

Thistledown Press

Spring 2019



Represented by Ampersand Inc.
Distributed by University of Toronto Press

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Thistledown Press gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the Saskatchewan Arts Board, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Government of Canada for its publishing programs.

A Matins Flywheel

John Lent

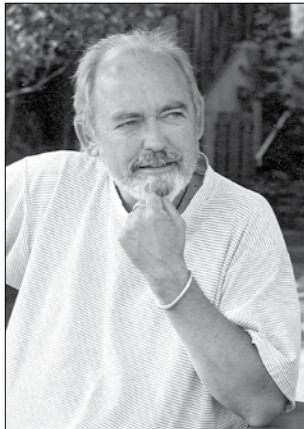
A poetry collection about forms of consciousness in literature and the kind of baffling wonder we arrive at when we reach truth about how we are

In his new book of poems, *A Matins Flywheel*, John Lent brings a life-long fascination with literary forms to the hybrid prose/poetry of a new long poem called “Matins for St. Agnes of The Crossroads: 62nd Avenue and 109th Street, Edmonton”, and to the new, loose, genre-mixing poems and prose sketches about growing up in Edmonton, Lent’s love of jazz, his travel to Prague, and his remembering the writing legacy of Robert Kroetsch. Because these meditations and poems are rooted in the visceral struggles to find the necessary love and honesty required to live through some harrowing health events, these meditations surface close to the bones of our contemporary lives and celebrate an almost unearthly delight in texture and breath and light and love.

“All the glittering, hilarious muck of grace—that’s what’s here: all of the doggy and sun-edged textures of grace. John Lent’s *A Matins Flywheel* is a book of exquisite meditations that makes up an entire world—you just go into it, you wander around inside, and you are changed utterly by its rainy, profound, dazzling days and nights.”
— Jake Kennedy, author of *Hazard*, *The Lateral*, and *Merz Structure No. 2: Burnt by Children at Play*.



JOHN LENT is a writer and teacher of writing and a singer/songwriter who has been publishing and performing since the mid-seventies. Lent has published six volumes of poetry, three volumes of fiction, and one book of conversations about the writing life with Robert Kroetsch. Lent’s last three books were *The Path To Ardroe* (2012), *Cantilevered Songs* (2009) and *So It Won’t Go Away* (2005). John Lent’s books have been long-listed for the Re-Lit Award, and short-listed for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. For a more detailed sense of Lent’s career go to his website: www.johnlent.ca.



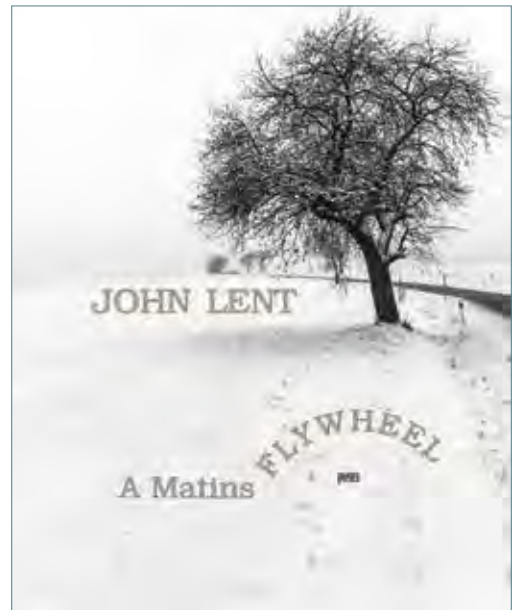
Recent Publications:



Cantilevered Songs
978-1-897235-66-9 | \$16.95



The Path to Ardroe
978-1-927068-01-4 | \$19.95



POETRY

ISBN-10: 1-77187-191-1
ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-191-4
\$20.00 CAD / \$20.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"
96 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:
POE011000
POE023030

THEMA CODES:
DCF -POETRY BY INDIVIDUAL POETS
1KBC-CA-B BRITISH COLUMBIA

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2019
PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2019

MARKETING & PROMOTION

- Launch: Vernon, BC
- Readings: Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary
- Reading tour: Duncan, Victoria, Kelowna, Penticton, and Kamloops.
- Festival Pitches: TBA





Oona River Poems

Peter Christensen

Stories through poetry that capture the essence of the Oona River community in the lower Skeena Estuary coastal area

This collection of poems is bigger than the idea of a poet turned loose in the natural world because Christensen intends the work to also be an antidote to the plethora of information, propaganda, and opinion with which we are confronted every day. His poetry is a vehicle to tell stories, to juxtapose ideas and images that share insight into human and natural affairs. He acts as a guide to the inner self and as a chronicler of the collision of nature, and human emotion and action.



PETER CHRISTENSEN began his writing career at the University of Lethbridge in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts and Science in Creative Writing. While there, he started one of Alberta's first literary magazines, *Canada Goose* with fellow writing student, Lorne Daniel.

Christensen juggled his literary writing career with his passion for exploring wilderness mountain areas of Alberta, BC, Yukon and NWT. He worked at various times as a guide, ranch hand, and park ranger. As a result, his working, writing, and literary career is diverse; his relationship with the natural world became his muse and is reflected in this collection. He lived in Oona River in the years it took him to write this collection.

Peter has published four books of poetry with Thistle-down Press and one "best seller" of creative non-fiction stories with Heritage House Publishing. Several chapbooks were published by small presses in Canada and USA.

His poems have been published in numerous anthologies, writing journals, and literary magazines in Canada, Denmark, and USA, and he has performed many readings throughout Canada and the US. Peter collaborated with New Music Composer Robert Rosen, writing three librettos for the outdoor operas *Canyon Shadows* that were performed across Canada. "Hailstorm", the title poem from his first book with Thistle-down Press was arranged for voice and orchestra by Robert Rosen, performed internationally, and most recently was sung by Michelle Todd at Carnegie Hall in New York, 2017.

POETRY

ISBN-10: 1-77187-190-3

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-190-7

\$20.00 CAD / \$20.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

112 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

POE011000

POE023030

THEMA CODES:

DCF -POETRY BY INDIVIDUAL POETS

1KBC-CA-B BRITISH COLUMBIA

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2019

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2019

MARKETING & PROMOTION

- Launch: Prince Rupert, BC
- Readings: Smithers, Terrace, Vancouver, Victoria, Prince George.
- Festival Pitches: TBA





Lift

Emily Davidson

Poems that reveal the ever-cycling drive to find one's home

The debut collection of New Brunswick poet Emily Davidson, *Lift* is an examination of how to be alive without being adrift. Loosely narrative, the collection spans two Canadian coasts, its speaker a transplant from Atlantic to Pacific. *Lift* asks questions of mannequins in shop windows, of revellers at house parties, of ex-lovers and classic films and grade-school dramas. Through careful observation, wry humour, and inquisitive uncertainty, Davidson charts her course through solitude and disconnection back to her roots and into the unknown. Comprising poems that are colloquial and elaborate, familiar and fresh, unshrinking and compassionate, *Lift* assembles a miscellany of what is borne away on the tide, and what comes back again. It carves a path through the world, into the heart, and at last arrives at home.

Davidson's poetry is awash with language that lifts off the page and ranges from the rhythms and beats of youthful discovery to the pulses and throbs of the natural world that merges with city life. Gently philosophical about what the voyage of self-discovery means and what must be left behind to move ahead, it employs both a narrative structure for careful telling and a lyrical base for the huge emotional geography of Canada's coasts.



EMILY DAVIDSON is a writer from Saint John, New Brunswick. Her poetry has appeared in publications including *Arc*, *CV2*, *Descant*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Room*, *subTerrain*, and *The Best Canadian Poetry 2015*. Her fiction has appeared in *Grain* and *Maisonneuve* and was short-listed for *The Malahat Review's* 2013 Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction. She writes literary reviews for *Arc* and *Poetry is Dead*.

Emily resides in Vancouver, British Columbia, on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia.

POETRY

ISBN 10: 1-77187-192-X

ISBN 13: 978-1-77187-192-1

\$12.95 CAD / \$12.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

64 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

POE011000

POE023050

POE024000

THEMA CODES:

DCF – POETRY BY INDIVIDUAL POETS

1KBC-CA-B BRITISH COLUMBIA

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2019

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2019

MARKETING & PROMOTION

- Launch: Vancouver (Pulpfiction or Massey Books)
- Readings: Vancouver, Victoria





Snow Melts First in the Middle of the Slough

Catherine J. Stewart

A child's reimagining of a historic family's life in Spillimacheen, British Columbia

These poems recall and reimagine a family's life in Spillimacheen, British Columbia — no plumbing, no central heating — and a childhood spent outdoors, framed by the Rockies and Purcell Mountains.

Wound through this collection are the tensions and hostilities that go back generations, to the great-great-grandparents who immigrated from urban centres and settled in isolation. Women forced to relinquish their children to the lure of the rivers, and men who trudged the trapline and worked in mines.

The voice in these poems, never sentimental and rarely tender, winds through birch leaves, birdsong, and snake skins. Circumspect, it attempts to gather the gnawing secrets of a family's history as they negotiated the hardships of rural life. The language is visceral — mud and blood and dust — and juxtaposed by the psychological agonies of waiting. Throughout, landscape bears down and uplifts, in unequal measure. "Bats flicker over the sloughs, the last reflected daylight. Ahead, the house lights are on." At its heart, a little girl rides a dust horse in the parking lot outside the bar, where her father drinks; years later, she waits in the truck for hours, to drive him home.



CATHERINE J. STEWART is a poet from Victoria, BC. Her poems have been shortlisted for a National Magazine Award and for *The Malahat Review's* Far Horizon Award for Poetry. Her work has been published in *Grain*, *untethered*, *Room*, and *The Dalhousie Review* and is included in the League of Canadian Poets' anthology, *Heartwood: Poems for the Love of Trees*. Her appreciation of the natural world (she is an avid kayaker and hiker) is apparent in her poetry. Catherine has a BA in writing from the University of Victoria, and an MFA in creative writing from the University of British Columbia. She divides her time between her family homestead in Spillimacheen, where these poems were born, and her home in Victoria, BC.

POETRY

ISBN 10: 1-77187-194-6

ISBN 13: 978-1-77187-194-5

\$12.95 CAD / \$12.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

64 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

POE011000

POE023050

POE024000

THEMA CODES:

DCF — POETRY BY INDIVIDUAL POETS

1KBC-CA-B BRITISH COLUMBIA

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2019

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2019

MARKETING & PROMOTION

- Launch: Victoria, BC (The Planet Earth Poetry Series)
- Readings: Vancouver (Pulpfiction Bookstore), Kelowna, Golden (Bacchus Books), Invermere (Bishops Bookstore)
- Festivals: Victoria Festival of Authors



This Hole Called January

Paula Remlinger

A poetic exploration of depression and winter

From Superman to James Bond, from childhood's imaginings to life's darkest moments, Paula Remlinger explores identity and depression with humour and empathy. The collection moves from innocent beginnings to the starkness of the Canadian winter and its profound effects on the psyche. The final section expands into a playful juxtaposition of popular culture and an adult awareness of the inevitable cycles of life.

Winter on the prairies brings a sense of barren isolation, as well as an uncanny beauty. These poems explore the duality of winter — confinement in an infinite landscape, the hopeful longing for an out-of-reach spring. Remlinger writes of the beginning and end of things, the balance between life and death, and the spaces we live between. With humour and elegance, these poems will speak to everyone who has felt the dark days of winter closing in, physically and metaphorically.



PAULA JANE REMLINGER's work has appeared in *On Spec*, *CV2*, *Room*, *Grain*, *Prairie Fire*, and *The New Quarterly*, as well as other journals and anthologies. She is the author of several teacher resource guides (Coteau and Thistledown), and enjoys writing for children and adults. She holds four degrees, including an M.A. in English from the University of Saskatchewan where she wrote her thesis on late Saskatchewan poet John V. Hicks, and an MFA (UBC). She lives in Beaver Creek, SK, with her husband, Trent, and works at the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.



POETRY

ISBN 10: 1-77187-193-8
 ISBN 13: 978-1-77187-193-8
 \$12.95 CAD / \$12.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"
 64 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:
 POE024000
 POE011000
 POE023030

THEMA CODES:
 DCF — POETRY BY INDIVIDUAL POETS
 1QF-CA-W WESTERN CANADA

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2019
 PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2019

MARKETING & PROMOTION

- Launch: Saskatoon (McNally Robinson Bookstore)
- Readings: Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert
- Festivals: Moose Jaw (Festival of the Word); Saskatchewan Writers Guild (When Words Collide)



POETRY

ISBN 10: 1-77187-195-4
 ISBN 13: 978-1-77187-195-2
 \$12.95 CAD / \$12.95 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"
 64 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

POE011000
 POE023030
 POE024000

THEMA CODES:

DCF – POETRY BY INDIVIDUAL POETS
 1QF-CA-W WESTERN CANADA

SHIP DATE: APRIL 15, 2019

PUB DATE: MAY 1, 2019

MARKETING & PROMOTION

- Launch: Regina (Crave)
- Readings: Regina, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon
- Festivals: Regina Cathedral Village Arts Festival



Five Red Sentries

Raye Hendrickson

Celebration poems about the prairie experience through the eyes of a young woman

Hendrickson's debut collection *Five Red Sentries* feeds our explorer nature. Nothing is too big or too small to kindle curiosity. From imagining what it feels like to be a "sheet of rain" or an acrobat in outer space "spring-boarding from the edge of the earth" to musing about prairie landscapes ("wide open space/spreads like a blanket") Raye Hendrickson takes us on journeys that evoke deep and mysterious longings. She explores connections, and the depletion we feel when someone or something vital is lost to us ("death stole my grounding"). She explores her own inner terrain, using the image of walking the railway track as a forum for "questions about green or stars or skinned knees." Finally, Hendrickson celebrates the emergence of strength ("heat/rises, fills my legs and feet, propels/me to dance, to carry myself tall") and the joy of embracing life ("green, the colour of yes").

"Raye Hendrickson's poem "Marguerite Lake" with its sensual and tactile imagery . . . makes the reader feel as if he or she inhabits the same summer scene replete with algae lake, hot sun, and saskatoons ready to be picked. — gillian harding-russell



Working as a massage therapist allows Raye Hendrickson to inhabit the inner workings of our bodies, and her poetry affords the opportunity to explore the challenges of our mind and spirit. Celebrating her home terrain of Saskatchewan, Hendrickson says the prairies allow her to breathe and feel a genuine sense of place. "I love my work as a massage therapist, and I love the work of poetry." She lives and writes in Regina, Treaty 4 Territory. Her work has been published in *Spring*, *The Society*, and the anthology *line dance*.



Angela of the Stones

Amanda Hale

SHORT STORIES

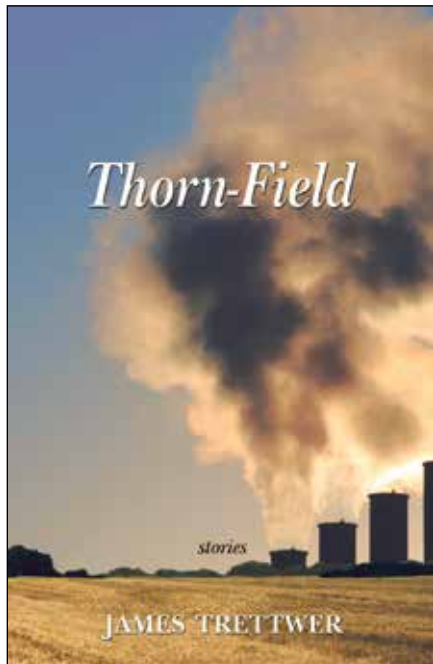
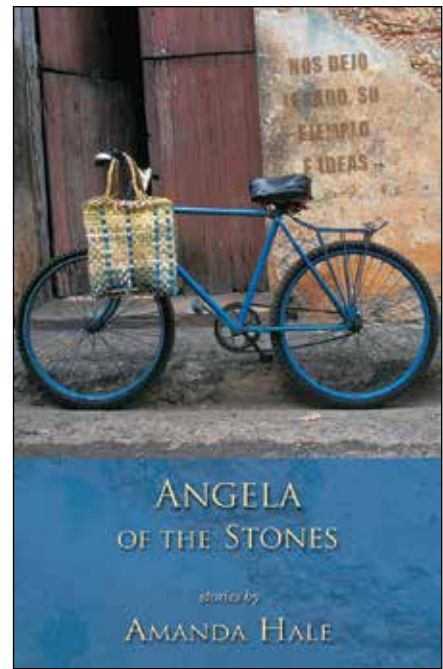
978-1-77187-165-5 | \$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

On Cuba's southeastern shore in the town of Baracoa everyone knows everyone else's business. People love to gossip, be it over coffee, on street corners, or walking along the seawall. But within the community's closeness is the weight of Cuba's past and the economic travails that give characters a profound vulnerability and beauty. Though our circumstances may be worlds apart Hale's stories are not so different from our own but, somehow, on Baracoa's vibrant streets they become more than stories; they become the poetry of place and politics.

"These sharp-but-tender stories are flash bulletins that illuminate dubious news reports and naïve tourist-tales. Only a writer intimately engaged and deeply curious can make an art out of hunting down the easy stereotypes of Cuba and its people." — Cornelia Hoogland, poet, author of *Trailer Park Elegy* and *Woods Wolf Girl*

"The characters in these stories are simply unforgettable. Amanda Hale writes with deep sympathy and respect, feelings that can only spring from a close and emotional involvement with the Cuban people." — Manuel García Verdecia, poet and translator



Thorn-Field

James Trettwer

SHORT STORIES

978-1-77187-170-9 | \$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

In James Trettwer's *Thorn-Field*, the denizens of Liverwood and its potash corporation are not unique but are living authentic lives. While the townspeople may be passed by with little more than a glance by those travelling on the highway, the microcosm of the town is pulsating with all the idiosyncrasies and peculiarities that make life both interesting and plausible. Under the shadow of the main employer, the potash mine — a place that can kill and leave orphans vulnerable, the corporation's tendrils are thick and invasive in the dreams of the young — the mine that pays for cardboard coffins and peoples' mortgages. As its four-rotor boring machines rumble deep under the earth, Liverwood's town and corporate office embrace their rhythm. The young and old, the fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters thread their way through the thorn-fields of their relationships, which are complicated by addictions and obsessions, by cravings and suspicions, and by the desire to leave or stay.

"The characters in these linked stories don't like the universe they're in. With dramatic flair and gutsy dialogue, James Trettwer exposes their subterranean reality and their daily struggles against disappointment, pain, addiction and loneliness, and towards hope. *Thorn-Field* is a thoughtful, compassionate, accomplished debut." — Connie Gault, award winning author of *A Beauty*

Autant

Paulette Dubé

NOVEL

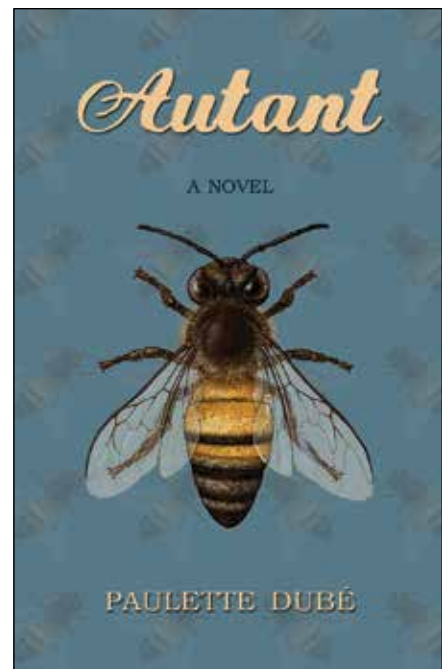
978-1-77187-156-3 | \$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

“Dubé has written a fearless novel that stands easily alongside Marian Engel’s *Bear*, or Sheila Watson’s *The Double Hook*, and has all the playfulness of Timothy Findley’s *Not Wanted on the Voyage*. As if this isn’t enough, she moves effortlessly in the realm of Gabriel García Márquez’s magic realism.” — Thomas Trofimuk, author of *This Is All a Lie* and *Waiting for Columbus*

“Paulette Dubé commands a complex narrative that gives us rare, poetic glimpses of the daily life of a Franco-Alberta family in small town Alberta south of Peace River country . . . This is a story that will shock you and mystify you but above all will keep you reading to the very end.” — Robert Hilles, author of *A Gradual Ruin*, *Line* and *Little Pink Houses*

“In *Autant* the spirit world hovers as close to the Garance family as the bees they keep on their northern Alberta farm. The spirits can’t help but fall a little in love with the flesh and blood people who inhabit this gorgeous, heartbreaking novel. I know I did.” — Thomas Wharton, author of *Icefields*



The Things She'll Be Leaving Behind

Vanessa Farnsworth

SHORT STORIES

978-1-77187-157-0 | \$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

The women in *The Things She'll Be Leaving Behind* have nothing in common except that they all find themselves trying to find their footings, preserve their sanity, and just generally survive in circumstances they never thought they would encounter. They don't always do it gracefully. Occasionally alcohol or firearms are involved. Just like in real life.

These women go toe-to-toe with chronic liars, dead grandfathers, beleaguered sons, mysterious voices, unfaithful husbands, midnight callers, spiteful sisters, and hallucinated clowns. Husbands go crazy or wayward or missing. Life hits walls and somersaults and does breathless, tactless things. And always it must be dealt with even when the means to do so seem to be entirely absent.

Filled with burnt-at-the-edges dialogue, contemporary humour, and compelling pacing, the stories in *The Things She'll Be Leaving Behind* are inventive, energetic, and thoroughly original.

“Though Farnsworth’s stories aren’t always the most accessible, they remind us that the purpose of fiction is not always to entertain but occasionally to confound expectations, provoke discomfort, or probe the various folds of the unknown.” — *Quill & Quire*

The Scarlet Forest: A Tale of Robin Hood

A. E. Chandler

978-1-77187-169-3 |
112 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

NOVEL

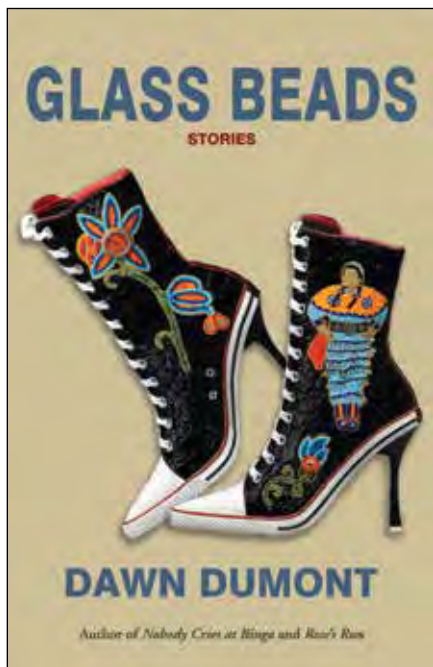
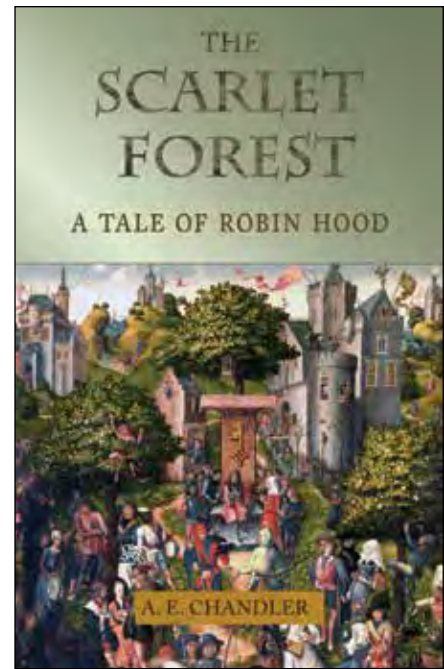
978-1-77187-138-9 | \$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

You are invited underneath the great greenwood tree to hear how a young man became a hero, and a hero became a legend. When Robin takes a shortcut through Sherwood Forest, the path he chooses leads not to Nottingham's archery contest, but to a life on the run from the law. Unable now to become a knight, and joined by his childhood friends, Robin Hood leads the most infamous outlaw band ever to evade the king and his sheriff.

Blending true history with new stories, popular inaccuracies, and some medieval legends, *The Scarlet Forest* brings a new life to the greenwood, which here feels as fresh as it does traditional. With an academic background in medieval English studies, Chandler captivates with this unique and nuanced reinterpretation of Robin Hood's struggles and adventures. The forest is waiting.

"I fell in love with Robin Hood and the idyllic home in the forest. This is a wonderful read." — Janice Ottersberg, Historical Novel Society



Glass Beads

Dawn Dumont

SHORT FICTION

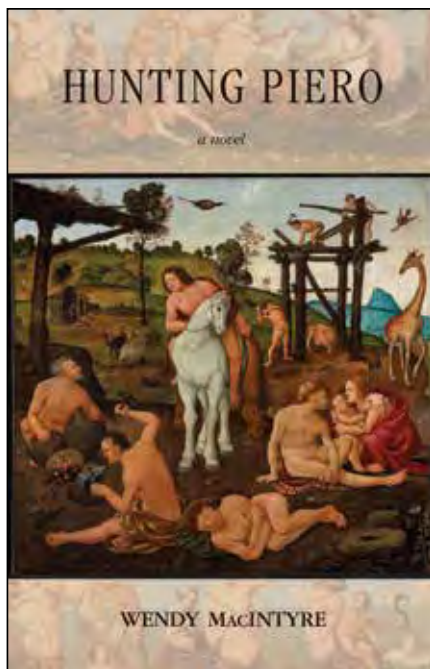
978-1-77187-126-6 | \$20.00 CAD

Available as an eBook

"*Glass Beads* is deeply political but never ideological. Its characters are full and complex. Like Catherine Hernandez's recently released novel, *Scarborough*, this book tells the stories of people vastly underrepresented in CanLit." — J.C. Sutcliffe, *Quill & Quire*

"Dumont balances characters off one another, offering a range of experiences as the four navigate 15 years through education, ceremony, politics, work, violence, and love. Comparable to the complexity of Richard Van Camp's work, *Glass Beads* is a compelling representation of urban Indigenous life." — Jade Colbert, *The Globe and Mail*

♦♦ Nominated for the 25th Saskatchewan Book Awards for Regina Public Library Book of the Year, Fiction, and Indigenous Peoples' Writing.



Hunting Piero

Wendy MacIntyre

NOVEL

978-1-77187-147-1 | \$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

When Agnes, as a lonely and alienated child, discovers Piero di Cosimo's empathetic paintings of animals and human-animal hybrids, she feels she is looked upon gently for the first time in her life. That moment influences her decision to become an animal rights activist, a commitment that ultimately brings her both anguish and insight.

"In *Hunting Piero*, Wendy MacIntyre and her narrator are interested in the heart that beats in us and in our works of art. Rather than examining only the beautiful and whole, her novel explores the power of art to include, explore, and sometimes transcend the monstrous, the damaged, and the grotesque in order to recognize the beauty that exists, always, somewhere within the human heart." — Jack Hodgins, author of *Spit Delaney's Island*, *Broken Ground*, and *The Master of Happy Endings*

Rage

John Mavin

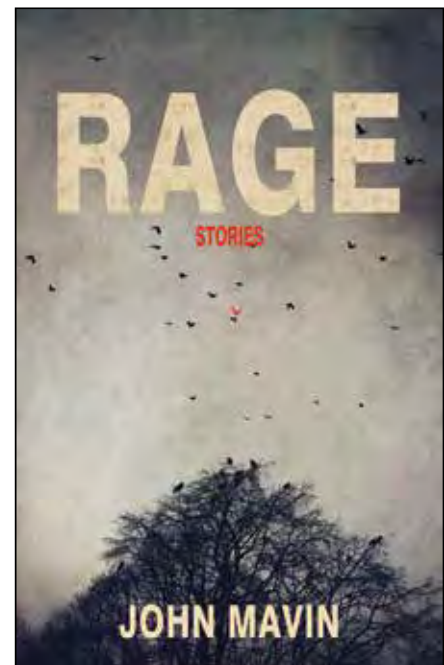
SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-141-9 | \$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

When our own darkness is mirrored in multi-faceted characters, do we look away in disgust or find the humanity within them? In his debut short-fiction collection, John Mavin has slyly exposed themes hidden deep below the surface with breathtaking potency, eloquence, and wit.

"*Rage*, by John Mavin, is a diamond with many facets: turn its pages and you will find one insight into the human soul after another, each shining through with a brilliance that catches the light of our surroundings — no matter how dark we are at the edges. These stories emerge from the mind of a genius whose ability to explore character is restless, unbounded, precise, and prismatic. In these multivalent stories, you'll find what you're looking for, if what you're looking for is who you — and we — all are." — Wayde Compton author of *The Outer Harbour*



You Can't Stay Here

Jasmina Odor

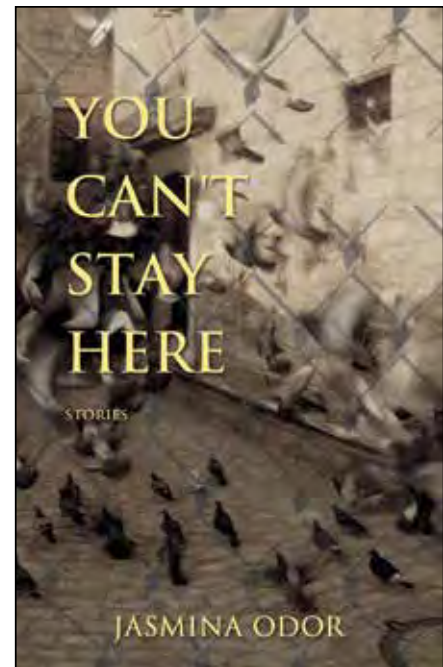
SHORT FICTION

978-1-77187-144-0 | \$18.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

Jasmina Odor's rich, sensual writing invites us to step into the shoes of Croatian immigrants living in Canada, and the Croatian soldiers and families who remain behind. Each passionate story in this debut collection varies in perspective, and yet all share undertones of the trauma of life during wartime.

"My first impression of Jasmina Odor's work was of fiction precisely made in order to capture chaotic times, vivid emotions and lurking danger. I read her early stories but I felt then — as I still feel — that I was reading the work of an experienced writer, someone who knows things I am grateful to learn." — André Alexis, Giller Prize-winning author of *Fifteen Dogs*



The Path of the Jaguar

Stephen Henighan

NOVEL

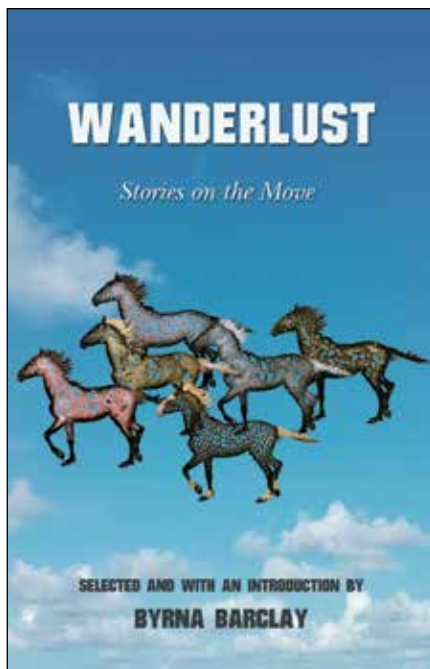
978-1-77187-123-5

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

In 1997, as Guatemala emerges from civil war, entrepreneurial Amparo Ajuix does her best to thrive in her small village, running a savings club, a handicrafts stall, and working to teach native Cakchiquel alongside Spanish in the school. Yet arising conflicts with religion, culture, and marriage deepen and threaten Amparo's identity and her family's future. *The Path of the Jaguar* is a novel of deep emotion, set in a social and geographical landscape that is as unforgettable as it is unforgiving.

"One gets the sense of Henighan's own dislocation as the gateway to his empathetic, and thoroughly researched, cross-cultural literature. And while Amparo's struggle is most certainly particular to her history, in the face of lost traditions [. . .] Amparo's experience lends itself to the universal reality of identity under pressure." — *The Washington Independent Review of Books*



Wanderlust

Byrna Barclay, ed.

NOVEL

978-1-77187-147-1

\$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

SHORT FICTION ANTHOLOGY

978-1-77187-135-8 | \$20.00 CAD

Available as an eBook

Readers of *Wanderlust*, an anthology of travel stories, will at once feel that need to roam, the longing for surprise, the thrill of just recognizing the threat of danger, and the nomadic impulse simply to move oneself for the sake of moving, that restless and endless quest for a new beginning — even if it means the end of one life and the start of a new one.

Contributors: Shelley Banks, Linda Biasotto, Annette Bower, Brenda Niskala, Kelley-Anne Reiss, and James Trettwer

Fragment

Craig Russell

978-1-77187-157-0

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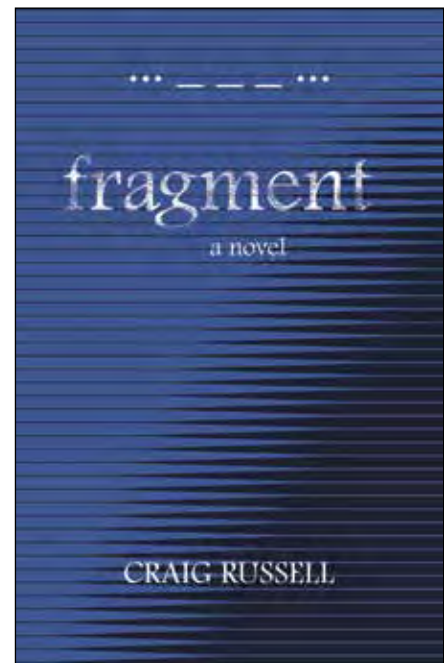
NOVEL

978-1-77187-111-2 | \$19.95 CAD

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When avalanching glaciers thrust a massive Antarctic ice sheet into the open ocean, the captain of an atomic submarine must risk his vessel to rescue the survivors of a smashed polar research station; in Washington, the president's top advisor scrambles to spin the disaster to suit political aims; and meanwhile, two intrepid newsmen sail south into the storm-lashed Drake Passage to discover the truth. Under the human chaos, one brave blue whale fights for the survival of his species and the creatures of the sea.

“[Russell] does a fine job of weaving together the disparate threads of *Fragment*. The book is a page-turner; once you start, you won't be able to put it down until you reach the end.” — Don Sakers, *Analog Science Fiction and Fact Magazine*



Cluck

Lenore Rowntree

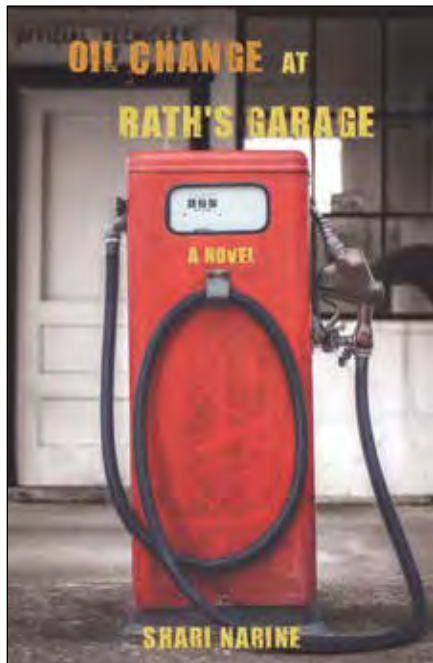
NOVEL

978-1-77187-108-2 | \$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

Following Rowntree's success with *Hidden Lives: Coming Out on Mental Illness*, this heartwarming story throws the reader behind the eyes of Henry, a quirky chicken farmer and radio junkie who was strongly affected by his mother's mental illness.

[*Cluck*] is an upbeat, humorous and yet also poignant and strangely believable novel — original but never daft. Henry emerges as a likeable victim who struggles hugely to find his place in the world against formidable odds. I found myself really caring for this confused and beleaguered protagonist, just ten years old near the outset and in his fifties by the end of the novel.
— Cherie Thiessen, *BC BookWorld*



Oil Change at Rath's Garage

Shari Narine

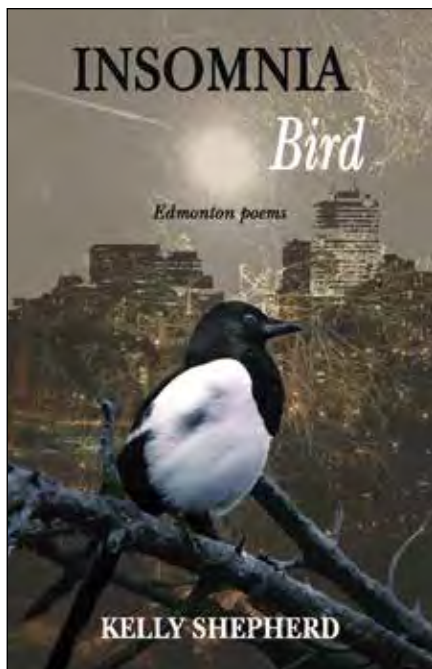
NOVEL

978-1-77187-132-7 | \$20.00 CAD

Available as an eBook

After the move to Delwood, Matt Humphreys, sixteen, comes to understand that his father, Jack, is a broken man not looking to heal after losing his wife. Matt knows it falls on his shoulders to provide care and attention for his younger brother, Ben; he wishes he could give Ben another life other than the upheaval he's known. If he was given a chance to stay, he might just do something meaningful with his life. All it takes is a collision between the nomadic Humphreys men and the town-born-and-bred Rutger family women to set their erratic lives in motion once again.

This is a story of quiet, desperate hope, the fulfillment of which depends upon altering fate, adjusting to change, and transforming one's spirit.



Insomnia Bird

Kelly Shepherd

978-1-77187-169-3 |
112 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

“Kelly Shepherd’s *Insomnia Bird* graces the landscapes of northern Alberta with its lively and brilliant poetic attention, its awesome skill and revelatory, democratic sweep. Edmonton’s blandishments are documented in various locations, from the No. 9 bus to Syncrude work camps, from homeless shelters to the nests of magpies, in a series of long poems that chart the obliterations by civic and corporate interests of tender, invisible, and sacred geographies.” — Sharon Thesen

“At the pavement-leaf interface, Kelly Shepherd brings us a cacophonous poetic mapping and catalogue of prairie-urban lip and tongue, wearing a bright safety vest, digging a (w)hole. *Insomnia Bird* is a raucous flap where the idioms of magpie (there are several) tickle the wingless sentences of parking mandates and social planners. It’s a loving uproar, it’s all Edmonton, and fun!” — Erin Mouré

“Sardonic, disappointed, bemused, at times angry, the Magpie trickster carries on a jittery conversation with the city in the ordinariness of its days. The strategy produces a new and edgy writing that eschews the lyrical and the pastoral. It figures the city, and the corporations near at hand, as authors of almost affable complacency and at times of hardened indifference. *Insomnia Bird* speaks in dismay and baffled sympathies, but it also responds in humour. The interpellations and non sequiturs produce resistances that are as wry as they are disconcerting.” — Dennis Cooley

For the Changing Moon: poems and songs

Anna Marie Sewell

978-1-77187-168-6
96 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

At a time of cultural change for Indigenous people that feels relentlessly tidal and epochal, *For the Changing Moon: poems and songs* records the ebb and flow of what it is to live here and now in Canada, as a woman, an Indigenous woman, a culturally mixed woman, a daughter, a mother, a peace-seeker, and a warrior.

Anna Marie Sewell’s poems court performance as they incorporate the energy of slam and employ the beat structures of chant. They encourage us to enter their spells and incantations always built with an ear for sound and with an eye for images of dream and wonder. Her invitation and challenge are clear: “Come lovers of language, seekers of change, moon-mad prophets, come. Read and share these poems and songs, and answer them back with your own.”

From this specific place, Canada, during a moment of global sea change, these poems and songs reach for the moon-mad natural soul in all of us, that part of all of us that lives to follow the Great Song.

“Anna Marie Sewell’s poems help us remember inner knowing. When read aloud, body memory kicks in and a re-awakening occurs, like an unearthing of wisdom we didn’t know was buried. She paints events from unapologetically Indigenous perspectives, disguised as innocent lyrics, enthusiastically unpretentious, timely and current.” — Janet Rogers, Victoria Poet Laureate 2012 – 14



Matronalia

A. B. Dillon

978-1-77187-153-2

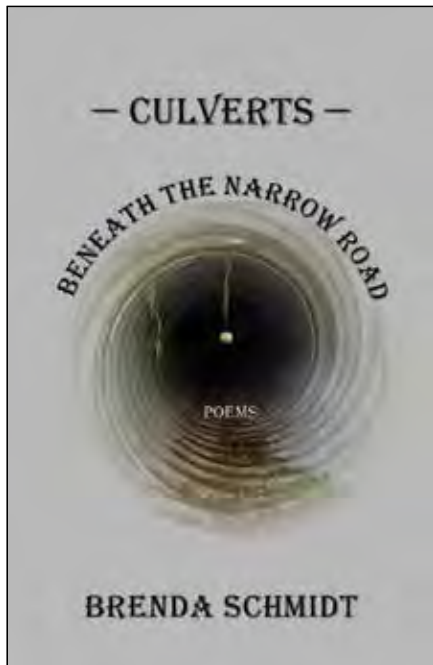
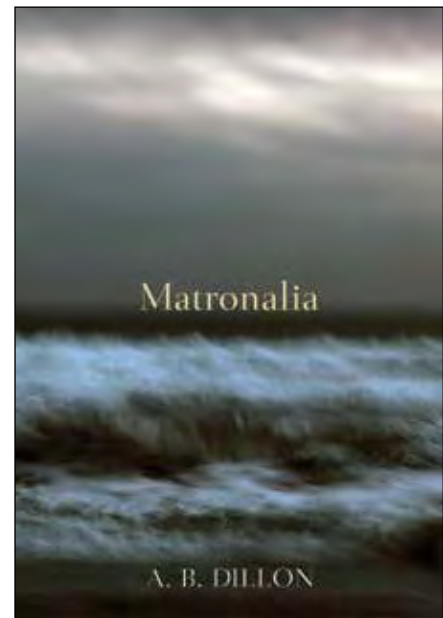
152 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

A mother offers fierce counsel to her daughter to atone for a festering secret. Personal and congenital mythologies reticulate like Celtic knot work, revealing in fragments what she has tried in vain to suppress — a malaise of the heart and a hereditary disease, eased only in confessing its pathology to her daughter.

In their tone and vivid imagery, as well as emotional precision, these poems are reminiscent of the mother poems of Sharon Olds and Sylvia Plath, with the grieving defiance of Gwendolyn Brooks. Uniquely, Angela Dillon locates this specific mother's tribulations in an ancestral context: the pains, joys, and failures are not only of her time but also of every time before.

"[*Matronalia*] is extraordinary. I want to send it to my daughter. I want to send it to every mother in the world. It broke my heart, and opened my heart. I haven't read anything in years that has affected me this much."

— Susan Musgrave



Culverts Beneath the Narrow Road

Brenda Schmidt

978-1-77187-154-9

80 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

Culverts first called to Brenda Schmidt's imagination when she was a child. In and around their steel dark openings she played and took risks. In the daring poetry and prose of *Culverts Beneath the Narrow Road*, the risk-taking continues. In her journeys, she asked people from all walks of life — construction workers, farmers, biologists, writers, musicians — about their culvert stories. Their recollections brought to light her own, giving another sense of the connections we share and the way stories emerge and flow.

By using various poetic forms as well as essay, Schmidt is able to examine these stories and make connections through images, and to stretch and bend the quotes from her research into new visual representations of the source phrases.



nipê wânîn: my way back

Mika Lafond

978-1-77187-129-7

184 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

From grandmother's stories comes a book of poems exploring the relationships and experience of a Cree woman. *nipê wânîn: my way back* is a poetic journey of one woman discovering her heritage and how it has shaped her. Moving between Lafond's own Cree language and her adopted English language, the poems create a kind of cultural dialogue, on facing pages, that invests heavily in the close relationship she had with her grandmother and the teachings that were offered to her.

The descriptions of the natural world — the rain and snow, the sage and sweetgrass, and the wind and clouds — serve her poems, as do the memories of her grandmother's life and the day-to-day rituals that shaped it. Stylistically emotive but never maudlin, Lafond recreates those energies that now give her strength.

- ♦ *Nominated for the 25th Saskatchewan Book Award for the City of Saskatoon and Public Library Saskatoon Book Award*
- ♦ *Winner of the Indigenous Literary Studios Association Award for Most Significant Book in an Alternate Format*

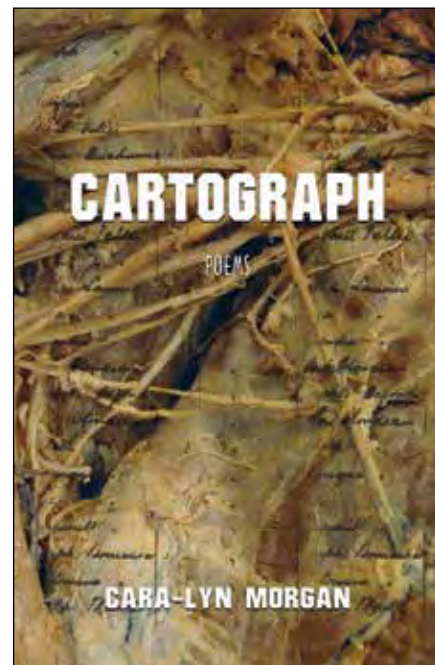
Cartograph

Cara-Lyn Morgan

978-1-77187-151-8

184 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

From accidental injury to the deeply imbued wounds of colonization, these are poems of a woman's healing journey. Cara-Lyn Morgan metaphorically maps out the process of recovery within her own body and the landscapes around her, reclaiming the art of cartography from its colonial imposition of borders and railway lines on traditional lands. Her words create new maps and revisit the ancient ones: Vancouver Island, Georgian Bay, and the prairies all become "a merle of blackbirds," "wayward unsettling of red lilies after the thunderstorm," and "soil and sweat, sunlight and crop." She finds the medicine in each of her different voices: Métis, Trinidadian, and stretchy-pant-wearing yoga lover. In *Cartograph* she braids together these voices like sweetgrass. Within their woven map, we meet Cara-Lyn Morgan.



Decoys

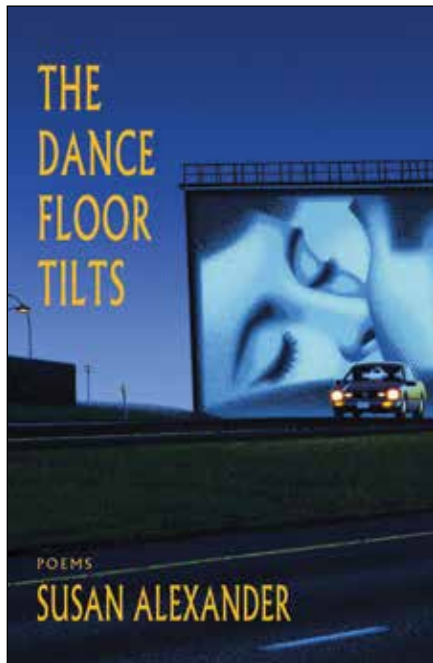
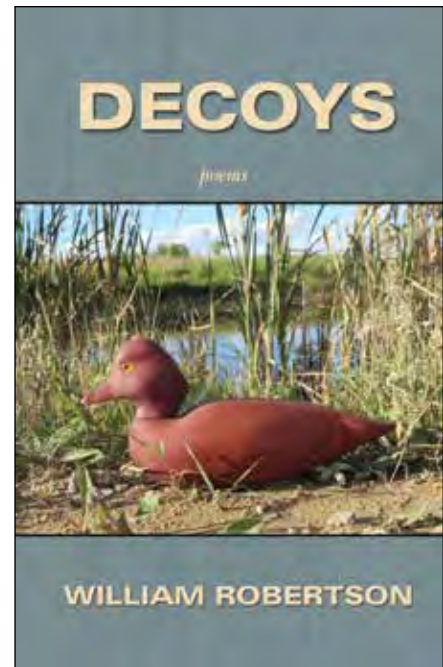
William Robertson

978-1-77187-150-1

80 PAGES | \$17.95 CAD

“Bill Robertson’s engaging animal encounter poems come from that place where experience segues into anecdote and anecdote into kitchen table wisdom. Walkin-paced, often wry, low-falutin in manner and speech, they channel the music of the vernacular, where ‘official’ walleye are still pickerel and even fish tales need no inflation to make them sing.”— Don McKay

This long overdue new collection by William Robertson celebrates the transformative moments that illuminate the everyday — a raven in flight, a son’s laughter, a fisherman’s perfectly cast fly touching down on the surface of the stream. As the title suggests, the poems search for the true sentiment, the true image or insight to light out way, to guide us through the losses that accumulate in every human life.” — Elizabeth Philips, award-winning poet and novelist, author of *Torch River* and *The Afterlife of Birds*.



The Dance Floor Tilts

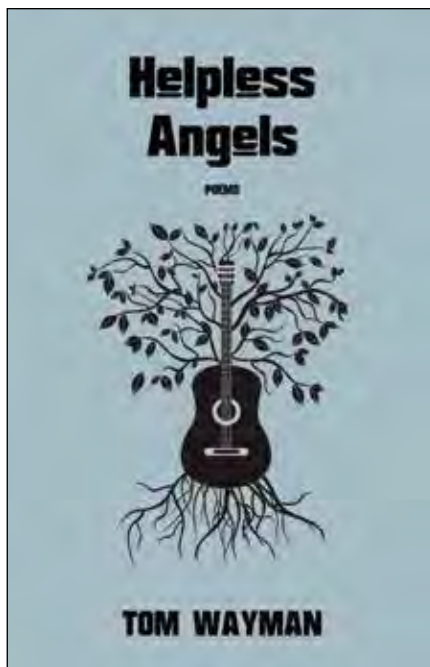
Susan Alexander

978-1-77187-150-1

96 PAGES | \$17.95 CAD

As the dance floor of life tilts beneath our feet, do we keep dancing? In this inspired collection of Susan Alexander’s poems, we sway to the rhythms of passion and death, of family, myth, and benediction. In worlds where cow-eyed goddesses steal nymph’s tongues and steering wheels are taken over by octopi, there are no established signposts. The individual moments making up the tune of this poet’s life offer the possibility of finding the beauty within the everyday resonance of our own existence.

“I felt as if I’d come upon a contemporary book of common prayer, each entry fresh and deeply resonant, rich with the details of daily life and the poet’s desire to touch the sacred. It is in her boldness to do so, in her clear-eyed vision, and in her humble acceptance of human frailties that these poems shine.” — Lorna Crozier



Helpless Angels

Tom Wayman

978-1-77187-131-0

80 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

Helpless Angels weaves several themes together: music's impact on a life, expressed through memory; poems that are like songs; music found in or described through nature; poems that directly consider music's power; and, as a counterpoint to how music carries us through life, how art — and each of us — deals with significant loss. Wayman looks at the ubiquitousness of widespread personal access to music that began in the 1950s and has continued to expand ever since.

“The voice that delivers this material is a smooth, accessible voice that Wayman has grown into over such a long, rich career. Like a seasoned jazz saxophone player, Wayman leans back into the music he is creating because he has paid his dues: he has reached that point of grace in improvisation, a poise that takes years to acquire.” — John Lent, *Arc Poetry Magazine*

The Fabric of Day: New and Selected Poems

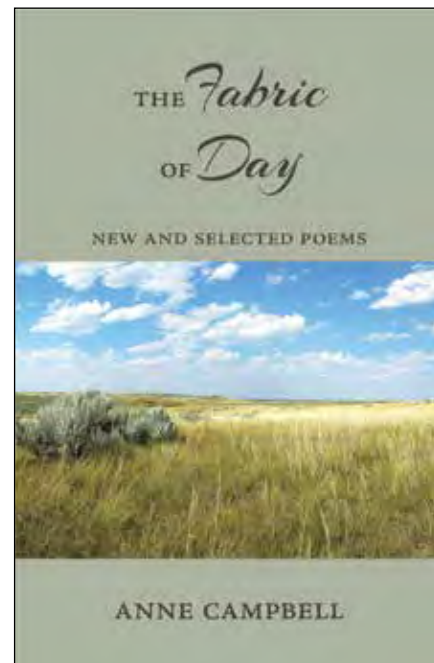
Anne Campbell

978-1-77187-130-3

176 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

Campbell's work is consistently engaging, her tone steady and trustworthy and her control of imagery precise. There are subtle changes in her presentation of the natural world and slight shifts in her metaphysical approach to space, time, and possibility. Her ability to illuminate common and intimate natural forces and how they play out against people's emotions and alter their lives demonstrates great lyric power full of finesse, grace, and passion. Her strength lies in her ability to capture the transcendence that occurs when nature informs the mind and the commonplace rises to philosophical insight. Though universal in scope, the poems only give up all their richness upon slow and careful readings.

♦♦ *Nominated for the 25th Saskatchewan Book Awards for City of Regina Book Award and the Saskatchewan Arts Board Poetry Award*



Rank 6: Firestorm

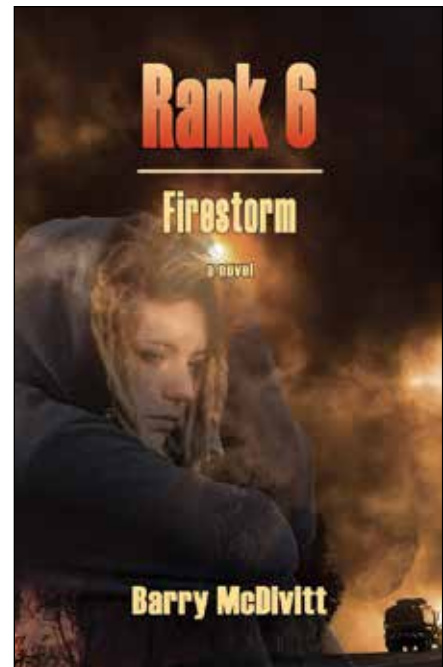
Barry McDivitt

NOVEL

978-1-77187-162-4 | \$15.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

As the large Rank 6 forest fire rages ever closer to civilization, fear and panic begin to set in when people witness its destructive power. Emily knows something about that. Her struggles with depression and her own suicidal thoughts have recently brought her face to face with death. As she rashly races into the danger to rescue a panic-stricken dog, she wonders what makes her so recklessly impulsive. Is it the seduction of the fire's awesome power, or her identification with the dog's vulnerability and helplessness? Her actions are spontaneous and thoughtlessly bold at first, but once cut off from the safety of the firefighters and alone in the fiery inferno, Emily begins to see that her actions could kill her. She realizes that she wants to live and that the dark struggles and personal battles of her life may be her redemption.



The Spoon Asylum

Caroline Misner

NOVEL

978-1-77187-147-1 | \$19.95 CAD

Available as an eBook

It is the summer of 1933 and young Haven Cattrell, seeking work, finds himself abandoned in the small northern Ontario town of Davisville. At an exclusive summer camp for girls he befriends Wetherby Moss and his son Jude who introduce him to the joys and heartaches of jazz.

Jazz had taken a hard blow during the first half of the 1930s. Although there was still work to be had for some in places like New York, musicians in other parts of the country were barely existing on what venues remained. Wetherby and Jude had come from that reality and, as Haven mastered the jazz trumpet, he learns the horrifying truth about why Wetherby, his mentor, had to flee his home in Detroit and find sanctuary with his son among the unique subculture of rural Northern Ontario.

But Haven's story is bigger than his love of jazz. It is the story of the racism that haunted black jazz musicians in the 30s, and how that racism found its way to Davisville. It is the story of how love can blind young men and save them from themselves, and it is the story of how important it is to dream when the chaos and hard times around you want to drag you down.

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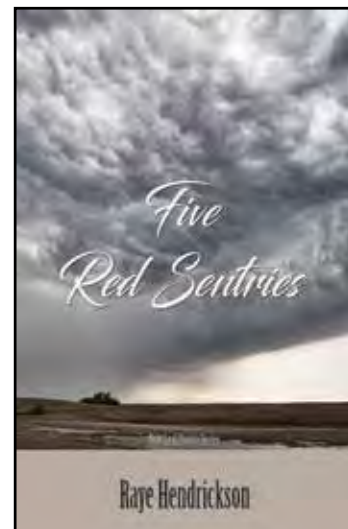
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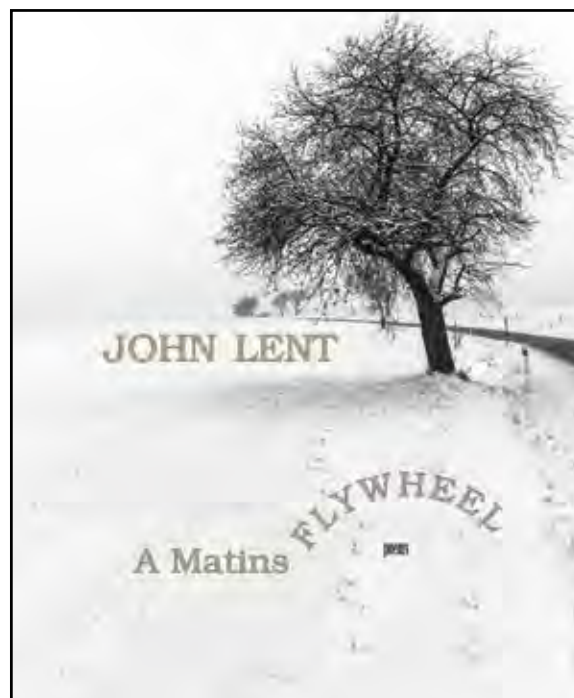
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Poetry is an echo, asking a shadow to dance.

— Carl Sandburg



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