

freehand books

FALL 2017



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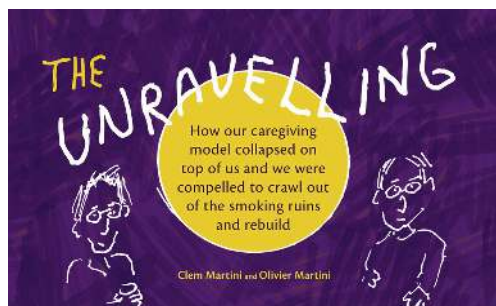
Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Alberta
Government

The Unravelling

How Our Caregiving Model Collapsed on Top of Us and
We Were Compelled to Crawl Out of the Smoking Ruins and Rebuild

a graphic memoir by **CLEM MARTINI** and **OLIVIER MARTINI**



A memoir, told through illustrations and text, of one family's journey through mental illness, dementia, caregiving, and the health care system.

Olivier Martini and his mother, Catherine, have lived together since he was diagnosed with schizophrenia thirty-six years ago. It hasn't always been a perfect living situation, but it's worked — Catherine has been able to help Olivier through the ups and downs of living with a mental illness, and Olivier has been able to care for his aging mother as her mobility becomes limited, and Olivier's brothers Clem and Nic have been able to provide support to both as well. But then Olivier experiences a health crisis at the exact same time that his mother starts slipping into dementia.

The Martini family's lifelong struggle with mental illness is suddenly complicated immeasurably as they begin to navigate the convoluted world of assisted living and long-term care. With anger, dry humour, and hope, *The Unravelling* tells the story of one family's journey with mental illness, dementia, and caregiving, through a poignant graphic narrative from Olivier accompanied by text from his brother, award-winning playwright and novelist Clem Martini.

Clem Martini is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter and author. He is a professor in the Department of Drama at the University of Calgary. Olivier Martini's sketches, paintings, and prints have been displayed at the Marion McGrath Gallery and Studio Three Gallery, published in Alberta Views magazine, and were included as part of the Canadian Mental Health's Copernicus Project. Both Olivier and Clem live in Calgary. Their book Bitter Medicine: A Graphic Memoir of Mental Illness won the 2010 City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Award.

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10 x 6 paperback 250 pages
Canadian rights
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CGN007010 comics & graphic novels
(nonfiction / biography & memoir)
BIO026000 biography & autobiography
(personal memoirs)

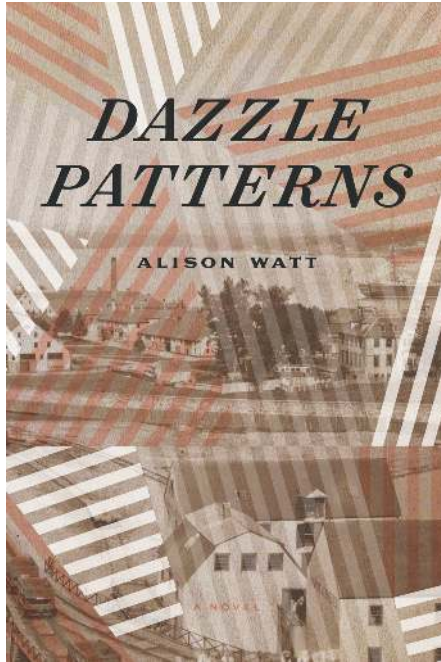


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SEPTEMBER 2017 launch with Calgary WordFest • national advertising
• national targeted media review mailing • pitches to literary festivals •
author appearances: Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver

Dazzle Patterns

a novel by ALISON WATT



Beginning the day of the devastating Halifax Explosion of 1917, *Dazzle Patterns* is an unforgettable story about loss, the resilience of the human spirit, and the transformative power of art.

While Clare Holmes waits for her fiancé, Leo, to return from the war in France, she works as a flaw checker at the Halifax glassworks. It is there that she meets Fred Baker, a mysterious master glassmaker who was trained in his home country of Germany. After the disastrous explosion on December 6, 1917 — which killed 2000, injured thousands more, and is said to have shattered every window in the city — Clare, Leo, and Fred's lives become irrevocably intertwined.

In the chaos and turmoil of the war and the aftermath of the explosion, Clare finds solace in drawing, but is further devastated when Leo is reported missing. Meanwhile, tensions in the community quickly rise: who was responsible for the explosion? Could there be German collaborators in their midst? When Fred is arrested, Clare is determined to find a way to prove her new friend's innocence.

Dazzle Patterns is a moving story about three people making their way through harrowing, impossible times. With extraordinary vision and clarity, Alison Watt's remarkable debut novel brings the past to life.

Alison Watt is a writer and visual artist who works and teaches out of her studio on Protection Island, near Nanaimo, BC. Originally a biologist, she has worked in seabird colonies, in the Amazon, and in a botanical garden. She is the author of The Last Island: A Naturalist's Sojourn on Triangle Island, winner of the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction, and Circadia, a poetry collection. Dazzle Patterns is her first novel.

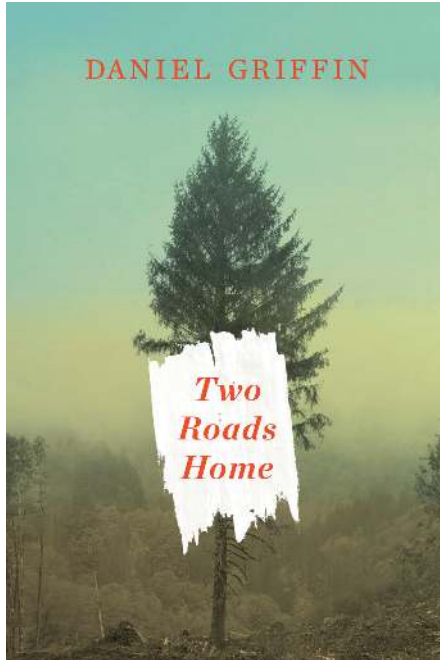


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World rights
FIC014000 (fiction / historical)
FIC019000 (fiction / literary)

SEPTEMBER 2017 author appearances: Halifax, Toronto, Calgary, Victoria, Nanaimo • partnerships with museums • national advertising • national targeted media review mailing • pitches to literary festivals

Two Roads Home

a novel by **DANIEL GRIFFIN**



A fast-paced literary eco-thriller about the power of resistance, the fine line between activism and terrorism, and what happens when things go too far.

It is 1993 on Vancouver Island. A group of idealistic young activists, determined to do whatever it takes to protect the environment, turn to sabotage. But in a single moment everything they've worked for goes terribly wrong: a night watchman at a logging company warehouse is killed in an explosion that they set.

Two Roads Home follows these activists as their lives — and their cause — spiral out of control. Pete, who set the bomb, heads off the grid, where he discovers a vibrant community of squatters who have been affected by the explosion in unexpected ways. Meanwhile, Pete's mother is determined to track him down and clear his name.

In *Two Roads Home*, Daniel Griffin deftly reimagines history: what if, instead of the legendarily peaceful Clayoquot Sound protests of the 1990s, things had gone too far? How far is too far, when it comes to protesting what one sees as injustice? And what happens when that line is crossed?

Daniel Griffin was born in Kingston, Ontario, and has lived in Canada, the United States, Guatemala, the UK, France, New Zealand, and India. He's the author of the short story collection Stopping for Strangers and holds an MFA from UBC. He currently lives in Victoria, BC, with his wife and three children, where he is at work on another novel.



ISBN 978-1-988298-21-4

\$21.95 CDN

5.5 × 8.5 paperback 250 pages

Canadian rights

FI Co31090 (fiction / thriller / terrorism)

FI Co19000 (fiction / literary)

SEPTEMBER 2017 author appearances: Victoria, Vancouver, Kingston, Toronto • national advertising • national targeted media mailing • pitches to literary festivals

featured backlist

fiction

WINTER CHILD

Virginia Pésémapéo Bordeleau
trans. by Susan Ouriou and Christelle Morelli

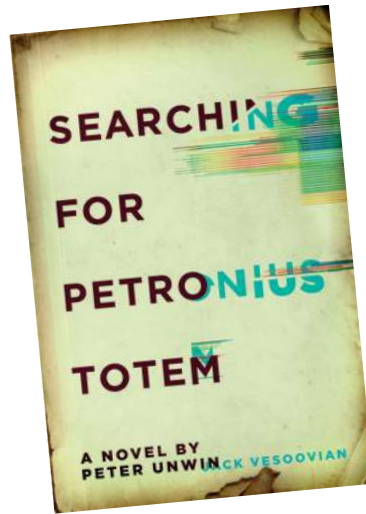


ISBN 978-1-988298-06-1 \$21.95 CDN

A visceral, luminous novel about a Métis woman tracing the life and death of her son. First English translation.

SEARCHING FOR PETRONIUS TOTEM

Peter Unwin



ISBN 978-1-988298-09-2 \$21.95 CDN/US

"At last, an overdue masterpiece about me. If you only read one book in your life, make sure it's this one. Jack Vesovian is the greatest Canadian author since Jane Austen, and has finally found a subject worthy of his talent." — Petronius Totem

A satirical, provocative novel about love, art, and edible robotic chickens.

WHAT THE SOUL DOESN'T WANT

Lorna Crozier



ISBN 978-1-988298-12-2 \$16.95 CDN/US

"New poems by Lorna Crozier are always a reason for rejoicing."

Globe and Mail

SUBURBAN LEGENDS

Joan Crate



ISBN 978-1-55111-961-8 \$16.95 CDN/US

"Joan Crate is the poet of our suburban dreams and our suburban nightmares. She turns daily experience into the stuff of shocking fairy tales and renewed legends. Line by eloquent line, her poems give voice to our stifling silences."

Robert Kroetsch

nonfiction

ONE HOUR IN PARIS

A TRUE STORY OF RAPE AND RECOVERY

Karyn L. Freedman



- Longlisted for Canada Reads 2017
- Winner of the 2015 British Columbia National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction
- A Globe and Mail Top 100 Book of 2014

ISBN 978-1-55481-195-3 \$21.95 CDN

"Brilliant, brave and soul-searing."
Winnipeg Free Press

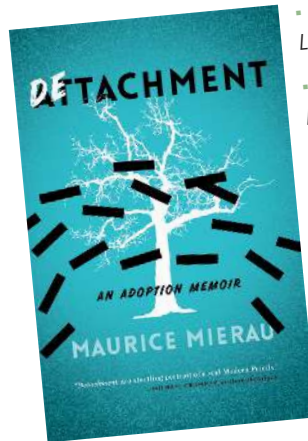
"One Hour in Paris is not only for survivors: it is a story of the audacity of courage in the face of trauma, a brave and moving book that deserves to be read by audiences at large."

Quill & Quire starred review

DETACHMENT

AN ADOPTION MEMOIR

Maurice Mierau



- Winner of the 2016 Kobzar Literary Award
- Winner of the 2015 Alberta Trade Non-Fiction Book of the Year
- A 49th Shelf Book of the Year
- Finalist for the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award
- Finalist for the Winnipeg Public Library's On the Same Page

ISBN 978-1-55481-206-6 \$21.95 CDN/US

"A frank, tense and fully engaging story of the processes and consequences of adoption. And it's more than this."
Winnipeg Free Press

"It's a book that doesn't sugarcoat the challenges of building a family across borders, with children who acutely remember what it's like to have been abandoned. It also lays bare the sometimes-unanticipated impact on marital relationships, on a person's confidence in themselves as a parent."
National Post

graphic memoir

BITTER MEDICINE

A GRAPHIC MEMOIR OF MENTAL ILLNESS

Clem Martini and Olivier Martini



- Winner of the City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize

- Winner of the Alberta Trade Non-Fiction Book of the Year

ISBN 978-1-55111-928-1 \$23.95 CDN/US

"There's hope in the art of Olivier, whose line drawings evoke the work of R.O. Blechman. Though much of the work — some old, some produced for the book — is bleak, he infuses a remarkable amount of humour and joy into his drawings."

Mark Medley, *National Post*

"The book's greatest strength is its profound ability to humanize a frequently misunderstood condition, and to highlight mental illness as the 'orphan child' of the health care community."

Quill & Quire

TANGLES

A STORY ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S, MY MOTHER, AND ME

Sarah Leavitt



- Finalist for the 2010 Writers' Trust Non-Fiction Prize

- A Globe and Mail Top 100 Book of 2010

- Winner of the 2011 CBC Bookie Award for Best Comic or Graphic Novel

- Finalist for the 2011 Alberta Readers' Choice Award

- Finalist for the 2011 Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize

ISBN 978-1-55111-117-9 \$23.95 CDN

"Not only a spot-on portrait of the dark comedy and vast sadness that Alzheimer's contains, the book is a fitting tribute to Leavitt's mom."

Vanity Fair

"Brimming with humility and insight, Leavitt proves herself a skilled and unflinching memoirist. Her spare, evocative illustrations and the tender restraint of her prose will leave you breathless, heartbroken and profoundly grateful."

Nancy Lee, author of *Dead Girls*

titles in print

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NONFICTION

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