

## MATTHEW HOLLETT IS BEST KIND.



Matthew Hollett is a writer and visual artist in St. John's. His collection of poems about photography and seeing, *Optic Nerve*, won the 2017 NLCU Fresh Fish Award for Emerging Writers. Matthew received the 2018 Cox & Palmer SPARKS Creative Writing Award, *The Malahat Review's* 2017 Open Season Award for Creative Non-fiction, and *The Fiddlehead's* 2018 Ralph Gustafson Prize for Best Poem. His work has appeared most recently in *Prarie Fire*, *Riddle Fence*, and *subTerrain*.

**EVA CROCKER:** Are some things too private to write about? Have your ideas about privacy and writing evolved over time?

Writing can contain anything, though there are certainly things that feel more at home in journal entries or letters than in public. As I've continued writing creative non-fiction, I've found myself looking more outward than inward – I definitely started out writing personal stories, but more recently I've been drawn to writing about visual art, places, history, and so on.

**DANIELLE DEVEREAUX:** What kind of stuff did you read as a kid and do you think it influences your writing now?

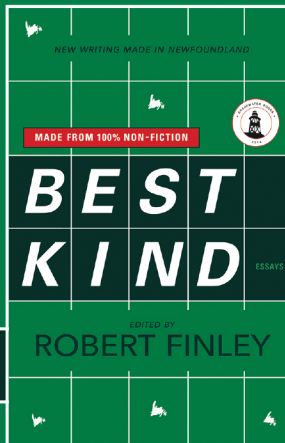
One of my favourite books as a kid was *The Phantom Tollbooth*, which is sort of like Alice in Wonderland with more puns. It has a way of stepping back and letting language become a character, a pivotal part of the plot. From there it was an easy transition to becoming captivated by Italo Calvino's puzzle-novels and essays. And from Calvino you can go anywhere. So, yes!

**IRENE VELENTZAS:** If you were going to re-create your *Best Kind* piece in another medium, what would it be and why? Film? Play? Video game? Sculpture?

I would reimagine it as a gritty detective drama, with sinister mobsters snooping through natural history archives, flashlights casting exaggerated shadows of taxidermied foxes on walls, and so on. Like *The Maltese Falcon*, but with a cotton-stuffed curlew instead of a priceless statue. Oh, and it takes place in Weimar, Germany, because I'm completely hooked on the show *Babylon Berlin*.

**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.



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