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Guernica Editions

SPRING

2022

Spring 2022

Fiction

Lucy and Bonbon by **Don LePan**

Cut Road: stories by **Brent Van Staalduinen**

Darkness at the Edge of Town by **Stan Rogal**

Momma's Got the Blues by **David Sherman**

Catch and Release by **Liana Cusmano**

Don't Ask by **Gina Roitman**

Cock-A-Doodle-Do by **Pan Bouyoucas**, trans. from FR. **Maureen Labonte**

Flame Out by **Michael Delisle** trans. from FR. **Kathryn Gabinet-Kroo**

Made in Hawaii by **Cedric Yamanaka**

The World Through Your Eyes by **Valeria Camerino**

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All Creatures Weird and Dangerous by **Timm Otterson**

My Whirlwind Lives by **Dee Knight**

Printmaker's Daughter, Painter's Wife by **Nina Barragan**

Spring 2022

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A History of Touch by **Erin Emily Ann Vance**

The Hands by **Marty Gervais**

The Narrow Cabinet by **Asa Boxer**

Archer by **Carl Hare**

Almost Love by **Pierre Lepori**, trans. from FR. **Peter Valente**



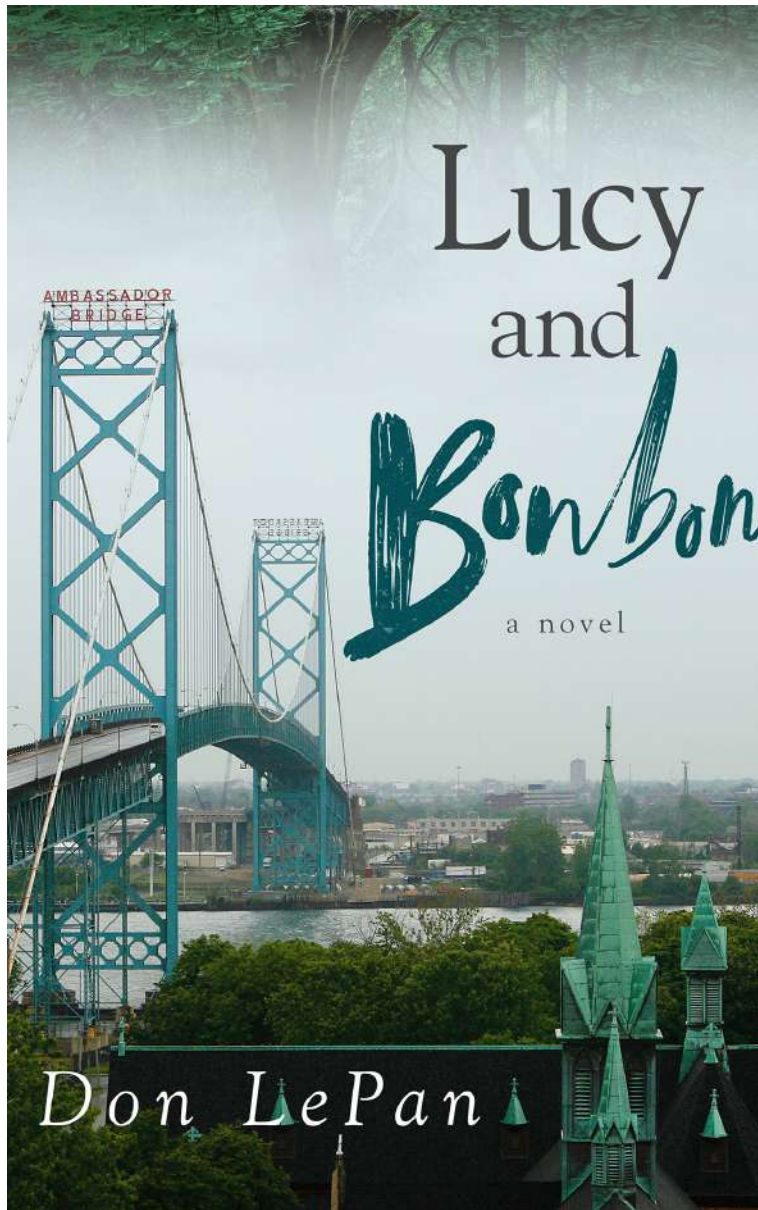
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Fiction | Speculative

PUB. DATE: May 1, 2022

ISBN: 9781771837187

FORMAT: trade paperback

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 280

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

annavanvalkenburg@guernicaeditions.com

MARKETING & SALES

Dylan Curran

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DISTRIBUTION & SALES

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Lucy and Bonbon

A NOVEL BY

Don LePan



Probing the question: "Are we ready to accept a human-ape hybrid in our midst?"

What if humans were able to reproduce with other great apes? What would the hybrid offspring look like? Act like? Think like? And how would humans respond? Would such creatures be allowed to live among us? Or would they be put under a microscope in a zoo or research facility? Lucinda Gerson is an outspoken, free-spirited working-class single mother. Lively and unpredictable, she's the sort of person you might call "one of a kind." Her child Bonbon is quite literally one of a kind. When Lucinda spends the money she has inherited from an uncle on a trip to visit her anthropologist sister in the Congo, she comes back pregnant. *Lucy and Bonbon* is the story of mother and child, and of the controversy that swirls around them over the course of the child's first fourteen years. It is a story of freedom and captivity, of love and friendship, of borders and of border crossings, and of what it means to be a human animal.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Don LePan, founder and CEO of academic publishing house Broadview Press, is the author of several non-fiction books and of two other works of fiction; his novel *Animals* (2010) has been described by Nobel Prize winner J.M. Coetzee as "a powerful piece of writing and a disturbing call to conscience."

Keywords:

human-animal hybrid, offspring, speculative, literary novel, human-ape, child, Congo, science, animal science, species, interspecies, freedom, captivity, human animal, human nature.



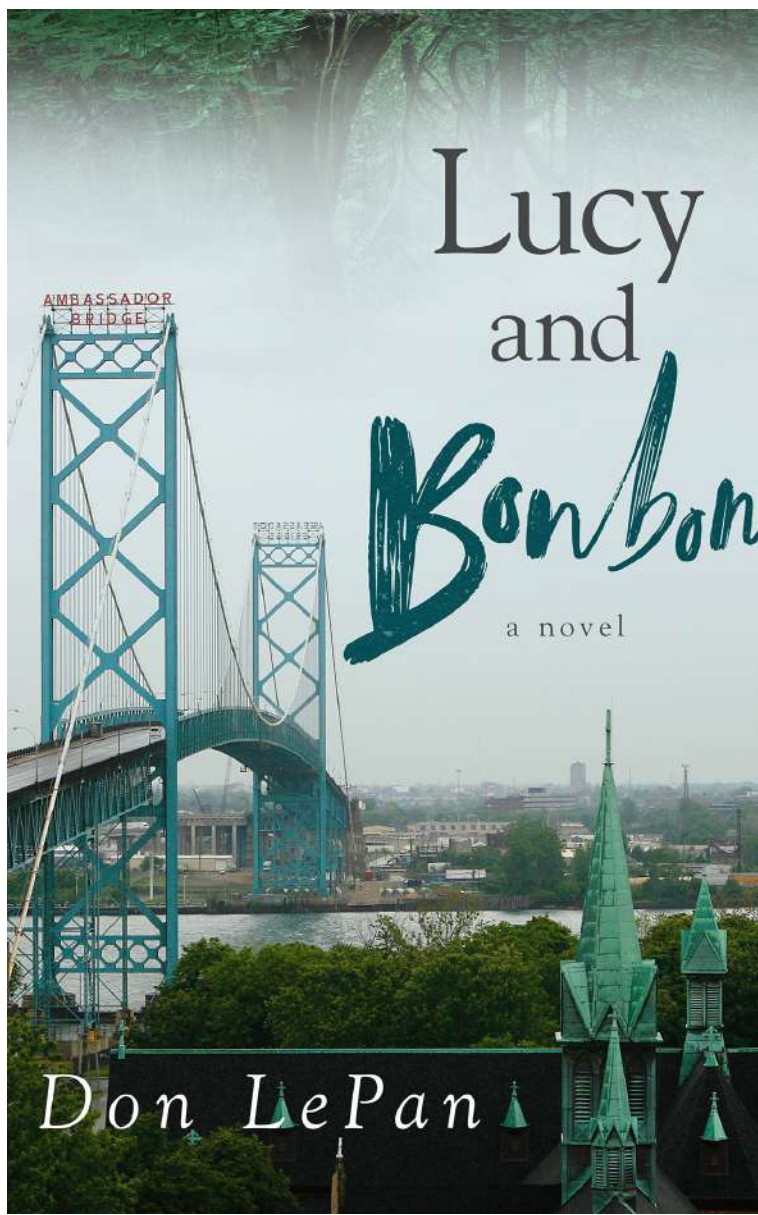
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Advanced Praise for *Lucy and Bonbon*



“*Lucy and Bonbon* is a remarkable achievement. Don LePan raises extremely important ethical and philosophical issues, and weaves them into an intriguing story with a page-turning finish.”

— **Peter Singer, Princeton University / University of Melbourne; author of *Animal Liberation*, *The Life You Can Save*, and *Ethics in the Real World***

“I greatly enjoyed *Lucy and Bonbon*. At first something of a novel of ideas, it turns into an exciting escape drama, with a sting in the tail, a surprise look into the unknown future. It leaves the reader wanting a sequel!”

—**Richard Dawkins, University of Oxford; author of *The Selfish Gene*, *The God Delusion*, and *Science in the Soul***

“... a fascinating exploration of ideas. The prose is a joy to read and the two main characters are unforgettable. In *Bonbon*, the ‘hybrid,’ LePan has created a voice that is intelligent, self-aware, empathetic and observant, and the fact that he views humanity from both the inside and outside offers an amazing perspective. *Lucy and Bonbon* is compulsively readable as it builds to its extraordinary and thought-provoking conclusion.”

— **Deborah Willis, author of *The Dark and Other Love Stories* and *Vanishing***



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Fiction | Short Stories

PUB. DATE: June 1, 2022

ISBN: 9781771837255

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 220

PRICE: \$20.00 cad/ \$17.95 us

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

PUBLICITY

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Cut Road

SHORT STORIES BY

Brent Van Staalduinen



A rich mix of acclaimed and award-winning stories.

Cut Road is a masterful exploration of the loss and scars that conflict always leaves behind. Where soldiers abandon too much of themselves in war zones, parents relinquish control of their children, and friends struggle with change and tragedy. From the working soul struggling with grief to the wounded veteran seeking redemption in a coffee shop to the sweaty tree-planter fleeing a burning forest, in this collection no one—least of all the reader—is left unscathed.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brent van Staalduinen is the author of the novels *BOY, NOTHING BUT LIFE*, and *SAINTS, UNEXPECTED*. His short stories have won a number of awards, including the Bristol Short Story Prize, the Fiddlehead Best Fiction Award, and the Lush Triumphant Fiction Award, and have appeared in numerous journals and magazines on both sides of the Atlantic. A former international school teacher, army medic, and tree-planter, Brent now finds himself working at his local library and wandering around Hamilton looking for stories. **CUT ROAD** is his first collection of stories.

Keywords:

short stories, award winning, grief, conflict, healing, literary, Canadian, debut, short fiction



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EXCERPT

Jesse doesn't like it when I call him Dad, but I still do. Two things, he'll say. One, your dad left a long time ago. Two, although you don't want to say he's your dad, he still is. I'm not. Clear? Clear, I'll say. But it's not clear, really. Jesse feels like a dad. He always finds ways to make me laugh, even when I'm sad. If dads aren't supposed to do that, then who is? Then he'll say, Clear as mud? I'll say that back to him, too. Clear as mud. Even though mud's not clear—it's muddy.

Jesse always ends his stories the same, with Two Things and Clear as Mud. Or he did, anyway. He's in the hospital now with all these machines that Mom says do pretty much everything for him, so he can't tell me anything. Once, I asked him about why he ended stories that way. He put down his beer bottle, the one with the big green 50 on the side, looked at me and then off at the trees. He said, They're leftovers from the Army—you have to make sure you're heard and understood. It sounded like he was saying it to someone else. You know what I mean about that? When grownups talk to you and to someone else you can't see at the same time?



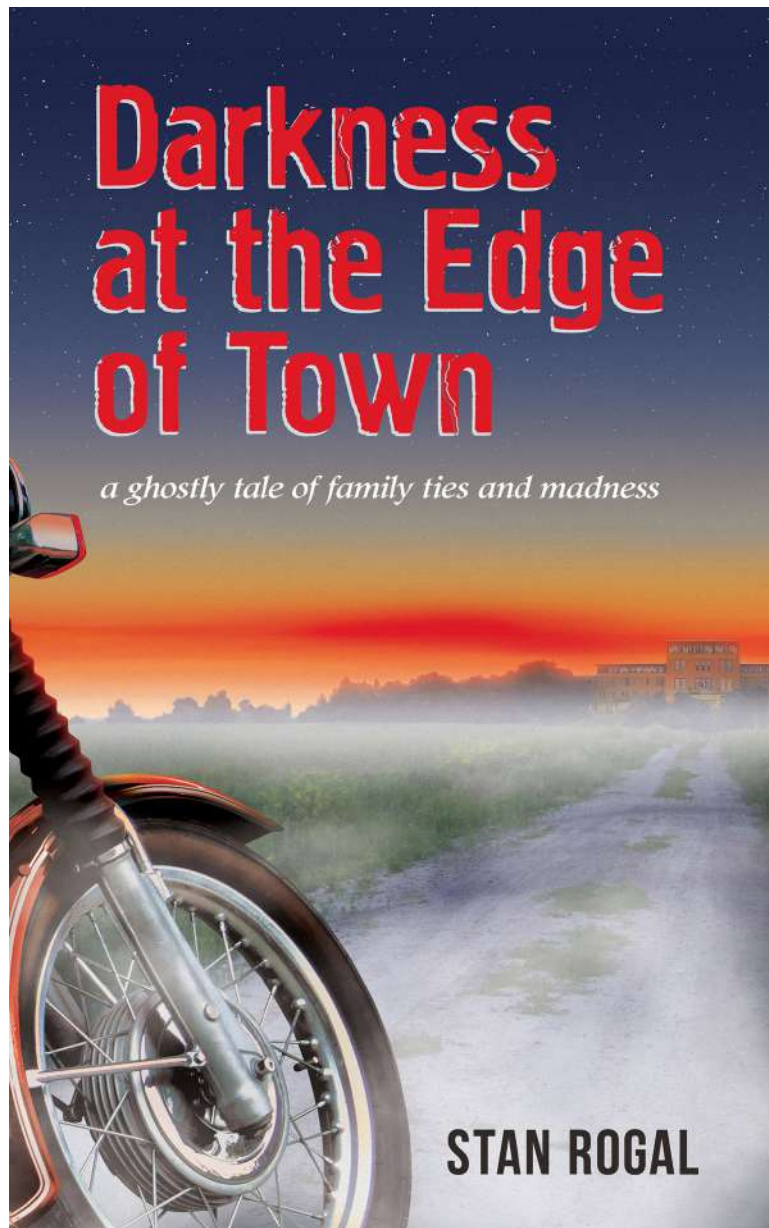
Advanced Praise for *Cut Road*

Having shown, in his novels, what he can do with fabulism, Brent Van Staalduinen gives us a debut collection anchored in real human experience. With immediacy and emotion, *Cut Road* introduces us to characters facing the uncertainties of life in our present moment. The prose is detailed and evocative, the storytelling complex and humane. These are strong, tempered visions of the world, crafted with skill and care. —**J.R. McConvey, author of *Different Beasts***



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Fiction | Literary

PUB. DATE: April 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 164

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771836975

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

PUBLICITY

Anna Van Valkenburg

annavanvalkenburg@guernicaeditions.com

SALES & MARKETING

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Darkness at the Edge of Town

A NOVEL BY

Stan Rogal



A ghostly tale of family ties and madness.

A young man, Ray, returns to where he was born, Weyburn, SK, after several years traveling anonymously around the country. He's recently been suffering from frightening nightmares and he feels they may have something to do with his past, especially within the walls of the abandoned former mental asylum where his father had worked and his mother had been a patient. Old loves, old wounds and old grievances are rekindled, made especially difficult by the fact that his brother is the town sheriff and is also married to Ray's former girlfriend. The presence of an older, mute, indigenous woman adds to the mystery.

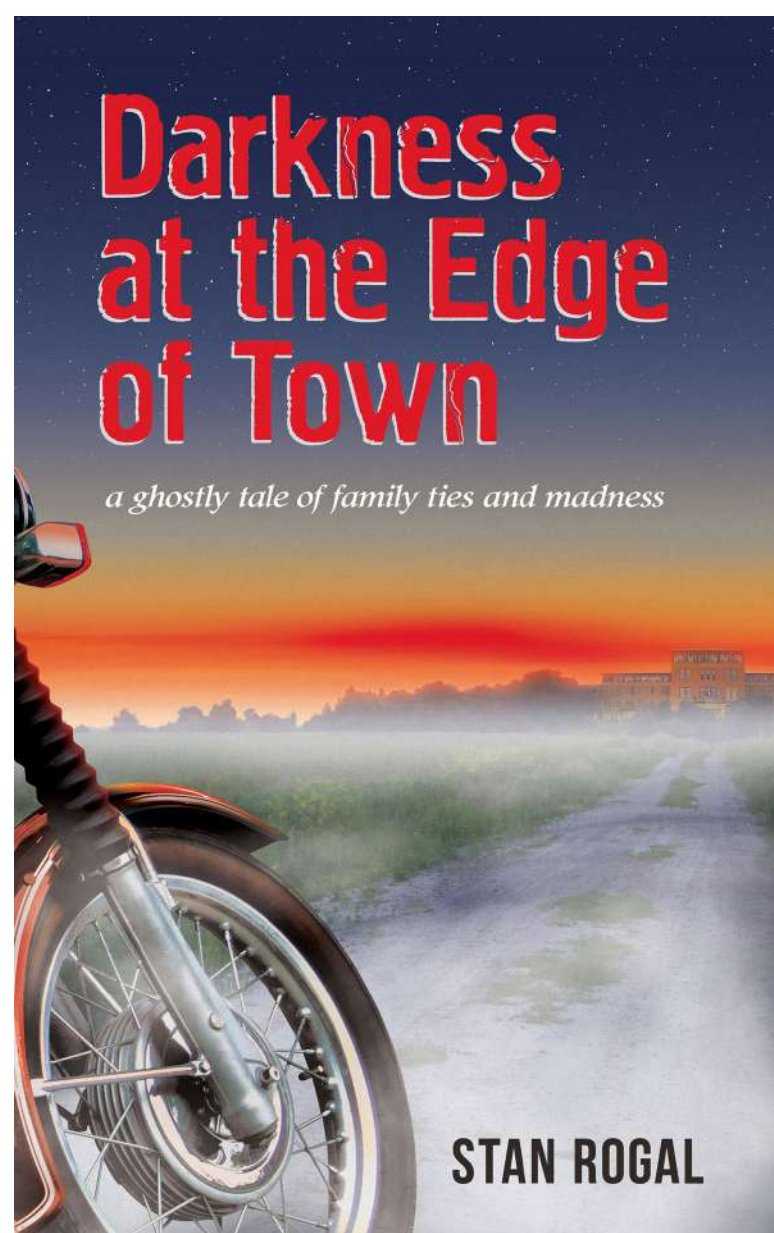


Author Bio

Stan Rogal was born in Vancouver and now resides in Toronto with his painter partner and pet jackabee. He is the author of 26 books: 7 novels, 7 short story collection, 12 poetry collections, and several chapbooks. He has an MA English from York U. He once had drinks in a seedy Vancouver bar with Allen Ginsberg. Allen drank orange juice.

Keywords:

Weyburn; Saskatchewan; nightmares; literary novel; indigenous character; small town; relationships; familial ties; mystery; ghost story.



Fiction | Literary

PUB. DATE: April 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 164

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771836975

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

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Excerpt

It's late evening. The kids are asleep. The A/C hums. The soiled remains of dinner decorate the dining table: dirty cutlery and dishes, pork rib bones sucked clean, grease-and-BBQ-sauce-crumpled paper napkins. Empty beer bottles mark a trail into the living room. Ben lounges on the couch with a goofy Cheshire cat, toothy grin nailed on his wide face. Between his loose-parted knees he dangles a Canada Dry Ginger Ale bottle by the neck. The switch from beer was made a couple hours ago. He wears his official police uniform, still on-duty. His black hair's cropped close to the scalp and his short sleeve shirt strains at the buttonholes to contain his broad chest. Nowhere near fat, he's built solid as an oak tree, with muscular arms developed from hours pumping iron and performing endless reps of push-ups and chins.

What one might admirably call the proverbial six-foot brick shit house.

The Boss blasts through compact Bose stereo speakers: Rosalita (Come Out Tonight). Ray and Beth dance a slow sloppy jive in the middle of the parquet floor. Ray gives her a twirl. Stretched at arm's length, held by fingertips, she tosses her head, laughs, spins back and nestles in his chest.

Ben rocks his head to the tune and hums along. His cell-tone sounds. It's Wagner's, *The Ride of the Valkyries*.

"Crap," he says, and answers. "Yeah?" He flaps the fingers of one hand toward the pair on the dance floor, yakkity-yak. They barely acknowledge. He pockets the cell.

"Whassup?" asks Beth. Her words carry a slight throaty slur from the effects of the alcohol.

"Same ol' same ol'. Got a problem at the precinct only I can handle. Needs my official John Hancock, apparently. We'll see."

Ray puts on a low southern drawl. "What happens when you acquire a position of authority and responsibility, my friend."

"Yeah. Me and the dog catcher, highly respected." He gets to his feet and dons his hat. "Gonna take me twenty/thirty minutes tops to be back. You still be here?"

"Not likely. I gotta hit the road myself. Getting late. Just finish my beer." He waves his bottle in the air.

"You can crash here if you want. Couch is a fold-out."

"Not necessary, but thanks."

"Sure. Anyhow, now you know where we are, don't be a stranger. Or maybe we can set up a once-a-week. You said you don't have a phone, right, cell or otherwise?" Ben shakes his head, no, along with Ray and Beth. They all laugh. It's an inside joke already, the subject having been flogged to death during the evening's early conversation, as: how can you exist in the 21st century without owning a cell phone? "You got a milk calendar, anyway, yeah? Circle Sunday nights." Ben nods, yes. Ray circles the air with a finger and dots it for emphasis. "Okay, glad we got that settled. It's good to see you, Ray. Truly. Welcome back. We'll continue catching up another time. Maybe get you out for a few hours fishing." He kisses Beth tenderly on the lips. "Leave this," he motions to the mess. "I'll clean up when I get home. No worries." He gives a relaxed half-salute to the pair, lifts his holster from a hook and hustles out the front door.



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Fiction | Music

PUB. DATE: May 1, 2022

ISBN: 9781771837149

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 300

PRICE: \$20.00 cad/ \$17.95 us

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

PUBLICITY

Anna Van Valkenburg

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SALES & MARKETING

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Momma's Got the Blues

A NOVEL BY

David Sherman



Celebrating the joys of pop music and the musicians who live to play it; while taking an insider's look at what the digital age has done to the artist, the business and the sound.

The golden days of MaryAnne's singing career, of sold-out concert halls and hit records have given way to shabby rooms and paltry CD sales, battered by YouTube and streaming. But, MaryAnne, nearing 60, refuses to retire. When her party-animal single daughter becomes pregnant, MaryAnne rebels against becoming a grandmother and putting her dwindling career aside to help her daughter raise an infant. It's left to her live-in lover to try and sew the family back together while MaryAnne clutches her six-string for dear life.



About the Author

David Sherman is an author, playwright and singer/songwriter and performs on occasion in the Laurentians where he lives and in Montreal where he spent most of his life working as a journalist and documentary film producer.

Keywords: rock star, female protagonist, career, depression, grandmother, mother, raising children, music, singer, musician, familial relationships, romantic relationships, retirement, 60 years old, crisis



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Fiction | Young Adult

PUB. DATE: June 1, 2022

ISBN: 9781771837323

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 200

PRICE: \$20.00 cad/ \$17.95 us

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

PUBLICITY

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Catch and Release

A YOUNG ADULT NOVEL BY

Liana Cusmano



About coming out and coming of age.

In *Catch and Release*, twenty-one-year-old Lucca looks back on her childhood and adolescence as she comes to terms with both her sexual orientation and her mental illness. When she falls in love with the brilliant and beautiful Adèle, Lucca is forced to acknowledge not only that she is not and never has been straight, but also that her relationship with a teacher in high school was not as harmless as she might have thought.



About the Author

Liana Cusmano (they/them/iel/lu), aka Luca and BiCurious George, is a writer, poet, spoken word artist and filmmaker. They are the 2018 and 2019 Montreal Slam Champion; runner up in the 2019 Canadian Individual Poetry Slam Championship. They have performed at Montreal's Pride and in the "I See You" tour. A participant in the 2019 Spoken Word Residency Program at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Liana has presented their work in English, French and Italian across North America, Europe and Asia. Liana Cusmano wrote and directed the film *Matters of Great Unimportance* (2019). They also wrote the film script for *La Femme Finale*, screened at the Cannes Film Festival (2015). Liana created « *Peuple, Poésie, Politique* » in the television documentary series *Vivre ensemble* (2021). Through writing that focuses on heritage, queerness and mental health, Liana aims to help others feel seen and safe. They ran in the 2019 federal election and was Interim President of the Green Party of Canada (2020-21). *Catch and Release* is their first novel.



Fiction | Young Adult

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EXCERPT

The next time I opened my eyes, Sophie was lying on her front beside me, one arm draped over my chest, asleep. I noticed her bedroom for the first time – posters on the walls, paintings, a stack of art history textbooks on the desk. A lava lamp. We were lying on a double mattress pushed into a corner of the room on the floor. I turned my head to look at her, at our bodies tangled together, and felt an absurd and overwhelming feeling that I couldn't quite put my finger on. It kept getting stuck at the back of my throat until I recognized it as triumph, and relief, and vindictiveness – I had finally satisfied that perfect, wrong, incredible longing and now I was naked and still drunk and everything had gone the way I had wanted. But I felt as though this were happening to someone else, like I was far away inside myself, and when Sophie opened her eyes and asked me if I wanted some water, I said yes in a whisper that felt like somebody else's voice. By the time she came back into the room I was already half-dressed – it had somehow been clear, unspoken, that the encounter had run its course. We chastely kissed goodbye, she put my beanie on for me again, and then I was outside. The wind had calmed down, a light snow was falling, and I couldn't feel anything – not the cold, not my feet in my boots, not my own feelings. I walked all the way home to the East End. It took three hours, and my whole mind and body felt empty, stunned. The city was silent, asleep, covered in snow. I jaywalked across empty boulevards, tramping along sidewalks that would be cleared in a few hours. At the corner of Jean-Talon and Pie-IX, I threw up in a snow bank piled on the side of the road. A bleak, gray dawn slowly came to life all around me.



Keywords:

Young adult, love, romance, harmful relationships, LGBTQ+, coming out, sexual orientation, mental illness, falling in love, anxiety depression.



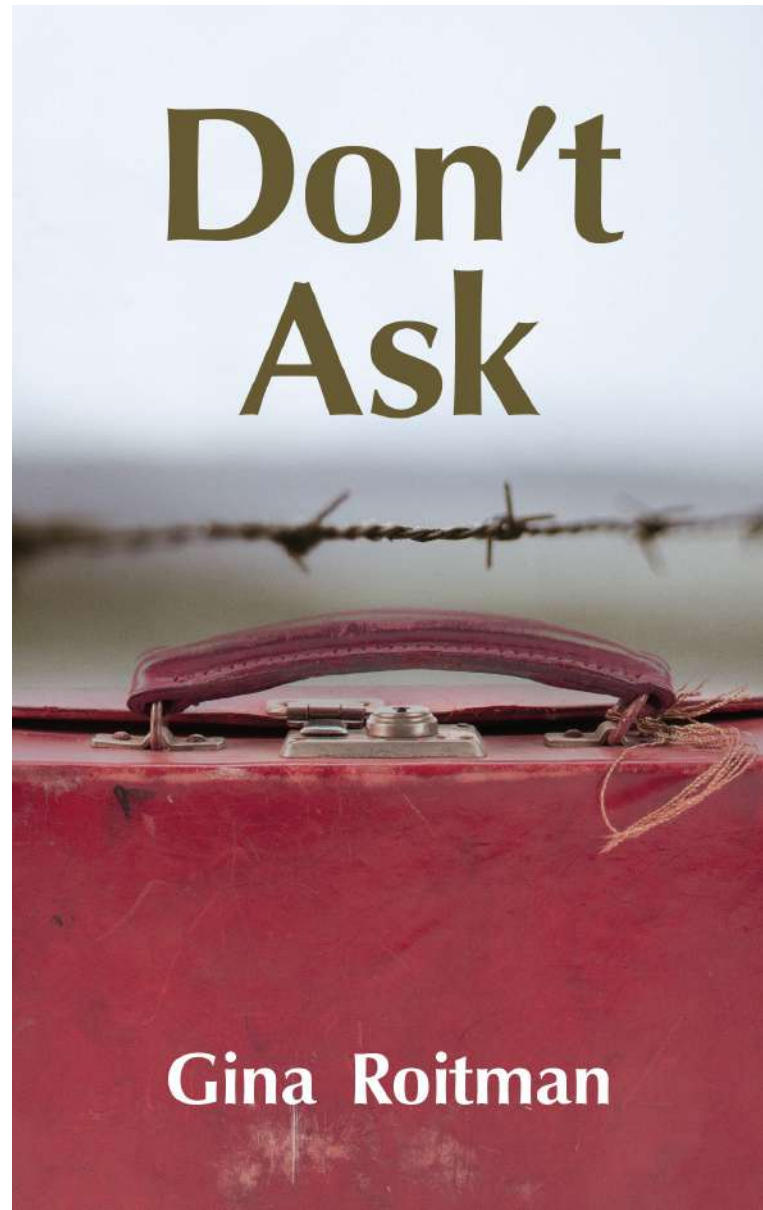
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Fiction | Jewish

PUB. DATE: April 1, 2022

ISBN: 9781771837118

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 300

PRICE: \$20.00 cad/ \$17.95 us

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

PUBLICITY

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Don't Ask

A NOVEL BY

Gina Roitman



Posing the question: who packed the baggage we carry from birth?

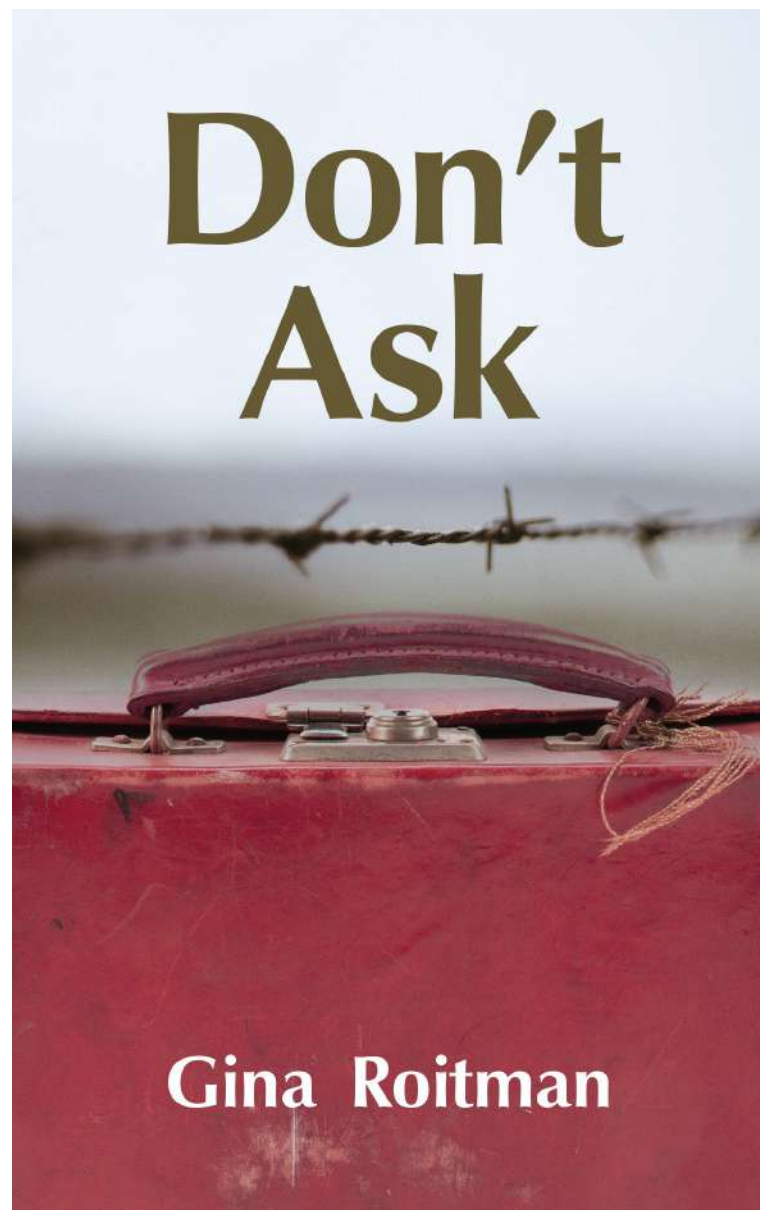
In this literary thriller, a woman agonizes over her mother's suicide and is thrown into turmoil over her attraction to a German. Hannah Baran is 45, a successful Montreal real estate broker with a highly lucrative client who, like her parents, is a Holocaust survivor. Born in a German DP camp, she is the only child of Rokhl and the late Barak. One day, she arrives to take her mother to the doctor's but Rokhl is gone, leaving behind a mystifying note that reads: I am not her. Throughout Hannah's life, Rokhl's notes have been all the guidance she received from a laconic, distant mother, a foil to Hannah's voluble father who rescued Rokhl from Auschwitz. When Hannah announces that she must travel to Germany on business, Rokhl threatens that should Hannah 'go to that land of murderers,' it would be over her dead body. Three days later, Hannah locates her missing mother in the morgue. Secreted away in a confessional letter for Hannah to find one day is the story of Rokhl's life filled with loss, betrayal, and guilt. It is woven into the intrigue of the plot about contested land and a love affair weighted down by the baggage of history.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author of the short story collection, *Tell Me a Story, Tell Me the Truth*, and co-author of *Midway to China and Beyond*, the biography of a globetrotting Montreal businessman, Gina Roitman's work has appeared in anthologies and magazines including *Poetica*, *Wherever I Find Myself*, *the Forward* and *carte-blanche*.

Keywords: literary, thriller, jewish, Holocaust, love, Auschwitz, guilt, suicide, Germany, Montreal, family history, romance.



Gina Roitman

Fiction | Jewish

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Excerpt from *Don't Ask*

She raked her nails through her thick hair and examined the copper strands that came back laced between her fingers. When she was young, Rokhl used to whistle a high, bird-like trill as she brushed her daughter's hair until it shone like a bright penny. As if mesmerized, Hannah would watch the arc of her mother's arm complete a slow, downward stroke, the movement carried out in the same precise way each time. Rokhl's pale skin was so delicate except for the scar on her forearm, a lumpy welt of red and blue, like the tiny tableau of a mountain range. Rokhl's whistling as she gently ministered to her daughter's tangled mass was a silken thread of intimacy that bound their daily lives in a way that comforted young Hannah.

Balefully stuffing the loose strands of hair into her pocket, Hannah absentmindedly opened the hall closet and was momentarily confused when she spied Rokhl's purse. She reached in and turned it over slowly as if to reassure herself she wasn't mistaken. It was a bag she knew well with all its little zippered compartments because it had once belonged to her, earmarked for the Pioneer Women's annual bazaar until Rokhl had snatched it from the pile. Her mother could not bear to throw anything out, a habit that she had transmitted to her daughter. In a corner of Hannah's cedar closet, four shoeboxes - one for each decade and a fresh one marked 2000 - printed in heavy black marker on the end of each box contained Rokhl's notes neatly stacked. Like the dream logs she had been keeping since her teens, Hannah planned to one day read them all at once. When she had to.

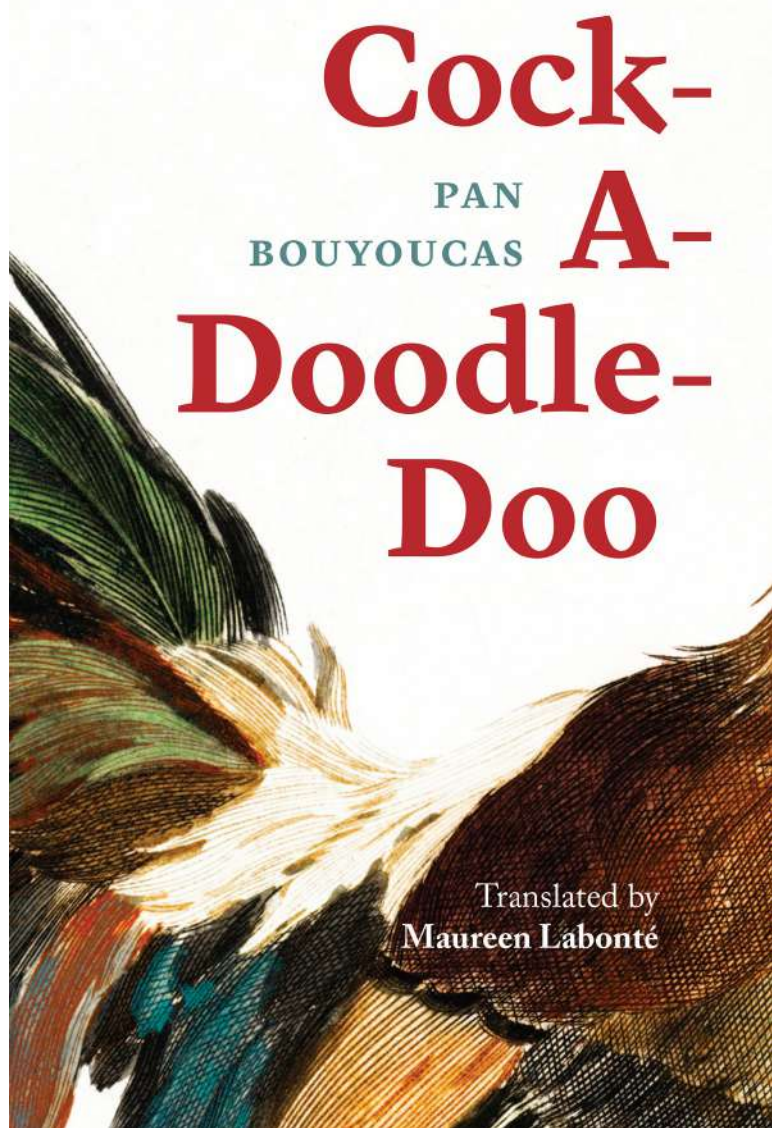
Ignoring the hammering of her heart, Hannah unzipped the main compartment. Her mother's wallet which had also once been hers lay next to a crumpled cotton handkerchief with a faded embroidered rose on the edge and an old black comb. In the front compartment, Hannah found a scrap of paper. On it was Rokhl's meticulous script. Her hands suddenly trembling, she pulled the note out of the bag and laid it in her lap.

On the day her mother disappeared, Hannah read the last note Rokhl would leave her. It said *I am not her*



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Fiction | Translation

PUB. DATE: April 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 130

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837040

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

annavanvalkenburg@guernicaeditions.com

SALES & MARKETING

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Cock-A-Doodle-Do

A NOVEL BY

Pan Bouyoucas

TRANSLATED from FR. BY MAUREEN LABONTÉ



What to do when your fictional sleuth refuses to die? A detective writer's attempts at writing his masterpiece.

A very successful detective fiction writer, Leo Basilius, decides to bring his popular crime series to a close and take a sabbatical on the Greek island of Nysa where, as a young man, he wrote his first books - poetry and short stories. He returns there intending to write his master piece. The one he knows he has in him. Surrounded by his wife and new island friends, he settles in to write. But unexpectedly his main character, Detective-Sargeant Vass Levonian, appears demanding that Basilius resurrect him. The hauntings multiply and inspiration doesn't come. Leo Basilius wants to find fulfilment as a writer. But can he? Is it too late? Can you leave a mark? And what should that mark be? What do we leave behind? What is our legacy? And ... Is there still time to do something about it?



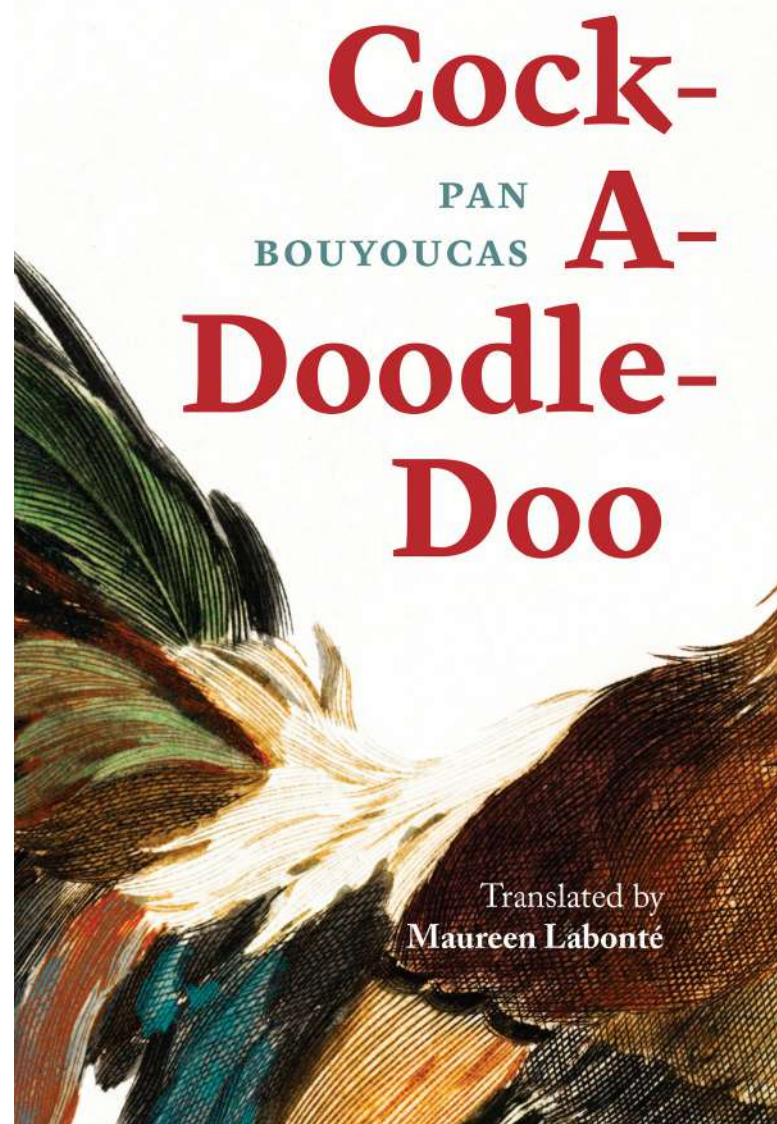
Author and Translator Bio

Pan Bouyoucas is a Montreal novelist and playwright. *Cock-A-Doodle-Do* is his fourth novel translated into English. The other three are *A Father's Revenge*, *Aegean Tales*, and *Portrait of a Husband With the Ashes of His Wife*. Pan Bouyoucas has also written two novels directly in English, *The Man Who Wanted to Drink Up the Sea* and *The Tattoo*. **Maureen Labonté** is a dramaturge, translator and teacher. She has coordinated a number of play development programmes in theatres and play development centres across the country including at the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Centre des auteurs dramatiques in Montreal, the National Arts Centre (Ottawa) and Playwrights Workshop Montreal.



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Praise for *Cock-A-Doodle-Do*

A breath of fresh air.

—**Josée Lapointe, La Presse**

Bouyoucas explores the creative process using one of the imaginative and fanciful metaphors he holds the secret of.

—**Martine Desjardins, L'Actualité**

I devoured it, deeply moved by the subject, the flowing style, the humour too.

—**André Marois, crime fiction author**



EXCERPT

Fifteen crime novels and as many million copies later, Basilius was again standing on the shores of the island where he'd written his book of poems.

The night was soft and full. The smell of jasmine floated on the air, and the sea, bathed in moonlight, stretched out calmly all the way to Asia.

Basilius bent down and filled his hand with water, raised it to his lips and said to the sea: "I need one word to get me dreaming again. Help me find that word."

No sooner had he spoken than he felt a presence behind him. He turned expecting to see his wife. Muriel would sometimes wake at night and have trouble getting back to sleep. But instead of her, Basilius saw Inspector Vass Levonian standing there looking like Russell Crane, the American actor who'd played him in the movie adaptations of three of his novels.

Levonian didn't look at all the same as he had at the end of the last novel — comatose and surrounded by life-support equipment with tubes feeding him and breathing for him. Quite the opposite. The police officer was as healthy and as grumpy as usual.

"I've never seen the sea," he said to his creator. "Never seen the horizon either. Just bricks and cement."

Basilius ignored this reproach, turned his back on his character and headed up to the house.

Keywords:

writer, master piece, magnum opus, Greece, Nysa, fictional character, legacy, humour, destiny, Alzheimer's, sleuth, protagonist, inspiration, detective writer



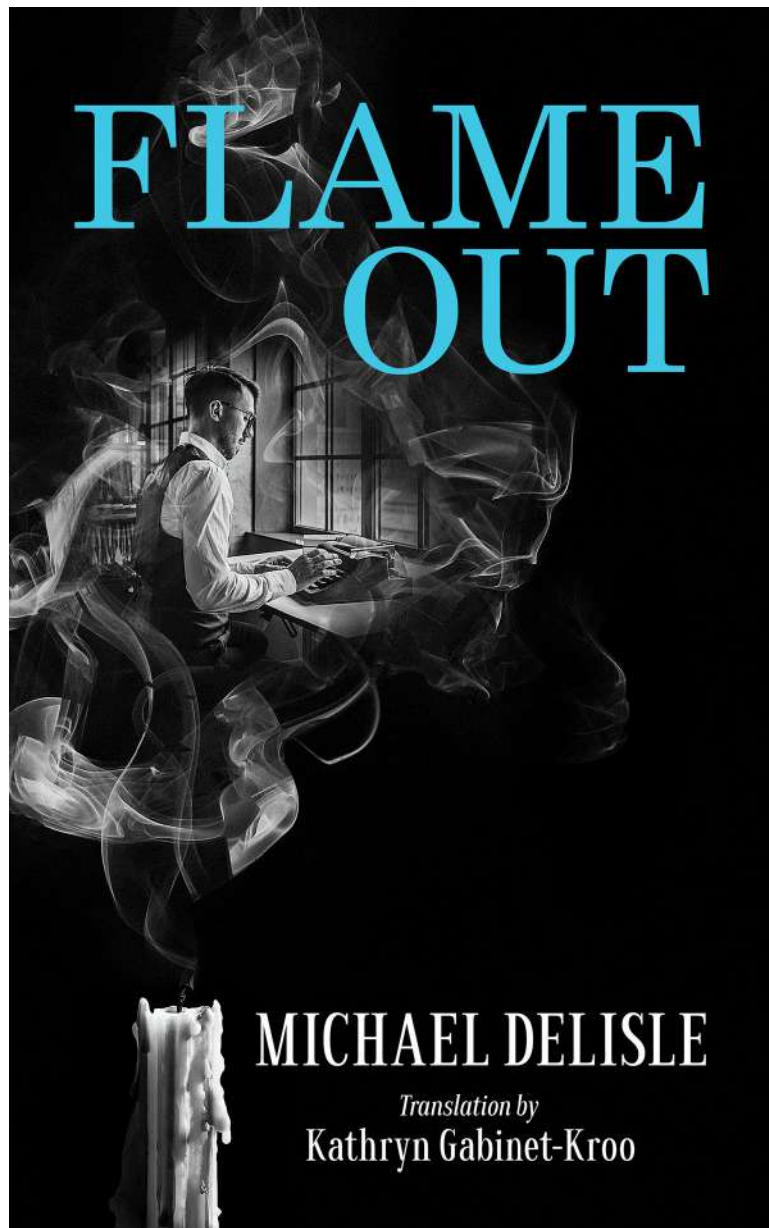
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Fiction | Translation

PUB. DATE: April 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 106

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837019

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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Flame Out

A NOVEL BY

Michael Delisle

TRANSLATED from FR. BY KATHRYN GABINET-KROO



A portrait of a violent father and an homage to poetry.

When Michael Delisle was a boy growing up in Montreal's South Shore neighbourhood of Ville Jacques-Cartier, his "uncles" – in other words, his father's friends – never said "gun" but rather "piece" or "rod" or more metonymically, "heater." In *Flame Out*, the poet remembers his father, a crook turned Charismatic Christian, the violent man who came to speak only of Jesus, the hated man whom he had no choice but to love, in spite of it all. Delisle writes that "reading and writing poetry helped me stay the course." Writing was the weapon he used to deal with a childhood that was difficult, to say the least, and to combat a father that he has called his Waterloo. But this novel is more than just about a settling of accounts between a parent and his offspring; Michael Delisle manages, through his writing, to grow into a love-hate relationship without destroying the father figure. This novel is thus both highly personal and an acknowledgement of the power found in the act of writing



Excerpt

Two weeks later, I was wearing a navy blazer with a blue tie that I held in place with a pearl tacked two thirds of the way down. I learned how to keep the pleat in my grey pants by pinching the fabric at my knee before sitting or kneeling. I learned to shine my shoes with a tin of black wax, a brush and a chamois. I was three and a half feet tall and stood up as straight as a little man, as polite as an immigrant scared into toeing the line.

My father drove me to the Grey Nuns' Catholic Orphanage on Decarie Boulevard. He came with his 'boss,' a big, elegant man who smelled of cologne and whom we'd been taught to call our 'Uncle Léo.' I never saw him without the stub of a cigar in his mouth. When a Grey Nun grabbed my suitcase and took me by the hand, the two of them began bawling. I do not remember this (my father and my so-called Uncle Léo blowing their noses and wiping their eyes in the parlour) but the story was repeated to me many times thereafter. Two gangsters crying over my entry into a carceral world is a colourful page from the folk tale that was my life.



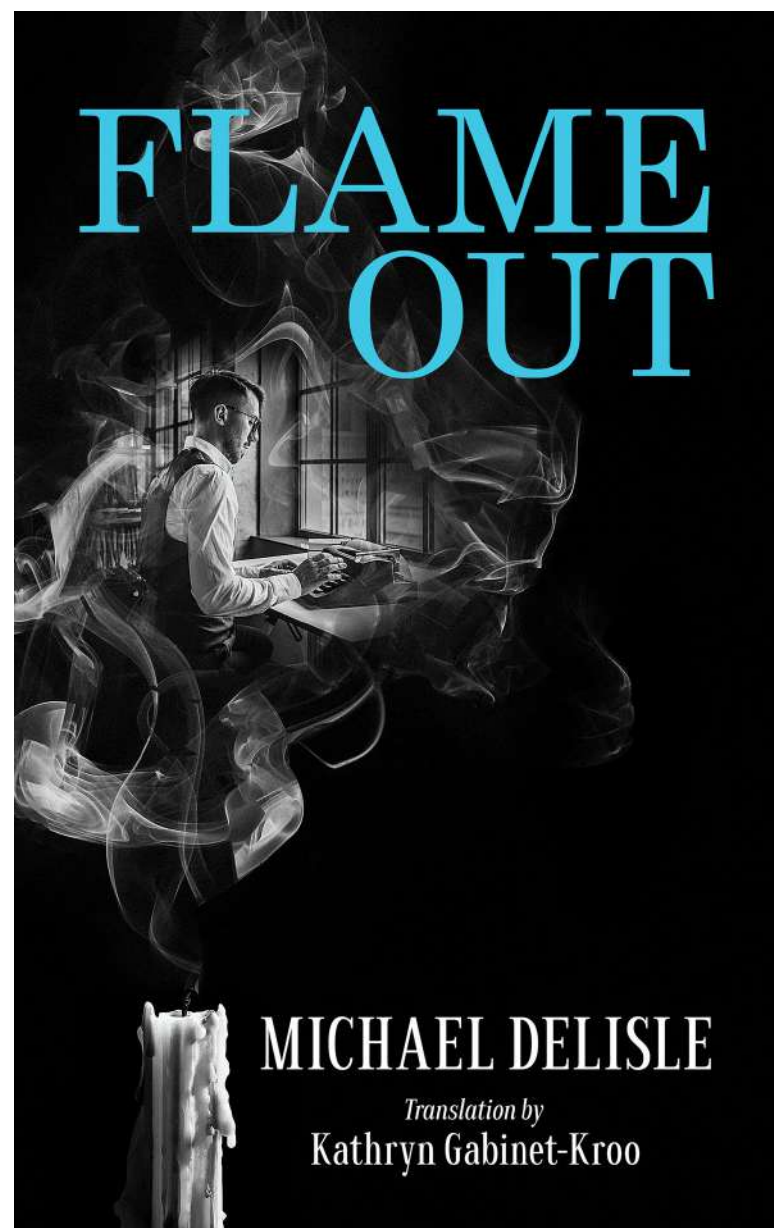
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Fiction | Translation

PUB. DATE: April 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 106

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837019

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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SALES & MARKETING

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Author and Translator Bio

Published for almost forty years, **Michael Delisle** is a poet, novelist and the author of short stories whose works include six collections of poetry. He won the Prix Émile-Nelligan in 1987 and the Prix Adrienne-Choquette in 2005. His novel, *Le Feu de mon père*, won the 2014 Grand Prix du livre de Montréal and was a finalist for the Prix des libraires du Québec and the Prix littéraire des collégiens. He was a finalist for the Governor General award for French fiction in 2006 and again in 2014, for *Le Feu de mon père*. His recent collection of short stories, *Le Palais de la fatigue*, was a finalist for the 2018 Prix des libraires.

While continuing to pursue a successful career as a professional artist, **Kathryn Gabinet-Kroo** earned a Certificate in Translation from McGill University and a Master's in Translation Studies from Concordia University. Working out of her Montreal artist's studio, she translates contemporary fiction by Quebecois and First Nations authors.



Advanced praise for *Flame Out*

... [A]n instant classic and perhaps even a masterpiece. It's an absolute must-read, and if you haven't already done so, you must discover Michael Delisle, a giant among Quebec's writers. —**Jean Barbe, Journal de Montréal**

A deeply moving story, exceedingly human, touching, unsparing. A text of staggering intelligence and one that haunts. —**Yvon Paré, Lettres québécoises**

The shocking story of a family, tempered by unstinting yet also very accessible poetic writing. —**Emmanuel Khérad, La Librairie francophone / Radio-Canada**

For more than thirty years, Michael Delisle has been building a body of work of rare density. His latest book fits with this stylistic austerity that leads us to believe there's been a very harmonious cooperation agreement between the poet and the novelist. —**Ginette Bernatchez, Québec français**

Keywords:

childhood, father, domestic violence, Christianity, Montreal, Ville Jacques-Cartier, familial relationships, writing, healing, poetry



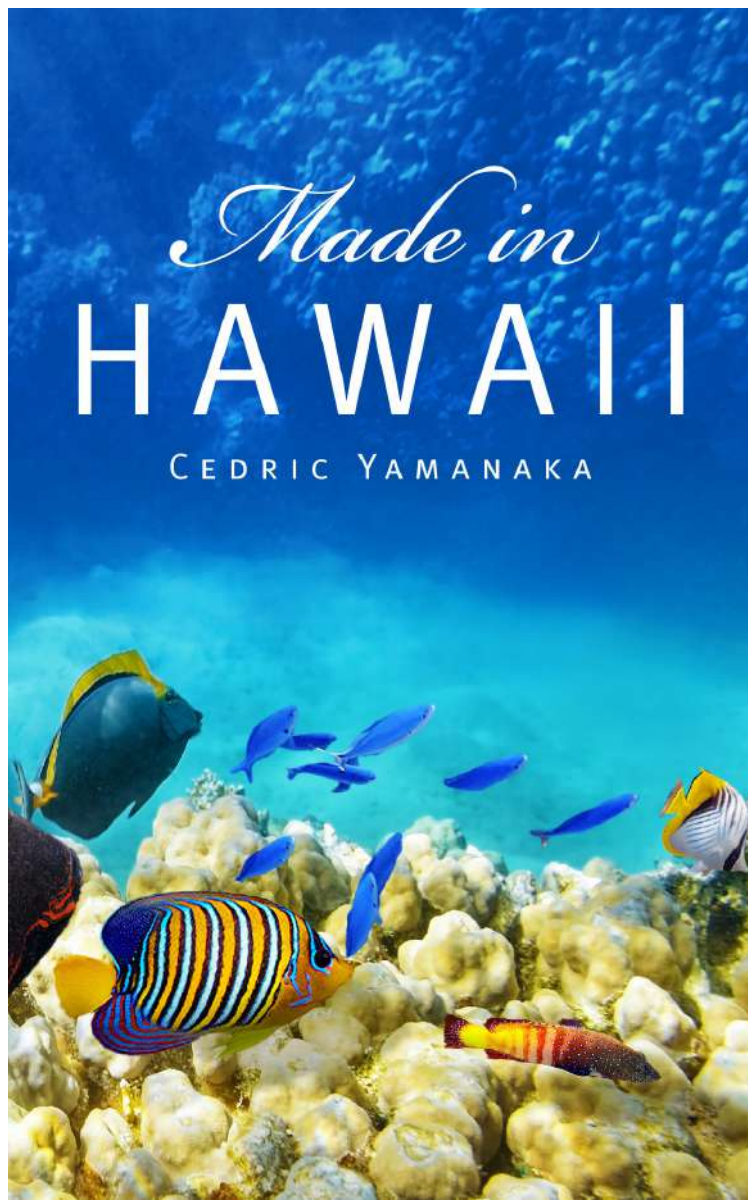
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Fiction | Short stories

PUB. DATE: May 1, 2022

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 222

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837224

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

IMPRINT: Guernica World Editions

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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Made in Hawaii

SHORT STORIES BY

Cedric Yamanaka



Celebrating life in America's fiftieth State.

A father in Hawaii takes his troubled son fishing, unable to tell him the sad news he must share. A woman is lost at sea during a reef walk and sends her family into turmoil. An unlikely relationship develops between a Realtor and an Ultimate Fighting Champion. These are just some of the sad, funny and memorable characters found in the *Made in Hawaii* short story collection.



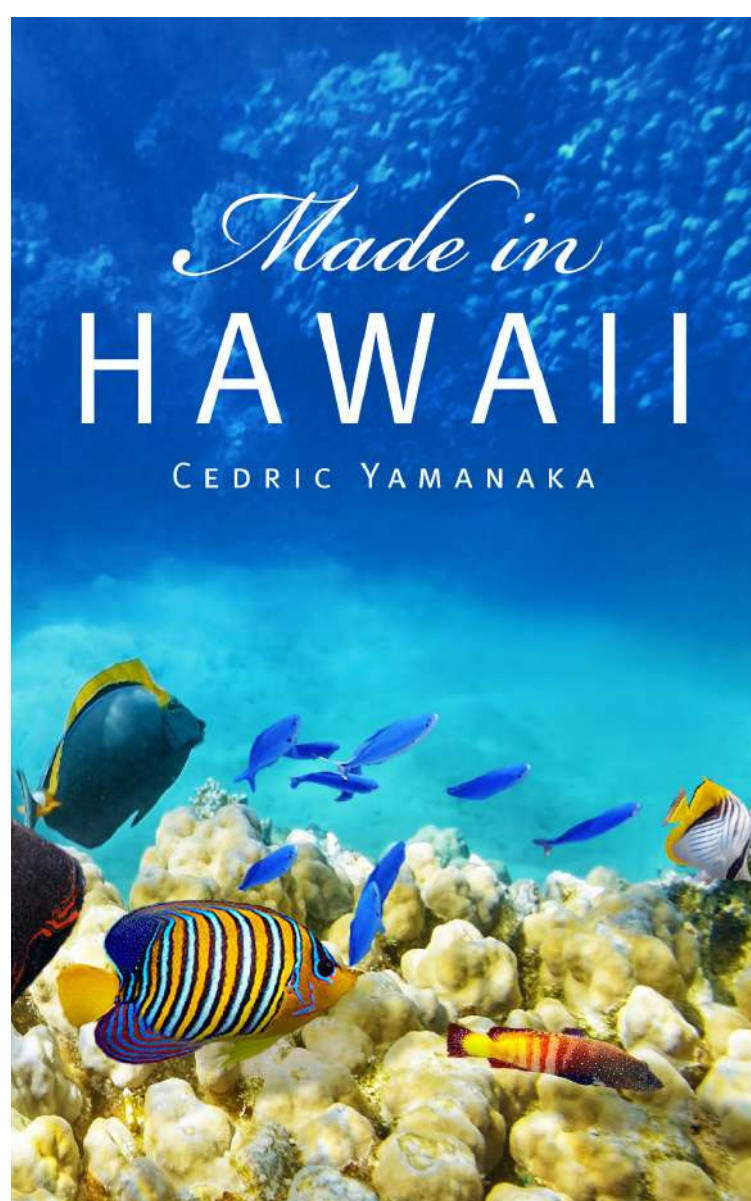
EXCERPT

Mom always told this story to Renee.

One rainy night, a boy and a girl are driving along the dark, winding road near the Pali. When they get to Morgan's Corner, the boy says he's run out of gas, so he'll walk into town and look for the nearest service station. He tells the girl to roll up the windows, lock the doors, and wait in the car. The boy leaves and the girl waits. After a while, she falls asleep listening to the tap-tap sound of the rain on the car roof. When she opens her eyes again, it's morning. The boy still hasn't returned. She gets out of the car to stretch her legs and feel the sun. It is a beautiful morning. The birds are singing and the sweet smell of ginger fills the air. Then the girl screams. The body of the boy hangs from a monkeypod tree and the tap-tap sound she'd fallen asleep to had been his blood dripping onto the roof of the car.

"Why does Mom always tell you that creepy story?" I asked Renee one day, after school.

"Because," Dad said, walking into the living room, filling the house with the smell of English Leather, "Mom don't want her only daughter driving off to Morgan's Corner with some no-good loser."



Fiction | Short stories

PUB. DATE: May 1, 2022

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 222

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837224

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

IMPRINT: Guernica World Editions

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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Praise for *In Good Company*

Yamanaka is a splendid storyteller and keen observer of human types.

—**World Literature Today**

Yamanaka uses the short story as Raymond Carver did, as Bruce Springsteen uses four minutes and a guitar. He transmits the ruination and hope of the human being and he does it with a knife thrower's perfection.

—**The Asian Reporter**

Each story, in and of itself is a gem, some humorous, others poignant.

—**Honolulu Star-Bulletin**

Cedric Yamanaka gives voice to poor, mostly native Hawaiians, of Honolulu ... his characters eke out a living, search for work, help one another, and revel in the few moments of happiness that come their way.

—**The Washington Times**

Ian MacMillan, an award-winning writer and an English professor at the University of Hawaii ... calls Yamanaka 'one of the best pure short story writers I'd ever seen as a student' and considers him one of the best two or three writers he has encountered in 35 years of teaching.

—**Honolulu Advertiser**

A present for all of us who like the tone-perfect Hawaii character studies he does so well.

—**Honolulu Magazine**



Author Bio

Cedric Yamanaka is the author of *In Good Company*, a collection of short stories. He is a recipient of the Helen Deutsch Fellowship for Creative Writing from Boston University, the Ernest Hemingway Memorial Award for Creative Writing from the University of Hawaii, and the Cades Award for Literature. Screen adaptations of his short stories have received awards at the Hawaii International Film Festival. He is currently working on a novel. He lives in Honolulu.

Keywords:

fiction, short stories, Hawaii, regional fiction, humour, family life, relationship, culture, place, home.



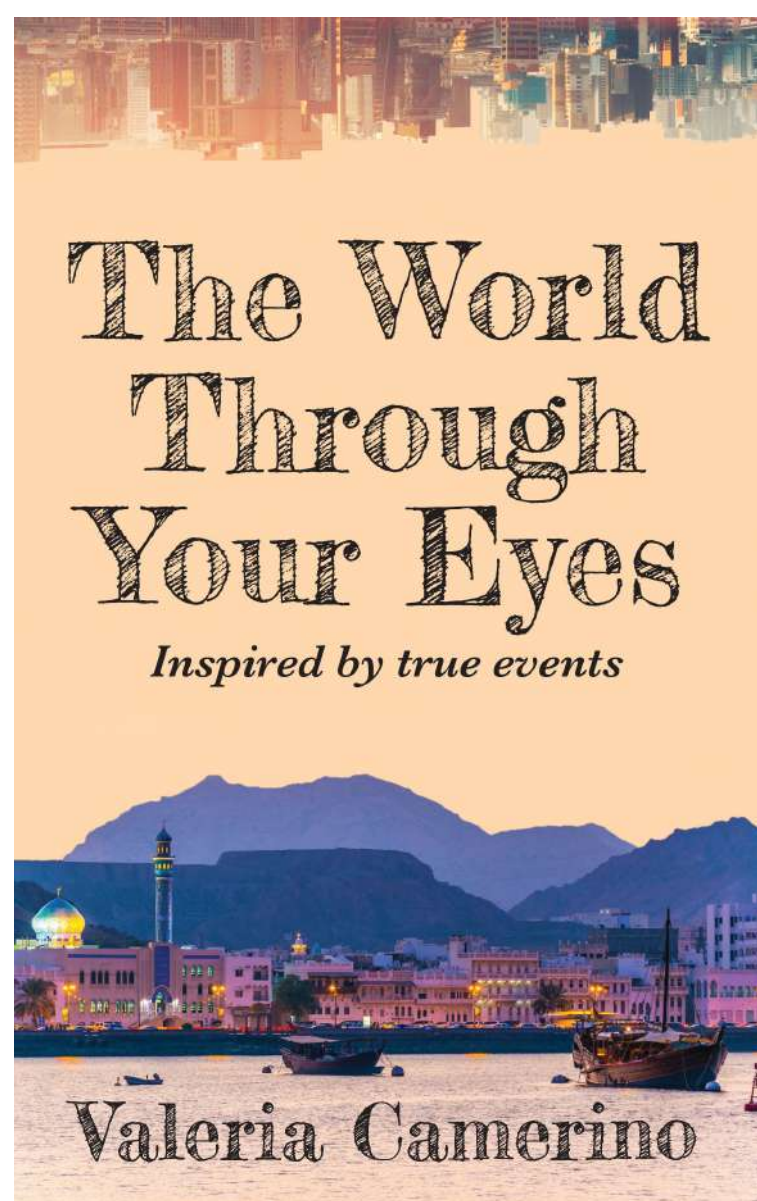
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Fiction | Romance

PUB. DATE: May 1, 2022

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 132

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771836920

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

IMPRINT: Guernica World Editions

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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The World Through Your Eyes

A NOVEL BY

Valeria Camerino



A story of three loves and a journey of self-discovery.

After years spent living in the Middle East, Sofia, an Italian freelance journalist, moves back to England, determined to leave her past behind and build a new life for herself and her daughter in Leeds. On a night out on the town, she meets an enigmatic Iranian man whom she is immediately drawn to, as he reminds her of her Omani ex-husband. At first, she seems to have many things in common with him: from a difficult childhood and a rebellious personality, to a disdain for social norms and a nostalgic love for the Middle East. The two enjoy a whirlwind romance which will make her question herself and her certainties. As she relates her story to him, she will be forced to face her painful past, and make sense of it to discover a new sense of self that will change her outlook on life forever.

‘There was no more time to waste. No more space for regrets, for impossible questions that could never be answered, for all those hours spent staring at a mirror which reflected an image you could not recognise. Was that really you? Where had you been when life was happening just in front of your eyes?’



Author Bio

Valeria Camerino is a UK-based writer, journalist, and globetrotter. She was born in Rome but moved to the North of England when she was nineteen to attend university, and has since settled there. *The World Through Your Eyes* is her first book. valeriacamerino.com.

Keywords:

fiction, romance, novel, love, Middle East, travel, journalism, Iranian, Leeds, self-discovery, reconciliation.



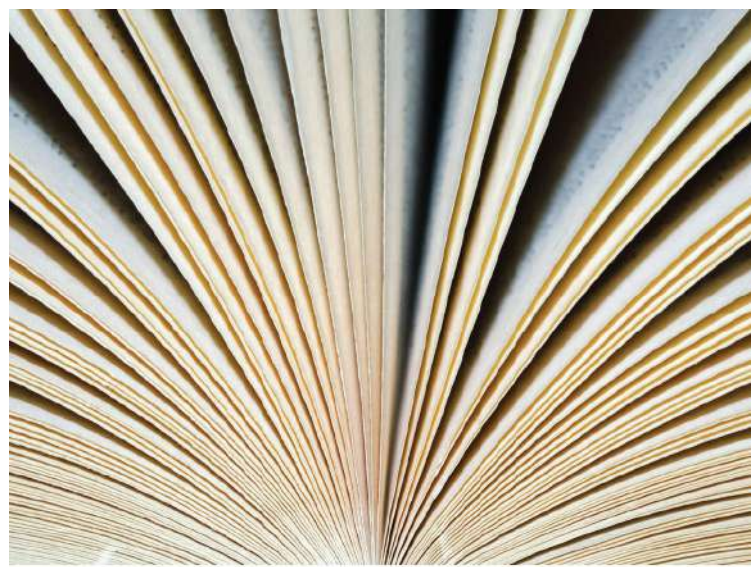
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LAURENCE HUTCHMAN

**IN THE WRITERS'
WORDS**

Conversations with
Ten Canadian Poets

VOLUME II

Non-fiction | Interviews

PUB. DATE: May 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 120

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771836166

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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SALES & MARKETING

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In the Writers' Words: Volume II

A COLLECTION OF INTERVIEWS EDITED BY

Laurence Hutchman



Interviews with ten Great Canadian poets.

In The Writers' Words Volume 2 is a collection of interviews of ten significant contemporary Canadian poets: Brian Bartlett, Roo Borson, George Elliott Clarke, Travis Lane, John B. Lee, Daniel Lockhart, Bruce Meyer, A.F. Moritz, Sue Sinclair, and Colleen Thibaudeau.

In this book, the writers speak in-depth about the importance of personal events in their lives, their aesthetics, the social and geographical contexts, historical background, the influence of other writers and the evolution of their poetry during their careers. These poets give a larger sense of the nature and the development of contemporary Canadian poetry.

Editor's Bio

Laurence Hutchman grew up in Toronto. He received his PhD from the Université de Montreal and has taught at a number of universities. Hutchman has published 13 books of poetry and has also co-edited the anthology *Coastlines: The Poetry of Atlantic Canada* and edited *In the Writers' Words*.

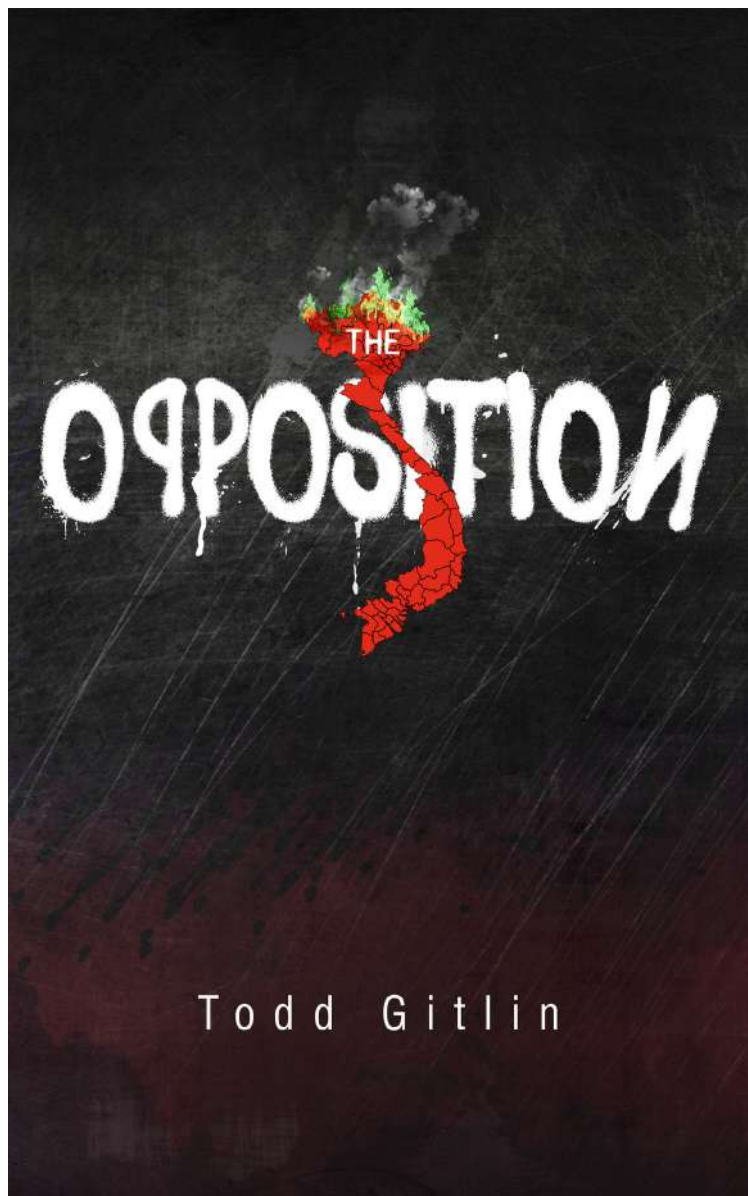


Excerpt from *In the Writers' Words*

"Each of us has our own language, not just a mother tongue, but an inner tongue, a voice that is personal. Being human means we have to learn a plethora of languages, and even then, it is hard to completely know another person. But that's a test we're all given." —Bruce Meyer

Keywords:

Interviews, poets, Canadian, literary landscape, Canadian Literature, Canadian poetry, context, literary career



Fiction | Political

PUB. DATE: June 1, 2022

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 220

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$21.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837361

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

IMPRINT: Guernica World Editions

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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SALES & MARKETING

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The Opposition

A NOVEL BY

Todd Gitlin



On civil rights and America's 1960s New Left movement.

Set during America's 1960s New Left movement, *The Opposition* tells the story of twenty-something young men and women linked by a fierce desire to change the world who become involved in the civil rights and anti-war movements, when under the pressure of Vietnam, and America, unraveling, their web of passion and pain reaches a breaking point. Four women and four men meet in a Midwestern college town in 1963. As racist violence surges in the Deep South, they are seized by the civil rights movement. The novel moves through these eight lives to a tragic conclusion.

Author Bio

Todd Gitlin, an early leader of the American New Left, is the author of 15 previous books, including four novels. He is a professor of journalism and sociology, and chair of the Ph. D. program in Communications, at Columbia University. He lectures and publishes widely on many subjects.



Advanced Praise for *The Opposition*

I read Todd Gitlin's novel in a great rush of enthusiasm and awe, thoroughly caught up in the lives of his characters and his vivid portrayal of 1960s America—with all of the tumult, rage, and hope of that time. No one understands that time better than Todd Gitlin, who has written about it extensively in his previously lauded books, but now that he has turned his hand to fiction, the result is even more vivid, more thrilling, and I for one would urge every person I know to read it. —**Paul Auster**

Keywords:

novel, New Left movement, civil rights, 1960s, anti-war, college, racism, activism, political, historical, American history.



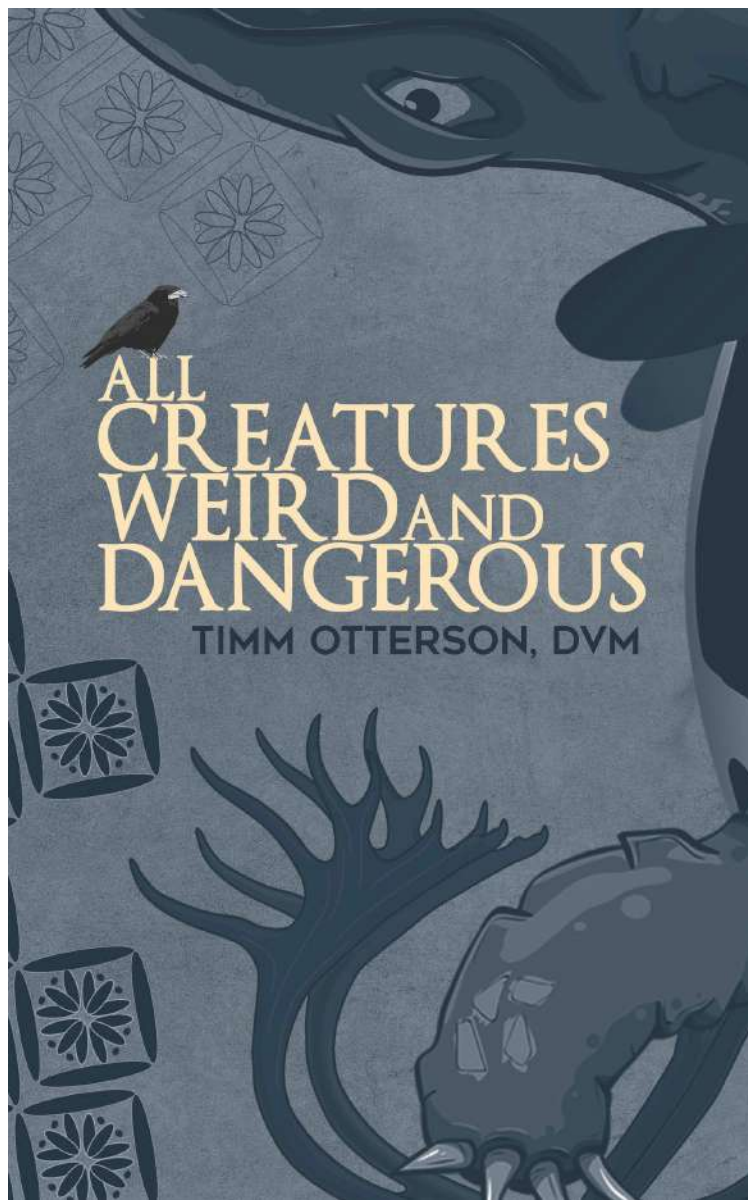
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Non fiction | Animals

PUB. DATE: April 1, 2022

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 150

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837088

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

IMPRINT: Guernica World Editions

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

annavanvalkenburg@guernicaeditions.com

SALES & MARKETING

Dylan Curran

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All Creatures Weird and Dangerous

NON FICTION BY

Timm Otterson, DVM



An improbable journey through the world of strange and mysterious creatures.

All Creatures Weird and Dangerous describes the author's experiences as a veterinarian drawn by chance to care for a variety of cryptozoological creatures. As a practicing veterinarian, the author is called upon, as if by strange forces, to care for a Chupacabra, Sasquatch, Lake Erie's monster Bessie, mermaids and fairies in Newfoundland, and eventually a unicorn in the Highlands of Scotland. Drawing on his experiences as a wildlife rehabilitator and exotic-animal veterinarian, the author cares for these odd creatures, describing his work in accurate medical detail and touching on the importance of compassion and the need to respect all creatures on our planet. An homage to James Herriott's *All Creatures Great and Small*, while touching on stories equally appropriate for an episode of the X-Files.



Author Bio

Timm Otterson, DVM is currently a practicing veterinarian in Buffalo, New York, where he lives in an urban wildlife habitat with his wife, son, dog, and cat. He has degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Louisiana Tech University, Ocean Physics from Memorial University of Newfoundland, and Veterinary Medicine from Louisiana State University. He enjoys camping, hiking, bird watching, and searching for magical creatures.

Keywords:

non fiction, veterinary sciences, animal care, fantasy, fantastic creatures, wildlife, humour, magical realism, veterinarian.



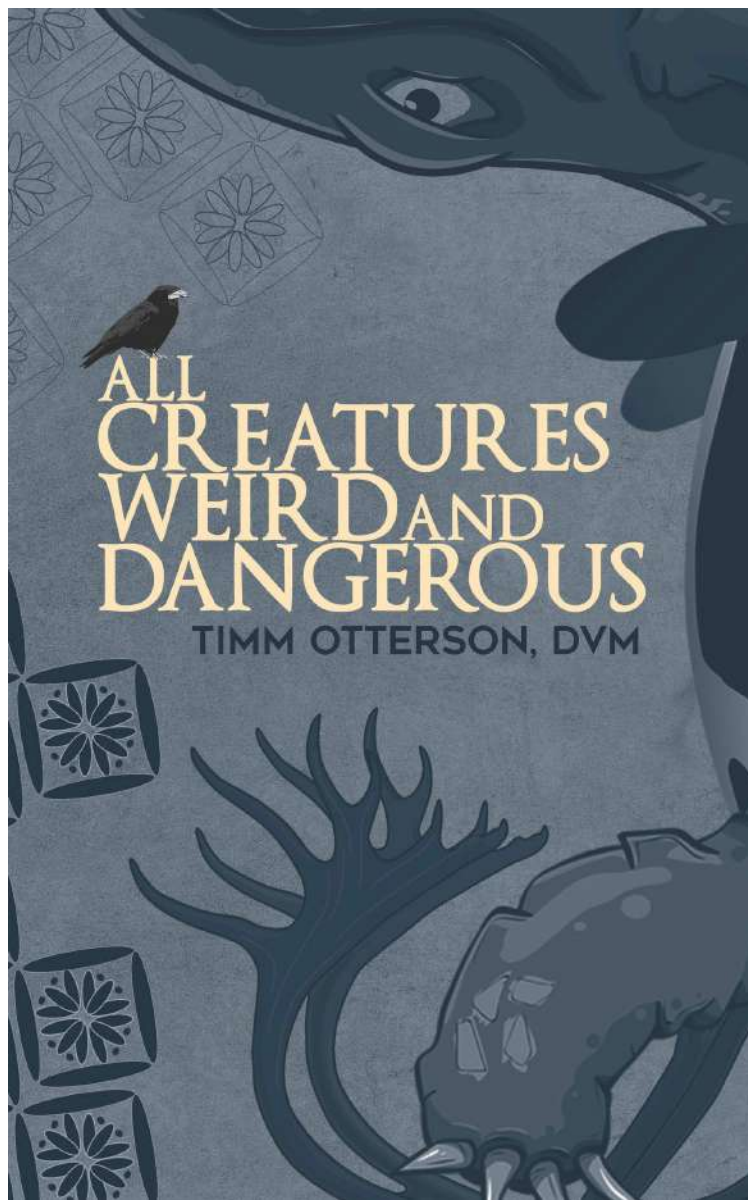
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Non fiction | Animals

PUB. DATE: April 1, 2022

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 85

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837088

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

IMPRINT: Guernica World Editions

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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SALES & MARKETING

Dylan Curran

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Advanced Praise for *All Creatures...*

Real and mythological animals play a huge role in our folklore and in our memory as a species ... Wanting to believe is what has kept Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, and the shadowy animals of these fables alive. Sit back, enjoy these stories and meet a new legendary being with each chapter.

—**Kevin Fitzgerald, DVM, Animal Planet’s “Emergency Vets”**

Otterson, the ever-helpful friend of creatures both mundane and fantastic, leaves the impression he didn’t think his interest in nature would take him on an improbable journey through the world of strange and mysterious creatures—until it did. Luckily, he’s willing to take us along, and if you’re like me, you will turn each page in eager anticipation of what new adventure—and what strange and possibly dangerous creature—lurks just ahead! —**Paul Dyster, former mayor of Niagara Falls, New York and life-long Great Lakes environmentalist**

This is marvelous nonfiction and if you enjoy animals and exploration, you will love this book ... —**Michael Groves, DVM, PhD, Dean Emeritus, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine**



EXCERPT

Thinking it was a cow was reasonable. We were so wrong. My brother and I stealthily approached our violated greenhouse. Our anticipation was huge. We could hear the creature moving around inside and could hear the chomping. I can still hear the crunching sounds to this day. As we approached the dirty glass and struggled to look through, we could see a large shape inside. My brother gave a cool hand signal as if he was a platoon leader and we silently shifted over a couple steps to look through a broken pane. As I stared in, my first instinct was to run and I would have if not for my brother holding me back. Squatting in our rich soil was an enormous hairy primate chowing down on our carrots. He was pulling out entire clusters by the greens, shaking off the dirt and munching them down casually.

I was a pretty confident nature-boy at this point. Snakes, alligators, tarantulas, horses, snapping turtles were all just part of my life. I had seen a lot in my brief life and I had good composure when interacting with strange and scary animals. Once, when I was ten, I got to wrestle with a tiger cub at the El Paso zoo where my mother was a docent. But nothing prepares you for standing twenty feet from Bigfoot.



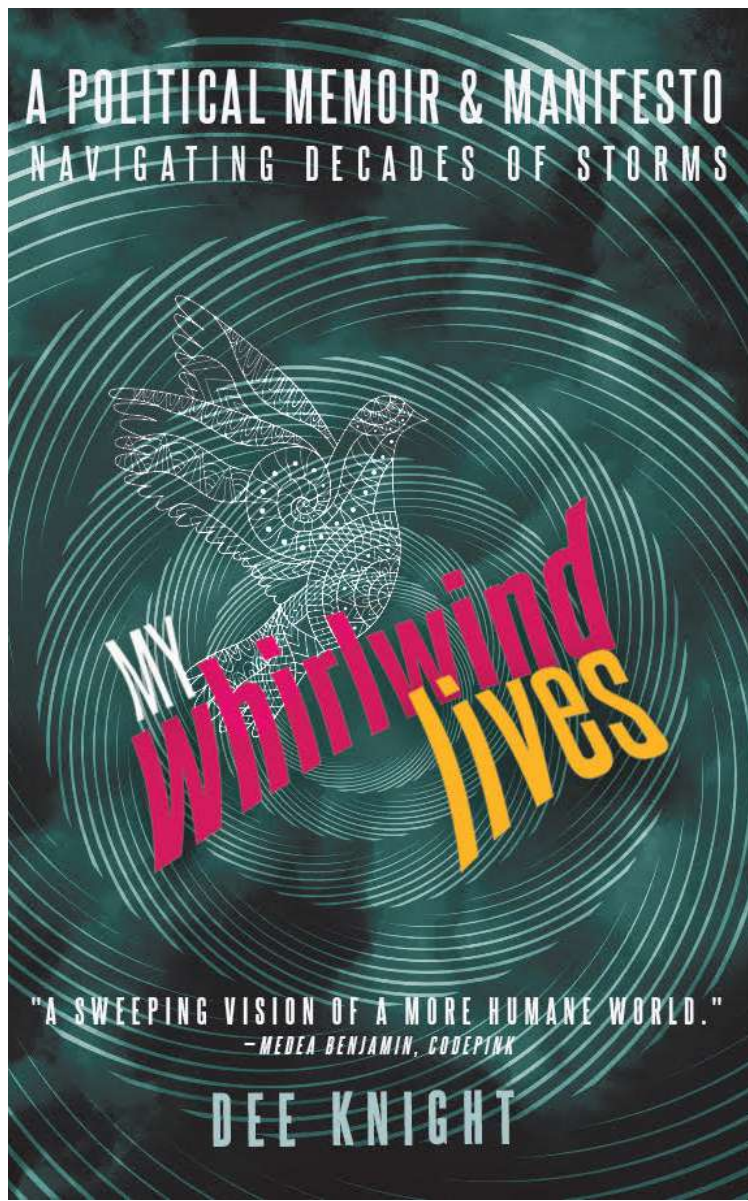
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Non fiction | Political Manifesto

PUB. DATE: June 1, 2022

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 206

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837200

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

IMPRINT: Guernica World Editions

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

annavanvalkenburg@guernicaeditions.com

SALES & MARKETING

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My Whirlwind Lives

A POLITICAL MEMOIR BY

Dee Knight



A quest to turn the tide after decades of storms.

Our recent storms didn't start in 2020 or 2016. They started decades ago in the 1960s – a whirlwind of threatened nuclear catastrophe, then police dogs and rednecks terrorizing civil rights marchers down south, then Vietnamese children fleeing from napalm flames. Then draft notices to go to Vietnam to “fight commies.” A small town boy started by supporting rightist Goldwater against the “peace candidate” Johnson, but rapidly changed in the face of the civil rights and anti-war movements, and started a quest that hasn't ended yet.

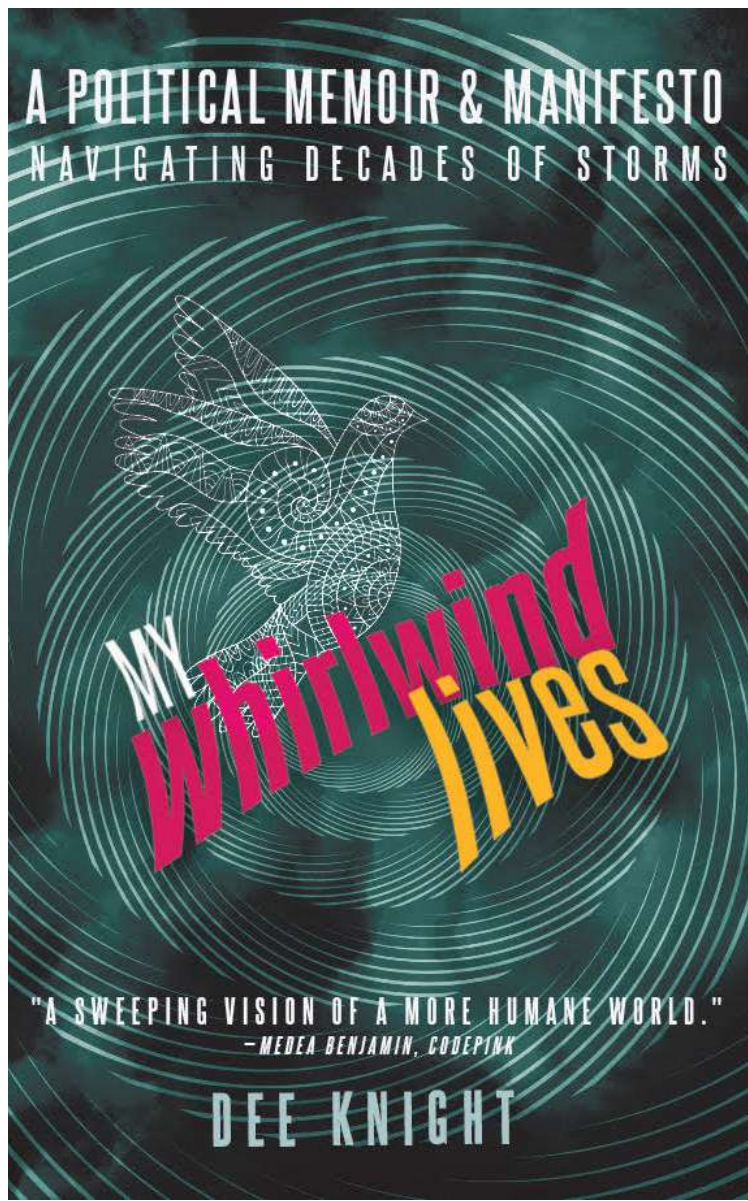


Author Bio

An editor of Amex-Canada (The American Exile/Expatriate in Canada) from 1969 to 1974, Dee Knight helped organize the National Council for Universal Unconditional Amnesty (NCUUA) from 1973 to '77. Following decades of anti-imperialist activism, he is now a member of Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), and serves on the DSA International Committee's Anti-War subcommittee.

Keywords:

non fiction, memoir, political manifesto, Vietnam war, 1960s, civil rights, anti-war, movement, revolution, justice



Non fiction | Political Manifesto

PUB. DATE: June 1, 2022

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 206

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837200

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

IMPRINT: Guernica World Editions

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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SALES & MARKETING

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Advanced Praise for *My Whirlwind Lives*

My Whirlwind Lives is a fast-paced and fascinating tour of a life filled with politics, passion and purpose. Knight takes us through decades of turmoil in the U.S. and overseas, and decades of movement building against war, injustice and destruction of the planet. The book is infused with Knight's sweeping vision of a more humane world and his infectious sense of optimism. Read it and act.

– **Medea Benjamin, Co-founder, CodePink (codepink.org)**

“Being a revolutionary is like being a midwife for the future,” writes Dee Knight. “While there is blood and pain, its essence is hope and excitement for a future we can begin to see ahead of us.” From the movement against the Vietnam War in the 1960s, to revolutions in Portugal, Africa, and Latin America, to today's movement for the Green New Deal, these stories of how real change happens are full of inspiration and valuable lessons for other aspiring revolutionaries. This book makes a compelling case for the inseparability of the movements for an end to unjust war, for the rights of resisters, and for racial and economic justice. It's a strong reminder that while revolutionary change is rarely quick or predictable, it requires that we keep organizing across our communities to be ready for these moments of opportunity. With some luck and perseverance, another such opportunity may be right around the corner.

– **Jeff Paterson, founder, Courage to Resist (couragetoresist.org)**

Dee Knight has written a most compelling account of his personal odyssey and political evolution. From a high schooler for Barry Goldwater, then dropping out of college to campaign for Eugene McCarthy in 1968, he became a leading Vietnam war resister in Canada. He witnessed revolutions in Portugal and Nicaragua, and became a committed socialist. This life story shares much with that of thousands of young people whose lives and world views changed when they were pushed to participate in unjust U.S. wars.

– **Gerry Condon, Vietnam era GI resister and former president of Veterans For Peace**



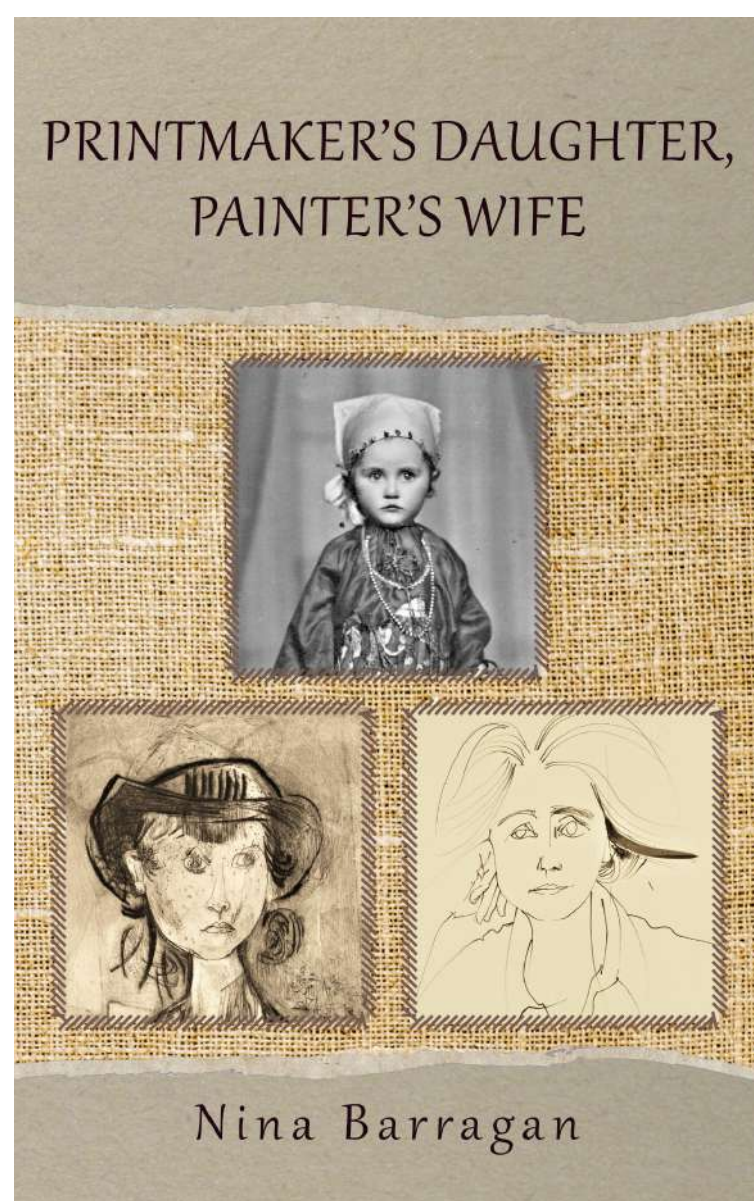
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Non fiction | Memoir

PUB. DATE: June 1, 2022

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 225

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$21.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837293

OTHER FORMATS: ePub

IMPRINT: Guernica World Editions

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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SALES & MARKETING

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Printmaker's Daughter, Painter's Wife

A MEMOIR BY

Nina Barragan



Deconstructing the fundamentals of identity.

This work of fusion moves beyond memoir to become a juggling act of reality and imagination. The narrative travels through melded panoramas of past and present, this country, the others, certainties and doubts. Inserts of fiction—revealing ties between life and writing—enhance the journey.

Author Bio

Nina Barragan, pen name of Rocío Lasansky Weinstein, was born in Cordoba, Argentina, raised in Iowa City, Iowa, and received a BA in English from the University of Iowa. Married to artist Alan Weinstein and mother of four grown children, home is Iowa City and Teeswater, Ontario. Since 1967 her work has appeared in quarterlies, journals and anthologies. She has published three books of fiction.



Advanced Praise for *Printmaker's Daughter...*

Nina Barragan is not just a printmaker's daughter and a painter's wife, and her exquisite, intimate book is no mere memoir. Underneath the placidly ironic title, she explores the ways we sketch our illusions in life and fiction, as she takes her reader on a luminously insightful and captivating journey of a woman's self-scrutiny. Barragan is a quietly forceful writer, and her arresting tale teases strands of untamed memories into stories of displacement, erasure, duality, authenticity and the desire for transformation. This is the true art of writing: on the surface and deep underneath. —**Ksenija Bilbija, Professor, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Keywords:

non fiction, memoir, travel, place, motherhood, marriage, art, painting, writer, writing life, love, Argentina, Maine, Iowa, Spain, healing.



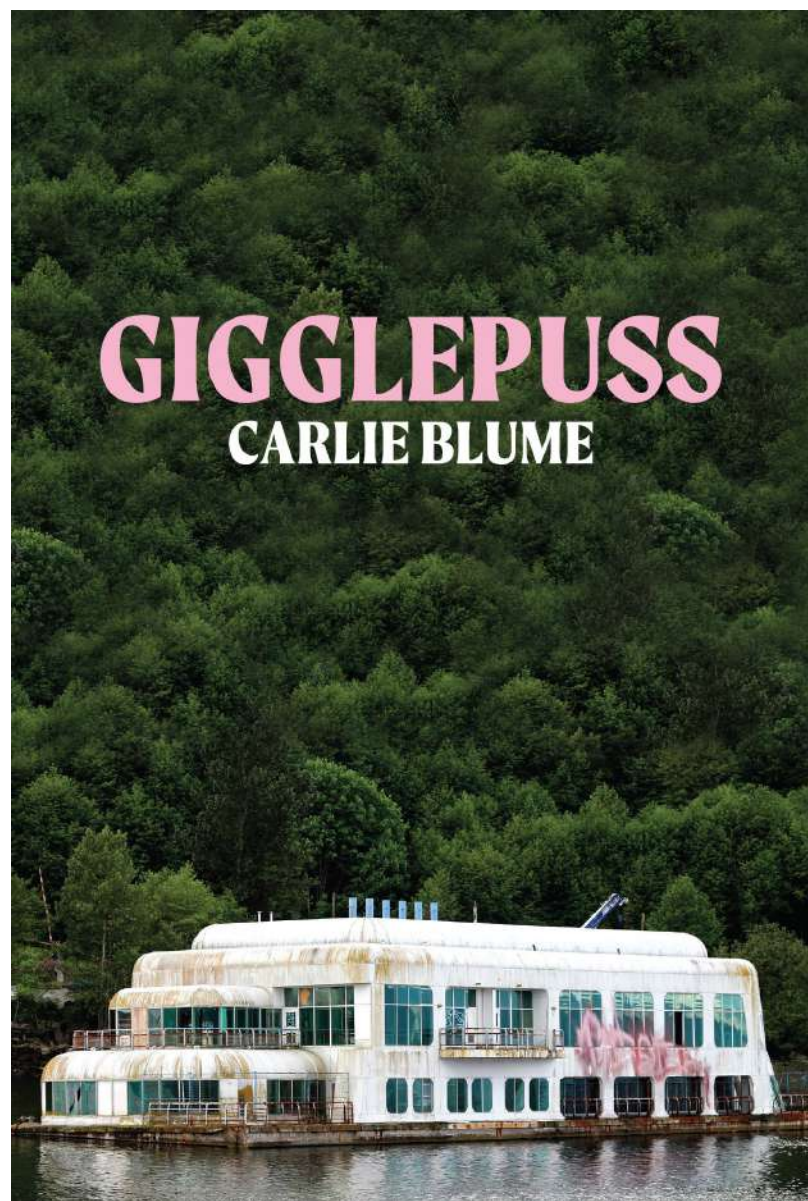
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Poetry | Canadian

PUB. DATE: April 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 85

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837002

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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SALES & MARKETING

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Gigglepuss

A POETRY COLLECTION BY

Carlie Blume



Exposing and reworking the dank corners of past traumas.

Gigglepuss delves into a past pock marked with loss, broken family dynamics, and the looming shadow of familial mental illness. These poems touch on sexual abuse, lost relationships, the influence of pop culture, and the intensity of motherhood set against the at times humorous backdrop of stark self-awareness, irony and even absurdity. Bucking against a patriarchal society, this collection is a provocative, reflective and at times confrontational portrayal of our human need for connection, self-identity and home.



Author Bio

Carlie Blume was born on the unceded and ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh (Vancouver). She is a 2017 graduate of Simon Fraser University's The Writer's Studio and her work has appeared in *The Maynard*, *Train: a poetry journal*, *Ghost City Review* and more. She currently lives on Salt Spring Island, B.C with her husband and two children.

Keywords:

poetry, feminism, motherhood, sexual abuse, mental illness, pop culture, identity, home, relationships, love, family dynamics



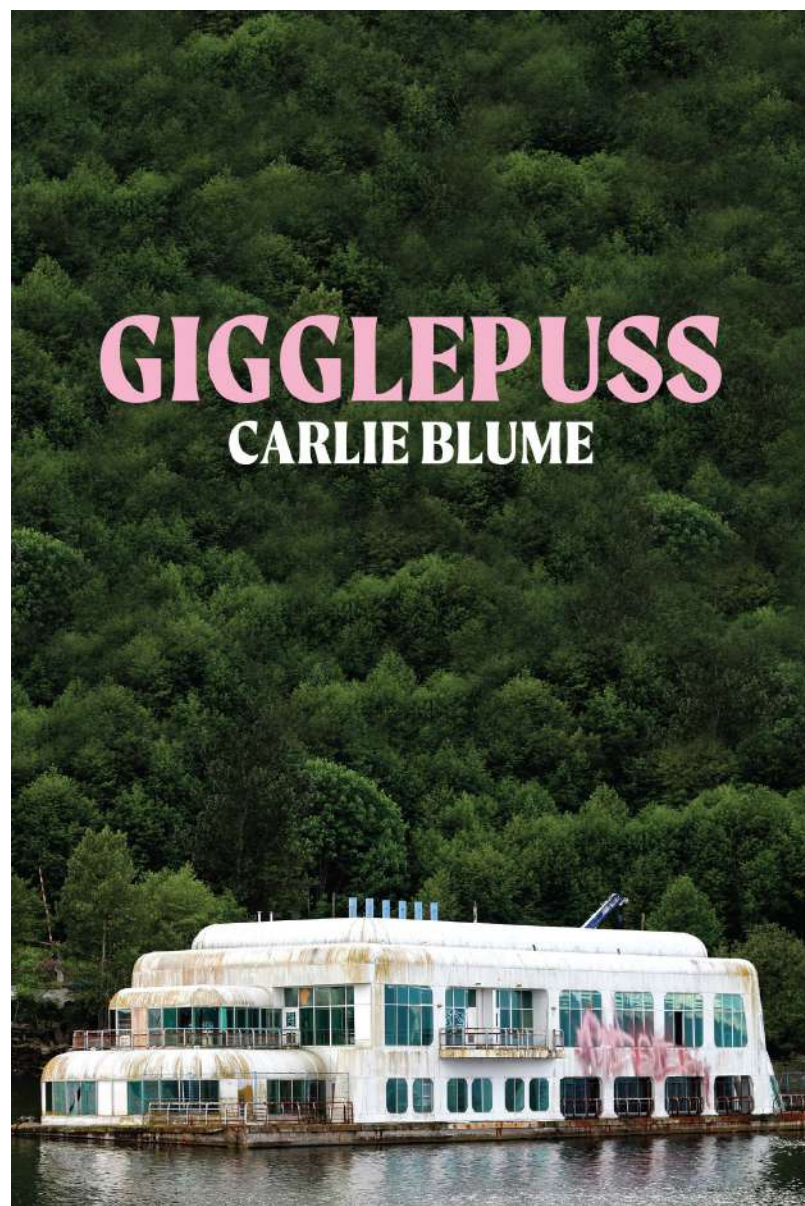
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GIGGLEPUSS
CARLIE BLUME

Poetry | Canadian

PUB. DATE: April 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 85

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837002

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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SALES & MARKETING

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EXCERPT

Summerland

II

Bone-white ridge caked with ice. We arrive,
roll up under skeins
of wheat-coloured sunlight,
a distant rooster crows
alongside the neighbour's dilapidated
diastema fence

while smooth pavement passes hands
to rolling crunch of gravel road.

A friendly moon of a face I don't yet know
waves to us from a small house that I trace
onto the glass
with steady
polish-chipped fingers.

I linger

in the possibility buried in this new
setting. I wonder if it could dig in
and rustle all that has been asleep
and briefly I am more than a pursed streak of mouth,
stubble legs that
prickle pins and
needles.

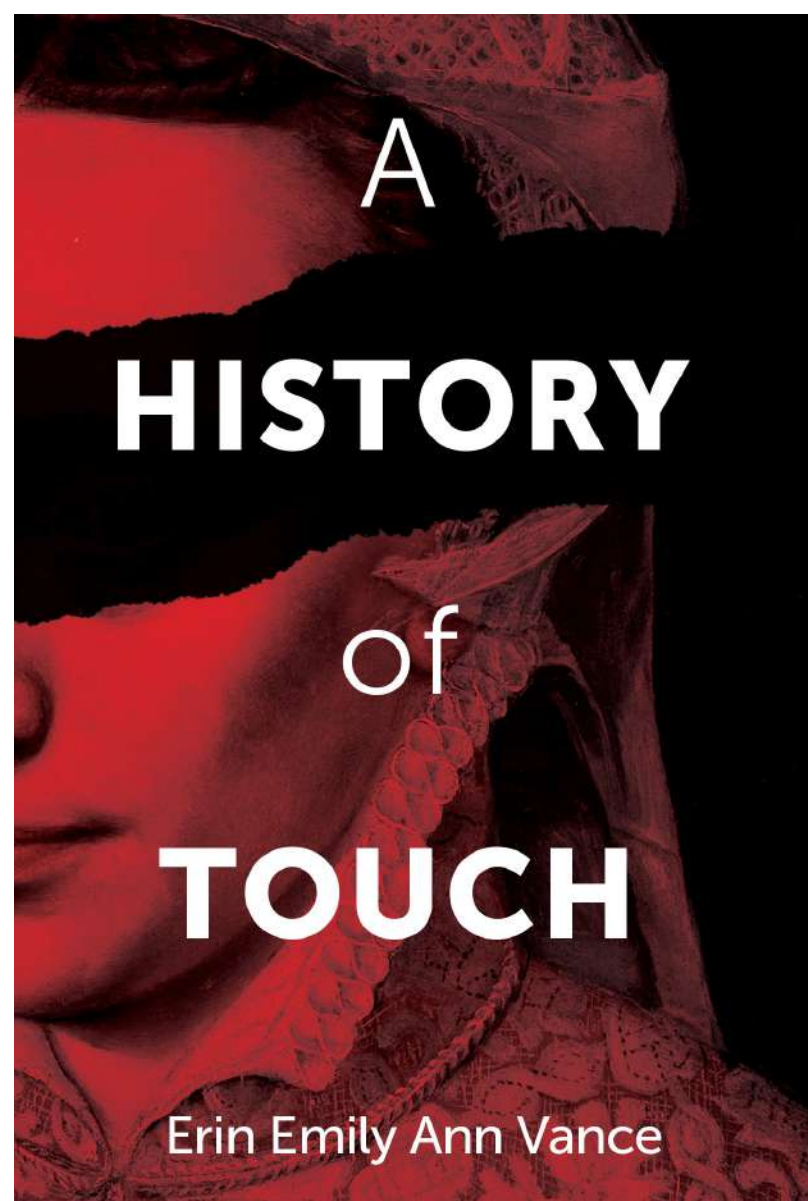
All of us have to pee. Already
it is everything

I hoped
it could
ever be.



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Poetry | Feminist

PUB. DATE: May 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 100

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837217

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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A History of Touch

A POETRY COLLECTION BY

Erin Emily Ann Vance



Bearing witness to women in history.

A History of Touch is a poetry collection about women in folklore and history who were ill, disabled, or otherwise labelled ‘hysteric.’ The work bears witness to the lives of women with varying experiences, such as a woman whose epilepsy was mistaken for demonic possession, Sarah Winchester’s grief, Mary Roff and her love of leeches, and the “witch”, Bidy Early. There is a poem about Bridget Cleary, who upon displaying her independence was burned to death by her husband, believing her to be a changeling. The collection includes pieces on anchoresses, Rosemary Kennedy, and accused witches. Each poem discusses an aspect of or a moment in a woman’s life, connecting these moments to different aspects of embodiment and the natural world. *A History of Touch* is an examination of women vilified or left behind for their strength or their weakness. This book uses strong poetic imagery and metaphor to elevate details drawn from real life to that of poetry. It comprises of three sections, each drifting between biographical poetry ("Scrying", "About Bidy Early"), experimental poetry ("Projections of a Glass Womb", which manipulates the text of a midwifery textbook), fairy tale sequences ("What a Pretty Sight"), folklore, ("Macha", "Flickers") and pieces that incorporate elements of confessional poetry ("Bloodletting", "Whiskers").

Author Bio

Erin Emily Ann Vance is the author of the novel *Advice for Taxidermists* and *Amateur Beekeepers* (Stonehouse, 2019) and five chapbooks of poetry. She teaches creative writing to children and teenagers and is the co-host of the folklore and history podcast *Femmes Macabres*.

Keywords:

poetry, feminism, mental illness, witches, confessional, fairy tales, feminist history, folklore, experimental poetry, biography, hysterics, changelings, vilification of women.



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The Hands

Marty Gervais



Poetry | Canadian

PUB. DATE: June 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 100

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837286

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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SALES & MARKETING

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The Hands

A POETRY COLLECTION BY

Marty Gervais



A paean to iconic personalities

Moving, intriguing, and exquisite, this collection is a paean to the iconic personalities Marty Gervais has met and written about during his career as both a poet and a journalist and includes poems about such diverse characters as Muhammad Ali, Mother Teresa, Benjamin Spock, Norman Mailer, Karen Kain and Thomas Merton. Each poem narrows the focus to one little detail about them, a slice of a memoir but in poetic form.

Author Bio

Marty Gervais is a Canadian poet, photographer, journalist, and teacher.. Winner of the prestigious Toronto's Harbourfront Festival Prize for his contributions to Canadian letters and to emerging writers, and also winner of the Milton Acorn People's Poetry Award, the Queen's Jubilee Medal and the recipient of 16 Western Ontario Newspaper Awards for journalism. In 2006 Gervais and his work were the subject of a TV Bravo episode of the television series Heart of a Poet produced by Canadian filmmaker Maureen Judge.



*and everyone wore black, especially
a collection of gnarly old widows
who looked like witches — bony hands forever
reaching out to pinch my cheeks
and marveling at the color*

I figured I'd be boiled alive with the apples

I was dressed and ready for the dead

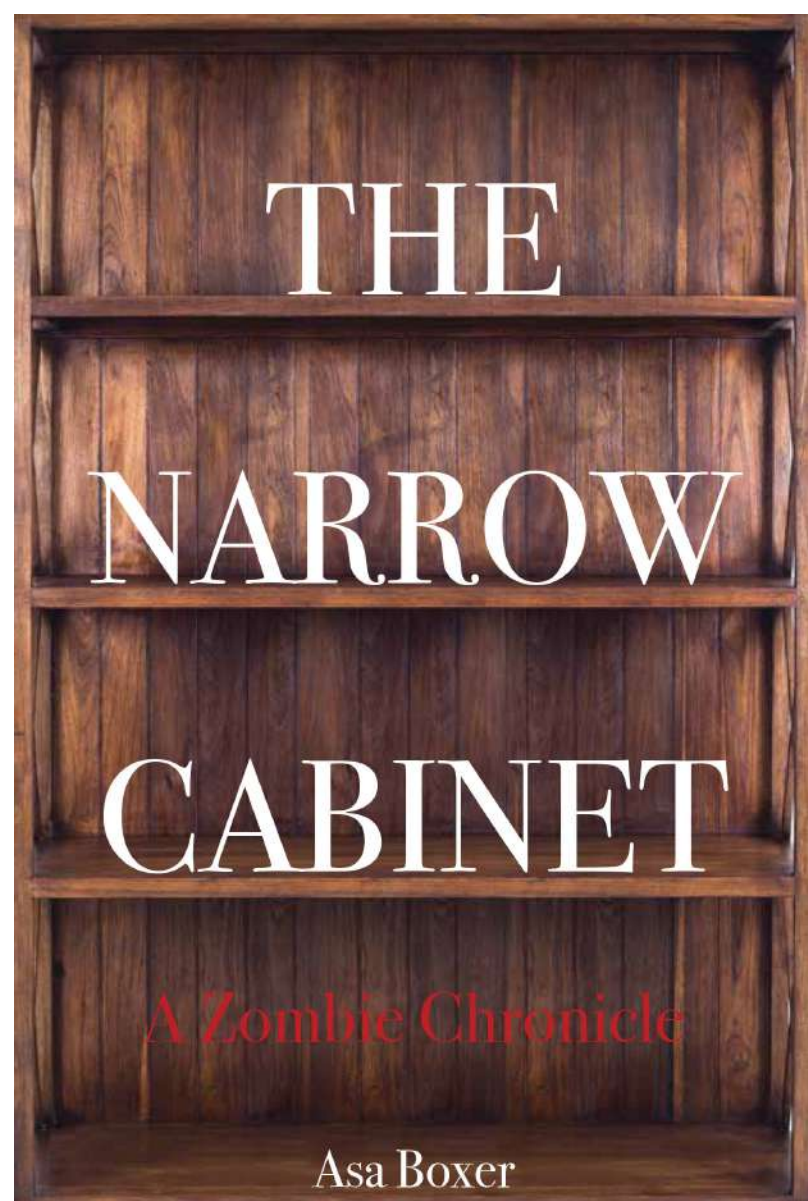
Keywords:

poetry, biography, journalism, encounters, iconic personalities, lyric, paean, Mother Theresa, Muhammad Ali



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Poetry | Canadian

PUB. DATE: May 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 90

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837170

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg
annavanvalkenburg@guernicaeditions.com

SALES & MARKETING

Dylan Curran
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The Narrow Cabinet: A Zombie Chronicle

A POETRY COLLECTION BY

Asa Boxer



*From old school dispensation to Zombie apocalypse: on
change, loss and rapid transformations.*

The Narrow Cabinet is a book about change, loss and the struggle to understand what the hell is going on in a world experiencing such rapid transformations. The movement is from (a) an old dispensation of tough minded, rugged living and surviving troubled times through (b) a narcissistic sinkhole of complacency leading ultimately to (c) a zombie apocalypse. That is the general trajectory, but the work itself complicates the tropes. The old dispensation is by no means a paradise, nor is it dealt with nostalgically. The seeds of all the trouble are there from the start. But there is something admirable in the strength and fearless grit we find during that phase. In the sinkhole phase, the voice flits between depressive angst and lunatic outrage as oppressive forces exert ever more stubborn pressure. Here the speaker begins seeking the cause of the trouble that worsens until ultimately manifesting as zombie culture. With the outbreak of the zombie apocalypse, the terms of the illness become apparent.



Author Bio

Asa Boxer's debut book, *The Mechanical Bird* (2007), won the Canadian Authors Association Prize for Poetry, and his cycle of poems entitled "The Workshop" won first prize in the 2004 CBC Literary Awards. His poems and essays have since been anthologised in various collections and have appeared in various magazines internationally.

Keywords:

poetry, lyric, masculinity, old dispensation, zombie apocalypse, technology, survival, depression, zombie culture, contemporary society, conflict.



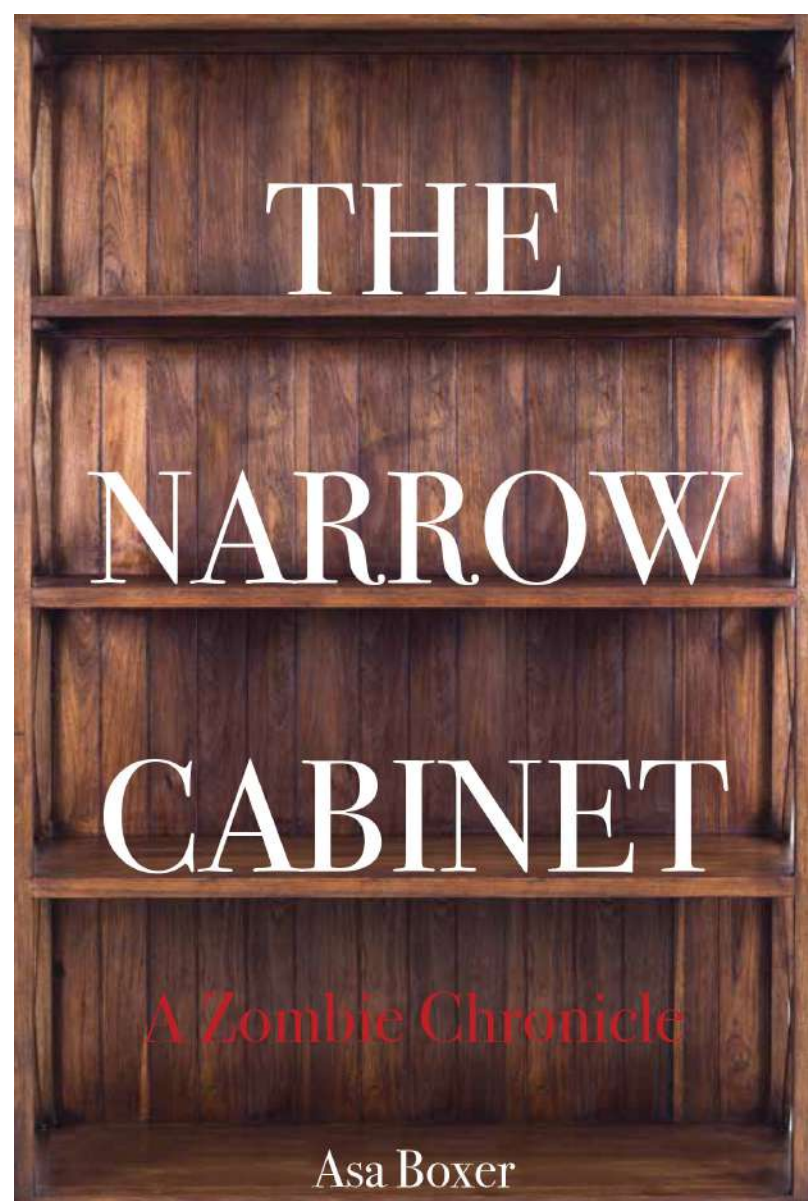
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Poetry | Canadian

PUB. DATE: May 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 90

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837170

PUBLICITY

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Advanced Praise for *The Narrow Cabinet*

Like his bravura tightrope walker in "The Great Wallenda," Boxer "minds each [word]," "indulges no illusions," and "throbs with the thrill" of his vistas. These poems continually delight the reader with their skill and daring.

—**Janice Fiamengo, retired Professor of English, University of Ottawa**

Like the Great Wallenda poised upon a tightrope above the gnashing, slavering jaws of Niagara Falls, Asa Boxer's sharply crafted poems consistently draw the living into deep focus. His edge-of-chasm calmness and his way of softly imploding the human experiment – vicious yet tender – results in poetry that swallows its own barely contained mythologies. The weight of witness drenches Boxer's writing – nostalgic, Shakespearian, zombie apocalyptic – with the wisdom of the walking dead. The poems in *The Narrow Cabinet: A Zombie Chronicle* will worm into your inward most searches and set up camp. Deliciously insidious.

—**Harry Posner, poet, author of *Malware: A Novella Trilogy***

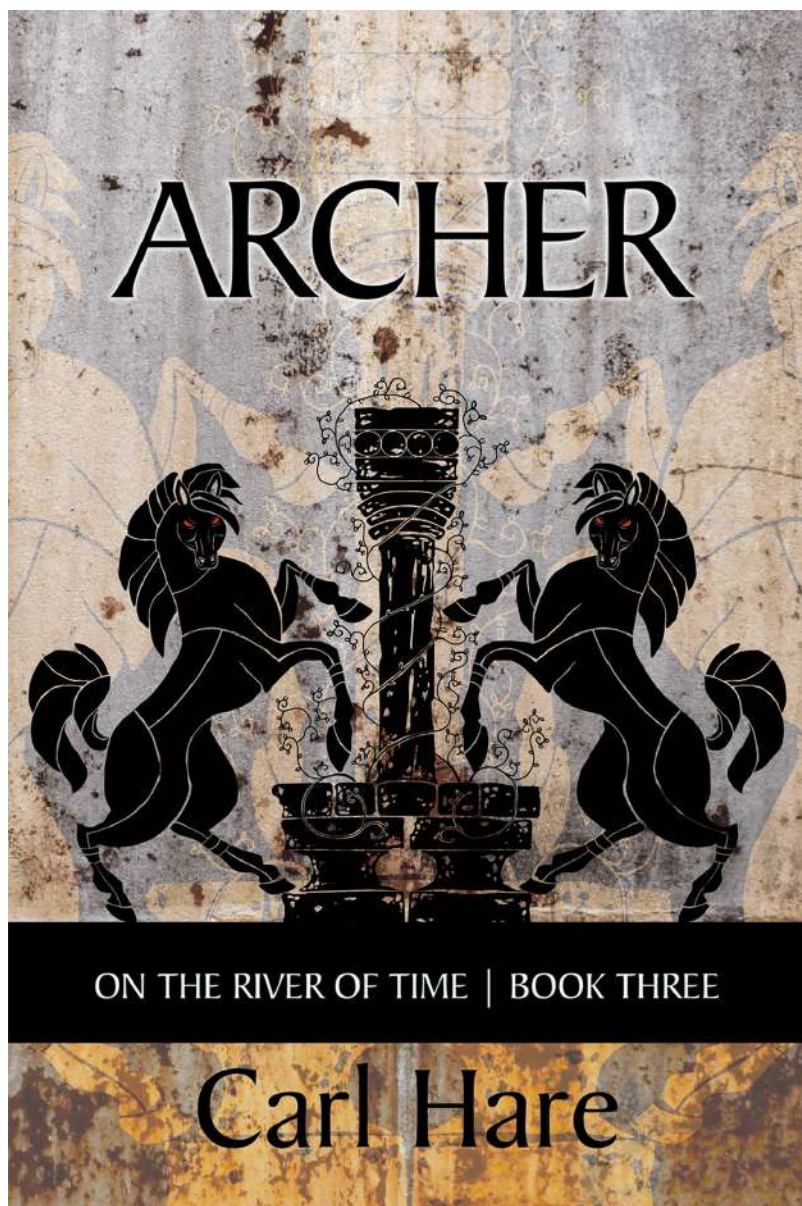
In *The Narrow Cabinet* Asa Boxer expertly interweaves high satire and refined wit with base passions and brute force. This is a book which powerfully demonstrates Boxer's absolute and beautiful synthesis of all the elements of poetry while at the same time making important commentary on our times. Asa Boxer is one of the best poets writing in the English language. *The Narrow Cabinet* is essential reading.

—**Marc di Saverio, poet, author of *Crito Di Volta***



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Poetry | Epic

PUB. DATE: April 1, 2022

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 648

PRICE: \$29.95 cad / \$ 26.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837071

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

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SALES & MARKETING

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DISTRIBUTION & SALES

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Archer

A POETRY COLLECTION BY

Carl Hare



Fictional epic: three years in the life of Ray Archer.

Archer portrays three years in the life of Ray Archer, a fictional Canadian actor/director dedicated to exploring performance styles with his diverse company. Following a Canada-wide tour of King Lear performed in mask, Archer takes his new epic history of Canada across the country and to Ireland, where a strange encounter changes his life in ways he could not imagine. Written in both modern and traditional poetic styles, *Archer* is Book Three of the epic trilogy *On the River of Time*, which examines three figures—one mythical (Odysseus), one historical (Edmund Spenser), and one fictional (Archer)—and the links between them across 3,000 years

Author Bio

Carl Hare in his long career has been a professor, actor, director, playwright, and poet. His poetic works include his play *The Eagle and the Tiger*, a commissioned poem for Malcolm Forsyth's *A Ballad of Canada* (2010), his collection of short poems *A Weathering of Years* (2015), and his epic trilogy *On the River of Time: Book One, Odysseus* (2017); *Book Two, Spenser* (2018); and *Book Three, Archer* (2022).



Advanced praise for *Archer*

Archer — the character and the work — is a triumph ... What is perhaps most striking to me is how you managed to meld mask and contra mask, reality and fantasy, personalities and cultures, production and staging, leading us back to the Search by way of Lear and Odysseus, splitting open all kinds of mountains on the way.

—Ann Saddlemyer

Keywords:

poetry, epic poetry, traditional poetry, contemporary poetry, Canadian history, acting, Shakespeare, drama, mythology, Canada, Ireland, King Lear, masks.



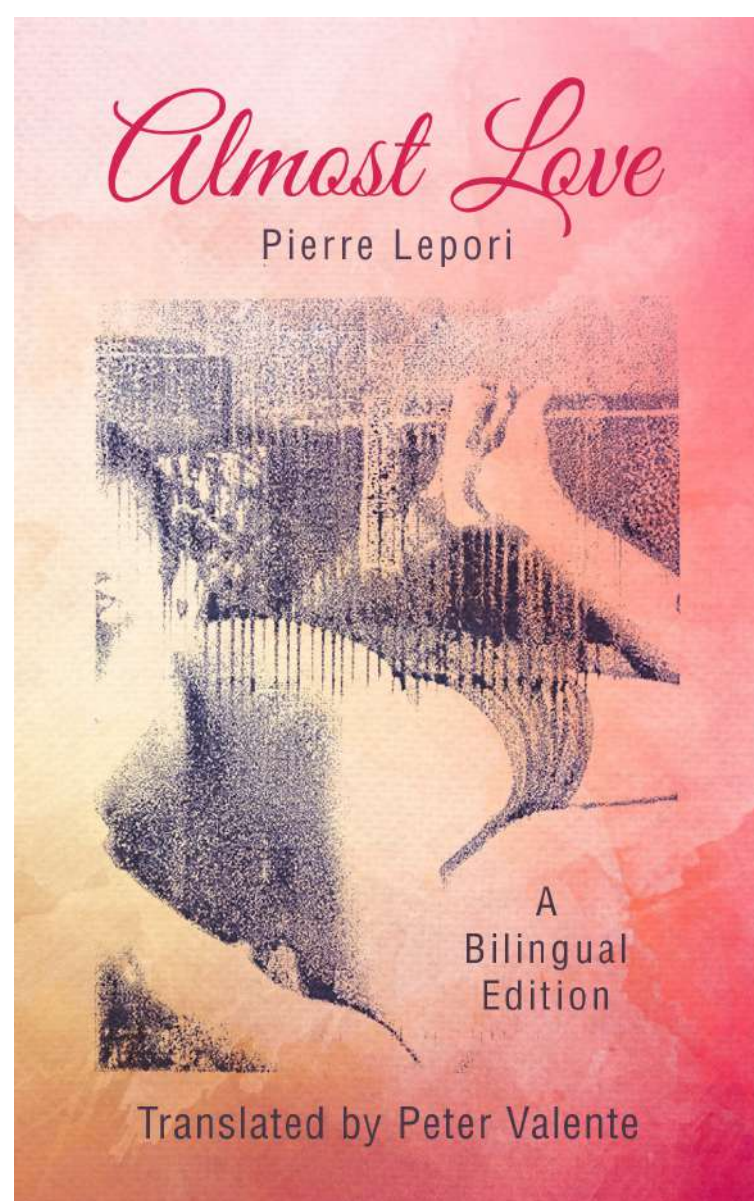
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Almost Love
Pierre Lepori

Pierre Lepori

A
Bilingual
Edition

Translated by Peter Valente

Poetry | Translation

PUB. DATE: June 1, 2022

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 61

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837354

IMPRINT: Guernica World Editions

PUBLICITY

Anna van Valkenburg

annavanvalkenburg@guernicaeditions.com

com

SALES & MARKETING

Dylan Curran

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Almost Love

POETRY BY

Pierre Lepori

TRANSLATED FR. ITALIAN BY PETER VALENTE



Corporeal, homoerotic, reified and ethereal.

Pierre Lepori's *Almost Love* (*Quasi Amore*) contains forty-five short stanzas, reminiscent of a lyric tradition extending from the Greek elegiac poets, such as Sappho and Mimnermus, to the Italian poet, Sandro Penna. The poems revolve around the word "love" as compared to the precariousness of life and the incompleteness of language, thus generating new images in a poetry that is corporeal, homoerotic, reified and at the same time ethereal. As Lepori writes, "There are forms of love – both physical and spiritual – that escape the events of what we call reality by convention."



Advanced Praise for *Almost Love*

Valente's is an achievement of a remarkably high order, a great translation of a major book. —**Edward Foster**

Almost Love bristles with imagery that is both startling and timeless, drawing us onto a love-road that branches towards eternity. In this epic work, Swiss poet Pierre Lepori effortlessly pulls the reader into a Jacob's ladder of passion and despair. Separately, each stanza is a small jewel—linked together, they are truly dazzling. Beautifully translated by the poet Peter Valente, *Almost Love* is a work that shines brightly in these dark times. —**Maggie Dubris**

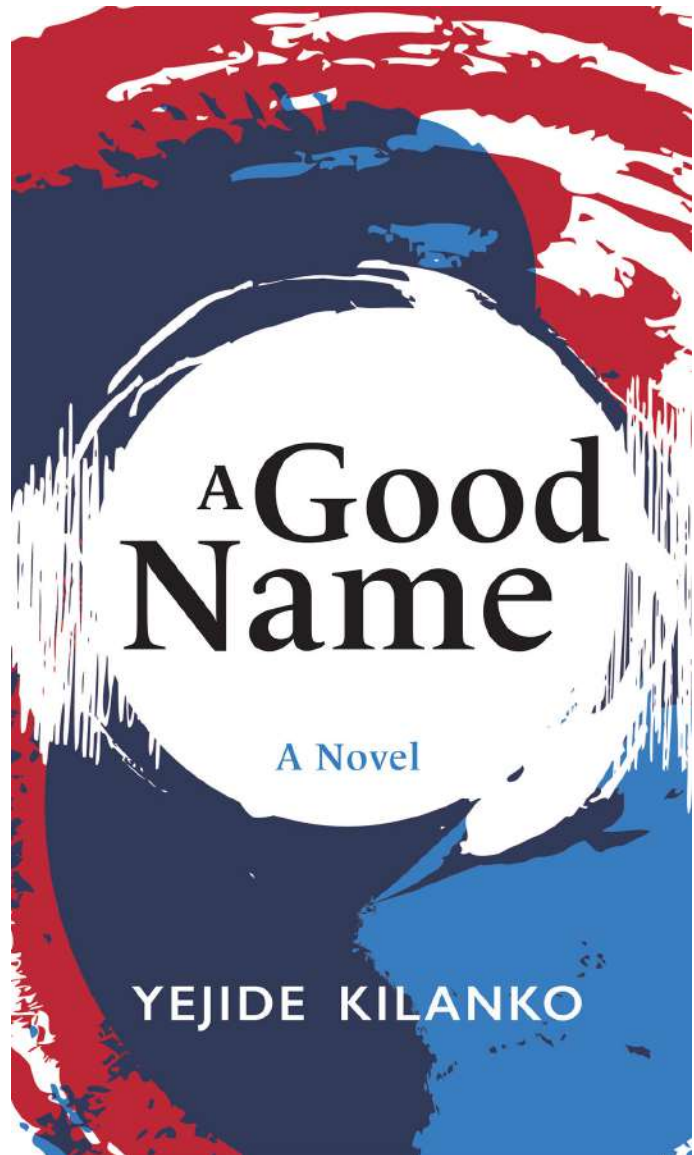
Translator Bio

Peter Valente is a writer, translator and filmmaker. He is the author of eleven full length books. Forthcoming is his translation of Gerard de Nerval, *The Illuminated* (Wakefield Press, 2022), and his translation of Nicolas Pages by Guillaume Dustan (*Semiotext(e)*, 2023).

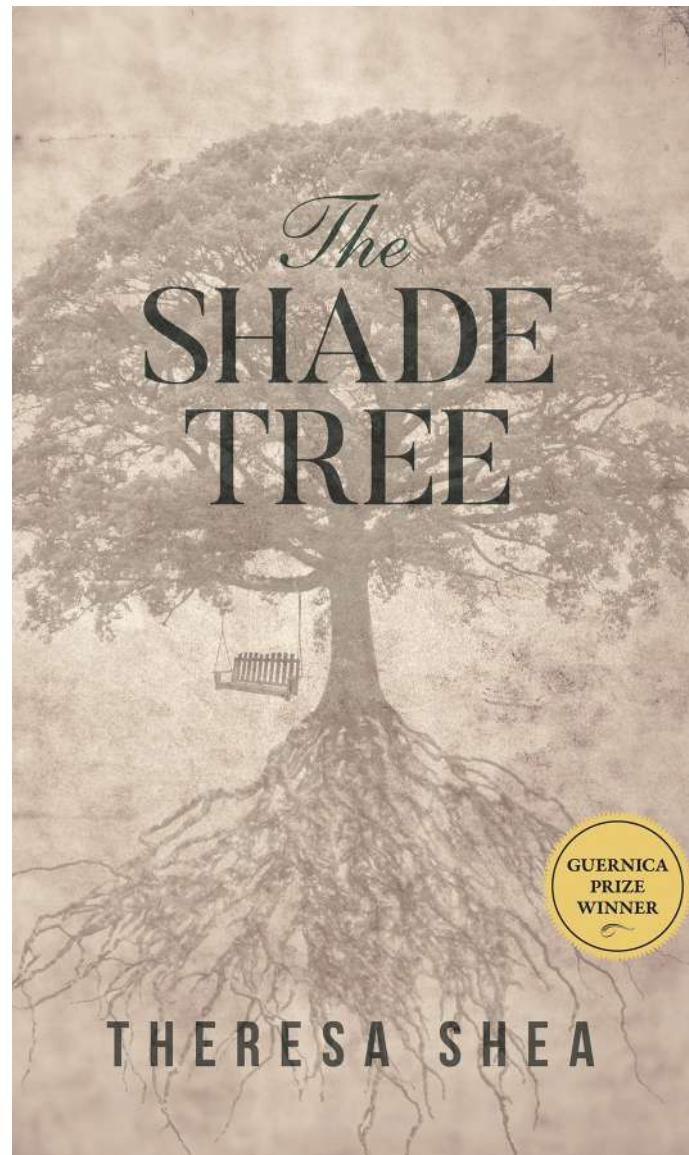
Keywords:

poetry, love, elegiac ancient poetic forms, lyric, homoerotic, physical, spiritual, Swiss, Pierre Lepori, translation.

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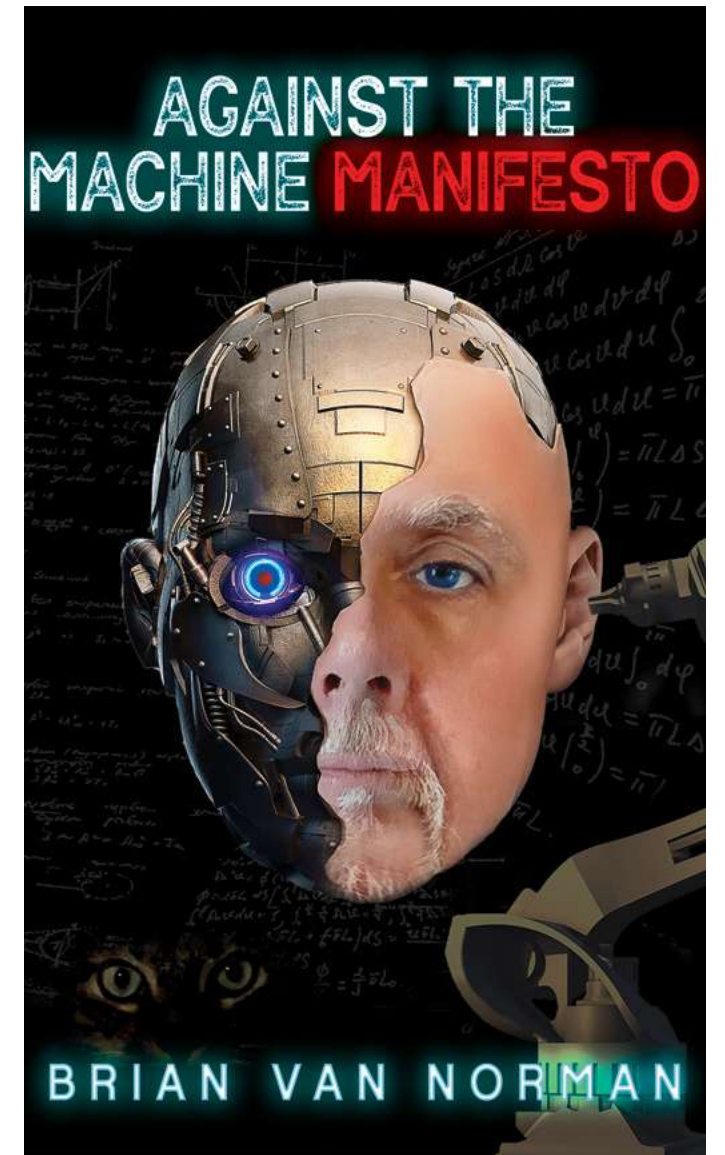
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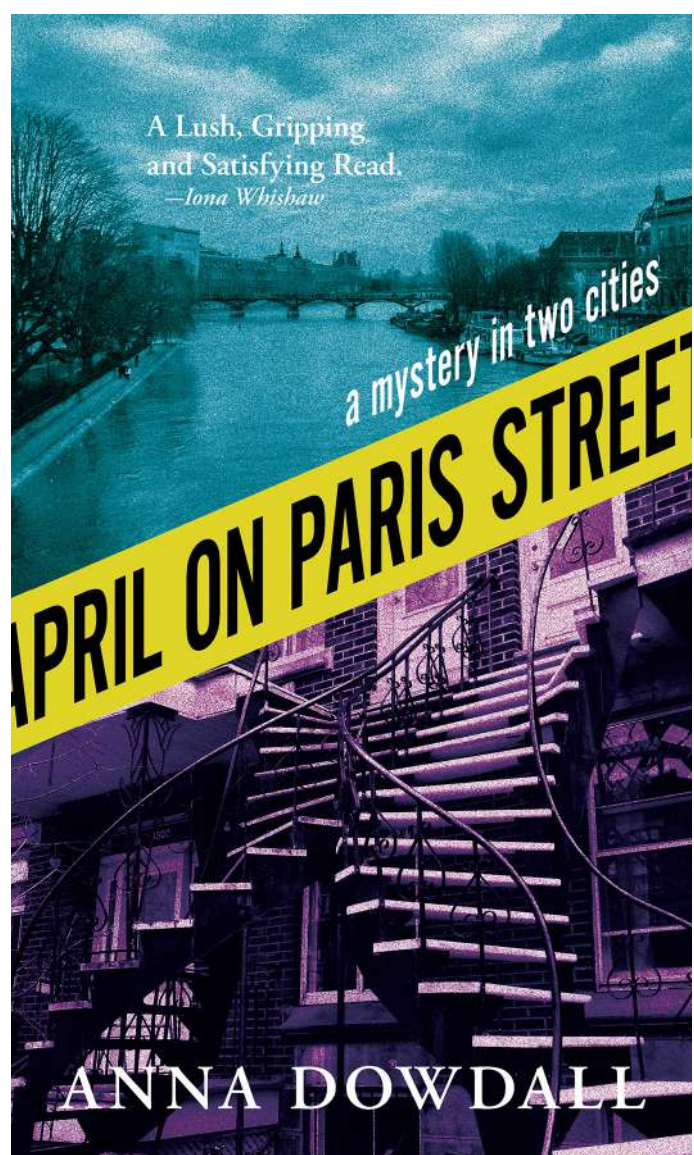
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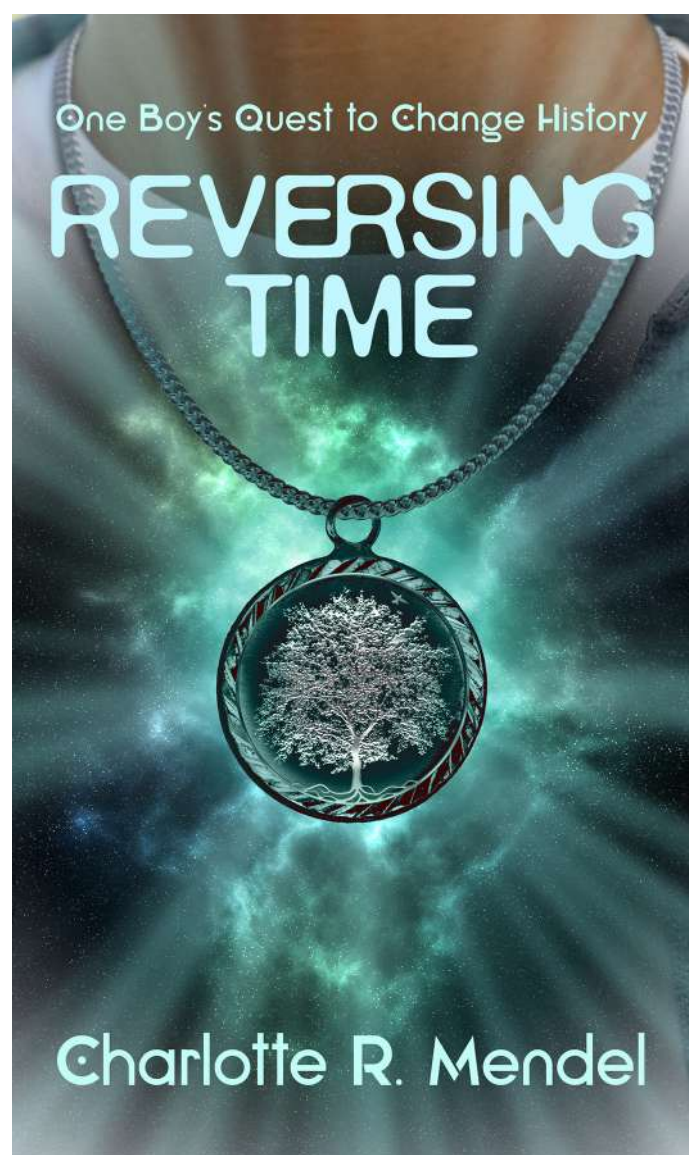
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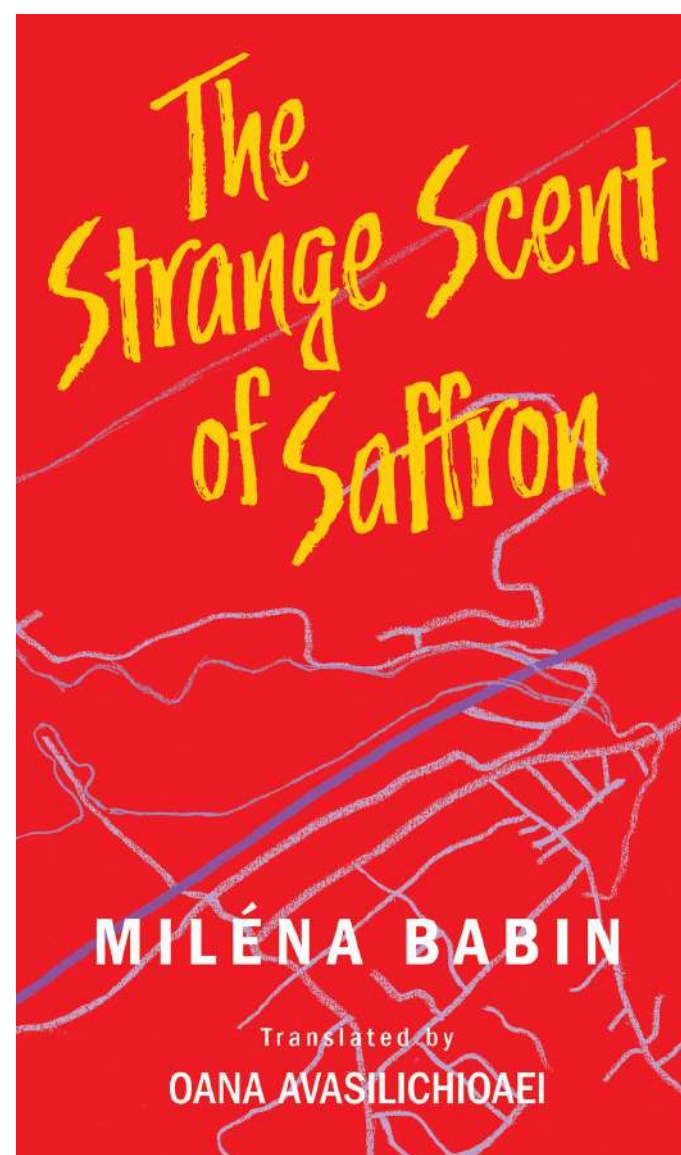
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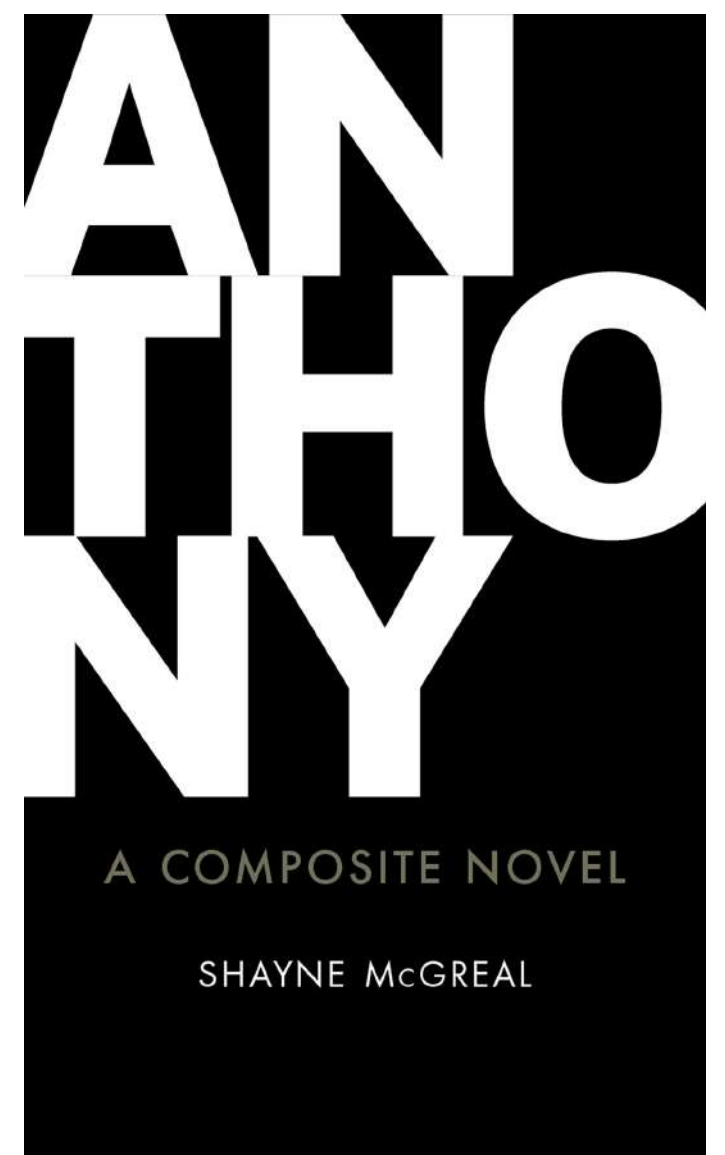
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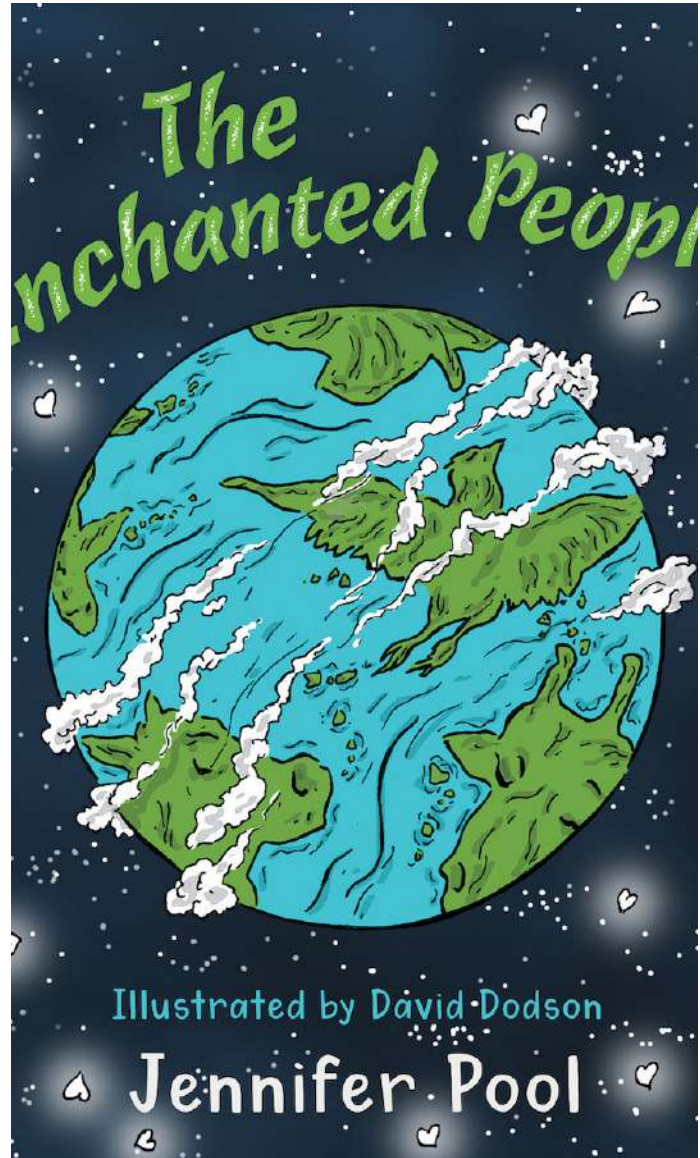
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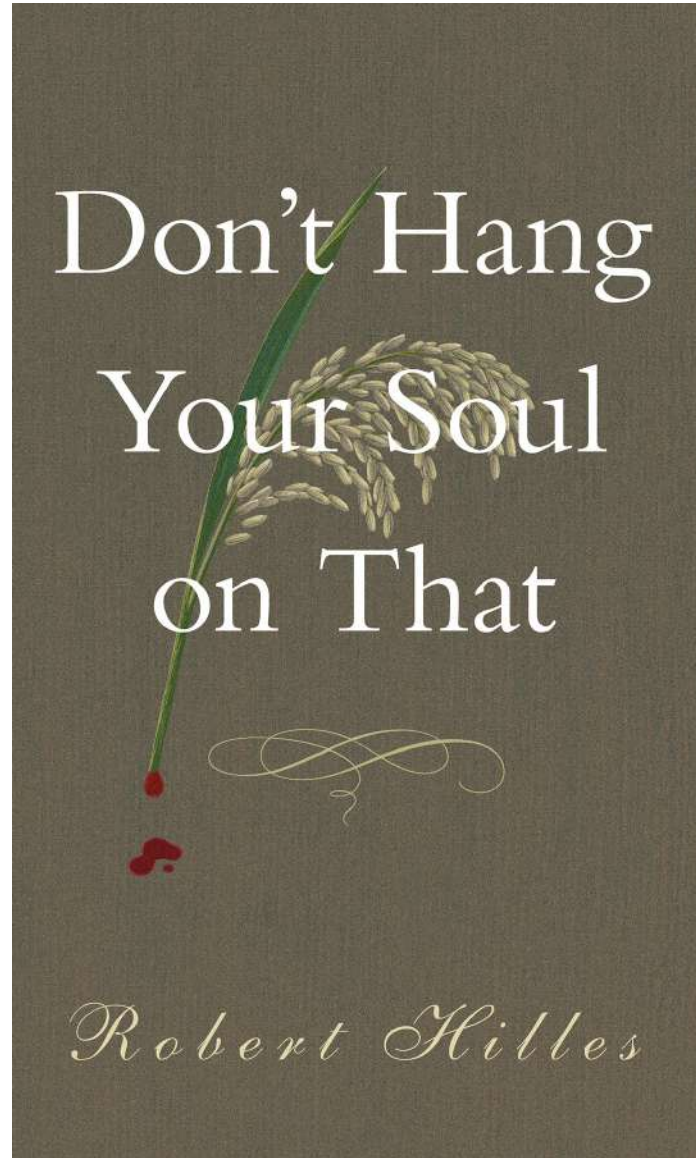
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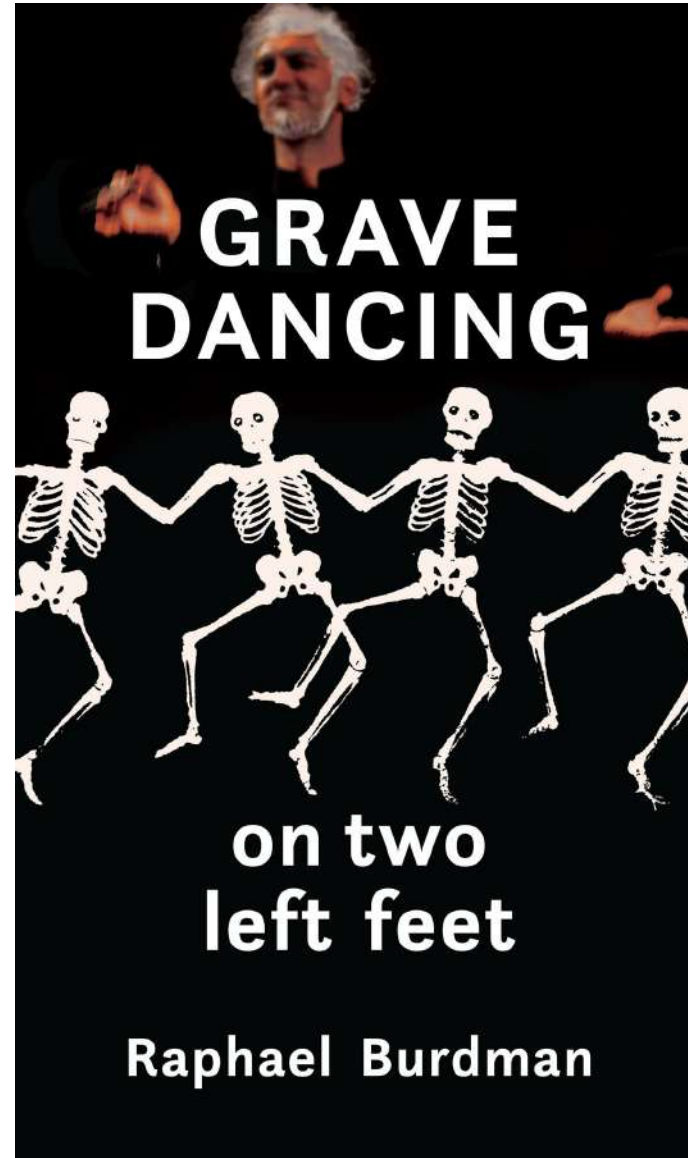
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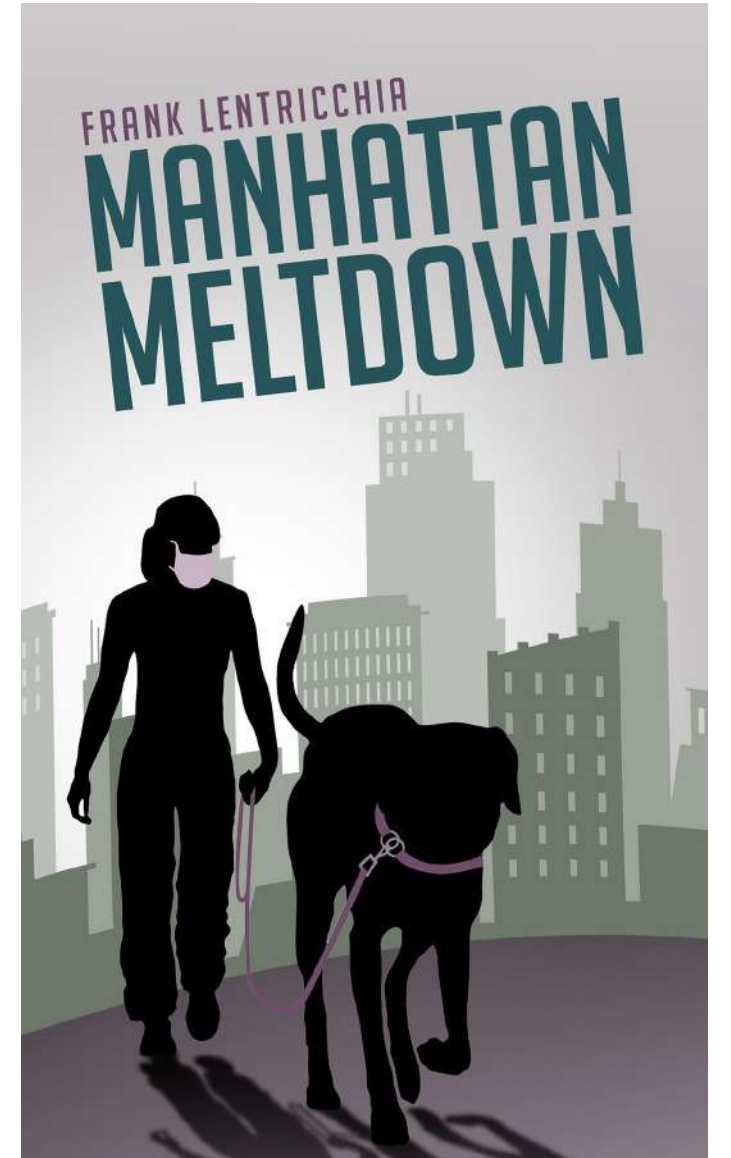
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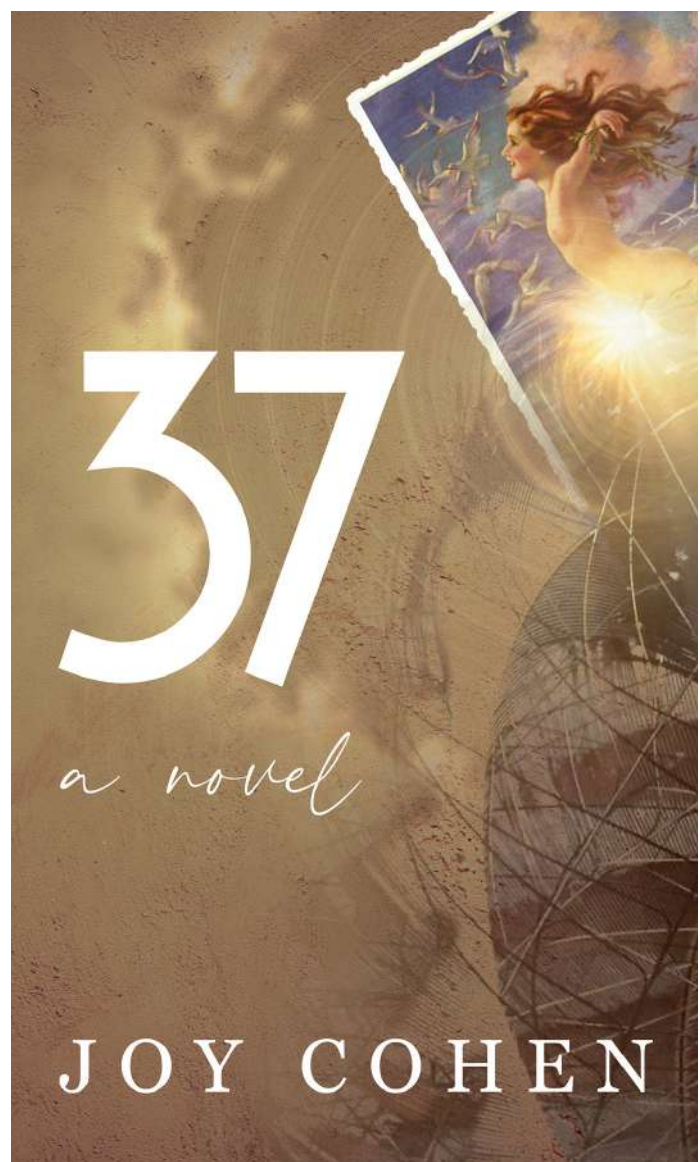
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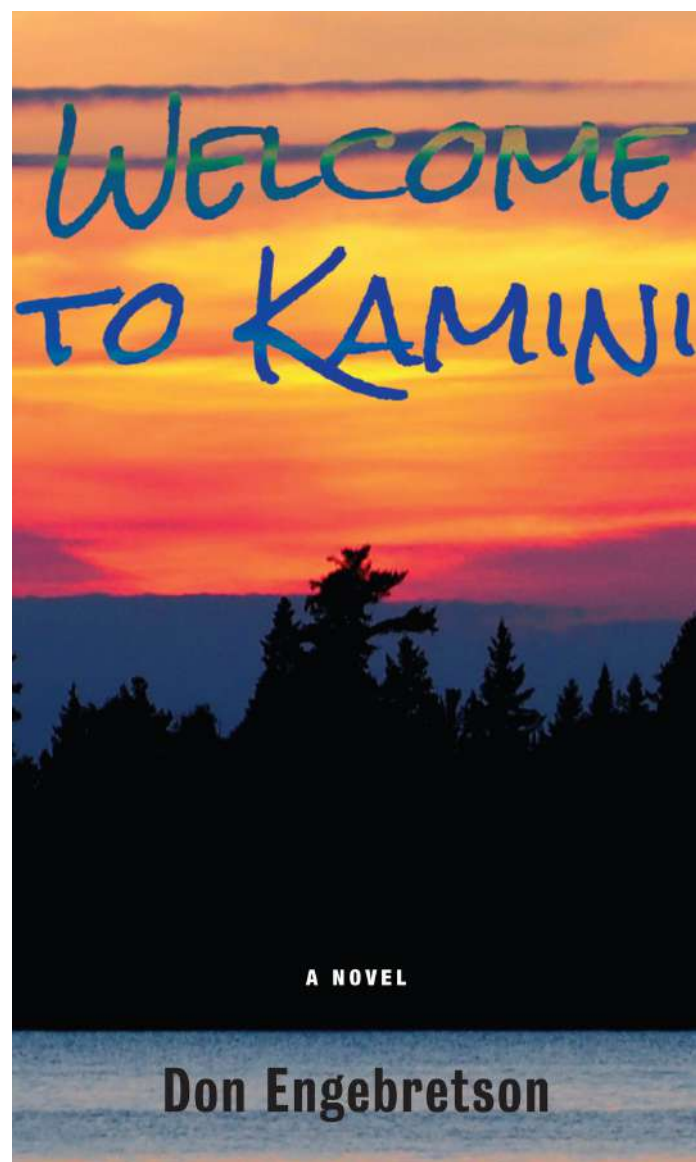
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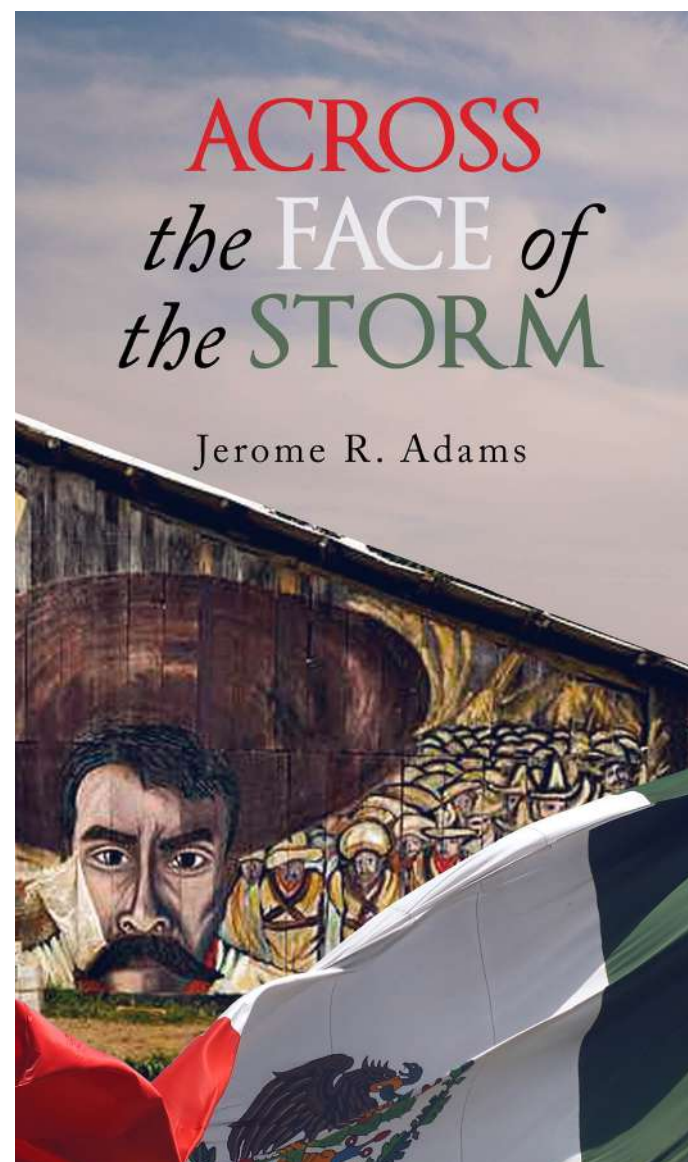
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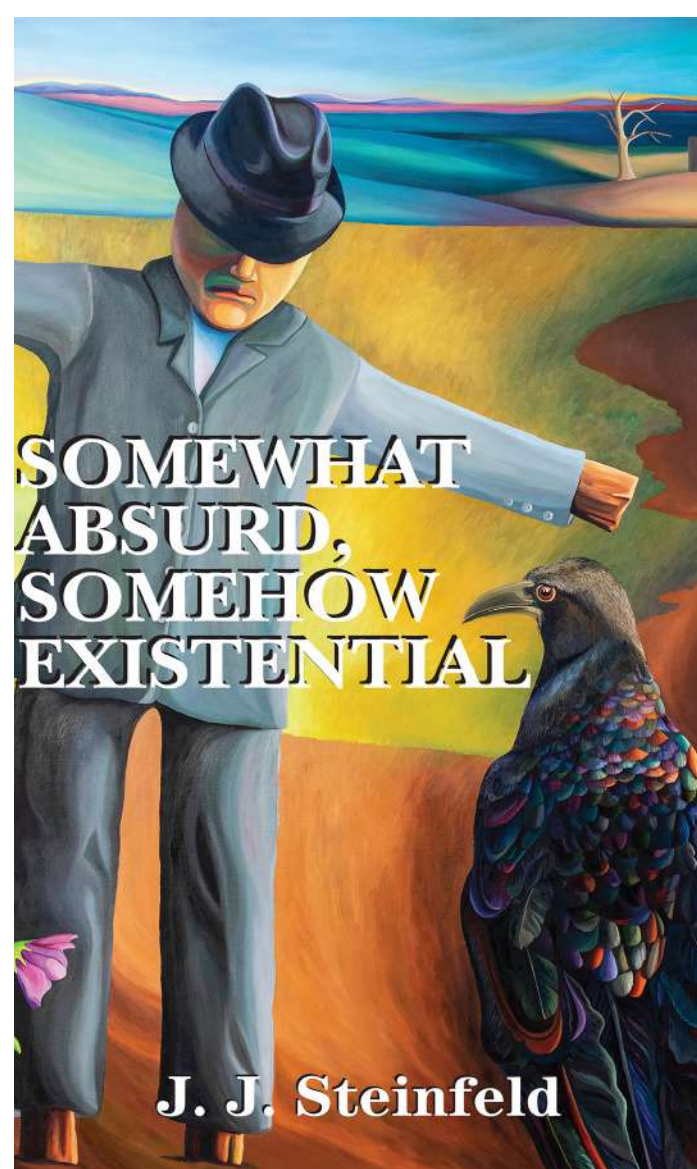
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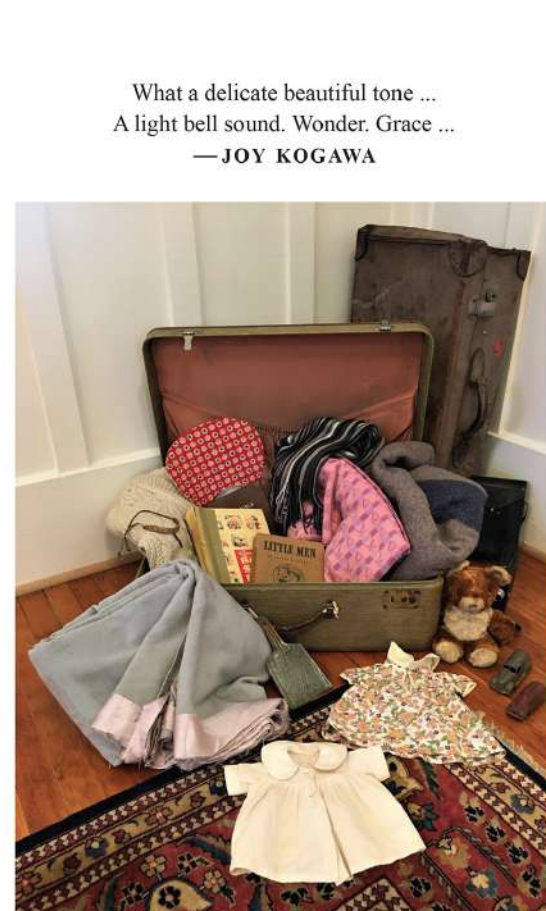
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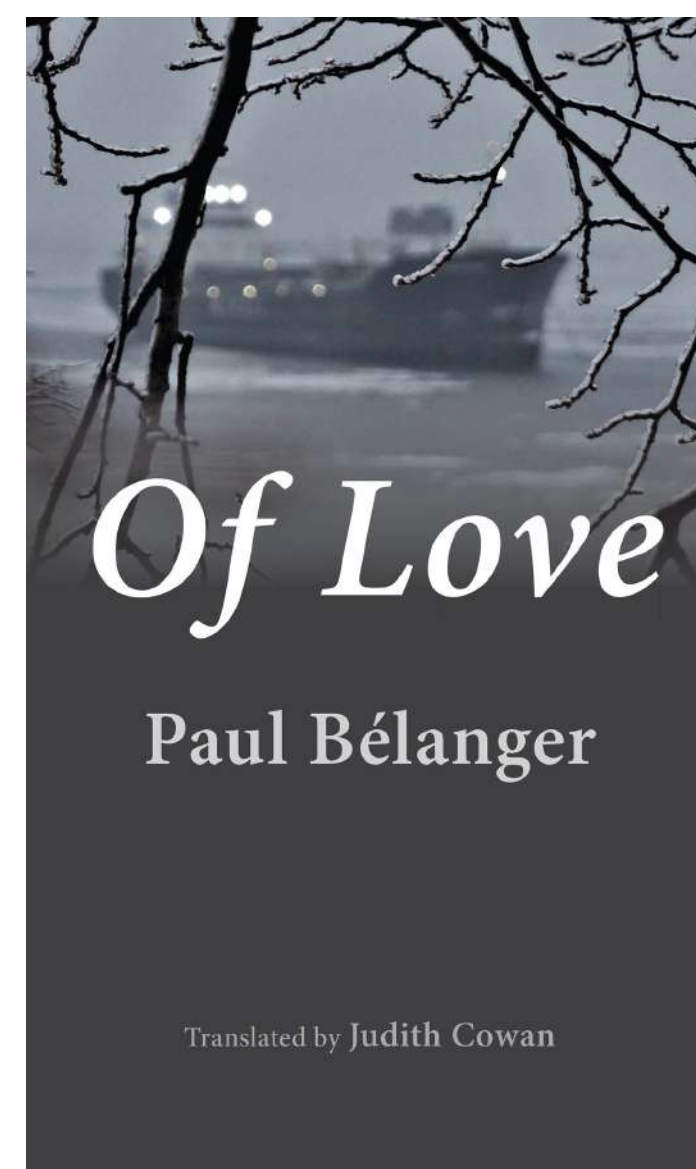


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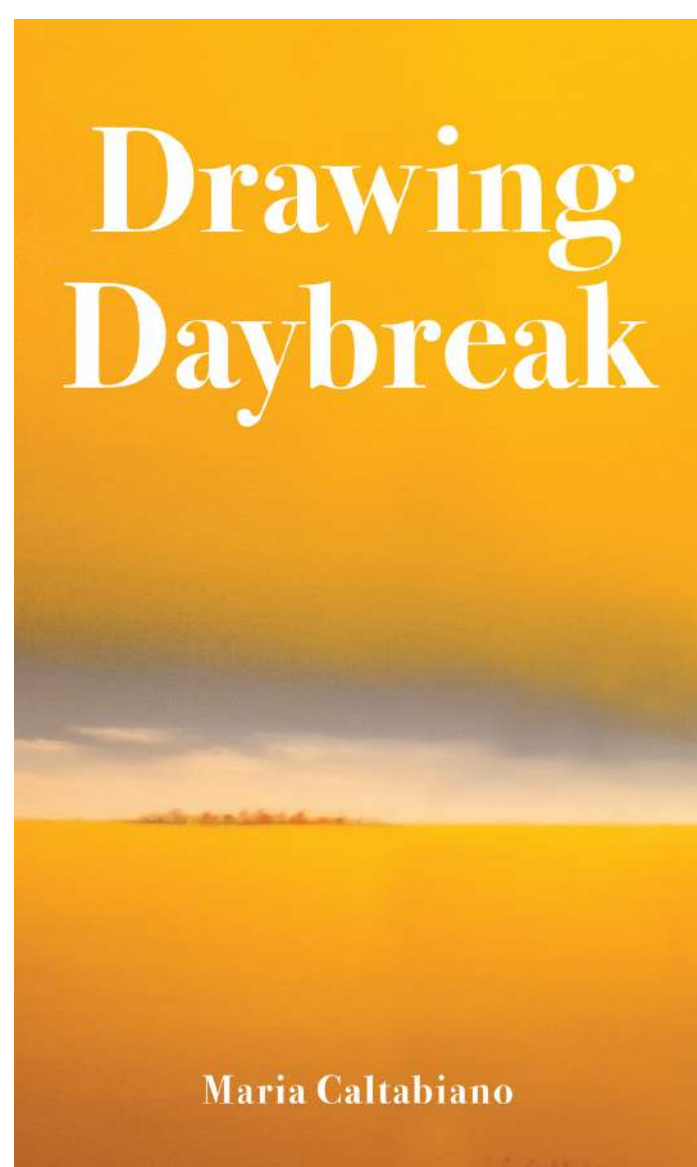
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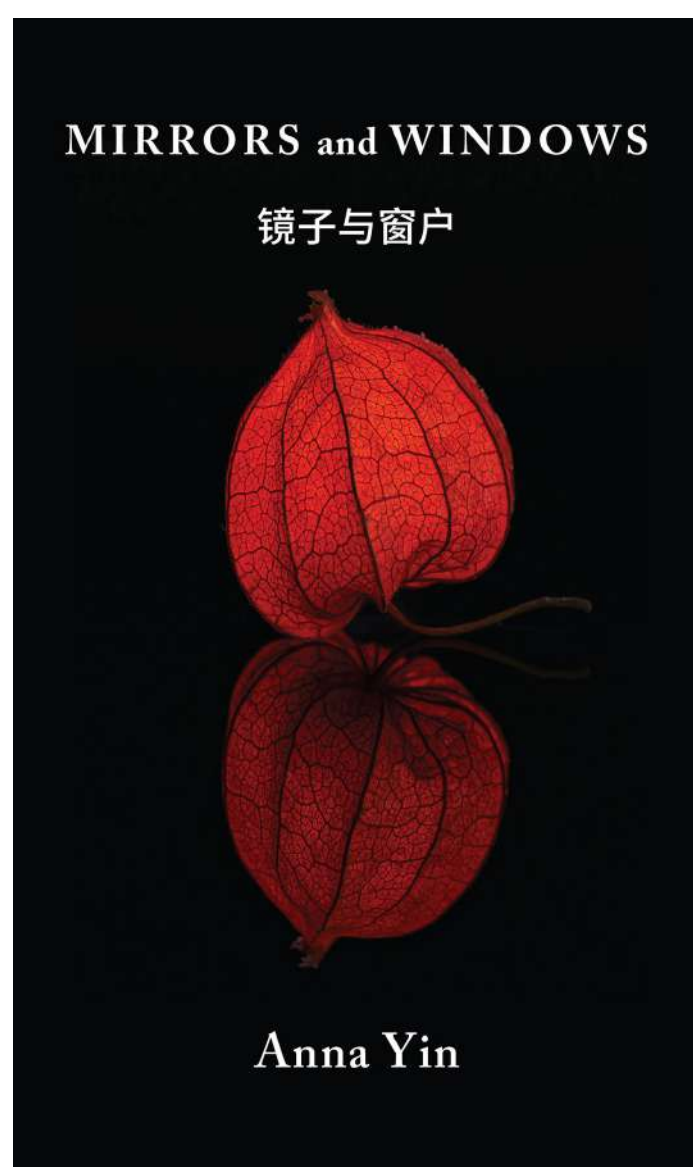
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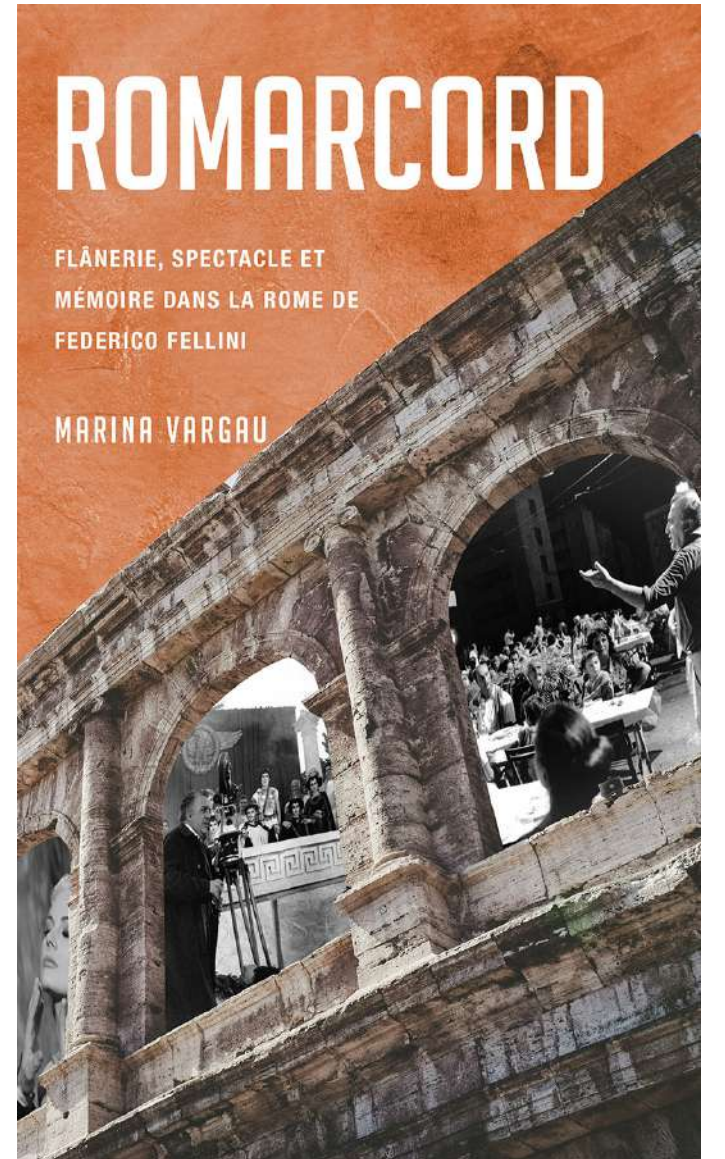
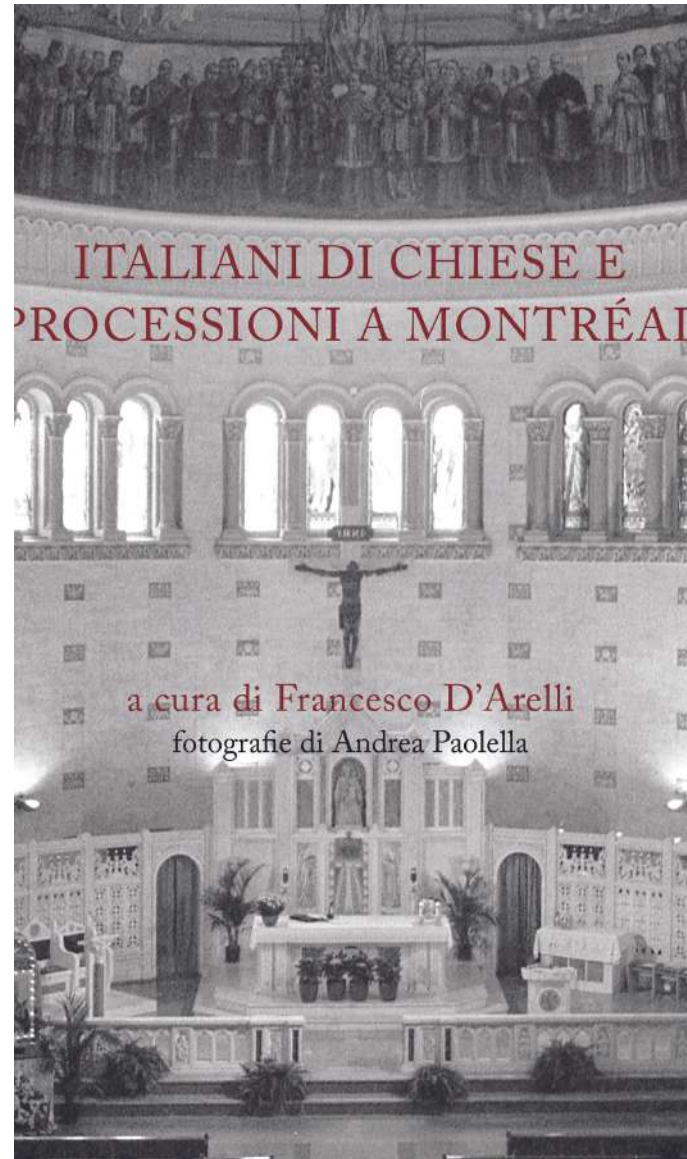
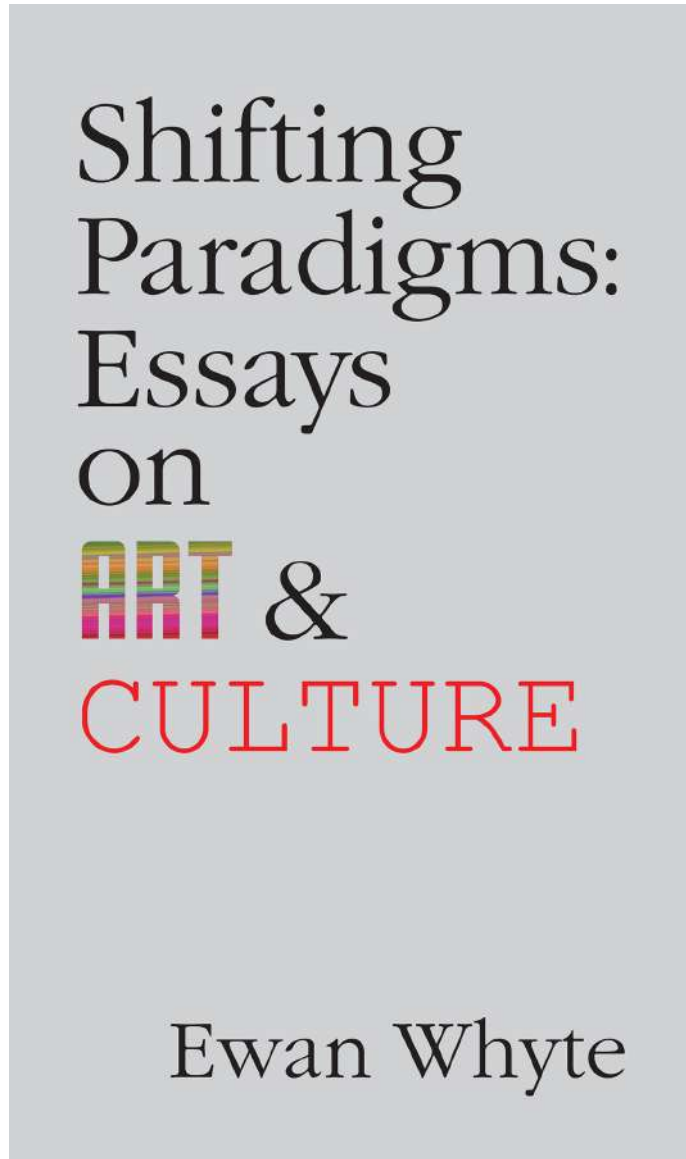
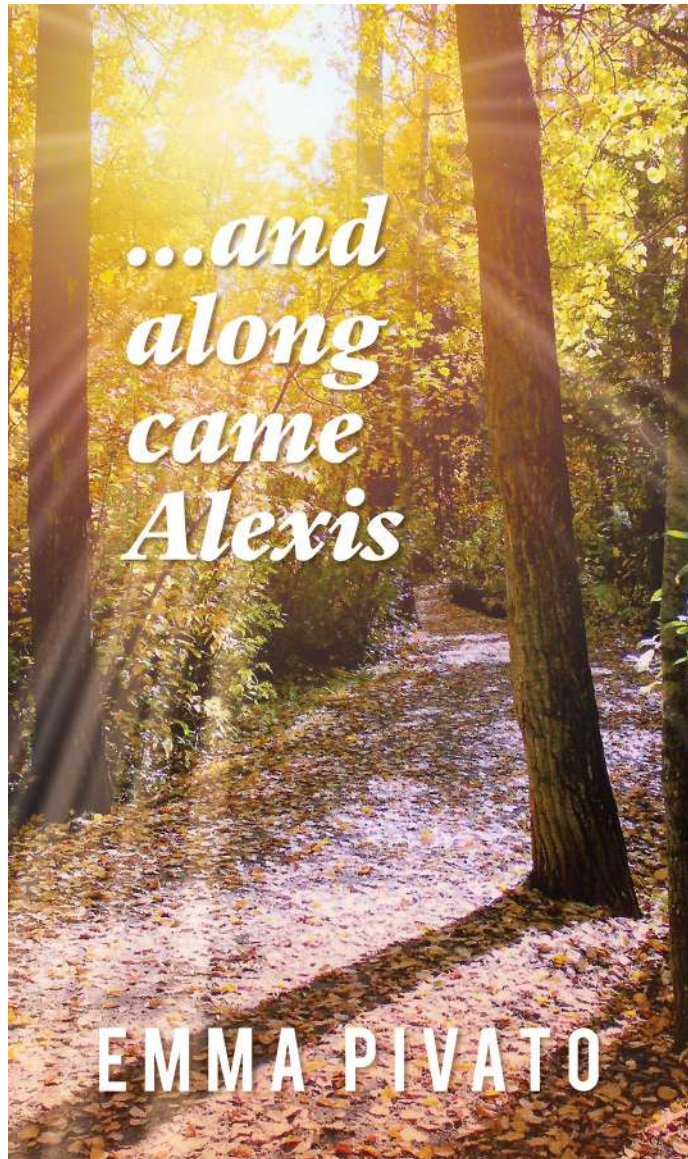
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