

# WESTWOOD CREATIVE ARTISTS



## SPRING CATALOGUE

2021





# Westwood Creative Artists

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## SPRING CATALOGUE 2021

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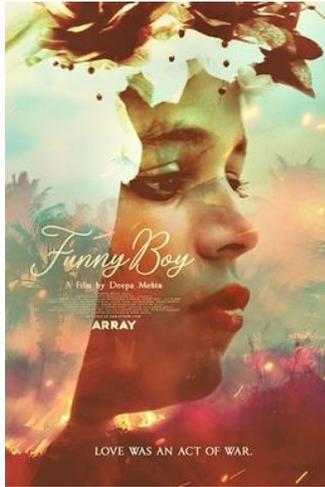
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March 2021

Welcome to Westwood Creative Artists' Spring 2021 catalogue! We're looking forward to another year of bringing exceptional writers and their works to an international audience, and are proud to share exciting news about awards nominations and publicity from our authors from the past few months.



*Funny Boy*, the critically acclaimed novel by **Shyam Selvadurai** that has sold in ten territories, hit the silver screen in December. Directed by Indo-Canadian director and screenwriter Deepa Mehta and distributed worldwide by Ava Duvernay's ARRAY, the film was named one of the Toronto International Film Festival's [Top 10 Canadian Feature Films](#) and has been put forward by Telefilm Canada for the Academy Awards' Best Picture category. The *Los Angeles Times* gave the film an excellent [review](#), stating, "It's both precious and refreshing when queer characters in coming-of-age stories fall in love without having to overcome any inner turmoil over their identities, so Arjie and Shehan's story is plenty heartwarming." The film is based on the novel that follows Arjie Chelvaratnam, a young boy in Sri Lanka who is coming to terms with his sexuality against the backdrop of the increased tensions between Tamil and Sinhalese people ahead of the breakout of the Sri Lankan Civil War. The film is available to stream on Netflix.

**David A. Robertson**, winner of the prestigious [2021 Freedom to Read Award](#), ruled the fall season in Canada with three books honoring his Cree heritage, including his middle grade novel *The Barren Grounds*, the first in an epic trilogy billed as Narnia meets traditional Indigenous stories of the sky and constellations. Six months following publication, *The Barren Grounds* continues to be a #1 bestseller, and is now being shopped for film and television by a major production company. Robertson's second novel in the Misewa trilogy, *The Great Bear*, will be published by Puffin / Penguin Random House Canada in North America in Fall 2021. Meanwhile, his new picture book with Julie Flett, [On the Trampoline](#), will be published in May. He is currently at work on the third book in the Misewa trilogy as well as on a novel for adults.

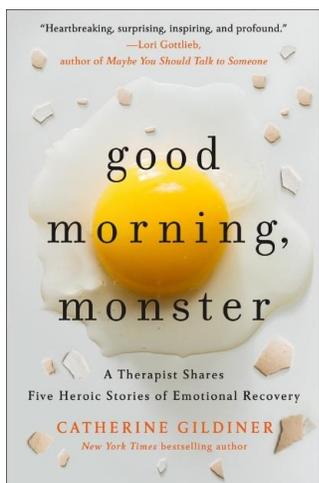
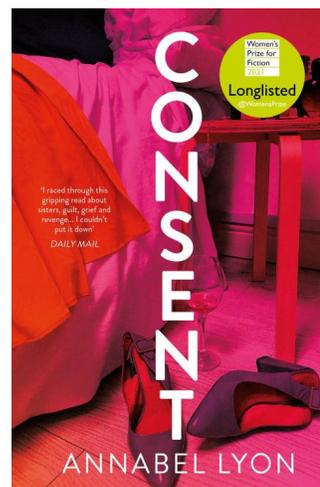


[Leonard Cohen, Untold Stories: The Early Years](#) is resonating internationally, with admiring press from Canada, the U.S., U.K., Netherlands, Israel, and more. A [Globe and Mail](#) Best Book of 2020, the oral biography was praised by the [Toronto Star](#) for its "light narrative voice ... [with] a very intimate and personal feel" and the [Evening Standard](#) noted the myriad fascinating interviewees, urging "give it to anyone who's missing Cohen." **Michael Posner** has just delivered the [second volume](#) in the trilogy for publication in Fall 2021, covering the tumultuous 1970s and 80s, exploring Cohen's career missteps as well as his decade-long relationship with Suzanne Elrod.

**Thomas King's** latest literary novel, *Indians on Vacation*, has enjoyed the top spot on the indie bestseller list in Canada for 27 weeks and counting. A multiple award nominee, it was also a [Globe and Mail](#), [CBC](#), and [Indigo](#) Best Book of 2020, and, most notably, Margaret Atwood's selection for [The Globe and Mail](#)

[Book Club](#). Looking ahead, *Indians on Vacation* will be featured in [The Giller Book Club](#) on March 15, and will also be adapted for an opera. Meanwhile, [The Oprah Magazine](#) featured King in their profile of “31 Native American Authors to Read Right Now,” praising his “lively, unique writing style” and “playful and intellectually sharp prose.” In addition to his upcoming novel [Sufferance](#), King has two more books publishing in 2021: the middle grade graphic novel [Borders](#), illustrated by Natasha Donovan, and the sixth book in his beloved DreadfulWater mystery series.

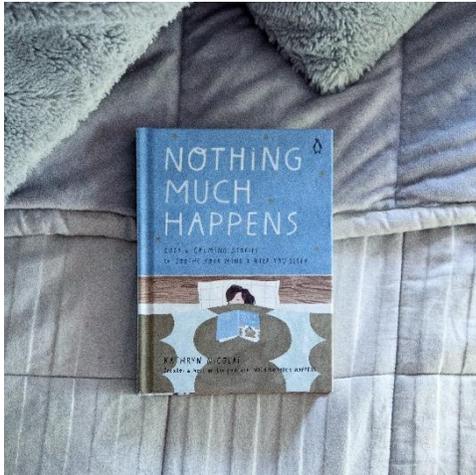
Annabel Lyon's cinematic novel [Consent](#) has just been longlisted for the [2021 Women's Prize for Fiction](#)! The sixteen books representing this year's longlist were revealed on March 10, and were chosen by a panel of judges chaired by Bernardine Evaristo, the Booker Prize-winning author of *Girl, Woman, Other*. Radio and TV presenter Vick Hope, one of the judges, remarked in the longlist [announcement](#) that *Consent* is “so clever and so concise, yet goes into the most profound issues in such depth.” The shortlist of six novels will be announced on April 28 and the winner on July 7. Drawing from both literary fiction and thriller traditions, *Consent* was recently published in the U.K. by Atlantic Books to a glowing review in the [Daily Mail](#): “Full of twists, the surviving sisters eventually find each other – which leads to a shocking denouement. I couldn't put it down.” *Consent* was a big hit in Canada when it was published in the fall, earning a starred review in [Quill & Quire](#) and a spot on the Scotiabank Giller Prize longlist among other distinctions. *Consent* has also just been published in the U.S. by Knopf, and it's garnering lots of attention there as well: Ian Battaglia at [Chicago Review of Books](#) interviewed Lyon via Zoom earlier this year, [Entertainment Weekly](#) featured it in its list of “Best Books to Keep You Warm This January”, and [The Millions](#) included it in their Most Anticipated list. And while we haven't yet had an offer for film and TV rights, we continue to get queries...



Catherine Gildiner's inspiring book of psychological heroism *Good Morning, Monster* earned fabulous attention upon U.S. publication. Glennon Doyle chose it as a “Favorite Book of 2020” on [Good Morning America](#), saying, “We need to read stories about folks who have been through hell and kept going ... Fascinating.” Georgia Hardstark recommended it on the hit (30 million downloads per month) true crime podcast [My Favorite Murder](#). Best Book selections by Amazon and *Newsweek* followed. Rights have now sold in China (Guomai), Korea (Life & Page), Portugal (DarkSide), Taiwan (Faces), and Thailand (B2S).

Dr. Jillian Horton, an extraordinary physician, writer, and educator who has long championed the belief that compassion in medical education leads to more compassionate physicians, is the winner of the [2020 AFMC-Gold Humanism Award](#). Meanwhile, excitement is building for [We Are All Perfectly Fine: A Memoir of Love, Medicine and Healing](#), which recently launched at a livestreamed event with the National Arts Centre. Horton has a busy publicity, book club, and speaking schedule over the coming months. In late February, she presented a webinar about mindfulness and mental well-being to the HarperCollins and Harlequin teams, a reflection of the widespread in-house enthusiasm for the book.

**Brad Fraser** is proving to be as evocative an author as he is a playwright. His debut memoir, *All the Rage*, “displays all of the outrageous passion, raunchy sex, wit, political insight, sorrow, and anger that are the hallmarks of his wonderful plays,” according to Charles Busch, author of *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* and *The Tale of the Allergist’s Wife*.



**Kathryn Nicolai**, whose book *Nothing Much Happens* has publishers in 29 territories, hit another milestone in January with more than two million [podcast](#) downloads in a single month and 35 million downloads overall. In December, *My Favorite Murder* raved about the show, pushing it to #53 on iTunes overall top 200 charts and to #1 in the health category. Nicolai recently recorded videos to promote the [Finnish](#) and [Spanish](#) editions of the book, and continues to do everything she can to support her international publishers despite not being able to tour, including sharing tips for destressing during the pandemic. Shoutouts from celebrities such as actress Jenna Fischer (Pam from *The Office*) and Great British Bake Off winner and TV presenter Nadiya Hussain have helped, as has a nomination for Coziest Book of the Year from the [All Things Cozy](#) podcast. In the U.S., Target has ordered 5,000 copies of the book for their spring wellness display; meanwhile, the U.K. has recently overtaken Canada as Nicolai’s #2 podcast market.

**Kim Fu**’s story “Scissors,” which is featured in the bestselling anthology [Kink](#) (edited by R.O. Kwon and Garth Greenwell, newly published by Simon & Schuster), is garnering a great deal of praise and attention; alongside Roxane Gay and Larissa Pham, she was invited to appear in conversation with Lidia Yuknavitch at a *Kink* event hosted last month by the legendary indie bookstore Powell’s, and serial rights have been placed with Conde Nast. Fu’s dazzling debut story collection, [Lesser-Known Monsters of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#) – by turns darkly comic, poignant, erotic – will be published by Coach House Press in Canada and Tin House Books in the U.S. in Winter 2022.



We take great pride in the staying power of the books we represent, and we were therefore tremendously gratified to see **Stephanie Nolen**’s extraordinary 2007 non-fiction book, *28: Stories of AIDS in Africa*, featured in [The Guardian](#) as one of “Thirty books to help us understand the world in 2020.” *The Guardian* highlighted: “One thing her book brings home is how powerfully politics, society, and culture shape a pandemic – and hence, how it assumes different forms depending on where it strikes.”

The pages that follow comprise our current title list for our Spring 2021 catalogue. We welcome inquiries to our International Rights Director, [Meg Wheeler](#), and invite you to visit our [website](#). We thank you for your ongoing interest in our writers and we wish you every success for the upcoming publishing year.

## RECENT SALES

### FICTION

Gurjinder Basran, *Help! I'm Alive*, Canadian English including audio: ECW Press

Steve Burrows, Birder Murder Mystery series books 7-9, World: Oneworld

David Chariandy, *Brother*, Iran: Porteghal Publications (sale by McClelland & Stewart / Penguin Random House Canada)

Kim Fu, *Lesser-Known Monsters of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Canadian English including audio: Coach House Books; U.S. including audio: Tin House Books

Zsuzsi Gartner, *The Beguiling*, North American French: Editions Alto

Tomson Highway, *Kiss of the Fur Queen*, Documentary (World): White Pine Pictures; Film (World): Passion Pictures

Robert Hough, *The Final Confession of Mabel Stark*, Audio (World English excl. Canada and U.S.): Bolinda Publishing (extension)

Thomas King, *77 Fragments of a Familiar Ruin*, *Indians on Vacation*, and *Sufferance*, World French: Memoire d'encrier; *Coyote Tales*, World French: Planete Rebelle (sale by Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press); *Deep House* (DreadfulWater book 6), Canadian English: HarperCollins; *Indians on Vacation*, Opera (World): Edmonton Opera

Kevin Major, *Three for Trinity* and two untitled, Canadian English: Breakwater Books

Yann Martel, *Beatrice and Virgil* and *Life of Pi*, Norway: Strawberry Publishing; *Life of Pi*, Bulgaria: Prosoretz (extension); *The High Mountains of Portugal*, China: United Sky New Media (extension)

Rohinton Mistry, *A Fine Balance*, Norway (audio): Aschehoug

David A. Robertson, *Theory of Crows*, Canadian English: HarperCollins

Lisa Rochon, *Tuscan Daughter*, Italy: Newton Compton Editori

Leanne Toshiko Simpson, *Infinite Snails*, Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins

M.G. Vassanji, *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall*, Sweden: Palaver Press

Richard Wagamese, *Medicine Walk*, Italy: La Nuova Frontiera

### NON-FICTION

Stephen R. Bown, *Dominion: The Railway and the Rise of the Canadian Empire*, North American English including audio: Doubleday / Penguin Random House Canada

## RECENT SALES

Darrell Bricker & John Ibbitson, *Empty Planet: The Shock of Global Population Decline*, Turkey: Yeditepe Yayinevi

Denise Chong, *The Concubine's Children*, Film (World): Blue Bird Film Co., Ltd.

Sam Cooper, *Wilful Blindness*, English in North America, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Africa, and Taiwan and complex Chinese including audio: Optimum Publishing International

Wade Davis, *One River: Explorations and Discoveries in the Amazon Rain Forest*, Film (World): Artist Lane Productions, Inc.

Marcello Di Cintio, *Pay No Heed to the Rockets*, Kannada: Kathana Publications

Brad Fraser, *All the Rage: A Partial Memoir in Two Acts and a Prologue*, World including audio: Doubleday / Penguin Random House Canada

Catherine Gildiner, *Good Morning, Monster*, China: Guomai; Korea: Life & Page Publishing Co.; Portugal: DarkSide Books; Russia: Exmo; Thailand: B2S (sales by Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada)

Dr. Christopher Honey, *The Tenth Nerve: What a Brain Surgeon Learned from His Patients*, Canadian English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House

Michael Ignatieff, *On Consolation: Finding Solace in Dark Times*, Canadian English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House; Germany: Ullstein; Netherlands: Cossee; Romania: Editura Trei Srl; Spain: Taurus / Penguin Random House; Taiwan: Business Weekly Publications; U.K. & Commonwealth excluding Canada: Picador / Pan Macmillan; U.S.: Henry Holt / Macmillan

Wayne Johnston, *Jennie's Boy: My Misfit Childhood on an Island of Eccentrics*, Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House

Cheuk Kwan, *Have You Eaten Yet? A Journey into the Chinese Diaspora*, Audio (North American English): Blackstone; North American English: Douglas & McIntyre

Jean Marmoreo and Johanna Schneller, *The Year of Dying Dangerously: Creating a Good Death, One Life at a Time*, World including audio: Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada

Jeannie Marshall, *Seeing Things in the Sistine Chapel*, World: Biblioasis

Tessa McWatt, *Shame on Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging*, World French: Memoire d'encrier

Marc Raboy, *Marconi: The Man Who Networked the World*, China: Human Science and Technology Press (extension); *Searching for Alicia*, Canadian English: House of Anansi Press

Haroon Siddiqui, *My India, My Canada: Being Muslim in Both*, Canadian English: Dundurn Press

Gary Smith, *Canada's Hockey Diplomat: The Untold Story of the 1972 Summit Series*, Documentary (World): White Pine Pictures

## RECENT SALES

Don Thompson, *The Curious Economics of Luxury Fashion*, Russia: Atticus-Azbooka

Max Wallace, *After the Miracle: The Lonely Crusades of Hellen Keller*, World including audio: Grand Central / Hachette U.S.

## CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK & MIDDLE-GRADE

Jennifer Harris, *When You Were New*, World: HarperCollins Children's Books / HarperCollins U.S.

Mahak Jain, *The Only Astronaut*, World: Kids Can Press

Matt James, *Tadpoles*, World: Neal Porter Books / Holiday House

Heidi King, *Flash!* World: G.P. Putnam's Sons / Penguin Random House U.S.

Kyo Maclear (author) and Katty Maurey (illustrator), *The Ghost in the Garden*, World: Enchanted Lion Books

Hasan Namir, *Banana Dreams*, World: Neal Porter Books / Holiday House

Riel Nason, *The Little Ghost Who Was a Quilt*, Germany: Atrium Verlag; Romania: Panda (sales by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

Susin Nielsen, *Tremendous Things*, Canadian French: Editions de la Courte Echelle; Italy: Editrice Il Castoro; World French excluding North America: Helium (sales by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

Jordan Scott, *I Talk Like a River*, Brazil: Pequena Zahar; China: Beautiful Century; Japan: Kaiseisha; Netherlands: Querido; Portugal: Fábula; Spain: Zorro Rojo; Sweden: Lilla Pirat (sales by Neal Porter Books / Holiday House); *Worms for Baba's Garden* and *Angela's Glacier*, World: Neal Porter Books / Holiday House

Gillian Sze, *The Green Envelope*, World: Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press

Nancy Vo, *Boobies*, World: Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press

## YOUNG ADULT

Kern Carter, *Boys and Girls Screaming*, World: DCB / Cormorant Books

**FICTION**

## FICTION



**“A beautiful, haunting story of one family, spanning generations and continents, as they face life’s inevitable losses, struggle with grief, and reach for redemption.”**

– Shilpi Somaya Gowda, on *Someone You Love is Gone*

**“In this brave and beautifully written novel, Gurjinder Basran shines a light into the darkest corners of one family’s emotional inheritance. Grief has the power to remake us, and for Simran and her mother, Amrita, it proves truly transformative, blurring the lines between self and other, home and history – even life and death.”**

– Alissa York, author of *Fauna* and *The Naturalist*, on *Someone You Love is Gone*

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**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: ECW Press (Spring 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s Website:** [www.gurjinderbasran.ca](http://www.gurjinderbasran.ca)

**Agent:** John Pearce

## Gurjinder Basran

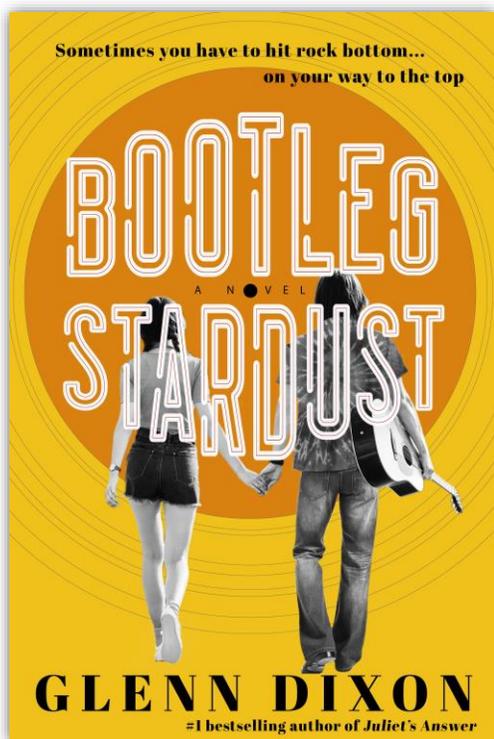
### HELP! I’M ALIVE

After video footage of Jay’s death is shared on social media, a suburban Vancouver community is left to try to make sense of what happened to this local teen and whether his death was an accident or a suicide. As rumors of a suicide pact between Jay and his troubled girlfriend, Winona, surface, his former best friend, Ash, struggles to reconcile their boyhood and his own seemingly perfect suburban life. Meanwhile Ash’s mother, Pavan, having secretly struggled with her own mental health, worries about Ash’s well-being and the mental health of her older son, Anik, who has not left the house in months.

While Ash and Winona bond over their mutual loss, Anik sets out on a self-guided spiritual walk across Vancouver Island. This sets him in the path of Rose, a transgender teen who becomes his traveling companion and turns his pilgrimage to the ocean into a social media sensation. Soon, Ash and Winona join them, a band of self-proclaimed misfits on a modern-day hero’s journey.

Feeling as though she has lost control of her children, Pavan is forced to examine what it means to be a mother. As she journeys inward and as they journey outward, they are all confronted with their own isolation and shame about who they have been and how they should be. *Help! I’m Alive* is a Gen Z and Gen X coming-to-terms story about loneliness and connection, about love and suffering and all the moments that bring us together and drive us apart.

**GURJINDER BASRAN**’s first novel, *Everything Was Good-bye* (Mother Tongue Publishing and Penguin Canada) was the winner of the Search for the Great B.C. Novel Contest in 2010, the winner of the B.C. Book Prize Ethel Wilson Fiction Award in 2011, and was named as a *Chatelaine* Book Club pick in 2012. Basran was hailed by the CBC as one of “Ten Canadian women writers you need to read.” Her second novel, *Someone You Love is Gone* (Viking Canada), was published to great acclaim in 2017. She lives in Delta, British Columbia, with her family.



**“A story that just never stops. It twists and turns, it’s funny, clever, touching, and could only have been conjured by a very good writer who also plays in a rock band. By the end, the novel’s true spirit made me want to clap and cheer and wave a Bic lighter in the air. Bravo!”**

– Terry Fallis, author of *Albatross* and two-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour

**“I thoroughly enjoyed this high-spirited first novel. The whole music scene – bandmates, manager, concerts, record label – rings true (Dixon’s played in bands for many years), and Levi’s an appealing kid who’s forced to grow up pretty quickly.”**

– Nancy Pearl, librarian and author of *George and Lizzie*

**Rights sold:** North American English including audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (April 6, 2021)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [www.glenndixon.ca](http://www.glenndixon.ca)

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

Glenn Dixon

## BOOTLEG STARDUST

Daisy Jones & the Six meets Nick Hornby in this uplit debut about a young musician’s wild, unexpected ride through rock and roll stardom.

It’s 1974, and twenty-year-old Levi Jaxon, a talented guitarist and songwriter, wants to be famous.

He gets a break he doesn’t expect playing offstage with Downtown Exit to cover for a bandmate who drops so much acid he can no longer perform. When Pete’s habits lead to his death, Levi takes his place in the band. But its star, Frankie Novak, sees Levi as a threat musically and romantically, as they compete for the attentions of their photographer, Ariadne.

When they embark on a European tour, Levi thinks he’s finally overcome his troubled childhood. 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 its money back.

*Bootleg Stardust* is a coming-of-age story that captures triumph, insecurities, and cutthroat realities, as well as the universal desire for love and fulfillment.



**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.



*A deeply moving debut about a woman who finds peace, joy, and love not in living her life, but in leaving it.*

**Rights sold:** North American English including audio: HarperCollins Canada (Jan. 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available June 2021

**Author's website:** [www.bobbifrench.com](http://www.bobbifrench.com)

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

## Bobbi French

### ANYWHERE YOU ARE

Frances Delaney's idyllic childhood in Safe Harbour, Newfoundland ended the day her father drowned. Then, she lost her mother. Her newborn daughter, conceived without consent when Frances was sixteen, was taken from her by nuns. And then came the painful separation from Annie Malone, the object of Frances's unrequited love.

After learning she has a terminal illness, Frances looks back over her 58 years and sees a life shaped not by her own choices but by tragedy and the will of others. After years of debilitating anxiety and aching loneliness, Frances is finally empowered to determine her own fate.

She inserts herself into the crisis of Edie, the spirited young teenager who has grown up under her care in St. John's and is now pregnant. Edie engineers small, unfamiliar indulgences – fine food, massages, visits to the hair salon, which build into a quest for solace and resolution. Frances finally returns to Safe Harbour to face the source of her pain and die on her own terms.

French explores friendship and forgiveness, choices and comfort, perseverance and strength, and the women who are overlooked and underestimated. In the tradition of Elizabeth Strout and *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, *Anywhere You Are* is a powerfully affirming, heart-wrenching tale.

**BOBBI FRENCH** is a former psychiatrist and the author of *Finding Me in France*, a memoir that follows her year after leaving medicine to pursue writing. She lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

## FICTION



**“It has become cliché to hail an exciting ‘new voice’ in fiction, and many are drowned out by their own hype. Kim Fu should be an exception.”**

– *The Globe and Mail*, on *For Today I Am a Boy*

**“[Fu] is a propulsive storyteller, using clear and cutting prose to move seamlessly through time.”**

– *New York Times Book Review*, on *For Today I Am a Boy*

**“Kim Fu writes with a pen as sharp and precise as a lancet.”**

– PEN/Hemingway Award Judges’ Citation, on *For Today I Am a Boy*

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**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Coach House Books (Winter 2022)  
U.S.: Tin House Books (Winter 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Kim Fu

# LESSER-KNOWN MONSTERS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

From the author of *For Today I Am A Boy* and *The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore*, a fearless story collection for fans of George Saunders, Karen Russell, and Carmen Maria Machado, capturing emotions that feel achingly familiar in contexts that are surreal and otherworldly.

A group of children steal a haunted doll. A runaway bride encounters a sea monster. A vendor sells toy boxes that seemingly control the passage of time. An insomniac is seduced by a sleep-demon she calls the Sandman. In the twelve tales of *Lesser-Known Monsters of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, the strange is made familiar and the familiar strange, such that a girl growing wings on her legs feels like an ordinary rite of passage, while a bug-infested house becomes an impossible, Kafkaesque nightmare.

By turns poignant, erotic, and darkly comic, this first story collection from Kim Fu is a singular, original literary work that offers intricate insights into human nature.

**KIM FU**’s first novel, *For Today I Am a Boy*, a *New York Times Book Review* Editors’ Choice, won the Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction and was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award, the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize, and a Lambda Literary Award. Her second novel, *The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore*, was a finalist for the Washington State Book Award and the OLA Evergreen Award, and was longlisted for CBC’s Canada Reads. Fu’s debut poetry collection *How Festive the Ambulance* received a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*. Fu’s writing has appeared in the *Kink* anthology edited by R.O. Kwon and Garth Greenwell (Simon & Schuster, 2021) as well as in *Room*, *Hazlitt*, *enRoute*, *Maisonneuve*, *Granta*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and *The Times Literary Supplement*.

## FICTION



**“As a novelist, Robert Hough hasn’t only impressive technical gifts and strong storytelling instincts. He brings to his fiction a kind of attentive regard for human nature and empathy for the plight of regular folk, whether those trials are as enormous as societal meltdown or as small as private struggles with happiness.”**

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

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**Rights sold:** North American English: Douglas & McIntyre (Fall 2021)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [www.roberthough.ca](http://www.roberthough.ca)

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

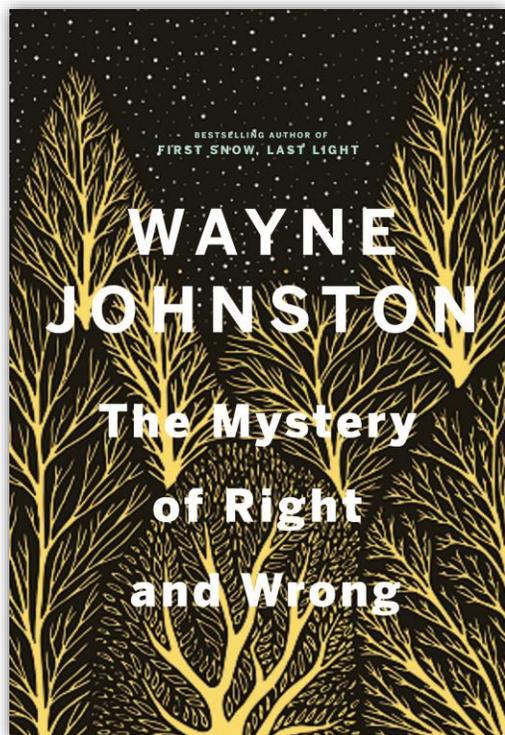
## Robert Hough

# THE MARRIAGE OF ROSE CAMILLERI

Nineteen-year-old Rosie left behind a rustic village on the tiny Maltese island to seek her fortune in America. Now she is a baker in a Maltese café in Toronto, where a regular customer named Scotty flushes every time she pours his coffee. When Scotty musters the courage to ask her to the movies, she agrees, thinking a night out might ease her loneliness. Then Rosie finds herself pregnant, and Scotty offers to marry her; she reluctantly accepts. This leaves her with a daunting challenge: learning to adore the kind, burdened man she had thought was just a fling.

Twenty-five years later, the couple has faced every sort of problem, including those arising from complicated children, Rosie’s wandering eye, Scotty’s attraction to criminality, and now their own mortality. By turns tender, funny, and poignant, *The Marriage of Rose Camilleri* is the story of two people who have to work at being their better selves in order to maintain a life together. “If life is anything,” Rosie concludes, “it is learning to live with the person you are.”

**ROBERT HOUGH**, who has been praised by *Publishers Weekly* for his “exceptional narrative intuition,” has been published to rave reviews in fifteen territories around the world. His fiction has been compared by critics to that of Angela Carter and Peter Carey (*The Times*), Robertson Davies (*USA Today*), and Zola, Camus, and Calvino (*The Globe and Mail*). He lives in Toronto.



*A literary masterpiece that cracks open secret atrocities as it charts the unraveling of one mythomaniacal family.*

**“A brilliant and accomplished writer.”**

– Annie Proulx, award-winning author of *The Shipping News*

**“Wayne Johnston is the most prodigiously talented and morally complex novelist this country has produced since Mordecai Richler.”**

– *The Globe and Mail*

**“His books are beautifully written, among the funniest I’ve ever read, yet somehow at the same time among the most poignant and moving.”**

– Annie Dillard, award-winning author of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Fall 2021)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [www.waynejohnston.ca](http://www.waynejohnston.ca)

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Wayne Johnston

# THE MYSTERY OF RIGHT AND WRONG

Rachel, a hyper-graphic, hyper-lexic South African expat who is obsessed with *The Diary of Anne Frank*, is the youngest of four van Hout daughters whose father Hans, a Dutch-South African accounting professor, moved his family to Newfoundland to make a new start.

When Wade, a young writer, meets and falls in love with Rachel, he learns that nothing in the world of the van Houts is what it seems, and that Rachel’s obsessions have deeper and more disturbing roots than he could ever have imagined. Each of the four beautiful, dutiful daughters is, in her distinctive way, a wounded soul. The oldest, Gloria, is a hyper-sexual exhibitionist (or is she?) who, by the age of 28, has been married five times. Carmen is addicted to every drug her Afrikaans drug-pusher husband Fritz can lay his hands on. Sardonic and self-deprecating Bethany, a.k.a. Deathany, is fighting a losing battle with anorexia. And then there is Rachel, who reads and writes obsessively, diarizing her days in a secret language of her own invention.

Set in Newfoundland, apartheid era South Africa, wartime Amsterdam, and two concentration camps, this is an intricately woven and propulsive novel that chronicles the unmasking of a mythomaniacal family and the sisters’ fight for love and their very lives. Informed by real events, it is a tour de force.



**WAYNE JOHNSTON** is celebrated internationally for his magical weaving of fact and fiction, his master plotting, and his gift for both description and character.



*A comedic murder mystery featuring high-end domestic service, unusual spiritual pursuits, the death positive movement, and the best organized investigator you’ve ever met.*

**“Hilarious, deliciously provocative and slyly thought-provoking.”**

– *Kirkus Reviews* (starred), on *The Truth Commission*

**“Genuinely funny and tremendously charming.”**

– *National Post*, on *The Woefield Poultry Collective*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (Spring 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [www.susanjuby.com](http://www.susanjuby.com)

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

## Susan Juby

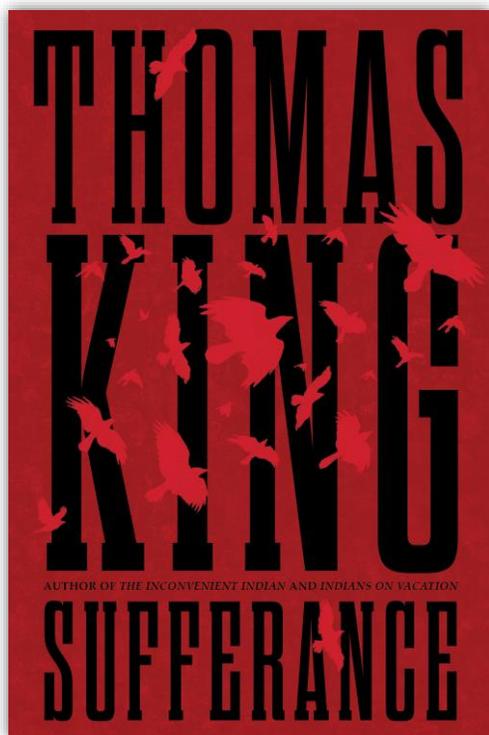
### AT YOUR SERVICE

Helen Thorpe, recent North American Butler Academy graduate is renowned for her calm and competent demeanor. But that calm is tested when she is called back to her old job as the manager and meditation teacher at Witches Glove Spiritual Retreat Centre. Her former employer, Edna Todd, a devotee of the death positive movement, has taken her own life, and Helen has to conduct a secret test to determine which of Edna’s great nieces and nephews should take over the center. Each of the candidates has been asked to visit and take three of its most popular courses: Arranging Your Inner Flower (floral design), Deva Dancing (a vigorous form of interpretive dance), and Meet Yourself, Lose the Self, an intensive meditation course.

Accompanied by two of her butler friends, Helen tries to deliver the confused and resistant students a top-notch hospitality experience – and confront her own aversion to disorder and bad deeds – even while it becomes clear that one of them may be a murderer.

‘Knives Out’ meets P.G. Wodehouse, in the hands of a gifted novelist acclaimed for her originality and wit.

**SUSAN JUBY** is the author of eight acclaimed, internationally published titles for middle grade and young adult readers, a memoir, and two novels. She won the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour for *Republic of Dirt*, and was nominated for the Edgar Award and the Arthur Ellis Award for *Getting the Girl*. Her housekeeping skills leave something to be desired but she spends a lot of time thinking about flower arranging.



*Set on the border between an under-resourced Indian reserve and a small town, Sufferance is a fast-paced, voice-driven novel about privilege, power, and the mysterious deaths of a dozen billionaires.*

**“[A] funny and deeply sensitive novel. *Indians on Vacation* presses sharply against the world with humour and heart – personalized demons and all.”**

– *Quill & Quire* (starred), on *Indians on Vacation*

**“King brings humanity and light to the starkest human dilemmas ... Insightful, gentle, and satisfying.”**

– *Washington Independent Review of Books*, on *The Back of the Turtle*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (May 18, 2021)

**Status:** Galleys available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Thomas King

### SUFFERANCE

Jeremiah Camp, a.k.a. the Forecaster, has a gift: He can look into the heart of humanity and see the patterns that create opportunities and profits for the rich and powerful. For a while, he uses his talents to make money for a multinational consortium called the Locken Group. Eventually, what he sees leaves him without hope for either himself or for humanity, and he quits.

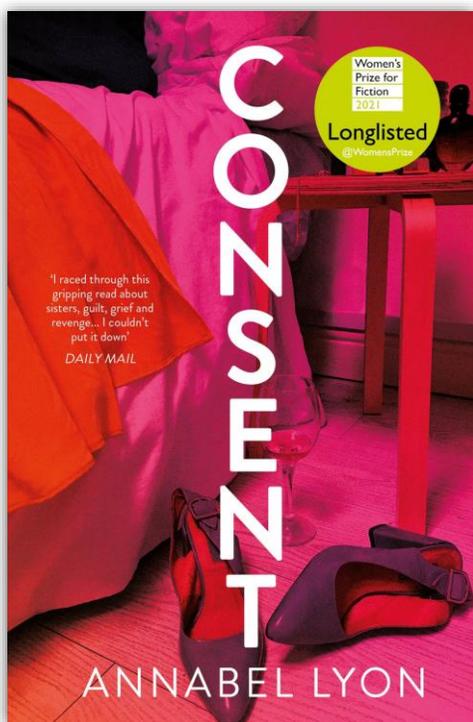
Returning to the reserve where his mother lived before his life became a game of “foster home roulette,” he hides out in an old residential school with no phone, no internet, and no television, hoping to finally disconnect from the world. But nobody told the locals that he wanted to be left alone, and when his mother’s cousin Ada’s daughter and granddaughter arrive from Winnipeg and need a place to live, they shelter with him in the school. Then trouble comes knocking: The list of billionaires Jeremiah left behind when he quit his job strangely corresponds to a series of sudden deaths among the ultra-rich that no one has been able to explain. And when Ash Locken arrives on his doorstep to enlist Jeremiah’s help with one last forecast, she isn’t about to take no for an answer.

With a wry and witty voice, a memorable cast of characters, and a vividly rendered setting, *Sufferance* offers a fresh fictional take on inequality, the way billionaires rig the system in their favor, and the redemptive power of bonds old and new.



**THOMAS KING** is one of Canada’s most critically acclaimed and commercially successful writers. Originally from California, he is of Cherokee and Greek descent, and lives in Guelph, Ontario.

## FICTION



Longlisted for the 2021 Women's Prize for Fiction and the 2020 Scotiabank Giller Prize

*The lives of two sets of sisters are braided together by tragedy.*

**“An intense, intimate novel of love, grief, and murder [with] a deliciously dark conclusion ... Perfectly captures the odd mix of love and resentment faced by caregivers.”**

– *Publishers Weekly*

**“A brave, even dangerous book ... so compelling that I read it from cover to cover over the course of one night.”**

– Preti Taneja, author of *We That Are Young*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Sep. 29, 2020)

U.K. & Commonwealth excl. Canada: Atlantic Books (Jan. 28, 2021) (Audio: W.F. Howes)

U.S. including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Jan. 26, 2021)

**Status:** Books available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Annabel Lyon

### CONSENT

Saskia and Jenny are twins who are alike only in appearance. Saskia is a hardworking graduate 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 their family home to pursue her own life. But when their mother dies, Sara inherits the duty of caring for her sister, and Sara finds out that Mattie has married Robert, her mother's handyman. Enraged, Sara sees that the marriage is annulled and Robert banished. In the process, she becomes her sister's keeper, sacrificing her own happiness and Mattie's too.

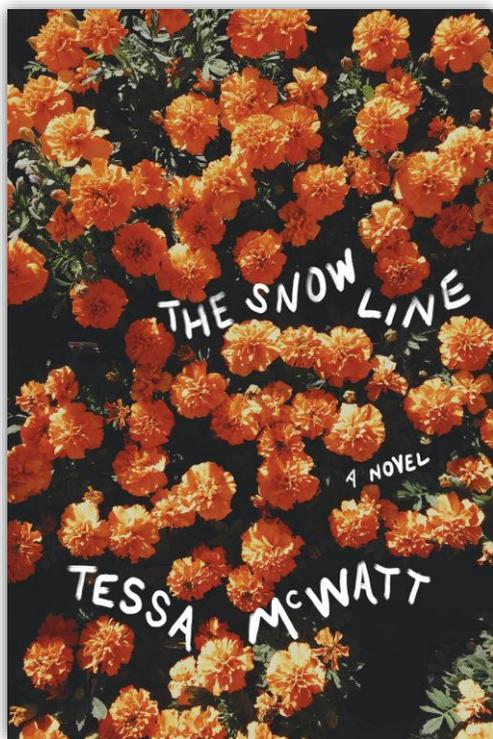
When Robert turns up again, another tragedy happens, and Sara and Saskia, sisters in mourning, are engulfed in a quest for revenge.

This is a startling, heartbreaking, and propulsive novel about the complexities of familial duty and the ways love can become entangled with guilt, resentment, and regret.



**ANNABEL LYON's** fiction has been translated into fourteen languages. Praised as “this generation's answer to Alice Munro” (*Vancouver Sun*), she teaches Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia.

## FICTION



*Old and young, white and brown, male and female, British, Indian, Other: Four strangers travel to India for a wedding in search of wholeness, love, and endurance in the face of change and violence.*

**“Beautifully written, profoundly moving, and deeply reflective.”**

– 2020 OCM Bocas Prize Jury Citation, on *Shame on Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging*

**Rights sold:** North American English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House Canada (Aug. 24, 2021)

U.K. & Commonwealth excl. Canada: Scribe Publications (June 2, 2021)

**Status:** Galleys available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Tessa McWatt

### THE SNOW LINE

Northern India, 2009. Four travelers disembark from the Dhauladhar Express at the Pathankot train station, having arrived in Punjab to attend a wedding. Yosh, 30, a yoga teacher from Vancouver; Monica, 30, the bride’s cousin from Toronto; Reema, 26, the bride’s childhood friend, a mixed-heritage Londoner in search of her Indianness; and Jackson, 86, who is returning to India after a long hiatus in Boston, and who carries with him a small tea canister in which he has placed his wife Amelia’s ashes.

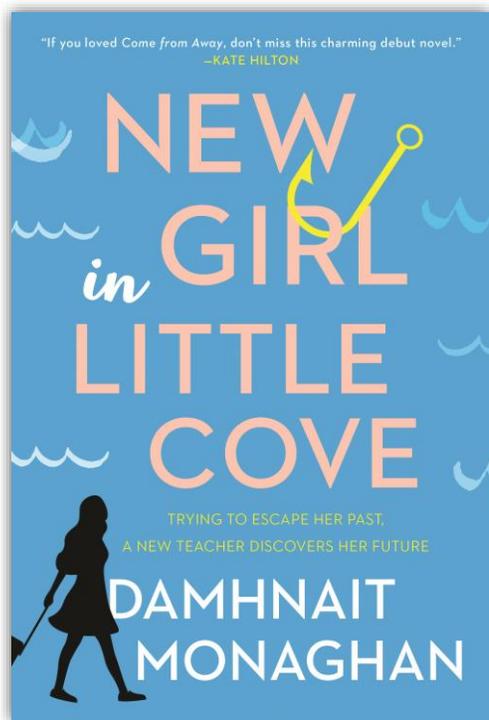
As they gather with other guests at a traditional Indian wedding, Jackson and Reema develop an unlikely friendship that grows through mutual need and a slowly developing trust, and together with Yosh and Monica, they embark on a post-wedding journey to the Himalayas, seeking the perfect place to scatter Amelia’s ashes. As they travel together, secrets are revealed, and each of them is opened up to more questions than answers.

These intergenerational and intercultural relationships are a meeting of the past and the future, a reconciliation of past wrongs and a possibility that the future might be less violent, less selfish, less segregated. But can it be?



**TESSA McWATT** won the 2018 Eccles British Library Writer’s Award and the 2020 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, in the Non-Fiction category, and was a finalist for the 2020 Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Non-fiction for *Shame on Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging*. She co-edited, with Dionne Brand and Rabindranath Maharaj, *Luminous Ink: Writers on Writing in Canada*. Her fiction has been nominated for a wide array of prizes. A professor of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia, she lives in London, U.K.

## FICTION



*Derry Girls* meets the smash hit musical *Come From Away* in a diverting romantic comedy about finding your place in the world.

**“Prepare to have your pants charmed right off by this warm hug of a book.”**

– *The Globe and Mail*

**“Don’t miss this charming debut novel.”**

– Kate Hilton, author of *Better Luck Next Time*

**“A charming and funny novel about a come from away teacher finding herself, finding love, and sometimes finding more than she bargained for, in a very special part of the world. A fine storyteller at work.”**

– Terry Fallis, author of *Albatross*

**Rights sold:** Germany: Insel / Suhrkamp  
North American English including audio:  
HarperCollins Canada (March 2, 2021) (U.S.:  
Graydon House / HarperCollins [May 11, 2021])

**Status:** Books available

**Author’s website:**

[www.damhnaitmonaghan.com](http://www.damhnaitmonaghan.com)

**Agent:** Hilary McMahan

## Damhnait Monaghan

### NEW GIRL IN LITTLE COVE

It’s 1985. Rachel O’Brien is desperate for a fresh start and hopes to find it in the tiny fishing village of Little Cove. But as the new teacher at the Catholic high school, Rachel is taken aback by the way the community wants to know her business. And the anonymous notes telling her to go home certainly don’t make her feel welcome.

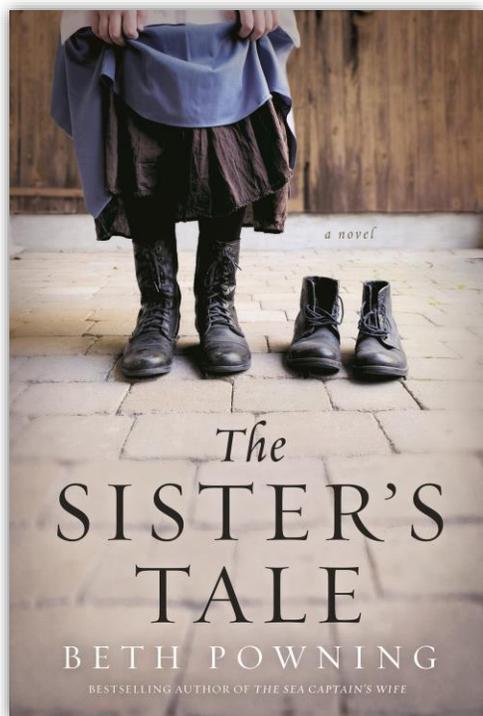
Still, Rachel is quickly drawn into the island’s distinctive music and culture, as well as the lives of her students and fellow teacher, Doug Bishop. But when her beliefs clash with church and community, she makes a decision that throws her career into jeopardy. In trying to help a student, has she gone too far? Only the intervention of the “Holy Dusters,” the local women who hook rugs and clean the church, can salvage Rachel’s job as well as her future with Doug.

*New Girl in Little Cove* is an uplifting novel that shows that some of the most important lessons are learned outside of the classroom.



**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 flash fiction *The Neverlands* was recently named Best Novella in the 2020 Saboteur Awards.

## FICTION



*A novel about orphans and widows, terror and hope, and the relationships that hold us together when things fall apart.*

**“An impeccably written, mesmerizing tale of loss and betrayal, and of the strength required not only to find hope amid the ashes, but to rise from them.”**

– Genevieve Graham, bestselling author of *The Forgotten Home Child*

**“Powning’s prose shimmers and her characters come vividly to life in this tale of sisterhood, female friendship, and the power of love and loss.”**

– Cecily Ross, author of *The Lost Diaries of Susanna Moodie: A Novel*

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**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (May 25, 2021)

**Status:** Galleys available

**Author’s website:** [www.powning.com/beth](http://www.powning.com/beth)

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Beth Powning

### THE SISTER’S TALE

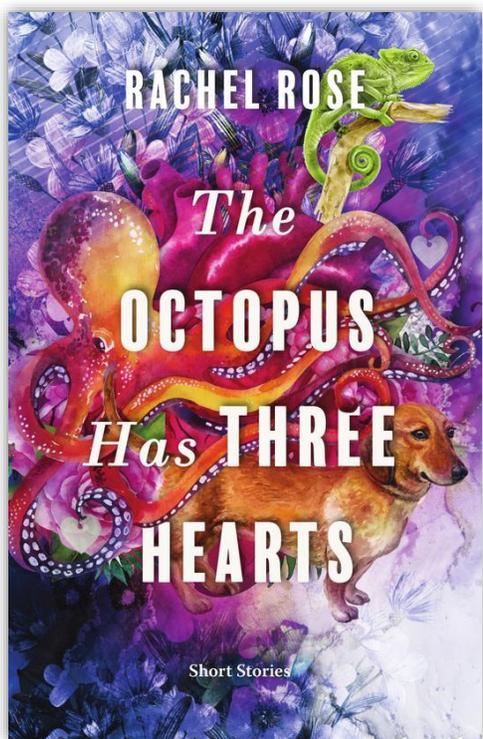
In a New Brunswick village in 1887, newspapers tell of a gruesome murder, women march for suffrage, and a young widow is drawn into the story of a British home child whose luck has gone from bad to worse.

When her sea captain husband is lost at sea, Josephine Galloway is left with no choice but to turn their once grand home into a boarding house that is kept afloat by the sweat and tears of a curious and not completely compatible collection of women. When Josephine notices wealthy townsmen bidding on a young girl at the annual village pauper auction, she purchases the child to spare her their lechery, and the household expands. As Flora takes her place in this, her latest “family,” she enlists their help in finding the sister she was forced to leave behind in an English work house – the only person who will understand the trials she has endured. Complicating Flora’s plan, and Josephine’s determination to assist, is the presence of a murderer among them.

This is a timeless, riveting story about women who will stop at nothing to find their way in a world that is not always welcoming and to overcome, together, the terrible circumstances they could neither predict nor avoid.



**BETH POWNING** is the author of numerous bestselling books of fiction and non-fiction. She lives on a 300-acre farm in New Brunswick.



*A debut collection of short stories that embraces the strange and unexpected and explores the outer limits of empathy and forgiveness, through the curious, universal redemption of the human-animal bond.*

“I loved every one of these stories. I wish I had written them.”

– Barbara Gowdy, author of *The White Bone*

“In *The Octopus Has Three Hearts*, Rachel Rose has built her own version of Noah’s Ark, filling it not only with a panoply of animals but the damaged people who love them. Rose’s deft, daring, and highly original collection kept me enthralled with its balance of often-violent detail and compassionate storytelling.”

– Kevin Chong, author of *My Year of the Racehorse*

**Rights sold:** North American English: Douglas & McIntyre (April 24, 2021)

**Status:** Books available

**Author’s website:**

[www.rachelsprose.weebly.com](http://www.rachelsprose.weebly.com)

**Agent:** Hilary McMahan

Rachel Rose

## THE OCTOPUS HAS THREE HEARTS

*Short Stories*

Roxanne seems terribly lonely: Her husband Earl has passed away, and her daughter Linda was murdered. But Earl and Linda are still keeping Roxanne company, reincarnated in the forms of a wiener dog and standard poodle. This relationship – not idyllic, but relatively harmonious – is disrupted when Roxanne accidentally hits a pit bull with her car. About to have the dog put down, she recognizes the eyes of her daughter’s killer, Helmut. Should she choose retribution, or forgiveness?

This is the transporting scenario in ‘You’re Home Now,’ the opening story in *The Octopus Has Three Hearts*. From a goat farmer to a suburban adulterer, a violent child to a polyamorous marine biologist, Rose’s diverse characters have little in common except a life-sustaining connection to the animal world. The octopus, dogs, pigs, chameleons, bats, parrots, rats and sugar gliders extend a measure of compassion and solace that their human communities lack.



**RACHEL ROSE** is the author of four collections of poetry and a memoir, *The Dog Lover Unit: Lessons in Courage from the World’s K9 Cops*, which was shortlisted for the Arthur Ellis award for best non-fiction crime book. She has won poetry, fiction, and non-fiction awards, including the Bronwen Wallace Award, the Pat Lowther Award and the Pushcart Prize. She is the Poet Laureate Emerita of Vancouver.



*A heartwarming and funny #OwnVoices debut – a romantic comedy about navigating love while living with mental illness, for fans of The Silver Linings Playbook and The Rosie Project.*

“A sparkling romantic comedy that defies the usual tropes of the genre. What does it mean to meet ‘the one’ if he’s about to marry your best friend? And how do you grow the complicated relationships that began inside a psychiatric hospital? Filled with punchy dialogue, scenes that will leave you bursting into laughter and wiping away tears in the same breath, and a cast of flawed but utterly charming characters, *Infinite Snails* is a story about love of all kinds: between lovers, between friends, between sisters, but most of all, the love offered towards oneself.”

– Carianne Leung, author of *That Time I Loved You*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (Spring 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available Spring 2021

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

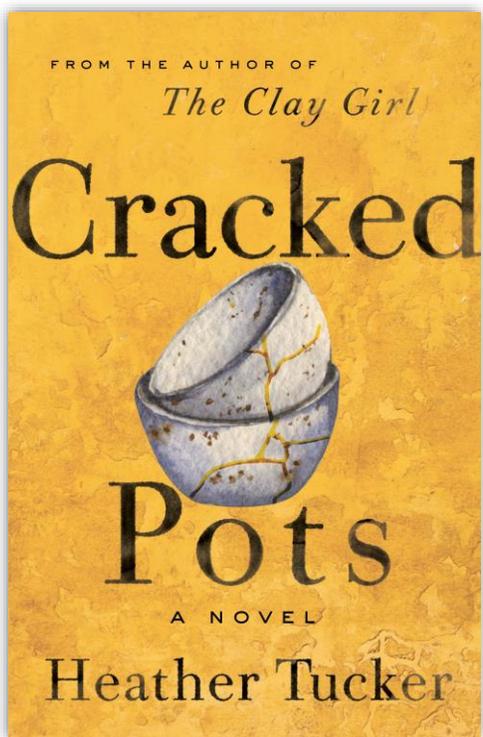
## Leanne Toshiko Simpson

### INFINITE SNAILS

Matt, Misa, and Dee are the three musketeers of the psych ward. Matt is a teddy bear human with a lopsided grin and no discernible coping mechanisms. Soft-spoken and strong-willed, Misa is wildly efficient at taking care of others and avoiding her own problems. And Dee is a puddle with a heart of gold, trying to overcome a track record of not finishing what she started. Two years after discharge, Matt and Misa are hosting a picture-perfect destination wedding in Turks and Caicos. There is only one problem: Dee has been in love with Matt ever since he got her kicked out of the hospital.

When Dee arrives at the swanky resort with her high-voltage sister Tilley as her “plus one” and human fire extinguisher, Dee feels morally obliged to confess her feelings and disrupt Matt and Misa’s upcoming nuptials, Julia Roberts style. But when Dee realizes that Misa Nagasaka, the poster child of the mood disorders clinic, doesn’t want the other wedding guests to know where they met, she worries that she’s being left behind and starts to self-destruct. Then there are the complexities of the wedding party to contend with – Misa’s family’s discomfort with mental illness, Matt’s sudden detour from his treatment plan, and Tilley’s growing frustration with Dee’s habit of prioritizing love over recovery. As Matt and Misa’s wedding plans are derailed by broken vows and unlikely alliances, Dee realizes that it’s not just a wedding she’s about to unravel – it’s the entire system of support that keeps them all afloat.

**LEANNE TOSHIKO SIMPSON**, 28, is a Yonsei writer from Scarborough, Ontario, living with bipolar disorder. Nominated for the Journey Prize in 2019, she has an M.F.A. from the University of Guelph and is currently completing a doctorate in Social Justice Education at the University of Toronto.



*A deeply immersive, redemptive story about a girl broken by cruelty and truth, who rises after the blows, gathers the fragments, and pieces together a remarkable life of creativity and kindness.*

“Tucker’s triumphant debut novel is the story of a childhood lost, a family found, and a coming-of-age, recounted in precise and poetic language ... [a]t times difficult to read, but this novel is worth every moment of pain and every tear.”

– *Publishers Weekly* (starred), on *The Clay Girl*

“Tucker’s prose is as lyrical and powerful as the ocean ... Her rare gift of showing us beauty, hope and humour amid profound trauma make *The Clay Girl* an extraordinary debut novel.”

– *Toronto Star*, on *The Clay Girl*

**Rights sold:** North American English including audio: ECW Press (Fall 2021)

**Status:** Manuscript available April 2021

**Author’s website:** [www.heathertucker.ca](http://www.heathertucker.ca)

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

## Heather Tucker

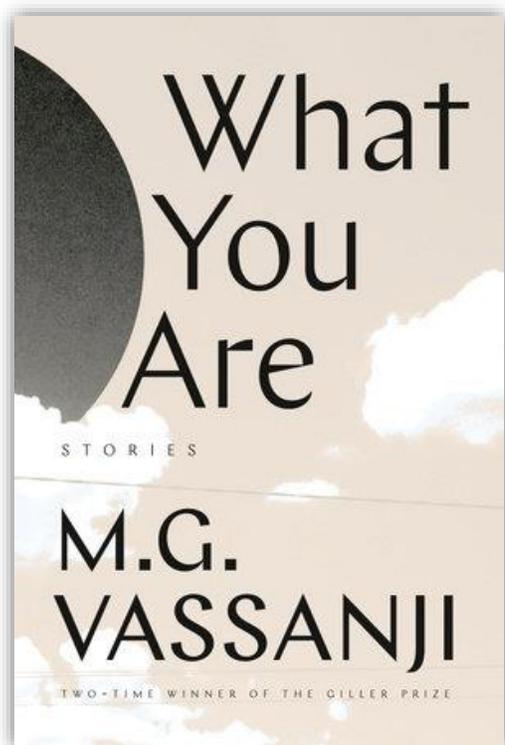
### CRACKED POTS

1969. Ari Appleton’s classmate Natasha has disappeared, and Ari’s stepfather Dick is determined to solve the case and make detective. Ari retreats from the search, grateful that the trouble isn’t the fault of an Appleton. She has enough to do protecting young Mikey from her drunken mother and Dick.

Natasha’s body is discovered days before Ari escapes from Toronto. As clues unfold and golden boy Byron Silver is revealed as the killer, there’s growing terror in Ari that she and Byron are related. Then her mother dies, and her true love Jake is partially blinded and pushes her out of his life. Despite the mayhem, Ari becomes aware that she is strong in the broken places. Harnessing energy from all the calamity, Ari creates new art and sets to building a house. She faces the ghosts of a traumatic past and the truth of being the daughter of broken humans. She is a shattered pot, to be pieced together by her own hands and heart.



**HEATHER TUCKER’s** novel *The Clay Girl* is an enduring book club favorite that was a finalist for the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize and the Atlantic Book Award, and also an American Booksellers Association Indie Pick. She has won many prose and short-story writing competitions, and her stories have appeared in anthologies and literary journals. She lives in Ajax, Ontario.



**“Vassanji is a master storyteller, negotiating the in-between worlds of past and present, east and west, young and old.”**

– *Quill & Quire*, on *When She Was Queen*

**“The kind of sweeping, multilayered, turbulent narrative of near-hallucinatory power that is the hallmark of Vassanji’s best work.”**

– *The Globe and Mail*, on *When She Was Queen*

**“A sensory bouquet ... Vassanji is a wizard with mood and atmosphere.”**

– *Edmonton Journal*, on *Uburu Street*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Doubleday / Penguin Random House (May 11, 2021)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [www.mgvassanji.com](http://www.mgvassanji.com)

**Agent:** Bruce Westwood

M.G. Vassanji

## WHAT YOU ARE

*Stories*

From M.G. Vassanji, two-time Scotiabank Giller Prize-winner and winner of the Governor General’s Prize, comes a finely crafted collection of short fiction that explores the tensions between remembering the past and belonging in the future.

Weaving between wistful memories of youthful ambition and the compromises of age, traveling between the streets of Dar es Salaam and Toronto, the characters in these stories must negotiate distance – between here and there; between lives imagined and lives lived; between expectation and disappointment; between inclusion and exclusion.

Throughout, Vassanji engages passionately with the intellectual and political questions that inspire him as a writer and a citizen, while always matching the energy of his ideas with the empathy and emotional depth he invests in his characters. As with all Vassanji’s finest work, *What You Are* stands as a model of artistic integrity and clarity of vision.



**M.G. VASSANJI** is the author of nine novels, two collections of short stories, two memoirs, and a biography of Mordecai Richler. He is twice winner of the Scotiabank Giller Prize (1994, 2003); the Governor General’s Prize (2009); the Harbourfront Festival Prize (1993); the Commonwealth First Book Prize (1990); and the Bressani Prize (1994). *The Assassin’s Song* was also shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Governor General’s Prize, the Writers Trust Award, and India’s Crossword Prize. His work has been translated into eleven languages. In June 2015, Vassanji was awarded the Canada Council Molson Prize for the Arts.



*A captivating new thriller in the Wakeland detective series that explores the depths of Vancouver's criminal underworld.*

**“A gripping, wrenching, brilliant piece of fiction, quite possibly the definitive Vancouver crime novel. If *Last of the Independents* announced Sam Wiebe’s arrival, *Invisible Dead* places him in the ranks of the best young mystery writers working today – on either side of the border. This book is outstanding.”**

– Owen Laukkanen, author of *The Professionals*, on *Invisible Dead*

**“Convincingly brings Raymond Chandler into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”**

– *Publishers Weekly* (starred), on *Cut You Down*

**Rights sold:** Audio (North American English): Blackstone

North American English: Douglas & McIntyre (September 2021)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [www.samwiebe.com](http://www.samwiebe.com)

**Agent:** Chris Casuccio

## Sam Wiebe

### HELL AND GONE

*A Wakeland Novel*

Caught between the grimy and glittering sides of Vancouver’s streets, private investigator Dave Wakeland tries to keep his head down at the elite security firm he owns with partner Jeff Chen. But when masked men and women storm an ordinary-looking office building in Chinatown, leaving a trail of carnage, Wakeland finds himself caught up in a mystery that won’t let him go, as hard as he tries to elude it.

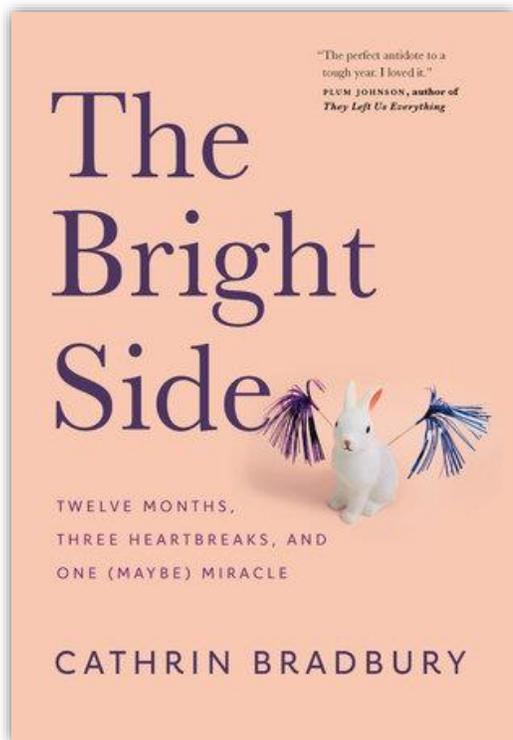
The police have a vested interest in finding the shooters, and so does the leader of the Exiles motorcycle gang. Both want Wakeland’s help. The deeper he investigates, the more connections he uncovers: a reclusive millionaire with ties to organized crime, an international security company with a sinister reputation, and a high-ranking police officer who seems to have a personal connection to the case. When the shooters themselves start turning up dead, Wakeland realizes the only way to guarantee his own safety, and that of the people he loves, is by finding out who hired the shooters and why.

What Wakeland uncovers are secrets no one wants known – a botched undercover operation, an ambitious gangster, and a double-crossing killer who used the shooting to cover up another crime. With a setup like this, anything can go wrong, and does. Skill and luck are needed for Wakeland and Chen to emerge with the killers, the money, and their own lives.

**SAM WIEBE** is the award-winning author of the Vancouver crime novels *Last of the Independents* (Dundurn, 2014), *Invisible Dead* and *Cut You Down* (Random House Canada, 2016 and 2018), *Never Going Back* (Rapid Reads, 2020), and the editor of the anthology *Vancouver Noir* (Akashik Books, 2018). Wiebe’s work has won an Arthur Ellis award and the Kobo Emerging Writers Prize, and been shortlisted for the Edgar, Hammett, Shamus, and City of Vancouver Book awards. He lives in British Columbia.

**NON-FICTION**

## NON-FICTION



**Book club catnip for fans of Nora Ephron, Jenny Lawson, Caitlin Moran, and Mindy Kaling.**

**“A daring observer of human habit whose deft and funny sentences hide an undercurrent of emotion that always comes as a welcome surprise.”**

– Ian Brown, author of *Sixty*

**“Combines grace, humanity, and humour ... [Bradbury] has the knack of finding light in darkness.”**

– Elizabeth Renzetti, author of *Shrewed*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Penguin / Penguin Random House (March 2, 2021)

**Status:** Books available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Cathrin Bradbury

### THE BRIGHT SIDE

*Twelve Months, Three Heartbreaks,  
and One (Maybe) Miracle*

The hilarious and moving story of how a modern woman’s life can change utterly in a single year – and how, even when life whacks you in the head, you can find yourself rewarded with grace.

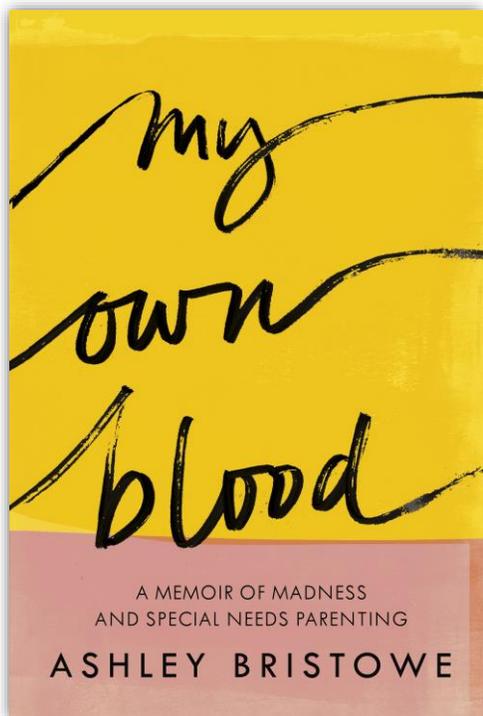
What does it mean when every aspect of your life blows up within a matter of months? For Cathrin Bradbury, her year-from-hell encompassed the death of both her beloved parents, a divorce from her husband of 25 years, the horrendously disruptive repairs to her fire hazard house, and a crushingly disappointing end to a new romance.

As a shell-shocked Bradbury navigates those setbacks, she discovers surprises and miracles around her: After 30 years of ruin, her brother makes an astounding recovery to health and sobriety, and she’s reunited with her closest childhood friend after decades of absence. She discovers that the path is steep, the view obscured, but there’s light ahead. With candor and wit, Bradbury negotiates major life changes and comes out the other side a stronger version of herself. Cathartic, hilarious, and deeply moving, Bradbury proves that every situation has a silver lining – even when it’s just the duct tape holding the fragments of your life together.



**CATHRIN BRADBURY** is Senior News Director at the CBC. She lives in Toronto.

## NON-FICTION



**“Most books about raising children with serious disabilities aim for optimism, and sound exactly alike. But once in a while, a gifted writer produces a brutally honest and utterly readable account of that dark, detailed, furious, unseen world, after which you can’t see ordinary life the same way again ... *My Own Blood* is that kind of book. You need to read it, as soon as possible.”**

– Ian Brown, author of *The Boy in the Moon*

**“A stunner of a memoir in which each sentence either sings or stings.”**

– Deepa Mehta, film director and screenwriter

**“I was completely swept away ... I don’t think I will ever forget my encounter with her frankness, her devotion, her lostness, her immersion in the extremes of life, or her propulsive and urgent writing.”**

– Sheila Heti, author of *Motherhood*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House (April 6, 2021)

**Status:** Books available

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

# Ashley Bristowe

## MY OWN BLOOD

*A Memoir of Madness  
and Special Needs Parenting*

What happens when your child is disabled, and sacrificing all you’ve got and more is the only hope for his future?

When their son Alexander is diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder, doctors tell Ashley Bristowe and her husband that the boy won’t walk or talk. Reeling, Bristowe researches the just-named Kleefstra Syndrome, and finds little hope. Then she discovers the U.S.-based Institutes, which have been improving the lives of brain-injured children for decades. Recruiting volunteers, organizing therapy, fundraising as they fall deep into debt, Bristowe devotes years of 24/7 effort to an impossibly rigorous diet and therapy program. He will never be “normal,” but Alexander now talks, walks, plays the piano (badly), and goes to school.

But the personal toll is devastating. “It takes a village,” but too much of Bristowe’s village is uncomfortable with her son’s difference, the therapy’s demands, and the family’s bottomless need.

*My Own Blood* is an uplifting story, but it never shies away from the devastating impact of a baby that science couldn’t predict and medicine couldn’t help. It’s the story of a woman who lost everything she’d once been – a professional, an optimist, a capable adult – in sacrifice to her son.



**ASHLEY BRISTOWE** has been a radio producer, development planner, and a portrait and editorial photographer whose work has appeared around the world in print and online, from *The Globe and Mail* to *Raygun* to the *South China Morning Post*. In the 80s, she was the child star of ACCESS TV’s *Harriet’s Magic Hats*. She lives in Calgary with her family.

## NON-FICTION



*An inspiring story of resilience and bravery by the Canadian woman who became the linchpin of the case to bring Bill Cosby to justice. Andrea Constand did the right thing, not just for herself, but for more than 60 other women.*

**“The linchpin of the Bill Cosby case.”**

– *The New York Times*

**“The true hero of #MeToo ... the first female courageous enough to stand up to all the power of Hollywood and demand the impossible and win the unbelievable.”**

– *New York Daily News*

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**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Penguin / Penguin Random House (Fall 2021)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Andrea Constand

### THE MOMENT

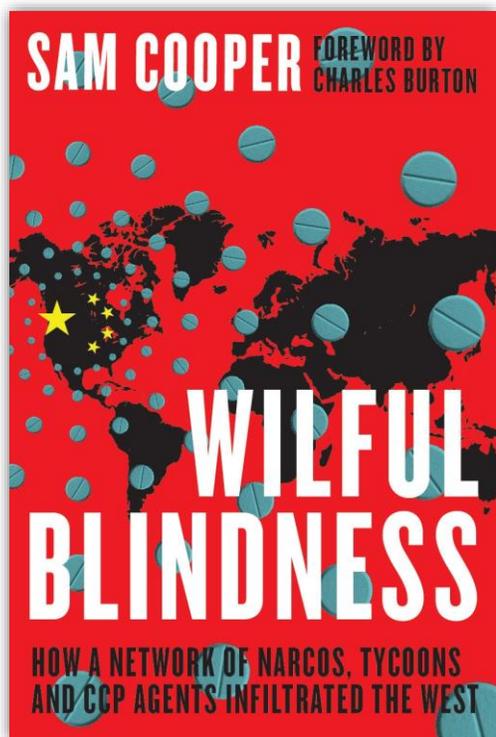
*Standing Up to Bill Cosby,  
Speaking Up for Women*

When Bill Cosby was convicted on three counts of indecent assault in 2018, the verdict sent shock waves around the globe. In accusations going back decades, more than 60 women recounted how they'd been drugged, raped, and assaulted at Cosby's hands. Andrea Constand, who has been called “the true hero of #MeToo,” was the only woman with the power to bring him to justice.

Constand's decade-long legal marathon required her to endure an excruciating civil suit and two harrowing criminal trials. It was her deep sense of personal and social responsibility, fostered by her close-knit immigrant family and values earned through team sports, that gave her the courage to testify at the criminal trial – something she agreed to do not for herself, but for the women whose stories would never be told in court.

What she didn't know at the time was that stepping up and doing the right thing, despite the tremendous stresses and even though the outcome was uncertain, would ultimately put her on a path to true healing. In this memoir, she shares her story of hope, healing and transformation.

**ANDREA CONSTAND** is Executive Director and President of Hope Healing and Transformation (HHT), a holistic program to help survivors build a strong foundation in self-care and healing. She is passionate about empowering survivors and is dedicating her future to helping victims and survivors of sexual assault find hope, recover from trauma, and begin the journey towards healing. She lives in Toronto.



*An in-depth look into Chinese organized crime infiltration into Canada over the past 25 years.*

**Rights sold:** North American English and English in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Africa, and Taiwan including audio; complex Chinese in Taiwan: Optimum Publishing International (Spring 2022)

**Status:** Draft manuscript available

**Author's website:**

[www.twitter.com/scoopercooper](http://www.twitter.com/scoopercooper)

**Agent:** Michael A. Levine

Sam Cooper

## WILFUL BLINDNESS

*How A Network of Narcos, Tycoons and CCP Agents Infiltrated the West*

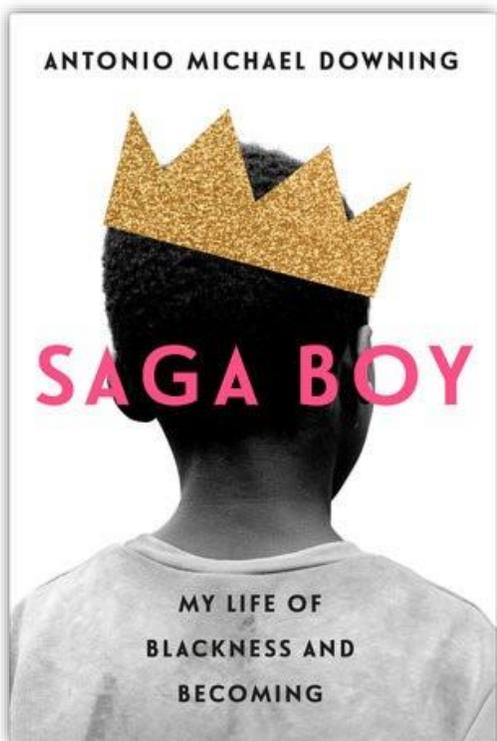
International drug cartels, espionage, murder, and political corruption. When one thinks of the international stereotypes that bless, or, depending on how you perceive it, plague Canada, these are not the things that come to mind. How did Canadian cities such as Vancouver and Toronto become hubs of Chinese Communist Party operations and global money laundering?

The plot goes back to Britain's handover of Hong Kong, a geopolitical event with consequences now unfolding in Western capitals. Author Sam Cooper traces the infiltration of casino and real estate businesses in Canada – and the Five Eyes allies – through heroin, methamphetamine and fentanyl cartels tied to the Chinese state.

*Wilful Blindness* uncovers an international plot many may find hard to believe until they read this gripping investigative narrative. British readers that know the name of Chi Lop Tse or the case of EncroChat, an encryption tech company used by London drug bosses to plan executions, will be stunned to learn how transnational narco networks tie to a major corruption scandal in Canada.



**SAM COOPER** is a national investigative journalist for *Global News*, focusing on political corruption, organized and financial crime, foreign influence, national security and intelligence. His aim is to uncover important truths and hold accountable those in power.



“Singularly dazzling, *Saga Boy* is a brilliant collage of the 21<sup>st</sup> century’s most incredible memoirs. Told with an unforgettable and innovative pace, this a book I will reread forever.”

– Kiese Laymon, author of *Heavy*

“*Saga Boy* is a vibrant, evocative, and searing account of the lives of Black immigrants. Downing helps us understand the rage and resilience of Black boys – motherless, fatherless, itinerant – and the communities that intervene to raise them. The triumph of *Saga Boy* is the triumph of Blackness everywhere – the irrepressible instinct for survival in a world where Blacks are prey.”

– Ian Williams, Scotiabank Giller Prize-winning author of *Reproduction*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Viking / Penguin Random House (Jan. 19, 2021)

U.S.: Milkweed Editions (Sep. 2021)

**Status:** Books available

**Author’s website:**

[www.antoniomichaeldowning.com](http://www.antoniomichaeldowning.com)

**Agents:** Chris Casuccio and John Pearce

## Antonio Michael Downing

### SAGA BOY

*My Life of Blackness and Becoming*

Raised by his indomitable grandmother in the lush rainforest of southern Trinidad, Downing, at age eleven, is uprooted to Canada when she dies. But to a very unusual part of Canada: He and his older brother are sent to live with his stern, evangelical Aunt Joan, in Wabigoon, a tiny northern Ontario community where they are the only Black children in the town. In this wilderness, he begins his journey as an immigrant minority, using music and performance to dramatically transform himself. At the heart of his odyssey is the longing for a home.

He tries to flee his messy life by transforming into a series of extravagant musical personalities, yet like his father and grandfather, he has become a “Saga Boy,” a Trinidadian playboy, addicted to escapism, attention, and sex. When the inevitable crash happens, he finds himself in a cold, stone jail cell. He has become everything he was trying to escape and must finally face himself.

Richly evocative, *Saga Boy* is a heart-wrenching but uplifting story of a lonely immigrant boy who overcomes adversity and abandonment to reclaim his black identity and embrace a rich heritage.



**ANTONIO MICHAEL DOWNING** grew up in southern Trinidad; Northern Ontario; Brooklyn, New York; and Kitchener, Ontario. He is a musician, writer, and activist based in Toronto. His novel, *Molasses*, was published to critical acclaim. In 2017, he was named by the RBC Taylor Prize as one of Canada’s top Emerging Writers of non-fiction. He performs and composes music as John Orpheus.



*Capricious, big-hearted, joyful: an epic memoir from one of Canada's most acclaimed Indigenous writers and performers.*

**“Beautiful, lyrical ... emotionally complex, witty, symphonic and sad ... filled with blood and guts, life and love.”**

– *The Vancouver Sun*, on *Kiss of the Fur Queen*

**“[A]mong the most haunting and evocative pieces of writing to ever appear in Canadian literature ... pure magic.”**

– *Quill & Quire*, on *Kiss of the Fur Queen*

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**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Doubleday / Penguin Random House (Sep. 28, 2021)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Tomson Highway

# PERMANENT ASTONISHMENT

*Son of a Caribou Hunter: A Memoir*

Tomson Highway was born in a snowbank on an island in the sub-Arctic, the 11<sup>th</sup> of 12 children in a nomadic, caribou-hunting Cree family who traversed the tundra by dogsled and lived off the land. In *Permanent Astonishment*, one of the greatest writers of our time animates the magical world of his northern childhood, paying tribute to a way of life that few have experienced and fewer still have chronicled.

Growing up in a land of ten thousand lakes and islands, Highway relished being pulled by dogsled beneath a night sky alive with stars; sucking the juices from roasted muskrat tails; and singing country music songs with his impossibly beautiful older sister and her teenaged friends. Surrounded by the love of his family and the vast, mesmerizing landscape they called home, his was in many ways an idyllic childhood. But five of Highway's siblings died in childhood, and Balazee and Joe, who loved their surviving children profoundly, wanted their two youngest sons to enjoy opportunities as big as the world. And so, when Highway was six, he and his brother were flown south by float plane to attend a residential school and begin the rest of their education.

*Permanent Astonishment* is Highway's extravagant embrace of his beloved brother's final words: "Don't mourn me, be joyful." Infused with humor and heart in equal measure, it offers insights, both hilarious and profound, into the uniquely Cree experience of culture, conquest and survival.

**TOMSON HIGHWAY** is the celebrated author of the novel *Kiss of the Fur Queen*, which has been optioned for film and television, and several plays including *The Rez Sisters* and *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*, both of which won Dora Mavor Moore Awards and Floyd S. Chalmers Awards. He has criss-crossed North America, Europe and the world with his readings, lectures, piano performances, and teaching engagements. He divides his time between Canada and Italy.



*The Tenth Nerve takes you inside a neurosurgeon's life in an engaging, sympathetic, and frequently dramatic way. Honey is a natural story-teller – and not just about his surgeries, which make for riveting, edge-of-the-seat reading. There's intriguing information about the brain here – including a fascinating condensed history of neurosurgery – but the book always comes back to people and their stories.*

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**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio:  
Random House / Penguin Random House  
(Spring 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** John Pearce

## Dr. Christopher Honey

### THE TENTH NERVE

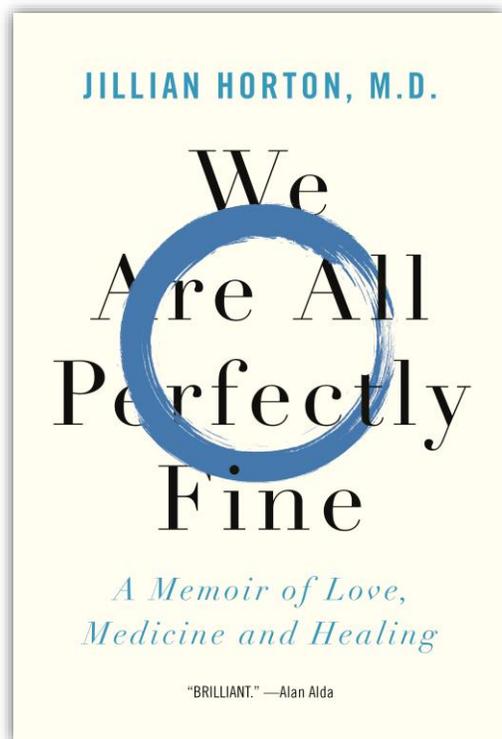
*What a Brain Surgeon Learned from his Patients*

The first story takes place in Africa. Honey was persuaded to operate on Saika, a remarkable nine-month-old boy in Liberia with an “inoperable” brain condition. Saika died soon afterwards, but the result of the operation brought great benefits to his family and his village. This taught Honey that while he could fail as a physician, he must always try to help. Jeff, the patient who crystalized Honey’s decision to study surgery, had fallen from a construction site in Toronto. He nearly died twice in ER but was dramatically saved. The other five stories all carry lessons. Emily and Leo, for example, had an extremely serious, but hitherto unknown, coughing/choking condition, later named HeLPS. But they refused to give up in the face of specialists’ inability to resolve the issue – until the condition was finally identified and cured by Honey and his team.

*The Tenth Nerve* pays tribute to seven brave patients who allowed Honey to glimpse some fundamental truths in medicine and humanity, and in so doing made him a better person. “The scalpel can only go so deep,” he says. “*The Tenth Nerve*, I hope, is a book is about curiosity, courage, and caring.”

**DR. CHRISTOPHER HONEY** is a pioneering Canadian neurosurgeon based at Vancouver General Hospital. In addition to his research on understanding and treating movement disorders and human pain pathways, he has given over 200 lectures on six continents. He has provided pro bono, humanitarian surgical care in Liberia and Ghana and been invited to operate in China, Indonesia and Kuwait. As President of the [World Neurosurgical Federation for Cranial Nerve Disorders](#), he will host the 3rd World Congress of this Society in Vancouver in 2022.

## NON-FICTION



**“Brilliant ... heartbreaking.”**

– Alan Alda, six-time Emmy Award and Golden Globe Award winner

**“Profound and compassionate ... A must read.”**

– Dr. Ronald Epstein, author of *Attending: Medicine, Mindfulness, and Humanity*

**“Searing, real, and often funny ... A bold and inspiring account of great suffering and great healing.”**

– Dr. Samuel Shem, author of *The House of God* and its sequel, *Man's 4th Best Hospital*

**“Impressive ... she is truthful about medicine as a career, and analyzes its flaws in a precise and courageous way ... [it] will change how doctors are trained and treated.”**

– *Toronto Star*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (Feb. 23, 2021)

**Status:** Books available

**Author's website:** [www.cmaj.ca/medlife](http://www.cmaj.ca/medlife)

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Dr. Jillian Horton

# WE ARE ALL PERFECTLY FINE

*A Memoir of Love, Medicine and Healing*

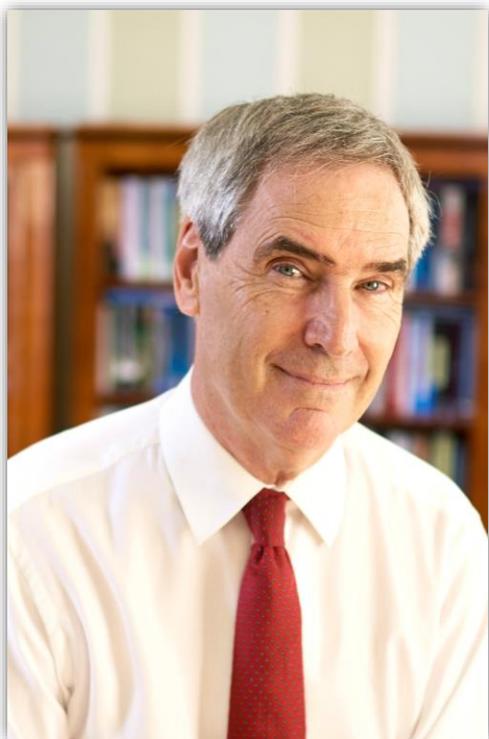
An ode to the vulnerability of healers, this is a funny, fresh, and deeply affecting story of a married mother of three on the brink of personal and professional collapse who attends rehab with a twist: a week-long meditation retreat for burnt-out doctors.

At first, she is deeply uncomfortable with the spartan accommodation, silent meals, and scheduled bonding sessions. But as this group of wounded healers struggles through awkward first encounters, guided meditation, and breathing exercises, something remarkable happens: World-class surgeons, psychiatrists, pediatricians, and general practitioners open up and share stories of the secret guilt and grief they carry, the cases they can't forget, and their deep-seated fear that they will fall short of the expectations that define them.

In this moving memoir that will make you laugh and break your heart in equal measure, Dr. Jillian Horton throws open a window onto the flawed system that shapes medical professionals, the rarely acknowledged stresses that cause doctors to commit suicide at the highest rate of any white-collar profession, and the crucial role compassion plays in not only treating others but also in taking care of ourselves.



**DR. JILLIAN HORTON** is an award-winning medical educator whose op-eds have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, and who hosts *Med Life with Dr. Horton*, an interview podcast that explores the emotions and complexities of the human side of medicine and deepens the conversation about physician health. She lives in Winnipeg.



*Timely and profound philosophical meditations on how great figures in history, literature, music, and art searched for solace while facing tragedies and crises.*

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**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Fall 2021)  
Germany: Ullstein  
Netherlands: Cossee  
Romania: Editura Trei Srl  
Spain: Taurus / Penguin Random House  
Taiwan: Business Weekly Publications  
U.K. & Commonwealth excl. Canada: Picador / Pan Macmillan (Jan. 11, 2022)  
U.S.: Henry Holt / Macmillan (Nov. 2, 2021)  
**Status:** Manuscript available  
**Author's website:** [www.michaelignatieff.ca](http://www.michaelignatieff.ca)  
**Agent:** Michael A. Levine

## Michael Ignatieff

# ON CONSOLATION

*Finding Solace in Hard Times*

When we lose someone we love, when we suffer loss or defeat, when catastrophe strikes – war, famine, pandemic – we go in search of consolation. Once the province of priests and philosophers, the language of consolation has largely vanished from our modern vocabulary, and the places where it was offered – houses of religion – are often empty. Rejecting the solace of ancient religious texts, humanity since the sixteenth century has increasingly placed its faith in science, ideology, and the therapeutic.

How do we console each other and ourselves in an age of unbelief? In a series of lapidary meditations on writers, artists, musicians, and their works – from the books of Job and Psalms to Albert Camus, Anna Akhmatova, and Primo Levi – esteemed writer and historian Michael Ignatieff shows how men and women in extremity have looked to each other across time to recover hope and resilience.

Recreating the moments when great figures found the courage to confront their fate and the determination to continue unafraid, *On Consolation* takes those stories into the present, movingly contending that we can revive these traditions of consolation to meet the anguish and uncertainties of our precarious 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**MICHAEL IGNATIEFF** is a writer, historian, former leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, and Edward R. Murrow Professor of Press, Politics and Public Policy at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He is currently Rector and President of Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. His books include *The Needs of Strangers*, *The Russian Album*, *Scar Tissue*, *Blood and Belonging*, *The Warrior's Honor*, *Isaiah Berlin: A Life*, *The Lesser Evil*, *Fire and Ashes*, and *The Ordinary Virtues: Moral Order in a Divided World*.



**“Every once in a lifetime an author comes along that pulls all the strands of social history, migration diaspora, regional politics and, above all, food, into a most comprehensive and thoughtful tome. Cheuk Kwan has done just this.”**

– Chef Ken Hom, OBE

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**Rights sold:** Audio (North American English): Blackstone  
North American English: Douglas & McIntyre (Feb. 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Chris Casuccio

## Cheuk Kwan

### HAVE YOU EATEN YET?

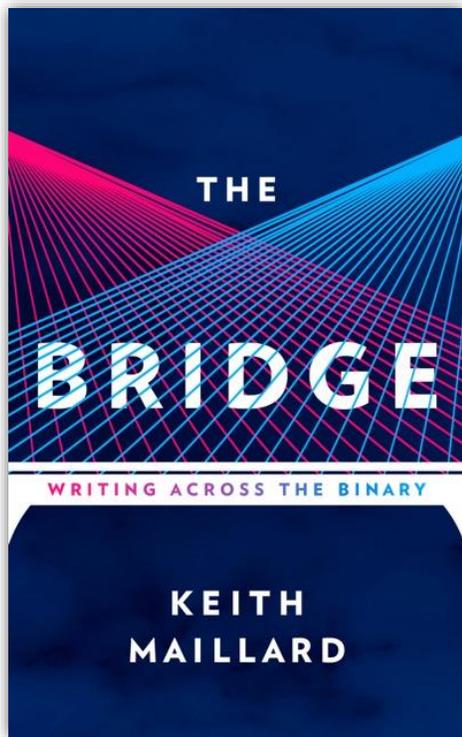
*A Journey into the Chinese Diaspora*

Family-run Chinese restaurants are global icons of immigration, community, and good food. They dot even the most remote landscapes, as cultural outposts of brave sojourners, the bringers of dim sum and unimagined culinary hybrids. But food is just an entry point.

A deeper look inside reveals a complicated history of cultural migration and world politics. The Jade Gardens and Golden Dragons that populate towns and cities from Africa to South America are intricately bound up in the social schisms and political movements that propelled the world into the twentieth century and beyond.

In *Have You Eaten Yet?* Cheuk Kwan draws out this global narrative by linking the myriad personal stories of chefs, entrepreneurs, laborers and dreamers who populate Chinese kitchens worldwide. At the core of this exploration is the examination of an intriguing paradox which characterizes almost all Chinese communities. That is, how at once Chinese immigrants have resisted (or have been prevented from) complete assimilation into the social fabric of their new homes and maintained a strong sense of cultural identity, but at the same time, how the engine of their economic survival, the Chinese restaurant, has become seamlessly woven into it.

**CHEUK KWAN** was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Singapore, Hong Kong, and Japan. His five films from the *Chinese Restaurants* series bring together his love of food and travel and appreciation of the Chinese diaspora culture worldwide. Kwan speaks English, Japanese, French, as well as Cantonese and Mandarin, and is based in Toronto.



“Through constellated fragments of memory, key moments in twentieth-century America, and the unfolding of an acclaimed literary life, *The Bridge* is the forthright, deeply moving memoir of a nonbinary writer coming of age and coming to self. Intimate and expansive in equal measure, this story speaks with particular generosity to all of us who’ve been deemed ‘too much’ or ‘too little’ in our gender expression, as much by those who loved us as by those who despised us. This is a book that will stay with you long after its final lines, in all the very best ways.”

– Daniel Heath Justice, author of *Why Indigenous Literatures Matter*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English: Freehand Books (May 2021)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [www.keithmaillard.com](http://www.keithmaillard.com)

**Agent:** John Pearce

## Keith Maillard

### THE BRIDGE

*Writing Across the Binary*

As a young child, Keith Maillard asked his mother and grandmother, over and over again, “Am I a boy, or am I a girl?” He was never quite sure. Neither “boy” nor “girl” quite fit. But in America of the 40s and 50s, there were absolutely no other options.

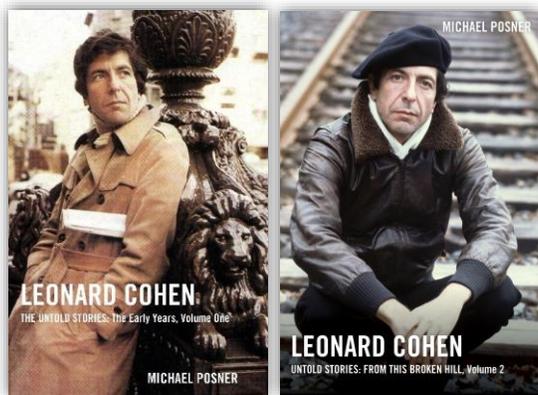
In this stunning memoir, Maillard weaves together an intricate collage of childhood memories, exploring the contradictory and destructive forces at work that put his very life at risk. For young Keith, writing proved to be a way to fight against what the world was telling him. In his scribbled stories, he began to spot the faintest glimmer that things could be different. And he kept writing, kept fighting, for years – decades – until he reached the other side of the bridge and could see his way to a new understanding of his own nonbinary identity.

*The Bridge* reveals the grave dangers of the gender binary, both for those who are outside it and for those who aren’t. And it offers hope for a kinder future for all who dare to say “no” to the way that we do gender.



**KEITH MAILLARD** is a professor at the University of British Columbia’s Creative Writing Program, of which he was previously Chair. His body of work includes a memoir, *Fatherless*, and fourteen novels, one of which, *Motet*, won the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. *Hazard Zones* was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Literary Prize and *Gloria* (published in the U.S. by Soho Press) won the Governor General’s Award. *The Clarinet Polka* (St. Martin’s Press) was awarded the Creative Arts Prize by the Polish American Historical Association. Maillard, whose most recent novel was *Twin Studies* (Freehand Books), grew up in Wheeling, West Virginia, where he’s been inducted into their Hall of Fame. He now lives in Vancouver.

## NON-FICTION



A *Globe and Mail* Top 100 Book of 2020

“Posner undertook dozens and dozens of interviews ... creating a unique oral history, as if they’re in a room together, sharing memories and stories. ... They’re linked together with a light narrative voice that gives this biography a very intimate and personal feel.”

– *Toronto Star*, on *The Early Years*

“Leonard Cohen’s posthumous album in 2019 proved he still had something profound to say, even in death. This book likewise confirms that hundreds of others have their own tales to tell about the master songwriter. The first of three volumes, it covers his early life via a myriad of fascinating interviewees, from rabbis to lovers.”

– *Evening Standard*, on *The Early Years*

“Posner masterfully weaves the story of the iconic musician’s life through hundreds of interviews with the people who knew him best, including family members, business partners, and lovers alike.”

– *Chatelaine*, on *The Early Years*

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**Rights sold:** World English including audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (Book 1: Oct. 20, 2020; Book 2: Oct. 12, 2021)

**Status:** Books available (Book 1); Manuscript available April 2021 (Book 2)

**Author’s website:** <https://michaelposner.com>

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon



**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*.

# Michael Posner LEONARD COHEN UNTOLD STORIES

## *Volume One: The Early Years*

Artist, poet, novelist, singer-songwriter, icon – there has never been a figure like Leonard Cohen. 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. *Leonard Cohen, The Untold Stories* 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’s also a snapshot of a golden era – the times that helped foster his talents and successes.

## *Volume Two: From This Broken Hill*

*From This Broken Hill* follows Leonard Cohen from the conclusion of his first international music tour in 1971 as he continued to compose poetry, record music, and search for meaning into the late 1980s. The book explores his decade-long relationships with Suzanne Elrod, with whom he had two children, and various other romantic partners, including the beginning of his long relationship with French photographer Dominique Issermann and, simultaneously, a five-year relationship with a woman never previously identified.

It’s a challenging time for Cohen. His personal life is in chaos, his career stumbles, and other artistic endeavors fail to find an audience. However, this period also marks the start of his 40-year immersion in Zen Buddhism, which would connect him to the legendary Zen master Joshu Sasaki and inspire some of his most profound and enduring art.



**“[Raboy] is especially adroit at portraying how Marconi was swept up in the modern world he helped create ... *Marconi* really hums when Raboy details how his subject was implicated in the social and political effects of wireless ... *Marconi*, which functions as a cultural history as much as a biography, reminds us that in its earliest incarnations, wireless had a romance and mystique.”**

– Greg Milner, *The New York Times*, on *Marconi: The Man Who Networked the World*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English: House of Anansi Press (Summer 2022)

U.S. including audio: Oxford University Press (Spring/Summer 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available May 2021

**Author’s website:** [www.marcraboy.org](http://www.marcraboy.org)

**Agent:** John Pearce

## Marc Raboy

### SEARCHING FOR ALICIA

This is the dramatic and, for the author, very personal story of Alicia Raboy, one of the 30,000 who “disappeared” in Argentina in the 1970s.

In 1976, Alicia Raboy and her husband’s car was stopped by an unmarked vehicle. Her husband was shot and killed and she was grabbed off the street. She managed to pass her eleven-month-old daughter to a bystander. She was never seen again.

Marc Raboy, who lives in Montreal, visited Argentina twice and met with Alicia’s family, compelled by the possibility that Alicia and he were related (since Raboys from the same area of the Ukraine did emigrate to Argentina).

What he discovers as he reconstructs Alicia’s life and untimely death is a powerful and frightening story that speaks volumes not only about Alicia and her comrades but also about all “the disappeared.”

A cross between *Eleni* and *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, *Searching for Alicia* is a compelling personal story, but also a cultural and political history: a searing portrait of a horrific era.

**MARC RABOY** is Beaverbrook Professor Emeritus in Ethics, Media and Communications in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies at McGill University. A former journalist in a wide variety of media, he is the author or editor of some twenty books, including most recently his celebrated biography of Marconi. He has been a visiting scholar at Stockholm University, the University of Oxford, and New York University and has lectured all over the world. He is also a founding member of an international advocacy campaign for Communication Rights in the Information Society.

## NON-FICTION



*A memoir of love and loss, of unexpectedly having it all and just as suddenly losing everything; The Wolf of Wall Street meets A Beautiful, Terrible Thing.*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (Spring 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

# Jennifer Robertson

## BITCOIN WIDOW

*Gerald Cotten, Quadriga’s Missing Millions, and Me*

What if your fairytale was built on fraud?

Gerry Cotten was a 30-year-old bitcoin wizard who amassed substantial wealth through his company, Quadriga. But on his honeymoon in India, Cotten died, and the password to his encrypted virtual vaults – containing about \$240 million owed to over 100,000 investors – died with him.

International media covered the subsequent criminal investigations and stoked rampant rumors, including that he was still alive and that his wife, Jennifer Robertson, was the real mastermind behind a sophisticated sting operation. It’s now clear that Cotten gambled away about \$100 million.

*Bitcoin Widow* takes the reader on a shocking, immersive ride, from new love and unimaginable wealth, to grief and threats and pressure to solve the mystery. Now living in a small rented apartment, Robertson’s happy memories are tarnished by doubt. Cotten’s promised “death-switch” email that will reveal the passwords has not yet arrived.



**JENNIFER ROBERTSON** is a teacher in Nova Scotia.

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