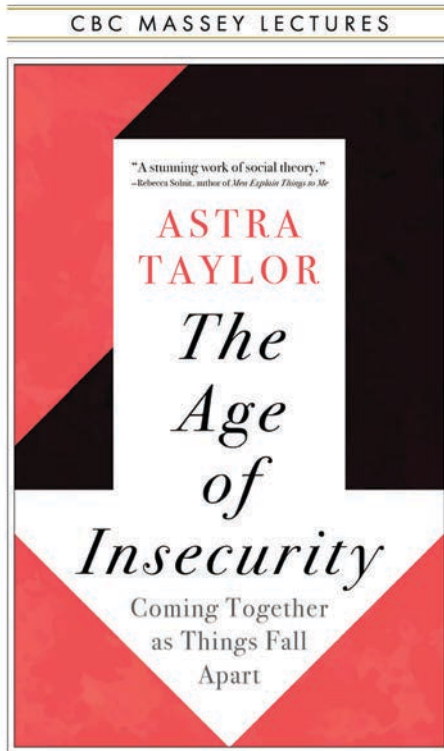
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Rights Held: World all languages.

Rights Sold: Turkish (Okuyan Us)

THE AGE OF INSECURITY

Coming Together as Things Fall Apart

These days, everyone feels insecure. We are financially stressed and emotionally overwhelmed. The status quo isn't working for anyone, even those who appear to have it all. What is going on?

In this urgent cultural diagnosis, author and activist Astra Taylor exposes how seemingly disparate crises—rising inequality and declining mental health, the ecological emergency, and the threat of authoritarianism—originate from a social order built on insecurity. From home ownership and education to the wellness industry and policing, many of the institutions and systems that promise to make us more secure actually undermine us.

Mixing social critique, memoir, history, political analysis, and philosophy, this genre-bending book rethinks both insecurity and security from the ground up. By facing our existential insecurity and embracing our vulnerability, Taylor argues, we can begin to develop more caring, inclusive, and sustainable forms of security to help us better weather the challenges ahead. *The Age of Insecurity* will transform how you understand yourself and society—while illuminating a path toward meaningful change.

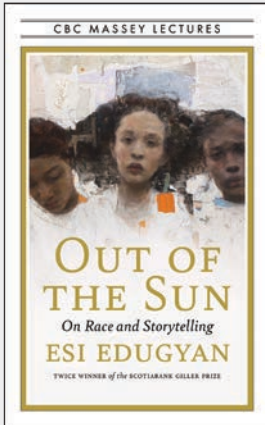
ASTRA TAYLOR is a filmmaker, writer, and political organizer, born in Winnipeg, MB, and raised in Athens, GA; she currently lives in New York. Her latest book is *Remake the World: Essays, Reflections, Rebellions*, and her other books include the American Book Award winner *The People's Platform: Taking Back Power and Culture in the Digital Age*. She regularly writes for major publications, has directed multiple documentaries, toured with the band Neutral Milk Hotel, and co-founded the Debt Collective.



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THE CBC MASSEY LECTURES

Co-presented by Massey College in the University of Toronto, The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), and House of Anansi Press, the annual Massey Lectures are widely regarded as the most important public lectures in Canada, led by distinguished writers, thinkers, and scholars on issues of broad contemporary significance. Established in 1961, the series has featured lecturers including Martin Luther King Jr., Noam Chomsky, Margaret Atwood, and Margaret MacMillan.



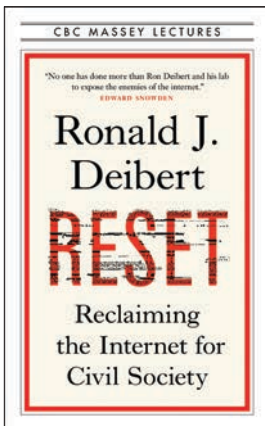
OUT OF THE SUN: On Race and Storytelling by Esi Edugyan, 2021.

Rights sold: UK Commonwealth (Serpents Tail), Dutch (Signatuur), French NA (Boréal)

The first major work of non-fiction from two-time Giller Prize winner and internationally bestselling novelist Esi Edugyan.

In *Out of The Sun: On Race and Storytelling*, Edugyan examines Black histories filtered through and depicted in art, and shows how new perspectives upend the larger, known narrative. History is a construction. Edugyan asks us to consider what happens when we grant centrality to stories at the margins of history. How does that complicate our certainties about who we are, as individuals, as nations, as human beings?

"An essential reckoning with how history is made." — *Publishers Weekly*, STARRED REVIEW



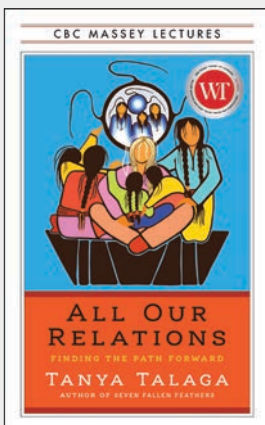
RESET: Reclaiming the Internet for Civil Society by Ronald J. Deibert, 2020.

Rights sold: UK Commonwealth (September) Polish (Wielka Litera).

Technology and security expert and bestselling author Ronald J. Deibert exposes the disturbing influence and impact of social media on politics, the economy, ecology, and our humanity.

Drawing from the cutting-edge research of the Citizen Lab, Deibert analyzes consumer compulsion and the information economy; the disturbing rise of authoritarian practices, cyberwarfare services, and social engineering campaigns; and the negative environmental impact of digital and electronic waste. Ultimately, Deibert exposes social media's disproportionate influence in every aspect of life, to the detriment of society, of the environment and of our humanity, and calls for a wholesale shift in our lifestyles.

"Reset is the definitive narrative of where we went wrong and a last chance to make things right." — Edward Snowden



ALL OUR RELATIONS: Finding the Path Forward by Tanya Talaga, 2018.

Rights sold: UK/Commonwealth (Scribe), French North America (Editions XYZ), Japanese (Seidosha).

In this vital and incisive work, bestselling and award-winning author of *Seven Fallen Feathers* Tanya Talaga explores the alarming rise of youth suicide in Indigenous communities in Canada and beyond.

From Northern Ontario to Nunavut, Norway, Brazil, Australia, and the United States, the Indigenous experience in colonized nations is startlingly similar and deeply disturbing. It is an experience marked by the violent separation of Peoples from the land, the separation of families, and the separation of individuals from traditional ways of life — all of which has culminated in a spiritual separation that has had an enduring impact on generations of Indigenous children.

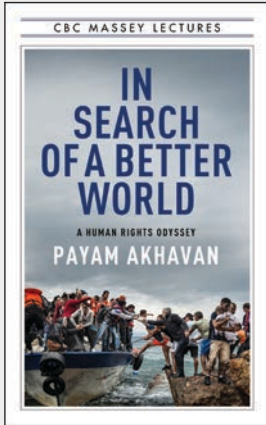
Finalist for the *British Academy's Nayef Al-Rhodhan Prize for Global Cultural Understanding, 2020* and the *Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, 2019*.

"An impeccably researched and unflinching documentation of how both colonial histories and ongoing genocidal practices have created the suicide crisis among Indigenous youth across the globe. *All Our Relations* is a call to action and a testament to the strength and tenacity of Indigenous people around the world." — *Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction Jury Citation*.



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THE CBC MASSEY LECTURES



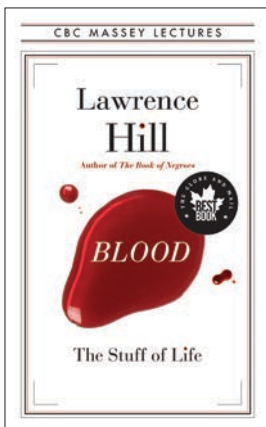
IN SEARCH OF A BETTER World: A Human Rights Odyssey by Payam Akhavan, 2017.

Rights sold: Spanish (Erasmus)

A timely, essential, and passionate work of memoir and history, *In Search of a Better World* is a powerful look at the major human rights struggles of our times by internationally renowned UN prosecutor and scholar Payam Akhavan.

From the religious persecution of Iranian Bahá'ís that shaped his personal life, to the horrors of ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia, the genocide in Rwanda, and the rise of contemporary phenomena such as the Islamic State, Akhavan argues that deceptive utopias, political cynicism, and public apathy have given rise to major human rights abuses. But he also reflects on the inspiring resilience of the human spirit and the reality of our inextricable interdependence to liberate us.

"In Search of a Better World is a revelation of some of the darkest moments of the world's recent history and a vital and enduring odyssey of hope for the future." — Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize winner and founder of the Defenders of Human Rights Center in Iran



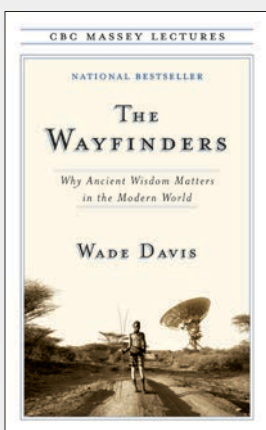
BLOOD: THE STUFF OF LIFE by Lawrence Hill, 2013.

Rights sold: UK (OneWorld), ANZ (NewSouth), French NA (Editions des Plaines)

Blood: The Stuff of Life is a bold meditation on blood as an historical and contemporary marker of identity, belonging, gender, race, class, citizenship, athletic superiority, and nationhood; and on the ways that it unites and divides us today.

Blood runs red through every person's arteries and fulfills the same functions in every human being. The study of blood has advanced our understanding of biology and improved medical treatments, but its cultural and social representations have divided us perennially. Blood pulses through religion, literature, and the visual arts. Every time it pools or spills, we learn a little more about what brings human beings together and what pulls us apart.

"[Hill's] prose is transparent and compelling ... the book is as enthralling as it is informative. The reasons for Hill's success as a writer are apparent throughout; if he were not already established as an author to follow, this work would accomplish that." — *Publishers Weekly*



THE WAYFINDERS: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World by Wade Davis, 2009.

Rights sold: Romanian (Polyrom), Spanish (Sílabas), English ANZ (University of Western Australia Press), World French (Albin Michel), Turkish (Kolektif Kitap Bilisim Ve Tasarım).

In *The Wayfinders*, renowned anthropologist, winner of the prestigious Samuel Johnson Prize, and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Wade Davis leads us on a thrilling journey to celebrate the wisdom of the world's indigenous cultures.

Starting with Polynesian navigators whose ancestors settled the Pacific ten centuries before Christ, Davis takes us to the Amazon basin where we learn about the people of the Anaconda, Australia and the beleaguered Aboriginals clinging to their Dreamtime, then on to Nepal and Borneo; every culture is a unique answer to a fundamental question: What does it mean to be human and alive?

Understanding the lessons of this journey will be our mission for the next century, for at risk is the human legacy. Rediscovering a new appreciation for the diversity of the human spirit, as expressed by culture, is among the central challenges of our time.

"An eloquent and persuasive case for the contemporary value of these ancient cultures, not least because of what we might learn about how human societies can live sustainably on the planet." — *Canadian Geographic*



ANANSI



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Short Fiction

WHO WILL BURY YOU?

Stories

Intimate stories about Zimbabweans in moments of transition that force them to decide who they really are and choose the people they call their own.

Set in Toronto and Zimbabwe, the twelve elegant stories in *Who Will Bury You?* touch on themes of loss, identity, and inequality as they follow the lives of Zimbabweans who often feel like they are on the outside looking in. A mother and daughter navigate new relationship dynamics when the daughter comes out as a lesbian. Two sisters wonder what will hold them together after their grandmother's death. A daughter tries to tell her father she loves him as she prepares to leave home for the first time. A journalist takes her grieving mother on a trip to report on girls who are allegedly being abducted by mermaids. A girl born to be the river god's wife becomes a hero when chaos breaks out in the mighty Zambezi. A group of mothers discover just how far they are willing to go to protect their children during wartime.

Ephemeral yet beautifully satisfying, the stories in Chido Muchemwa's debut collection ask what makes people leave home, what makes them come back, and what keeps them there.

CHIDO MUCHEMWA is a Zimbabwean writer living in Toronto. Her work has appeared in *Lolwe*, *Augur*, *Catapult*, *Baltimore Review*, and *PRISM international*, among others. She has been shortlisted twice for the Short Story Day Africa Prize, and she was the winner of the 2022 Bridge Prize.



ANANSI



PEACOCKS OF INSTAGRAM

Stories

Engrossing, witty yet devastating stories about diasporic Indians that deftly question what it means to be safe, to survive, and to call a place home.

In these fresh and intimate stories, Deepa Rajagopalan centres a cast of Indian women who are flawed, enterprising, and filled with desire. In the award-winning title story, an underappreciated coffee shop server haunted by her past attracts thousands of followers on social media with her peacock jewelry. A hotel housekeeper up against a world of gender and class inequity quietly gets revenge on her chauvinist boss. A fiercely independent engineer does not decamp to the sidelines of an affair but takes up space, living her life as variously as possible. A foster child, orphaned in an accident directly attributable to climate change brings down her foster father, an oil lobbyist, in spectacular fashion.

With an intense awareness of privilege and the lack of it, the fourteen stunning stories in *Peacocks of Instagram* explore the complexities of love, loss, and desire, and the weight they carry.

DEEPA RAJAGOPALAN won the 2021 RBC/PEN Canada New Voices Award. Her work has appeared in literary magazines and anthologies such as the *Bristol Short Story Prize Anthology*, the *New Quarterly*, *Room*, the *Malahat Review*, *Event*, and *Arc*. She has an MFA in creative writing from the University of Guelph. Born to Indian parents in Saudi Arabia, she has lived in many cities across India, the US, and Canada. Deepa works in the tech industry in Toronto.

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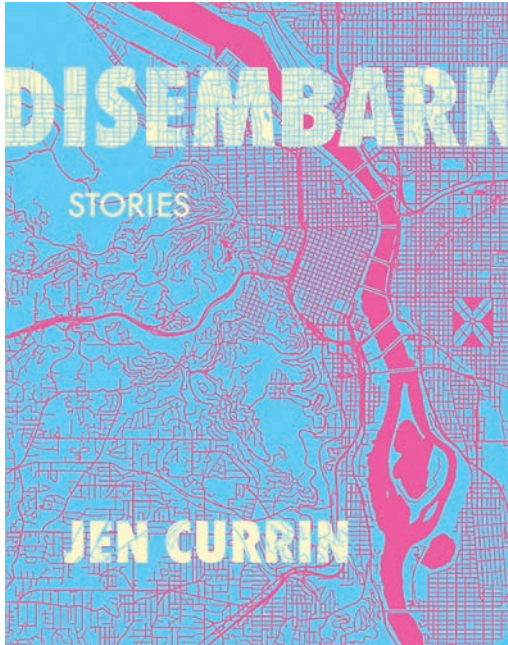
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DISEMBARK

Stories

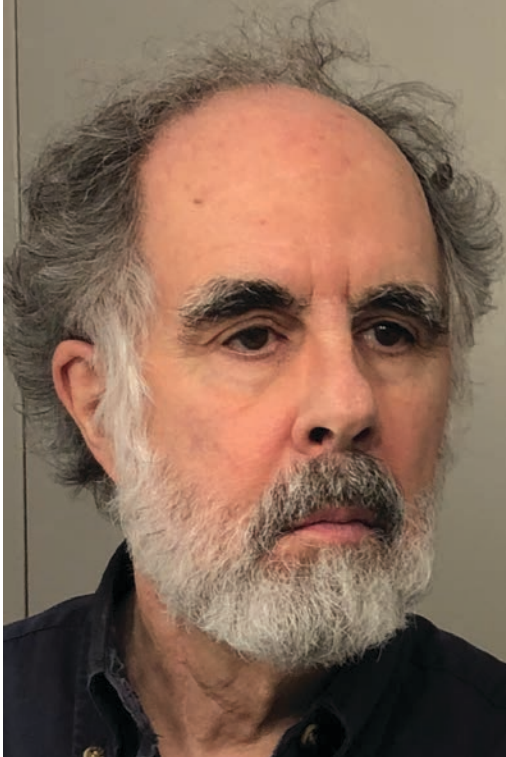
Award-winning author Jen Currin presents remarkable and sometimes magical new stories of queer friendship and love, against the backdrop of city life.

The stories in *Disembark* feature queer characters navigating new worlds, new circumstances, and new methods of relating to the people around them. With resonant imagery and clear, lyrical prose, Currin weaves vibrant narratives showcasing queer relationships—be they platonic, romantic, or somewhere in between. A banshee shacks up with a lesbian couple in a rocky relationship, a lonely teen is gifted a knife by their mother's boyfriend, a queer woman finds herself heartbroken when her best friend fails her at a crucial moment, and a young alcoholic hashes things out with their mother in the afterlife. In modes both realist and fantastic, the profound and eloquent stories in *Disembark* provide a glimpse into the unexpected, offering insight into the ways we relate in this world and in worlds beyond.

JEN CURRIN is the author of seven books, including *Hider/Seeker: Stories*, which won a Canadian Independent Book Award and was named a 2018 Globe and Mail Best Book, and *The Inquisition Yours*, which won the 2011 Audre Lorde Award and was a Lambda finalist. Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, on the traditional territories of the Multnomah, Chinook, Clackamas, and other tribes, Currin studied with Martín Espada and John Ashbery before moving to Canada in 2002. They live in New Westminster, BC, on unceded Qayqayt, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, and Musqueam territories and teach creative writing and English at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.



ANANSI



GREAT SILENT BALLAD

Poems

“You don’t live if there’s no poetry: you don’t live at all, or if you appear to yourself to be living, you’re not. You really are living, though, even if you’re dead, because you do have poetry, poetry’s with you whether or not you know it...”

Great Silent Ballad, beloved lyric poet A.F. Moritz’s twenty-second volume of poetry, in visionary terms forwards the assertion that poetry, a primordial reality, is in the current moment both the equal of, and the antidote to, the rest of present-day civilization and its suicidal nature.

The book unfolds in seven short sections that probe such topics as the crucial value of childhood; a human person’s development through maturity and age; the perennially avant-garde nature of great poetry no matter what time and place; and poetry’s inherent involvement with hope and creativity, life and feeling, freedom and love. *Great Silent Ballad* also reprises Moritz’s longstanding celebration of common human conversation, the apex of which (he argues convincingly) is what we call “poetry”—meaning not just the art of verse, but our total access to the goodness of natural existence.

A. F. MORITZ’s entire post-education life has been spent in Toronto; he was the city’s poet laureate 2019-2023. He has written twenty-two books of poetry. His works with Anansi, since 2004, have received the Griffin Poetry Prize, the ReLit Award, the Beth Hokin Prize, and the Raymond Souster Award, and were finalists for the Governor General’s Award (twice) and the Trillium Award. He has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Ingram Merrill Fellowship, and the Award in Literature of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Pub Date: 24 September 2024

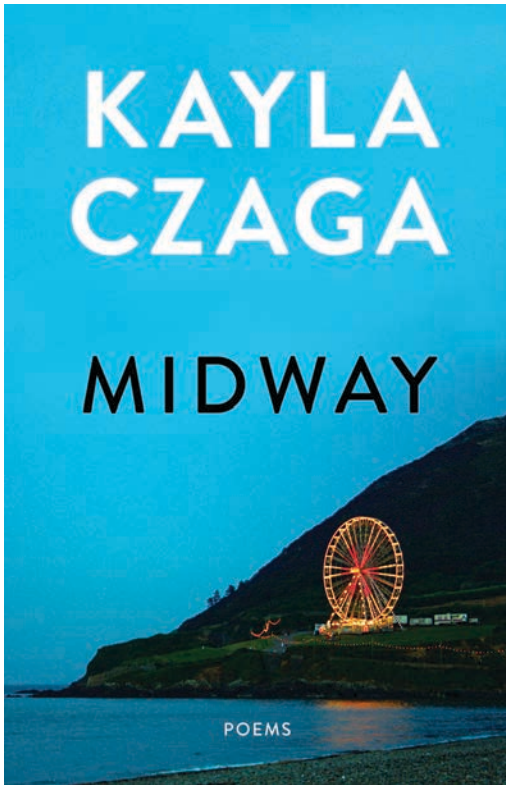
Extent: 120 pp

Trim: 5.50 in x 8.50 in

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ANANSI



MIDWAY

Poems

Honest, elegiac, characteristically strange, and frequently funny, *Midway* is an exploration of grief in all its manifestations.

"I feel like the crud / I accidentally touch sometimes, whatever it is / that collects under cushions on my couch," writes Kayla Czaga in her third collection, *Midway*, an exploration of grief in all its manifestations. In her search for meaning in the aftermath of her parents' deaths, Czaga visits the underworld (at least twice), Vietnamese restaurants, the beach, London's Tate Modern, Las Vegas casinos, and a fish textbook, among others. Honest, elegiac, characteristically strange, and frequently funny, these poems take the reader through bright scenery like carnival rides with fast climbs and sudden drops. The meanings and messages Czaga uncovers on her travels are complicated: hopeful, bleak—both comforting and not. Along with the parents the poet mourns, this collection showcases a varied cast. A suburban father-in-law copes with a troubling diagnosis. Marge Simpson quits *The Simpsons*. Death is a metalhead who dates girls too young for him. *Midway* is a welcome and necessary collection from one of the most celebrated and accomplished poets of her generation.

KAYLA CZAGA is the author of two previous poetry collections—*For Your Safety Please Hold On*, and *Dunk Tank*. Her work has been shortlisted for the Governor General's Award and the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. Frequently anthologized in the Best Canadian Poetry series, her writing also appears in *The Walrus*, *Grain*, *Event*, *The Fiddlehead*, and elsewhere. She lives with her wife on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen people, also known as the Esquimalt and Songhees nations (Victoria BC).

Pub Date: 2 April 2024

Extent: 104 pp

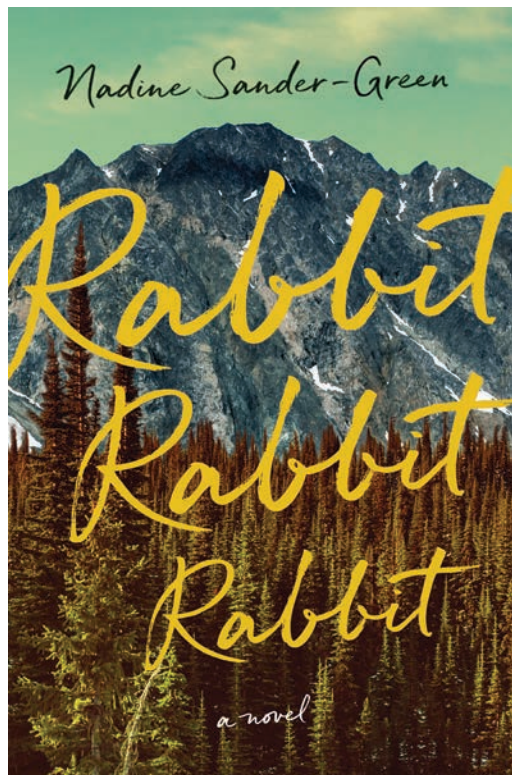
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ANANSI

House Favourites



RABBIT RABBIT RABBIT

A Novel

A woman's coming-of-age through a toxic relationship, isolation, and betrayal—set against the stark landscape of the far north.

Millicent is a shy, 24-year-old reporter who moves to Whitehorse to work for a failing daily newspaper. With winter looming and the Yukon descending into darkness, Millicent begins a relationship with Pascal, an eccentric and charming middle-aged filmmaker who lives on a converted school bus in a Walmart parking lot. What begins as a romantic adventure soon turns toxic, and Millicent finds herself struggling not to lose herself and her voice.

Events come to a head at Thaw di Gras, a celebration in faraway Dawson City marking the return of light to the north. It's here, in a frontier mining town filled with drunken tourists, eclectic locals, and sparkling burlesque dancers, that Millicent must choose between staying with Pascal or finally standing up to her abuser.

In the style of Ottessa Moshfegh's honest exploration of dysfunctional relationships, and with the warmth and energy of Heather O'Neill, *Rabbit Rabbit Rabbit* illuminates what it's like to be young, impulsive, and in love in one of the harshest environments in the world.

NADINE SANDER-GREEN grew up in Kimberley, British Columbia. After living across Canada—in Victoria, Toronto, and Whitehorse—she now calls Calgary, Alberta, home. She completed her BFA from the University of Victoria and her MFA from the University of Guelph. In 2015, Nadine won the PEN Canada New Voices Award for writers under 30. Her writing has appeared in the *Globe and Mail*, *Grain*, *Prairie Fire*, *Outside*, *carte blanche*, *Hazlitt*, and elsewhere.

Nadinesandergreen.com

[@nsandergreen](https://twitter.com/nsandergreen)

Pub Date: 16 April 2024

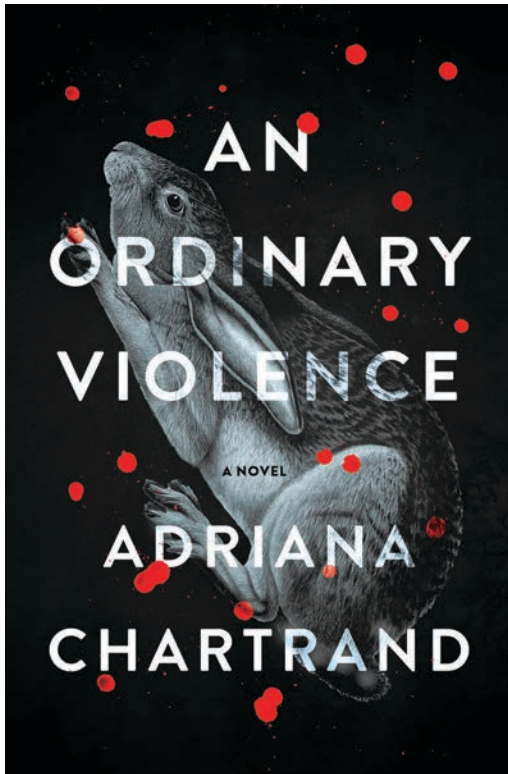
Extent: 320 pp

Trim: 5.25 in x 8.00 in

Rights Held: World all languages.



ANANSI



AN ORDINARY VIOLENCE

A Novel

A chilling horror novel about a young Indigenous woman haunted by the oppressive legacies of colonization.

Dawn hasn't spoken to her brother, Cody, since he was sent to prison for a violent crime seven years ago. Now living in a shiny new Toronto condo, Dawn is haunted by uncanny occurrences, including cryptic messages from her dead mother, that have followed her most of her life. When the life Dawn thought she wanted implodes, she is forced to return to her childhood home and the prairie city that hold so much pain for her and her fractured family.

Cody is unexpectedly released from prison with a mysterious new friend by his side, who seems to be the charismatic leader of a dangerous supernatural network. Trying to uncover their plans, Dawn follows increasingly sinister leads until the lines between this world and the next, now and then, and right and wrong begin to blur and dissolve.

What unfolds is an eerie, incisive, and at times darkly funny horror novel about a young Indigenous woman reckoning with trauma and violence, loss and reclamation in an unsettling world where spirit realms entwine with the living—and where it is humans who carry out the truly monstrous acts.

ADRIANA CHARTRAND is a mixed-race Native woman, born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her father is Red River Métis (Michif), born and raised in the Métis community of St. Laurent, and her mother is a mixed white settler from Manitoba. Adriana has two degrees in film studies and has previously worked in the social work field. She lives in Toronto and works in the film industry.

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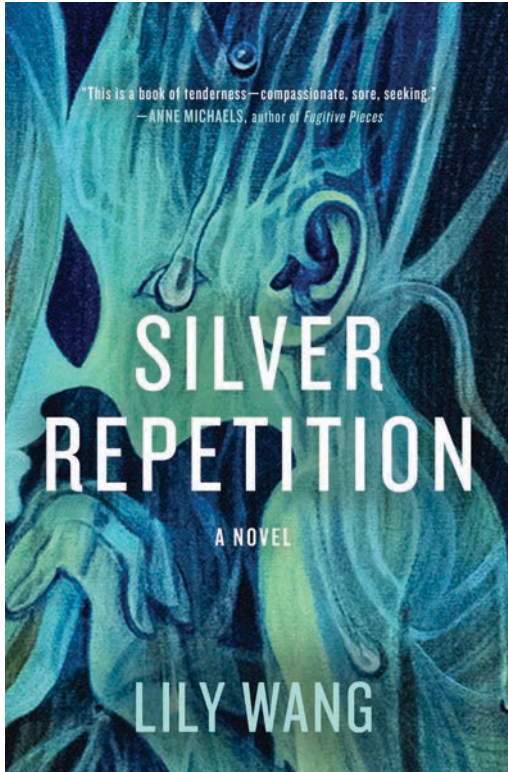
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Rights Sold: United States (The New Press).

SILVER REPETITION

A Novel

A young Asian immigrant mends her fractured sense of self in this exquisite coming-of-age debut novel about family, grief, and identity.

Having left China for Canada with her parents as a child, Yuè Yuè yearns to discover who she is as she nears the end of her undergraduate degree and starts a new relationship. In urgent poetic fragments, she seeks common ground with her Canadian-born younger sister and grieves the beloved cousin she lost touch with back home. After Yuè Yuè receives a call from a girl making accusations, her date ghosts her. Meanwhile, her mother's illness advances like snow. On a walk in the woods, Yuè Yuè sees a little girl digging in the mud, but when she peeks behind the curtain of black hair, her own face haunts her.

In endless perfect loops of memory and dream, loss and return, *Silver Repetition* tenderly illuminates the fullness of identity despite fractures in language, culture, and relationships. In a moving reunion, Yuè Yuè's cousin comes to visit and everyone is caught, laughing, in the rain. Despite the weight of grief, isolation, and difference, even the most delicate family bonds can knit together tightly enough for the future to overcome the past.

LILY WANG was born in Shanghai, China, and immigrated to Canada at the age of six. They have an MA in English and creative writing from the University of Toronto. They live in Toronto.



ANANSI



NOT THAT KIND OF PLACE

A Novel

In May 1997, eighteen-year-old Laura McPherson left her house for a run and didn't return ...

Twenty years later, a reporter arrives in the small town of Griffiths to write an article about the unsolved murder of Laura McPherson. He is the most recent in a long line of journalists, podcasters, and amateur sleuths seeking new insights into what really happened to Laura.

Laura's younger brother, David, a repressed and stuck thirty-something, is dealing with the recent death of his mother when the reporter comes knocking. The last surviving family member, David has lived a sheltered life, protected from the prying eyes of the media by his mother. But David cannot escape the past forever, and soon finds himself confronting the lasting impact of his sister's death. As David learns more about his sister and the history of Griffiths, his eyes are opened to the casual violence, misogyny, and racism that lurk just below the surface of his seemingly placid community.

Provocative and haunting, *Not That Kind of Place* is a literary anti-mystery, a compelling exploration of our obsession with true-crime stories and the devastating effects of systemic violence on our most vulnerable populations.

MICHAEL MELGAARD is the author of the short story collection *Pallbearing*. His writing has appeared in *Best Canadian Stories* anthology, as well as *Joyland*, *Lithub*, and elsewhere. He is a former book columnist for the *National Post*. Originally from Vancouver Island, he currently lives in Toronto.

Pub Date: 29 August 2023

Extent: 208 pp

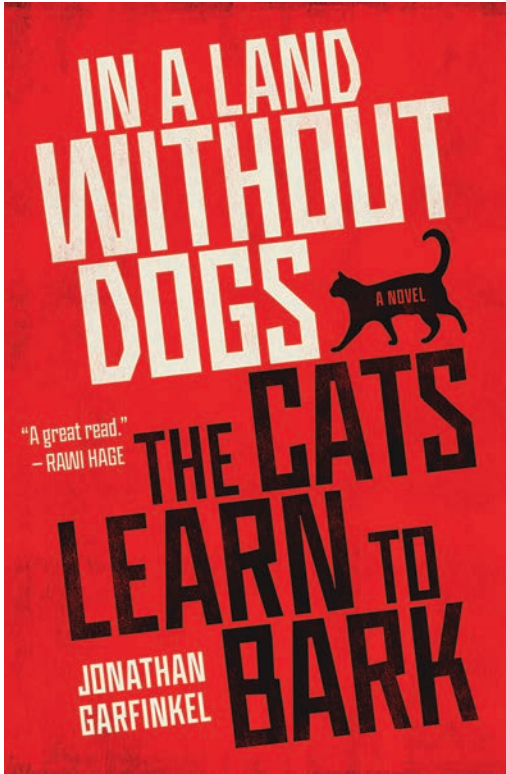
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Rights Sold: English North America Audio (Dreamscape).



ANANSI



IN A LAND WITHOUT DOGS THE CATS LEARN TO BARK

A Novel

In his wildly ambitious and darkly funny debut novel, Jonathan Garfinkel probes the fractured nature of identity, the necessity of lies, and the bloody legacy of the Soviet Empire.

Spanning generations, continents, and cultures, *In a Land without Dogs the Cats Learn to Bark* is an electric tale about a nation trying to emerge from the shadow of the Soviet Union to embrace Western democracy. Driven by a complexly plotted mystery that leads from Moscow to Toronto to Tbilisi, punctuated by wild car chases and drunken jazz reveries, and featuring an eccentric cast of characters including Georgian performance artists, Chechen warlords, and KGB spies, Garfinkel delivers a story that questions the price of freedom and laughs at the answer.

With exhilarating prose reminiscent of Rachel Kushner and more twists than a John le Carré thriller, *In a Land without Dogs the Cats Learn to Bark* is a daring, nuanced, and spectacularly entertaining novel by an exceptional talent.

JONATHAN GARFINKEL is an award-winning author. His plays include *Cockroach* (adapted from the novel by Rawni Hage) and *House of Many Tongues*, nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. The controversial *The Trials of John Demjanjuk: A Holocaust Cabaret* has been performed across Canada, Russia, Ukraine, and Germany. He is the author of the poetry collection *Glass Psalms* and the chapbook *Bociany*. His memoir, *Ambivalence: Crossing the Israel/Palestine Divide*, has been published in numerous countries to wide critical acclaim, and his long-form nonfiction has appeared in the *Walrus*, *Tablet*, the *Globe and Mail*, and *PEN International*, as well as *Cabin Fever: An Anthology of the Best New Canadian Non-Fiction*. Named by the *Toronto Star* as "one to watch," Garfinkel is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the field of Medical and Health Humanities at the University of Alberta, where he is writing a memoir about life with type 1 diabetes, and the revolutionary open-source Loop artificial pancreas system. He lives in Berlin and Toronto.

Pub Date: 21 February 2023

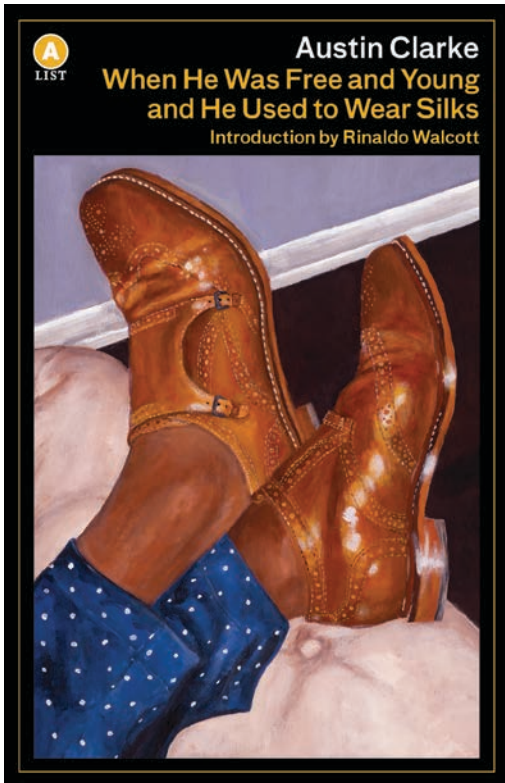
Extent: 424 pp

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Rights Sold: German (Rowohlt Berlin), Audio (OrangeSky).

ANANSI



WHEN HE WAS FREE AND YOUNG AND HE USED TO WEAR SILKS

Now available after over four decades, the first collection of short fiction from bestselling author and Barbadian-born Canadian luminary Austin Clarke — winner of the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, and the Trillium Book Award for his novel *The Polished Hoe* — is a vital, lyrical, and provocative exploration of the Black immigrant experience in Canada.

Originally issued in 1971, Austin Clarke's first published collection of eleven remarkable stories showcases his groundbreaking approach to chronicling the Caribbean diaspora experience in Canada. Characters move through the mire of working life, of establishing a home for themselves, of reconciling with what and who they left behind — all the while contending with a place in which their bone-chilling reception is both social and atmospheric. In lyrical, often racy, and wholly unforgettable prose, Clarke portrays a set of provocative, scintillating portraits of the psychological realities faced by people of colour in a society so often lauded for its geniality and openness.

AUSTIN CLARKE (1934–2016) was one of Canada's foremost authors, whose work includes ten novels, six short-story collections, three memoirs, and two collections of poetry. His novel *The Polished Hoe* won the 2002 Giller Prize. Clarke was appointed to the Order of Canada, held four honorary doctorates, and was awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, the W. O. Mitchell Prize, the Casa de las Américas Prize, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Excellence in Writing, among others. In his fifty-year career he worked as a journalist, a professor, and a cultural attaché in Washington, D.C.

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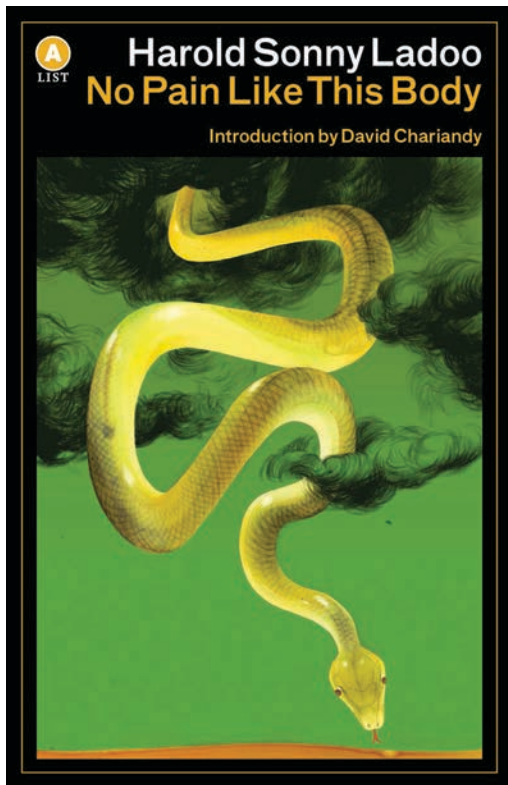
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Rights Sold: Greek (World Books).



A N A N S I



NO PAIN LIKE THIS BODY

A Novel

The A List edition of Harold Sonny Ladoo's enduring novel, a raw, unsentimental story of life in a small Caribbean community. Featuring a new introduction by David Chariandy

Set in the Eastern Caribbean at the beginning of the twentieth century, *No Pain Like this Body* describes the perilous existence of a poor rice-growing family during the August rainy season. Their struggles to cope with illness, a drunken and unpredictable father, and the violence of the elements end in unbearable loss.

Through vivid, vertiginous prose, and with brilliant economy and originality, Ladoo creates a fearful world of violation and grief, in the face of which even the most despairing efforts to endure stand out as acts of courage.

HAROLD SONNY LADOO was born and grew up in Trinidad. He emigrated to Canada in 1968, where he published *No Pain Like This Body*. Shortly afterwards, in 1973, Ladoo died an untimely and violent death on a visit home to Calcutta Settlement, Trinidad. He was twenty-eight. Ladoo's novel *Yesterdays* appeared posthumously in 1974.

Pub Date: 3 August 2013

Extent: 152 pp

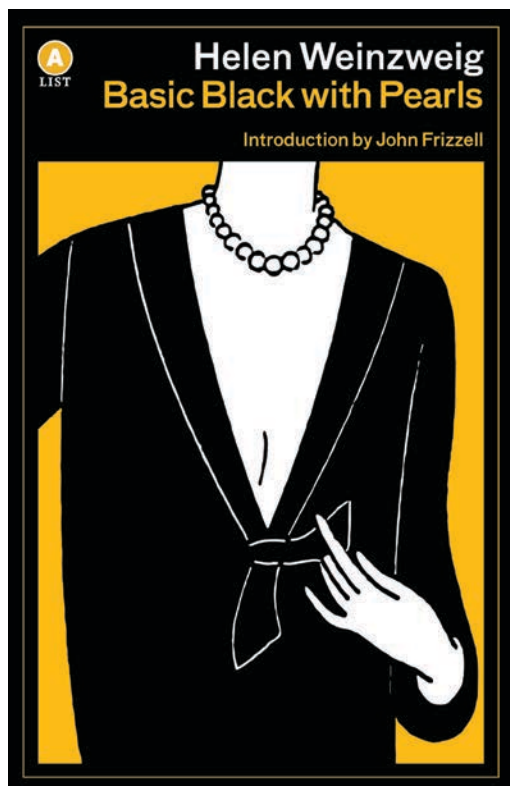
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A N A N S I



BASIC BLACK WITH PEARLS

A Novel

A lost feminist classic — and winner of the Toronto Book Award — reissued to coincide with the 35th anniversary of publication.

In her yearning, elusive search for a lover, Shirley Kaszenbowski sheds her drab “basic black” existence together with torturous memories of guilt and loss as a Jewish immigrant in Toronto.

Shirley Kaszenbowski, née Silverberg, is a middle-aged, middle-class woman in a Holt Renfrew tweed coat, a basic black dress, and a strand of real pearls. She may seem ordinary enough, pricing silk scarves at Eaton’s or idling in hotel coffee shops, but in fact she is searching for her lover. He is an elusive figure, a man connected with “The Agency,” a powerful technocrat who may or may not have suggested a rendezvous based on a secret code in the *National Geographic*.

Her search takes her to the world of her past as a Jewish immigrant in the Spadina-Dundas area of Toronto. She finds the bakeries and rooming houses of her youth still haunted by survivors of postwar Europe and by her own memories of guilt and loss, while the consolations of art, opera, and pornography offer only echoes of her own illusions and desires. Her strange, wryly funny odyssey ends in a dramatic confrontation scene with her husband and “the other woman,” as she trades in her basic black for another chance.

In *Basic Black with Pearls*, Weinzwieg displays her gift for creating sympathetic characters in a slightly surreal, but always recognizable world.

HELEN WEINZWEIG is the author of the novels *Passing Ceremony* and *Basic Black with Pearls*, winner of the Toronto Book Award. Her short story collection, *A View from the Roof*, was shortlisted for the Governor General’s Literary Award for Fiction. Helen Weinzwieg died in Toronto in 2010.

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ANANSI



PASSING CEREMONY

A Novel

The brilliant debut novel by Helen Weinzweig, one of the first feminist writers in Canada and the award-winning author of *Basic Black With Pearls*.

In Helen Weinzweig's brilliant debut novel, a wedding reception becomes a gothic dream. The bride is not all she seems and there is something ambiguous about the groom — and just about everyone else at the surreal and strangely moving wedding.

Like a piece of music, *Passing Ceremony* is composed of brief, suggestive fragments that grow into a tightly integrated whole. There are bits of real and imagined conversation; polite dialogues that slide into mad comic banality; and scenes that could be quiet nightmares out of Borges. A satire and a rueful meditation on the ways people hurt one another, Weinzweig gives us a world suspended in time, an uneasy territory of the soul, which we all inhabit.

This edition features a new introduction by Jim Polk.

HELEN WEINZWEIG is the author of the novels *Passing Ceremony* and *Basic Black with Pearls*, winner of the Toronto Book Award. Her short story collection, *A View from the Roof*, was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction. Helen Weinzweig died in Toronto in 2010.

Pub Date: 26 August 2017

Extent: 128 pp

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Rights Held: World all languages.

Rights Sold: German (Wagenbach).



A N A N S I



POWER POLITICS

Poems

A groundbreaking meditation on sexual politics, love, and human tenacity from the world-renowned pioneer of feminist writing and prophetic author of *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood.

When it first appeared in 1971, Margaret Atwood's *Power Politics* startled readers with its vital dance of woman and man. It still startles today, and is just as iconoclastic as ever. These poems occupy all at once the intimate, the political, and the mythic. Here Atwood makes us realize that we may think our own personal dichotomies are unique, but really they are multiple, universal. Clear, direct, wry, and unrelenting — Atwood's poetic powers are honed to perfection in this seminal work from her early career.

MARGARET ATWOOD, whose work has been published in more than forty-five countries, is the author of more than fifty books of fiction, poetry, critical essays, and graphic novels. Her latest novel, *The Testaments*, is the long-awaited sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*, now an award-winning TV series. Her other works of fiction include *Cat's Eye*, finalist for the 1989 Booker Prize; *Alias Grace*, which won the Giller Prize in Canada and the Premio Mondello in Italy; *The Blind Assassin*, winner of the 2000 Booker Prize; The MaddAddam Trilogy; and *Hag-Seed*. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, the Franz Kafka International Literary Prize, the PEN Center USA Lifetime Achievement Award, and the *Los Angeles Times* Innovator's Award. She lives in Toronto.

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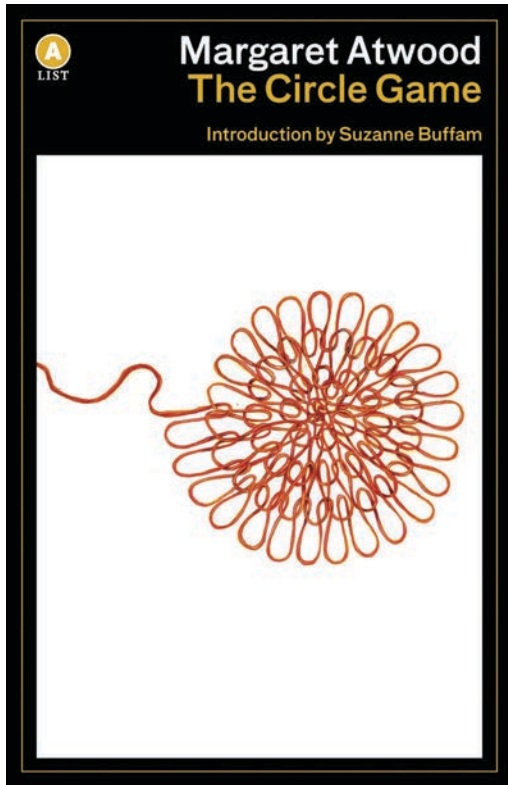
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ANANSI



THE CIRCLE GAME

Poems

As a part of the launch of the new A List series, a curated selection of titles from Anansi's backlist featuring handsome new covers and introductions by well-known writers, comes Margaret Atwood's Governor General's Literary Award-winning *The Circle Game*, with an introduction by Suzanne Buffam.

The appearance of Margaret Atwood's first major collection of poetry marked the beginning of a truly outstanding career in Canadian and international letters. The voice in these poems is as witty, vulnerable, direct, and incisive as we've come to know in later works, such as *Power Politics*, *Bodily Harm*, and *Alias Grace*. Atwood writes compassionately about the risks of love in a technological age, and the quest for identity in a universe that cannot quite be trusted.

Containing many of Atwood's best and most famous poems, *The Circle Game* won the 1966 Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry and rapidly attained an international reputation as a classic of modern poetry.

MARGARET ATWOOD, whose work has been published in more than forty-five countries, is the author of more than fifty books of fiction, poetry, critical essays, and graphic novels. Her latest novel, *The Testaments*, is the long-awaited sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*, now an award-winning TV series. Her other works of fiction include *Cat's Eye*, finalist for the 1989 Booker Prize; *Alias Grace*, which won the Giller Prize in Canada and the Premio Mondello in Italy; *The Blind Assassin*, winner of the 2000 Booker Prize; The MaddAddam Trilogy; and *Hag-Seed*. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, the Franz Kafka International Literary Prize, the PEN Center USA Lifetime Achievement Award, and the *Los Angeles Times* Innovator's Award. She lives in Toronto.

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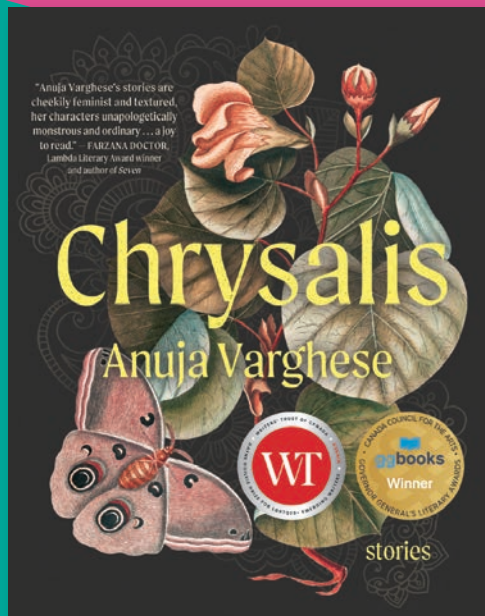
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GOVERNOR GENERAL'S LITERARY AWARDS WINNERS



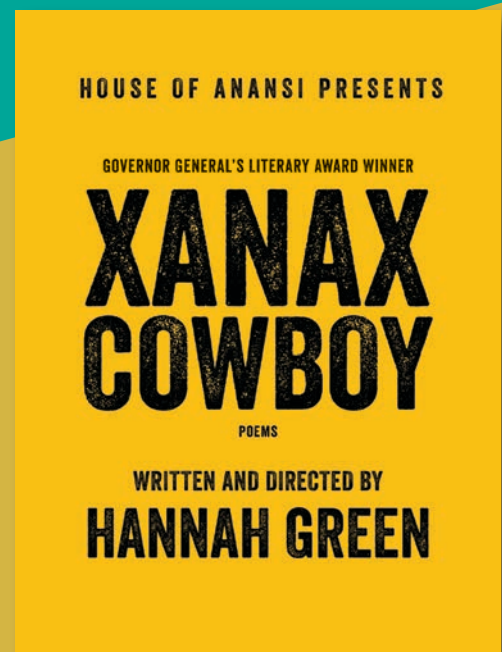
FICTION AWARD WINNER

From the jury:

"A passionate, sophisticated collection of stories that ... seamlessly blends realism with the otherworldly to achieve a work that is rollicking and wry, gleeful and ominous."

From the jury:

"Dazzling in its play with form, the book has an utterly original voice, hard-hitting, mordantly ironic, unsparing in its gaze on the self."



POETRY AWARD WINNER



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