

TALONBOOKS

2021



Talonbooks Awards and Prizes, Recent Highlights

2021

Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize (BC and Yukon Book Prizes): Dukesang Wong, *The Diary of Dukesang Wong: A Voice from Gold Mountain* (Finalist)

Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize (BC and Yukon Book Prizes): Junie Désil, *eat salt | gaze at the ocean*: (Finalist)

Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize (BC and Yukon Book Prizes): Fred Wah, *Music at the Heart of Thinking: Improvisations 1–170*: (Finalist)

2020

The A. M. Klein Prize for Poetry: Oana Avasilichioaei, *Eight Track* (Finalist)

The BC and Yukon Book Prizes' Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award: Bill Richardson, *I Saw Three Ships* (Short-listed)

Governor General's Literary Award for Drama: Kim Senklip Harvey, *Kamloopa: An Indigenous Matriarch Story* (Finalist)

Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry: Oana Avasilichioaei, *Eight Track* (Finalist)

The Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour: Drew Hayden Taylor, *Cottagers and Indians* (Short-listed)

The Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour: Bill Richardson, *I Saw Three Ships* (Long-listed)

The Sunburst Award for Adult Fiction: Christian Guay-Poliquin, *The Weight of Snow* (Long-listed)

2019

Latner Writers' Trust Poetry Prize: Stephen Collis (Winner)

Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize (BC and Yukon Book Prizes): Fred Wah and Rita Wong, *beholden* (Finalist)

Governor General's Literary Award for Drama: Tetsuro Shigematsu, *1 Hour Photo* (Finalist)

Governor General's Literary Award for Drama: Kevin Loring, *Thanks for Giving* (Finalist)

Governor General's Literary Award for Translation: Pablo Strauss, *Synapses* (Finalist)

Indigenous Voices Award for Published Poetry in English: Wanda John-Kehewin, *Seven Sacred Truths* (Finalist)

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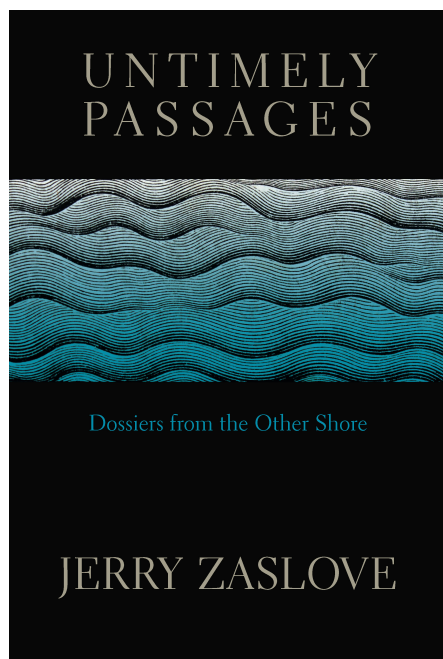
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Jerry Zaslove is a teacher and writer in the fields of comparative literature and the social history of art. His most recent work includes the installation *The Insurance Man: Kafka in the Penal Colony* and essays on the place of the university in society, exile and memory, and the city in history. He has taught at Simon Fraser University since its opening year in the Departments of English and Humanities and is the founding director of the Institute for the Humanities.

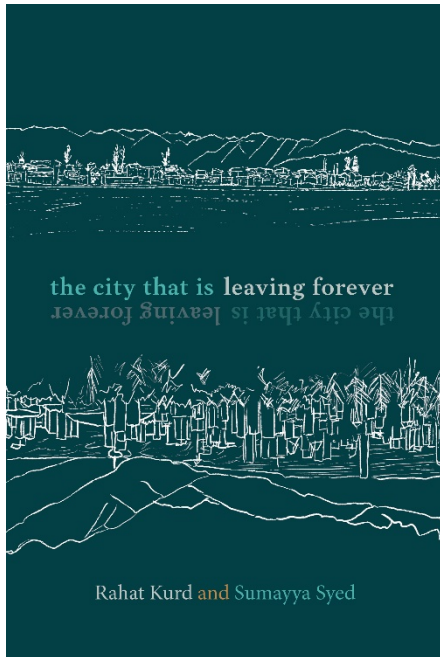
Untimely Passages

Dossiers from the Other Shore

Jerry Zaslove

These essays emerge from years of reading, writing, and teaching through the exemplary controversies, commitments, and atmosphere of the crises of modernism that accompany the author's reading of European literature as a world literature. The author imagines the collection through the image of the Colporteur, who appears along the streets and waysides, walking the arcades of cities with books. One reads books, teaches them, speaks them, and they speak through us, then we write about them, and, if we are fortunate, we read them not just once but again and again. As a teacher of literature, the author is one of the fortunate ones. *Untimely Passages* is organized into "Dossiers," which are the imaginary bridges over the literary river crossings. The collection shows a life in writing by crossing rivers to the "other shores." While it is true, according to Heraclitus, that we can't "step into the same river twice," we can cross to the other shores and watch the rivers flowing, and even cross back again and again by rereading and writing by often posing the question of literacy: "Why Write?" The bridges become the authors we read, and we learn to listen to the noises coming from our bookcases.

ISBN 978-1-77201-260-6
8.50 x 5.50"; 607 pp.; Trade Paper
\$29.95 CAD
Forthcoming November 1, 2021



Rahat Kurd is a poet, cultural critic, and editor living in Vancouver. Her first collection of poems, *Cosmophilia*, was published by Talonbooks in 2015.

The City That Is Leaving Forever

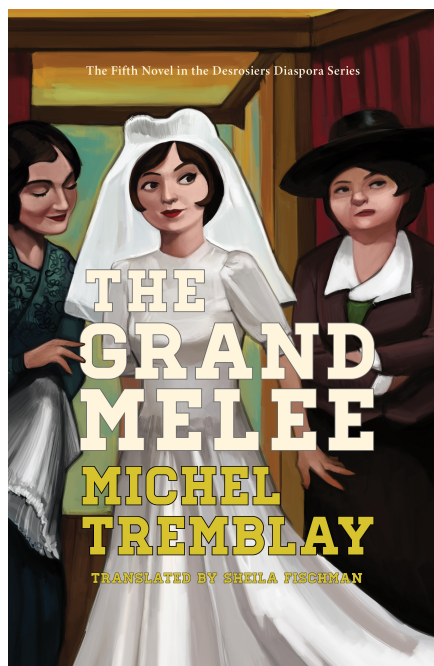
Kashmiri Letters

Rahat Kurd and Sumayya Syed

The City That Is Leaving Forever is a unique twenty-first-century time capsule: an instant-message exchange between Kashmir and British Columbia spanning more than five years in the lives of two Muslim Kashmiri women poets. In 2016, as India's military carries out extrajudicial killings and imposes a lengthy curfew in Srinagar, Kurd is forced to cancel her family trip to Kashmir. Syed and Kurd confide in each other as the weeks and months pass, working through drafts of new poems, reading each other's work, discussing multilingual poetics, the challenges of translation, and the contrasts of daily life in their two cities. The result is a rigorously feminist record of thinking through trauma as it unfolds and a document of life under military lockdown, "a book like a cluster of thorns with some few fragrant petals caught in them."

ISBN 978-1-77201-357-3
8.50 x 5.50"; 208 pp.; Trade Paper
\$19.95 CAD
Forthcoming August 17, 2021

Rahat Kurd's *Cosmophilia* is also available from Talonbooks.



A major figure in Quebec theatre, **Michel Tremblay** has built an impressive body of work as a playwright, novelist, translator, and screenwriter. To date, Michel's complete works include 29 plays (including 2 theatrical adaptations of his own work); 30 novels; 6 collections of autobiographical stories; a collection of tales; 7 screenplays; 46 translations/adaptations of works by foreign writers; 9 plays and 12 stories printed in diverse publications; an opera libretto; a song cycle; a Symphonic Christmas Tale and 2 musicals. His plays have been published and translated into 40 languages and have garnered critical acclaim in Canada, the United States, and more than 50 countries around the world. His name can be found in the Larousse and Robert Dictionaries, the Who's Who Encyclopedia, the Dictionary of International Biography and the Encyclopedia Britannica. During his career, Michel has received more than 80 prizes, citations and honours including the Grand Prix de la Francophonie, awarded by the Académie française in 2018, as well as the Prince Pierre de Monaco Literary Prize and the Prix Gilles-Corbeil for his contribution to the arts in 2017. A six-time winner of grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, he won nine Chalmers Awards and five Grand Prix du public presented during Montreal's annual book fair le Salon du livre. In 1999, he was awarded the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards. He has also received six honorary doctorates.

ISBN 978-1-77201-261-3
 7.50 x 5.50"; 272 pp.; Trade Paper
 \$19.95 CAD
 Forthcoming September 30, 2021

The Grand Melee

Michel Tremblay

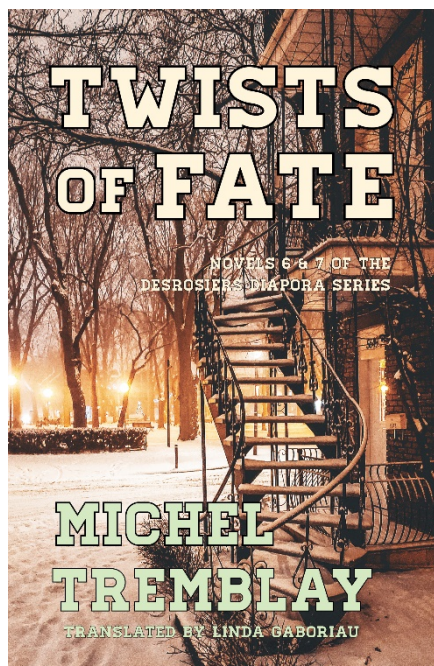
Translated by Sheila Fischman

The fifth novel in the *Desrosiers Diaspora* series from Québécois national treasure Michel Tremblay.

It's May 1922, and preparations are in full swing for the marriage of Nana and Gabriel, which will take place the following month. There's just one problem: Nana's wedding dress has yet to be bought. Nana's mercurial mother, Maria, torn between her desire to measure up as a mother and the inescapable constraints of poverty, wonders how to pay for the wedding. And she's not the only one battling demons – the thought of the upcoming reunion unsettles every member of the large and dispersed Desrosiers family. While the wedding invitations announce a celebration, they also stir up old memories, past desires, and big regrets.

The Grand Melee extends Michel Tremblay's beloved familial and historical saga, and bridges the *Desrosiers Diaspora* series and the now-classic *Chronicles of the Plateau Mont-Royal*. This book includes a newly translated introduction by Michel Tremblay specialist and Éditions Leméac publisher Pierre Filion.

Visit talonbooks.com for a complete listing of Michel Tremblay's available books.



A major figure in Quebec theatre, **Michel Tremblay** has built an impressive body of work as a playwright, novelist, translator, and screenwriter. To date, Michel's complete works include 29 plays (including 2 theatrical adaptations of his own work); 30 novels; 6 collections of autobiographical stories; a collection of tales; 7 screenplays; 46 translations/adaptations of works by foreign writers; 9 plays and 12 stories printed in diverse publications; an opera libretto; a song cycle; a Symphonic Christmas Tale and 2 musicals. His plays have been published and translated into 40 languages and have garnered critical acclaim in Canada, the United States, and more than 50 countries around the world. His name can be found in the Larousse and Robert Dictionaries, the Who's Who Encyclopedia, the Dictionary of International Biography and the Encyclopedia Britannica. During his career, Michel has received more than 80 prizes, citations and honours including the Grand Prix de la Francophonie, awarded by the Académie française in 2018, as well as the Prince Pierre de Monaco Literary Prize and the Prix Gilles-Corbeil for his contribution to the arts in 2017. A six-time winner of grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, he won nine Chalmers Awards and five Grand Prix du public presented during Montreal's annual book fair le Salon du livre. In 1999, he was awarded the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards. He has also received six honorary doctorates.

ISBN 978-1-7720-1358-0
 7.50 x 5.50"; 272 pp.; Trade Paper
 \$19.95 CAD
 Forthcoming December 7, 2021

Twists of Fate

If by Chance & Destination Paradise

Michel Tremblay

Translated by Linda Gaboriau

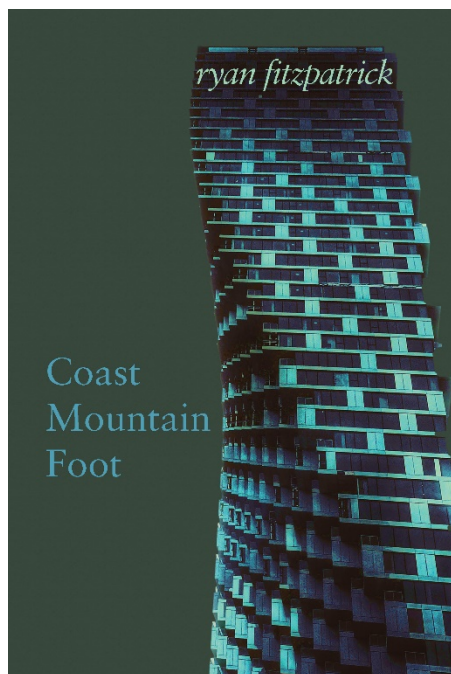
Michel Tremblay's *Twists of Fate* gathers volumes 6 and 7 of the critically acclaimed *Desrosiers Diaspora* series of novels, *If by Chance* and *Destination Paradise*.

In *If by Chance*, set in 1925, the great Ti-Lou, the famous She-Wolf of Ottawa, returns to Montréal. After a fruitful career at the Château Laurier, in the royal suite where she welcomed diplomats and men of the world, politicians and ministers of worship, she packs up and sneaks off, her suitcases replete with savings acquired at the cost of her body. Unrepentant, always whimsical, a damsel in distress, Louise Wilson-Desrosiers was a proud, free, exemplary courtesan ...

When she arrives in the hall of the Windsor station, she wonders what surprises life may have in store for her. Five possible fates await her, each with their share of risks and opportunities, of good and less good fortune. But in each of these lives, Ti-Lou will have to deal with more than mere chance, because awaiting her at the crossroads are the blade of loneliness and, worse still, the fear of allowing herself to be loved.

In *Destination Paradise*, we enter the Paradise Club, on 1930s Montréal's Main Street, one of the few places that caters to old boys, in a spot dubbed the Ringside. It's where Édouard Tremblay made his entry into the "big world," shortly after becoming a shoe seller on the avenue du Mont-Royal. Precocious despite his eighteen years of age, he is carried away by his double, the Duchess of Langeais, whose story he has just read in Balzac's eponymous novel. Of course, we already know that Édouard will become the Main's undisputed queen of the Montréal drag scene, associated with the spectacular Acapulco nights; but we knew less about Édouard's beginning in life, the childhood of his stage character. *Destination Paradise* tenderly exposes Édouard's rite of passage.

Visit talonbooks.com for a complete listing of Michel Tremblay's available books.



ryan fitzpatrick is the author of two books of poetry and fifteen chapbooks, including *Fortified Castles* (Talonbooks, 2014) and *Fake Math* (Snare/Invisible, 2007). With Jonathan Ball, he edited *Why Poetry Sucks: An Anthology of Humorous Experimental Canadian Poetry* (Insomniac, 2014). He has participated in the literary communities of Calgary, Vancouver, and Toronto. In Calgary, he was on the collective of filling *Station* magazine and was the organizer of the Flywheel Reading Series. In Vancouver, he earned his doctorate at Simon Fraser University, where he worked on contemporary Canadian poetry and space. In Toronto, he recently completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Toronto Scarborough and was a co-organizer of the East Loft Salon Series with Rajinderpal S. Pal and Nikki Sheppy.

Coast Mountain Foot

ryan fitzpatrick

Written over the span of a decade and a half, *Coast Mountain Foot* keens its ear to the energies that connect cities, refracting the gesture of George Bowering's 1968 classic *Rocky Mountain Foot*. Occasioned by fitzpatrick's own move from Calgary to Vancouver in 2011, the book writes through the messy perspectives of the two cities as they bleed into one another – the energy in one city's streets suddenly appearing in the other – and engages with the urban and its intimacies through careful listening. The book's interlaced serial poetics is anchored by a series of lyric poems written in moments of transit – walking the streets, riding the bus, pausing in coffee shop windows. In these moments of reflection, fitzpatrick pinpoints his relationship to urban transformation. Written amid booms and busts, high and low tides, *Coast Mountain Foot* dwells on the gold rush and its aftermaths to ask: When the good times are all gone and it's time for moving on, what does it mean to move forward while snared by the past?

ISBN 978-1-77201-359-7
5.50 x 8.50"; 160 pp.; Trade Paper
\$18.95 CAD
Forthcoming July 15, 2021

Visit talonbooks.com for a complete listing of ryan fitzpatrick's available books.



Flying Red Horse

Dale Martin Smith

Flying Red Horse is a book of poetry, with a lyric essay, about fatherhood and masculinity, and the conditions of whiteness that pressure those terms for contemporary relevance and meaning. It looks at the precarity of relationships between people and place in diverse geographic and racial contexts; it addresses the crisis of climate change; and it considers parental connections to children in uncertain global circumstances. This book speaks to an experience of Canada and the United States, drawing attention to the conditions of spectacle and surveillance governing each nation. It asks where we stand in relation to the global technological power of connectivity and disconnection that disturbs contemporary social relations. Without seeking resolution, *Flying Red Horse* puts in correspondence four episodes of poetic meditation on the disparate facts composing the contemporary moment through the personal encounter of lyric language.

A poet and literary scholar, **Dale Martin Smith** was born in Dallas, Texas. He earned a BA and PhD in English from the University of Texas, and an MA in Poetics from New College of California. He is the author of the full-length poetry collections *Slow Poetry in America* (2014), *Black Stone* (2007), and *American Rambler* (2000).

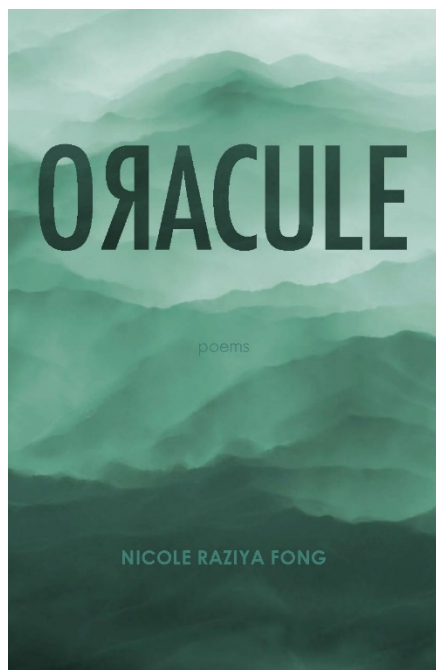
Smith's scholarly contributions include *Poets Beyond the Barricade: Rhetoric, Citizenship, and Dissent after 1960* (2012) and two edited editions, *An Open Map: The Correspondence of Robert Duncan and Charles Olson* and *Imagining Persons: Robert Duncan's Lectures on Charles Olson* (both 2017), for which he received Simon Fraser University's Charles Olson Award. His essays and poetry have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Walrus*, *LA Review of Books*, *Boston Review*, and *Lambda Literary*. With Hoa Nguyen, he edited *Skanky Possum*, a literary zine and book imprint, 1998-2004. Smith joined the faculty of English at Ryerson University, Toronto, in 2011.

ISBN 978-1-77201-360-3

8.50 x 5.50"; 112 pp.; Trade Paper

\$16.95 CAD

Forthcoming September 21, 2021



Nicole Raziya Fong is a poet living in Montréal. Her previous book, *PERFACT* (Talonbooks, 2019) aimed to coax the immateriality of psychic experience into embodying a muscular, acting physique. Her poetic work invokes a subject within multiplicity, fragmenting time and identity onto a responsive, echoic field. Her writing has appeared in various publications including *Social Text*, *Cordite*, *carte blanche*, the *Capilano Review*, and *Volta*, and has been translated into Swedish and French. <http://nicoleraziyafong.com>

ORACULE

Nicole Raziya Fong

ORACULE occurs at the intersection of poetry and theatre. Its characters inhabit a classical and cosmological world where psychic phenomena constantly threaten to impinge upon the arc of combat occurring between the women trapped within. Influenced by Friedrich Nietzsche's *The Birth of Tragedy*, the writings of Plato, the films of Pier Paolo Pasolini, and *The Odyssey*, *ORACULE* approaches self and identity through a fractal, performative lens, subverting Socratic dialogue. Through lyric expressions of dream, theatrical dialogue, the engagements of chorus, anti-chorus, and song, readers may pause to enter *ORACULE* before the inevitable exile: the result of such engagement is to be cast permanently from the world of reason.

ISBN 978-1-77201-361-0
9.00 x 6.00"; 144 pp.; Trade Paper
\$16.95 CAD
Forthcoming September 21, 2021

Nicole Razia Fong's *PERFECT* is also available from Talonbooks.



Razielle Aigen is the author of three chapbooks to date, and has published poems, essays, and interviews in both print and online publications across Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. She has been the recipient of a Research and Creation grant awarded by Canada Council for the Arts. Razielle holds a B.A. in Contemporary Studies and History from the University of King's College-Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and is currently pursuing an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies at New York University.

A Future Perfect

Razielle Aigen

The constraint-based poems in this debut collection are written in the future-perfect tense, used as a way of bending time and playing with non-linearity. They challenge the “self” imagined as a unified monolith by pulling language apart, dissecting idioms and speech, then reassembling it in new and unconventional ways, using language as a medium not only for its literal sense, but also its auditory dimension. Cadence is another focus, as the ordering and pairing of slightly dissonant words creates moments of the uncanny, altering perceptions to push language beyond functional, ordinary usage.

As we dismantle the linguistic binds that keep us stuck in traditional templates and labels, *A Future Perfect* moves us forward, freeing our inner landscapes, enabling us to dispense with the superfluous spokes of our world views, in an effort to continuously reinvent ourselves. Imagery of sky, landscape, organic hollows, biological crevices, architectural edifices, surfaces and topologies are used to evoke a kinaesthetic and tactile sense of space. Finally, calling on nature lends emotional and psychic valence, giving contour to the basic human drives of love and death – Eros and Thanatos – that propel these poems.

ISBN 978-1-77201-365-8
 9.00 x 6.00"; 96 pp.; Trade Paper
 \$16.95 CAD
 Forthcoming August 23, 2021



Daniel Arnold (Ukrainian/Scottish ancestry) and **Medina Hahn** (Lebanese/Irish ancestry) co-wrote/performed the award-winning plays *Tuesdays & Sundays* and *Any Night*, both of which were published in Canada and USA and toured to places such as Canada's National Arts Centre, Edinburgh, Prague, New Mexico, and New York. *Tuesdays & Sundays* was also a radio play on CBC and BBC, and their screenplay of *Any Night* won the CFF Super Channel Screenplay Award. They are the protégé recipients of Canada's largest theatre award, The Siminovitch Prize.

Inheritance

A Pick-the-Path Experience

Daniel Arnold, Darrell Dennis, and Medina Hahn

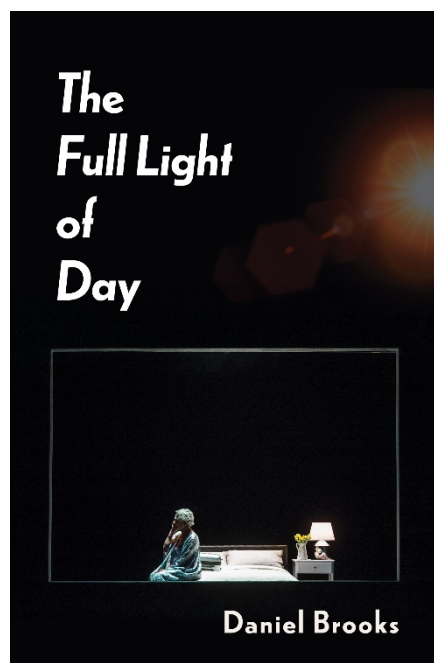
You take your seat in the theatre. You are given a remote control. The play begins.

An urban couple are on a getaway to visit her father at his vast rural estate. But when they arrive, they find him missing and a local Indigenous man staying there instead. They ask him to leave ... and with an anonymous click of your remote, you choose what happens next.

When it's revealed that the colonial rights to this entire property are actually up for grabs, you must continue to decide how the story unfolds, ultimately determining how the land will be stewarded, and by whom.

With humour, suspense, and a race against time, *Inheritance* is an interactive stage play – with over fifty possible variations – that thrusts you into the middle of a land dispute and asks you to work it out.

ISBN 978-1-77201-362-7
9.00 x 6.00"; 256 pp.; Trade Paper
\$24.95 CAD
Forthcoming Aug 31, 2021



Daniel Brooks is one of Canada's most accomplished theatre makers. As a writer, director and performer he has collaborated with some of the country's finest talents producing a body of daring and original work. He has created shows with Don McKellar, Tracy Wright, Daniel MacIvor, Guillermo Verdecchia, Leah Cherniak, John Mighton, Rick Miller, Diego Matamoros, and Michael Ondaatje, among others.

His many achievements include a series of monologues created with Daniel MacIvor, direction of work by John Mighton, Beckett, Chekhov, Ibsen, Sophocles, Borges, and Goethe, the musical *Drowsy Chaperone*, and many creations including *Insomnia*, *The Eco Show*, *The Good Life*, *The Noam Chomsky Lectures*, *Bigger Than Jesus*, *Pokey Jones*, and a series of plays created with Don McKellar and Tracy Wright (The Augusta Company). He was co-artistic director of The Augusta Company, Artistic Director of Necessary Angel from 2003 to 2012, and an associate artist at Soulpepper Theatre. He was also a playwright in residence at the Tarragon Theatre for seven years. He was recently the Barker Fairley Distinguished Visitor at the University of Toronto. His many theatre awards include the Siminovitch Prize. His work has toured across Canada and around the world. He teaches regularly and has had a significant impact on theatre artists across Canada.

He is currently writing *The Perfect Human*, a play about cancer, madness, theatre, and death.

ISBN 978-1-77201-287-3
6 x 9"; 112 pp.; Trade Paper
\$16.95 CAD
Now Available

The Full Light of Day

Daniel Brooks

Daniel Brooks's *The Full Light of Day* is a modern epic tragedy, a timely exploration of crumbling privilege and power, beautifully told and innovative in form. Mary's family finds itself in serious difficulty, and some bad decisions lead to disaster. Mary soon falls ill, and as she is dying wrestles with what her family is, what she has done with her life, and how she wants to die. *The Full Light of Day* is a provocative film/theatre experiment which looks at crucial choices facing Canadians today – how to live, love, and die in a world in transition. Bold characters, bracing text, wit, and suspense all mix together in this new play by award-winning artist Daniel Brooks.

Daniel Brooks's *Cul-de-sac* and *The Noam Chomsky Lectures* are also available from Talonbooks.

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