

WESTWOOD CREATIVE ARTISTS

FRANKFURT
CATALOGUE

FALL 2023



FALL CATALOGUE

2023

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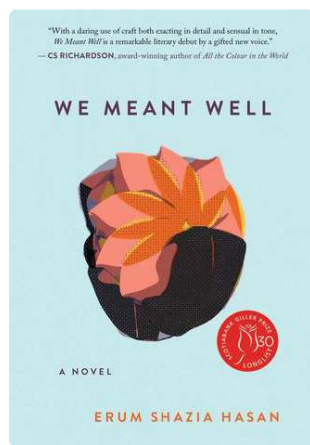
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October 2023

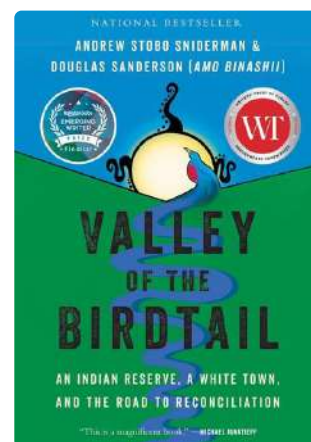
We are proud to present the Fall 2023 edition of Westwood Creative Artists' rights catalogue. Please allow us to highlight some of our clients' recent accomplishments.



Starting off with awards nominations, we are thrilled that **Erum Shazia Hasan**'s debut novel, *We Meant Well* ([p. 20](#)) – a provocative and propulsive story about a well intentioned international aid worker who faces professional and personal crises when a colleague is accused of sexual assault – has been longlisted for the [Scotiabank Giller Prize](#)! Praised for its daring use of craft and its uncomfortable, nuanced insights into the legacy of colonialism, it was named a [Most Anticipated Feminist Book of 2023 by Ms Magazine](#) and has been selected for the [Great Group Reads program of the Women's National Book Association](#). This is an emotionally complex novel that is equal parts unsparing and compassionate. ECW Press holds North American English rights to *We Meant Well*; all other rights, including film/TV, are available.

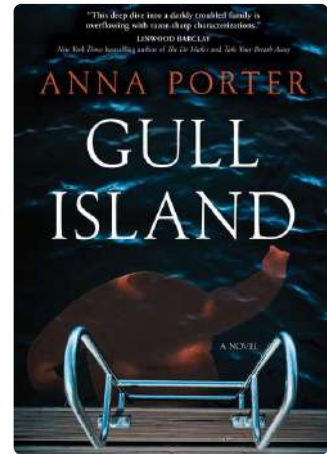
We have quite the roster of comedians amongst our clients: **Wayne Johnston**'s *Jennie's Boy* – a heartfelt, funny memoir about his Newfoundland childhood – has won the \$25,000 [Leacock Medal for Humour](#). **Susan Juby**'s *Mindful of Murder* was shortlisted for the award while **Thomas King**'s *Deep House* (Book 6 in the DreadfulWater mystery series) and **Bobbi French**'s multi-award-nominated debut novel *The Good Women of Safe Harbour* both made the longlist. We are grateful to all of these writers for the much appreciated levity they bring to their work!

Valley of the Birdtail by **Andrew Stobo Sniderman** and **Douglas Sanderson** took the 2022/2023 literary award scene by storm, building up quite the list of nominations and wins. The nominations include the shortlist for the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize, the longlist for the First Nations Communities Read Award, and the shortlist for the [Shaughnessy Cohen Prize](#), an award that celebrates the best in Canadian political writing. The jury for the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize described the book as a "masterfully written and accessible book which will resonate well beyond Canada." Its many wins include the Stubbendieck Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize, the Manitoba Historical Society [Margaret McWilliams Award](#), and the [J.W. Dafoe Book Prize](#), the jury of which said that "*Valley of the Birdtail* is the most clear-eyed and compassionate book on the legacy of Indigenous inequality... It's maddening in parts, wryly funny in other parts."



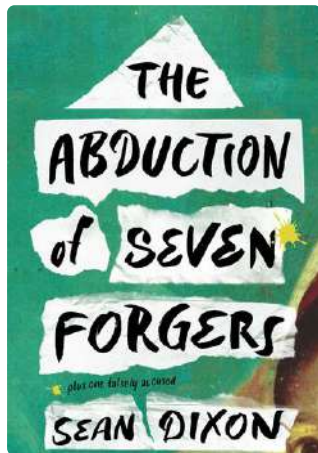
Kim Fu, who was shortlisted for last year's Scotiabank Giller Prize for her fabulist story collection *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century*, has won the 2023 [Washington State Book Award](#), the 2023 [Pacific Northwest Book Prize](#), the [2022 Danuta Gleed Literary Award](#), and the [2022 Shirley Jackson Award](#). Her story "Pre-Simulation Consultation XF007867" will be featured in [The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2023](#) anthology, selected by R.F. Kuang. Meanwhile, two of the stories in this much lauded collection have been optioned for film adaptation (details are under wraps for now). Rights have sold in the US, Australia, Turkey, Italy, France, and the Czech Republic.

And in other honors, we're delighted to see that **Anna Porter's** *Gull Island* has been selected as Barnes & Noble's [October 2023 Mystery/Thriller Monthly Pick](#), bringing with it a first print run of 45,000 copies! Published by Simon & Schuster Canada, it arrives with accolades from best-selling authors Catherine McKenzie, who said it "will leave you guessing about what is real and what is imagined until the very last page," and Anne Giardini, who called it "a real tour de force, with a strong sense of place, memorable characters, and a tightly wound plot." All rights outside of Canada and the US are available.



[The New York Times](#) gave **Don Gillmor's** *Breaking and Entering* ([p. 17](#)) a rave review in August, with Wadazanai Mhute praising it for "deftly converg[ing] doubt, infidelity and the fragility of family in a narrative that is both thrilling and relatable." Set during the hottest summer on record, the novel is about a bored and lonely 49-year-old woman who Googles "escape," joins a lock picking club, and then puts her new skills to use breaking into her neighbors' houses in an attempt to unearth their secrets, only to discover one closer to home. In its starred review, [Kirkus](#) called it "a smart, funny, and sneakily terrifying version of the way we live now," while [The Globe & Mail](#) deemed it "a fitting book for the moment in which we are living, staring down a housing crisis, a health-care crisis, a climate crisis, an affordability crisis, and, no doubt, a crisis or two of our own personal variety." North American rights are held by Biblioasis; all other rights, including film/TV, are available.

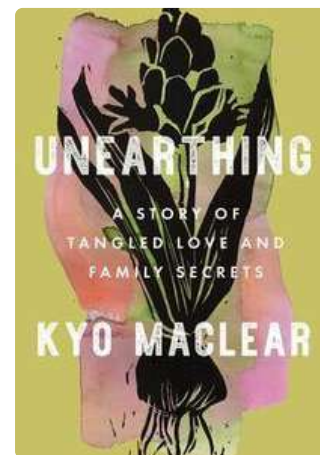
The Girls from Hush Cabin, the debut novel by **Marie Hoy-Kenny** which published on August 15th with Blackstone, was named a Barnes & Noble [Top Indie Favorite](#) for August/September 2023. The *Lambda Literary Review* included the book in [their list](#) of August's Most Anticipated LGBTQIA+ Literature, and Hoy-Kenny was featured on *CBC Radio's* morning program in a segment about how her grade nine teacher predicted she'd become a published author. You can listen to this lovely, heartwarming segment [here](#).



Governor General's award-nominated playwright and author **Sean Dixon's** *The Abduction of Seven Forgers* has received a starred review from [Quill & Quire](#): "A novel as sheerly entertaining as it is profound is a rare treat, and Sean Dixon's newest work is exactly that... Surprising, fun, and unexpectedly serious... A genuinely excellent read." Freehand Books holds Canadian English rights; all other rights are available.

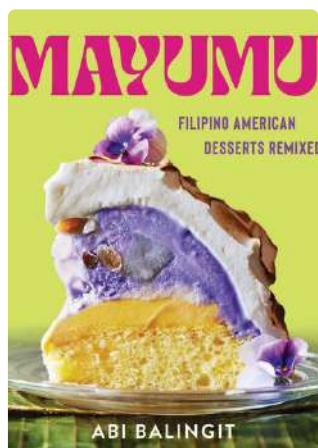
Giller Prize-winning author **Elizabeth Hay's** latest novel, the coming-of-middle-age story *Snow Road Station*, received a coveted review in [The New Yorker](#), which praised the novel as "sensitive" and noted that "Hay makes a case for the simplicity of pleasure." UK and Commonwealth rights to *Snow Road Station* – acclaimed by Mary Lawson as "joyous and lyrical," and by Ann-Marie MacDonald as "exquisitely etched" – have been picked up by the Mountain Leopard Press imprint of Headline at Hachette.

Our authors' non-fiction offerings have been earning rave reviews and widespread publicity as well. Since its US publication by Scribner in August, **Kyo Maclear's** remarkable work of literary memoir *Unearthing: A Story of Tangled Love and Family Secrets* ([p. 38](#)) has been hailed as "unforgettable" by *People Magazine*, "masterful, original... truly a wow" by [Good Morning America](#) columnist Zibby Owens, "generous, open-handed" by [NPR](#), and "poetic in the best sense" by [BookPage](#), while the [Washington Post](#) review praised it as "a moving account of a daughter's struggle to know her mother before she loses her... A reminder of the abundance of experience present in all families, and the power and healing that can come from honoring those many truths." *Unearthing* was selected for [Literary Hub's](#) list of best new releases, [AudioFile's](#) best audiobooks of August, and [CBC Books'](#) Spring 2023 list. Knopf Canada



published the memoir in April and Pushkin Press in the UK will publish in March 2024. Korean rights were sold to Barambooks and Russian rights to AdMarginem; all other rights, including film/TV, are available.

Matthew R. Morris' debut essay collection, *Black Boys Like Me: Confrontations with Race, Identity, and Belonging*, which brings readers into the world of Black masculinity, hip-hop culture, and education, has received some fantastic pre-publication blurbs in advance of its January 2024 publication with Viking Canada. Kiese Laymon, author of *Heavy*, praised the book, stating: "*Black Boys Like Me* ignited parts of me I honestly didn't believe any book could ever know. The language, and all its frequencies, pulses and settles in ways reminiscent of the first time I read bell hooks." Dr. Robin DiAngelo, *New York Times* bestselling author of *White Fragility* and *Nice Racism*, shared similar praise, calling it: "Gorgeously written... A must-read for understanding both the big and little Rs of racism and how it implicates all of us in different ways, relative to our positions within it." Curtis Carmichael, author of *Butterflies in the Trenches*, deemed it "a certified classic," while Saga Boy author Antonio Michael Downing called it "always real – authentic, brave, and vulnerable."



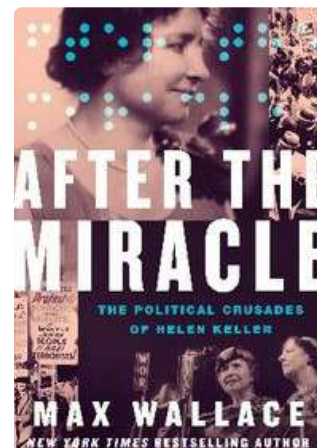
Mayumu: Filipino American Desserts Remixed ([p. 30](#)) by **Abi Balingit** has continued to receive a mountain of media attention since its publication in the spring. The accomplishments are too many to list in full, but here is a short collection of highlights: Balingit was named one of [Brooklyn's 50 Most Fascinating People](#); *Mayumu* made the *Tasting Table's* list of the [Best Cookbooks of 2023 So Far](#); Balingit was [invited to the Philippine Embassy in Washington, DC](#) to talk about her book as part of the Embassy's celebration of National Filipino Food Month; [the recipe](#) for Pastillas de Leche was featured in *The New York Times* alongside [an interview](#) Balingit gave for *The New York Times Magazine*; *Mayumu* was selected for *Forbes'* [20 Must-Read Asian American Authored Books list](#) and Balingit was [interviewed](#) by *Forbes*; *Vogue Philippines* [interviewed](#) the author; *Mayumu* made [Amazon's Best Books of 2023 So Far list](#); it was recommended by Nigella Lawson in her [Cookbook Corner newsletter](#); *New York Magazine* listed *Mayumu* as one of the [48 Most Giftable Coffee-Table Books](#); and more.

Shohini Ghose, TED senior fellow and author of *Her Space, Her Time* ([p. 32](#)) (due out this month from MIT Press and Random House Canada) has just been appointed [Chief Technology Officer of the Quantum Algorithms Institute in Vancouver](#). Her work there will include developing real-world applications of quantum computing, and building the future quantum workforce. Meanwhile *Her Space, Her Time* has been attracting enthusiastic advance notices. Donna Strickland, co-recipient of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics, praised it as “a captivating book that honors and highlights a wonderful selection of women who broke boundaries and challenged conventions in science and society.” And world-renowned astronaut Chris Hadfield called it “a vital, intimate chronicle of the indomitable women science pioneers who fought to better understand the universe.” All translation rights except Spanish and Korean are available.

Review coverage of *After the Miracle: The Political Crusades of Helen Keller* by **Max Wallace** has been fulsome. Haben Girma, celebrated disability justice activist, hailed it as a “riveting series of adventures with Helen Keller, from befriending Charlie Chaplin in Hollywood to calling out apartheid in South Africa. Helen’s delightful wit and fierce dedication to advocating for underrepresented people makes her a timeless role model.” And [USA Today](#) called it “a major biography of the blind and deaf disability rights icon, shining a spotlight on her lifelong fight for social justice and the work she did with her voice once she found it.”

Take care,

The Team at Westwood Creative Artists



RECENT PRIZES

FICTION

Bobbi French, *The Good Women of Safe Harbour*, longlisted for the Leacock Medal for Humour

Kim Fu, *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century*, winner of the Danuta Gleed Literary Award, Washington State Book Award for Fiction, and the Shirley Jackson Award for Short Fiction (for the short story "Pre-Simulation Consultation XF007867")

Erum Shazia Hasan, *We Meant Well*, longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize

Susan Juby, *Mindful of Murder*, shortlisted for the Leacock Medal for Humour

Thomas King, *Deep House*, winner of the Crime Writers of Canada Whodunit Award for Best Traditional Mystery and longlisted for the Leacock Medal for Humour

David A. Robertson, *Theory of Crows*, winner of the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award and shortlisted for the Margaret Laurence Award for Fiction; *Version Control*, winner of the Manuela Dias Book Design and Illustration Awards (Graphic Novel)

Rachel Rose, *The Octopus Has Three Hearts*, shortlisted for the Nancy Richler Memorial Prize for Fiction

Jaspreet Singh, *How to Hold a Pebble*, finalist for the Alberta Literary Awards' Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry

Thomas Trofimuk, *The Elephant on Karluv Bridge*, shortlisted for the George Bugnet Award for Fiction

NON-FICTION

Marcello Di Cintio, *The Cowboy Exclaims*, finalist for Alberta Literary Awards' James H. Gray Award for Short Non-fiction

Chris Honey, *The Tenth Nerve*, shortlisted for the Sunshine Coast Writers and Editors Society Book Award for Non-fiction

Douglas Hunter, *Jackson's Wars: A.Y. Jackson, the Birth of the Group of Seven, and the Great War*, shortlisted for the J.W. Dafoe Book Prize

Wayne Johnston, *Jennie's Boy*, winner of the Leacock Medal for Humour

Allan Levine, *Details are Unprintable*, finalist for the Pinsky Givon Family Prize for Non-fiction

RECENT PRIZES

Simu Liu, *We Were Dreamers*, nominated for the Heritage Toronto Awards (Book category)

Jamal Saeed, *My Road from Damascus*, shortlisted for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Non-fiction

Andrew Stobo Sniderman and Douglas Sanderson, *Valley of the Birdtail*, winner of the Manitoba Historical Society Margaret McWilliams Award, longlisted for the First Nation Communities Read Award, winner of the 2022 Stubbendieck Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize, winner of the J.W. Dafoe Book Prize, finalist for the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize, shortlisted for the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize

Rosemary Sullivan, *The Betrayal of Anne Frank*, shortlisted for the Crime Writers of Canada The Brass Knuckles Award for Best Non-fiction Crime Book

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK & MIDDLE GRADE

Caroline Adderson, *Babble! And How Punctuation Saved It* and *Izzy's Tail of Trouble*, shortlisted for The Joan Betty Stuchner – Oy Vey! – Funniest Children's Book Award

Linda Bailey, *Arthur Who Wrote Sherlock*, shortlisted for the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize

Alison Hughes, *Fly*, shortlisted for the Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award (Northern Lights category)

Susan Juby, *Me Three*, shortlisted for the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize

Joanne Levy, *Sorry For Your Loss*, shortlisted for the Diamond Willow Award

David A. Robertson, *The Stone Child* (Book 3 in The Misewa Saga), winner of the McNally Robinson Book for Young People (Older Category)

Dena Seiferling, *The Language of Flowers*, winner of the Alberta Literary Awards' R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature

RECENT SALES

FICTION

Madhur Anand, *To Place a Rabbit*, World: Knopf / Penguin Random House Canada

Buffy Cram, *Once Upon an Effing Time*, Audio (World English): Tantor Media; Italy: NN Editore

Virginia Evans, *The Correspondent*, World: Crown / Penguin Random House US

Kim Fu, *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century*, Turkey: İthaki Yayıncılık

Debi Goodwin, *Rains, At Times Heavy*, Russia: Foliant

Christine Higdon, *Gin, Turpentine, Pennyroyal, Rue*, Audio (World English): Dreamscape (sale by ECW Press); Serbia: Laguna

Susan Juby, *Meditation on Murder and Contemplation of a Crime*, Film/TV (World): Reality Distortion Field Inc.

Thomas King, *Coyote's New Suit*, Live Stage (Regina): The Globe Theatre; *A Short History of Indians in Canada* and *One Good Story, That One*, Audio (North American English): Tantor Media

Terry Kirk, *Pitfalls*, World: At Bay Press

Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*, Brazil: DarkSide Books; *Life of Pi* and *Facts Behind The Helsinki Roccamatios* special dual edition, Korea: Jakkajungsin; *The High Mountains of Portugal*, Portugal: Presenca (extension)

Rohinton Mistry, *A Fine Balance*, Arabic: Book Club Publications; Norway: Aschehoug (extension)

Kathryn Nicolai, *On the Street Where You Live*, Finland (audio): Gummerus

Shane Peacock, *A Place of Secrets*, World: Cormorant Books

Lisa Rochon, *Seeing Her*, World excl. English outside of Canada: HarperCollins Canada

Ailsa Ross, *Hovel*, North American English: Strange Light / Penguin Random House Canada

David Rotenberg, *City Rising from the Holy Mountain*, World: At Bay Press

Elizabeth Ruth, *Semi-Detached*, Audio (World English): Tantor Media

RECENT SALES

Shyam Selvadurai, *Funny Boy*, Spain: Amok Ediciones; *Funny Boy*, *Cinnamon Gardens*, and *The Hungry Ghosts*, Sri Lanka: Sarasavi

Craig Shreve, *The African Samurai*, Poland: Muza; UK & Commonwealth: Canelo

Josef Skvorecky, *The Miracle Game*, Slovenia: Cankarjeva Zalozba

Leanne Toshiko Simpson, *Never Been Better*, Germany: Rowohlt; Netherlands: April Books

Richard Wagamese, *Indian Horse*, France: Editions Zoe; North American French: XYZ (extensions)

NON-FICTION

Danny Assaf, Joe Manget and Walid Hejazi, *Everybody's Business*, World: Sutherland House

Owen Beattie and John Geiger, *Frozen in Time*, Germany: Piper (extension)

Cathrin Bradbury, *A Few Things I'd Like to Say About Getting Old While I Still Have Time*, Canadian English: Penguin / Penguin Random House

Adrienne Clarkson, *What Matters Now*, Canadian English: Random House / Penguin Random House

John Scott Cowan, *The Opinionated Middle Ground*, World: Sutherland House

Wade Davis, *The Unravelling of America*, Film/TV (World): White Pine Pictures

Shohini Ghose, *Her Space, Her Time*, Korea: YoungJin

Catherine Gildiner, *Good Morning, Monster*, Czech Republic and Slovakia: Noxi; Italy: Giunti Editore; Latvia: Lina (sales by Penguin Random House Canada)

Gordon Henderson and David Bouchard, *Out of the Shadows*, World: At Bay Press

Michael Ignatieff, *The Ordinary Virtues*, Taiwan: China Times Publishing Company (extension)

Jay Ingram, *The Science of Why 5*, China: Beijing Green Beans Book Co., Ltd.

Wayne Johnston, *Jennie's Boy*, Film/TV (World): Panoramic Pictures Inc.

Cheuk Kwan, *Have You Eaten Yet?*, Japan: Kodansha; Taiwan: Locus Publishing Company

RECENT SALES

Kyo Maclear, *Birds Art Life*, Russia: AdMarginem; Spain: Ariel (extensions); *Unearthing*, Korea: Barambooks; Russia: AdMarginem

Kieran Murphy, *The Essence of Invention*, World English: Dundurn Press

Erna Paris, *Hunting History*, World: At Bay Press

David A. Robertson, *Little Monsters*, Canadian English: HarperCollins

Mark Sakamoto, *Forgiveness*, Film/TV (World): Hamilton-Mehta Productions

Julian Sher, *The North Star*, Film/TV (World): GalaFilms

Julian Sher and Lisa Fitterman, *Hitman*, French (World): Groupe Homme

Max Wallace, *After the Miracle*, North American Large Print: Thorndike (sale by Hachette)

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK & MIDDLE GRADE

Linda Bailey, *Arthur Who Wrote Sherlock*, China: Yan Chang Culture & Communication Co.; Denmark: Gads Forlag; Japan: Mitsumura Educational; *Mary Who Wrote Frankenstein*, China: Yan Chang Culture & Communication Co.; Denmark: Gads Forlag (sales by Penguin Random House Canada)

Louise Bradford, *Sage and the Snowshoe Express*, World: Kids Can Press

Charis Cotter, *The Mystery of the Haunted Dancehall*, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

Alison Hughes, *In the Forests of the Night*, World: Dancing Cat Books / Cormorant Books

Matt James, *Tadpoles*, Korea: Wonderbox (sale by Neal Porter Books / Holiday House)

Anjali Joshi, *Engineering Insects*, World: Annick Press

Wab Kinew, *The Legend of Red Pants*, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

Alice Kuipers, *Polly Diamond and the Magic Book* (Book 1), *Polly Diamond and the Super Stunning Spectacular School Fair* (Book 2), *Polly Diamond and the Topsy-Turvy Day* (Book 3), Audio (World): Recorded Books (sale by Chronicle Books)

RECENT SALES

Riel Nason, *The Little Ghost Who Was a Quilt* Books 2 & 3, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

Susin Nielsen, *Optimists Die First*, Canadian French: La Courte Échelle (sale by Penguin Random House Canada)

Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley, *The Trickster Shadow*, World: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers / Hachette

Jamal Saeed and Jordan Scott, *My Sister the Apple Tree* & Untitled Picture Book, World: Random House Studio / Penguin Random House US

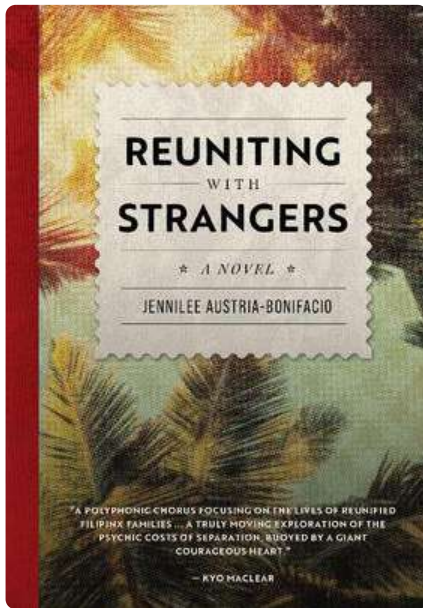
Richard Scrimger, *Camp FUNdament*, World: Scholastic Canada

Tasha Spillett, *Isla Inside Out* and Untitled Book, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

Kevin Sylvester, *Hockey SuperSix* (Books 7 & 8), World English and French: Scholastic Canada

Nancy Vo, *Boobies*, Greek: Sweet Serendipities (sale by Greenwood Books / House of Anansi Press)

FICTION



Inspired by the work of Souwankham Thammavongsa, Catherine Hernandez and Wayson Choy, this unforgettable novel follows the reunification of Filipino caregiver families over one Canadian winter – and the mysterious progress of Monolith, who appears and disappears in their lives.

“A truly moving exploration of the psychic costs of separation, buoyed by a giant courageous heart.”

– Kyo Maclear, author of *Unearthing*

“Astonishing... Austria-Bonifacio forces us to witness the emotional truths of those in servitude, and desperate to get a foot in the door.”

– Catherine Hernandez, author of *The Story of Us*

“A poignant exploration of cultural loss... An absorbing portrait of not only multiple generations of the Filipino-Canadian community, but of the simultaneity of grief and joy when building a life in a new country.”

– *Quill & Quire*

Rights sold: North American English including audio: Douglas & McIntyre (Sept. 9, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author’s website:

www.jennileeaustribonifacio.com

Agent: Hilary McMahon & Bridgette Kam

Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio REUNITING WITH STRANGERS

A Novel

When five-year-old Monolith is taken from the Philippines to live with his mother in Canada, he immediately lashes out. Unable or unwilling to speak, he attacks her and destroys his new home. Everyone wants to know why and has a theory. But unlike the solid certainty his name suggests, the answer isn’t so simple.

From the Tagaytay highlands of the Philippines, to the Filipino communities in the desert of Osoyoos, the Arctic world of Iqaluit, the suburbs of southern Ontario, Montreal’s Côte-des-Neiges, and Toronto’s Little Manila, Austria-Bonifacio takes readers into the kaleidoscope of the Filipino diaspora, uncovering the displacement, estrangement, resilience, and healing that happen behind closed doors.

As each chapter unfolds, truths are revealed in humorous, joyful, devastating, and surprising ways: through a caregiver’s instruction manual, a custody battle over texts and e-mails, a self-help guide, a series of desperate résumés, a kundiman songbook, and more. Monolith appears again and again, as a misbehaving boy in a store, the subject of town gossip, a face in a fundraising campaign, a client in questionable care, a dying man’s beacon of hope – and an unlikely new friend.

Compellingly readable, incisive and resonant, Austria-Bonifacio’s stunning debut opens a window into the homes and hearts of the Filipino-Canadian community.



JENNILEE AUSTRIA-BONIFACIO is a Filipina Canadian author, speaker, and school board consultant who builds bridges between educators and Filipino families through her initiative, Filipino Talks. A Jim Wong-Chu Emerging Writers Award finalist, she has been published in literary magazines and anthologized. She lives with her husband and dog in Toronto, where she is writing her second novel.



When the grey bus came to take Rainor Schacht and his friends in the ward for disabled children to a remote Nazi hospital called Trutzburg, no one told them what dark reality awaited them behind closed doors.

“*When We Were Ashes* is an amazing read – a page-turner plot-wise, imbued with language that dances on the page. A sui generis and unflinching take on the macro and micro evils of Nazi Germany, Andrew Boden’s debut novel throbs with humanity, intelligence, moral complexity, and an understanding of the complications of extreme cruelty and extreme kindness. I was loath for it to end, yet read at a trot – the child narrator Rainor, his brilliant friend Emmi, and the conflicted bus driver Peter Berger have stayed residents in my mind even months later.”

– Zsuzsi Gartner, author of Giller Prize finalist *Better Living with Plastic Explosives*, and Writers’ Trust Prize finalist *The Beguiling*

Rights sold: Canadian English: Goose Lane Editions (Fall 2024)

Status: Manuscript available

Author’s website:

www.andrewboden.com

Agent: John Pearce

Andrew Boden WHEN WE WERE ASHES

One winter morning in Stuttgart, an ominous grey bus comes to take Rainor and his friends from one hospital to another – from a ward for disabled children to a Nazi hospital deep in the countryside. No one will tell them what awaits them there – not Nurse Hilde; not Peter Berger, the kind bus driver; not Dr. Lutz, the doctor who runs Trutzburg with ruthless efficiency.

Years later, after the war, and with Peter Berger’s coded diary in hand, Rainor sets out to find the only other child who survived Trutzburg with him – Emmi, a girl who looked past his disfigurement to accept and love him. Rainor is led on a traumatic journey over a haunting landscape to learn the truth about his past and the even more extraordinary truth about his present.

Told from three points of view, *When We Were Ashes* features uniquely sympathetic characters, a compelling account of a terrible true crime and its aftermath, and rare moral complexity – a shattering and rewarding novel.

ANDREW BODEN lives in British Columbia and works at Simon Fraser University as executive director of the Administrative Professional Staff Association. He is the author of *The Secret History of My Hometown* (stories) and a director of Books Over Borders, a Canadian children’s literacy charity that has helped tens of thousands of children in Afghanistan and Canada learn to read. As a hobby, he explores British Columbia caves. His above-ground time is mostly spent in Burnaby, where he lives with his wife and three calculating cats.

FICTION



A quirky, thrilling, darkly-funny page-turner that explores the fuzzy lines between sanity and insanity, magic and reality, love and duty.

“An unforgettable story about a childhood eked out on the margins and a mother-daughter relationship that swings between tenderness, brutality, and betrayal... Vivid, hallucinatory, and utterly compelling.”

– Susan Juby, author of *Mindful of Murder*

“Crackles with the darkness and light of the best of Grimms. Its young hero is a kind of *Girl, Interrupted* meets Dickens’ Artful Dodger by way of the tumble-down-the-rabbit-hole Alice. Her tender-tough moxie is both heartbreaking and exhilarating, just like Buffy Cram’s debut novel itself.”

– Zsuzsi Gartner, author of *The Beguiling*

Rights sold: Audio (World English): Tantor Media; Italy: NN Editore; World English: Douglas & McIntyre (Oct. 7, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author’s website: www.buffycram.com

Agent: Hilary McMahon

Buffy Cram ONCE UPON AN EFFING TIME

A Novel

It’s 1969. An eight-year-old girl, Elizabeth Squire, has a choice to make: to be limited by the circumstances of her own botched birth or to become extraordinary.

In Buffy Cram’s captivating new novel, Elizabeth narrates the story of her childhood in the late ‘60s, describing how she came to be at a Vancouver halfway house at the age of nineteen. *Once Upon an Effing Time* chronicles the sometimes-exploitative relationship between Elizabeth and Margaret, her mother, and the bizarre and criminal misadventures they have after running away from Ontario’s cheese belt and their “Big Sad Story.”

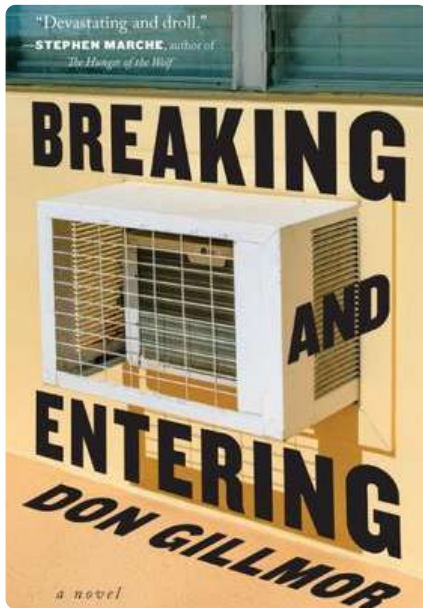
Attempting to bond with her neglectful mother, Elizabeth learns to adopt personas and live multiple lives, transforms into a fortune teller named MeMe who speaks primarily in Bob Dylan lyrics, and joins an American hippie doomsday cult. Elizabeth’s life is fragmented between ordinary childhood pleasures and indulging her mother’s conspiracy theories about the upcoming moon landing by hiding pamphlets in New York City Public Library books. Throughout, Cram weaves humor and heartbreak together to form an engaging narrative about cults – the cult of family, the cult of counterculture, the cult of rock ’n’ roll – and the role of story within those cults.



BUFFY CRAM is a writer of fiction and non-fiction, an entrepreneur, and a farmer. *The Globe & Mail* pronounced her “a whip-smart storyteller who aims to shake up our reading expectations in ways that delight” in a review of her short story collection. Buffy has been a fiction finalist for the Western Magazine Awards, been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and won a National Magazine

Award. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from UBC and lives on Salt Spring Island, BC.

FICTION



In the throes of a sanity-destroying heatwave, a woman explores a dangerous new hobby.

“Definitely converges doubt, infidelity and the fragility of family in a narrative that is both thrilling and relatable.”

– *The New York Times*

“Smart, funny, and sneakily terrifying.”

– *Kirkus* (starred)

“A devastating and droll portrait of middle age that will be instantly recognizable to the ‘sandwich generation,’ stuck between kids and parents, and just generally stuck.”

– Stephen Marche, author of *The Hunger of the Wolf*

“Gillmor succeeds at pulling you into the hopes, dreams, expectations, desires, anxieties and pathologies of his characters... a voyeuristic thrill into contemporary existentialist brooding.”

– *The Globe & Mail*

“While we don’t recommend stealing, we do recommend living vicariously through Bea’s sticky fingers.”

– *Zoomer*

Rights sold: North American English including audio: Biblioasis (Aug. 15, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author’s website: www.dongillmor.ca

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Don Gillmor BREAKING AND ENTERING

A Novel

Forty-nine and sweating through the hottest summer on record, Beatrice Billings is rudderless: her marriage is stale, her son communicates solely through cryptic text messages, her mother has dementia, and she conducts endless arguments with her older sister in her head. Toronto feels like an inadequately air-conditioned museum of its former self, and the same could be said of her life. She dreams of the past, her days as a newlywed, a new mom, a new homeowner gutting the kitchen – now the only novel experience that looms is the threat of divorce.

Everything changes when she googles “escape” and discovers the world of amateur lock-picking. Breaking into houses is thrilling: she’s subtle and discreet, never greedy, but as her curiosity about other people’s lives becomes a dangerous compulsion and the entire city feels a few degrees from boiling over, she realizes she must turn her guilty analysis on herself.

A searingly insightful rendering of midlife among the anxieties of the early 21st century, *Breaking and Entering* is an exacting look at the fragility of all the things we take on faith.



DON GILLMOR is the author of *To the River*, which won the Governor General’s Award for non-fiction. He is the author of three novels, *Long Change*, *Mount Pleasant*, and *Kanata*, a two-volume history of Canada, and nine books for children, two of which were nominated for the Governor General’s Award. He was a senior editor at *The Walrus*, and his journalism has appeared in *Rolling Stone*, *GQ*, *The Walrus*, *Saturday Night*, *Toronto Life*, *The Globe & Mail*, and the *Toronto Star*. He has won twelve National Magazine Awards and numerous other honors. He lives in Toronto.



“What a perfect title Debi Goodwin found for a novel that is poignant and always involving. Rains, sometimes heavy, have deprived the climatologist Linden Kemp of a grandfather, father and husband. As deft at describing dangerous outer weather as she is at the inner weather of intergenerational grief, Goodwin paints a memorable portrait of a woman who wants to take no more chances. Then, in one of the driest places on earth, she surprises herself.”

– Katherine Ashenburg, author of *Her Turn*

Rights sold: Audio (World English): Tantor Media; Canadian English: Caitlin Press (Oct. 6, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author's website: www.debigoodwin.com

Agent: Chris Casuccio

Debi Goodwin RAINS, AT TIMES HEAVY

Linden Kemp's grandmother tells her: *Old age is a privilege our men never got to know.*

Linden's grandfather drowned trying to save others when Hurricane Hazel lashed an unprepared Toronto. The hippie father she never knew died in the monsoons of India. Her husband slipped from life on the black ice of freezing rain. In her work as a climatologist, Linden knows the world faces more natural disasters. This knowledge and her legacy of death darken her view of the future.

When a letter, held back by her grandmother, reveals her father had a second child who lives in California, Linden travels to Death Valley, the driest place on the continent and a cherished spot she visited often with her husband. There, in the sparseness of the desert, she seeks her half-brother and answers to the mystery of her father's abandonment. She says goodbye to her husband and vows never to rely on anyone else ever again. But weather still has a lesson to teach her: life must be lived fully in the calm between storms.

Through vivid landscapes and complex characters, *Rains, At Times Heavy* explores how one moment, one trauma, can spiral through the generations until a single person steps bravely into its path.

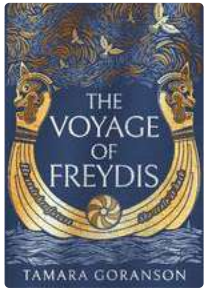


DEBI GOODWIN is the author of two non-fiction books: *Citizens of Nowhere*, which documents the first year of Somali refugees in Canada, and *A Victory Garden for Trying Times*, a memoir of grief and the healing power of gardens. For more than twenty years she was a producer with CBC Television, latterly a documentary producer with The National, creating current

affairs pieces from throughout North America and the world. She is a travel writer, a photographer and an avid gardener. She lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.



FICTION



An Indigo pick for Most Anticipated Canadian Books

Featured in *Canadian Living Magazine* as a Notable New Release

Rights sold: Italy: Mondadori; World English including audio: HarperCollins UK (Book 1: Jul. 22, 2021; Book 2: May 31, 2022; Book 3: Dec. 1, 2023)

Status: Book 1 & 2: Books available; Book 3: Manuscript available

Agent: Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

Tamara Goranson THE VINLAND VIKING SAGA

*The Voyage of Freydis, The Flight of Anja,
The Oath of Bjorn*

The Voyage of Freydis is the first book in the *The Vinland Viking Saga*, three books which offer gut-punch revisionist accounts of the lives of the fierce Norsewomen whose stories have been neglected in the ancient Viking sagas.

The year is 1000 AD. Freydis, daughter of the revered Norse explorer Erik the Red, finds herself traumatized and trapped in a merciless, abusive marriage. To break the chains of terror and shame that prevent her from divorcing her husband, Freydis becomes the first and only Norsewoman to lead a Viking expedition to North America.

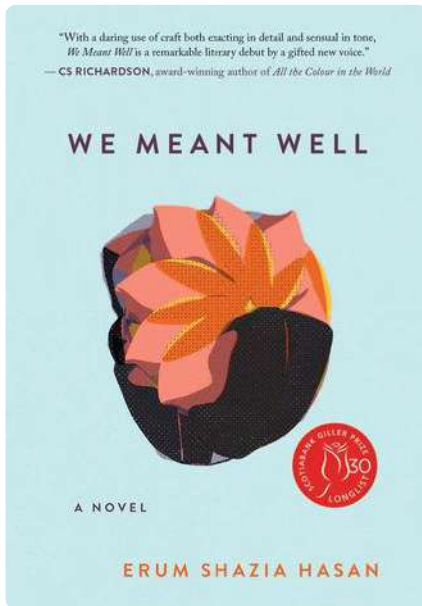
The Flight of Anja takes place fifteen years later, when Anja's estranged mother risks everything to help Anja escape on a Viking longboat bound for Vinland shores. Haunted by the ominous shadows of a family history she does not know, Anja must follow a perilous path into unfamiliar, wilderness terrain that will ultimately allow her to find her future – and herself.

In the final book in the trilogy, *The Oath of Bjorn*, Anja and Bjorn's family finds themselves in peril after recently settling into their new lives in Leifsbidur. Amid death and danger, two honorable souls are forced to examine their own potential for evil in a desperate bid for survival.



TAMARA GORANSON is an author and psychologist based in Victoria. Her first novels comprise *The Vinland Viking Saga*.

FICTION



Longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize

A propulsive debut that grapples with timely questions about what it means to be charitable, who deserves what, and who gets the power to decide.

"We Meant Well, like Smith's *White Teeth*, deals with issues of race and class structures."

— *The Huffington Post*

"Equal parts fascinating and devastating... For readers of Imbolo Mbue and Barbara Kingsolver... The perfect book club pick."

— Carmichael's Bookstore (followed by Oprah's Book Club)

"Hasan tantalizes readers: she opts not for a neat and tidy ending, but instead positions her characters for a destiny-defining reckoning beyond the page."

— *Shelf Awareness*

Rights sold: North American English including audio: ECW Press (Apr. 11, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author's website: www.erum-hasan.com

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Erum Shazia Hasan WE MEANT WELL

It's the middle of the night in Los Angeles when Maya, a married mother of one, receives the phone call. Her colleague Marc has been accused of assaulting a local girl in Likanni, the village where they operate a charitable orphanage. Can she get on the next flight?

When Maya arrives, protesters are hovering around the compound. The accuser is Lele, her former protégé and the Chief's daughter. There is no witness, no proof of any crime.

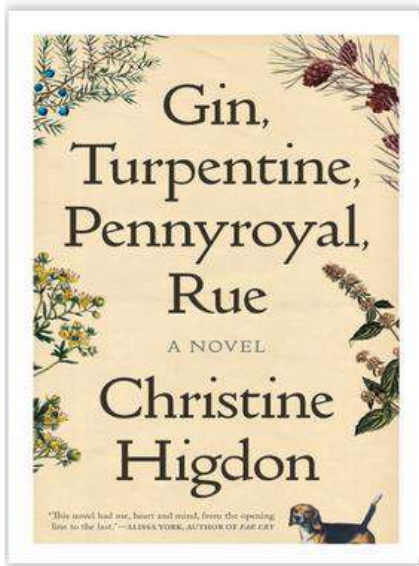
What happened that night? And what will happen to the orphanage if this becomes a scandal? Caught between Marc and Lele, the charity and the villagers, her marriage and new temptations, and between worlds, Maya lives the secret contradictions of the aid worker: there to serve the most deprived, but ultimately there to govern.

As Maya feels the pleasures, freedoms, and humanity of life in Likanni, she recognizes that her American life is inextricably woven into this violent reality – and that dishonesty in one place affects the realities in another.



ERUM SHAZIA HASAN was born in Canada, raised in France, and is of Pakistani and Indian heritage. She designs initiatives to help communities improve their livelihoods, ensuring opportunities for women while protecting biodiversity. A Sustainable Development Consultant for various UN agencies, she lives in Toronto with her husband and their two children.

FICTION



A deeply satisfying, affirming novel about love that cannot be acknowledged.

“Evocative and provocative... The McKenzie sisters struggle to find justice, autonomy, safety, and love in the often hostile world Higdon brings vividly to life.”

– *Quill & Quire*

“Achingly beautiful... A consummate wordsmith, Higdon’s elegant dispatch from the front lines of the battle for gender equality tells a tale as relevant and essential today as it was a century ago. Endlessly evocative and gorgeously rendered, an exquisite novel destined to be called a classic.”

– Bobbi French, author of *The Good Women of Safe Harbour*

Rights sold: Serbia: Laguna; World English including audio: ECW Press (Sept. 12, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author’s website:

www.christinehigdon.com

Agent: Hilary McMahon

Christine Higdon GIN, TURPENTINE, PENNYROYAL, RUE

A Novel

Gin, Turpentine, Pennyroyal, Rue is a love story – but like all love stories, it’s complicated...

Four working-class Vancouver sisters, still reeling from the impact of World War I and the pandemic that stole their only brother, are scraping by but attempting to make the most of the exciting 1920s.

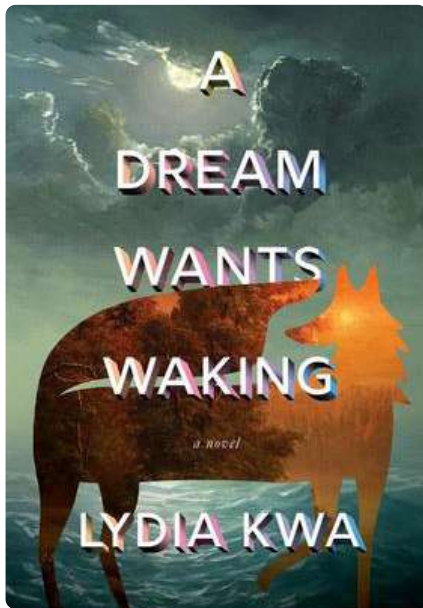
Morag is pregnant; she loves her husband. Georgina can’t bear hers and dreams of getting an education. Harriet-Jean, still at home with her opium-addicted mother, is in love with a woman. Isla’s pregnant too – and in love with her sister’s husband. Only one soul knows about Isla’s pregnancy, and it isn’t the father. When Isla resorts to a back-street abortion and nearly dies, Llewellyn becomes hellbent on revenge. But can revenge lead to anything but disaster for a man like Llew – a policeman tangled up in running rum to Prohibition America?

Gin, Turpentine, Pennyroyal, Rue is immersed in the complex political and social realities of the 1920s and, not-so ironically, of the 2020s: love, sex, desire, police corruption, abortion, addiction, and women wanting more. Beautifully written, with a loveable cast of characters, this novel is a tender account of love that cannot be acknowledged, of loss and regret, risk and defiance, abiding friendship, and the powerful bonds of chosen family.



CHRISTINE HIGDON is the author of the award-winning novel *The Very Marrow of Our Bones*. She has won a National Magazine Award, been published in numerous journals, and nominated for CBC literary prizes. She lives part-time in Nova Scotia but mostly in Mimico, Ontario.

FICTION



Named one of the most anticipated books of Fall 2023 by *49th Shelf*

“The melding of the technical with the mystical is masterfully done. This thrilling and innovative tale will have readers hooked.”

– *Publishers Weekly*

Rights sold: North American English including audio: Buckrider Books / Wolsak and Wynn (Oct. 3, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author's website: www.lydiakwa.com

Agent: Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

Lydia Kwa

A DREAM WANTS WAKING

In 2219 CE Luoyang, a city patched together after the Great Catastrophe, the half-human, half-fox spirit Yinhe moves through her most recent incarnation. The city is watched over by No. 1, an artificial intelligence housed in a giant brain created by the scientists of Central Government, which entertains and monitors all the inhabitants of the city, both human and chimerical. But No. 1 is starting to behave erratically and the power of the Spirit Supreme Assembly, with its demand for pure bloodlines, is growing. Yinhe is summoned to the Dream Zone, where the chimerical creatures formed by the scientists are contained to do the most dangerous jobs of the city. There Yinhe is given information that will give her the chance to create great change in the city, to stave off an ancient enemy and, perhaps, to reunite with her soulmate, lost many lives before.

Weaving a silken web of Chinese myth, speculative fiction and storytelling Lydia Kwa has brilliantly realized a future where questions of sentience, of personhood and of the truth of dreams wrap around a timeless quest for freedom and for love.



LYDIA KWA is an author and clinical psychologist born in Singapore, and living in Canada since 1980. She has published two books of poetry and four novels. She won the Earle Birney Poetry Prize in 2018; and her novels have been nominated for several awards, including the Lambda Literary Award for Fiction.



Perfect for fans of Mouth to Mouth and Black Buck, this whip-smart, darkly funny, and biting debut follows a psychologist with a savior complex who offers shelter to a recently canceled K-pop idol on the run.

“Equal parts academic and cheeky, Christine Ma-Kellams’ debut novel *The Band* is the perfect companion for brainy pop culture heads, my people.”

– Anna Dorn, author of *Exalted*

Rights sold: World English including audio: Atria / Simon & Schuster US (Apr. 16, 2024)

Status: Manuscript available

Agent: Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

Christine Ma-Kellams THE BAND

Sang Duri is the eldest member and “visual” of a Korean boy band at the apex of global superstardom. But when his latest solo single accidentally leads to controversy, he’s abruptly canceled.

To spare the band from fallout with obsessive fans and overbearing management, Duri disappears from the public eye by hiding out in the McMansion of a Chinese American woman he meets in a Los Angeles H-Mart. But his rescuer is both unhappily married with children and a psychologist with a savior complex, a combination that makes their potential union both seductive and incredibly problematic.

Meanwhile, Duri’s cancellation catapults not only a series of repressed memories from his music producer’s earlier years about the original girl group whose tragic disbanding preceded his current success, but also a spiral of violent interactions that culminates in an award show event with reverberations that forever change the fates of both the band members and the music industry.

In its indicting portrayal of mental health and public obsession, fandom, and cancel culture, *The Band* considers the many ways in which love and celebrity can devolve into something far more sinister when their demands are unmet.



CHRISTINE MA-KELLAMS is a Harvard-trained social psychologist, Pushcart-nominated writer, first-generation American, and professor at San Jose State University.



Ten brand new, linked stories from the creator of the wildly successful storytelling podcast [Nothing Much Happens](#), which has surpassed 100 million downloads worldwide.

Nothing Much Happens was sold in Australia/New Zealand, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Catalan, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latin America, Netherlands, North America, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, the UK, the US, and Vietnam!

“Charming... an antidote to insomnia and restlessness... Nicolai accomplishes what no other author would want to hear: these stories can put people to sleep.”

– *Publishers Weekly*, on *Nothing Much Happens*

“The stories follow the seasons, starting with winter, and rely heavily on the senses; there are a lot of lovely smells, soft and comfy things, and delicious foods.”

– *Booklist*, on *Nothing Much Happens*

Rights sold: Audio (Finland): Gummerus (Spring 2024)

Status: Manuscript available

Author’s website:

www.nothingmuchhappens.com

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Kathryn Nicolai ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE

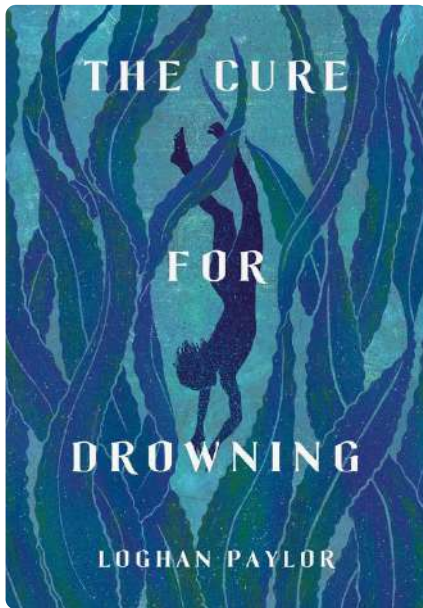
Three Days in the Village of Nothing Much

Kathryn Nicolai is best known for her short-form “bedtime stories for grownups” which draw on mindfulness principles to nurture the spirit, soothe the mind, and enable listeners to slip into a peaceful, relaxed state that leads to restful sleep. But Nicolai’s fans often tell her that they wish they could live inside the world she’s created, and beg her to write longer stories so they can spend their waking hours there too.

Perfectly attuned to our anxious times, *On the Street Where You Live* is her answer. These ten linked stories pay tribute to and celebrate the everyday acts of kindness among neighbors and the ordinary magic of small moments, showing us how we are connected to each other in small but meaningful ways.

On the Street Where You Live takes place over the last weekend of summer. In the first chapter, we meet the early rising Baker in the old Victorian on the corner. The cardamom buns he leaves on his neighbor’s porch leads us into chapter two, the story of the Bookseller in the Craftsman house who returns home to her dog at lunchtime, while a misdelivered letter in turn leads us to chapter three, where we meet the Piano Teacher in the Cottage. Person by person, house by house, these stories of love, perseverance, generosity, and second chances culminate in as everyone gathers at an annual end-of-summer block party and treasure hunt. These stories are a joy, pure and simple.

KATHRYN NICOLAI is the creator of the enormously successful podcast *Nothing Much Happens* and the author of the internationally acclaimed book of the same name which has been published in over 30 territories. An architect of cozy, she writes and reads soothing, serene stories that draw on the principles of mindfulness to emphasize the goodness and kindness that is all around us and to provide a conflict-free place for readers to rest their minds and escape to. A new daytime companion podcast, *Stories from the Village of Nothing Much*, will launch later this year in a partnership with iHeart Media; it will feature immersive 3D sound design and introduce new characters and storylines. A yoga, meditation and wellness expert, she lives in Michigan with her wife and three dogs.



Evocative, magical and luminously written, The Cure for Drowning is not only a brilliant, boundary-pushing love story but an historical novel that boldly centers queer and non-binary characters in unprecedented ways.

“To anyone who has ever wondered what makes a Great Canadian Novel, Paylor has delivered the answer.”

– Jasmine Sealy, author of *The Island of Forgetting*, winner of the Amazon First Novel Award

Rights sold: Canadian English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House (Jan. 30, 2024)

Status: Galleys available

Author’s website: www.loghanpaylor.com

Agent: Meg Wheeler

Loghan Paylor THE CURE FOR DROWNING

Born Kathleen to an immigrant Irish farming family in rural Ontario, Kit McNair has been a troublesome changeling since, at ten, they fell through the river ice and drowned, only to be nursed back to life by their mother’s Celtic magic. A daredevil in boy’s clothes, Kit chafes at every aspect of a farmgirl’s life, driving that same mother to distraction with worry about where Kit will ever fit in. When Rebekah Kromer, an elegant German doctor’s daughter, moves to town with her parents in April 1939, Rebekah has no doubt as to who nineteen-year-old Kit is. Soon she and Kit, and Kit’s older brother, Landon, are drawn tight in a love triangle that will tear them and their families apart, and send each of them off on a separate path to war.

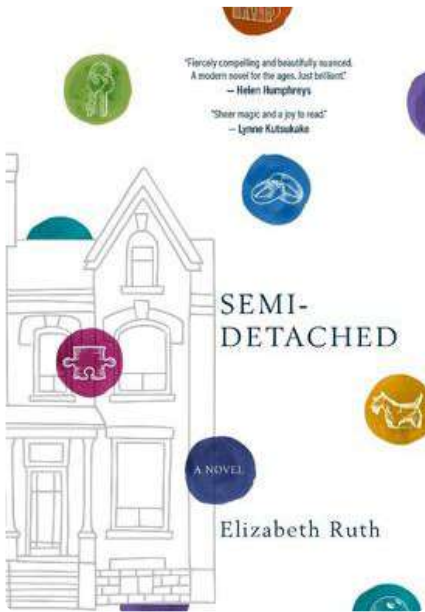
Landon signs up for the Navy. Kit, now known as Christopher, joins the Royal Air Force, becoming a bomber navigator relied on for his luck and courage. Rebekah serves with naval intelligence in Halifax, until one more collision with Landon changes the course of her life and draws her back to the McNair farm – a place where she’d once known love. Fallen on even harder times, the McNairs welcome all the help she is able to give, and she believes she has found peace at last. Until, with the war over, Kit and Landon return home.

Told in the vivid, unforgettable voices of Kit and Rebekah, *The Cure for Drowning* is a powerfully engrossing novel that imagines a history that is truer than true.



LOGAN PAYLOR is a queer, trans author who lives in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Their short fiction and essays have previously appeared in *Room* and *Prairie Fire*, among others, and their essay “Escape Velocity” won first place in *Room*’s Creative Non-Fiction Contest. Paylor has a Masters in creative writing from the University of British Columbia, and a day job as a professional geek. *The Cure for Drowning* is their first novel.

FICTION



“Elegantly constructed... Beautifully written.”

– *Quill & Quire*

“Fiercely compelling and beautifully nuanced. A modern novel for the ages. Just brilliant.”

– Helen Humphreys, author of *Rabbit Foot Bill*

“*Semi-Detached* will cast a spell over you. Elizabeth Ruth has crafted a beautiful and tender tale of the shelters we all need to house our love and our yearning. Sheer magic and a joy to read.”

– Lynne Kutsukake, author of *The Translation of Love*

Rights sold: North American English:
Cormorant Books (Sept. 16, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author’s website: www.elizabethruth.com

Agent: Hilary McMahon

Elizabeth Ruth SEMI-DETACHED

An ice storm buries Toronto as realtor Laura Keys prepares to sell a one-of-a-kind house on behalf of its comatose owner. Haunting Laura, and longing to be invited in, is a mysterious teenage girl with a Scottish Terrier tucked into her coat.

As Laura readies the house for showing, she learns more about its owner, Edna “Eddie” Ferguson. Leading up to the Great Snowstorm of 1944, Eddie, a brickmaker, had begun – and then hidden – a passionate yet ill-fated affair with her boss’s daughter. While uncovering the past, Laura navigates both the death of her mother and a troubled marriage straining under the weight of her infertility.

Across two paralyzing winter storms, set nearly seventy years apart and connected by a house and a murder, *Semi-Detached* explores living after loss, enduring love, and the meaning of home.

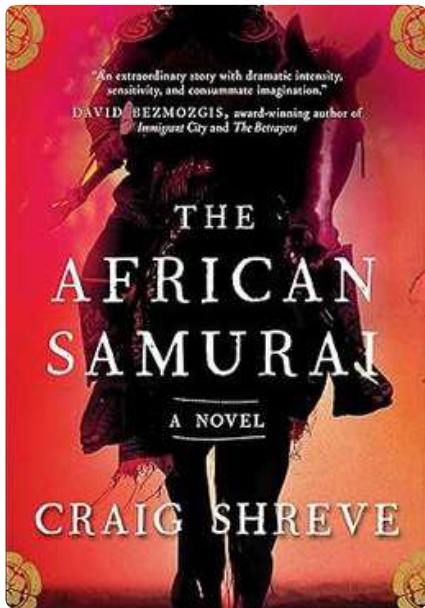
Insightful, evocative and propulsive, this is a novel for readers who enjoy love stories and ghost stories; who appreciated the meaningful talismans in Ruth Hogan’s *The Keeper of Lost Things*, the queer characters at the forefront of Emma Donoghue’s fiction, and the dual timelines so effectively used by Kate Morton.



ELIZABETH RUTH’s first novel, *Ten Good Seconds of Silence*, was a finalist for the Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize, Amazon First Novel Award, and City of Toronto Book Award. *Smoke*, her second novel, was chosen for the One Book, One Community program. Her third novel, *Matadora*, was long-listed for Canada Reads. Named one of ten Canadian women writers you need to read by

the CBC, she teaches creative writing at University of Toronto. She lives in Toronto.

FICTION



The African Samurai is a powerful historical novel based on the true story of Yasuke, Japan's first foreign-born samurai and the only samurai of African descent – for readers of Esé Edugyan and Lawrence Hill.

“Like all the best historical novels, it feels relevant and even essential to our present moment.”

– David Bezmozgis, award-winning author of *Immigrant City* and *The Betrayers*

“Part traditional historical saga, rife with blood, guts, and exotic details, and part empathetic meditation on cultural genocide and the annihilation of individual agency, *The African Samurai* is a riveting story.”

– *Toronto Star*

Rights sold: Brazil: Alta Books; Czech Republic: Euromedia; France: Fayard; Germany: Droemer; Greece: Anubis; Hungary: Libri; Italy: Piemme; North American English including audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (Aug. 1, 2023); Poland: Muza; Portugal: Porto; Russia (digital): MTS; Russia (print): Arkadia; Serbia: Vulkan; Spain: Navona; Turkey: Ithaki Yayincilik; UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada: Canelo

Film/TV: Netflix (World)

Status: Books available

Author's website: www.craigshreve.com

Agent: Chris Casuccio

Craig Shreve THE AFRICAN SAMURAI

In 1579, a Portuguese trade ship sails into port at Kuchinotsu, Japan, loaded with European wares and weapons. On board is Father Alessandro Valignano, an Italian priest and Jesuit missionary whose authority in central and east Asia is second only to the pope's. Beside him is his protector, a large and imposing East African man. Taken from his village as a boy, sold as a slave to Portuguese mercenaries, and forced to fight in wars in India, the young but experienced soldier is haunted by memories of his past.

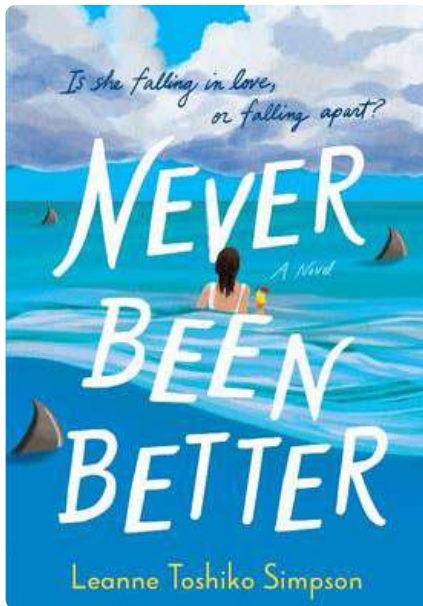
From Kuchinotsu, Father Valignano leads an expedition pushing inland toward the capital city of Kyoto. A riot brings his protector in front of the land's most powerful warlord, Oda Nobunaga. Nobunaga is preparing a campaign to complete the unification of a nation that's been torn apart by over 100 years of civil war. In exchange for permission to build a church, Valignano “gifts” his protector to Nobunaga, and the young East African man is reminded once again that he is less of a human and more of a thing to be traded and sold.

After pledging his allegiance to the Japanese warlord, the two men from vastly different worlds develop a trust and respect for one another. The young soldier is granted the role of samurai, a title that has never been given to a foreigner; he is also given a new name: Yasuke. Not all are happy with Yasuke's ascension. There are whispers that he may soon be given his own fief, his own servants, his own samurai to command. But all of his dreams hinge on his ability to protect his new lord from threats both military and political, and from enemies both without and within.



CRAIG SHREVE was born and raised in North Buxton, Ontario, and is a descendant of Abraham Doras Shadd, the first Black person in Canada to be elected to public office, and of his daughter Mary Ann Shadd, the pioneering abolitionist, suffragette, and newspaper editor/publisher. Craig is the author of *One Night in Mississippi*. He lives in Toronto.

FICTION



A hilariously offbeat and tender comedy about one bipolar woman's messy search for love at a seaside wedding where no one can stay afloat.

"An exuberant debut rich with snappy dialogue, madcap misadventures and a lot of heart."

– Rebecca Hardiman, author of *Good Eggs*

"A hilarious, honest, refreshing, and moving story about mental health, friendship, and love... A brilliant debut."

– Emily Austin, author of *Everyone in This Room Will Someday Be Dead*

"Sparkling... will leave you bursting into laughter and wiping away tears in the same breath."

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

Rights sold: Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (Mar. 5, 2024); Germany: Rowohlt Verlag; Netherlands: April Books; World English excluding Canada: Putnam / Penguin Random House US (Mar. 5, 2024)

Status: Galleys available

Author's website:

www.leannetoshikosimpson.com

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Leanne Toshiko Simpson NEVER BEEN BETTER

Dee, Misa, and Matt were the “three musketeers” of the psych ward. Matt is a teddy bear musician with no discernable coping mechanisms. Wildly efficient Misa is quick to take care of others while neglecting herself. And Dee is a puddle with a heart of gold, eager to convince everyone that she’s finally turning things around. A year after discharge, Matt and Misa are tying the knot in Turks and Caicos, surrounded by guests who have no idea where they met, and the secrecy isn’t sitting well with Dee, who has been hopelessly in love with Matt since before she got kicked out of the hospital.

When Dee arrives at the swanky resort with her high-voltage sister, Tilley, it’s now or never to confess how she feels. But disrupting her best friends’ nuptials would jeopardize the entire support system that holds the trio together. When it comes to happily ever afters, how is a girl supposed to choose between love and recovery?

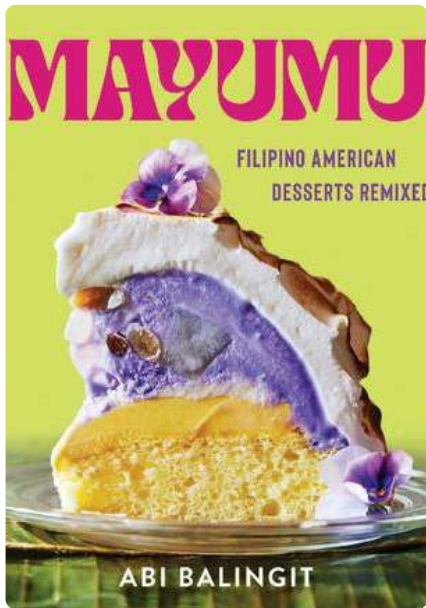
Introducing a sparkling new voice in commercial fiction that will appeal to fans of *My Best Friend's Wedding* and *Silver Linings Playbook*, *Never Been Better* revels in the heartache and hilarity of falling in love when you haven’t quite figured out how to live with yourself.



LEANNE TOSHIKO SIMPSON is a mixed-race Yonsei writer who lives with bipolar disorder. Named Scarborough’s Emerging Writer in 2016 and nominated for the Journey Prize in 2019, she co-founded a reflective writing program at Canada’s largest mental health hospital and teaches at the University of Toronto. *Never Been Better* is her debut novel.

NON-FICTION

NON-FICTION



“Simultaneously nostalgic and eye-opening in its novelty, *Mayumu* is the perfect example of what makes the modern Filipino American food movement so exciting. By building on the basics of both American and Filipino desserts, Abi shows us how refreshing and fun it can be to loosen the boundaries of tradition and let the two schools mingle a little more.”

— Bettina Makalintal, food writer at *Eater*

“Every recipe and every story in *Mayumu* bursts off the page with joy, love, ingenuity, and personality. Abi’s work is vibrant, eclectic, comforting, funny, deeply moving, and, to me, feels like a uniquely perfect articulation of the intricacies, depths, and jubinations of being Asian American. *Mayumu* is a celebration of what it means to be human and alive today. I absolutely adore this book.”

— Jonny Sun, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Goodbye, Again*

Rights sold: World English: Harvest / HarperCollins US (Feb. 28, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author’s website:

www.theduskykitchen.com

Agent: Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

Abi Balingit MAYUMU

Filipino American Desserts Remixed

Sweets that taste like home.

Abi Balingit made waves from her tiny, dimly lit, shared kitchen, where she produced hundreds of “pasalubong” (souvenir) boxes filled with especially creative treats that blended the Filipino favorites and Western style desserts she grew up with. Think Adobo Chocolate Chip Cookie, Strawberry Shortcake Sapin-Sapin, and Matcha Pastillas. Now Abi shares some of her cult-favorite recipes in *Mayumu* (which means “sweet” in Kapampangan, one of the eight major languages in the Philippines), a celebration of the Filipino American experience, perfect for home bakers wanting both nostalgic and excitingly new recipes.



ABI BALINGIT is the young, energetic Filipino American woman behind the blog *The Dusky Kitchen*. She made waves during the pandemic by selling pasalubong (which means souvenir in Tagalog) treat boxes filled with incredibly imaginative Filipino-inspired desserts and donating the proceeds to help those impacted by COVID-19 and has been covered by *Thrillist*,

Eater, *Bon Appétit*, *Food52*, *TimeOut*, *VICE*, and more. She lives in Brooklyn.

NON-FICTION



“Monzur’s tenacity is at the root of her success... The trauma she experienced in Bangladesh has only motivated her to defy expectations of what a blind, single woman can do.”

– *The New York Times*, on Rumana Monzur

“Chong draws every strand of the story together so skillfully and excitingly that her book reads like the best kind of novel – both moving and startling.”

– *The Times* (UK), on *The Girl in the Picture: The Story of Kim Phuc, the Photograph, and the Vietnam War*

Rights sold: Canadian English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House (Apr. 9, 2024)

Status: Manuscript available

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Denise Chong OUT OF DARKNESS

*One Woman’s Journey Through
Betrayal, Tyranny, and Violence*

From celebrated author Denise Chong, a gripping story of a case of domestic violence and loyalty, power and political influence; and of the Bangladeshi woman whose irrepressible spirit found light in sudden darkness.

Rumana Monzur, a professor of international relations at Dhaka University, spent a year of study abroad at the University of British Columbia and in 2011, returned to Bangladesh and told her husband she wanted a divorce. In an act of extreme violence, in front of their five-year-old daughter, he attacked her, destroying her eyes. With remarkable courage and defying cultural norms, Rumana spoke out about the attack from her hospital bed, in the process drawing international attention to the issue of intimate partner violence; and later, astonishingly, now a blind student, took up the study of law.

Out of Darkness is at once a chronicle of the devolution of a love story and a woman’s determination to rebuild a life with meaning; and a cautionary tale of tyranny behind closed doors and elusive justice at a time of charged social media.



DENISE CHONG is an award-winning author whose work portrays the lives of ordinary people caught in the eye of history. She is best known for *The Concubine’s Children*, a family memoir; *The Girl in the Picture* about the “napalm girl” of the Vietnam War; and *Egg on Mao*, a story of love and defiance in China of 1989. Formerly an adjunct professor at Carlton University’s Feminist Institute of Social Transformation, she lives in Ottawa.

RUMANA MONZUR was born in Dhaka; lost her sight in 2011; and graduated from law school in 2017. She practices law and champions the rights of women and of persons with disabilities in Vancouver.



The inspiring stories of the long-overlooked women physicists who discovered the fundamental rules of the universe – and reshaped the rules of society.

“A vital, intimate chronicle of the indomitable women science pioneers who fought to better understand the universe. Shohini Ghose, an accomplished physicist herself, not only brings these women’s stories into the light, she brings them to life.”

– Chris Hadfield, astronaut and #1 bestselling author

“This carefully researched collection of important scientific contributions by women will inspire a new generation of young women to consider a career in science.”

– Arthur McDonald, Director of SNOLAB and co-recipient of the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics

Rights sold: Canadian English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House (Oct. 31, 2023); India (English): Jaico; Korea: YoungJin; Spain: Paidós / Planeta; World English excluding Canada and India: MIT Press

Status: Books available

Author’s website:

www.wlu.ca/science/sghose

Agent: John Pearce

Shohini Ghose HER SPACE, HER TIME

*How Trailblazing Women Scientists
Decoded the Hidden Universe*

Women physicists from around the world have transformed science and society. So why haven’t we heard of these remarkable women who made indelible marks in physics? *Her Space, Her Time* by award-winning quantum physicist Shohini Ghose seeks to correct the injustice of these scientists’ anonymity by bringing them to the fore and giving credit where credit is long overdue.

In each chapter of the book, Ghose addresses a particular aspect of women’s experiences in physics using a common physics theme to connect the featured women in that chapter: In the chapter on time, for instance, we learn of Henrietta Leavitt and Margaret Burbidge, who helped discover the big bang and the cosmic calendar; in the chapter on space exploration, we learn of the hundreds of Navajo (Diné) women of Shiprock who built the silicon microchips critical to the Moon landings; and in the chapter on subatomic particles, we learn of Marietta Blau, Hertha Wambacher, and Bibha Chowdhuri, who contributed to the discovery of the building blocks of the universe, and, in doing so, played a crucial role in determining who gets to do physics today.

Engaging, accessible, and timely, *Her Space, Her Time* is a collective story of scientific innovation, inspirational leadership, and persistence in the face of misogyny and discrimination that will leave a lasting impression on any reader curious about the rule-breakers and trendsetters who illuminated our understanding of the universe.



SHOHINI GHOSE is a professor of Physics and Computer Science at Wilfrid Laurier University. A quantum physicist and a TED Senior Fellow, her TED talks have received over five million views. In Canada, she is a past president of the Canadian Association of Physicists and one of five chairs appointed by the federal government to advance the cause of women in science. In 2019 she was

among 25 women scientists worldwide featured in a UNESCO exhibit in Paris. A frequent speaker on science topics and gender issues, she has given talks at over 100 international events and is often interviewed or featured by worldwide media.



It Must Be Beautiful to Be Finished is the memoir of a girl born with a missing ear – and a medical system insistent on saving her from herself.

Rights sold: Canadian English including audio: Simon & Schuster

Status: Manuscript available Nov. 2023

Author's website: www.kategies.com

Agent: Sara Harowitz

Kate Gies IT MUST BE BEAUTIFUL TO BE FINISHED

Sometimes fixing the problem is the problem.

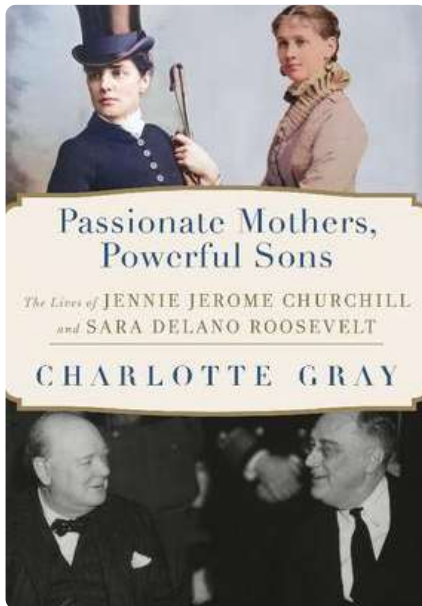
When Kate Gies was four years old, a plastic surgeon pressed a synthetic ear to the right side of her head and pulled out a mirror. He told her he could make her “whole” – could make her “right” – and she believed him. From the age of four to thirteen, she underwent fifteen surgeries, including skin and bone grafts, to craft the appearance of an outer ear. Many of the surgeries failed, leaving permanent damage to her body.

Written in short, lyrical vignettes, *It Must Be Beautiful to Be Finished* is the story of a “disfigured” body scrutinized, pathologized, and even weaponized. It details the physical and psychic trauma of medical intervention, and its effects on Gies’ burgeoning sense of self as a child needing to be fixed – and later, as a teenaged girl and adult navigating the complex expectations and dangers of being a woman. Put simply, this book will punch readers in the gut. Gies does not hold back; she is unflinching in her telling, and the result is a memoir that is beautiful, sad, shocking, and at times truly horrifying.

The book questions our culture’s desire to define a person’s appearance as a medical necessity and highlights the lengths our society will go to discipline and “normalize” a body. It is the story of a girl desperately trying to have a body that makes her acceptable, and of a woman learning to own a body she never felt was hers to define. In an age of speaking out about the abuse of marginalized bodies, this memoir takes a hard look at the medical system’s role in body oppression and trauma.

KATE GIES is a writing professor at George Brown College in Toronto. She was a participant in the Iowa Writers’ Summer Workshop and was a finalist for the CBC Non-fiction Prize. Her essay “Foreign Bodies” (excerpted from *It Must Be Beautiful to Be Finished*) is being included in the forthcoming *Best Canadian Essays* anthology by Biblioasis.

NON-FICTION



Instant national bestseller

A captivating dual biography of two famous women whose sons would change the course of the twentieth century – by award-winning historian Charlotte Gray.

“A compassionate and vivid double portrait of Jennie Jerome and Sara Delano... Gray strikes an expert balance between the big picture and intimate glimpses of each woman. It’s an enlightening study of two mothers’ crucial influence upon sons who would make history.”

– *Publishers Weekly*

“A sympathetic portrait of formidable women. Gray... convincingly portray[s] her subjects as ambitious, astute, and determined.”

– *Kirkus*

Rights sold: World English including audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (Sept. 12, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author’s website: www.charlottegray.ca

Agent: Hilary McMahon

Charlotte Gray PASSIONATE MOTHERS, POWERFUL SONS

*The Lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill
and Sara Delano Roosevelt*

Born into upper-class America in the same year, 1854, Sara Delano (later to become the mother of Franklin Delano Roosevelt) and Jennie Jerome (later to become the mother of Winston Churchill) refused to settle into predictable, sheltered lives as little-known wives to prominent men. Instead, both women concentrated their energies on enabling their sons to reach the epicenter of political power on two continents.

Their personalities and choices were dramatically different. A vivacious extrovert, Jennie married Lord Randolph Churchill, a rising politician and scion of a noble British family. Her deft social and political maneuverings helped not only her mercurial husband but also her ambitious son, Winston. By contrast, deeply conventional Sara Delano married a man as old as her father. Once widowed, she made Franklin, her only child, the focus of her existence, supporting him financially and guiding him to become a successful politician.

Set against 100 years of history, *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons* is a study in loyalty and resilience. Gray argues that Jennie and Sara are too often presented as lesser figures in the backdrop of history rather than as two remarkable individuals who were key in shaping the characters of their sons.

Impeccably researched and filled with intriguing social insights, *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons* breathes new life into Sara and Jennie, offering a fascinating and fulsome portrait of how leaders are not just born but made.



CHARLOTTE GRAY is the author of twelve acclaimed books of literary non-fiction. Her bestseller *The Massey Murder: A Maid, Her Master, and the Trial That Shocked a Country* was a multiple award winner including the Toronto Book Award and the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Non-fiction Crime Book. An adaptation of her bestseller *Gold Diggers: Striking It Rich in the Klondike* was broadcast as a television miniseries.

NON-FICTION



A fascinating look at the cutting-edge science and technologies that are on the cusp of changing everything from where we'll live, how we'll look, and who we'll be.

"A surprising tale about where we're headed as a species... Two thumbs up."

– Dan Riskin, evolutionary biologist, author, and former cohost of Daily Planet on Discovery Channel

"A must-read for anyone who desires a comprehensive and well-documented look at where the future is leading us."

– Robert Thirsk, former Canadian Space Agency astronaut

"An essential guide to understanding the challenges and opportunities for humanity's survival in the years ahead."

– Ziya Tong, award-winning broadcaster and author of *The Reality Bubble*

Rights sold: North American English including audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (Sept. 26, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author's website: www.jayingram.ca

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Jay Ingram THE FUTURE OF US

*The Science of What We'll Eat,
Where We'll Live, and Who We'll Be*

Where will we live? How will we get around? What will we look like? These are just some of the questions bestselling author and popular science broadcaster Jay Ingram answers in this exciting examination of the science and technologies that will affect every aspect of human life.

In these pages, Ingram explores the future of our technological civilization. He reports on cutting-edge research in organ and limb regeneration, advances in prosthetics, the merging of the human and the synthetic, and gene editing. Vertical farming and lab-grown food might help feed millions and alleviate pressure on the planet. Cities could accommodate green space and the long-awaited flying car. Finally, he speculates on the future of artificial general intelligence, even artificial superintelligence, as well as our place on Earth and in the universe.

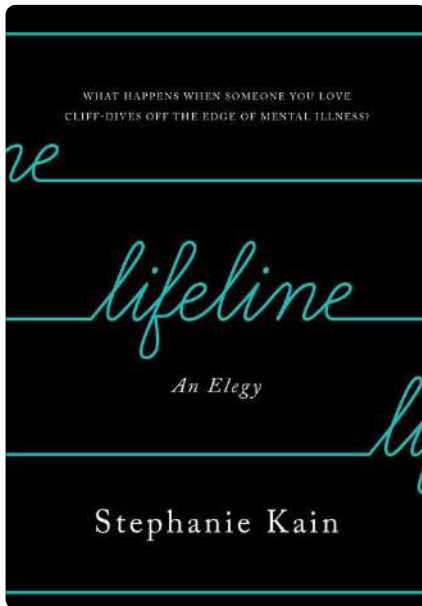
The potential impact of these developments in science and technology will be powerful and wide-ranging, complicated by ethics and social equity. And they will inevitably revolutionize every aspect of life and even who we are. This is *The Future of Us*.



JAY INGRAM is the author of nineteen books which have been translated into fifteen languages, including the bestselling five-volume *The Science of Why* series. He won the Walter C. Alvarez Award from the American Medical Writers' Association for excellence in communicating health care developments and concepts to the public. Ingram has six honorary degrees, was awarded the Queen

Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, and is a Member of the Order of Canada. He lives in Calgary.

NON-FICTION



What happens when someone you love cliff-dives off the edge of mental illness?

“Lifeline shows us what the world looks like when someone you love takes their life. Elegiac, insightful, and searingly honest, *Lifeline* is a valuable and wholly original exploration of mental illness and the devastation it leaves in its wake.”

– Don Gillmor, Governor General’s Award-winning author of *To the River: Losing My Brother*

“Every once in a while a book comes along that carries news of the front lines and traces the interior of an experience in a way that lets us see it with new eyes. *Lifeline: An Elegy* is such a book.”

– Eve Joseph, winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize and bestselling author of *In the Slender Margin: The Intimate Strangeness of Death and Dying*

Rights sold: World English including audio: ECW Press (Oct. 3, 2023)

Status: Books available

Agent: Meg Wheeler

Stephanie Kain LIFELINE

An Elegy

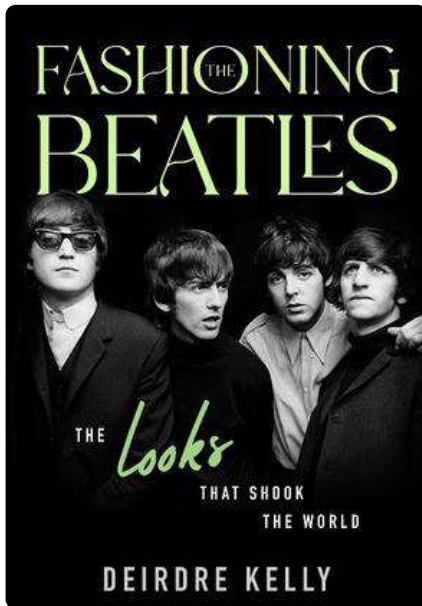
This experimental memoir reflects on the author’s intimate and complicated relationship with her best friend and soulmate S., a young woman diagnosed with suicidal depression, and the startling and chaotic new world of locked wards, heavy medications, and electroconvulsive therapy that follows.

Interweaving personal essays, fragmented prose, poetry, stream-of-consciousness, and text exchanges, this collage-style memoir invites the reader into the mysterious world of a treatment-resistant condition and illuminates the urgency and intimacy of caring for someone with an ultimately fatal mental illness. Running through the center of the narrative is the relationship between two people whose fierce love for each other is both the tie that binds and the anchor that drowns.

Lifeline is a testament to the importance of hard conversations, humor, and dignity in the face of a courageous battle for sanity; an interrogation of the flawed medical treatments provided to those afflicted with mental illnesses; a debate on when life stops being worth living; and a conversation and reflection on what it means to love someone enough to go on without them.



STEPHANIE KAIN, PHD is a creative writing professor at the University of Ottawa. She is the author of five novels for adults and a series of children’s books. She’s twice been shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award, once for the Golden Crown Literary Award, and won the Mom’s Choice Gold Award for Best Series. Her work has been published in *Sleet*, *Stone Highway Review*, and *Adanna Literary Journal*.



“The most impressive thing about Kelly’s book is how naturally she keeps the focus on The Beatles’ style... Kelly also travels some odd little side streets in The Beatles’ story that don’t get much attention in the usual telling... Engrossing.”

– *Psychobabble*

“The first in-depth look at the sartorial legacy of John, Paul, George, and Ringo. The book demonstrates that their inimitable style was an integral part of their act and a key to enduring popularity.”

– *MenswearStyle*

“The ultimate reference for Beatlemania fashionistas.”

– Jonathan Walford, author of *Sixties Fashion*

Rights sold: World English including audio: Sutherland House (Sept. 19, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author’s website: www.deirdrekelly.com

Agent: Hilary McMahon

Deirdre Kelly FASHIONING THE BEATLES

The Looks that Shook the World

John, Paul, George, and Ringo were more than great musicians: they were the quintessential fashion icons of one of the most exciting and memorable fashion eras of all time. From their starts in black leather through Sergeant Pepper to Nehru collars and psychedelia, the Beatles used clothing to express their individual and group identities and, especially, to grow their following.

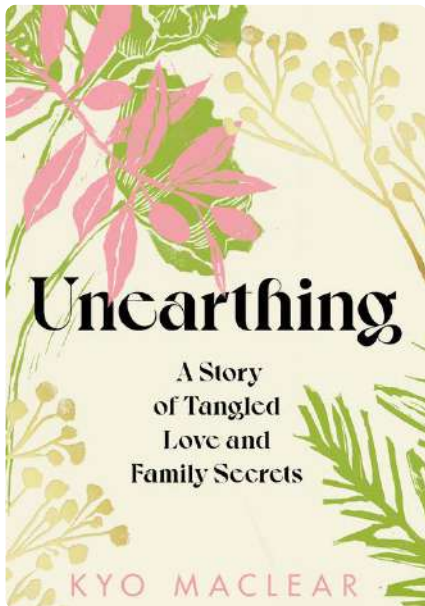
They did it without benefit of stylists or consultants, making their own rules and changing their looks as many as five times a year to keep a few steps ahead of the crowd in the tumultuous, fashion-obsessed ‘60s. More than 50 years after their break-up, their style continues to animate the collections of some of the world’s leading designers, including Thom Browne, John Varvatos, Anna Sui, Tom Ford, Gucci’s Alessandro Michele and, yes, Stella McCartney. *Fashioning the Beatles*, the first in-depth look at their sartorial legacy, demonstrates that their inimitable style was not an incidental by-product of their fame but an integral part of their act and a key to their globe-spanning success.



DEIRDRE KELLY has written books on dance, fashion, and pop culture since 1985. She started as the award-winning dance critic, pop music columnist and senior fashion reporter for *The Globe & Mail*, and continues reporting today as correspondent for the *Dance Gazette* in London, England, the Toronto-based luxury magazine *FêteChinoise*, and the arts e-zine *Critics At Large*,

where she also writes on the Beatles, among other topics. Her previous books are *Paris Times Eight* and *Ballerina: Sex, Scandal and Suffering Behind the Symbol of Perfection*.

NON-FICTION



“Simply staggering... A mind-altering and supremely generous exploration of kinship, selfhood, memory, and the roots we share across time, space and species... Brilliant and profound... A highly unconventional ‘finding my roots’ memoir that finds roots everywhere, including in plants.”

– Naomi Klein, *The Guardian*

“Masterful, original... Truly a wow.”

– Zibby Owens, *Good Morning America*

“Insightful and beautifully wrought.”

– Emma Gilchrist, *Literary Review of Canada*

“Precise, hypnotic.”

– Carmichael’s Bookstore (followed by Oprah’s Book Club)

“Beautiful... A reminder of the abundance of experience present in all families, and the power and healing that can come from honoring those many truths.”

– *Washington Post*

Rights sold: Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Apr. 18, 2023); Korea: Barambooks; Russia: Ad Marginem; UK & Commonwealth excluding Canada: Pushkin Press (Mar. 2024); US: Scribner / Simon & Schuster (Aug. 22, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author’s website: www.kyomaclear.com

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Kyo Maclear UNEARTHING

A Story of Tangled Love and Family Secrets

For readers of *Crying in H Mart* and *Wintering* – an elegant, insightful, and unforgettable memoir about a family secret, the lessons learned in its aftermath, and the indelible power of love.

Three months after Kyo Maclear’s father dies in December 2018, she gets the results of a DNA test showing that she and the father who raised her are not biologically related. Suddenly Maclear becomes a detective in her own life, unraveling a family mystery piece by piece, and assembling the story of her biological father. Along the way, larger questions arise: What exactly is kinship? And what does it mean to be a family?

Uncarthing is a captivating and propulsive story of inheritance that goes beyond heredity. Infused with moments of suspense, it is also a thoughtful reflection on race, lineage, and our cultural fixation on recreational genetics. Readers of Michelle Zauner’s bestseller *Crying in H Mart* will recognize Maclear’s unflinching insights on grief and loyalty, and keen perceptions into the relationship between mothers and daughters.

What gets planted, and what gets buried? What role does storytelling play in unearthing the past and making sense of a life? Can the humble act of tending a garden provide common ground for an inquisitive daughter and her complicated mother? As it seeks to answer these questions, *Uncarthing* bursts with the very love it seeks to understand.



KYO MACLEAR was born in London, United Kingdom and moved to Toronto at the age of four. Her most recent book for adults, *Birds Art Life*, was published in seven territories and became a Canadian #1 bestseller. Kyo received a PhD from York University in the Environmental Humanities. Her short fiction, essays, and art criticism have been published in *Orion Magazine*,

Asia Art Pacific, *Lithub*, *Brick*, *The Millions*, *The Guardian*, and *The Globe & Mail*, among other publications. She is also the author of numerous award-winning, internationally acclaimed books for children.





"I have three strikes against me. I'm a woman, I speak out for women, and I'm Hazara, the most persecuted tribe in Afghanistan."

Rights sold: Australia/New Zealand: HarperCollins (Feb. 27, 2024); Canadian English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House (Feb. 27, 2024)

Status: Manuscript available

Agent: Hilary McMahon

Sima Samar OUTSPOKEN

My Fight for Freedom and Human Rights in Afghanistan

The Taliban threatened to kill Sima Samar if she didn't shut down her girls' schools and hospitals for women. This wasn't the first time she'd dealt with the Taliban; she knew they were serious. She refused.

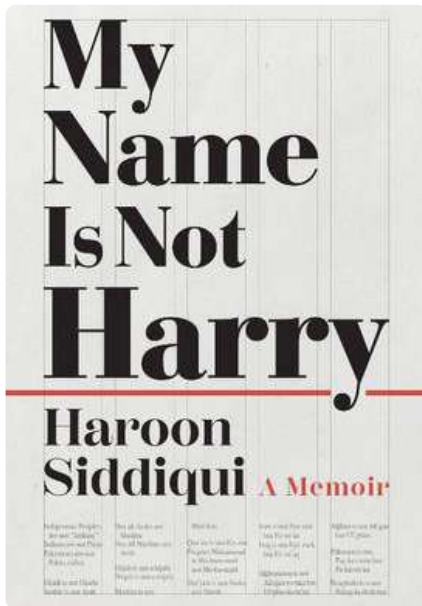
Samar has been fighting this fight for many years. She was born into a polygamous family, learned early that girls had no worth, and had to agree to an arranged marriage if she wanted to go to university. By the time she was in medical school, she had a son and had become a revolutionary trying to overthrow the Russians. After her husband was disappeared by the pro-Russian regime, she escaped. With her son and medical degree, she took off into the rural areas – by horseback, by donkey, even on foot to treat people who had never had medical help before.

She had the inside story – all of it: the dishonesty, the collusion, the corruption, the self-serving leaders, the hijacking of the religion. She knows who is guilty and speaks about the consequences. She knows all the players in this chess game called Afghanistan. With stories that are at times poignant, at times terrifying, Samar provides an unparalleled view of Afghanistan's past and its present.

Samar says that we need to treat injustice anywhere as injustice everywhere. This wide-ranging memoir gives unparalleled insight into one woman's determination to save her people, inspiring as it informs, compelling us to act.

SIMA SAMAR is a globally renowned women's and human rights activist. Currently a visiting professor at Harvard University's Carr Center for Human Rights, she has served as Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Minister of Women's Affairs, and is a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. Her many honors include the Right Livelihood Award and the Profile in Courage Award. Samar is telling her story with the assistance of acclaimed journalist and author Sally Armstrong.

NON-FICTION



“Witty, informative, and unapologetic.”

– Karim H. Karim, professor, Carleton University

“A distinctive and insightful perspective on being Muslim in the post 9/11 world.”

– Charles Taylor, professor emeritus, McGill University

Rights sold: Canadian English including World audio: Dundurn Press (Sept. 26, 2023)

Status: Books available

Agent: Michael A. Levine

Haroon Siddiqui MY NAME IS NOT HARRY

A Memoir

Veteran *Toronto Star* editor Haroon Siddiqui, brown and Muslim, has spent a life on the media front lines, covering conflicts both global and local.

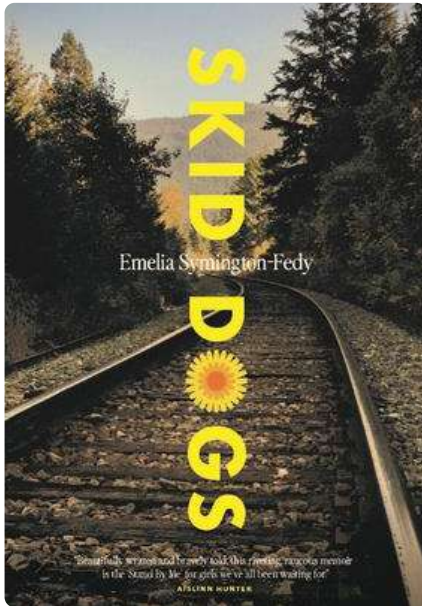
Siddiqui’s journey took him from a divided India to a welcoming Canada – until the cataclysm of 9/11 hardened attitudes to Muslims around the world. His personal story weaves through growing Islamophobia in both India and North America.

Siddiqui’s experiences in the corridors of power in newsrooms and warzones are threaded with insights about historic changes in the last 70 years in India and Canada. His native and adopted lands serve as metaphors for what can go wrong and what can be made right.



HAROON SIDDIQUI is editorial page editor emeritus of the *Toronto Star*, Canada’s largest paper, and a senior fellow at Massey College. A member of the Order of Canada, he has covered or supervised coverage of Canada for 50 years through ten prime ministers. He lives in Toronto.

NON-FICTION



A raw and riveting coming-of-age story about the wild love of teenage friendships and the oppression of '90s rape culture.

"Keen and unsparing... Screamingly funny, and in serious passages she never resorts to sentimentality. Every emotional moment feels fully earned... A really, really good read."

– *Quill & Quire* (starred)

"Beautifully written and bravely told, this riveting, raucous memoir is the *Stand By Me* for girls we've all been waiting for."

– Aislinn Hunter, author of *The Certainties*

"Celebrates female friendships and mother/daughter relationships in all their complicated glory."

– Carmen Aguirre, author of *Mexican Hooker #1: Art, Love and Forgiveness After Trauma*

Rights sold: Audio (World English): Tantor Media; World English: Douglas & McIntyre (Sept. 9, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author's website:

www.emeliasymingtonfedy.com

Agent: Hilary McMahon

Emelia Symington-Fedy SKID DOGS

Emelia Symington-Fedy grew up with her girl gang on the railroad tracks of a small town in British Columbia. Unsupervised and wild, the girls explored the power and shortcomings of "best" friendships and their growing sexuality.

Two decades later an eighteen-year-old girl is murdered on Halloween on the same tracks, and Symington-Fedy returns to her hometown to stay with her mother, who is fearful of a murderer at large.

While the media narrows its focus on how the girl dared be alone on the tracks, Symington-Fedy slowly comes to terms with the mistreatment of her own teenage body. Giving a bold and often darkly humorous first-hand account of '90s rape culture and the sexual coercion that still permeates girlhood, Symington-Fedy holds her hometown close and accountable and exposes the subtle ways that misogyny shows up daily.

Skid Dogs is an engrossing, provocative window into female relationships and a powerful indictment of the dangers of being a girl, advancing a necessary reckoning about promiscuity and consent. Carried by a wryly humorous voice as sharp as the steel of the tracks, *Skid Dogs* will resonate with fans of Lisa Taddeo, Jenny Slate, and Yellowjackets.



EMELIA SYMINGTON-FEDY grew up in Armstrong, British Columbia. She has worked as an essayist, storyteller, and documentary producer for *CBC Radio*, and is the co-artistic director of The Chop Theatre. She is the creator of the popular blog and radio show that became an audiobook, *Trying to Be Good: The Healing Powers of Lying, Cheating, Stealing, and Drugs*. After living an urban life for many years, Symington-Fedy and her family are now enjoying life back in Armstrong, on their rural property near a lake.

NON-FICTION



Praise for *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related.*:

“Finely observed, meticulous, and candid.”

– Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Non-fiction Jury

“Courageous, moving, and achingly beautiful.”

– David Chariandy, author of *Brother*

“A memoir of lasting power.”

– Kim Fu, author of *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century*

Rights sold: Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Aug. 2024)

Status: Manuscript available Fall 2023

Author’s website:

www.jennyheijunwills.com

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Jenny Heijun Wills ASIAN, ADOPTED, QUEER, HUNGRY

Essays on Being Everything and Nothing at All

From Hilary Weston Prize-winning author Jenny Heijun Wills, reflections on ambiguity, stereotypes about queer Asian diasporic women, and how she might exist in the in-between when the world so desperately wants her to fit its image of what she should be.

As an adoptee, Wills navigates the in-betweenness of race and ethnicity. As an Asian pan-polyam femme, she occupies a liminal space between family and “freedom,” queerness and heteronormativity, monogamy and a constellation of love. As a person who self-harms to cope with mental illness, she balances wanting to be beautiful and making herself ugly, preening in the limelight while daily wishing her body would disappear. As a parent with a lifelong eating disorder, her love language is to feed, but she herself refuses to consume love; she is both culturally consumed and consumes culture to learn how to be what society expects of her. In these devastating, illuminating, and beautifully crafted essays, Wills draws together the aesthetics of lyrical life writing and the intellectual rigor of her decades-long academic practice, experimenting and innovating along the way both with the notion of identity and the literary forms typically deployed to express it. The outcome is a collection of linked essays, each one building upon the last, that demonstrates meditation, curiosity, social awareness, but also irony and play.

JENNY HEIJUN WILLS is a creative writer and scholar (critical race and American studies) who was born in Seoul, South Korea and was adopted and raised in a white family in Canada. She’s lived, studied, and worked in Toronto, Montreal, Boston, and Seoul, and holds a PhD in English Literary Studies. She currently teaches at the University of Winnipeg in Manitoba where she is the first creative writer serving as Chancellor’s Research Chair. The author of over 50 essays and co-editor of two essay collections, she won the 2019 Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Non-fiction for her debut book *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related.*, a heartbreaking memoir about kinship and culture rediscovered. Wills is a Fulbright Alum (Harvard) and a graduate of the School of Criticism and Theory (Cornell), and in 2016 was Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (Stanford).

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