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Fall 2021



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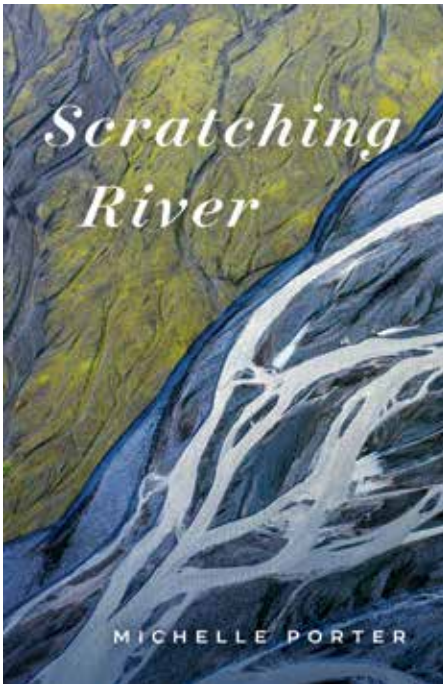
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# SCRATCHING RIVER

Michelle Porter



Paper  
 ebook available  
 February 2022  
 150 pages  
 5.25 x 8 paper  
 Life Writing  
 978-1-77112-544-4  
 \$22.99 CAD / \$19.99 USD

*Scratching River* weaves multiple stories and voices across time to explore the strengths and challenges of the ways in which Métis have created, and continue to create, home through a storied and mobile social geography that is always on the move.

The book foregrounds the story of a search for a home for Michelle Porter's older brother, who holds dual diagnoses of schizophrenia and autism, and the abuse he endured at the rural Alberta group home that was supposed to care for him. Interspersed throughout are news clippings about the investigation into "The Ranch," the home in question. Métis history is woven between the contemporary stories of the author, her brother, and her mother. As the pieces come together, the book uses the river as a metaphor to suggest that rather than a weakness, the ability to move and move again and to move on has enabled survival, healing, and ongoing reconciliation.

**Michelle Porter's** first book of poetry, *Inquiries*, was shortlisted for the Pat Lowther Memorial Award in 2019. Her first book of nonfiction is *Approaching Fire*, in which she embarks on a quest to find her great-grandfather, the Métis fiddler and performer Léon Robert Goulet. She is a member of the Manitoba Métis Federation. She currently lives in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

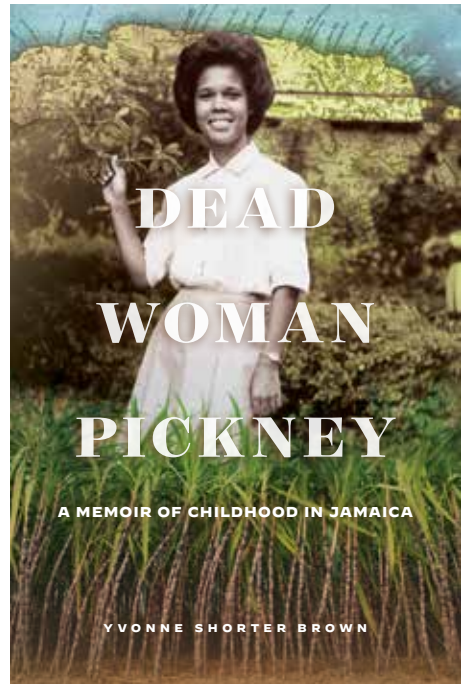
# DEAD WOMAN PICKNEY

## A MEMOIR OF CHILDHOOD IN JAMAICA, *Second Edition*

Yvonne Shorter Brown

Foreword by Sonja Boon

Paper  
ebook available  
February 2022  
250 pages  
5.25 x 8 paper  
Life Writing  
978-1-77112-547-5  
\$29.99 CAD / \$24.99 USD



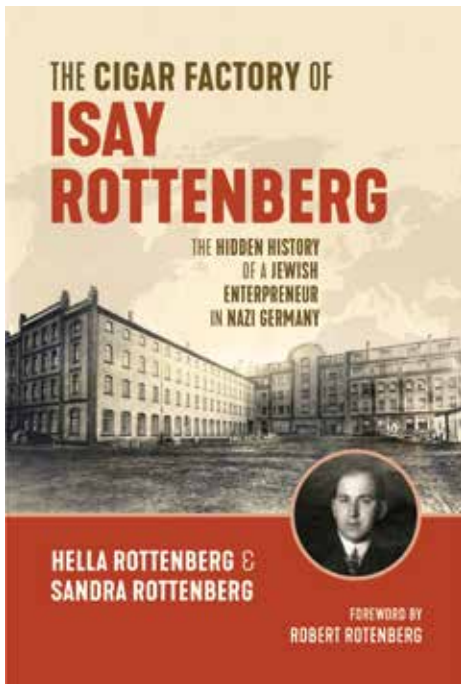
**Yvonne Shorter Brown** is a public school teacher, author and historian in Toronto, Ontario.

**Sonja Boon** is Associate Professor of Gender Studies at Memorial University. An award-winning researcher, writer, and teacher, Boon is the author of *What the Oceans Remember* (WLU Press, 2019).

*Dead Woman Pickney* chronicles Yvonne Shorter Brown's life growing up in Jamaica between 1943 and 1965 and teaching in Canada from 1969. Told with stridency and humour, the stories include both personal experience and history.

Taking up the haunting memories of childhood, along with persistent racial marginalization of Black people, both globally and in Canada, the author sets out to construct a narrative that at once explains her own origins in the former slave society of Jamaica and traces the outsider status of Africa and its peoples. The author's quest to understand the absence of her mother and her mother's people from her life is at the heart of the narrative. The author struggles through life to discover the identity of her mother in the face of silence from her father's brutal family. In this updated edition she adds a coda, "finding mother," constructed from archives, genealogy, letters, and journals.

Initially published in 2010, this second edition includes expanded text and a foreword by Sonja Boon, author of *What the Oceans Remember*.



# THE CIGAR FACTORY OF ISAY ROTTENBERG

## THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF A JEWISH ENTREPRENEUR IN NAZI GERMANY

Hella Rottenberg and Sandra Rottenberg

Translated by Jonathan Reeder

Foreword by Robert Rotenberg

Paper

ebook available

November 2021

275 pages

6 x 9 paper

978-1-77112-550-5

\$24.99

In 1932, Isay Rottenberg, a Jewish paper merchant, bought a cigar factory in Germany: Deutsche Zigarren-Werke. When his competitors, supported by Nazi authorities, tried to shut it down, the headstrong entrepreneur refused to give up the fight.

Isay Rottenberg was born into a large Jewish family in Russian Poland in 1889 and grew up in Lodz. He left for Berlin at the age of eighteen to escape military service, moving again in 1917 to Amsterdam on the occasion of his marriage. In 1932 he moved to Germany to take over a bankrupt cigar factory. With newfangled American technology, it was the most modern at the time. The energetic and ambitious Rottenberg was certain he could bring it back to life, and with newly hired staff of 670 workers, the cigar factory was soon back in business.

Six months later, Hitler came to power and the Nazi government forbade the use of machines in the cigar industry so that traditional hand-rollers could be re-employed. That was when the real struggle began. More than six hundred qualified machine workers and engineers would lose their jobs if the factory had to close down. Supported by the local authorities he managed to keep the factory going, but in 1935 he was imprisoned following accusations of fraud. The factory was expropriated by the Deutsche Bank. When he was released six months later thanks to the efforts of the Dutch consul, he brought a lawsuit of his own. His fight for rehabilitation and restitution of his property would continue until Kristallnacht in 1938.

*The Cigar Factory of Isay Rottenberg* is written by two of Rottenberg's granddaughters, who knew little of their grandfather's past growing up in Amsterdam until a call for claims for stolen or confiscated property started them on a journey of discovery. It includes a foreword by Robert Rotenberg, criminal defense lawyer and author of bestselling legal thrillers.

**Hella Rottenberg** is a freelance writer and journalist. She worked as a political and investigative reporter and was a correspondent in Prague and Moscow during the collapse of communism. Her publications include books about the smuggling of a Malevich collection and the back office of criminal justice in the Netherlands.

**Sandra Rottenberg** works as a freelance journalist and producer for a wide range of media, public debates and political fora. She produces podcasts and chairs public debates on social and political issues. Her publications include a bibliography on women in the media and a history of the squatters' movement in the Netherlands.

**Jonathan Reeder**, a native of New York and long-time Amsterdam resident, enjoys a dual career as a literary translator and performing musician. Alongside his work as a professional bassoonist he translates opera libretti and articles on classical music, as well as contemporary Dutch fiction, essays, poetry, and non-fiction.

**Robert Rotenberg** is a Canadian criminal defence lawyer and writer, based in Toronto. He is the author of several bestselling novels, including *Old City Hall*, *The Guilty Plea*, *Stray Bullets*, *Stranglehold*, and *Heart of the City*. His most recent book is *Downfall* (2021).

## WLU Press is pleased to announce **Tanis MacDonald** as the new general editor of the *Laurier Poetry Series*.

Neil Besner and Brian Henderson first conceived of the series in 2002. Almost twenty years later, with thirty-three volumes published and several new titles forthcoming, LPS continues to celebrate Canadian poetry and to contribute to its study.

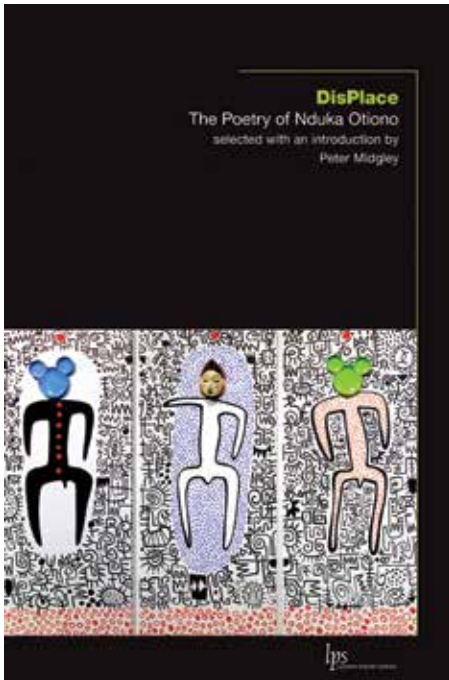
### **A note from Tanis MacDonald:**

"I am happy to serve as the general editor for the Laurier Poetry Series, the development and growth of which I have followed from its early days. As we embark of this next turn of the series, access is our watchword. Canadian literature has had a checkered history of exclusionary practices, so who gets the nod and who takes part in discussions—as readers and as writers—of Canadian poetry? In the classroom, it is my privilege to introduce a generation of students to the practice of reading poetry as a vital thread in cultural, social, and political conversations, conversations that challenge ideas about Canada. For that



work, I want access to as many voices, and as robust a selection of poems from those voices, as I can get my hands on. I want to offer selected volumes not only by the splashiest prize winners but also by poets who have carried a full cultural backpack for decades, and to showcase new poets who have taken off like rockets. I speak the language of the bibliophile, the craver of books, the person whose pedagogical pleasure comes from putting poetry books into the hands of others and saying, simply, 'Read this, and we'll talk.'"

**Tanis MacDonald** is a Professor in the Department of English and Film Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University. She is the author of several books of poetry and essays as well as the scholarly monograph *The Daughter's Way: Canadian Women's Paternal Elegies* (WLU Press, 2012). Her most recent book, *Mobile* (Book\*hug, 2019), was longlisted for the Toronto Book Awards.



# DISPLACE

## THE POETRY OF NDUKA OTIONO

Selected with an introduction by Peter Midgley  
Afterword by Chris Dunton

Paper  
ebook available  
October 2021  
88 pages  
6 x 9 paper  
Laurier Poetry  
978-1-77112-538-3  
\$19.99

*DisPlace: The Poetry of Nduka Otiono* engages actively with a diasporic world: Otiono is equally at home critiquing petroculture in Nigeria and in Canada. His work straddles multiple poetic traditions and places African intellectual history at the forefront of an engagement with Western poetics.

The poems in this selection are drawn from Otiono's two published collections, *Voices in the Rainbow*, and *Love in a Time of Nightmares*, and the volume includes previously unpublished new poems. Peter Midgley's introduction contextualizes Otiono's work within the frame of diaspora and newer critical frames like Afropolitanism, attending to form as well as his political engagement. The volume concludes with an afterword written by the poet with Chris Dunton.

**Nduka Otiono** is an Associate Professor of African Studies and English at Carleton University in Ottawa. Formerly a journalist and General Secretary of the Association of Nigerian Authors, his publications include two poetry books and a collection of short stories, *The Night Hides with a Knife*, winner of the ANA/Spectrum Prize for fiction.

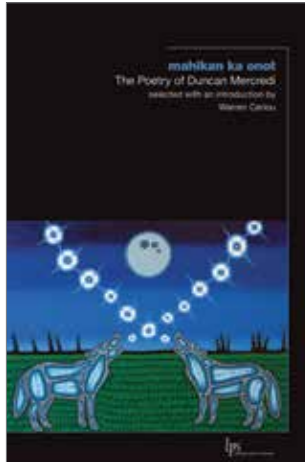
**Peter Midgley** is an independent scholar, writer, and editor. He is the author of twelve books for children and adults, including three volumes of poetry. His latest book of poetry, *let us not think of them as barbarians*, was shortlisted for the Writers' Guild of Alberta's Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry.



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The poetry of Lillian Allen  
Selected with an introduction by  
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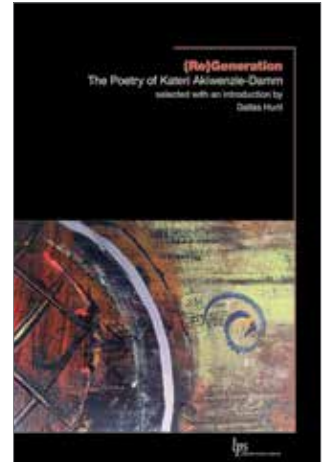
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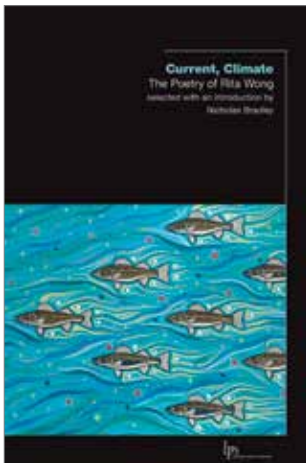
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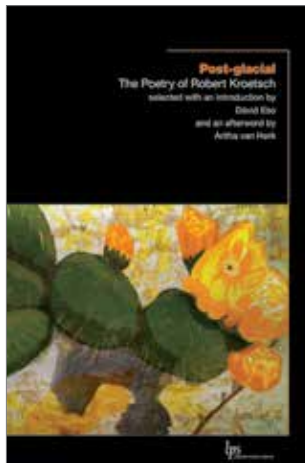
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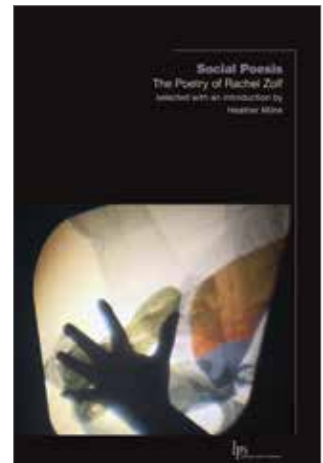
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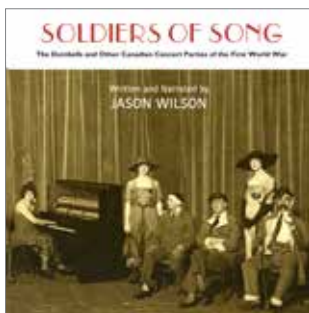
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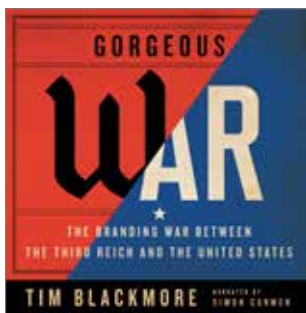




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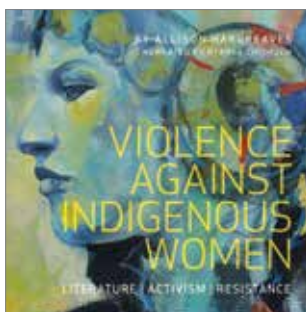
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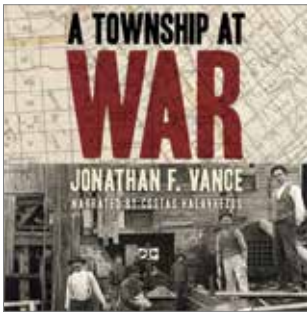
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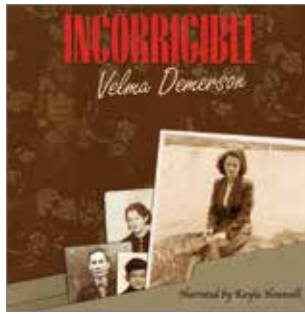
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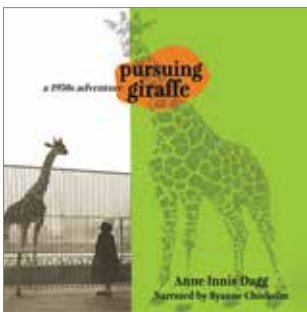
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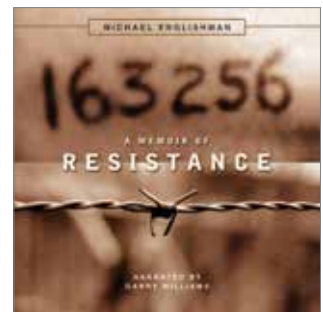
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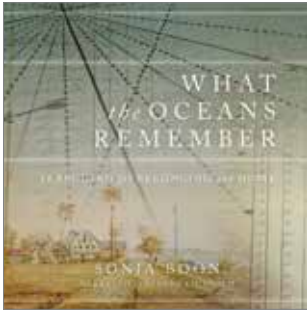
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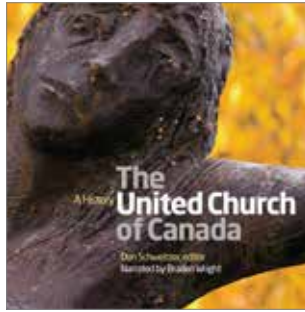
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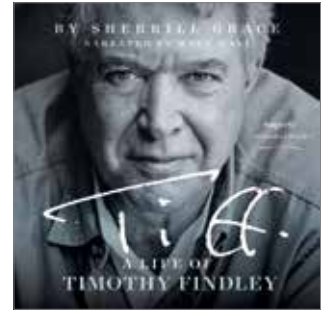
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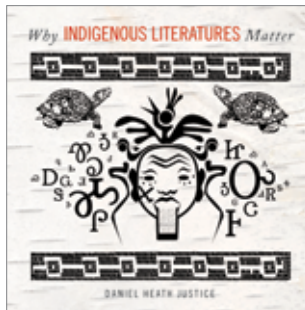
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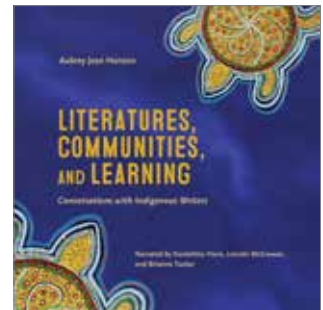
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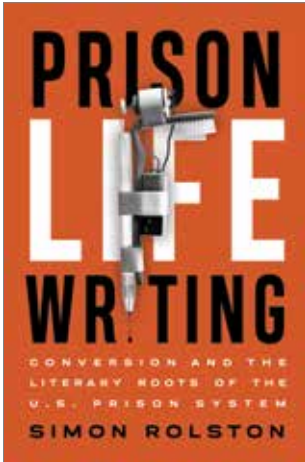
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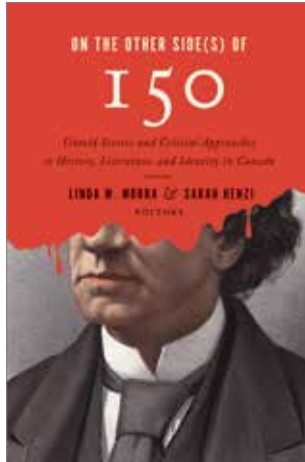
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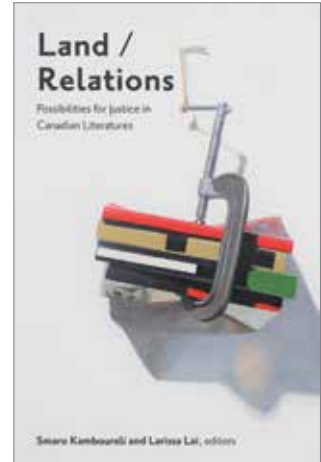
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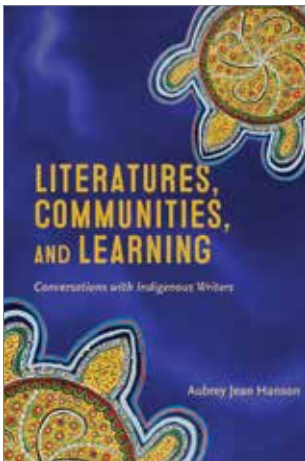
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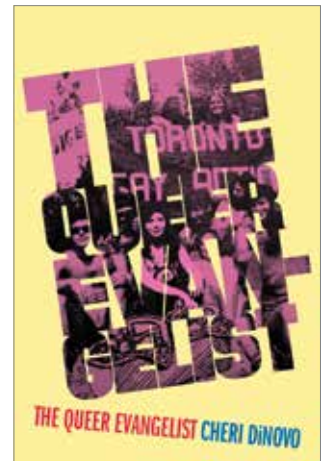
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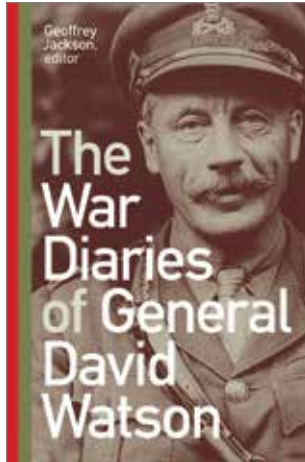
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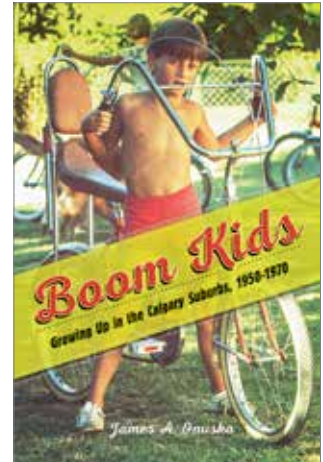
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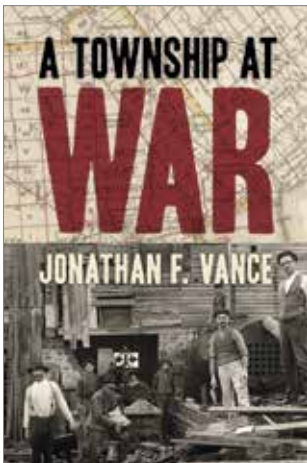
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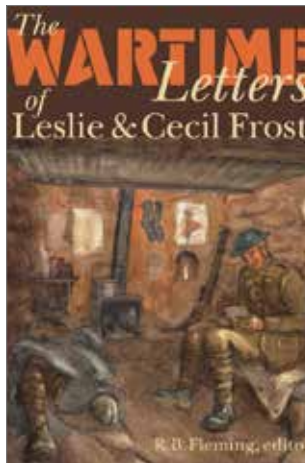
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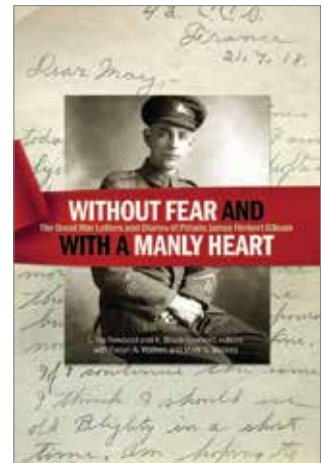
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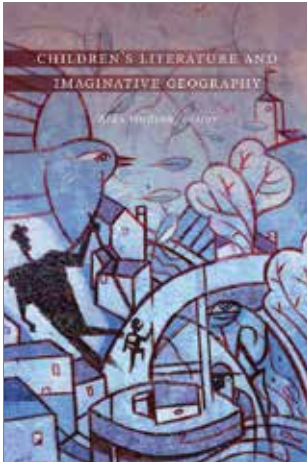


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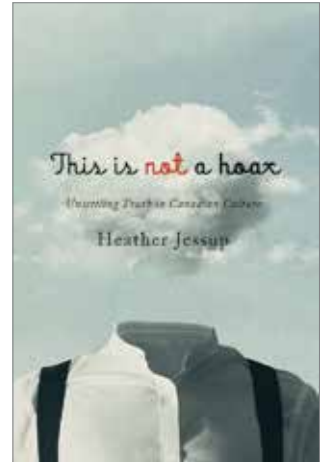
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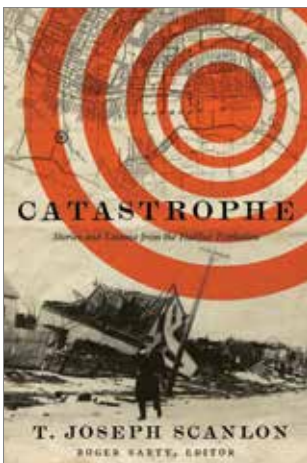
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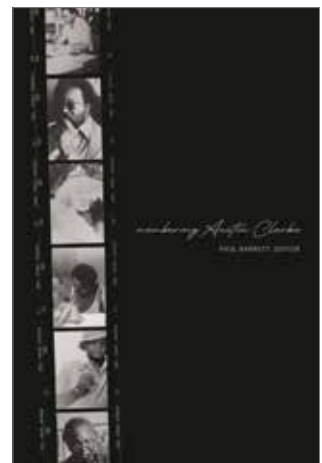
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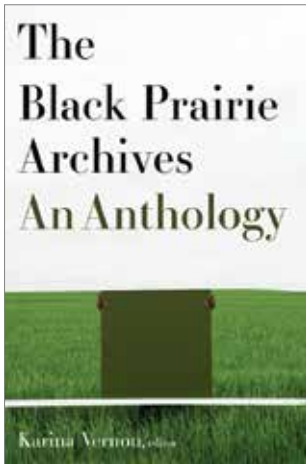
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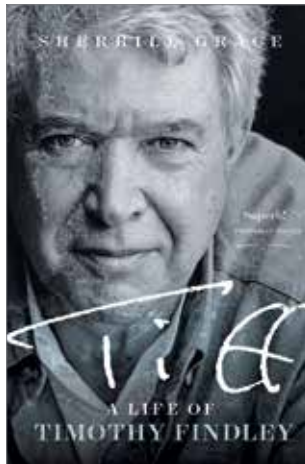
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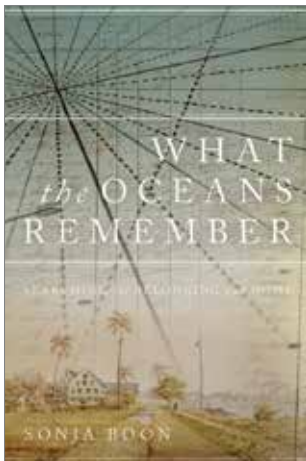
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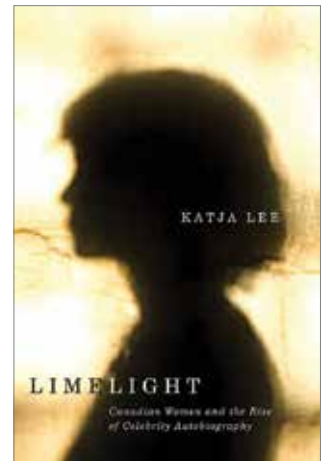
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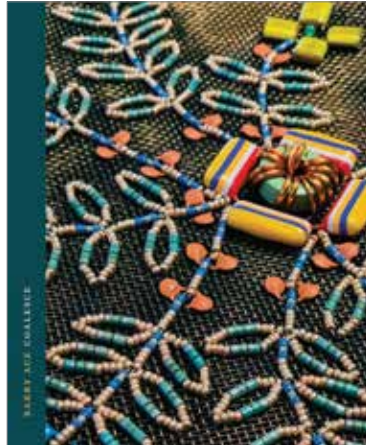




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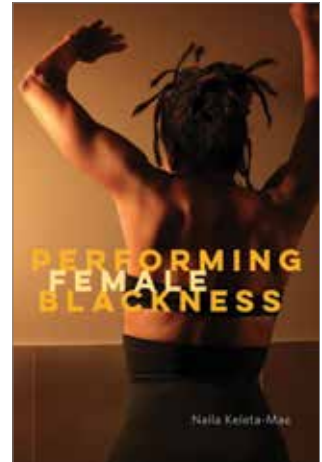
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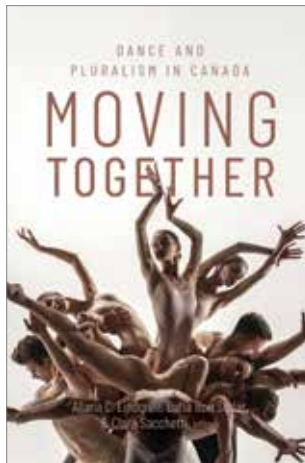
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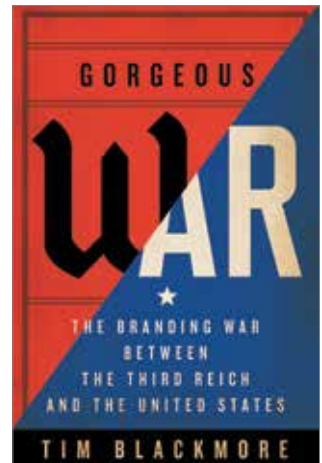
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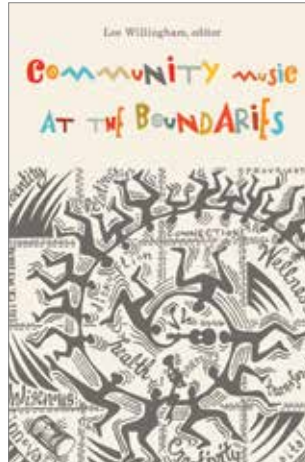
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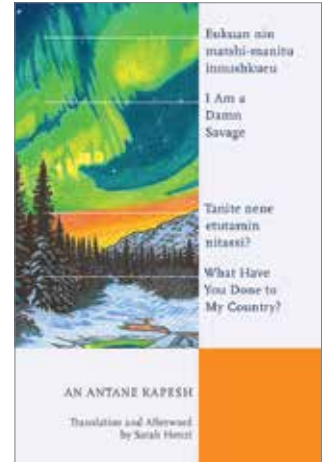
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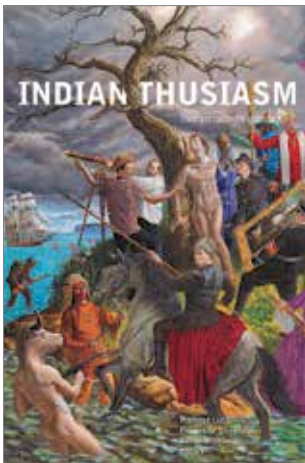
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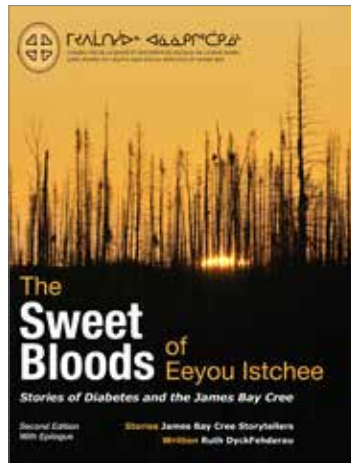
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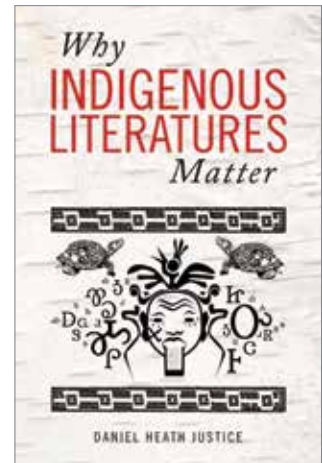
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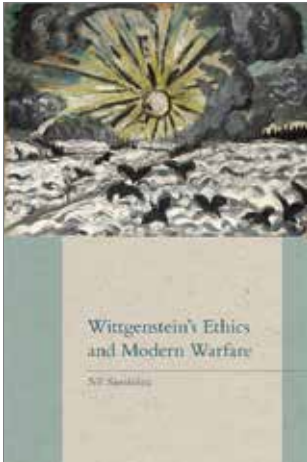
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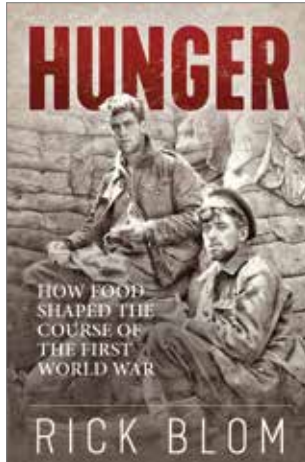
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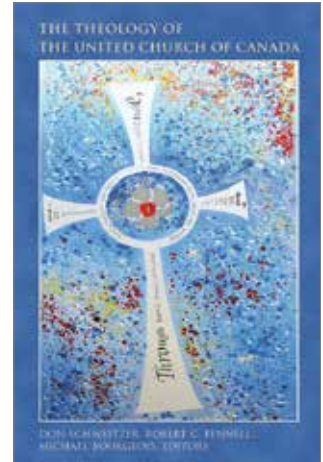
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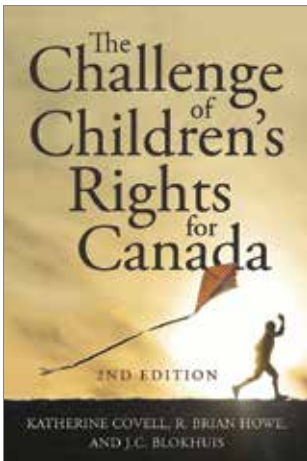
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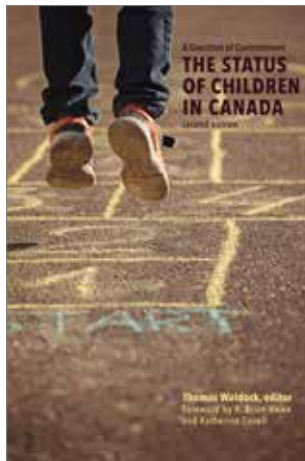
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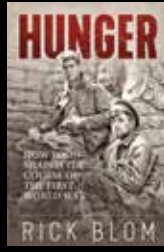
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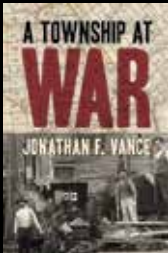
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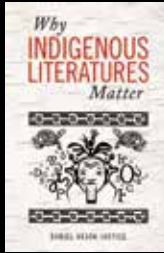
Longlisted, 2019 BMO Winterset Award



Shortlisted, 2019 Manitoba Book Awards



Winner, 2018 Chalmers Award for Ontario History



Winner, 2018 NAISA Award for Best Subsequent Book

Shortlisted, 2019 Foreword INDIES Awards (Autobiography & Memoir) (Multicultural)

Winner, 2018 C.P. Stacey Award

Shortlisted, 2019 Ontario Speaker's Book Award

Winner, 2019 Prose Award (Literature)

Shortlisted, 2018 ACQL Gabrielle Roy Prize

Finalist, 2018 Foreword INDIES (Political and Social Sciences)

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