



Guernica Editions



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2023

Spring 2023

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Spring 2023

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When Africa Calls Uhuru by **Henry Beissel**

Casting Out by **Rocco de Giacomo**

The Vanishing Act (& The Miracle After) by **Mirabel**



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THE FAMILY CODE



Wayne Ng

Fiction | Literary

PUB. DATE: June 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 PAGES: 320

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-793-4

PUBLICITY:

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chris@theideashop.ca

Nour Abi-Nakhoul

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SALES & MARKETING:

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The Family Code

FICTION BY

Wayne Ng



Every family has rituals and routines holding them together. But sometimes they are the very things that tear them apart. *The Family Code* is a gritty family drama featuring the troubled life of Hannah Belenko, a young woman and single mother dogged by the brutality of past traumas and a code of silence that she must crack in order to be free—or else lose everything. Hannah was raised by this code and rules her own family by it. When she loses her daughter to the state and her boyfriend threatens her, she flees from Ottawa to Halifax with her remaining son, six-year-old Axel.

While Hannah bulldozes her way through everything and schemes to protect him, Axel flounders in the chaos she creates. He begins to doubt his mother and her dream of a way out. With her life crashing down, Hannah is driven by desperation to survive yet hangs on to elusive hope. With uncompromising grit and high-voltage prose, *The Family Code* unabashedly reveals the power and perils of parenting, but also the longing and vulnerability of children.



Author Bio

Wayne Ng ran wild in Toronto's Chinatown, inspiring his novel, *Letter From Johnny*. And like his idealist character, Lao Tzu in *Finding the Way*, Wayne is a lifelong dreamer of a just society, and of worlds far from his doorstep. His decades as a social worker in Ottawa inspired *The Family Code*, an intense tale of the troubled and chaotic life of a young woman dogged by the brutality of past traumas, unhealed wounds, and a code of silence that she must crack in order to be free. Connect with Wayne at waynengwrites.com

Keywords:

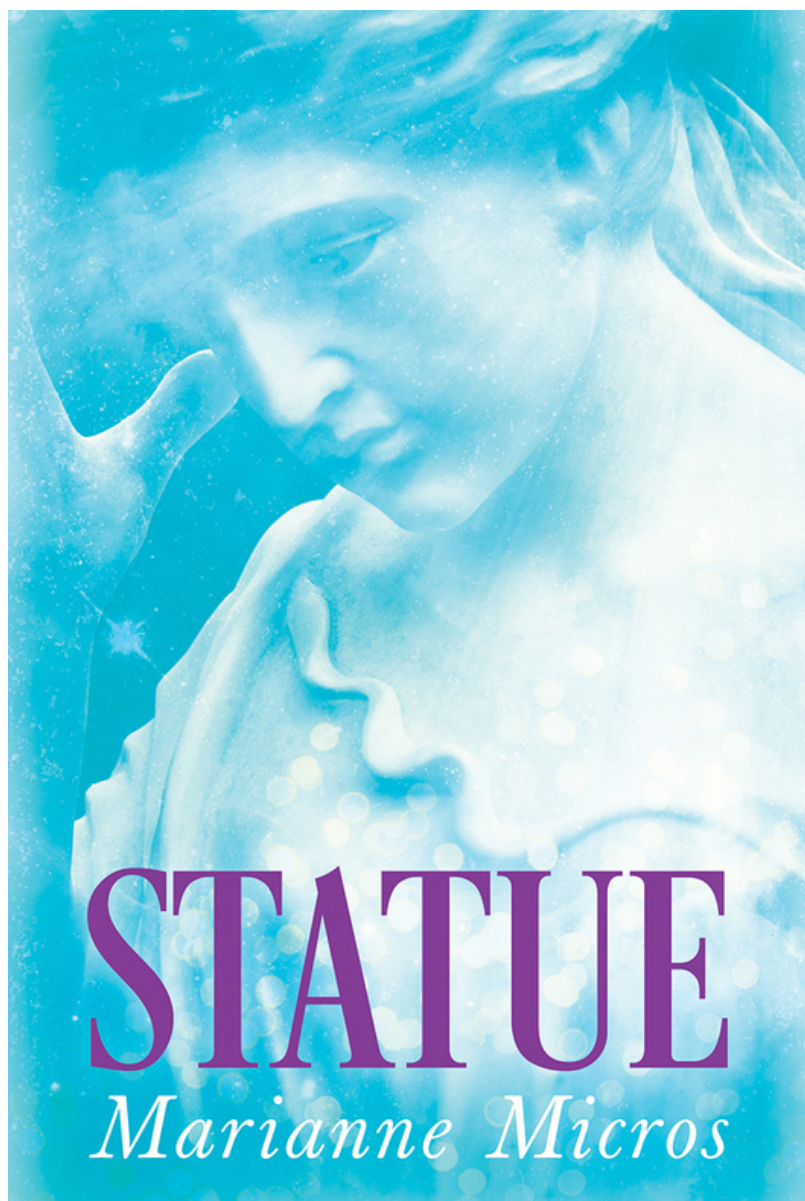
Fiction, social work, family, parenting, childhood, Ottawa, Halifax, dysfunctional families, trauma, threat, vulnerability, motherhood, sacrifice, foster care.



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Fiction | Short Stories

PUB. DATE: June 1st, 2023

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 158

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$17.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-798-9

PUBLICITY

Nour Abi-Nakhoul

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SALES & MARKETING

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Statue

SHORT STORIES BY

Marianne Micros



The devil, a ghost, a doppelganger, a selkie, a hobgoblin – these creatures appear in Marianne Micros’s *Statue*, a collection of tales which combine traditional and ancient elements with contemporary issues and experiences. These fifteen stories show that the boundaries between fantasy and reality, art and life, life and death are fragile and inconstant. Included are tales of: sexual shenanigans in a creative writing department; a mysterious photograph in which a woman is seen posing naked in front of a statue; a selkie’s daughter who hides her deformed feet; the devil’s temptation of a young girl; a woman wrestler’s fight with the devil; a high-end call girl’s experiment with time travel; a sculptor’s attempt to capture in art a mentally handicapped boy’s love for his neighbour; a man’s memories of a trip to Pompeii with his wife as she lies dying; an elderly woman tormented by the ghost of a fly; the attempt of two elderly Greek cousins to save their dying village.

As shown in several of the stories, a statue can represent lifelessness or transcendence, stagnancy or aspiration. Micros seamlessly combines magic with the realities of daily life, showing the interrelationship of the natural and the supernatural and the significance of those interactions.

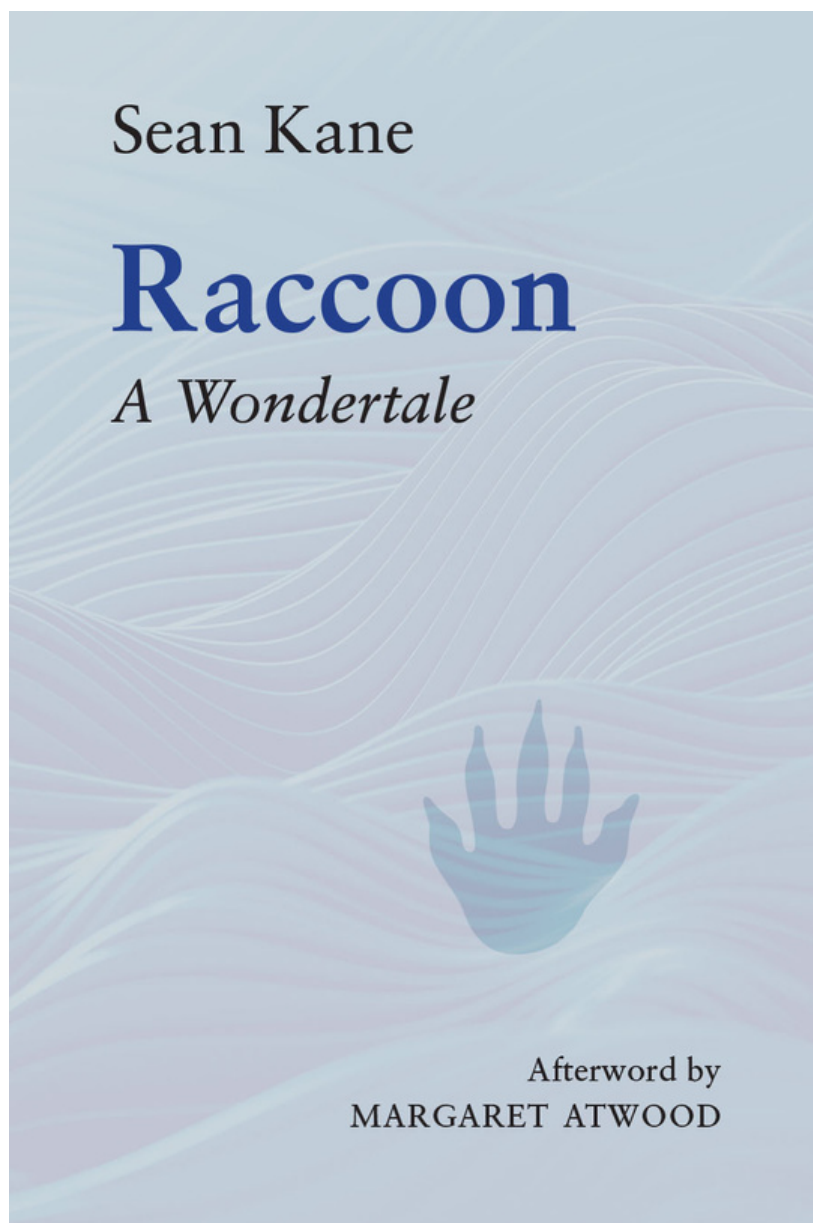


Author Bio

Marianne Micros’s latest publication is the short-story collection *Statue* (Guernica 2023). Her previous book *Eye* (Guernica, 2018) was a finalist in 2019 for both the Governor General’s Literary Award for Fiction and the Danuta Gleed Award. Her publications include *Upstairs Over the Ice Cream* (Ergo, 1979) and *Seventeen Trees* (Guernica, 2007).

Keywords:

magic realism, mythology, folktales, time travel, magic, short stories, supernatural, Greece, creatures, life, literary, Canadian.



Raccoon: A Wondertale

FICTION BY

Sean Kane

WITH AN AFTERWORD BY MARGARET ATWOOD



The dream of an urban paradise comes true for the Raccoons of a small suburban city when they rise up, throw out their government, and create an ecological commonwealth. Touchwit, Clutch and Bandit are prepared to die for a free, healthy, and diverse city. But to earn their self-respect as citizens they must overcome their father Meatbreath, an autocrat obsessed with multiplying himself in a host of weaponised children. And to join a community of kinship they must find their future mates. Will the three cubs use the powers they have inherited from their father without being claimed by his evil? In this sometimes sentimental, sometimes heroic adventure story full of echoes of current issues and political personalities, Raccoons are the leading experts at survival, engaging the struggle for a better Earth with wonder, joy, and laughter.



Author Bio

Sean Kane writes on world literary wondertales and cosmic catastrophe and weather myths of the Pacific and Atlantic Northwest. He is the author of *Wisdom of the Mythtellers*, an exploration of the political and ecological basis of myth, and *Virtual Freedom*, a campus novel shortlisted for the Leacock Humour Medal.

Keywords:

comic, romance, coming of age, animal stories, nature writing, social satire, roman-à-clef, Atwood, Putin, Trump, green politics, animal rights, environmental justice, ecocriticism, fable, novel, fiction, Canadian.

Sean Kane

Raccoon

A Wondertale

Afterword by
MARGARET ATWOOD

Fiction | Social Issues

PUB. DATE: May 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 200

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-782-8

PUBLICITY

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SALES & MARKETING

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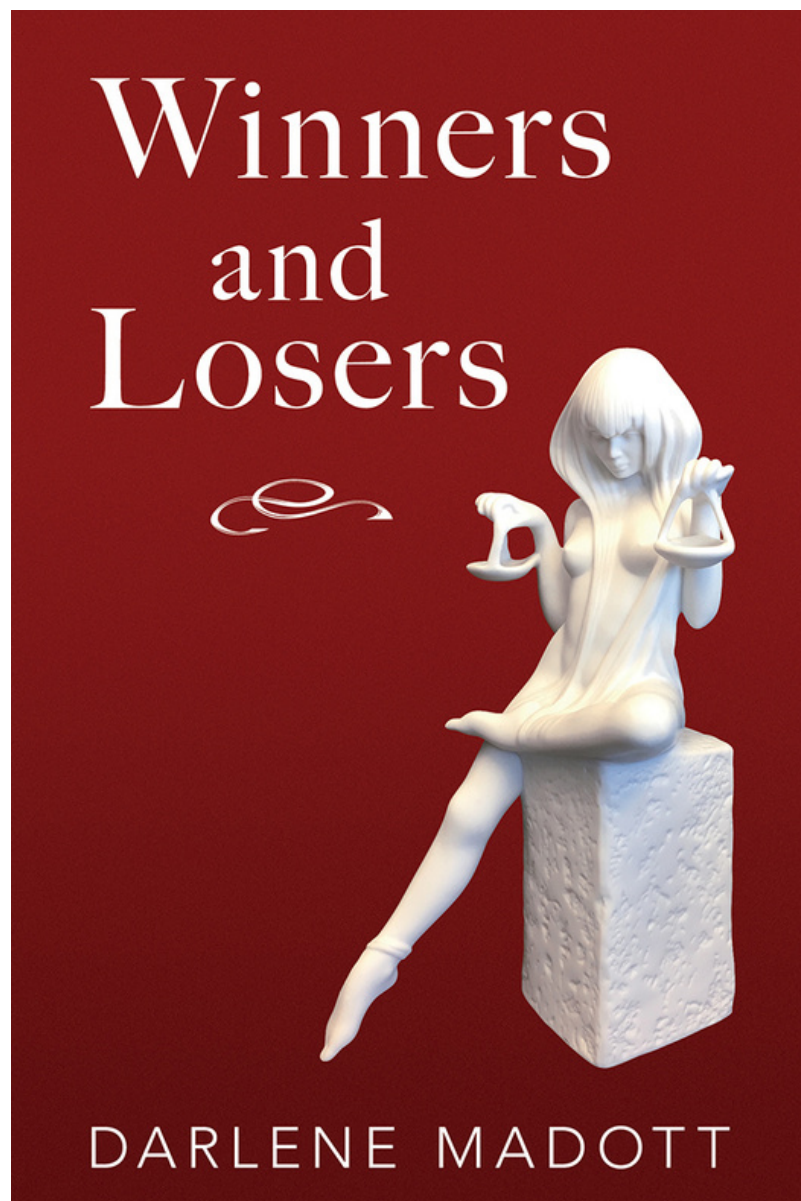
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Winners and Losers

FICTION BY

Darlene Madott



Winners and Losers: Tales of Life, Law, Love and Longing is a collection of linked short stories that turns a dazzling searchlight on the inner workings of the legal profession, told from the viewpoint of a feisty narrator finding her way through a hostile and competitive law environment. By the end of *Winners and Losers*, the reader will have undergone a sprawling journey through a lifetime in practice, where the pit-bull litigator is tenderized through the clients, the work, the failure of her own marriage, by single mothering. Because the protagonist doesn't judge, because she lays out the evidence in her search for the truth in a circling, coyote-like fashion, the reader lives that tracking inquiry along with her. *Winners and Losers* does for the legal profession what Vincent Lam did for the medical world in *Blood Letting & Miraculous Cures*. Madott's stories pose the big questions about life, recognize the ceiling price to truth, taste the bitterness of loss and damaged faith in the justice system – all systems being artifice and betrayal for those who care too much. What emerges from the flame is an unforgettable portrait of a woman of resilience, strength and integrity.



Author Bio

Darlene Madott has authored nine books and has twice won the Bressani Literary Award. She has been shortlisted for the Gloria Vanderbilt sponsored Carter V. Cooper Short Fiction Award three times, as well as being a frequent finalist for Accenti Magazine competitions, among others. Her short fiction has been widely anthologized. A lawyer who practised for over three decades, her eighth book, *Dying Times*, (EXILE, 2021), grew out of aspects of her legal background and was a fictional exploration of the last journey. *Winners and Losers* (GUERNICA, 2023), circles back to track the life and legal journeys from near their beginnings. She lives in Toronto. www.DarleneMadott.com

Winners and Losers



DARLENE MADOTT

Fiction | Short Stories

PUB. DATE: April 1, 2023

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 326

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-767-5

PUBLICITY

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SALES & MARKETING

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Keywords:

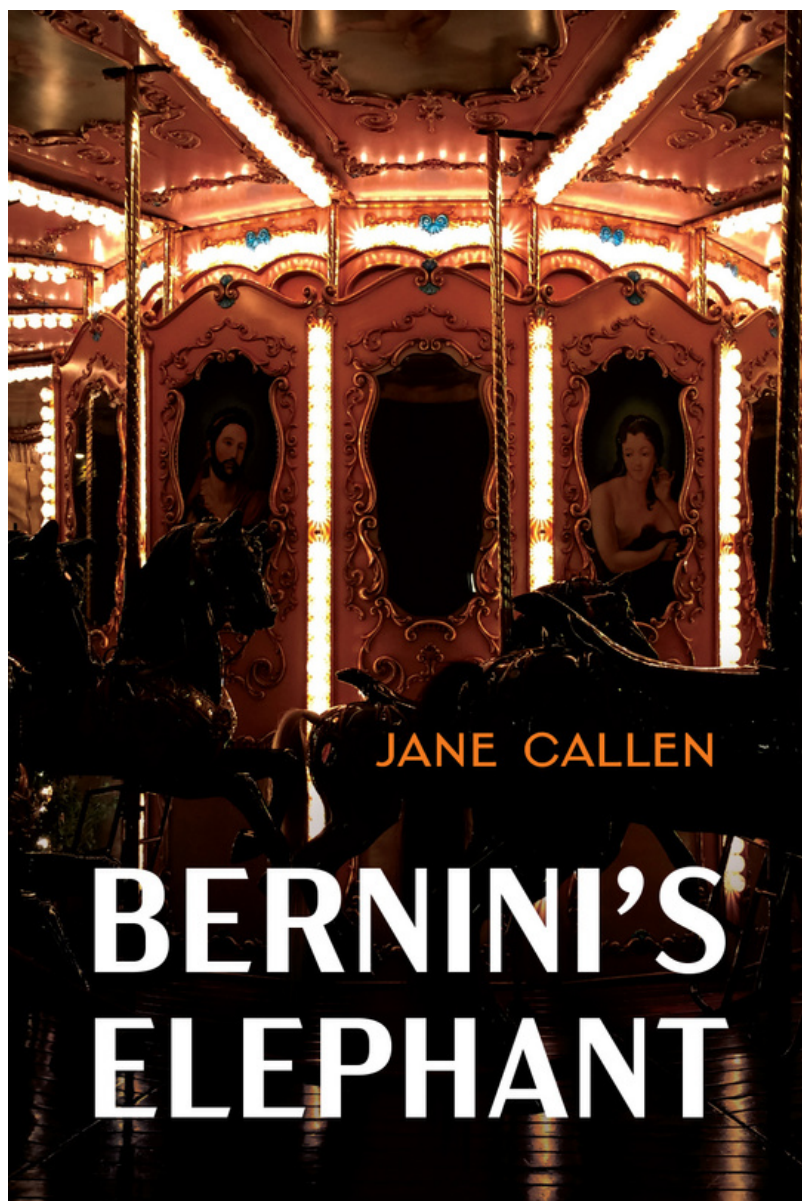
Canadian, short stories, legal, law, justice system, literary, marriage, single mother, evidence, court, truth, parenting, loss, women.



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Fiction | Literary thriller

PUB. DATE: May 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 254

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-784-2

PUBLICITY

Nour Abi-Nakhoul

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SALES & MARKETING

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Bernini's Elephant

FICTION BY

Jane Callen



Albert Einstein noted that energy cannot be created or destroyed, only changed from one form to another. Kat, a middle-aged marketing executive from Vancouver, ponders the truth behind Einstein's law as she tours the antiquities of Italy. In Pompeii, volcanic ash remains in the shape of a woman bear witness to her futile escape of the rage of Mount Vesuvius. Kat, a widow with blood on her hands, contemplates the ancient woman's destiny and her own. To escape the consequences of past choices, Kat abandons her travel companion and sometime accomplice. She links up instead with Franco, a street artist painting in the Roman twilight near Bernini's sculpture of an elephant. Becoming Franco's patron is the easy part. Kat learns that Einstein's theory holds in everyday life. She cannot escape past decisions. Murder undetected remains murder after all.



Author Bio

Jane Callen's short fiction has appeared in print and online magazines. An Italophile, Italy and her people feature in Jane's writings. *Bernini's Elephant* is her debut novel. A member of The Writers Union of Canada, Federation of BC Writers and Association of Italian Canadian Writers, Jane resides in Vancouver, BC.

Keywords:

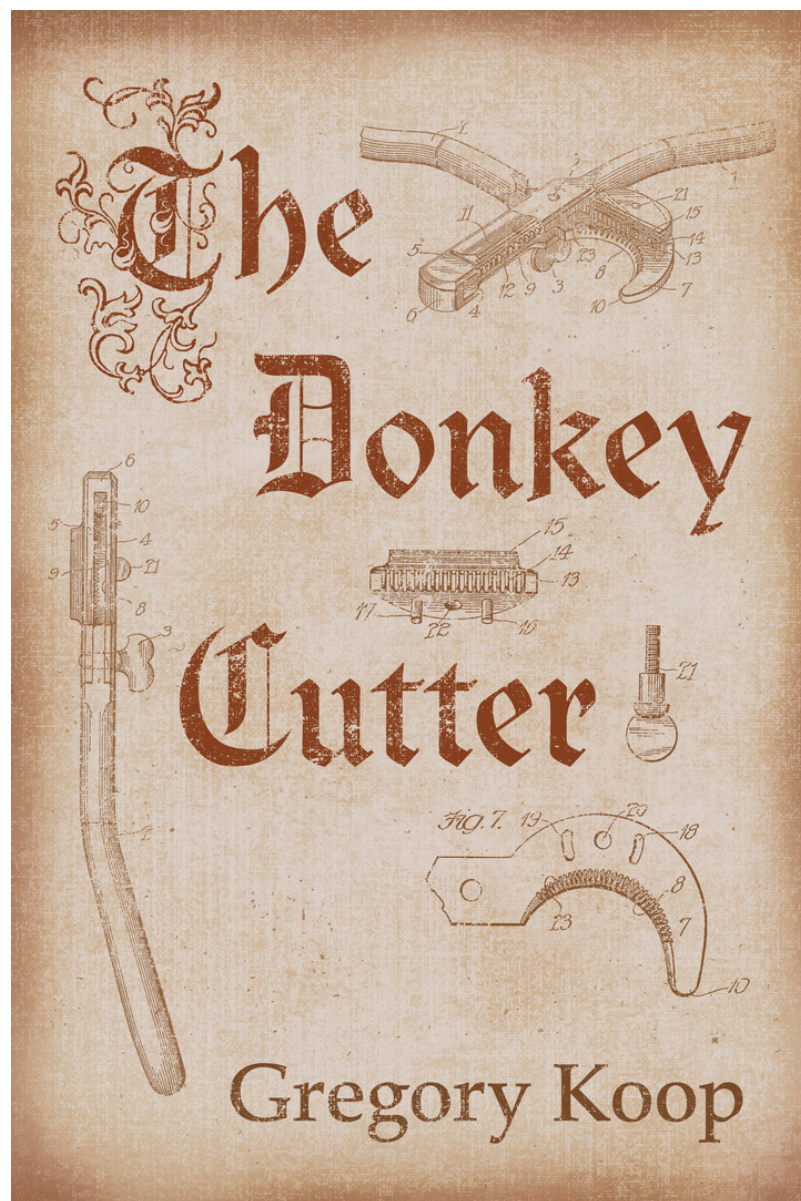
literary thriller, murder, mystery, travel, psychological, Einstein, theory of relativity, witness, Italy, guilt, Pompeii, Bernini, art.



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Fiction | Literary

PUB. DATE: April 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 310

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-772-9

PUBLICITY

Nour Abi-Nakhoul

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SALES & MARKETING

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The Donkey Cutter

FICTION BY

Gregory Koop



Years after the death of her mother, Mareika Doerksen moves through her adolescence with feelings of loss, confusion, and isolation as she seems somewhere between not being a child and not being a complete woman. Her father, a Mennonite only ethnically and socially, and a long-time atheist, has always been distant but pragmatic as he prepared her for the day he expects her to abandon their homestead on the Canadian Prairies for an education once impossible for women of their time. They move day to day avoiding the tragedies, traumas, and social expectations they rebel against in their Mennonite community during the infancy of Canada. But with the looming arrival of the 1910 Halley's Comet, so too comes a handsome, charismatic Doomsday preacher. He captivates Mareika as he offers her solace and his ear. Meanwhile the local Bishop with a troubling and violent past sewn to the Doerksens, too, becomes obsessed with the maturing Mareika and sets out with the goal of saving her from the chiliast stranger and her atheist father.



Author Bio

Gregory Koop grew up on the border of central Alberta and Saskatchewan. Living the life of Garp, Gregory cares for his daughter, practices Muay Thai, and writes. A finalist for a 2010 Alberta Literary Award, Gregory has also been a resident of The Banff Centre's Writing Studio. His work has been featured widely in literary journals. *The Donkey Cutter* is his first novel. He lives in Edmonton, AB.

Keywords:

Canadian prairies, Mennonite, preacher, coming of age, history, adolescence, religion, 1910s, faith, atheism, women, education, love.



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CLAUDIO GAUDIO

Fiction | Experimental

PUB. DATE: May 1st, 2023

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 244

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-302-8

PUBLICITY

Nour Abi-Nakhoul

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SALES & MARKETING

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I'll Be

A NOVEL BY

Claudio Gaudio



At the heart of *I'll Be* resides a highly unreliable narrator. As he fumbles through his days, he breaks boundaries that are larger than the seemingly insignificant tasks at hand: the concept of space is uncertain, language is broken, history is rewritten, identity itself remains a question. The futility of language is a theme that surfaces continually. In a commentary on the nature of political systems, for example, the narrator points out its inadequacy in facilitating truthful communication: "To be fair, this country is safe, no one I know has fallen from a sniper's rifle, and not since 1970 have tanks roamed the streets. But that was in another province, another language, so it may not have happened."

Between sentences strife with comma splices, existentialist questions, and other deconstructionist strategies, the novel is peppered with poetic metaphor and laugh-out-loud humor that is sometimes dark, and always searching. By working to unravel every strand of our understanding of the external world, the novel, in turn, reveals the frailty of our thought process, inner constitution, and essentially our humanity.

Author Bio



Claudio Gaudio is a Toronto based writer. His first novel, *Texas*, was published by Quattro Books and has been translated in part by Francesco Loriggio and included in an anthology in Calabria, Italy. *Texas* was shortlisted in 2013 for the RELIT Awards. Claudio's work has appeared in ELQ (Exile Literary Quarterly), Rampike Literary Magazine and Geist, and has been reviewed in Descant Magazine. Along with filmmaker Oleksiy Buyanov and composer Richard Underhill, Claudio is currently working on producing a series of videos based on *Texas*.

Keywords:

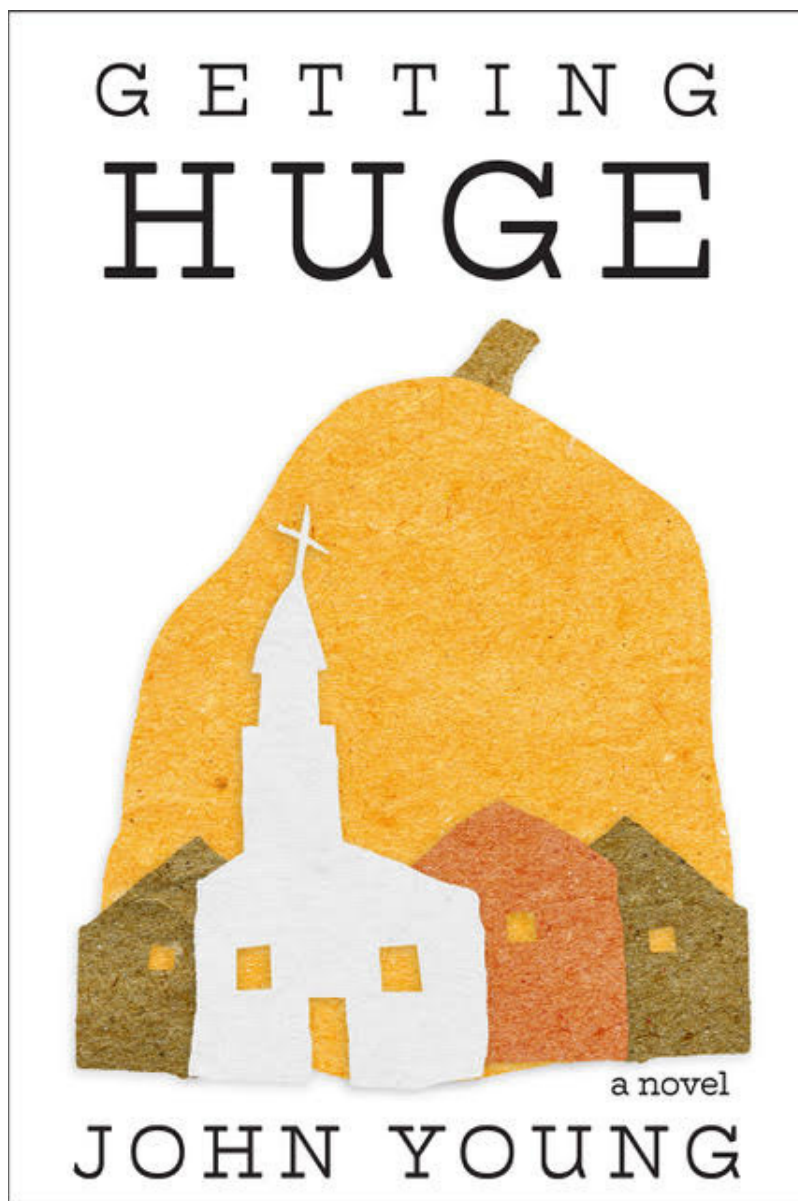
Fiction, humanity, deconstruction, linguistic, experimental, politics, history, unreliable narrator, literary.



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Fiction | Literary

PUB. DATE: April 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 308

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-779-8

PUBLICITY

Nour Abi-Nakhoul

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SALES & MARKETING

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Getting Huge

FICTION BY

John Young



This romp of a novel is for all who have worked with the wrong people in the wrong place. Beaten down by his affluent and perpetually disappointed deacons, seven-foot-tall Reverend John Crackstone finally cracks. What begins as backyard diversion swells into an absurd obsession: to grow the world's largest pumpkin and to build a pumpkin empire that wins him fame and fortune (as well as his deacon-neighbor's wife). While often comic, *Getting Huge* also stands as a tale of our times where the pursuit of ill-defined success overrides judgment—until we are jolted into clarity and head for the hills.



Author Bio

John Young wrote the novel *When the Coin is in the Air* and *Fire in the Field and Other Stories*. He graduated from Indiana University and Emerson College (MFA), taught English, and worked as a copywriter and creative director. After 20 years in Massachusetts, he now lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Keywords:

literary, fiction, pastor, deacon, entrepreneur, business, obsession, ambition, gardening, pumpkin, humour.



IN BRUNO'S SHADOW



A NOVEL

TONY ARDIZZONE

Fiction | Literary

PUB. DATE: April 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 333

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-777-4

PUBLICITY

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In Bruno's Shadow

A NOVEL BY

Tony Ardizzone



As a tsunami in South-East Asia kills three hundred thousand and Pope John Paul II lies dying, the lives of eight people in Rome are transformed by a Croatian housekeeper named Dubravka, who was betrayed in love and later witness to a miracle at the site of apparitions of the Virgin Mary. The stories of the North Americans and Italians she encounters interconnect and alternate with key episodes from Dubravka's life, as she struggles to resolve her personal concerns as well as the contradictions in her Catholic faith while working at a pensione on Rome's Campo de' Fiori, in the shadow of the statue of the martyred visionary Giordano Bruno.

In Bruno's Shadow is a book about exiles and pilgrims: about people from populations that have been displaced by global events beyond their control, as well as those who have the means to travel in search of some small measure of meaning. It is also a book about idealism, about hope, about beliefs that go beyond the stern measure of science, and about positive thought—or what some might call—prayer.



Author Bio

Tony Ardizzone is the author of five novels and three collections of short stories. His award-winning fiction has been featured in literary journals and anthologies published in both North America and Italy and been the subject of discussion by critics from the United States, Canada, Italy, and Greece.

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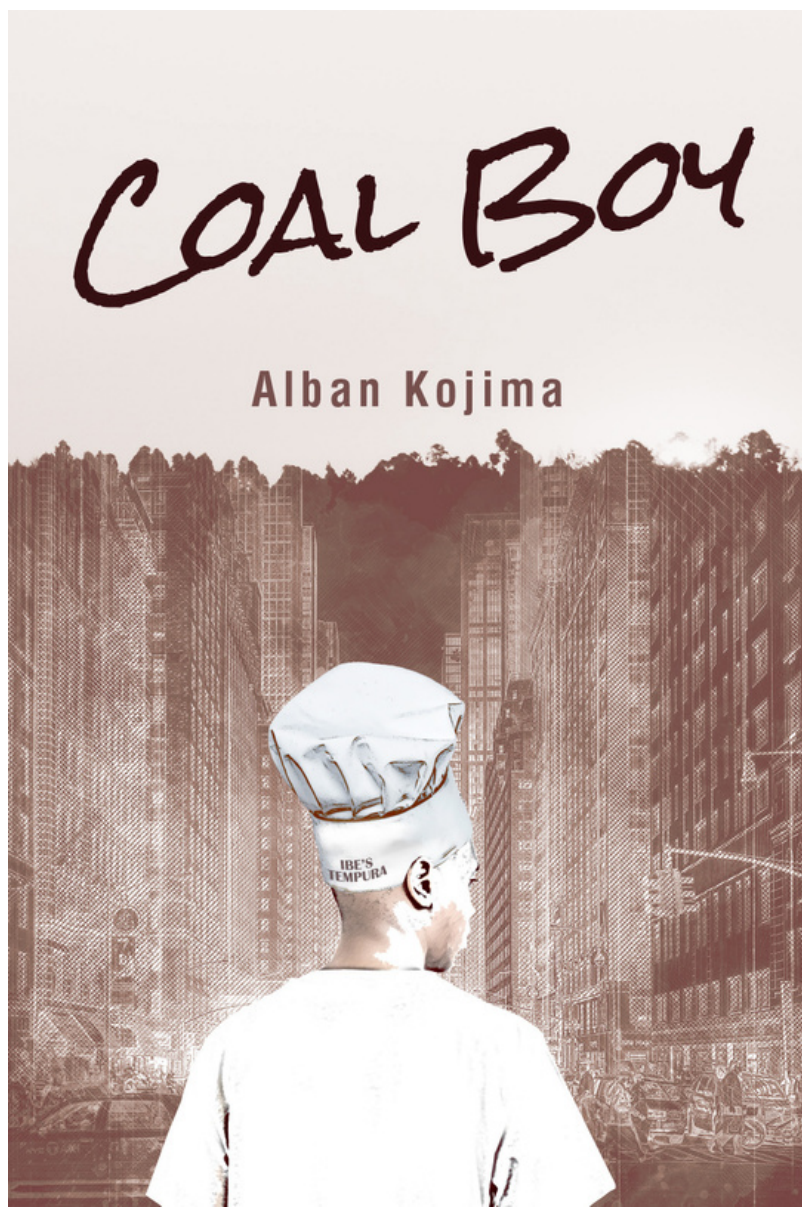
Literary, novel, Rome, Croatia, Bosnia, travel, holy sites, religious, spirit, love, Catholicism, Pope, beliefs, prayer, science, hope, miracles, contradictions.



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Fiction | BIPOC

PUB. DATE: May 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 216

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-791-0

PUBLICITY

Nour Abi-Nakhoul

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Coal Boy

A NOVEL BY

Alban Kojima



Coal Boy is a human fiction that builds on the premise: love is universal; so is racism—the same mold as Colson Whitehead, James Hannaham, and Robert Dugoni. It focuses on people of mixed racial heritage: namely, Black-Japanese—the children of Black Americans and Japanese women born in Japan during the post-World War II Occupation.

Uruo Yusa is a six-year-old Black-Japanese boy born of a Japanese woman and an American engineer stationed in Japan. Because of Uruo's mixed heritage, the townspeople in Mitsukaidō ostracize him. One day, bullied, Uruo retaliates against the son of the town's assemblyman. This confrontation prompts the town's elders to exile Uruo from Mitsukaido to St. Veronica's Home in Chinosaki—a school and orphanage for biracial children.

Despite a childhood filled with ceaseless discrimination, rejection, and exploitation from those around him, Uruo drives himself to success—even if he must leave everything behind to do it.



Author Bio

A US citizen born and raised in Japan, Alban Kojima earned an M.A in musicology from Temple University and an M.S. in information science from Drexel University in Philadelphia. In 1988, he became Japanese Studies Informationist for Penn Libraries at the University of Pennsylvania, at the same time he taught a graduate seminar entitled Japanese Studies Resources and Problems of Research. Since late-October 2012, Kojima has focused on writing. He has published in Tokyo, Japan, *Yuzo Kayama and His Music: A Global Fascination* (Sairyūsha, 2014) and *Alexei Sultanov* (Alpha-Bata Books, 2017). *Coal Boy*, is Kojima's first work of fiction. He lives in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

Keywords:

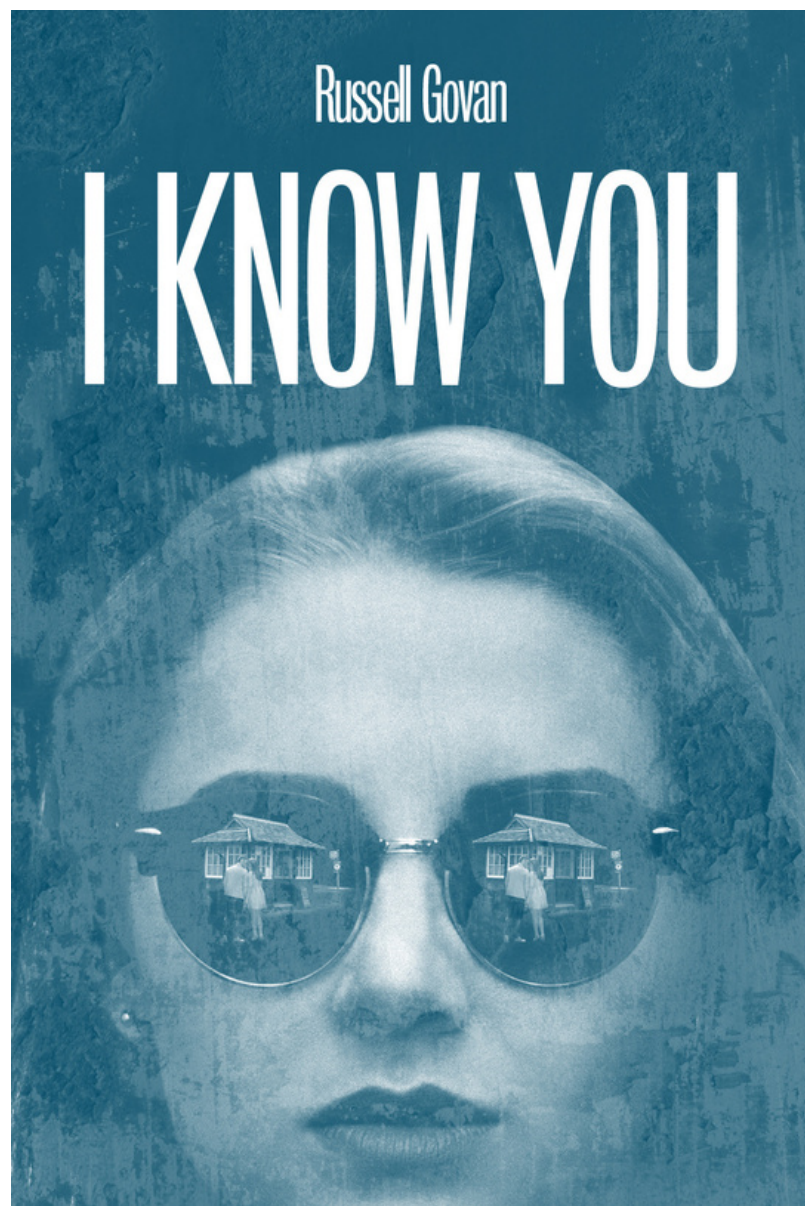
Fiction, BIPOC, bi-racial, Black-Japanese, childhood, finding home, identity, loneliness, family, resilience, Japanese history, WWII, mixed race.



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Fiction | Time Travel

PUB. DATE: June 1st, 2023
SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 250
PRICE: 20.00 CAD / 11.95 GBP
ISBN: 978-1-77183-804-7

PUBLICITY

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SALES & MARKETING

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I Know You

FICTION BY

Russell Govan



Eilidh, bright, headstrong and feisty, gets sparkling exam results that confirm her university place. Her boyfriend reveals he has deceived her. In the ensuing argument she is knocked unconscious. She arrives in 1984, in an Ethiopian refugee camp, where she nurses a dying child, then a wounded aid worker before waking back home in present-day Scotland. Three days later, at an isolated beauty spot trying to come to terms with her ex-boyfriend's betrayal and her experience in Ethiopia, she encounters Walter, who is in the early stages of dementia. He is there because of a tattoo on his wrist that simply states the date and location of the beauty spot. Eilidh recognises Walter's symptoms, takes him home and contacts his niece to come and collect him.

Over the following 48-hour period Eilidh finds herself transported to various locations in Europe and North America, and time periods from the previous fifty years. Each episode draws her further into an unexpected and unconventional romance. Eventually she travels to WW2 blitzed Liverpool and meets a fellow time traveller who explains that Eilidh faces a decision with life and death consequences.



Author Bio

Russell Govan is a Scottish, Oxford-based author who had two well-received thrillers published in 2020 and 2021. His works have been shortlisted in numerous writing competitions, including an extract from a draft of this novel which was shortlisted for the 2019 Grindstone International Short Story Prize.

Keywords:

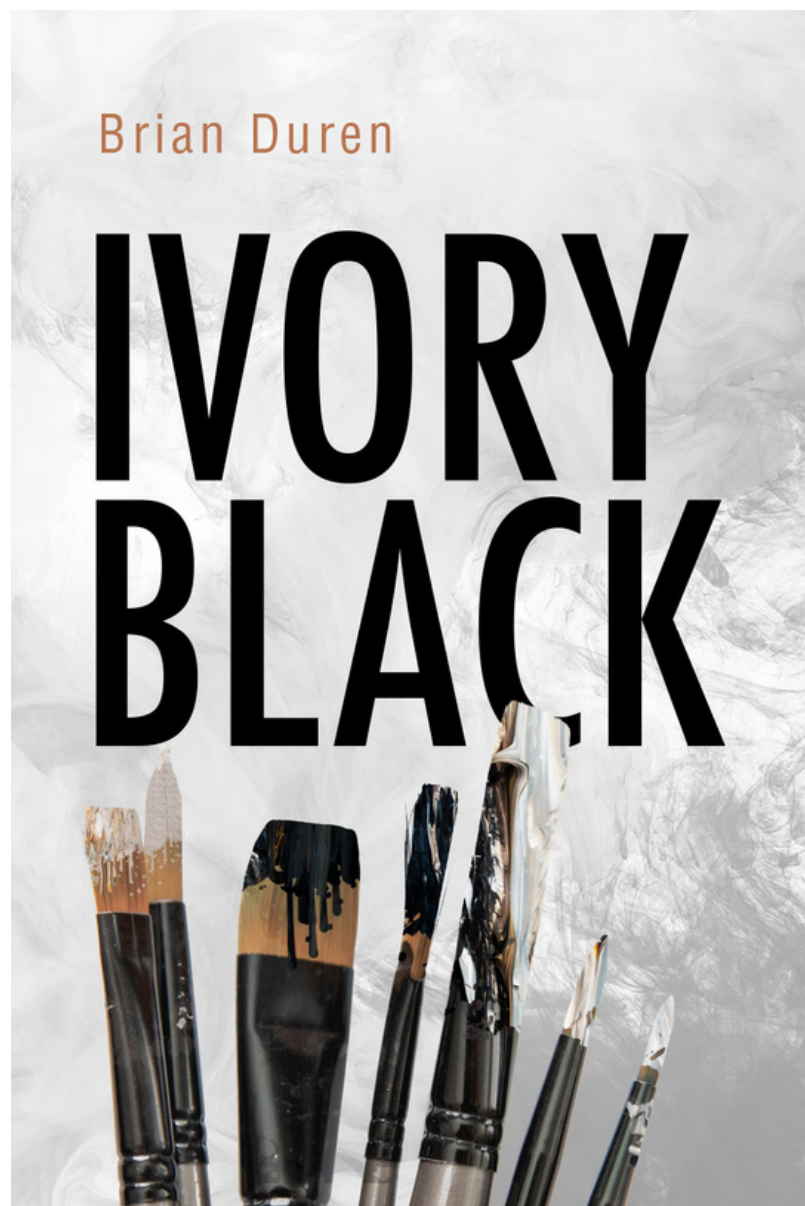
Fiction, time travel, science fiction, UK, Europe, history, page-turner, North America, Oxford, love, romance, choice, fate, novel.



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Ivory Black

FICTION BY

Brian Duren



In 2005, after having spent four months in hospitals, Iraq war veteran Dick Rayburn returns home to his wife, Valerie. Their conversations over the next few days about their son, Jamie, who is serving in the military in Iraq, become increasingly intense. Triggered by his moods and by objects in the house, Dick's memories fill the space provided by the silence between him and Valerie to form a bildungsroman.

Dick relives his evolution from a young artist and left-wing university student to the war profiteer Valerie blames for Jamie being in Iraq, and cannot stop reliving the horror that he witnessed the day he flew into Fallujah and was shot down as his helicopter left the city. To cope with the memories that haunt him, Dick returns to his passion for painting. He paints what he saw in Fallujah, the person he feels he has become, and the loved ones he has lost. The images emerge from a deep, dark background, the principal ingredient of which is ivory black.



Author Bio

Brian Duren was born and raised in Minnesota. After earning a Doctorate in French literature from the University of Paris, as well as a B.A. in English and a Ph.D. in French from the University of Minnesota, he taught modern French Literature and European cinema at the Universities of Texas, Tulsa, Iowa, and Minnesota. He eventually left teaching and became an administrator at the University of Minnesota. Retired, he now works full-time as a writer. Brian's first novel, *Whiteout*, described by the St. Paul Pioneer Press as a "stunning debut novel, worthy of national recognition," won the Independent Publisher Gold Medal for Midwestern Fiction. His second novel, *Ivory Black*, is forthcoming from Guernica World Editions. His third novel, *The Gravity of Love*, is forthcoming from Between the Lines Publishing.

Fiction | Literary

PUB. DATE: June 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 320

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-806-1

PUBLICITY

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Keywords:

Fiction, artist, veteran, PTSD, memories, paintings, family, Iraq, novel, Fallujah, art, university, war, marriage, father and son, healing.



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Fiction | Literary

PUB. DATE: May 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 327

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-789-7

PUBLICITY

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The Starlight Hotel-Casino

FICTION BY

William A. Douglass



The *Starlight Hotel-Casino* is the story of a troubled family business doomed to fail and the stressful dynamics among its members and key employees during the collapse. It describes the inner workings of the casino business and the demise of Reno as a major player in the industry; unable, as it was, to meet the triple threat of Las Vegas, Indian gaming, and the legalization of gambling throughout the United States and abroad. The novel is both a roman à clef and bildungsroman.



Author Bio

William A. Douglass is a social anthropologist and writer. He received his PhD in 1967 from the University of Chicago. He then founded and directed for 33 years the William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies for the University of Nevada System. He has authored more than two dozen books and 200 articles. He was born in Reno, the eldest son of Jack Douglass—a Nevada gaming pioneer. William has extensive personal experience in the gambling industry, having been a part-owner of Reno's Club Cal Neva and the Comstock and Riverboat hotel-casinos. He is currently the president and principal shareholder of Nevada's Leisure Gaming.

Keywords:

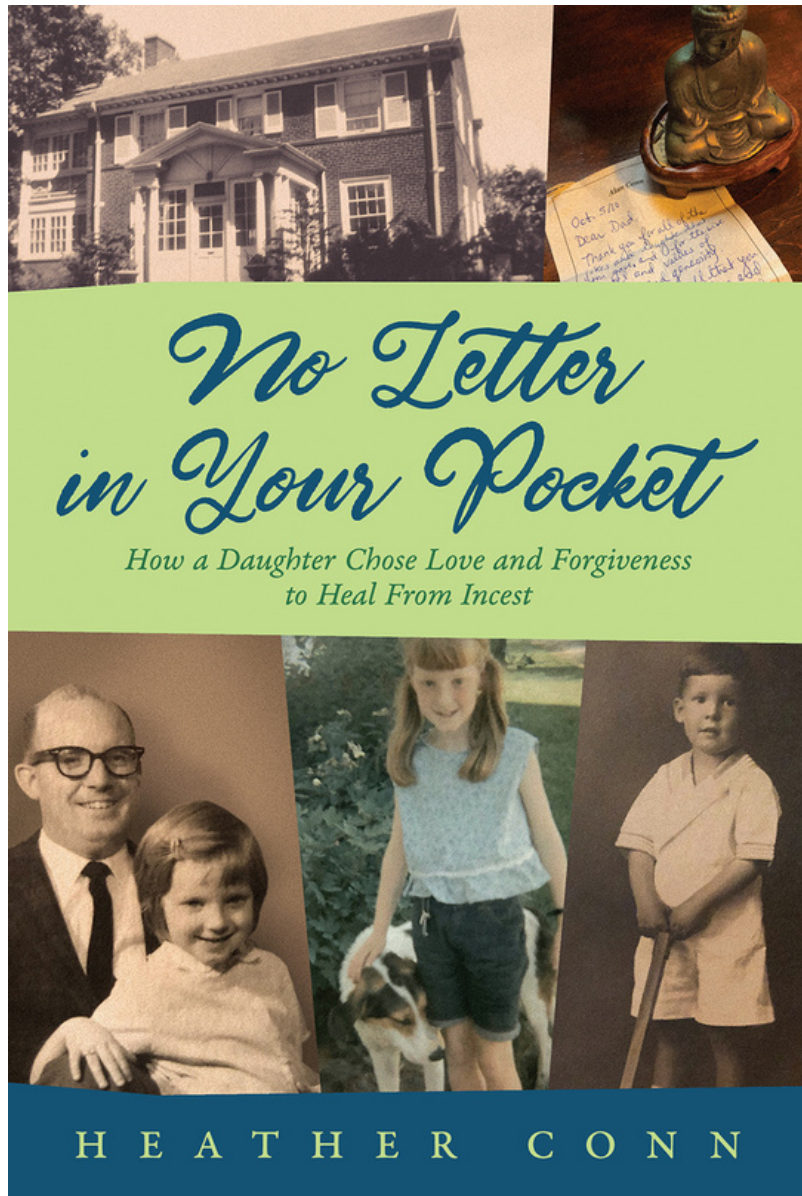
Fiction, casinos, Reno, family business, coming of age, gambling, bildungsroman, roman a clef, casino industry.



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No Letter in Your Pocket: How a Daughter Chose Love and Forgiveness to Heal from Incest

A MEMOIR BY

Heather Conn



Incest denial and sexual assaults disrupt a young woman's solo spiritual quest and her two romantic adventures in India in 1990-91. Two decades later, after profound healing, she's resilient at mid-life. Finding the love and intimacy she craves, she can, at last, forgive her dying father—and her mom, for her decades of silence.

Unlike many stories of healing and spiritual discovery, *No Letter in Your Pocket* avoids predictable recovery rhetoric and insular victimhood. Instead, it is a testament to thriving empowerment.



Author Bio

Heather Conn is the author of five books: adult nonfiction and children's fiction. Her writing has appeared in anthologies and more than 50 publications. She coaches writers in multiple genres and has taught at secondary and post-secondary venues. A freelance writer/editor, she has an MFA in creative nonfiction from Goucher College, Baltimore. heatherconn.com.

Non Fiction | Memoir

PUB. DATE: May 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 320

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-787-3

PUBLICITY

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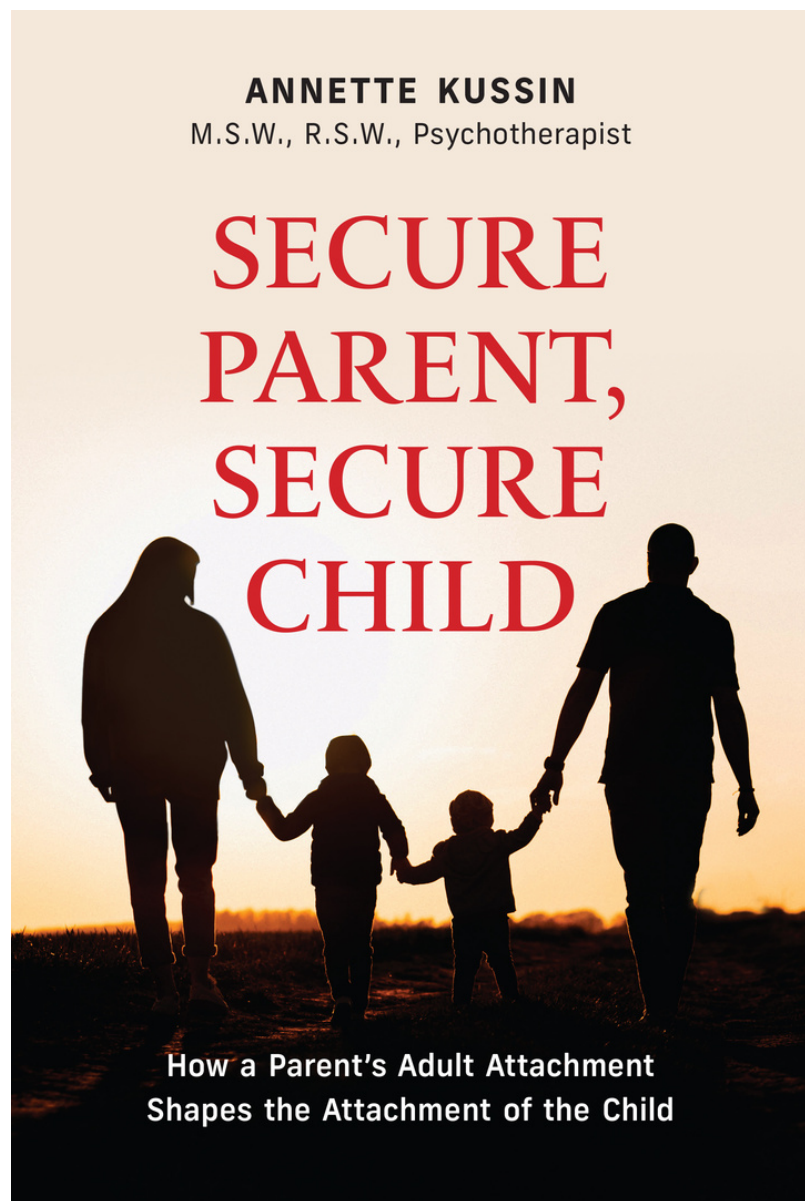
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Keywords:

Incest, childhood, memoir, personal history, sexual abuse, trauma, healing, forgiveness, spirituality, travel, empowerment.



Secure Parent, Secure Child

SELF-HELP BY

Annette Kussin



The next self-help book from Attachment-focused therapist Annette Kussin, *Secure Parent, Secure Child* continues the ideas set forth in *It's Attachment: A New Way of Understanding Yourself and Your Relationships*. There, the last chapter focused on how one's adult attachment influences his/her parenting of children. This book expands on the topic, exploring the 4 categories of adult attachment and how each category influences one's parenting.

The aim of the book is to help a parent determine his or her Adult Attachment, understand the challenges for parenting based on their particular attachment, and then offer guidelines on how to change parenting patterns.



Author Bio

Annette Kussin has a Masters Degree in Social Work, is a Registered Marriage and Family Therapist and an advanced Attachment Focused Therapist. She worked in children's mental health for over 30 years as a therapist, supervisor, manager and clinical director. She was the owner/director of the Leaside Therapy Centre for 10 years and has had a private practice for over 30 years. She specializes in Attachment Focused Therapy for adults, couples, adolescents and adoptive families. Annette has received advanced training in Attachment Focused Therapy and has been a member of an advanced consultation group in this model of therapy. She offers consultation to Mental Health agencies and provides training to organizations throughout Ontario including Wilfred Laurier Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto Faculty of Social Work, The Sick Kids Centre for Community Mental Health, Mission Empowerment and many other Training Organizations, Children and Adult Mental Health Services and Child Welfare Agencies in the area of Attachment, Trauma and Brain Development.

Non Fiction | Self Help

PUB. DATE: April 1st, 2023

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

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-775-0

PUBLICITY

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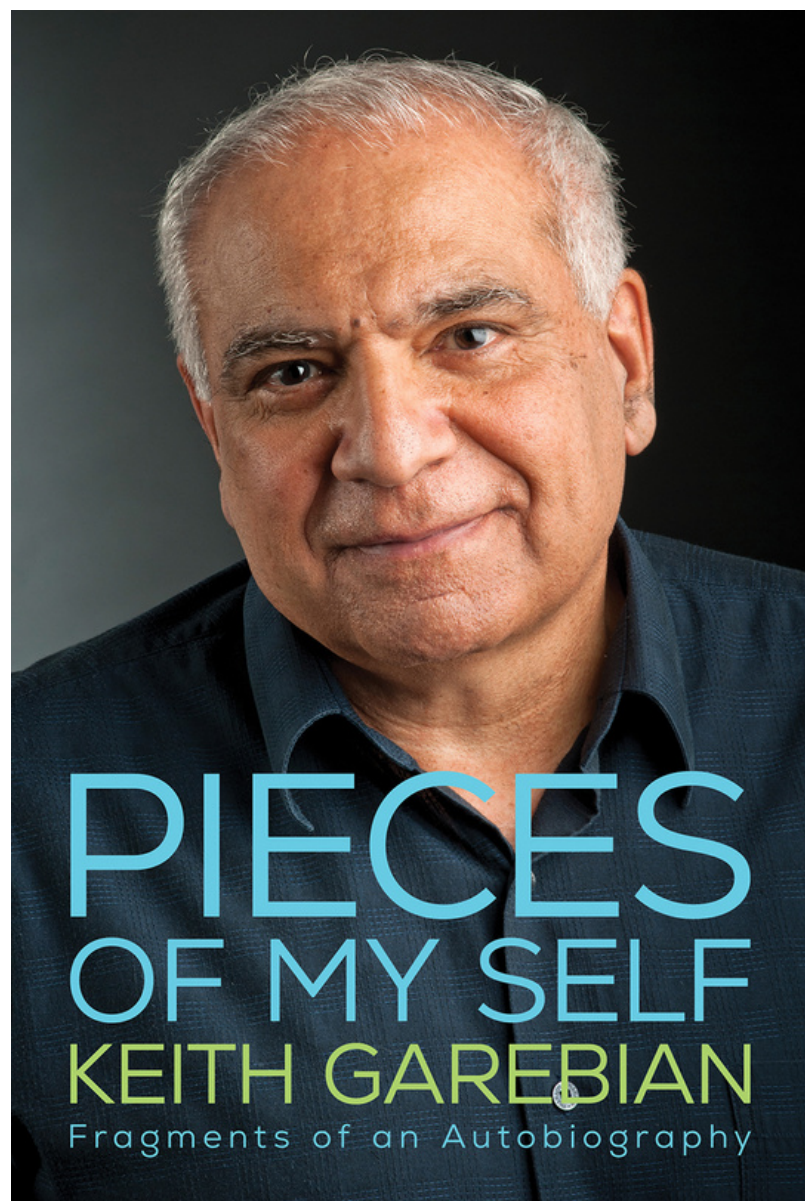
Attachment theory, psychology, therapy, relationships, children, parents, parenting, secure, guide, self-help, secure attachment.



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Non Fiction | Memoir

PUB. DATE: June 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 246

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-800-9

PUBLICITY

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Pieces of My Self: *Fragments of an Autobiography*

A MEMOIR BY

Keith Garebian



Surveying his own conflicted, multi-cultural life from a Bombay boyhood, immigration to Canada, and his re-invention as a literary and theatre critic, poet, and editor who has learned to understand life's blessings and wounds, Keith Garebian's autobiography is an act of memory at the service of a changing self.

Using vignettes, letters, historical surveys, meditations, and existential summations, *Pieces of My Self* shows Garebian's trauma, fury, condemnation, ardour, melancholy, satire, and self-understanding. Figures of Laurence Olivier, Vanessa Redgrave, William Hutt, Irving Layton, Hugh Hood, John Metcalf, Henry Beissel, V.S. Naipaul, and many others pass through this life of a restlessly critical and self-critical author.



Author Bio

Keith Garebian is an award-winning author of eighteen books of non-fiction and eight of poetry. The recipient of the prestigious William Saroyan Medal (Armenia) and a four-time winner of the Mississauga Arts Award for Writing, he has won a Canada Council Senior Arts Grant and two Work-in-Progress Grants from the Ontario Arts Council (one for non-fiction and one for poetry), and dozens of OAC Recommender Grants. He has also been nominated for several distinguished awards for Poetry and Theatre Writing.

Keywords:

memoir, theatre, autobiography, creative non-fiction, literary figure, Canadian poetry, multiculturalism, Bombay, immigration, LGBTQ, cancer, wounds, condemnation, Canadian.

My Theatre of Memory

A Life in Words



Adriana A. Davies

Non-Fiction | Memoir

PUB. DATE: April 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 262

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 9781771837705

PUBLICITY

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My Theatre of Memory

A MEMOIR BY

Adriana A. Davies



My Theatre of Memory: A Life in Words traces Adriana Davies' life in Canada from her arrival in Edmonton as a child immigrant with her mother, older sister and younger brother in the early 1950s, to the present as she deals with the challenges of Covid. Successive chapters tell not only the family's immigration story including accounts of her school days, university in Canada and the UK, but also the beginning of her life as a young married woman and mother in London, England. Destined for a job in academe, cutbacks in the university sector in the UK meant that she began work as a freelance researcher and writer in the area of museums and galleries. This set the tone for a rich and varied career in museums, as an encyclopaedist and historian.



Author Bio

Adriana A. Davies, Order of Canada, Cavaliere d'Italia and Queen's Diamond and Platinum Jubilee Medals recipient, was born in Italy, grew up in Canada and has a doctorate from the University of London. Publications include *Changing My Skin: Dark Elegies and Other Poems*, *From Realism to Abstraction: The Art of J. B. Taylor*, *The Rise and Fall of Emilio Picariello*, *The Frontier of Patriotism: Alberta and the First World War* (co-editor and contributor) and *From Sojourners to Citizens: Alberta's Italian History*.

She was shortlisted for the Bressani Prize for non-fiction for *Sojourners* and awards include: the Alberta Museums Association Life Time Achievement Award, Province of Alberta Centennial Medal, Global Woman of Vision Award, YWCA Woman of Distinction Award in the Arts, Inaugural Heritage Writers Reserve Award of the Edmonton Heritage Council and others.

Keywords:

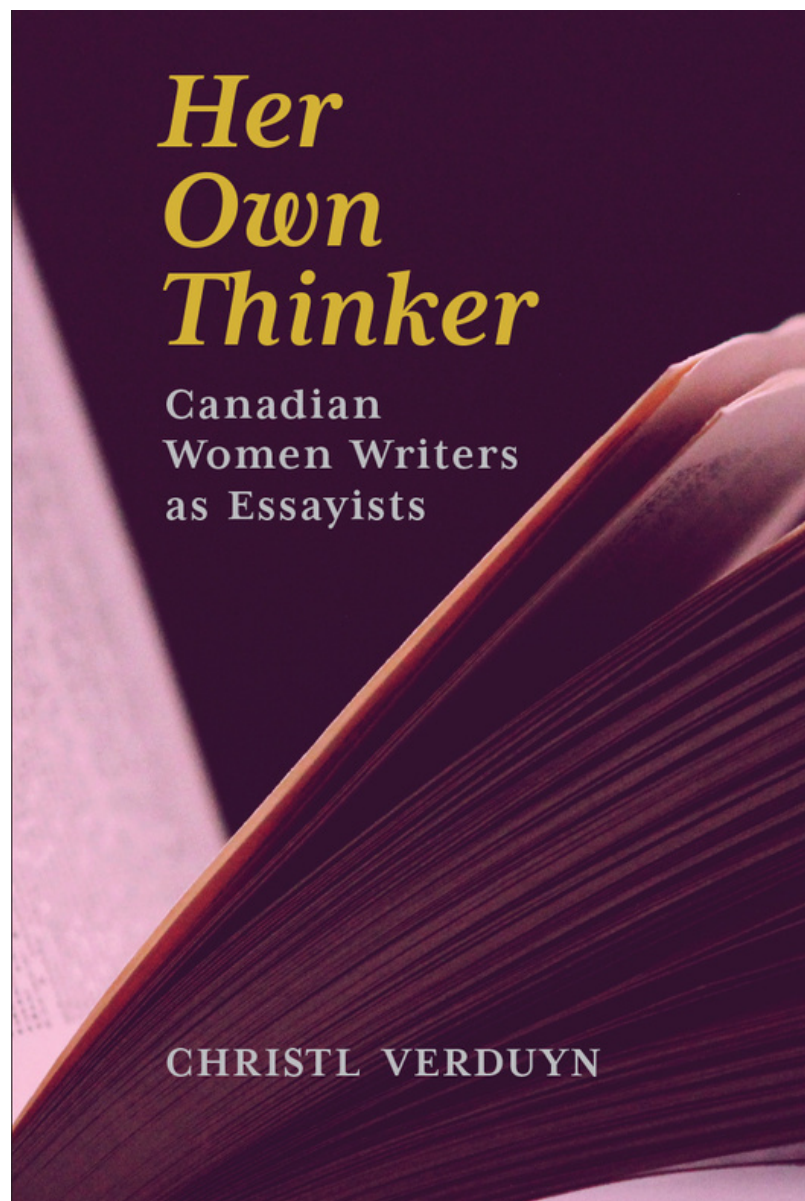
non fiction, memoir, Italian-Canadian, historian, encyclopaedist, 1950s, covid-19, museums, Edmonton, Order of Canada, UK, motherhood, women, immigration.



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Her Own Thinker: Canadian Women Writers and Essayists

EDITED BY

Christl Verduyn



Canadian women novelists and poets have written extensively and significantly in the essay form. *Her Own Thinker* introduces readers to this substantial but not well-known body of work. It explores the ideas and thinking that women writers from across the country's different cultural and Indigenous communities have chosen to express in essay rather than in fiction form. *Her Own Thinker* demonstrates that the essay genre has provided Canadian women fiction writers a uniquely creative, multifaceted form of writing with which they have made important contributions to cultural, social, political, and environmental thinking in Canada and beyond.



Author Bio

Christl Verduyn is the author, editor, or co-editor of over a dozen volumes in the areas of Canadian and Québécois literatures, women's writing and criticism, "multicultural" and life writing, and Canadian Studies. Before joining the faculty at Mount Allison University, where she is now Professor Emerita of English and Canadian Studies, Dr. Verduyn taught at Wilfrid Laurier University, where she chaired the Canadian Studies Program, and at Trent University, where she was Chair of Women's Studies (1987-90) and Chair of Canadian Studies (1993-99). A past editor of the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, recipient of the Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies and of the Order of Canada (CM), she is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (FRSC) and a 3M National Teaching Fellow.

Keywords:

Canadian, literary history, criticism, essays, literary collections, Canadian studies, women, multicultural studies, women writers, non-fiction.

Non-fiction | Literary Criticism

PUB. DATE: June 1st, 2023

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 240

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-802-3

PUBLICITY

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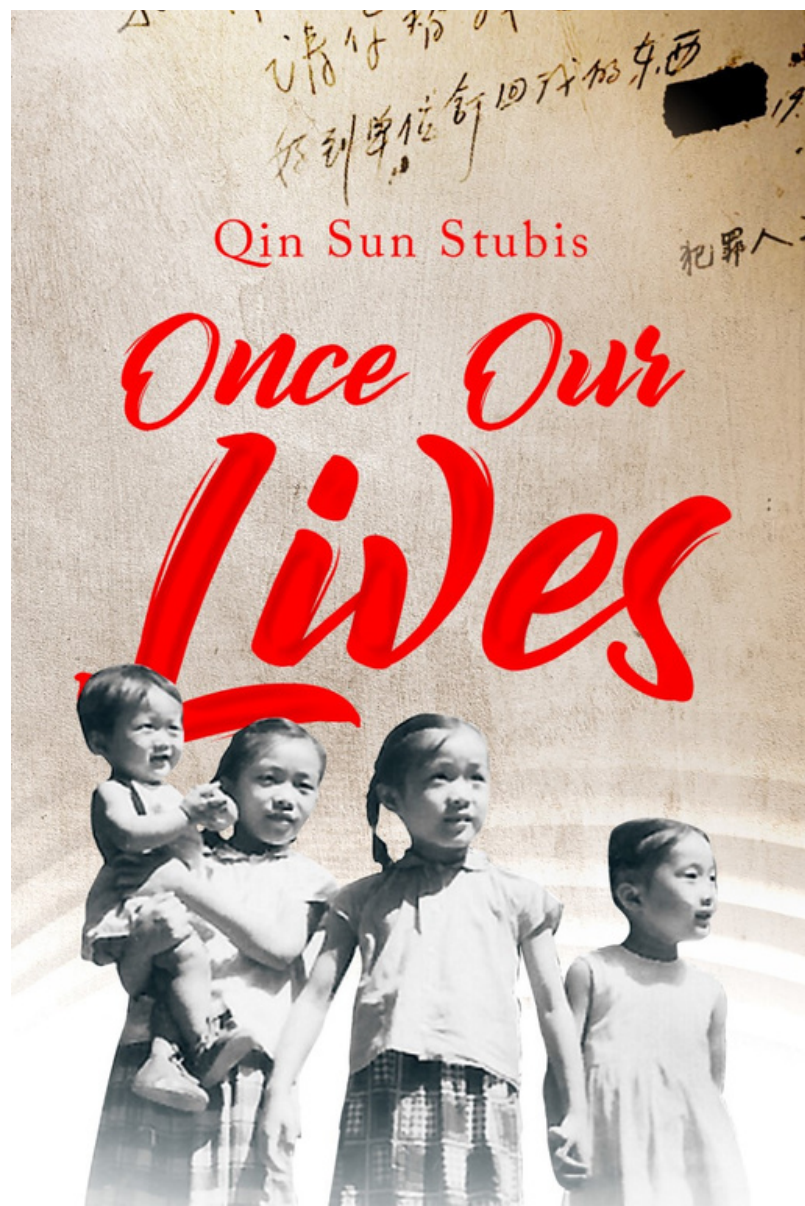
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Once Our Lives

CREATIVE NON-FICTION BY

Qin Sun Stubis



Once Our Lives is the true story of four generations of Chinese women and how their lives were threatened by powerful and cruel ancient traditions, historic upheavals, and a man whose fate – cursed by an ancient superstition – dramatically altered their destinies.

The book opens in the 1930s with a strange family legend about a boy born into a prosperous family whose life is changed forever when the unlucky spirit of a wandering beggar enters him– dooming him to a fate he struggles against his whole life. At the same time, a girl from a remote seaside village is torn from her family and forced into a life of unhappy luxury in cosmopolitan Shanghai, surrounded by round-eyed devils, acts of startling kindness and cruelty, and a newfangled magical device called...the radio. When their two paths unexpectedly cross, the result is anything but a typical love story.

Once Our Lives takes the reader on an exotic journey filled with luxurious banquets, lost jewels, babies sold in opium dens, kidnappings by pirates, and a desperate flight against death in the desert – seen through the eyes of a man for whom the truth would spell disaster and a lonely, beautiful girl with three identities. Bursting with colorful but largely overlooked Chinese history, *Once Our Lives* gives an intimate, heartbreaking, and ultimately hopeful look behind the headlines of the 20th Century by detailing the lives of ordinary people in extraordinary times.



Author Bio

Qin Sun Stubis was born in a Shanghai shantytown and grew up during the Cultural Revolution. A longtime newspaper columnist living in the Washington, D.C. area, she writes poems, essays, short stories, and original Chinese tall tales inspired by traditional Asian themes.

Keywords:

generational saga, family, true story, Chinese, magical realism, historical memoir, war, Cultural Revolution, kidnappings, pirates, women, poverty, daughters, traditions, fate, love.

Creative Non-Fiction

PUB. DATE: June 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 366

PRICE: \$25.00 cad / \$ 21.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-796-5

PUBLICITY

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CANADA:
A TASTE OF HOME/
LES SAVEURS DE
CHEZ SOI



Edited by Ylenia De Luca & Oriana Palusci

Essays | Cooking

PUB. DATE: April 1st, 2023

SIZE: 9 x 6 **PAGES:** 416

PRICE: \$29.95 cad / \$ 24.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-825-2

PUBLICITY

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Canada: A Taste of Home / *Les saveurs de chez soi*

ESSAYS EDITED BY

Oriana Palusci and Ylenia De Luca



Canada: A Taste of Home/ Les saveurs de chez soi is a collection of papers, written either in French or in English, that investigate the different cuisines of immigrants in a literary, linguistic and cultural perspective. Far from home, food expresses a sense of nostalgia, belonging and identity, as the authors suggest in dealing with the many implications and attitudes to food. On a literary and cultural table sumptuously prepared with recipes dearly carried from native homes near and far, full of strange ingredients, tastes, smells, colours, cultural practices, habits, plurilinguistic Canada celebrates the triumph of a migrant country, whose life is rooted in the rich soil of far off cooking traditions and memories. Indeed, Canada is a culinary laboratory in which gastronomies showcase and confirm the ethnic diversity of its multicultural peoples.



About the Editors

Oriana Palusci is Full Professor of English at the University of Naples 'L'Orientale', Italy. She is the President of the Italian Association for Canadian Studies and the Director of the Canadian Studies Centre in Naples. She has published extensively on a number of literary, linguistic and environmental topics related to English, Canadian and American studies.

Ylenia De Luca est chercheur de Littérature française à l'Université de Bari Aldo Moro, Faculté de Sciences de la Formation, en Italie. Ses recherches concernent la poésie québécoise et française contemporaines. Elle a publié un livre sur la poésie de Claude Beausoleil et divers articles sur la poésie québécoise et la poésie française contemporaines.

Keywords:

Essays, Canadian, French, English, Cooking, Culture, Multiculturalism, Identity, Immigration, Home, Recipes, Belonging.



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**DUCK EATS YEAST,
QUACKS,
EXPLODES;
MAN LOSES EYE**



A POEM BY
Gary Barwin &
Lillian Necakov

Poetry | Canadian

PUB. DATE: May 1st, 2023

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

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-781-1

PUBLICITY

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Duck Eats Yeast, Quacks, Explodes; Man Loses Eye

POETRY BY

Gary Barwin & Lillian Necakov



Written as a vibrant discussion between Barwin and Necakov, this book-length poem takes us on a hypnagogic journey that examines many ways of seeing and experiencing the world. Although the work considers many themes, such as trauma, grief, anxiety, climate change, impending doom, war, illness, and cultural fragmentation, at its core, it argues for an unbridled creativity and beauty.



Author Bio

Gary Barwin's books include *Nothing the Same, Everything Haunted: The Ballad of Motl the Cowboy*, and *The Most Charming Creatures*, and with, Tom Prime, *Bird Arsonist*. His bestselling *Yiddish for Pirates* won the Stephen Leacock Medal and was a finalist for both the Governor General's Award for Fiction and the Giller Prize.

Lillian Nećakov is the author of six books of poetry, numerous chapbooks, broadsides and leaflets. Her book *il virus* was published in April 2021 by Anvil Press (A Feed Dog Book). She ran the Boneshaker Reading series in Toronto from 2010-2020.

Keywords:

Canadian poetry, conversation, trauma, grief, anxiety, fragmented, long poem, collaboration, beauty, climate change, war, culture.



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Poetry | Canadian

PUB. DATE: April 1st, 2023
SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 80
PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us
ISBN: 978-1-77183-774-3

PUBLICITY

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Love is a Place But You Cannot Live There

POETRY BY

Jade Wallace



Each section of Jade Wallace's debut *Love Is A Place But You Cannot Live There* is a psychogeographic investigation. Two casual ghost hunters on a road trip hear the death rattle of their relationship. Residents of a city's fringe measure their physical and social isolation. A mother and her adult child have diametrically opposed reactions to their vacation spot. Lovers on a romantic coastal getaway discover how estranged they are from one another. Curious figures begin to embody their environments. Forthright and anecdotal, these poems recount the signals people transmit and receive, and the reciprocal ways we make, and are made by, the places we inhabit.

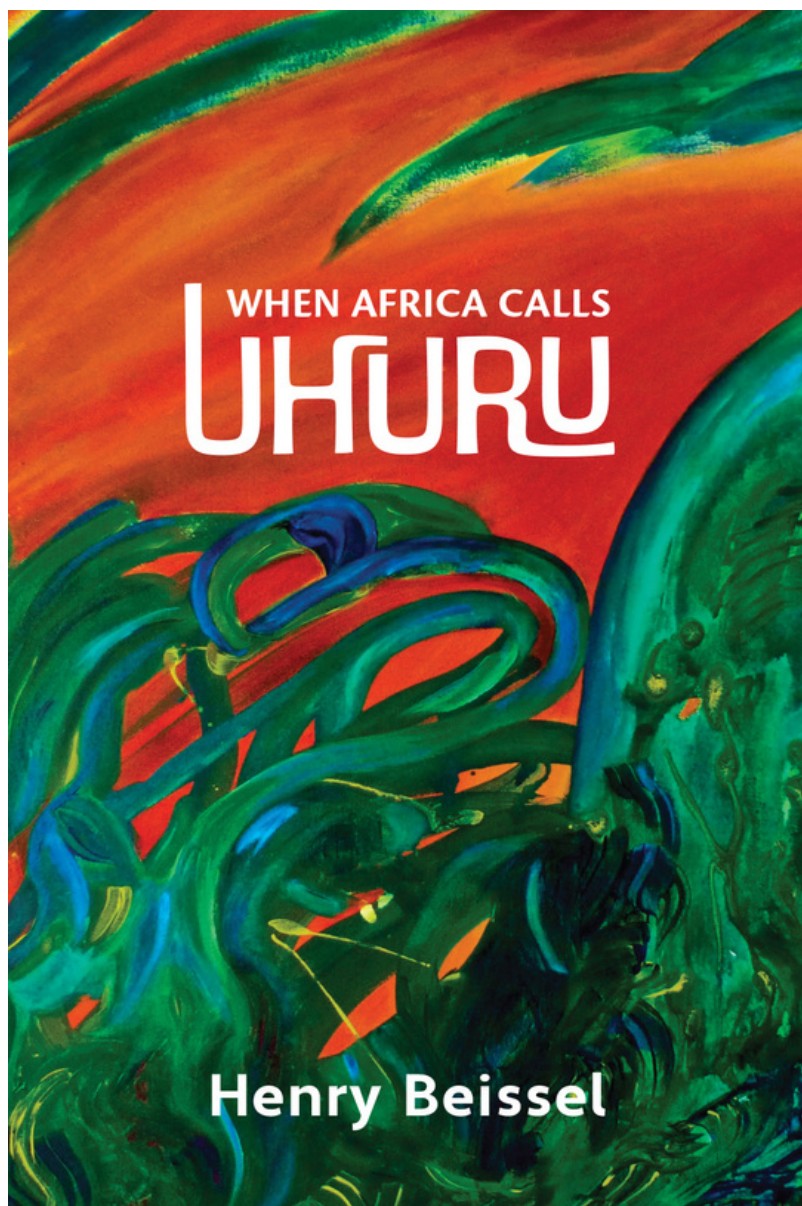


Author Bio

Jade Wallace's writing has won the Muriel's Journey Poetry Prize and *Coastal Shelf's* Funny & Poignant Poetry Contest, placed third in the Ken Belford Poetry Contest, been a finalist for the Wergle Flomp Humour Poetry Prize, and been nominated for The Journey Prize. They are the author of several solo and collaborative chapbooks, the reviews editor for CAROUSEL Magazine, and the co-founder of MA|DE, a collaborative writing entity. *Love Is A Place But You Cannot Live There* is their first book. Stay in touch: jadewallace.ca

Keywords:

First Poets, debut, poetry, Canadian, ghosts, queer, Ontario, New York, Antarctica, New Brunswick, travel, gothic, contemporary poetry, haunted, places.



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PUB. DATE: June 1st, 2023

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

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-786-6

PUBLICITY

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When Africa Calls Uhuru

POETRY BY

Henry Beissel



When Africa Calls Uhuru is a dramatic poem in search of what it means to be human. Henry Beissel takes the reader to the Rift Valley in Kenya where it is believed the evolution of Homo sapiens largely took place. The narrative unfolds in a dialogue between nature, science and history, three voices that evoke the fauna and flora of Africa and conjure up the history of its colonization. Ultimately, the poem celebrates today's liberation of the continent. "Dance, my beloved / Africa," the poet rejoices, "you are free / to choose freedom now!"



Author Bio

Henry Beissel is an Ottawa poet, playwright, fiction writer, essayist, translator and editor with over 40 books published, including 22 poetry collections. His work has been translated into many languages. He is Distinguished Emeritus Professor from Concordia University (Montreal) where he taught English Literature and founded a flourishing Creative Writing Program.

Keywords:

Canadian poetry, Ottawa, nature, science, evolution, dialogue, fauna and flora, Africa, humanity, Kenya, Rift Valley, liberation, history.

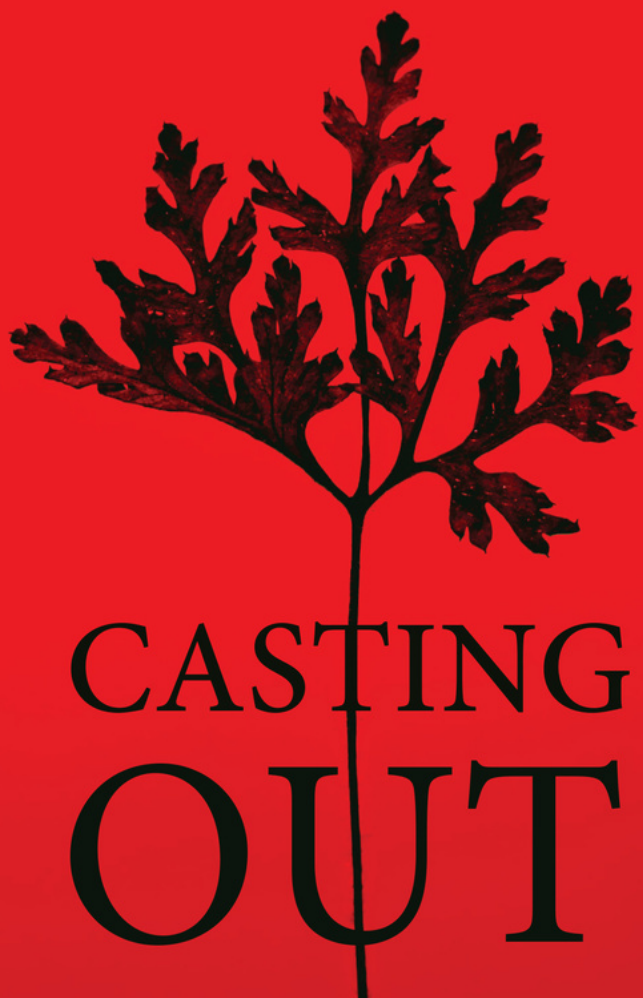


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Rocco de Giacomo



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PUB. DATE: April 1st, 2023

SIZE: 8 x 5 **PAGES:** 110

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-769-9

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Casting Out

POETRY BY

Rocco de Giacomo



Casting Out is a chronicle of de Giacomo's upbringing in the Pentecostal world. Attempting to reconcile the evidence-based reasoning of his present with the angels and demons of his past, the poet confronts what it means to be loved in a system that he now finds irrational and sometimes hateful. *Casting Out* offers a nuanced and affecting portrait of a search for belonging in a polarized world, discovering one's path after walking away from ideology, and raising children in a meaningful way in the absence of spiritual beliefs.



Author Bio

Rocco de Giacomo's most recent poetry collections include *Every Night of Our Lives* and *Brace Yourselves*. His poems have appeared in literary journals and anthologies in Canada, Australia, England, Hong Kong and the US. Rocco lives and writes in Toronto with his wife, Lisa Keophila, a fabric artist, and his daughters, Ava and Matilda. *Casting Out* is his fourth full-length collection.

Keywords:

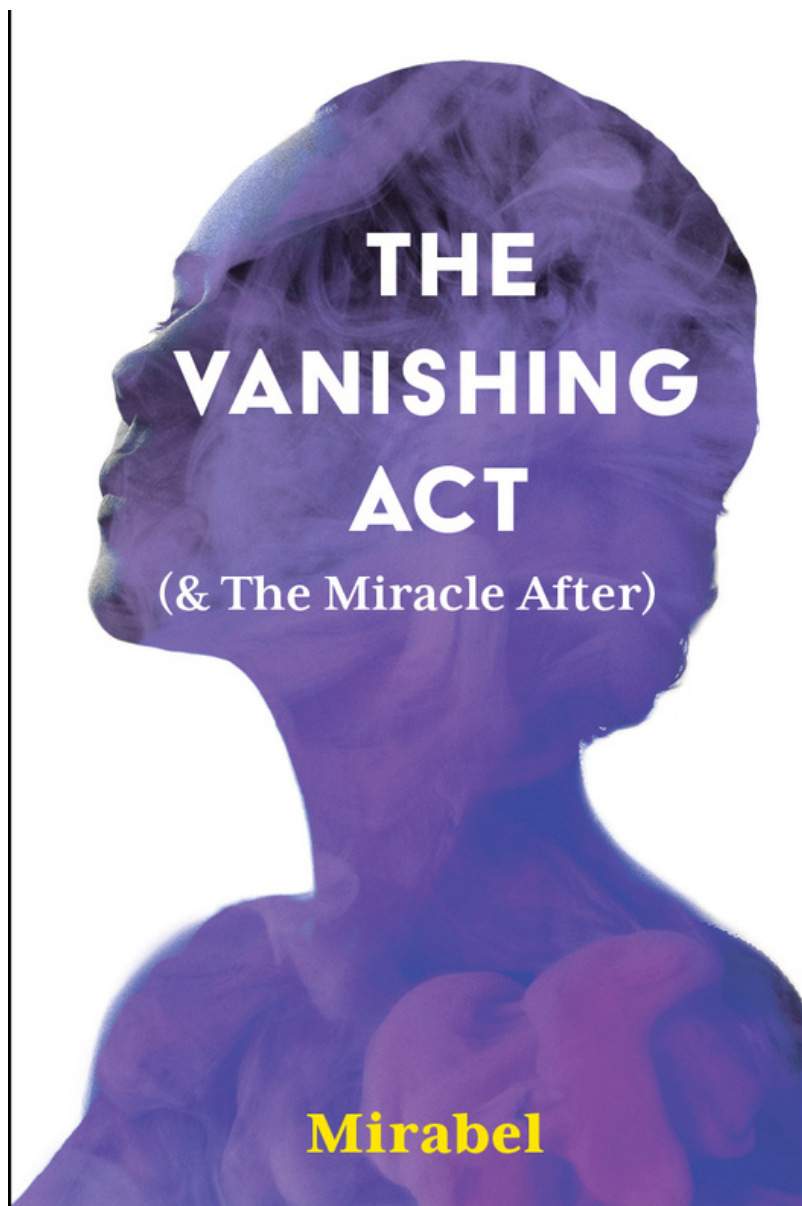
Canadian poetry, past, Christianity, religion, faith, Pentecostal, science, reconciliation, healing, upbringing, family.



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PUB. DATE: June 1st, 2023

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

PRICE: \$20.00 cad / \$ 17.95 us

ISBN: 978-1-77183-795-8

PUBLICITY

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The Vanishing Act (& The Miracle After)

POETRY BY

Mirabel



The Vanishing Act (& The Miracle After) is an existential meditation on grief—the kind of grief which pins you down and minimizes you. The first half of the collection, *The Vanishing Act*, captures the ruminations of a mind which feels trapped physically and spiritually. The imagery in this section blends magic and violence as the speaker confronts systemic issues as a middle-class woman, a person of colour, and a survivor of abuse. The second section, *(& The Miracle After)*, offers a fresh perspective on recovery. As the speaker revisits images of bodily harm, objects previously used for violence are brought back to a state of benign normalcy. With the arrival of spring, the speaker contemplates renewal and the paradoxical nature of taking agency of her life, while knowing the act of survival is made possible only because of miraculous intervention.



Author Bio

Avleen K. Mokha, also known as Mirabel, is an award-winning poet based in Montreal. Mirabel's poetry chapbook *Dream Fragments* (Cactus Press 2020) received critical acclaim from The League of Canadian Poets and PRISM International. Mirabel has performed her work across Canada, facilitated creative writing workshops, and curated a range of literary events.

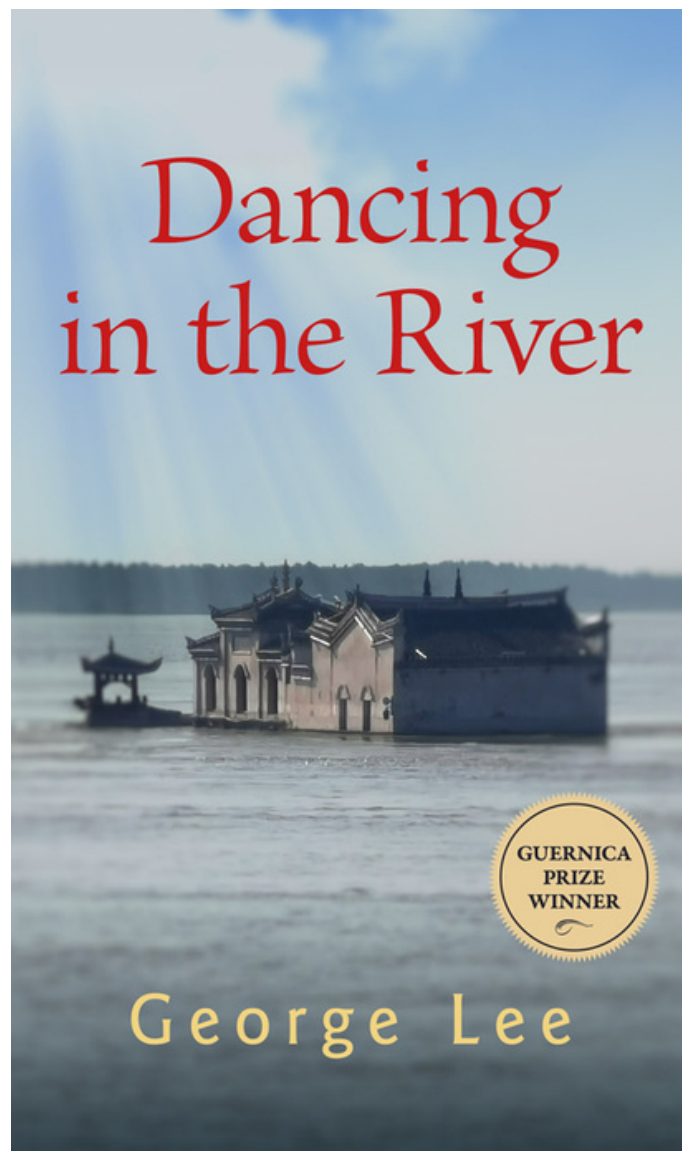
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Canadian, poetry, survival, body, agency, spiritual, meditation, BIPOC, women, abuse, healing, divine, miracle, women poets, Montreal, India.

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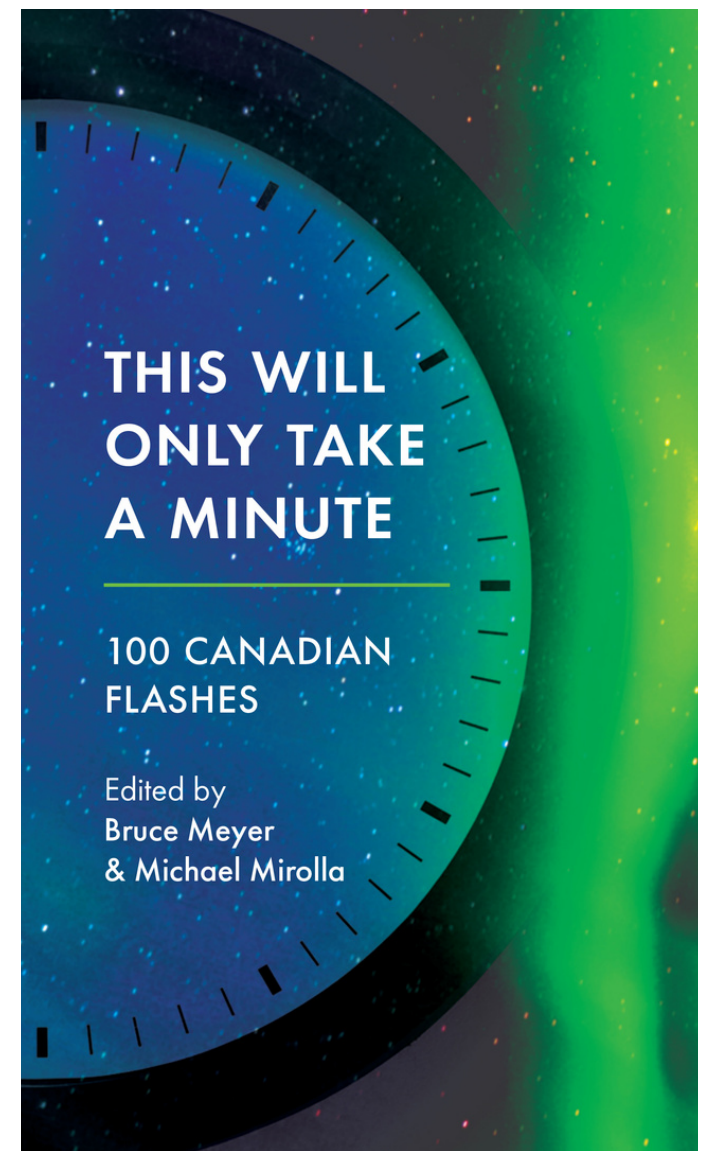
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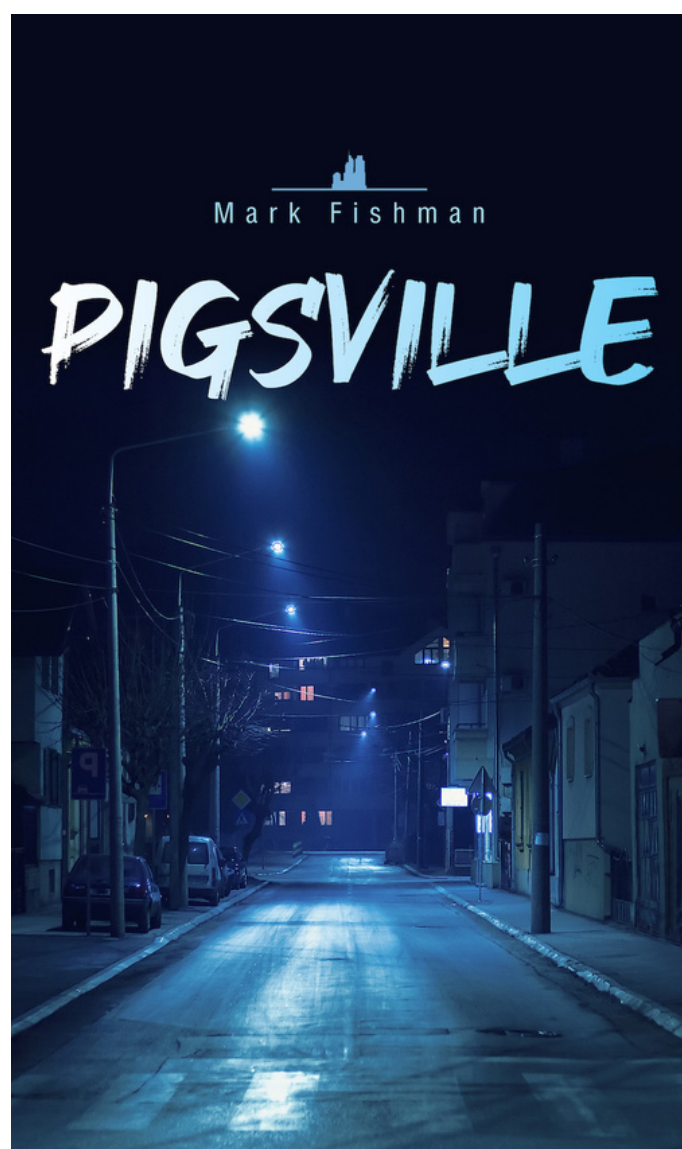
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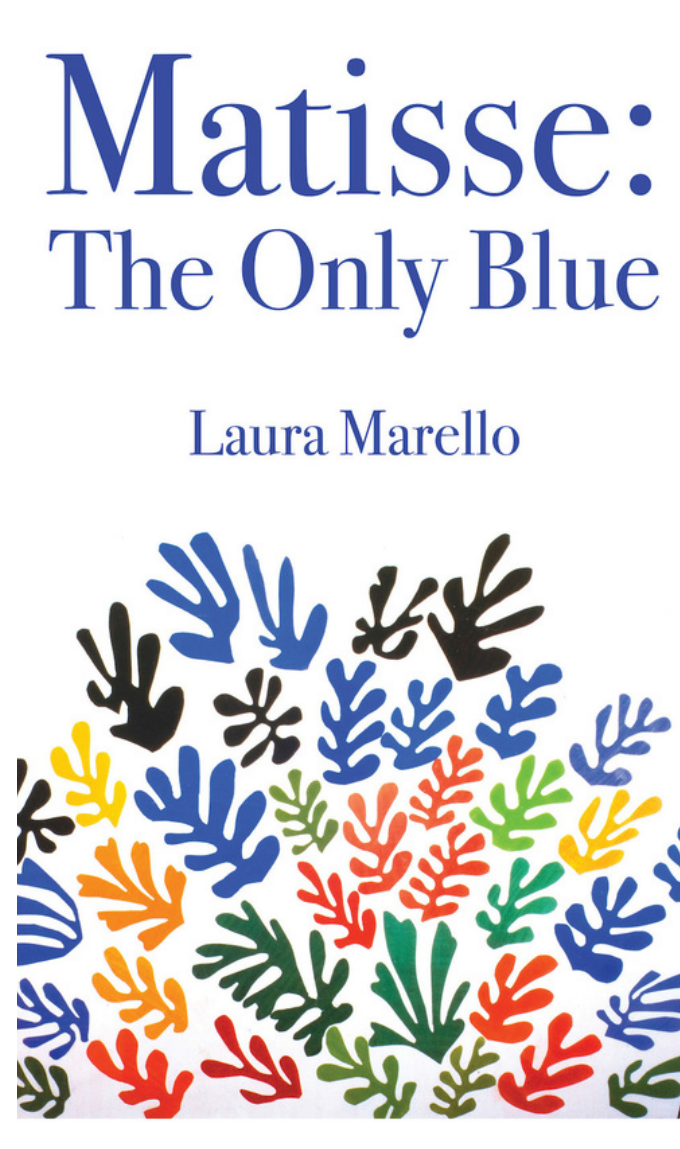
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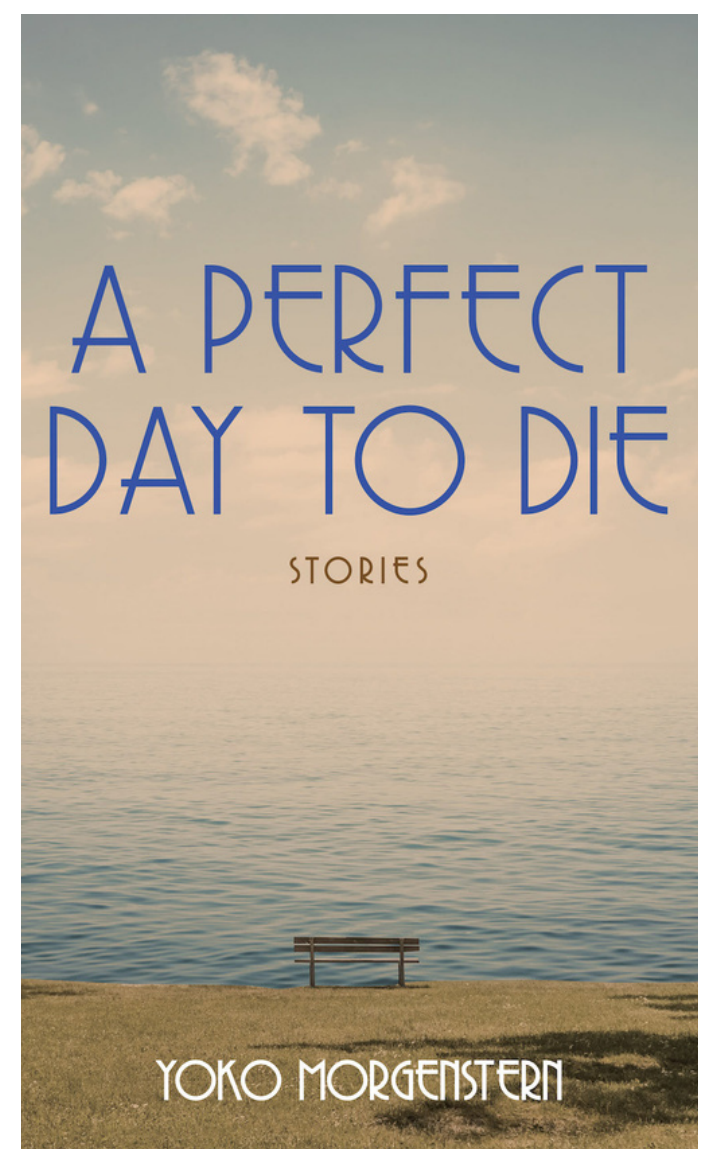
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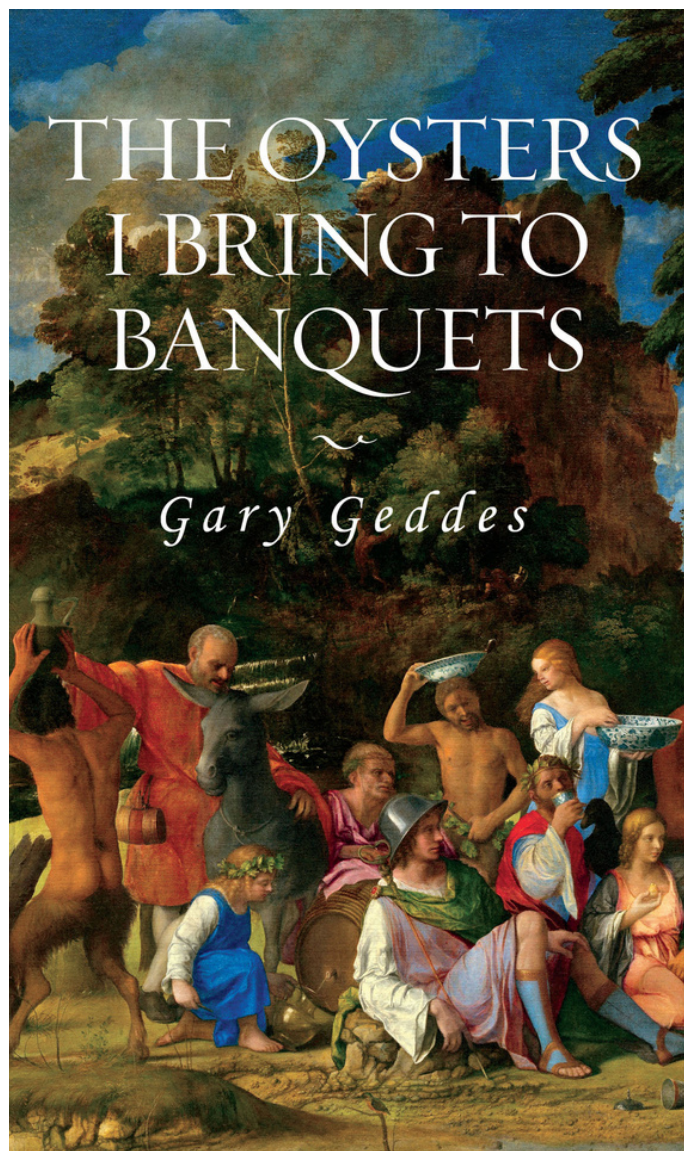


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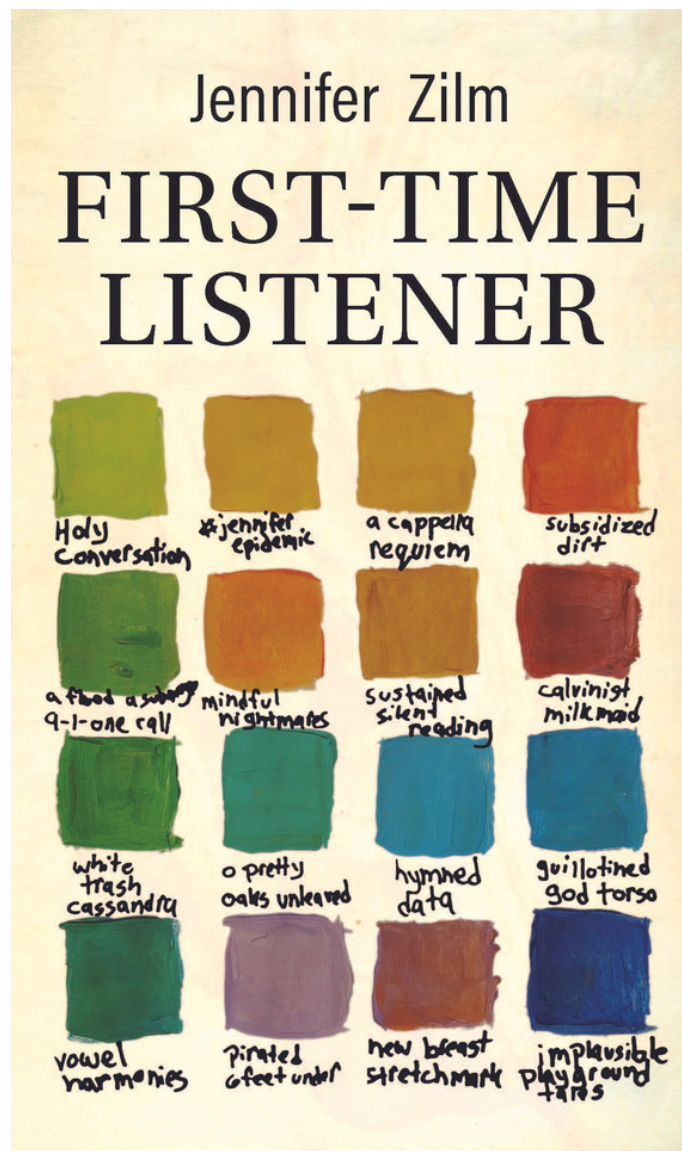


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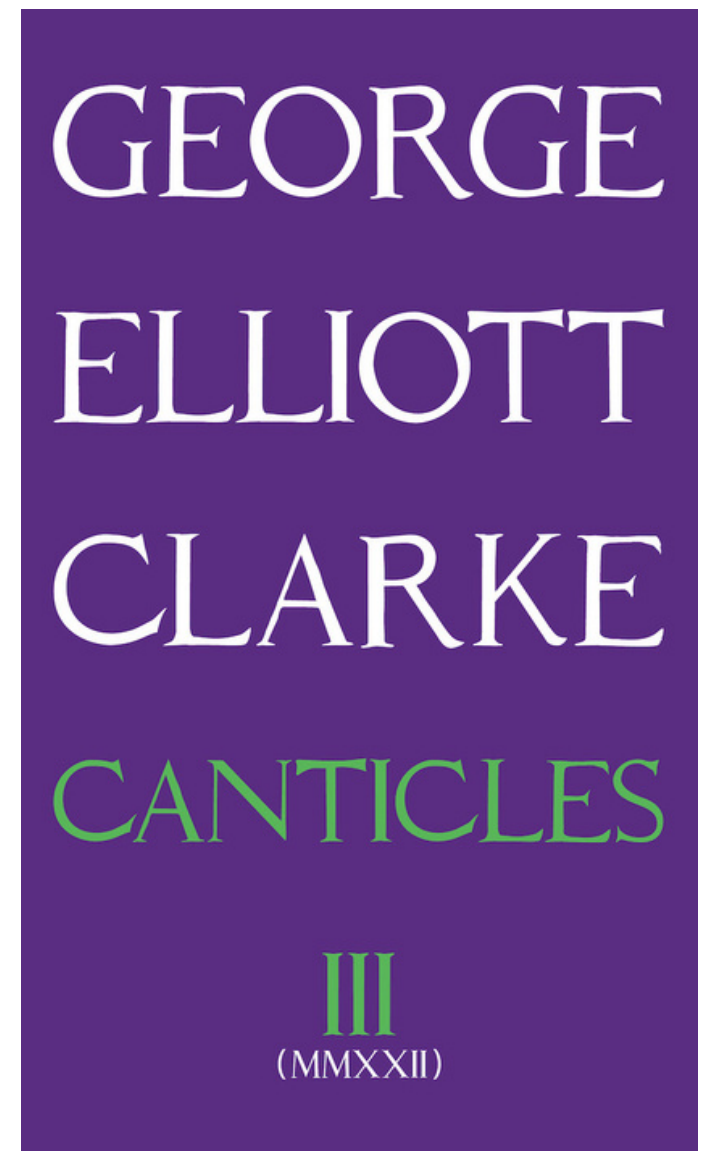
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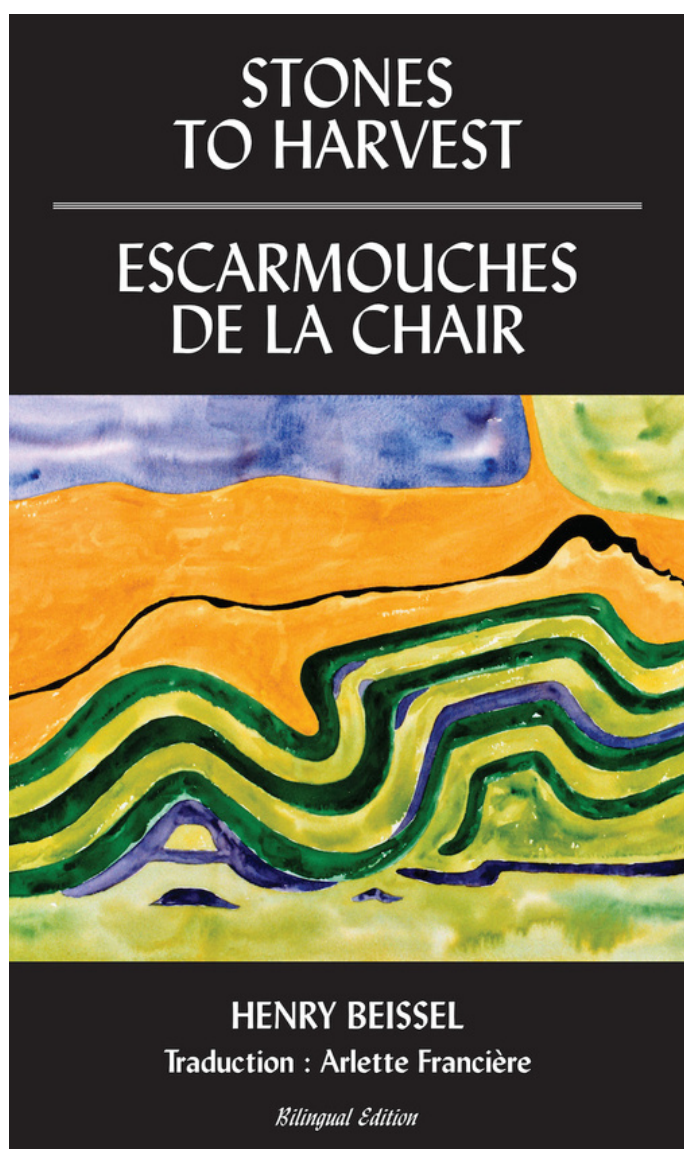
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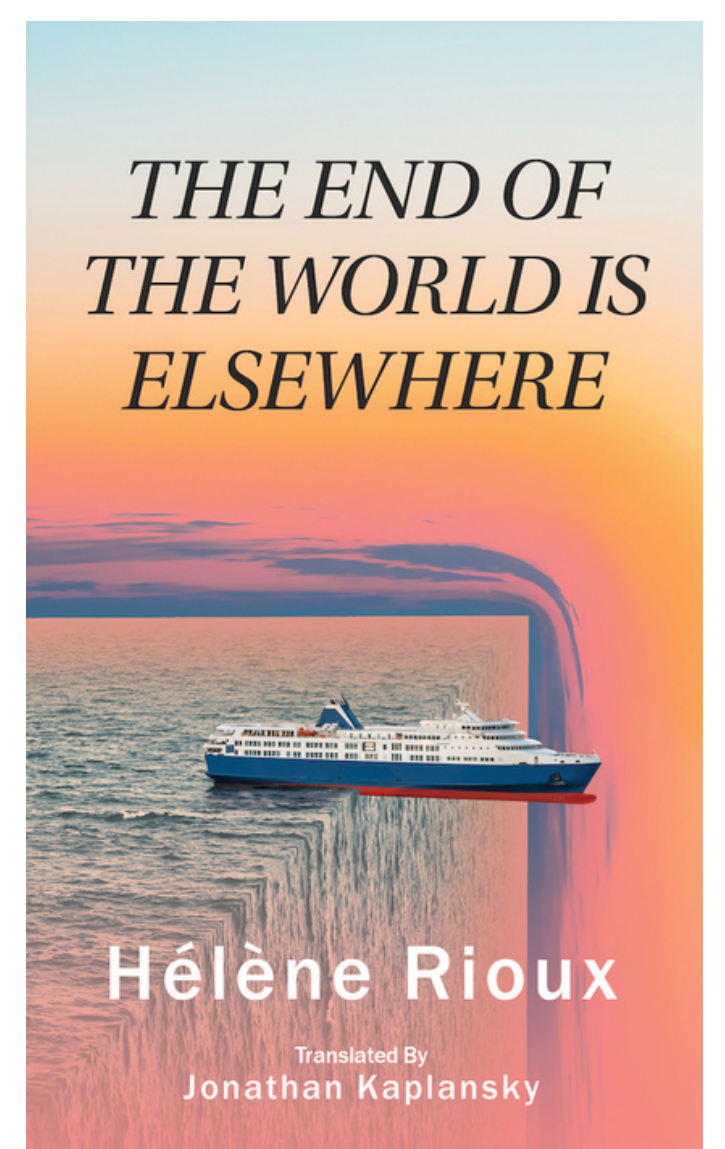
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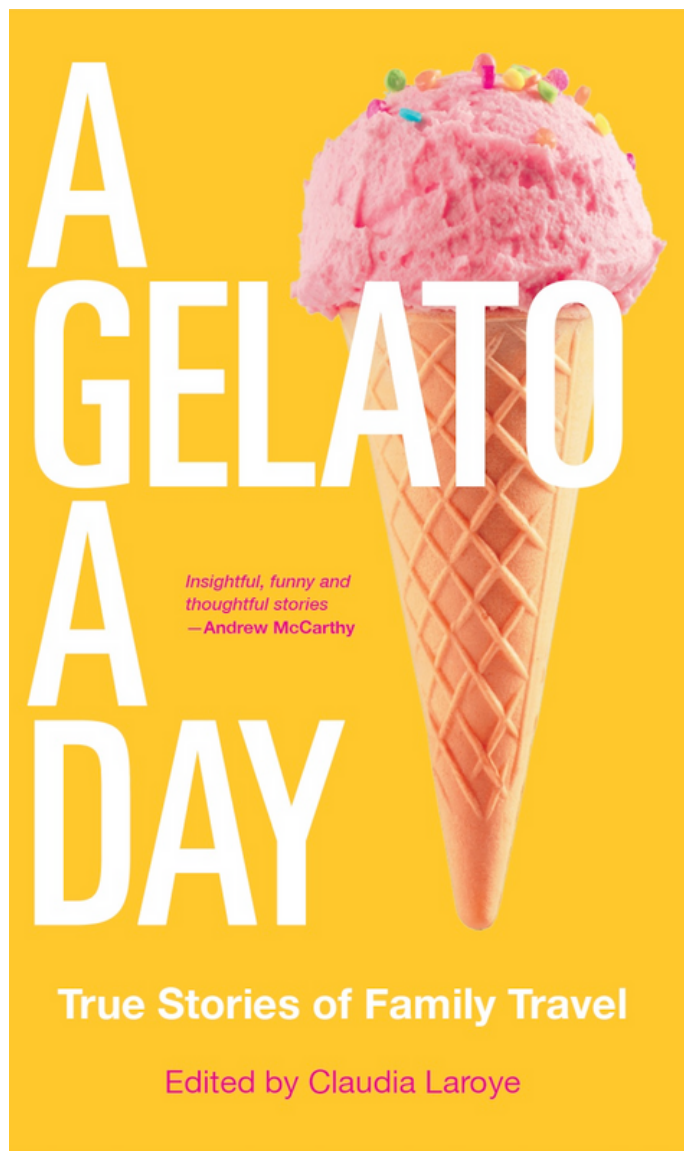


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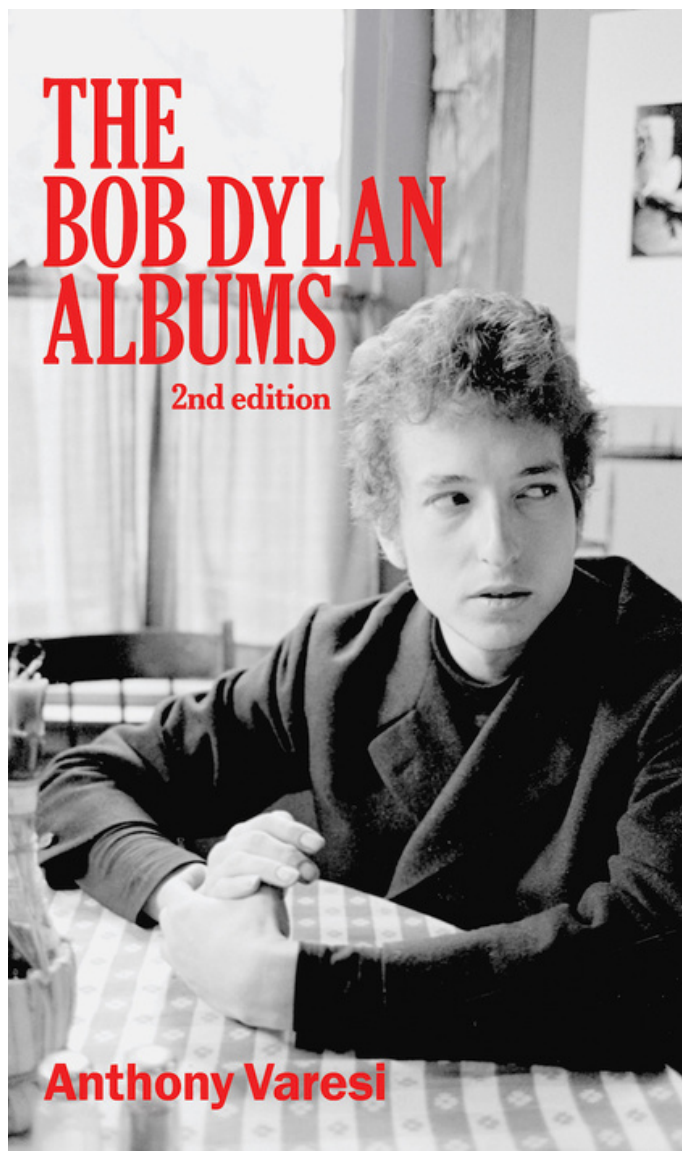


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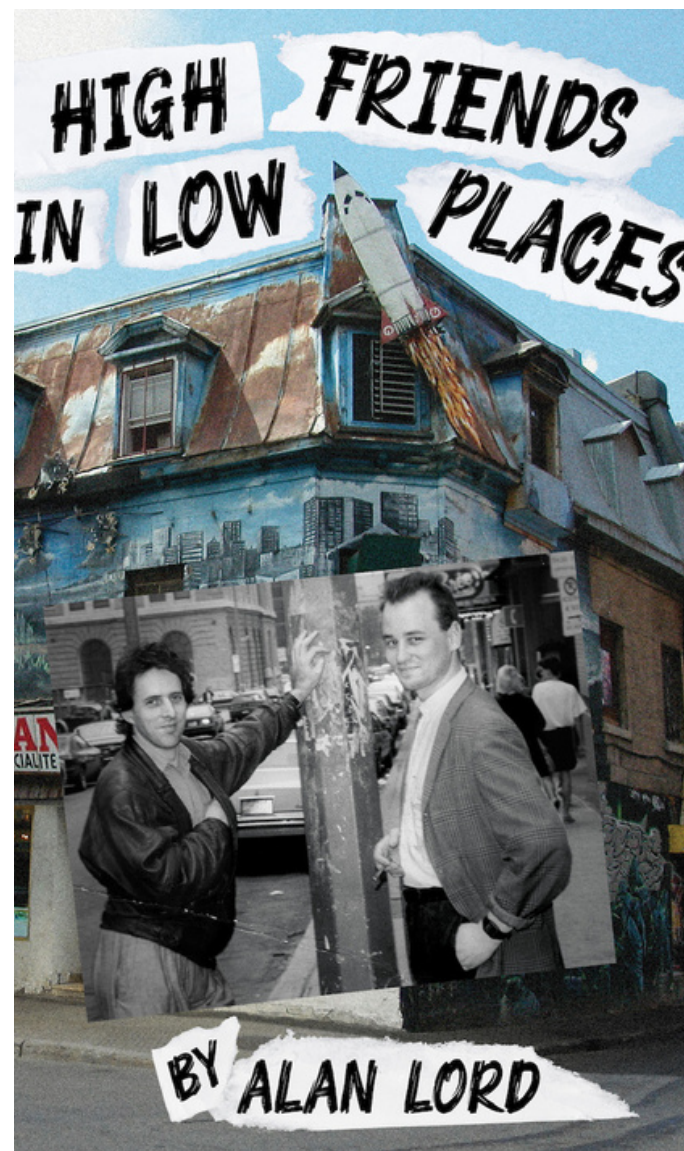
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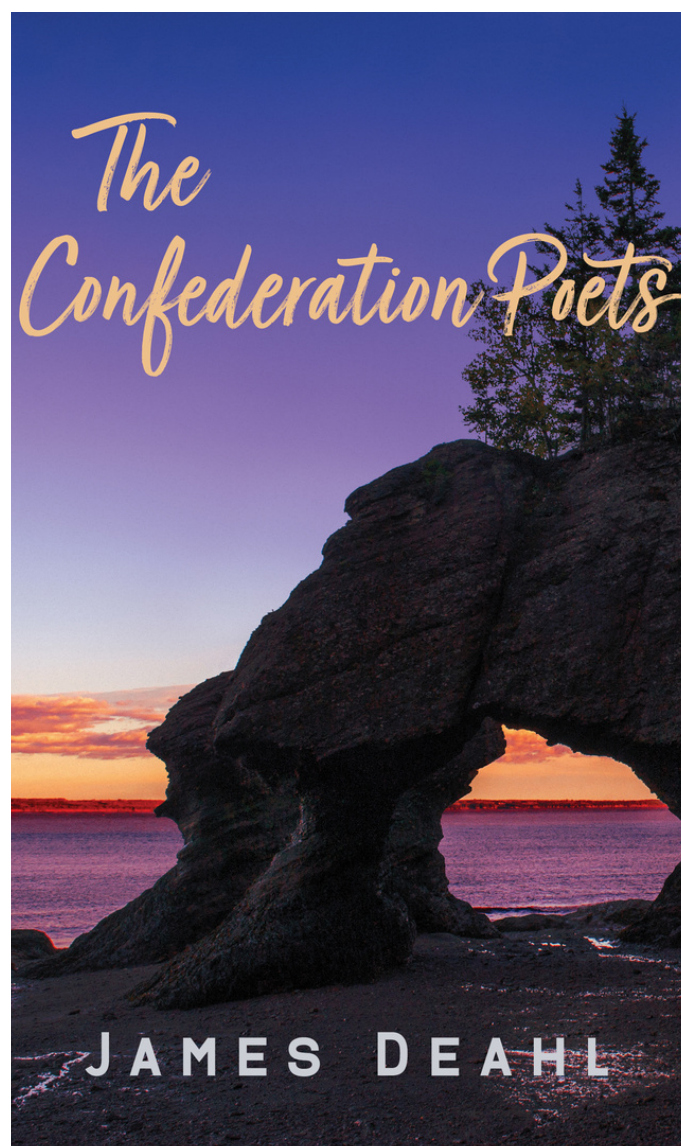
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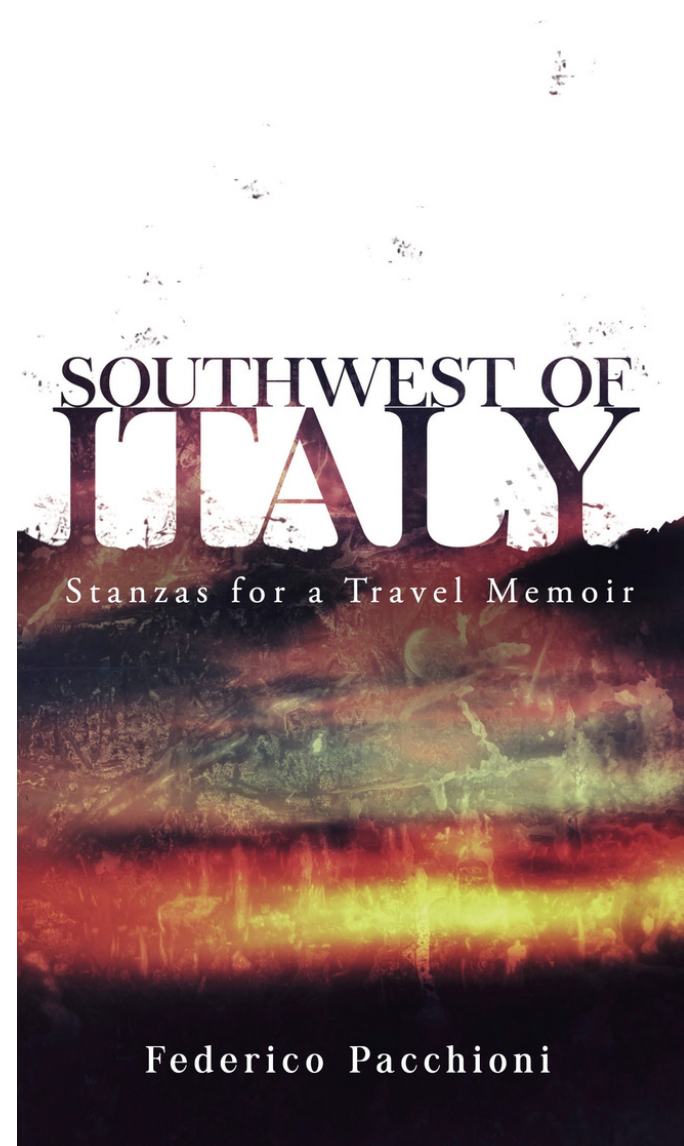
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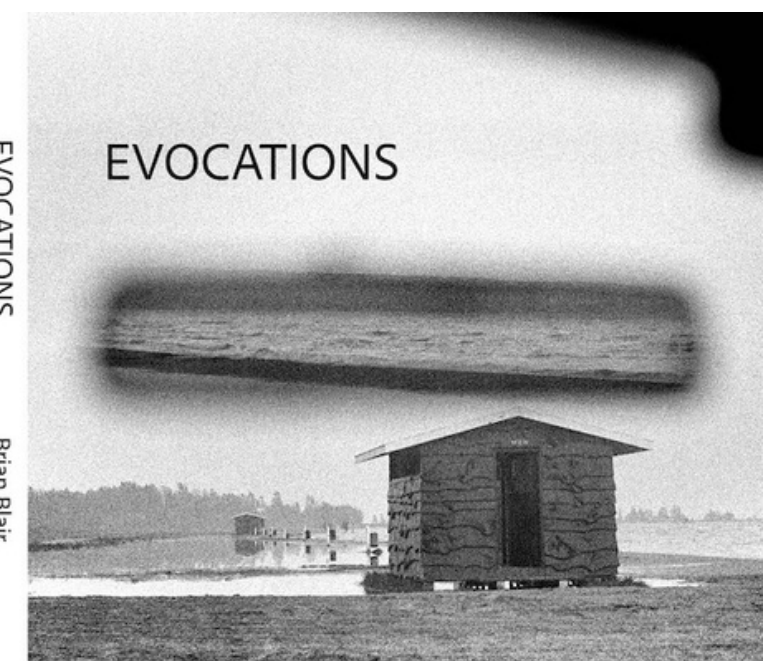
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The background of the entire image is a reproduction of the famous painting 'Guernica' by Pablo Picasso. The painting depicts the horrors of the bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War. It features a chaotic and fragmented composition with various figures in pain, including a bull on the left, a woman with a dead child in the center, and a figure with a glowing lightbulb head on the right. The color palette is primarily black, white, and grey, with some muted colors like blue and red.

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