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FALL 2022

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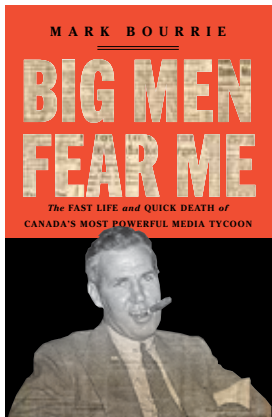
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MARK BOURRIE

BIG MEN FEAR ME

THE FAST LIFE AND QUICK DEATH OF CANADA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL MEDIA TYCOON

The best-selling author of *Bush Runner* returns with the untold story of Canada's would-be dictator



Oct 4, 2022 | History
5.5 x 8.5, 400 pp
\$24.95 | 9781771964937
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Mark Bourrie, *Bush Runner*
Charlotte Gray, *Gold Diggers*
Kenneth Whyte, *The Uncrowned King*

When George McCullagh bought *The Globe and The Mail and Empire* and merged them into the *Globe and Mail*, the 31-year-old high school dropout had already made millions on the stock market after the Crash of 1929 and the construction of his glamorous suburban Toronto estate was just the beginning of the meteoric rise of a man widely expected to one day serve as the country's prime minister. But the self-made McCullagh had a dark side. Dogged by the bipolar disorder that destroyed his political ambitions and eventually killed him, the man who would be minister was all but written out of history, erased from the archives of his own newspaper, a loss so significant that journalist Robert Fulford has called McCullagh's biography "one of the great unwritten books in Canadian history"—until now. In *Big Men Fear Me*, award-winning journalist and historian Mark Bourrie tells the remarkable story of McCullagh's inspirational rise and devastating fall.

Mark Bourrie holds a master's in Journalism, a PhD in History, a Juris Doctor degree, and was called to the Bar in 2018. He won the RBC Charles Taylor Prize in 2020 for *Bush Runner: The Adventures of Pierre Radisson*. He lives in Ottawa.



PRAISE FOR MARK BOURRIE'S *BUSH RUNNER*

"A dark adventure story that sweeps the reader through a world filled with surprises. The book is compelling, authoritative, not a little disturbing—and a significant contribution to the history of 17th-century North America." KEN MCGOOGAN, *GLOBE AND MAIL*

"A remarkable biography of an even more remarkable 17th-century individual ... Beautifully written and endlessly thought-provoking." *MACLEAN'S*

"Bourrie's writing is grounded in a strong sense of place, partly because of his own extensive knowledge of the land and partly because of Radisson's descriptive storytelling abilities ... a valuable and rare glimpse into 17th-century North America." *CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC*

"Highly entertaining reading ... fascinating ... an engaging achievement." *WINNIPEG FREE PRESS*

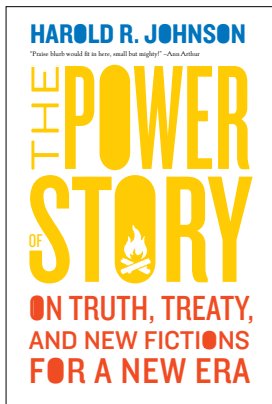
"Readers might well wonder if Jonathan Swift at his edgiest has been at work." RBC TAYLOR PRIZE JURY CITATION

HAROLD R JOHNSON

THE POWER OF STORY

ON TRUTH, THE TRICKSTER, AND NEW FICTIONS
FOR A NEW ERA

Award-winning Indigenous author Harold R Johnson considers the promise and potential of storytelling.



Sept 20, 2022 | Nonfiction
5 × 8, 160 pp
\$19.95 | 9781771964876
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Harold R Johnson, *Firewater*
Thomas King,
The Truth About Stories
Bob Joseph, *21 Things*
You May Not Know
About the Indian Act

Approached by an ecumenical society representing many faiths, from Judeo-Christians to fellow members of First Nations, Harold R Johnson agreed to host a group who wanted to hear him speak about the power of storytelling. This book is the outcome of that gathering. In *The Power of Story: On Truth, the Trickster, and New Fictions for a New Era*, Johnson explains the role of storytelling in every aspect of human life, from personal identity to history and the social contracts that structure our societies, and illustrates how we can direct its potential to re-create and reform not only our own lives, but the life we share. Companionable, clear-eyed, and, above all, optimistic, Johnson's message is both a dire warning and a direct invitation to each of us to imagine and create, together, the world we want to live in.

Harold R Johnson (1957–2022) was the author of ten books, as well as a miner, logger, mechanic, trapper, fisherman, tree planter, heavy-equipment operator, graduate of Harvard Law School, lawyer, and Crown prosecutor. Born and raised in northern Saskatchewan, he was a member of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation.



PRAISE FOR HAROLD R JOHNSON

“An extraordinary memoir by a Cree writer who understands the damage alcohol does when used to kill the pain caused by white Canadians stealing and torturing Indigenous children throughout this nation’s history. I know many white alcoholics but it’s always ‘the drunk Indian.’ Why? *Firewater* is a great book; it burns in the hand.” *TORONTO STAR*

“A natural storyteller, Johnson seeks imagined pasts and futurity with equal parts longing and care. This work allows readers and writers the possibility of new and ancient modes of storytelling.”
TRACEY LINDBERG, AUTHOR OF *BIRDIE*

“A luminous, genre-bending memoir. Heartache and hardship are no match for the disarming whimsy, the layered storytelling shot through with love. The power of land, the pull of family, the turbulence of poverty are threads woven together with explorations of reality, tackling truth with a trickster slant.”
EDEN ROBINSON

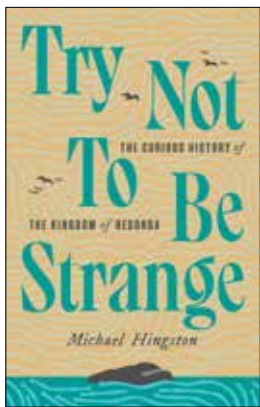
“Written in the style of a kitchen-table conversation, Johnson’s personal anecdotes and perceptive analysis are a call to return to a traditional culture of sobriety ... [a] well-argued case.”
PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

MICHAEL HINGSTON

TRY NOT TO BE STRANGE

THE CURIOUS HISTORY OF THE KINGDOM OF REDONDA

This rollicking literary history blurs the line between fantasy and reality—to the point that it may never be restored.



Sept 13, 2022 | Nonfiction
5.5 × 8.5, 302 pp
\$24.95 | 9781771964159
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

David Grann, *The Lost City of Z*

Nicholson Baker,
U and I

Daniel Levin Becker,
Many Subtle Channels

Try Not to Be Strange: The Curious History of the Kingdom of Redonda tells for the first time the complete history of Redonda's transformation from an uninhabited, guano-encrusted island into a fantastical literary and cultural kingdom. Following forgotten sci-fi novelists, alcoholic poets, vegetarian publishers, Nobel Prize winners, and the bartenders who kept them all lubricated while plotting to steal the kingdom for themselves, Michael Hingston details the friendships, feuds, and fantasies that fueled the creation of one of the oddest and most enduring—endearing?—micronations dreamt into being. Part literary history, part travelogue, part quest-narrative, this tongue-in-cheek cautionary tale about what happens when bibliomania escapes the shelves and stacks is as charming as it is peculiar—and so blurs the line between reality and fantasy that it may never be entirely restored.

Michael Hingston is the author of *Let's Go Exploring* and *The Dilettantes*. His journalism has also appeared in *National Geographic*, *Wired*, and the *Washington Post*. Hingston lives in Edmonton, Alberta, with his partner and two kids.



KEY SELLING POINTS

The first complete history of Redonda, a century-old literary fantasy world and actual island/former guano mine.

Part history, part travelogue, part journalistic literary investigation, and part memoir, *Try Not to Be Strange* is a contemporary survey of the many people who believe themselves to be the island's "true" monarch.

Backstory: Hingston searched for a history of Redonda since reading Javier Marias's *All Souls* in 2013, and discovered the legend. By 2017, he realized no one else would write one, so he decided to pursue his obsession

Includes images, both the author's travel photos and reproductions of historical documents.

Hingston is co-publisher at Hingston & Olsen, a micropress known for beautifully designed and produced limited editions, including the *Short Story Advent Calendar*



STEVEN HEIGHTON

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DROWNING

“To say Heighton is an immensely talented writer is true enough but insufficient ... As good a writer as Canada has ever produced.” *NATIONAL POST*



A man recalls his father's advice on how to save a drowning person, but struggles to come to terms with its application. Locked down with his new partner and her aging cat, a recovering alcoholic must continue learning how to balance control and vulnerability. When his husband dies, a son's request of his conservative father teaches both men to see one another, and their relationship, anew. In stories about love and fear, Romantic idealism and practical limitations, self-reckoning and how we learn to care for one another, Steven Heighton's *Instructions for the Drowning* is the unforgettable last work of a writer working at the height of his powers.

Oct 25, 2022 | Short fiction
5 × 8, 224 pp
\$22.95 | 9781771965354
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Steven Heighton, *The Dead are More Visible*
David Bergen, *Here the Dark*
Alexander Macleod, *Light Lifting*

Steven Heighton (1961–2022) was the author of nineteen previous books, including the Writers' Trust Hilary Weston Prize finalist *Reaching Mithymna: Among the Volunteers and Refugees on Lesbos* and *The Waking Comes Late*, winner of the Governor General's Award for poetry.



PRAISE FOR STEVEN HEIGHTON

“[A] brilliant storyteller ... [His] exquisite, powerful meditations on who we are place Heighton among the great Canadian writers ... His focus is contemporary, but he is a practitioner of the old school, a writer for those who love to read widely and deeply.” *DONNA BAILEY NURSE, LITERARY REVIEW OF CANADA*

“The key to the book's force is Heighton's imperative to humanize and individualize everyone he encounters ... These are not statistics but people, each sensitively depicted ... A stunning book, by turns heartbreaking and affirming, fundamentally human in its depth and scope.” *QUILL & QUIRE (STARRED REVIEW)*

“Vivid and powerfully drawn ... *The Shadow Boxer* is an energetic, fluent and interesting novel by a writer who has already shown himself to be gifted, capable of exploring and experimenting with language.” *TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT*

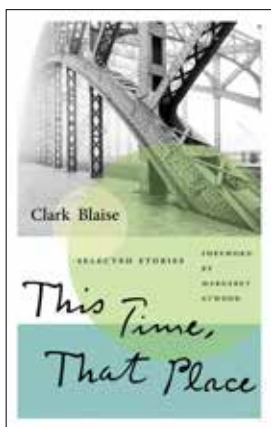
“Heighton works (and plays) with words in wondrous ways few contemporary poets even dream of attempting, let alone conquering.” *JUDITH FITZGERALD, GLOBE AND MAIL*

CLARK BLAISE

THIS TIME, THAT PLACE

INTRODUCED BY MARGARET ATWOOD

“Blaise is probably the greatest living Canadian writer most Canadians have never heard of.” **QUILL & QUIRE**



Oct 18, 2022 | Short fiction
| 5.25 × 8.25, 416 pp
\$24.95 | 9781771964890
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Clark Blaise, *The*

Meagre Tarmac

Keath Fraser, *Damages*

John Metcalf,

Finding Again the World

Called “the greatest living Canadian writer most Canadians have never heard of” (the same could be said of American writers and Americans), Clark Blaise is both American and Canadian; French and English; a Yankee in the deep South. To the simple question “Where are you from?” he could only answer *everywhere*: by the time he graduated high school he’d been to more than thirty schools. But some of those places—Florida’s Confederate swampy south, working-class Pittsburgh, Montreal—left their mark and provide the backdrops for the twenty-four stories written over fifty years which comprise *This Time, That Place*, stories like “I’m Dreaming of Rocket Richard,” “How I Became a Jew,” or “The Kerouac that Never Was,” stories which are only small, as A.L. Kennedy wrote, in the way that bullets are small: capable of blowing your fucking head off.

Clark Blaise's *The Meagre Tarmac* was nominated for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and shortlisted for the Rogers Writers' Trust Award for Fiction. Currently living in New York City, Blaise has ties to Montreal and Winnipeg.



FROM MARGARET ATWOOD'S INTRODUCTION

Did Clark know he would become one of the preeminent story writers of his generation? Probably he did not. But probably he intended to bust himself trying. We were nothing if not dedicated.

“What was that writing thing I was doing, then? Why was it so important?” another writer—an octogenarian—said to me recently. It’s a good question, especially now; in the midst of so many crises—environmental, political, social—why write? Isn’t it a useless thing to be doing? Maybe, but so maybe is everything else. We know what we know about the Great Mortality of the fourteenth century because some people wrote things down. They bore witness.

Let’s suppose that this is what Clark Blaise has been doing.

So, future readers—or even present-day readers—if you want to understand something about what life was like in the restless, peripatetic, striving, anxiety-ridden, simmering cultural soup of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, read the stories of Clark Blaise. He’s the recording angel and the accuser, rolled into one. He’s the eye at the keyhole. He’s the ear at the door.

GRAEME MACRAE BURNET

CASE STUDY

The Booker-shortlisted author of *His Bloody Project* blurs the lines between patient and therapist, fiction and documentation, and reality and dark imagination.



November 1, 2022 | Fiction
5 × 7.75, 224 pp
\$22.95 | 9781771965200
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Graeme Macrae Burnet,
His Bloody Project
Anna Burns,
Milkman
Sarah Waters, *The
Paying Guests*

London, 1965. An unworldly young woman believes that a charismatic psychotherapist, Collins Braithwaite, has driven her sister to suicide. Intent on confirming her suspicions, she assumes a false identity and presents herself to him as a client, recording her experiences in a series of notebooks. But she soon finds herself drawn into a world in which she can no longer be certain of anything. Even her own character.

In *Case Study*, Graeme Macrae Burnet presents these notebooks interspersed with his own biographical research into Collins Braithwaite. The result is a dazzling—and often wickedly humorous—meditation on the nature of sanity, identity and truth itself, by one of the most inventive novelists writing today.

Graeme Macrae Burnet is among Scotland's leading contemporary novelists. Burnet's novels have been translated into more than twenty languages and achieved bestseller status in several countries. He lives and works in Glasgow.

PRAISE FOR *CASE STUDY*

“Burnet’s triumph is that it’s a page-turning blast, funny, sinister and perfectly plotted so as to reveal—or withhold—its secrets in a consistently satisfying way ... Rarely has being constantly wrong-footed been so much fun.”

JAMES WALTON, *THE TIMES*

“Enormous fun ... a mystery and a psychological drama wrapped up in one. *Case Study* is a triumph.”

ALEX PRESTON, *OBSERVER*

“Caustically funny and surprisingly moving, this is one of the finest novels of the year.”

CHRISTIAN HOUSE, *FINANCIAL TIMES*

“A riveting psychological plot ... tortuous, cunning ... clever.”

KATE WEBB, *TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT*

“Encourages us to look more closely at the inherent instability of fiction itself ... genuinely affecting ... a very funny book.”

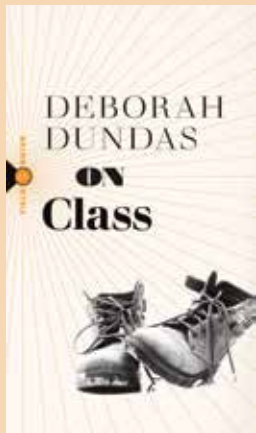
NINA ALLAN, *GUARDIAN*

DEBORAH DUNDAS

ON CLASS

FIELD NOTES #5

What happens when we don't talk about poverty or class—and what might happen if we did?



Stories about poor people are rarely written by the poor—and when they are written they tend to fit into a hero narrative. *On Class* is a real exploration of the ways we talk about class: of who tells the stories and who doesn't, and why that has to change. It asks the question: What don't we talk about when we don't talk about class? We don't talk about luck, or privilege, or entitlement. We don't talk about the trauma that goes along with being poor.

September 6, 2022 | Nonfiction | 4.5 × 7.75, 128 pp
\$14.95 | 9781771964814 (trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Sarah Smarsh, *Heartland*
Stephanie Land, *Maid*
JD Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*



Deborah Dundas is Books Editor at the *Toronto Star* and has been contributing reviews there and elsewhere for over 18 years. She lives in Toronto.

JASON GURIEL

ON BROWSING

FIELD NOTES #6

A defense of the dying art of losing an afternoon—and gaining new appreciation—amidst the bins and shelves of brick-and-mortar shops.



Written during the pandemic, when the world was marooned at home and consigned to scrolling screens, *On Browsing's* essays chronicle what we've lost through online shopping, streaming, and the relentless digitization of culture. The latest in the Field Notes series, *On Browsing* is an elegy for physical media, a polemic in defense of perusing the world in person, and a love letter to the dying practice of scanning bookshelves, combing CD bins, and losing yourself in the stacks.

November 15, 2022 | Nonfiction | 4.5 × 7.75, 128 pp
\$14.95 | 9781771965101 (trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Jason Guriel,
Forgotten Work
Jorge Carrión,
Against Amazon
Andrew Potter,
On Decline



Jason Guriel is the author of several books. His writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Walrus*, *Slate*, and other magazines. He lives in Toronto.

PAULINE HOLDSTOCK

CONFESSIONS WITH KEITH

An outrageously comic novel documents a middle-aged writer and mother's grappling with mid-life crisis—her husband's and her own.



September 6, 2022 | Fiction
5.25 x 8.25, 304pp
\$22.95 | 9781771964975
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Pauline Holdstock, *Here I Am!*
Lucy Ellmann,
Ducks, Newburyport
Elaine Feeney, *As You Were*

Preoccupied with her fledgling literary career, intent on the all-consuming consolations of philosophy, and scrambling to meet the demands of her four children, the acutely myopic and chronically inattentive Vita Glass doesn't notice that her house and her marriage are competing to see which can fall apart fastest. She can barely find time for her writing career, and just when her newfound success in vegetable erotica is beginning to take off. Our heroine's only tried and trusted escape is the blissful detachment of Keith's hairdressing salon, but when her husband leaves the country, unannounced, she decides to do likewise—in the opposite direction, and with their children. Drawn from the pages of Vita's journal, this outrageously comic novel documents Vita's passage through a mid-life crisis and explores all the ways we deceive each other and ourselves.



Pauline Holdstock is an award-winning novelist, short fiction writer and essayist. Her work has been shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Commonwealth Writer's Prize, among others. She lives on Vancouver Island.

PRAISE FOR PAULINE HOLDSTOCK

“Holdstock writes powerfully in Frankie’s voice, drawing readers into his internal life ... absorbing.”
QUILL & QUIRE

“Pauline Holdstock enchants with a spell of delectable storytelling ... the novel’s wonderment and delight in the possibilities of life is an effervescent tonic.”
VANCOUVER SUN

“Captivating ... An intriguing mystery ... The novel finds its way with charming intrigue and humour.”
WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

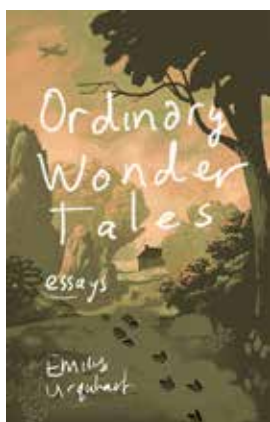
“Holdstock’s writing moves seamlessly between her research and her polished storytelling of people, landscape and grief. These are familiar preoccupations, but she continues to make them compelling and rich.” *NATIONAL POST*

“Pauline Holdstock’s language is so powerful, her writing so wrought with emotion and beauty, that you become fully lost in her world.” *WINNIPEG REVIEW*

EMILY URQUHART

ORDINARY WONDER TALES

A journalist and folklorist explores the truths that underlie the stories we imagine—and reveals the magic in the everyday.



October 11, 2022 | Essays
5.25 × 8.25, 240 pp
\$22.95 | 9781771965057
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Emily Urquhart,
The Age of Creativity
Doireann Ní Ghriofa,
A Ghost in the Throat
Jenny Slate, *Little Weirds*

“I’ve always felt that the term fairy tale doesn’t quite capture the essence of these stories,” writes Emily Urquhart. “I prefer the term wonder tale, which is Irish in origin, for its suggestion of awe coupled with narrative. In a way, this is most of our stories.” In this startlingly original essay collection, Urquhart reveals the truths that underlie our imaginings: what we see in our heads when we read, how the sight of a ghost can heal, how the entrance to the underworld can be glimpsed in an oil painting or a winter storm—or the onset of a loved one’s dementia. In essays on death and dying, pregnancy and prenatal genetics, psychics, chimeras, cottagers, and plague, *Ordinary Wonder Tales* reveals the essential truth: if you let yourself look closely, there is magic in the everyday.

Emily Urquhart is a journalist with a doctorate in folklore. Her most recent book, *The Age of Creativity: Art, Memory, My Father, and Me*, was listed as a top book of 2020 by CBC and *Quill & Quire*. She lives in Kitchener, Ontario.



PRAISE FOR EMILY URQUHART'S *BEYOND THE PALE*

“[Urquhart] isn’t afraid to make the personal political, to delve into her particular experience while also acknowledging its limits and investigating what lies beyond them. Urquhart’s as interested in championing individuality as she is in embracing our shared humanity. But she never shies away from the fact that cherishing both can be a knotty, contradictory affair.” *GLOBE AND MAIL*

“A brave, thoughtful, clear, and always graceful journey through the terrifying randomness of genetics and the unexpected ways genetic anomalies can mark not just children, but all the lives around them.” IAN BROWN,
AUTHOR OF *THE BOY IN THE MOON*

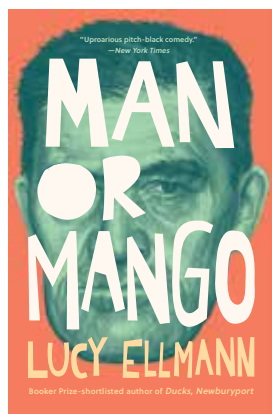
“A graceful, perceptive rendering of a misunderstood condition.” *KIRKUS REVIEWS*

“Folklorist Urquhart writes poetically and movingly about her daughter ... readers will weep and smile.” *BOOKLIST*

LUCY ELLMANN

MAN OR MANGO?

By the Booker-shortlisted author of *Ducks, Newburyport*, a formally madcap and prescient novel about men (and women), mangos (and bees), and modern love.



September 27, 2022 | Fiction
5.25 × 8.25, 224 pp
\$22.95 | 9781771964951
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Lucy Ellmann,
Ducks, Newburyport
Jenny Offill,
Weather
Anakana Schofield,
Martin John

George is a poet, desperate to finish his epic poem (about ice hockey) and pining over his lost love (Eloïse). Eloïse, meanwhile, is a misfit, hermiting away—or attempting to—in the countryside cottage she bought with her inheritance, where she spends her days writing letters to famous men who hate women, as well as famous women who hate women (e.g. the Queen), the producers of shoddy products (poorly sized toilet paper roll holders), and entities which frighten her cats with inappropriate piloting of helicopters (the RAF). She and George are both melancholics, and should be together, yet tragically are not. Really, though, amidst the horrors of the modern world, how can any two people be expected to find love? Told from their twin points of view, *Man or Mango?: A Lament* is a transatlantic novel of unrequited love and modern loneliness.

Lucy Ellmann was born in Illinois and now lives in Scotland. *Ducks, Newburyport* won the Goldsmith Prize and the James Tait Black Prize for Fiction. *Man or Mango?*, first published in 1998, was longlisted for the Orange Prize.

PRAISE FOR *MAN OR MANGO?*

“Hilarious ... razor-sharp wit.” *COSMOPOLITAN*

“Deeply moving ... startlingly original.” *ELLE*

“Very funny ... excels at the dynamics of getting-past-your-prime singlehood.” *NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW*

“Crackling, fiercely original language and humor.” *SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE*

PRAISE FOR *DUCKS, NEWBURYPORT*

“This book has its face pressed up against the pane of the present; its form mimics the way our minds move now toggling between tabs, between the needs of small children and aging parents, between news of ecological collapse and school shootings while somehow remembering to pay taxes and fold the laundry.” *PARUL SEHGAL, NEW YORK TIMES*


“Ellmann captures the pathos of the everyday, how one might use pie crusts and film synopses to dam in pain ... The time and care that she lavishes on her narrator seem like their own form of political speculation—that every individual is owed an unending devotion, and that such devotion, applied universally, might change the fate of the world.”

KATY WALDMAN, NEW YORKER

BEST CANADIAN 2022

POETRY


JOHN BARTON WITH ANITA LAHEY, EDS

John Barton is a poet, essayist, editor and writing mentor. Formerly the co-editor of *Arc Poetry Magazine* and editor of *The Malahat Review*, he now lives in Victoria, where he is the fifth poet laureate. 

October 11, 2022 | Poetry | 5.25 × 8.25, 224 pp | \$22.95 | 9781771964999 (trade paper)

FICTION


MARK ANTHONY JARMAN, ED

Mark Anthony Jarman has published fiction and creative nonfiction in Europe, India, and North America. He is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a fiction editor for *The Fiddlehead* literary journal in Canada. 

October 11, 2022 | Fiction | 5.25 × 8.25, 240 pp | \$22.95 | 9781771965019 (trade paper)

ESSAYS

MIREILLE SILCOFF, ED

Mireille Silcoff has been called “one of the best essayists in the world” by the *New York Times*. For many years, she ran a raucous discussion salon in Toronto. She lives in Montreal with her two young daughters. 

October 11, 2022 | Essays | 5.25 × 8.25, 288 pp | \$22.95 | 9781771965033 (trade paper)

PRAISE FOR THE BEST CANADIAN SERIES

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