

WESTWOOD CREATIVE ARTISTS

LONDON
CATALOGUE

SPRING 2020



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Westwood Creative Artists

LONDON CATALOGUE Spring 2020

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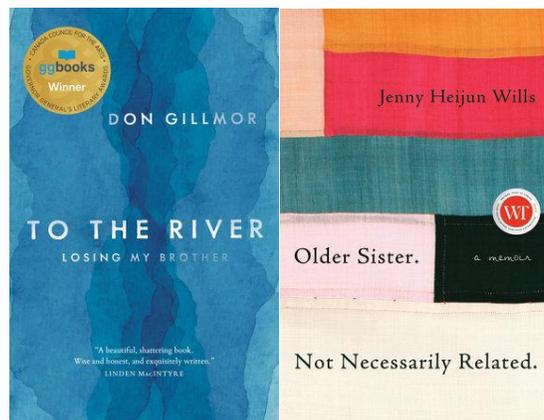
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March 2020

Welcome to Westwood Creative Artists' Spring 2020 catalogue! We're looking forward to another year of bringing exceptional writers and their works to an international audience. We are proud to share some exciting highlights, outstanding accomplishments, and pressing news from our authors from the past few months.

Rahaf Mohammed's *Rebel*, both a searing escape memoir and a dramatic exposé of the cruel treatment of women and girls in Saudi Arabia, has taken the publishing world by storm. After a fierce competition for Canadian rights, won by Iris Tupholme at HarperCollins, Mohammed's book was enthusiastically acquired in the U.S. by Helen Atsma at HarperCollins / Ecco, in the U.K. by Grace Pengelly and David Roth-Ey at William Collins / HarperCollins, and in Australia by Ingrid Ohlsson at Pan Macmillan. Sales swiftly followed in Denmark, Finland, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Sweden (see page 20) with frequent pre-empts and auctions. Rights continue to sell quickly. Mohammed's fearless memoir promises to change the lives of oppressed women and girls everywhere, and we have been impressed by the passion and determination of those wishing to help tell this important story.



Congratulations to **Don Gillmor** and **Jenny Heijun Wills** on their recent awards! Gillmor's haunting memoir *To the River: Losing My Brother* has won the Governor General's Award for Non-fiction, one of Canada's oldest and most prestigious prizes, for which the winner receives \$25,000. The jury stated: "In clear, crisp prose, Gillmor has written a book that is searingly honest and heartbreakingly sad." This achievement follows recent rights sales for the Chinese (Beijing Xinchang Cultural Media Co.) and Korean (Book 21) editions. Wills has won the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Non-fiction, a \$60,000 award, for her debut book *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related.* Over a series of powerful vignettes, Wills chronicles the rocky, emotional reunion with her birth family in Korea after being raised by a white family in Canada. The jury described the memoir as "finely observed, meticulous and candid." All five of the shortlisted writers were women, including another agency client, **Tanya Talaga**, author of *Seven Fallen Feathers*.

Nobody Ever Talks About Anything But the End (page 30), **Liz Levine's** unconventional and inventive account of mental illness and grief, has been universally acclaimed since its publication in late January. She brought her razor-sharp wit to numerous television and radio interviews, and her book has graced the must-read lists of the *Toronto Star*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *Quill and Quire*. *Kirkus* called it "a moving meditation on loss... an affecting debut memoir," *The Globe and Mail* proclaimed it "haunting and filled with dark humour," and the *Toronto Star* said, "[I]t will ring devastatingly true to anyone who has ever experienced loss, anyone who has never been able to put into words the complexities and contradictions of their feelings... [A] balm, a palliative for the darkest times of life, and of the year."

It was a busy fall for **Jay Ingram**, who launched the fourth book in his internationally successful *The Science of Why* series at the end of November, following a tour in China to promote the first three books in the series for Beijing Green Beans Books. So far, rights to the series have been sold in the following languages: Chinese (Beijing Green Beans Books), German (Plassen / Borsenbuch Verlag), Italian (Dedalo), Romanian (Editora Niculescu), Taiwanese (Business Weekly Publications), and Turkish (Dogan Kitap).

The authorized biography of NHL coach Scotty Bowman, *Scotty: A Hockey Life Like No Other*, by **Ken Dryden** hit shelves in October and was immediately launched onto the bestseller lists. It was on *The Globe & Mail* bestseller list for twelve consecutive weeks (and spent four of those weeks at #1!) and spent nine weeks on the *Toronto Star* list. Of *Scotty*, Mitch Melnick of TSN said: “It’s possible [Dryden]’s an even better writer than he was a goaltender.”

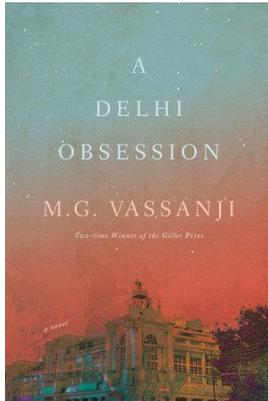


Kathryn Nicolai’s *Nothing Much Happens* shows no signs of slowing down on the international scene, following an incredible run at the Frankfurt Book Fair and rights sales in 28 territories. We’re extremely excited to have illustrator Léa Le Pivert on board, and we eagerly await the joint Australian, U.S., and Canadian publication in October 2020, followed by U.K. a month later. A full list of rights sold can be found on page 24. If you just can’t wait until October, you can listen to the “Nothing Much Happens” podcast, which was downloaded 11.5 million times last year.



The award-winning, critically acclaimed stage adaptation of **Yann Martel**’s *Life of Pi* is headed to the West End! Lolita Chakrabarti’s adaptation will begin performances at the specially remodeled Wyndham’s Theatre on June 22, 2020 and will play until October 4, 2020. *The Telegraph* describes it as a “worthy successor to *War Horse*,” while *The Times* says, “Long after the curtain falls, *Life of Pi* will make you believe in the power of theatre.” The production features inventive direction by Max Webster, life-size puppets designed by Nick Barnes, and Finn Caldwell representing the tiger. Previous

performances at Sheffield Theatres in Summer 2019 were highly successful, earning plenty of five-star reviews and standing ovations.



A Delhi Obsession, by two-time Giller winner **M.G. Vassanji**, received a slew of rave reviews shortly following its publication in the Fall. *The Globe and Mail* said Vassanji “does a fine job playing off the complex religious and cultural ironies of Munir and Mohini’s situations.” *Quill and Quire* stated, “*A Delhi Obsession* is worthwhile for its examination of marriage and love, what holds a family together, and the impact of history on a couple from seemingly different worlds.” *The Hindu* called *A Delhi Obsession* “an appealing, affecting portrayal of a people who have laid down their arms already, and are dressing up in all their finery to die; reminding us, infuriatingly, of all the reasons they had to live.”

Ian Hamilton’s latest instalment, titled *Foresight*, in his Uncle series of books has been hitting the national bestseller lists, including the *Toronto Star*, *The Globe & Mail*, and *Vancouver Sun* lists. *Foresight* continues the Ava Lee spinoff series, which features Uncle Chow Tung as he leads the Triad gang in Shenzhen. The series is being adapted for television.

In more film news, Shaftesbury, the award-winning production company behind the global hit TV series *Murdoch Mysteries*, is partnering with leading U.K. producer Company Pictures (*Shameless*, *Skins*, *Elizabeth I*) to option Canadian author **Steve Burrows**’ book series *Birder Murder Mysteries*. The international partnership, which will bring together a roster of both Canadian and U.K. screenwriters, is the first joint venture for the two production companies.

The pages that follow comprise our current title list for the London Book Fair, 2020. We welcome inquiries to our International Rights Director, Meg Wheeler (meg@wcaltd.com), and invite you to visit our website at www.wcaltd.com. We thank you for your ongoing interest in our writers and we wish you every success for the upcoming publishing year.

RECENT SALES

FICTION

Anar Ali, *Night of Power*, Germany: CulturBooks Verlag (sale by Viking / Penguin Random House Canada)

Barbara Gowdy, *The White Bone* and *The Romantic*, Italy: Edizioni E/O

Thomas King, *Cold Skies*, Germany: Piper; *DreadfulWater*, France: Liana Levi

Annabel Lyon, *Consent*, U.S.: Knopf / Penguin Random House

Roy and Kerry MacGregor, Ice Chips series Books 6-8, World English: HarperCollins Canada

Kevin Major, *Two For The Tablelands*, World: Breakwater Books

Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*, Audio (Bulgaria): StoryTel; Catalan: Columna (extension)

Rohinton Mistry, *Such a Long Journey*, Macedonia: Artkonekt Publishing; *A Fine Balance*, Germany: S. Fischer Verlag (extension)

Jack Mitchell, *Star Wars: The Epic Poem*, World: Abrams Books

Damhnait Monaghan, *New Girl in Little Cove*, North American English: HarperCollins Canada

Kathryn Nicolai, *Nothing Much Happens*, Bulgaria: Bard Publishers; Czech Republic: Euromedia; Estonia: Helios; Germany: Wunderraum / Goldmann; France: Michel Lafon; Italy: Mondadori Libri SPA; Japan: Kanki Publishing Inc.; Portugal: Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial; Russia: Exmo; Serbia: Vulkan Publishing; Slovakia: Noxi; Slovenia: Mladinska Knjiga Založba d.d.; Taiwan: Yuan-Liou Publishing Co. Ltd.; Turkey: The Kitap; Ukraine: Kraina Mriy

Rachel Rose, *The Octopus Has Three Hearts*, North American English: Douglas & McIntyre

Jordan Scott, *I Talk Like a River*, France: Editions Didier; North American French: Comme des Géants; U.K.: Walker Books (sales by Neal Porter Books / Holiday House)

Shyam Selvadurai, *Mansions of the Moon*, Canadian English: Knopf / Penguin Random House

Josef Skvorecky, *The Cowards*, Bulgaria: Paradox Act Ltd.; *The Swell Season*, Bulgaria: Todorka Mineva

RECENT SALES

NON-FICTION

Romain Avril and Richelle Tablang, *The Vegan Bridge*, World: Whitecap Books

Owen Beattie and John Geiger, *Frozen in Time*, Russia: Paulsen (extension)

Julie Chadwick, *The Man Who Carried Cash*, Audio (World English): Tantor (sale by Dundurn Press)

Bill Cosgrave, *Love Her Madly*, Russia: AST

Jay Ingram, *The Science of Why 4*, China: Beijing Green Beans Book Co. Ltd.

Bruce Kirkby, *Blue Sky Kingdom*, World English excluding Canada: Pegasus Books

Simu Liu, *We Were Dreamers*, U.S.: William Morrow / HarperCollins (co-agented with CAA)

Bob McDonald, *An Earthling's Guide to Outer Space*, China: Beijing ERC Media / Chemical Industry Press

Rahaf Mohammed, *Rebel: A Memoir*, Australia & New Zealand: Pan Macmillan; Canadian English: HarperCollins; Denmark: People's Press; Finland: Otava; Italy: Rizzoli; Poland: Sonia Draga; Romania: Polirom; Sweden: Ester Bonnier / Forum; U.K. & Commonwealth excluding Canada & ANZ: William Collins / HarperCollins; U.S.: Ecco / HarperCollins

Peter Nowak, *Sex, Bombs and Burgers*, Korea: Munhakdongne Publishing Co., Ltd. (extension)

Michael Posner, *Leonard Cohen, the Untold Stories: The Early Years, Volume 1*, World English: Simon & Schuster Canada

Sarah Quigley, *The Divorce Diaries*, China: Pan Press Ltd.

Gary J. Smith, *Canada's Hockey Diplomat*, Audio (World): Recorded Books; World English: Douglas & McIntyre

Margaret Visser, *The Rituals of Dinner*, Italy: Slow Food Editore

Richard Wagamese, *Untitled Non-fiction*, World: Douglas & McIntyre

FICTION

Caroline Adderson

A RUSSIAN SISTER

“Caroline Adderson treats the domestic drama with elegance and wit, and what she has to say about her characters and their circumstances is often profound – not to mention surprisingly funny, too.”

– Meg Wolitzer, on *Sitting Practice*

In this witty and colorfully-peopled novel, Caroline Adderson effortlessly plunges the reader into a nineteenth century Russian tragi-comedy. Aspiring painter Masha C. is blindly devoted to Antosha, her famous writer-brother. Through the years Antosha takes up with numerous women from Masha’s circle of friends, yet none of these relationships threaten the siblings’ close ties until the winter he falls into a depression. Then Masha invites into their Moscow home a young woman who teaches with her – the beautiful, vivacious, and deeply vulnerable Lika Mizanova – with the express hope she might help Antosha recover.

The appearance of Lika sets off a convolution of unrequited love, jealousy, and scandal that lasts for seven years. If the famously unattainable writer has lost his heart to Lika as everyone claims, why does he undertake a life-threatening voyage to Sakhalin Island? And what will happen to Masha if she is demoted from “woman of the house” to “spinster sister”? While Antosha and Lika push and pull, Masha falls in love herself – with a man and with a mongoose – only to have her dreams twice crushed. From her own heartbreak she comes to recognize the harm that she has done to her friends by encouraging their involvement with Antosha. Too late for Lika. She prepares both to sacrifice herself for love and to be immortalized as the model for Nina in Chekhov’s *The Seagull*.

A Russian Sister offers a clever commentary on the role of women as prey for male needs and male inspiration, a role they continue to play in our century. At the same time the novel is a plea for sisterhood, both familial and friendly. Chekhov’s *The Seagull* changed the theater. *A Russian Sister* gives the reader a glimpse behind the curtain to the fascinating real-life people who inspired it and the tragedy that followed its premiere.

CAROLINE ADDERSON is the author of four novels (*A History of Forgetting*, *Sitting Practice*, *The Sky Is Falling*, and *Ellen in Pieces*), two collections of short stories (*Bad Imaginings*, *Pleased To Meet You*) as well as many books for young readers. Published in eleven countries, her work has received numerous award nominations including the Sunday Times EFG Private Bank Short Story Award, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, two Commonwealth Writers’ Prizes, the Governor General’s Literary Award, the Rogers’ Trust Fiction Prize, and the Scotiabank Giller Prize longlist. Winner of three B.C. Book Prizes and three CBC Literary Awards, Adderson was also the recipient of the Marian Engel Award for mid-career achievement. She is Program Director for the Writing Studio at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

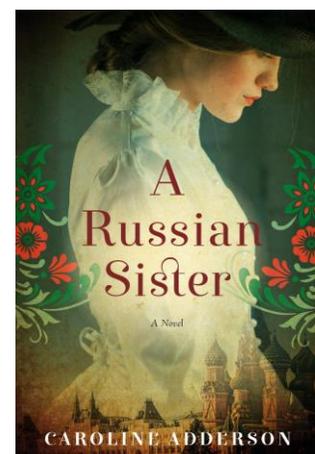
RIGHTS SOLD:

Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (publication August 2020)

AUTHOR’S WEBSITE: www.carolineadderson.com

STATUS: Manuscript available

AGENT: Jackie Kaiser



Glenn Dixon

BOOTLEG STARDUST

“A well-crafted, visually descriptive, aptly researched memoir about love and loss. [A] light and easy read.”

– Toronto Star, on *Juliet’s Answer*

In the tradition of Daisy Jones and the Six, an electrifying debut novel about rock ‘n’ roll stardom.

It’s 1974, the summer of Ziggy Stardust and Pink Floyd, of Joni Mitchell and Freddie Mercury; and twenty-year-old Levi Jaxon, from nowhere, wants to be famous.

He gets an unexpected break when he auditions for the band Downtown Exit at Abbey Road Studios. A talented guitar player and songwriter, Levi doesn’t quite land the role he expects; instead, he’ll be playing offstage to cover for Pete, a bandmate who drops so much acid that he can no longer perform live. When Pete’s habits lead to his death, Levi, by default, takes his place. This does not go down well with Downtown Exit’s star, Frankie Novak, who sees Levi as a threat both musically and romantically, as they compete for the attentions of their photographer, Ariadne.

When they embark on a European tour, Levi thinks his dreams have come true and that he’s finally overcome his troubled childhood in foster care. He doesn’t realize – because of his carefully hidden dyslexia – that he’s signed away the rights to his songs. The band’s new album is overdue and the record company is demanding a hit or their money back.

Bootleg Stardust is a coming-of-age story resplendent with bell bottoms and a catchy beat. It captures the heady triumph of performing, the insecurities of the artistic temperament, and the cutthroat realities of the music industry, underpinned by a universal desire for love and fulfilment. And it all comes to a crashing finale with the infamous Rolling Stones Mobile Unit at a villa in the south of France.

GLENN DIXON’s memoir *Juliet’s Answer* was a #1 national bestseller that was published in eleven countries and was one of *The Globe and Mail’s* Best Books of the Year. His gritty rock and roll band, the Barrel Dogs, wrote and recorded songs for this novel, on the very real Rolling Stones Mobile Unit as well as at sessions in Abbey Road Studios.

RIGHTS SOLD:

North American English including audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (publication Spring 2021)

AUTHOR’S WEBSITE: www.glenndixon.ca

STATUS: Manuscript available April 2020

AGENT: Hilary McMahan



Zsuzsi Gartner

THE BEGUILING

“Gartner’s inventive wit is reminiscent of that of George Saunders... Saturated with pop-culture references and intellectually hilarious.”

-- Booklist, on *Better Living Through Plastic Explosives*

“Ms. Gartner’s strengths: biting social commentary, highbrow wit, and delicious plot lines.”

-- *New York Journal of Books*, on *Better Living Through Plastic Explosives*

For fans of Ottessa Moshfegh’s My Year of Rest and Relaxation: An electrifying debut in which a lapsed Catholic’s adolescent pretensions to sainthood are unexpectedly revived when a tsunami of needy confessants finds in her a willing listener.

It all starts when Lucy’s cousin Zoltan, in a hospital following a bizarre accident at a party, offers her a disturbing deathbed confession. As Lucy’s grief takes an unusual turn and strangers begin to unburden themselves to her, Lucy is transformed into a self-described “flesh and blood Wailing Wall.” Then she becomes addicted to the dark stories and finds herself seeking them out.

As the confessions pile up, Lucy begins to wonder if Zoltan’s death was as random and unscripted as it appeared. She clutches at alarming synchronicities and seeks meaning in the stories of strangers. Why do the increasingly bizarre confessions seem connected to one another or eerily echo elements of her own life? Could it be because Lucy has her own transgressions to acknowledge? And then there is that stubbornly resurfacing past, like a tell-tale ribbon of hair snagged on a fish hook.

With ruthless wit and dizzying energy, *The Beguiling* explores blessings and curses, sainthood and sin, mortality, and guilt in all its guises. Weaving together tales of errant mothers, vengeful plants, canine wisdom, and murder, it lays bare the flesh and blood sacrifices people are willing to make to get what they think they desire.

ZSUZSI GARTNER is the Scotiabank Giller Prize shortlisted author of two widely acclaimed story collections, *Better Living Through Plastic Explosives* and *All the Anxious Girls on Earth*. The inaugural Frank O’Connor International Short Story Fellow for Cork, Ireland in 2016, her fiction has been widely anthologized, broadcast on CBC Radio and NPR, and has won numerous prizes including a 2016 National Magazine Award. She is also the editor of the award-winning fiction anthology *Darwin’s Bastards: Astounding Tales from Tomorrow*. Gartner has been on the faculty of the University of British Columbia’s Creative Writing M.F.A. program and many of the Banff Centre’s writing programs, and is the founder and director of Writers Adventure Camp in Whistler, British Columbia. Excerpts from *The Beguiling*, her debut novel, have appeared in *The Walrus*, *SubTerrain*, and *Maisonneuve*. She lives in Vancouver.



RIGHTS SOLD:

North American English including audio: Hamish Hamilton / Penguin
Random House Canada (publication Fall 2020)

AUTHOR’S WEBSITE: www.zsuzsigartner.com

STATUS: Manuscript available Spring 2020

AGENT: Jackie Kaiser

Frances Itani

THE COMPANY WE KEEP

“Itani writes with a quiet grace, an acute attention to detail and a keen, empathic awareness of things not said, of secrets and hidden emotional truths.”

– *Toronto Star*, on *That’s My Baby*

“Every word feels simple, right, and natural... Itani’s choice of details expertly builds our understanding of her characters’ times, foibles and moral choices, and she connects them in a hugely satisfying ending. *Tell* is a treasure: serious with humorous moments, potent and controlled, subtle yet deeply moving.”

– *Scotiabank Giller Prize Jury Citation*, on *Tell*

“Carefully observed and beautifully described.”

– *The New York Times*, on *Remembering the Bones*

Six strangers in need of solace come back to life when they join a ‘Company of Good Cheer.’

Hazzley is at loose ends, even three years after the death of her husband. When her longtime friend, Cassandra, café owner and occasional dance-class partner, suggests that she start up a conversation group, Hazzley posts a notice on the community board at the local grocery store. Four people turn up for the first meeting: Gwen, a recently widowed retiree in her early 60s, who finds herself pet-sitting for a cantankerous parrot; Chiyo, a 40-year-old fitness instructor who cared for her unyielding but gossip-loving mother through the final days of her life; Addie, a woman pre-emptively grieving a close friend who is seriously ill; and Tom, antiques dealer and amateur poet who, having been deprived of home baking since becoming a widower, comes to the first meeting hoping cake will be served. Before long, they are joined by Allam, a Syrian refugee with his own story to tell.

These six strangers are learning that beginnings might be possible at any stage of life. But as they tell their stories, they must navigate what is shared and what is withheld. What version of the truth will be told? Who is prepared to step up when help is needed? Acclaimed author Frances Itani’s moving, funny, and deeply empathic new novel reminds us that life, with all its twists and turns, never loses its capacity to surprise.

FRANCES ITANI’s novels include *That’s My Baby*; *Tell*, shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize; *Requiem*, chosen by *The Washington Post* as one of the top fiction titles of 2012; *Remembering the Bones*, published internationally and shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize; and the #1 bestseller *Deafening*, which won a Commonwealth Writers’ Prize, was shortlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, was selected for CBC’s Canada Reads, and was published in seventeen territories. Itani lives in Ottawa.

RIGHTS SOLD:

North American English including audio: HarperCollins Canada (publication Fall 2020)

STATUS: Manuscript available

AGENT: Jackie Kaiser



Thomas King

INDIANS ON VACATION

“An unerring knack for converting social, racial, and economic conflict into blissful farce.”
– *Kirkus* (starred), on *Red Power Murders*

“A master craftsman at work.”
– *The Globe and Mail*, on *A Short History of Indians in Canada*

“A haunting narrative of life, death and the destruction of nature, [saturated] with King’s often absurdist wit, walking a fine line between humor and heartbreak... an intimate story of grief in the face of loved ones lost and a searing criticism of current apathy.”
– *Publishers Weekly*, on *The Back of the Turtle*

From one of Canada’s most beloved and celebrated writers, a funny and heartbreaking story about one couple’s love-hate relationship with travel, their search for an Indigenous family inheritance, and the demons that haunt us all.

Mimi and Bird are the ultimate odd couple: She loves to travel; he would rather stay home. She is playful and adventurous; he is suffering from ill health and plagued by demons. And while he would rather pretend the demons don’t exist, Mimi has named them for him: There’s Eugene, otherwise known as Self-Loathing; Kitty, aka Cat, for Catastrophizing; Didi and Desi, for Depression and Despair; and finally, Chip, “for that big you-know-what on your shoulder.”

Inspired by a handful of old postcards sent by a relative nearly a hundred years ago, Mimi has convinced Bird to travel to Europe. Her Uncle Leroy disappeared with the family medicine bundle more than a century ago; they are following the clues in his postcards as they search for the missing bundle of family mementoes.

Masterfully written and every bit as charming and sly as it is poignant and humane, *Indians on Vacation* is a fictional journey to Prague that entertains even as it unveils a complicated history, both personal and political.

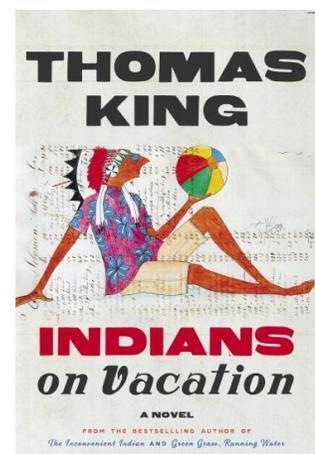
THOMAS KING is an award-winning novelist, short story writer, scriptwriter, and photographer. His critically acclaimed, bestselling fiction includes *Medicine River*; *Green Grass, Running Water*; *One Good Story, That One*; *Truth and Bright Water*; *A Short History of Indians in Canada*; *The Back of the Turtle* (winner of the Governor General’s Literary Award for Fiction); *The Inconvenient Indian* (winner of the RBC Taylor Prize); the *Dreadful Water* mystery series, most recently *Obsidian*; and poetry collection *77 Fragments of a Familiar Ruin*. A Member of the Order of Canada and the recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award, King lives in Guelph, Ontario.

RIGHTS SOLD:

Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (publication September 2020)

STATUS: Manuscript available

AGENT: Jackie Kaiser



Annabel Lyon

CONSENT

“Annabel Lyon’s fiction has an extraordinary compressed force. Her writing is taut and precise, yet charged with emotion and meaning. It’s hard-headed and hard-edged, but also wonderfully visceral. Lyon makes a high art of the understatement.”

– Writers’ Trust Engel / Findley Award Jury Citation

*From the prize-winning author of **The Golden Mean**, a smart, mysterious, and heartbreaking novel centered on two sets of sisters whose lives are braided together when tragedy changes them forever.*

Saskia and Jenny are twins who are alike only in appearance. Saskia is a hard-working grad student whose interests are solely academic, while Jenny, an interior designer, is glamorous, thrill-seeking, capricious, and narcissistic. Still, when Jenny is severely injured in an accident, Saskia puts her life on hold to be with her sister.

Sara and Mattie are sisters with a difficult relationship. Mattie, the younger sister, is affectionate, curious, and intellectually disabled. As soon as Sara is able, she leaves home in pursuit of a life of the mind and the body: she loves nothing more than fine wines, sensual perfumes, and expensive clothing. But when their mother dies, Sara inherits the duty of caring for her sister. Arriving at the house one day, she finds out that Mattie has married Robert, her wealthy mother’s handyman. Though Mattie seems happy, Sara cannot let this go, forcing the annulment of the marriage and the banishment of Robert. With him out of the picture, though, she has no choice but to become her sister’s keeper, sacrificing her own happiness and Mattie’s too.

When Robert turns up again, a second tragedy occurs. The waves from these dual tragedies eventually engulf Sara and Saskia, whose paths cross first as sisters in mourning, and then in a quest for revenge.

Consent is a startling, moving, thought-provoking novel on the complexities of familial duty and on how love can become entangled with guilt, resentment, and regret.

ANNABEL LYON is the author of the novel *The Golden Mean*, a bestseller in Canada that won the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize, was shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Governor-General’s Literary Award, and has been translated into fourteen languages. She is also the author of a story collection, *Oxygen*; a book of novellas, *The Best Thing for You*; and two juvenile novels, *All-Season Edie* and *Encore Edie*. She teaches Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia.

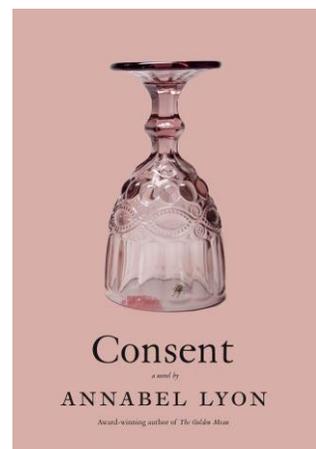
RIGHTS SOLD:

Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (publication Fall 2020)

U.S. including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (publication Spring 2021)

STATUS: Manuscript available

AGENT: Jackie Kaiser



Damhnait Monaghan

NEW GIRL IN LITTLE COVE

Maeve Binchy meets the smash hit musical ‘Come From Away’ in a comic, heartfelt novel about finding your place in the world.

After school teacher Brigid Roche scandalizes the fishing village of Little Cove, Newfoundland by running off with a priest, the school looks to the mainland to fill the job. They want someone who can uphold their Catholic values and keep a motley group of largely unwilling students in line.

The position is filled by Rachel O’Brien, a young woman desperate for a fresh start after a failed relationship and the death of her father. She isn’t surprised that her students don’t see the value of learning French. But she is surprised that she can barely understand their English, which is thickly accented and full of unfamiliar (to her) expressions. Is it a compliment or insult if she is called a ‘sleeveen’? (Insult.) The anonymous notes telling her to go home certainly don’t make her feel welcome.

Still, she is quickly drawn into the island’s traditional music and culture, and the lives of her students and fellow teacher Doug Bishop. But when her beliefs clash with church and community, she makes a decision that throws her career into jeopardy. In trying to help a student, has she gone too far? She will depend on the intervention of the ‘Holy Dusters,’ the local women who hook rugs and clean the church, for her salvation.

New Girl in Little Cove tells the story of a woman who tries to escape, only to find that sorrow is universal and strangers can sometimes comfort better than friends. An energetic debut, this is a charming, satisfying romantic comedy.

DAMHNAIT MONAGHAN was once a mainlander who taught in a small fishing village in Newfoundland, although she now lives in the U.K. A former teacher and lawyer, Monaghan has almost 60 publication credits, including flash fiction, creative non-fiction, and short stories. Her short prose has won or placed in various writing competitions and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, Best Small Fictions, and Best Microfictions. *New Girl in Little Cove* placed in the top six from more than 350 entries in the 2019 International Caledonia Novel Award.

RIGHTS SOLD:

North American English including audio: HarperCollins Canada (publication Spring 2021)

AUTHOR’S WEBSITE: www.damhnaitmonaghan.com

STATUS: Manuscript available

AGENT: Hilary McMahon



NON-FICTION

Stephen Bown

**THE COMPANY
THE RISE AND FALL OF THE HUDSON'S BAY EMPIRE**

“[A] white-knuckle tale of ambition, ingenuity, and the raw fight for survival. Bown has a stellar track record of chronicling the larger-than-life tales of explorers... An amazing story, both in its intimate details of day-to-day adventure and survival and its large-scale political and scientific implications.”

– *Calgary Herald*, on *Island of the Blue Foxes*

An extraordinary tale spanning two centuries, full of harrowing exploration and political maneuvering.

The Hudson's Bay Company is one of the great enterprises that transformed North America. The Company's genesis, in 1670, was as a small business with bases along western Hudson Bay, trading practical manufactured goods for furs with the Indigenous inhabitants of what is now inland sub-arctic Canada. But it expanded into a powerful political force that ruled the lives of many thousands of people – from the lowlands south and west of Hudson Bay, to the tundra, the great plains, the Rocky Mountains, and the misty cedar forests of the Pacific Northwest. It transformed the culture and economy of most of the powerful Indigenous groups from Montreal to the Columbia River on the Pacific, and ended up as the most important political and economic force in northern and western North America (including the U.S. states of North Dakota, Minnesota, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon). No other corporation exerted control over more of the earth's land area than the Company.

Fur was the primary economic driver for this territorial exploration and political and cultural division of North America. But the story isn't merely one of corporate wealth accumulation. It also encompasses the incredible personal adventures of dozens of the most famous travelers and explorers and also tells the dramatic story of the French traders from Montreal who grappled for supremacy with the British Company over the generations and across the continent. Enthusiastically commissioned by Doubleday Canada, *The Company* explores perhaps the most important story in the history of Canada. But it's also a big British, French, and North American story; indeed, an epic of world history.

STEPHEN BOWN has written ten books on the history of science, exploration, and ideas. They have been published in multiple English-speaking territories, translated into nine languages, and shortlisted for many awards. Bown has won the B.C. Book Prize, the Alberta Book Award, the William Mills Prize for Polar Books, and his most recent book, *Island of the Blue Foxes*, was shortlisted for the RBC Taylor Prize. He has a longstanding interest in the fur trade and has embarked on several wilderness journeys retracing the overland mountain treks of George Simpson and David Thompson. He lives near Banff, Alberta in the Canadian Rockies.

RIGHTS SOLD:

Canadian English including audio: Doubleday / Penguin Random House
(publication Fall 2020)

AUTHOR'S WEBSITE: www.stephenbown.net

STATUS: Manuscript available

AGENTS: John Pearce and Chris Casuccio



Allan Levine

**DETAILS ARE UNPRINTABLE
WAYNE LONERGAN AND THE SENSATIONAL CAFE SOCIETY MURDER**

**“Levine’s research is comprehensive, his style absorbing, and his love of his subject a tonic.”
– Sir Martin Gilbert, on *Coming of Age***

Patricia Burton Lonergan was a 22-year-old wealthy New York City socialite when she was found murdered in the bedroom of her Beekman Hill apartment. Charged with her death, and tried and convicted, was her husband of two years, Wayne Lonergan.

Details Are Unprintable is a suspenseful true crime account that builds from the moment Patricia’s body is discovered, in October 1943, to the arrest and conviction of Lonergan in April 1944. The case focused on the tantalizing rumor that Lonergan, a 26-year-old cadet and playboy, was a “homosexual” or “bi-sexual” – as the press labelled him – who killed his wife in a fit of rage when she removed him from her will and threatened to forbid him from seeing their infant son.

Part fast-paced drama and part social history, this is a chronicle of Lonergan in denial living in an intolerant and morally superior heterosexual world, contrasted with Patricia, rich and entitled, a seeker of attention, who loved a night out on the town. *Details Are Unprintable* transports readers to the New York World’s Fair of 1939 where Patricia’s father first encountered Lonergan, the glittering 21 Club where Patricia enjoyed champagne cocktails, the Broadway strip where gay men were entrapped by undercover police operatives, and the muggy New York courtroom where Lonergan’s fate was decided.

What truly happened on that tragic night? Should we accept Lonergan’s confession at face value as the jury did? Or was he indeed a victim of physical and mental abuse by the state prosecutors and the police, as he maintained for the rest of his life?

With the intrigue, mystery, and perspective on the human condition of Michelle McNamara’s *I’ll Be Gone in the Dark* and the in-depth historical research of *Killers of the Flower Moon*, this book will appeal to our endless fascination with the sordid details – and sometimes the tragedies – that plague the rich.

ALLAN LEVINE has written fourteen books including *Seeking the Fabled City*, which was longlisted for the prestigious RBC Taylor Prize for Non-fiction, and *Coming of Age: A History of the Jewish People of Manitoba*, which won the McNally-Robinson Book of the Year and the Best History Book Award at the Canadian Jewish Book Awards, and was the co-winner of the J.I. Segal Prize in Canadian Jewish History. With a Ph.D. in History, Levine has spent his career bringing history to life and commenting on current events. He is also the author of five award-winning historical mysteries.

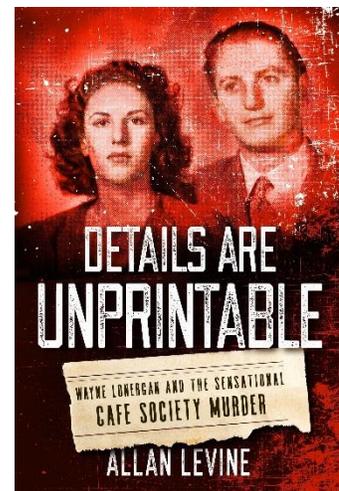
RIGHTS SOLD:

World English including audio: Lyons Press / Rowman & Littlefield
(publication August 2020)

AUTHOR’S WEBSITE: www.allanlevinebooks.com

STATUS: Manuscript available

AGENT: Hilary McMahon



Keith Maillard

FATHERLESS
A MEMOIR

“Marvelous and brutally honest.”

– **Marc Harshman, author of *Woman in Red Anorak***

“This memoir is an astonishing act of generosity and tenacity, exploring the profound flaws of one family’s dynamics and the resiliency of the human spirit.”

– **Eden Robinson, author of *Son of a Trickster***

“As Maillard dwells on the successes and failures of a lifetime, and the stories we tell ourselves to get by and stories we tell ourselves to justify our actions, he gives us a model of not only self-awareness and honesty but also, more importantly, healing.”

– **Alicia Elliott, author of *A Mind Spread Out on the Ground***

Keith Maillard never knew his father and heard just two stories from his mother: “‘He was a good dancer,’ was the first thing she said about him. ‘He was the cheapest man who ever lived,’ was the second. The first was the reason she’d married him, the second the reason she’d left him.”

Fatherless begins with a phone call out of the blue: a lawyer tells a writer that his 96-year-old father, with whom he has had no contact since the age of three and whom he has twice tried to find without success, has just died, leaving him nothing.

Half-reluctant, half-fascinated, both angry and curious, Maillard begins to research his father’s life. The result is a suspenseful work of historical reconstruction – a social history often reading like a detective story – as well as a psychologically acute portrait of the impact of a father’s absence.

Walking a tightrope between the known and the unknown, and following a trail that takes him from Vancouver to Montreal to his native Wheeling, West Virginia, Maillard has pulled off a book that only a novelist of his stature could write.

KEITH MAILLARD is the author of fourteen novels, most recently *Twin Studies*, the winner of the Alberta Book of the Year Award in Fiction. Born and raised in West Virginia, he has lived in Vancouver for most of his adult life. He has been a musician, photographer, and journalist, and has taught Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia since 1989.

RIGHTS SOLD:

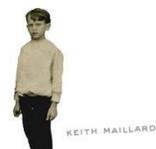
North American English: West Virginia University Press

AUTHOR’S WEBSITE: www.keithmaillard.com

STATUS: Books available

AGENT: John Pearce

FATHERLESS
A MEMOIR



Rahaf Mohammed

REBEL A MEMOIR

Rahaf Mohammed opened her Twitter account on January 6, 2019. Stripped of her passport, she had barricaded herself into her Bangkok hotel room as she awaited either freedom or forcible return to Saudi Arabia. If the latter, she was sure she would be killed; that is what has happened to rebel women in her country. Desperate, she reached out to the world, and the world answered. Online, she rallied approximately 45,000 followers that day. Last summer *Time* named her one of the 25 Most Influential People on the Internet.

Now, just over a year later and safely in Canada, Mohammed is ready to speak to the world. Her story, told in a fiercely original voice, promises to change the lives of women and girls who have known the same repression and abuse, and turn their hopelessness into hope.

We have long heard about activist women being jailed, fathers beating and raping daughters, religion run amok – in Saudi Arabia and in other countries; but now we have the words, anecdotes, and life experience of a young woman who grew up with the abuse, the brainwashing, the deceit. Saudi Arabia's repressive, outmoded control of its women is a tragedy and a scandal, not only for girls and women, but for men robbed of their humanity, and for a country robbed of the contribution women such as Mohammed could make. Along with the story of her daring escape, Mohammed will expose the inside story of Saudi women; share untold truths from the closed kingdom; and provide an eyewitness account of the brutal treatment of those who stand up and rebel.

Both a page-turner and a dramatic exposé, this book is a testament to the human spirit and the irrepressible desire for freedom.

RAHAF MOHAMMED is now nineteen years old. She lives in Canada. Her book *Rebel* is 'as told to' acclaimed author **SALLY ARMSTRONG**, author of *Ascent of Women*, *Power Shift*, and other books about the oppression of women and girls.

RIGHTS SOLD:

Australia & New Zealand including audio: Pan Macmillan

Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins

Denmark: People's Press

Finland: Otava

Italy: Rizzoli

Poland: Sonia Draga

Romania: Polirom

Sweden: Ester Bonnier / Forum

U.K. & Commonwealth excluding Canada & ANZ: William Collins /

HarperCollins

U.S. including audio: Ecco / HarperCollins

(publication Fall 2021, Australia & New Zealand, Canada, U.K., and U.S.)

STATUS: Outline and chapter available

AGENTS: John Pearce and Chris Casuccio



Michael Posner

**LEONARD COHEN
THE UNTOLD STORIES: THE EARLY YEARS, VOLUME 1**

“Posner, by carefully organizing the details of [Mordecai] Richler’s personal history, shows us how the work came out of the life.”

– *National Post*, on *The Last Honest Man*

“Warm, straightforward and candid... Posner has wisely dimmed his own stylistic light in order to let [Murray’s] voice come through. And it does, sometimes with low-key, self-deprecating humour and surprising honesty, and always with a lack of pretentiousness.”

– *The Globe and Mail*, on *All of Me*

Artist, poet, novelist, singer-songwriter, icon – there has never been a figure like Leonard Cohen. He was a truly international sensation, entertaining and inspiring the world with his art. From his groundbreaking and bestselling novels, *Beautiful Losers* and *The Favourite Game*, to timeless songs such as “Suzanne” and “Hallelujah,” Cohen is one of the world’s most cherished artists. His death in 2016 was felt around the world by the legion fans and fellow artists who would miss his warmth, humor, intellect, and piercing insights.

Leonard Cohen, the Untold Stories follows the great man as he travels the globe developing his style and enigmatic character. This is the story of his early years, from boyhood in Montreal, university, and his growing career into the 60s that took him to the world’s stage. It probes his public and private life, through the words of those who knew him best: his family and friends, colleagues and contemporaries, rivals, business partners, and his many lovers. From Montreal to Greece, London to Paris and New York, Cohen touched lives everywhere. It is also a snapshot of a golden era – the times that helped foster his talents and successes.

In this revealing and entertaining first of three planned volumes, bestselling author and biographer Michael Posner draws on dozens of interviews to present a uniquely true and compelling portrait of Cohen – as if we’re right there beside him, overhearing a private conversation in a New York café.

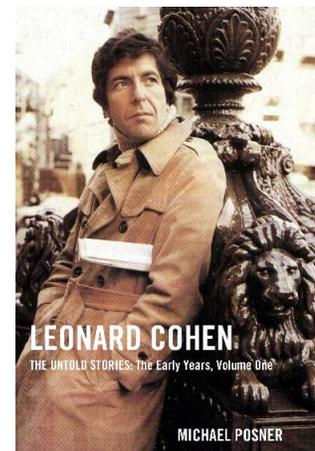
MICHAEL POSNER is the author of three previous non-fiction books, including Mordecai Richler’s biography *The Last Honest Man* and Anne Murray’s biography *All of Me*. He is a former arts reporter and feature writer for *The Globe and Mail*.

RIGHTS SOLD:

World English including audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (publication Fall 2020)

STATUS: Manuscript available April 2020

AGENT: Hilary McMahan



TITLES OF SPECIAL NOTE

Keith Ross Leckie

**CURSED!
BLOOD OF THE DONNELLYS**

“Mystery, physical action, epic journeys, complicated justice, clash of cultures... Leckie exploits these ingredients in tasty ways.”

– *The Globe and Mail*, on *Coppermine*

“At once a literary mystery, an adventure, and a meditation on justice. A tale of such beauty and intrigue.”

– **Joseph Boyden**, Scotiabank Giller Prize-winning author of *Three Day Road*, on *Coppermine*

A thrilling contemporary novel inspired by true events: the massacre of the Donnelly family.

In the midst of the feuds and famine of Tipperary, Ireland in 1846, Jim Donnelly and Johannah McGee fall passionately in love. She is the beautiful daughter of an affluent estate manager; he, the rebellious son of dispossessed peasants. With her father’s men in pursuit and a sizable price on Jim’s head, they board a ship set for Canada to start a new life and put the troubles of the old country behind them.

Thousands of miles away in rural Ontario, they find the feuds and vendettas of Ireland are very much alive. Jim must make a place for his young family not just with his back, but with his fists.

Fifteen years later, the Donnelly family has become one of the most powerful in Lucan Township, loved by some and hated by others. Jim and Johannah’s sons are notorious as both fighters and lovers and torment the townspeople, swinging shillelaghs, burning barns, and seducing daughters.

But certain citizens of Lucan have had enough. At midnight on February 3, 1880, a mob of 30 armed men in women’s clothing and carnival masks ride out for the Donnelly farm. Sustained by whiskey and the blessings of the local priest, their goal is to wipe the Donnelly family from the face of the earth. Yet there is an eye witness, and during the trial that follows it becomes clear that in small town Ontario of the late 1800s, order is valued above truth.

Eventful and conveyed with cinematic detail, *Cursed! Blood of the Donnellys* is an engaging and historically enlightening read.

KEITH ROSS LECKIE, author of *Coppermine*, has worked in the film and television business as a dramatic scriptwriter for more than 30 years. His credits include multiple movies and mini-series, including *Everest*, *Shattered City*, ‘*Milgaard*,’ *The Arrow*, and ‘*Lost in the Barrens*.’ He is currently working with Discovery and Bell Media to develop a dramatic series based on *Cursed!*

RIGHTS SOLD:

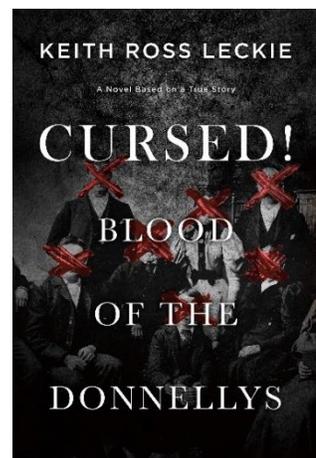
Film/TV: Discovery / Bell Media

World English: Douglas & McIntyre

AUTHOR’S WEBSITE: www.keithrossleckie.com

STATUS: Books available

AGENT: Bruce Westwood



Kathryn Nicolai

NOTHING MUCH HAPPENS

COZY AND CALMING STORIES TO SOOTH YOUR MIND AND HELP YOU SLEEP

Illustrated by Léa Le Pivert

The international sensation! A deceptively simple, brilliantly conceived, beautifully packaged bedtime book, perfect for gifting.

Developed out of Kathryn Nicolai’s wildly successful podcast of the same name – there have been ten million downloads to date, with fans in 70 countries around the world – *Nothing Much Happens* offers sleep-challenged book-lovers of all ages a suite of charming and soothing stories that take place in and around an unnamed small fictional city and expose small, sweet moments of joy. Each story invites us to identify with the unnamed, gender-neutral first-person narrators who recount their days: Closing up the book shop, opening the bakery, getting lost in the stacks of the library, and picking out the best of the end-of-summer tomatoes at the farmer’s market. The stories themselves are brief by design, taking only a few minutes to read and enjoy – just right for a tired brain at the end of the day. Beautiful interior illustrations by artist Léa Le Pivert evoke the memory and pleasure of a childhood story book.

KATHRYN NICOLAI writes soothing stories that both ease the reader into peaceful sleep and teach the principles of mindfulness so that waking hours likewise become sweet and serene. She leans on her fifteen years of experience as a yoga and meditation teacher to seamlessly blend storytelling with brain training techniques that build better sleep habits over time. She lives in Michigan.

RIGHTS SOLD:

Brazil: Sextante	Norway: Gyldendal Norsk Forlag
Bulgaria: Bard Publishers	Portugal: Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial
Catalonia: Diana / Planeta	Romania: Nemira
Czech Republic: Euromedia	Russia: Exmo
Denmark: Gyldendal & Rosinante	Serbia: Vulkan Publishing
Estonia: Helios	Slovakia: Noxi
Finland: Gummerus	Slovenia: Mladinska Knjiga Založba d.d.
France: Michel Lafon	Spain: Diana / Planeta
Germany: Wunderraum / Goldmann	Sweden: Albert Bonniers Forlag
Israel: Yediot Aharonot Books	Taiwan: Yuan-Liou Publishing Co., Ltd.
Italy: Mondadori Libri SPA	Turkey: The Kitap
Japan: Kanki Publishing Inc	U.K. & Commonwealth excluding
Netherlands: Luitingh-Sijthoff	Canada: Allen & Unwin
North American English including	Ukraine: Kraina Mriy
audio: Penguin / Penguin Random	
House U. S. & Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada	
(publication October 2020, ANZ, Canada, and U.S.)	
AUTHOR’S WEBSITE: www.nothingmuchhappens.com	
STATUS: Manuscript available April 2020	
AGENT: Jackie Kaiser	



Sara O’Leary

THE GHOST IN THE HOUSE

“Sara O’Leary’s *The Ghost in the House*, riven by ambiguities and dissolutions, is a story of both love and profound solitude. Piercing, disorienting and tender, Fay comes to us a wavering thread of memory, a candle flickering into the quiet.”

– Madeleine Thien, author of *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*

The life you grieve may turn out to be your own.

In the middle of her life, Fay wakes up on the top of her piano with a strong intuition that something is not right. To all appearances everything is perfect: she is married to a man she loves, they live in the house she dreamt of as a child, her life is full of possibility. Except – for reasons not immediately clear to Fay – she is now haunting her own once happy home.

Everything in the house that should be familiar appears suddenly altered. There is also a strange, wan girl roaming around and claiming that she has “brought Fay back.” But nothing compares to Fay’s shock at finding another woman living in her house and sleeping with her husband, Alec.

Somehow Alec has moved on and made a new life without Fay. The man who claimed he couldn’t live without her now finds himself in the unenviable position of sharing a house with two wives, one of whom harbors thoughts of revenge. As Fay begins to come to terms with the reality of her situation, she must confront all of the choices she has made, as well as those she hasn’t – and now never will.

This glimmering and darkly comedic novel explores both the domestic and the existential, delving into the heart of marriage and the meaning of a life. *The Ghost in the House* strips away all that seems less than essential, leaving behind a story that is raw and polished and as close to true as fiction can be.

SARA O’LEARY is the author of a dozen beloved, critically acclaimed books for children, including *A Family Is a Family Is a Family*, *This Is Sadie*, *Owls Are Good at Keeping Secrets*, and *When You Were Small*. A former literary columnist for the *Vancouver Sun* and CBC Radio, O’Leary has published two collections of short fiction, studied screenwriting at the University of British Columbia, and taught Creative Writing at Concordia University in Montreal. This is her first novel.

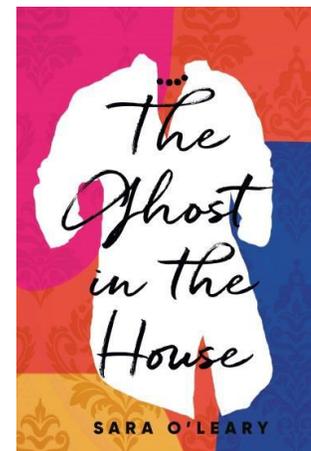
RIGHTS SOLD:

Canadian English including audio: Doubleday / Penguin Random House
(publication August 2020)

AUTHOR’S WEBSITE: www.123oleary.blogspot.ca

STATUS: Manuscript available

AGENT: Jackie Kaiser



Madhur Anand

THIS RED LINE GOES STRAIGHT TO YOUR HEART

“Distinctive... The different perspectives are truly poetic and at times heartbreaking. Playing with time is so difficult and I’m happy to say in *This Red Line* it soars.”

– Deepa Mehta, filmmaker

“In *This Red Line Goes Straight to Your Heart*, poet and scientist, Madhur Anand, applies scientific theories to her life story. Seeing whether they stand up or not becomes a brilliant stratagem for understanding the powers of luck, background, and character on any life. Anand illustrates the unknowability of love and other people and the futility of logic and science when it comes to the human heart. The result is a beautiful experiment that free falls through metaphors and anecdotes, and delivers us truths that are like rare butterflies.”

– Heather O’Neil, author of *The Lonely Hearts Hotel*

In 1947, a red line was drawn across the map of Punjab, creating India and Pakistan, and displacing millions through forced migration. The catastrophes that followed reverberated around the world and through generations.

Madhur Anand’s masterful memoir begins with her father’s story, pre-Partition. He’s a man off balance, the one in a thousand afflicted by polio and partially paralyzed as a result. On the opposite side of that red line is her mother, chanting Hey Rams for Gandhiji and choosing education over marriage.

In alternating voices, Anand recreates their migrations: fleeing from ancestral homes in 1947, facing adolescence at the foothills of the Himalaya post-Independence, finalizing an arranged marriage in Delhi in 1967 shortly after the Green Revolution takes hold, landing in Montreal during Expo67, and raising their children in mining towns, on Indigenous reservations, and in crowded city apartments.

Then we see the impact of that disruption in Anand’s own life, as everything about the human condition is revealed to be asymmetric, even the lines on palms from which destiny may be read. The poetry of memory is woven together with the science of embodied trauma, using the imagined voices of the past and the vital authority of the present. *This Red Line Goes Straight to Your Heart* defies form and convention (as Michael Ondaatje did in *Running in the Family*) to immerse the reader in the feeling of what remains when we’ve heard as much of the truth as our families will allow, and we’re left to search for ourselves among the pieces they’ve carried with them.

MADHUR ANAND’s internationally acclaimed collection *A New Index for Predicting Catastrophes* was a finalist for the Trillium Book Award and named one of ten all-time “trailblazing” poetry collections by CBC. She is an internationally recognized ecologist – with a Ph.D. in Theoretical Ecology – whose award-winning prose has been published in various magazines.

RIGHTS SOLD:

World English including audio: Strange Light / Penguin
Random House Canada (publication May 2020)

STATUS: Manuscript available

AGENT: Hilary McMahon



Tara Henley

LEAN OUT
A MEDITATION ON THE MADNESS OF MODERN LIFE

“Lean Out rang so true for me, and gave me the permission I needed to say no to two assignments that normally I would just say yes to – because I’m terrified of missing a single opportunity, of appearing ungrateful, and falling behind. Adrenaline can play a role in keeping us alive, but it’s no way to live. Beautifully written, brimming with insight and reassurance – I’m so grateful for this book.”

– Olivia Sudjic, author of *Exposure*

In 2016, current affairs journalist Tara Henley was at the top of her game, working at the heart of Canadian media. After almost two decades in the business, she had traveled the world, from Soweto to Bangkok and Borneo to Brooklyn, interviewing authors and community leaders, rappers and philanthropists, politicians and Hollywood celebrities. She had experienced the thrill of sitting down with Beyoncé. And of arguing with Kanye West. But when she started getting chest pains at her desk in the newsroom, none of that seemed to matter.

The health crisis – not cardiac, it turned out, but anxiety – forced her to step off the media treadmill and reexamine her life, waking up to the state of the 21st century work world around her. Henley was not alone; North America was facing an epidemic of lifestyle-related health problems. And yet, for inspiration, the culture was continually looking to the elite few who thrived in the always-on work world, those who perpetually “leaned in.” But for innovative solutions to the wave of burnout and stress-related illness, Henley realized, it was time to talk to those who’d been forced to go in a different direction. It was time to talk to those who’d “leaned out.” The outliers, the creatives, the rebels, and eccentrics. She decided to take a few years off to seek out strategies that would help her cope with the maelstrom of modern life. And hopefully help others do the same.

Part memoir, part travelogue, and part journalistic investigation, *Lean Out: A Meditation on the Madness of Modern Life* tracks Henley’s journey from the heart of the connected city to the fringe communities that surround it. From early retirement enthusiasts in urban British Columbia to a moneyless man in rural Ireland, Henley uncovers a parallel track, in which everyday citizens are quietly dropping out of the mainstream and reclaiming their lives from overwork in all kinds of weird and wonderful ways. Underlying these disparate movements is a rejection of consumerism, a growing appetite for social contribution, and a quest for meaningful, face-to-face contact in this era of extreme isolation and loneliness. Connecting the dots on anxiety and overwork leads Henley to confront the biggest issues of our time.

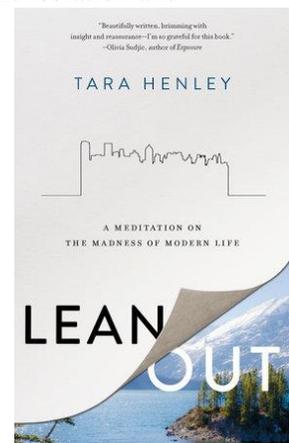
TARA HENLEY is a producer at CBC Radio and a books columnist for the *Toronto Star*. Her work has also appeared on CBC television, and in the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Walrus*, and *The Globe and Mail*. She lives in Toronto.

RIGHTS SOLD:

World English including audio: Appetite / Penguin Random House Canada
(publication March 24, 2020)

STATUS: Manuscript available

AGENTS: John Pearce and Chris Casuccio



Thomas Homer-Dixon

COMMANDING HOPE
THE POWER WE HAVE TO SAFEGUARD A WORLD IN PERIL

From Canada's #1 bestselling thought leader: Calling on history, cutting-edge research, complexity science, and even Lord of the Rings, Homer-Dixon lays out the tools we can command to rescue a world on the brink.

For three decades, the renowned author of *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization* and *The Ingenuity Gap: Can We Solve the Problems of the Future?* has examined the threats to our future security – predicting a deteriorating global environment, extreme economic stresses, mass migrations, social instability, and wide political violence if humankind continued on its current course. Homer-Dixon was called The Doom Meister, but we now see how prescient he was.

Today just about everything we've known and relied on (our natural environment, economy, societies, cultures, and institutions) is changing dramatically – too often for the worse. Without radical new approaches, our planet will become unrecognizable as well as poorer, more violent, more authoritarian.

In his fascinating, long-awaited new book (dedicated to his young children), he calls on his extraordinary knowledge of complexity science, of how societies work and can evolve, and our capacity to handle threats, to show that we can shift human civilization onto a decisively new path if we mobilize our minds, spirits, imaginations, and collective values.

Commanding Hope marshals a fascinating, accessible argument for reinvigorating our cognitive strengths and belief systems to effect urgent systemic change, strengthen our economies and cultures, and renew our hope in a positive future for everyone on Earth.

THOMAS HOMER-DIXON holds a University Research Chair at the University of Waterloo, where he is a professor in the Faculty of Environment. Between 2009 and 2014, he was founding director of the Waterloo Institute for Complexity and Innovation. Born in Victoria, British Columbia, he received his B.A. in Political Science from Carleton University and his Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in international relations, defense and arms control policy, and conflict theory. His books include *The Upside of Down* and *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence*. His writing has appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Scientific American*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, the *Financial Times*, and *The Globe and Mail*.

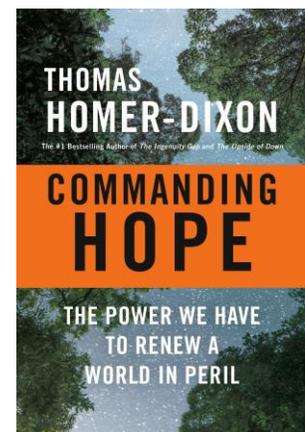
RIGHTS SOLD:

Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House
(publication Fall 2020)

STATUS: Manuscript available April 2020

AUTHOR'S WEBSITE: www.homerdixon.com

AGENT: Bruce Westwood



Bruce Kirkby

BLUE SKY KINGDOM
AN EPIC FAMILY JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF THE HIMALAYA

An expansive, mind-stretching book that sits comfortably alongside Peter Mathiessen's The Snow Leopard and Cheryl Strayed's Wild.

Adventure traveler Bruce Kirkby had fallen into a pattern of looking mindlessly at his phone for hours, flipping between emails and social media, ignoring his children and wife and everything alive in his world, when a thought struck him. This wasn't living; this wasn't him. This moment of clarity started a chain reaction that ended with a plan: he was going to take his wife and two young sons, jump on a freighter, and head for the Himalaya.

Blue Sky Kingdom focuses primarily on Kirkby's family's three months spent living amongst the Lamas of Zanskar Valley – a forgotten appendage of the ancient Tibetan empire, and one of the last places on earth where Himalayan Buddhism is still practiced freely in its original setting. The book explores themes of modern distraction, the loss of ancient wisdom, and Kirkby's personal coming to terms with his elder son's diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum. At its heart, this is an adventure story – a journey around the world, a trek over the high Himalaya, three months of rest and renewal – that involves plenty of complex relationships – with his wife and sons, with the playful Lama Wangyal who takes them in, and with the novice monks he and his wife teach.

BRUCE KIRKBY is a Canadian writer, photographer, and adventurer whose journeys span 80 countries and include traversing Iceland by foot, Mongolia by horseback, Arabia by camel, and the Blue Nile Gorge by raft. Along the way he's been shot at in Borneo, taken hostage in Ethiopia, and imprisoned by Myanmar's army. In addition to his two books, *Sand Dance* and *The Dolphin's Tooth*, Kirkby's writing has appeared in publications including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Outside Magazine*, and *EnRoute*, and *National Geographic* highlighted his photography in their documentary series *Through the Lens*. The Travel Channel series *Big Crazy Family Adventure*, which followed his family on the journey this book depicts, afforded Kirkby full press days in New York and Washington, with spots on *Good Morning America*, *Today*, and *People TV*. Kirkby is listed among "the nation's top modern-day explorers" by *Canadian Geographic*.

RIGHTS SOLD:

Canadian English: Douglas & McIntyre (publication Fall 2020)

World English excluding Canada including audio: Pegasus Books

AUTHOR'S WEBSITE: www.brucekirkby.com

STATUS: Manuscript available

AGENTS: John Pearce and Chris Casuccio



Liz Levine

NOBODY EVER TALKS ABOUT ANYTHING BUT THE END
A MEMOIR

“[I]t will ring devastatingly true to anyone who has ever experienced loss, anyone who has never been able to put into words the complexities and contradictions of their feelings... [A] balm, a palliative for the darkest times of life, and of the year.”

– *Toronto Star*

A searing, darkly comic account of life and loss that dares to move beyond the common platitudes.

In November of 2016, Tamara Levine reached a breaking point after years of living with mental illness. In the dark hours before dawn, she sent a final message to her family, then killed herself.

Her surviving sister, Liz, responded to this tragedy in the same way she dealt with everything in her life: by handling what needed to get done. The ensuing endless, and at times burdensome, sympathy crystalized that the focus was on how Tamara died, not how she lived. And that life needed to be acknowledged too, in all its messy complications. Not with a nostalgic rose-colored glasses tribute, but with a candid and unflinching account of what mental illness does, to an individual and to her family.

Nobody Ever Talks About Anything But the End is an alphabetical account, from ashes to Zephyr, that weaves Tamara’s story with another significant death, that of Liz’s childhood love, Judson, to cancer. The result is haunting, funny, bittersweet, sometimes cruel, and sometimes heartbreaking. With frank and spare language, Levine exposes the raw and uncomfortable truths that we often shy away from and almost never share with others. She tells us about the Mayor of Crazy Twitter account she created to capture some of Tamara’s outbursts. She talks about the conflicts in a complex, talented, often difficult family. She reveals how a decades-old death, unmourned, casts a long shadow, and how, in the midst of death, life – with all its messy complications – must also be celebrated.

An accomplished multiplatform storyteller, Levine combines the dark humor of Roz Chast’s *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant* with the frankness and heartbreak of Mark Lukash’s *My Lovely Wife in the Psych Ward*. The inventive structure imposes order on the randomness of grief, uncannily mimicking the way memories can shift and blur what is most painful.

LIZ LEVINE is an award-winning producer whose credits include ‘Story of a Girl’ and Douglas Coupland’s television series *Jpod*. She completed her Masters in Journalism at the University of British Columbia and has written for the *National Post*, *The Walrus*, *Playback Magazine*, and the *Vancouver Sun*. She divides her time between Vancouver and Los Angeles.

RIGHTS SOLD:

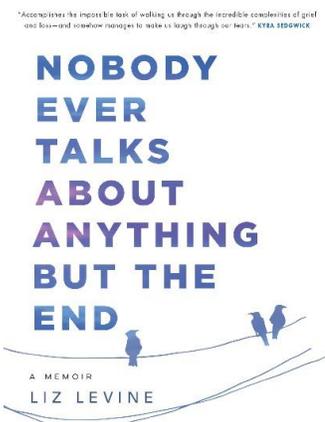
Stage: Belfry Theatre Company

World English including audio: Simon & Schuster Canada

AUTHOR’S WEBSITE: www.randombench.com

STATUS: Books available

AGENT: Hilary McMahon



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