

# WAR RESISTERS

## STANDING AGAINST THE VIETNAM WAR

BY JOLINE MARTIN

FORTHCOMING  
FALL 2025



CAITLIN  
PRESS

### MEMOIR

978-1-77386-168-5

6" x 9", paperback

black & white photos

\$26.00 CAD

Available September 12, 2025

BIO026000

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY /  
Personal Memoirs

HIS006000

HISTORY / Canada / General

*War Resisters* shares the untold stories of the Americans who refused to participate in the Vietnam War draft, found refuge in Canada, and built new lives, forever shaping the communities they joined.

### SALES HIGHLIGHTS

- A unique perspective on Canadian history: Offers an untold chapter of Canada's role as a refuge for American Vietnam War resisters, highlighting the country's history of welcoming political refugees.
- Although this book has national appeal, regional audiences in BC will also find it an interesting and relevant read. Those on Vancouver Island, where many resisters resettled and integrated into local communities, will have a special connection to the book.
- Editor Lou Allison and promoter Jane Wilde will share this book with their Gumboot series fans & Facebook audience, a community that has helped propel the Gumboot series' books to the BC best-sellers' list
- Timely themes: Resonates with contemporary discussions on war resistance, migration, and political dissent, making it relevant for today's readers.
- Promotion by resisters: The resisters will promote the book through a series of events and launches in communities across in B.C.
- Firsthand accounts: Features personal narratives that provide an intimate, human perspective on historical events, appealing to both general readers and history enthusiasts.
- Educational & book club potential: A valuable resource for classrooms, libraries, and book clubs exploring social justice, Canadian history, and the Vietnam War era.

### MARKETING

- Jane Wilde (co-editor of the bestselling Gumboots' series) will be helping to market this book
- Will be marketed to the significant following for Gumboot Girls and Dancing in Gumboots via Facebook (current following of 1,200+)
- Media outreach to Canada's History, BC History Magazine, Vancouver Sun, CBC Books, CBC Radio, All Lit Up, Powell River Books Blog (covered Dancing in Gumboots and Gumboot Girls), Island Writers Magazine, the BC Review, BC Bookworld, 49th Shelf, and local media in the Comox Valley

### SYNOPSIS

*War Resisters* offers a contemporary perspective on the struggles and triumphs of the American Vietnam War resisters who resettled in Canada on Vancouver Island. This important collection of stories sheds light on an invisible minority, illustrating the courage it took for resisters to leave behind their friends, families, and communities with no certainty of return. Supporters on both sides of the 49th parallel showed compassion to the resisters by helping them escape the US draft and peacefully integrate into Canadian communities. In return, the resisters contributed to their newly adopted communities as farmers, teachers, caregivers, and more.

Through interviews with resisters, author Joline Martin shares previously untold stories about what it was like for them to start new lives on Vancouver Island all the while grappling with the consequences of their decisions to stand against the war. The resisters' stories blend with historical context to offer a deep and alternate insight into a time of political unrest in the United States. These stories challenge the long-held myths and assumptions about what it meant to be a Vietnam War resister. Edited by Lou Allison from the bestselling *Gumboot* series, *War Resisters* pays homage to the legacy of this courageous community, not only in the lives they built but also in the generosity they continue to pay forward.

### BIOGRAPHY

**Joline Martin** is a founding member of the North Island Writers Conference, where she has served as chair for the past ten years. She has also served on the board of the Comox Valley Writers Society. Her short stories have appeared in *Island Writers Magazine* and *Comox Valley Collective*, and her personal story is featured in the BC bestseller *Gumboot Girls: Adventure, Love & Survival on the North Coast of British Columbia* (Caitlin Press, 2014). *War Resisters: Standing Against the Vietnam War* is her first book.

Disillusioned with U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, Joline left for Haida Gwaii, BC, in the early 1970s, seeking a new way of life. There, she found solace in the natural world and the power of community, living in close connection with Haida culture. Now living in the Comox Valley, she carries with her a lifelong commitment to advocacy and storytelling.

### RESOURCES

CAITLINPRESS.COM | CATALIST | BOOKMANAGER

### CONTACT

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Sarah Vasu, *marketing & publicity* | [sarahvasu@caitlin-press.com](mailto:sarahvasu@caitlin-press.com)

# BLOOM

## LETTERS ON GIRLHOOD

BY CLAIRE SICHERMAN & NICOLE BREIT



### MEMOIR

978-1-77386-169-2

6" x 9", paperback

\$25.00 CAD

Available September 26, 2025

BIO022000

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY /  
Women

SOC010000

SOCIAL SCIENCE /  
Feminism & Feminist Theory

**A timely memoir exploring how societal expectations shape identity, and how we can continue, at any age, to release the past.**

### SALES HIGHLIGHTS

- A strong contribution to the growing collection of books written by feminist writers from underrepresented communities.
- Being young cis women, Claire and Nicole felt objectified under the male gaze and were, at times, targets for sexual harassment; Nicole's identity as a bi-femme woman with internalized homophobia adds a layer of complexity to early romantic self-expression and sexual relationships
- Both Claire and Nicole are narrative-therapy trained memoir instructors who have written extensively about trauma, grief and loss and model what it means to witness and support each other as they explore difficult subject matter in their book
- Bloom is a timely book as feminists grapple with an increasingly hostile political and cultural environment for women, queer, non-binary folks and other minorities. It will speak to every human who feels the crushing impact of patriarchy on the full expression of our authentic, creative, romantic, sexual and spiritual selves.
- Bloom's value is inherent for readers who are asking themselves the questions Claire and Nicole explore in their letters: How was I impacted by the culture I grew up in? How did the challenges I faced shape the person I became? How can I continue to bloom into a more authentic version of myself?

### MARKETING

- Launches planned for Book Warehouse, Vancouver, Reasons To Live Books, Gibsons, and Galiano Island Books on the Gulf Islands.
- Media outreach to literary magazines like Hippocampus Magazine, and Herizons, local and national media like The Tyee and CBC Books and radio such as CBC North by Northwest, and Focus on Victoria,
- Pitching to relevant & local festivals: Festival of Literary Diversity, Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts, Queer Arts Festival, Vancouver Writer's Festival, Jewish Book Festival, and Words on the Water
- Advertise in BC Review, BC Bookworld, and local magazines
- Submit to relevant prizes including Canadian Jewish Literary Awards, Vine National Canadian Jewish Book Awards, Blue Metropolis Violet

### SYNOPSIS

A raw, searching and intimate memoir, *Bloom: Letters on Girlhood* is a conversation between two acclaimed writers about silence and shame and what it means to come of age as young women.

Over the course of two and a half years, authors Claire Sicherman (*Imprint: A Memoir of Trauma in the Third Generation*) and Nicole Breit, an award-winning poet and essayist, exchanged letters chronicling their coming-of-age in the suburbs of late 1980s Vancouver.

*Bloom: Letters on Girlhood* is an intimate memoir-in-letters in which Claire and Nicole explore the awkwardness and confusion of adolescence, delving into everything from periods, first bras and body hair to desire, sexuality and consent. As they reflect on their silent struggles as girls, women and mothers from the perspective of mid-life, the true impact of patriarchy and misogyny on their lives becomes increasingly apparent.

With unflinching honesty and insight, *Bloom* is a timely memoir exploring how societal expectations shape identity, and how we can continue, at any age, to release the past. Written by two feminist authors from underrepresented communities (Claire is a Jewish woman and the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors; Nicole is a queer, neurodivergent writer), this memoir-in-letters will resonate with anyone who has ever asked themselves: Who was I taught to be? And who do I want to become?

### BIOGRAPHIES

**Nicole Breit** (she/her) is a queer award-winning essayist and writing coach based on the traditional lands of the Skwxwú7mesh people in Gibsons, BC. Her work has been widely published in journals and anthologies including Brevity, The Fiddlehead, Room, Hippocampus, Pithead Chapel, Event, Swelling with Pride: Queer Conception and Adoption Stories (Caitlin Press), Awfully Hilarious: Period Pieces (ed. Heather Hendrie) and Getting to the Truth: The Craft and Practice of Creative Non-fiction (Books by Hippocampus). Nicole's essay about first love and loss, "An Atmospheric Pressure", was selected as a Notable by the editors of Best American Essays 2017. When she isn't writing or coaching creative nonfiction authors in her Spark Your Story programs, you'll find her wandering by the seaside, hiking in the forest or planning her next escape with her wife in their vintage campervan. Visit her at [nicolebreit.com](http://nicolebreit.com).

**Claire Sicherman** is the author of *Imprint: A Memoir of Trauma in the Third Generation*. Her writing has been published in anthologies and journals including Awfully Hilarious: Period Pieces, Don't Ask: What Families Hide, Sustenance: Writers from BC and Beyond on the Subject of Food, Grain Magazine, Pithead Chapel, Lost Balloon, Hippocampus, and The Rumpus. Claire is a facilitator, speaker, and trauma-informed somatic writing coach, supporting writers in bringing the stories they hold in their bodies out onto the page. She splits her time between Vancouver and the Gulf Islands, where the forest meets the sea, on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish. Find her at <https://www.claresicherman.com/>

### RESOURCES

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# BEYOND BLUE

STORIES OF HEARTBREAK, HEALING, AND HOPE IN POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION

EDITED BY CHRISTINA MYERS & OGA NWOBOSI



*Beyond Blue* brings to light the hidden struggles of postpartum mental health in an honest, compassionate, and empowering collection of stories

## SALES HIGHLIGHTS

- A strong contribution to the growing collection of books written by feminist writers from underrepresented communities.
- Editor Christina Myers is a bestselling author
- Editor Oga Nwobosi is a former journalist at The Vancouver Sun and associate producer and news-break anchor at Global Television
- Authentic Voices: Featuring 26 powerful and diverse personal essays, *Beyond Blue* offers a rare and deeply moving glimpse into the emotional realities of new motherhood.
- For parents, caregivers, and advocates: Whether you're a new parent, a healthcare provider, or someone supporting a loved one, this collection fosters understanding, empathy, and hope.
- Often, mothers feel alone when struggling with their postpartum mental health. This collection reminds them that they are not alone.

## MARKETING

- Launches planned for Book Warehouse, Vancouver and SFU Surrey, with readings at organizations like the Pacific Post Partum Support Society.
- Media outreach to local news including Castanet Kelowna, The Surrey-North Delta Leader, The North and West Voice, The Tyee, Vancouver Sun, The Province, Georgia Straight, IndigiNews, ROOM, CTV, The Globe & Mail, Herizons, Federation of BC Writers, and influencers including Kerry Clare's Pickle Me This
- Pitching to relevant & local festivals: Festival of Literary Diversity, Vancouver Writer's Festival, Victoria Festival of the Arts, North Shore Literary Festival, Real Vancouver Writer's Series, Elephant Mountain Literary Festival, and Whistler Writers Festival
- Advertise in Federation of BC Writers newsletter, BC Review and BC Bookworld
- Submit to relevant prizes including Bonnie Ritter Outstanding Feminist Book Award, the CASCA Women's Network Award, The Hilary Weston Writers' Trust, and The Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize

### MEMOIR

978-1-77386-173-9

6" x 9", paperback

\$26.00 CAD

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BIO026000

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY /  
Personal Memoirs

HEA041000

HEALTH & FITNESS / Pregnancy &  
Childbirth

### SYNOPSIS

A significant percentage of mothers experience depression, anxiety or other psychological impacts that go well beyond the “baby blues.” For many, their post-partum depression goes undiagnosed, often due to embarrassment, lack of access to resources and the stigma associated with trying to get help. Editors of *Beyond Blue*, Oga Nwobosi and Christina Myers met in a postpartum support group almost two decades ago. There, they found grief, joy, wisdom, and the lifelong connections that keep us afloat during the most difficult times.

In these deeply personal essays, twenty-six mothers from all walks of life share their diverse experiences with post-partum depression. Their stories include everything from an inability to make decisions and questioning your ability to be a good parent to paranoia and thoughts of self-harm. Ultimately, these stories offer a life raft to struggling new parents, and a community for those who will see their past experiences reflected, whether they happened last year or a generation ago. From heartbreak to hope, and from helplessness to healing, the stories in *Beyond Blue* shed light on the often invisible and unspoken experiences of postpartum mental health.

### BIOGRAPHIES

**Christina Myers** is a writer, editor, former journalist, and the author of *Halfway Home: Thoughts from Midlife* (2024, House of Anansi) and *The List of Last Chances* (2021, Caitlin Press), which was longlisted for the Leacock Medal and won the 2023 Canadian Book Club Award. She was also the editor of the non-fiction anthology *BIG* (2020, Caitlin Press) and teaches creative writing at SFU’s continuing studies. She is a member of Da’naxda’xw First Nation and lives in Surrey, British Columbia with her family and four rescue cats. She enjoys forest walks, full moons, gardening, pretty dresses, and books.

**Oga Nwobosi** is a former journalist who started her career at The Vancouver Sun before expanding into television as a reporter, associate producer and news-break anchor at Global Television. Her passion for writing, storytelling and travel led her to a position as a national reporter and bureau chief at The Weather Network. There, she reported on events like the deadly Pine Lake tornado in Alberta and the unprecedented forest fires in British Columbia and the Prairies. She has also been a contributing writer for several publications, including The Georgia Straight and The Surrey-North Delta Leader. She is Guyanese by birth, Nigerian by descent and currently lives in Vancouver with her family and goofy little dog who urinates in excitement at the sight of her. She believes in fate, loves books, wine, summer evenings and all things Italian.

### RESOURCES

CAITLINPRESS.COM | CATALIST | BOOKMANAGER

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# QUEER COUNTRY CROSSROADS

STORIES OF STRENGTH, STRUGGLE, AND BELONGING FROM RURAL CANADA

EDITED BY MABE KYLE



**What does it mean to be a queer person in a rural setting? Fifty writers, poets, and artists from across Canada share their stories of love, strength, struggle, and belonging.**

## SALES HIGHLIGHTS

- One of the first books to portray life for the queer community in rural Canada
- Shines a much-needed spotlight on queer, Canadian rural life
- Showcases the stories of queer people of all ages from across Canada
- According to BookNet Canada, sales of LGBTQ2SIA+ books have been increasing over the past seven years.
- Mabe Kyle is well-connected in the queer community as an activist and event planner, which aids in promotion of the book
- A diverse range of authors from all over Canada allows for increased promotional opportunities and sales

## MARKETING

- Launches planned for Glad Day Bookshop, Toronto and Dog-Eared Café in Paris, Ontario with readings at queer organizations such as Cape & Cowl Comics & Collectibles in Sackville, Nova Scotia and Sudbury Pride
- Media outreach to Plentitude, CBC, The Globe & Mail, CBC Radio One Ontario, Prairie Fire, Toronto Star, local media including Ayr News, Brant Beacon, and Paris Independent, and podcasts including Clearing A New Path, Woodstein media, CanQueer and Out & About in Canada: the Podcast Edition
- Pitching to relevant & local festivals: B.Lit Fest, Eden Mills Festival, Stratford Writers Festival, Riverside Reading Festival, Toronto International Festival of Authors, Wild Writers Festival, Ottawa International Writers Festivals, Blue Metropolis, Luminato Festival, and Toronto Lit Up
- Advertise in Prairie Fire and Community of Literary Magazines and Presses newsletter
- Submit to relevant prizes including the Lambda Literary Award, the Publishing Triangle, and Banff Mountain Book Competition

## NON-FICTION

978-1-77386-170-8

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\$26.00 CAD

Available September 27, 2025

BIO031000

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY /  
LGBTQ+

LCO016000

LITERARY COLLECTIONS / LGBTQ+

## SYNOPSIS

*Queer Country Crossroads* is an anthology of nonfiction stories and poems written by and for rural 2SLGBTQIA+ folks. Fifty writers, poets, and artists from across Canada share personal stories that explore themes from coming of age and isolation to community and home. Each person's story is unique: some reflect on growing up in rural settings while others describe their experiences of moving to the countryside later in life. Together, these voices offer diverse perspectives and insights into the strengths and hardships that come with living at the intersection of being rural and queer. *Queer Country Crossroads* serves as a beautiful reminder of people's resilience, love, and strength.

## BIOGRAPHY

**Mabe Kyle** is a peer support specialist in practice and an expressive arts therapist in training. They are the co-chair and co-founder of Brant Pride, a queer community organization in the County of Brant, Ontario. They were selected as a Community Changemaker by 880 Cities, a not-for-profit based in Toronto, and as a Rural Community Changemaker by the Ontario Rural Institute.

In their personal work, Mabe uses poetry as a tool to express, collaborate, and educate, finding creative ways to weave poetry into their work, from academics to drag performances. Highlights of their poetic career include sharing their poetry on a radio station in Jamaica, competing in a poetry slam in India, and facilitating a poetry workshop at a national conference in Winnipeg. They published a zine with art and writing from youth through the Rural Ontario Community of Queer Youth, a grassroots organization they co-founded. Mabe was raised and lives on their family's farm in Brant.

## RESOURCES

CAITLINPRESS.COM | CATALIST | BOOKMANAGER

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# COMING HOME FROM THE CANDY FACTORY

BY JANE BYERS



**Ergonomist Jane Byers delves into the language, meaning and culture of work.**

## SALES HIGHLIGHTS

- Jane Byers brings her years of experience as an ergonomist to this thought-provoking collection
- She talks about often forgotten labourers – women working from home, and “below-the-shoulder” manual workers
- An important contribution to literature for and about Canada’s working class
- She’s an international literary award winner: 2017 Goldie Award Winner for lesbian poetry
- She is a prolific and accomplished poet and writer.

## MARKETING

- Launches planned at the Otter Books, Nelson, along with readings at the BC General Workers Union and CUPE on Vancouver Island
- Media outreach to BC Bookworld, BC Review, Quill & Quire, CBC, CBC On The Island, The Globe & Mail, 49th Shelf, local media including the Nelson Star, Xtra West, Kingston Whig Standard, Vancouver Sun, and Sinister Wisdom and podcasts including On the Line: Stories of BC Workers
- Pitching to relevant & local festivals: Eden Mills festival, Windsor Book Festival, Stratford Writers Festival, Toronto Lit Up, Kingston Writers Festival, Galiano Island Literary Festival, Victoria Festival of Authors, Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts, and Words on the Water
- Advertise in BC Review
- Submit to relevant prizes including the BC and Yukon Book Prizes, The Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize, Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, and the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction

## MEMOIR

978-1-77386-174-6

5.5” x 8”, paperback

\$24.00 CAD

Available September 27, 2025

BIO026000

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY /  
Personal Memoirs

LCO006000

LITERARY COLLECTIONS / Canadian

### SYNOPSIS

Why is so little written about work when we spend a huge portion of our lives engaged with it? Informed by her observations and evaluations of hundreds of jobs, ergonomist Jane Byers' *Coming Home From The Candy Factory* shines a spotlight on the physical labour that often leads to workplace injuries. And as a poet, Byers pays attention not only to the physical demands but also the language of work. As an ergonomist and a poet, her work comes together in this new collection of lyric essays and poems.

*Coming Home From The Candy Factory* is fueled by Jane Byers' drive to make the workplace safer but also inspired by her working-class background and her father's work in a power plant. Byers takes on the forgotten labour of women, whose unpaid housework and child-rearing is often not considered work at all.

As a return-to-work specialist, Jane Byers has had many conversations with people about what their occupations mean to them. She advocates for the benefits of going back to work, a choice she made when returning back to the job after a workplace injury. These stories are grimy and dusty and come from the beautiful corners of workplaces and work cultures.

### BIOGRAPHY

**Jane Byers'** memoir *Small Courage: A Queer Memoir of Finding Love and Conceiving Family* (Caitlin Press-Dagger Editions) was released in September 2020. She has also published two poetry collections, *Acquired Community*, (2016, Caitlin Press-Dagger Editions), a 2017 Goldie Award Winner for lesbian poetry and *Steeling Effects* (2014, Caitlin Press) and a chapbook, *It Hurt, That's All I Know* (Nose in Book Publishing, 2017). She has written multiple treatments for award-winning short and feature length documentaries. Jane was the 2018 Writer-in-Residence for Simon Fraser University's Archives of Lesbian Oral Testimony (ALOT). She has had poems and essays published in anthologies and literary journals in Canada, the U.S. and England, including *Canadian Journal of Sports Literature* and *Best Canadian Poetry* 2014. She has worked as an Ergonomics Consultant across Canada since 1993. She lives in Nelson, British Columbia with her wife and teenage twins. Website: [janebyerswriter.com](http://janebyerswriter.com)

### RESOURCES

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# ALL OF US HIDDEN

BY JOANNA STREETLY

Poems that connect the interplay of time with life, land, love and loss.



## SALES HIGHLIGHTS

- Streetly is an established award-winning and bestselling poet
- This collection deals with the pertinent topic of grief after loss of family
- A look into Tofino

## MARKETING

- Launch planned at Mermaid Tales, Tofino, with a performance style event and readings with other Caitlin Press poets including Yvonne Blomer at Cafe Fantastico, Victoria, and Vancouver Island libraries
- Media outreach to The Fiddlehead, ZG Media, BC Review, Malahat Review, Vancouver Sun, Prairie Fire, CBC Radio North by Northwest, CBC Radio Beyond the Bestsellers, CBC, The Globe & Mail, local media including the Victoria Times Colonist and Westerley News, and podcasts including Ms Lyric's Poetry Outlaws and Page Fright
- Pitching to relevant & local festivals: Galiano Island Literary Festival, Victoria Festival of Authors, Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts, Words Alive Kamloops, Lakefield Literary Festival, and Words on the Water
- Submit to relevant prizes including the Lillian Allen Prize, CBC Poetry Prize, Griffin Poetry Prize, and Pat Lowther Memorial Award

## POETRY

978-1-77386-172-2

5.5" x 8", paperback

\$20.00 CAD

Available September 19, 2025

POE024000

POETRY / Women Authors

POE023010

POETRY / Subjects & Themes / Death,  
Grief, Loss

### SYNOPSIS

Six years ago, Joanna's Streetly's two stepsons and their boat disappeared into the ocean on an eerily calm night, barely 200 feet from Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island, BC. *All of Us Hidden* begins with poems that inhabit Tla-o-qui-aht traditional territory, the remote summer whaling islet where Streetly lived for several years with her former partner and stepsons. In the aftermath of the boys' disappearance, she returns to the island to document how both she and the island might have changed. Streetly's poetry ripples out beyond location and loss, into a broader investigation of time's capricious shaping and re-shaping of children, parents, Earth and the self.

### BIOGRAPHY

**Joanna Streetly** is the author of five books. Her work is published in The Best Canadian Essays 2017 (Tightrope Books, 2017) and Best Canadian Poetry 2024 (Biblioasis, 2024). She is the winner of the 2023 FBCW Literary Contest Poetry Award, has been short-listed for the Van Isle Collective Prize, and The Spectator's Shiva Naipaul award for outstanding travel writing as well as long-listed for the Canada Writes Creative Non-fiction Prize. She has lived in the unceded territory of the Tla-o-qui-aht for over thirty years and was the inaugural Tofino Poet Laureate from 2018 to 2020. Joanna's first poetry book, *This Dark*, was published by Postelsia Press in 2008. Her 2018 memoir, *Wild Fierce Life: Dangerous Moments on the Outer Coast* (Caitlin Press, 2018) was a BC Bestseller.

### RESOURCES

CAITLINPRESS.COM | CATALIST | BOOKMANAGER

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# COMPULSORY FIGURES

BY JOHN BARTON



**In his first collection of free verse since 2009, award-winning poet John Barton reflects on his childhood in Alberta, coming of age as a gay man during the AIDS pandemic, and the contrary forces that shape a life.**

## SALES HIGHLIGHTS

- Barton is a well-known and respected award-winning poet
- This collection is his thirteenth, and his first in free verse since 2009
- He lends personal insight to important moments in Canadian queer history, such as the AIDS crisis

## MARKETING

- Launch planned at Cafe Fantastico, Victoria with readings at universities including Capilano University, the University of Winnipeg, McEwan University, Edmonton, University of New Brunswick, Memorial University of Newfoundland, John Abbot College, and Concordia University
- Media outreach to Vancouver Sun, Quill & Quire, CBC, CBC On The Island, The Globe & Mail, local media including the Victoria News and Victoria Times Colonist, and podcasts including Wax Poetic and Writer's Radio
- Pitching to relevant & local festivals: Edmonton Stroll of Poets, Calgary Gay History, Ottawa International Writers Festival, Qu'ART, Riverbed Reading Series, Plan 99 Reading Series, Art Bar Reading Series, Planet Earth Poetry, Victoria Festival of Authors, Fraser Valley Writers Festival, Whistler Writers Festival, Queer Arts Festival, Vancouver, Violet Metropolis series, and Blue Metropolis Festival
- Advertise in BC Review and Northword
- Submit to relevant prizes including the CBC Poetry Prize, Archibald Lampman Award, BC and Yukon Book Prizes, and Derek Walcott Prize for Poetry

## POETRY

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\$20.00 CAD

Available September 19, 2025

POE021000

POETRY / LGBTQ+

POE023010

POETRY / Subjects & Themes / Death,  
Grief, Loss



### SYNOPSIS

Who are the people who mark our lives? Must we know them personally or is influence also exerted from the distant past, the grave, or even from the pages of a book? Devastated by the sudden death of one of his sisters in 2015, award-winning poet John Barton, over the decade since, felt moved to answer these and other questions for himself in *Compulsory Figures*, his thirteenth collection of poems.

Born in the 1950s to parents who moved to Edmonton during the early years of the oil boom, Barton roots many of his poems in the prairie, foothills, mountain, and urban landscapes of his Alberta childhood—the land itself a formative influence—to ground his memories of his sister and of his parents, who divorced just as he was entering his twenties.

Barton broadens his inquiry to wrestle with larger societal forces, including settler colonialism and the role his ancestors played in Ontario and the Canadian West after their arrival in the nineteenth century. As a gay man who came to a full acceptance of himself during the AIDS pandemic, he also explores the stigmatizing impact of homophobia and how the courage of figures like Christopher Isherwood, Frank O'Hara, Paul Monette, and Robert Mapplethorpe continues to provide him solace and strength.

Lyrical and thought-provoking, *Compulsory Figures* plunges into the depths of history, grief, and the unshakable power of everyone and everything that shapes us.

### BIOGRAPHY

**John Barton's** twelve previous collections of poetry include *Lost Family: A Memoir*, a nominee for the 2021 Derek Walcott Prize for Poetry. Coeditor of the landmark anthology, *Seminal: Canada's Gay Male Poets*, he also wrote a book of essays, *We Are Not Avatars: Essays, Memoirs, Manifestos* and was the guest editor of Best Canadian Poetry 2023. A three-time winner of the Archibald Lampman Award as well as a recipient of a National Magazine Award and a CBC Literary Award, he was made a lifetime member of the League of Canadian Poets in 2021. Born in Edmonton and raised in Calgary, he lives in Victoria, where he edited *The Malahat Review* from 2004 to 2018 and was the city's fifth poet laureate from 2019 to 2022.

### RESOURCES

CAITLINPRESS.COM | CATALIST | BOOKMANAGER

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