



## BRIDGET CANNING IS BEST KIND.

Bridget Canning's debut novel, *The Greatest Hits of Wanda Jaynes*, was selected as a finalist for the 2017 BMO Winterset Award and the Margaret and John Savage First Book Award. She was raised on a sheep farm in Highlands, Newfoundland, and currently lives in St. John's where she is working on an MA in Creative Writing and a short-story collection currently titled *No One Knows About Us*.

**DANIELLE DEVEREAUX:** If you could meet any creative non-fiction writer/essayist, living or dead, who would it be and where would you go with them?

Joan Didion. And someone drives us along the San Diego Freeway like Maria does in *Play It as It Lays* – which is fiction, but I love that particular description so much and I think she'd have lots to say about it.

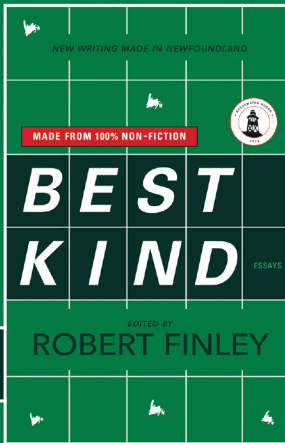
**MICHELLE PORTER:** What's the point of creative non-fiction for you – the truth, or the story? Which is truer: the facts you use or the story you create?

This question's hard to answer "briefly," but I'll try my best...

At first glance, the answer seems to be facts – but can "facts" exist without context, either with how they are conveyed to us and how we interpret them? "Truth" gets discussed like it's a static, solitary entity independent of influence, but we rewrite our truths all the time – with history we consider the biases and influences at work when our past is written down and we attempt for a fuller, "truer" story. So, for this question, I'd have to say the story – as flawed as it can be, it's working hard to make truth (or a truth) from facts.

**ELENA SLAWINSKA:** Does the way you see the world change when you verbalize your thoughts through the form of the essay?

Yes, but sometimes it makes me question myself. For me, essay writing is being in this mindset of "trying," so I get in the mode of looking for support for what I'm trying to say. And then I start seeing connections and parallels. And then I get excited because I think I'm on a roll...or maybe it's just confirmation bias. It's walking a line of feeling like you understand the world or you're just banging around in the echo of an idea.



**best kind** *adjective (Nfld)* excellent, a superlative state of being.

The cover and back-cover design of *Best Kind* are an homage to the former Newfoundland Margarine Company.

