



ROBERT FINLEY IS BEST KIND.

Robert Finley's publications include *The Accidental Indies*, *A Ragged Pen*, and *K.L. Reich*. He is the Coordinator of Memorial University's Creative Writing Program in which he teaches primarily creative non-fiction. He lives in St. John's.

JOAN SULLIVAN: Are you a hunter or gatherer?

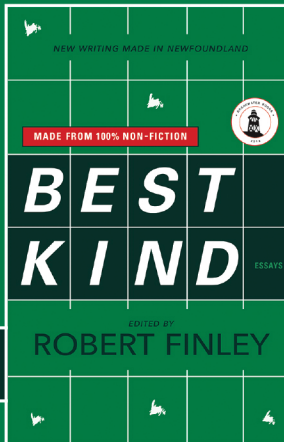
A gardener.

EVA CROCKER: What does the 'creative' in creative non-fiction mean to you? How does it distinguish this genre from straight up non-fiction?

One important distinction lies in questions about form. Where a piece discovers itself in the discovery of its own shape – that's something that can happen all at once, or that can take a long season in chrysalis – isn't that where the creative arts begin? And related to this: where a piece tips you over... it might be with the very slightest nudge...into wonder.

BRIDGET CANNING: If you could make up a new writing award, what would it be for?

I'm so glad you asked. It seems like a new writing award is hatched almost every day. Just yesterday they announced a new one, the retrospective "Best Ever Booker Prize" – an absurdity. My new writing award would have wings of shadow and a long sharp beak with which it would eviscerate all its writing award kin and gobble them up, every last one. Then it would settle down to digest, its nest deep in a blackthorn hedge fund, and be transformed, philanthropically, into a golden egg laying goose. Its eggs, used wisely and well, would fund a string of Banff-like, or Piper's Frith-like residency/retreat programs for the arts across the country. In no time at all the land would be renowned as home to untold riches, wisdom, and joy.



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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