

Véhicule Press

Fall/Winter 2021

POETRY

Virginia Konchan
Jenny Boychuk
Erik Lindner

FICTION

Alexie Morin
Cora Siré

MEMOIR

Jaspreet Singh





Véhicule Press

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHERS

Good design has been fundamental to Véhicule's identity. The visual appeal of our books is rooted in our early days as a printing press, but it also draws inspiration from the casual elegance of Montreal itself. In this ambition we have been lucky to have the assistance of gifted designers like J.W. Stewart and David Drummond, both of whom have a knack for coming up with covers that work against the grain of expectation. We're now delighted to welcome Natalie Vineberg, who helped revamp our catalogue and create something streamlined, modern and fresh. Every season we'll be featuring a different illustration of the city by a local artist. We will also be using the back pages to generate discussion around our books with special articles, author interviews and excerpts. After a difficult year, we offer up this redesign as a sign of our renewed determination to keep bringing you the best books we can.

Publishers

Simon Dardick
Nancy Marrelli

Associate Publisher

Carmine Starnino

Cover art by Romain Lasser

Véhicule Press acknowledges the support of the Canada Book Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles du Québec (SODEC).

PRINTED IN CANADA



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FEAR THE MIRROR

Cora Siré

In *Fear the Mirror*, Cora Siré weaves together a web of interconnected stories to portray the people who have left significant marks on her life. A feminist mother who fled Estonia. A father who arrived in Canada with nothing but a violin. A Catalan boy whose parent is dying. A love triangle among novelists. Bodies stolen in the night and never found. Blending essay, memoir, and fiction, the Montréal author draws on her encounters in Latin America and elsewhere to compose loving and conflicted portraits — of family members, writers, filmmakers, and gravediggers — culminating in the persistent legacies and strange alchemies that haunt the person she sees in the mirror. In this masterful fifth book, Siré has written her most urgent, beguiling, and personal work to date.



Cora Siré is the author of two works of fiction and two poetry collections. Her novel *Behold Things Beautiful* was a finalist for the QWF's Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Fiction Prize in 2017. Her stories, essays and poems have been published in many anthologies and magazines in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico.

Praise for *Behold Things Beautiful*:

“One of those rare novels that steeps its readers fully in a fictional reality, and at the same time spurs them to learn more about the history that helped inspire it.” —*The Ottawa Review of Books*

SHORT STORIES • SEPTEMBER 2021

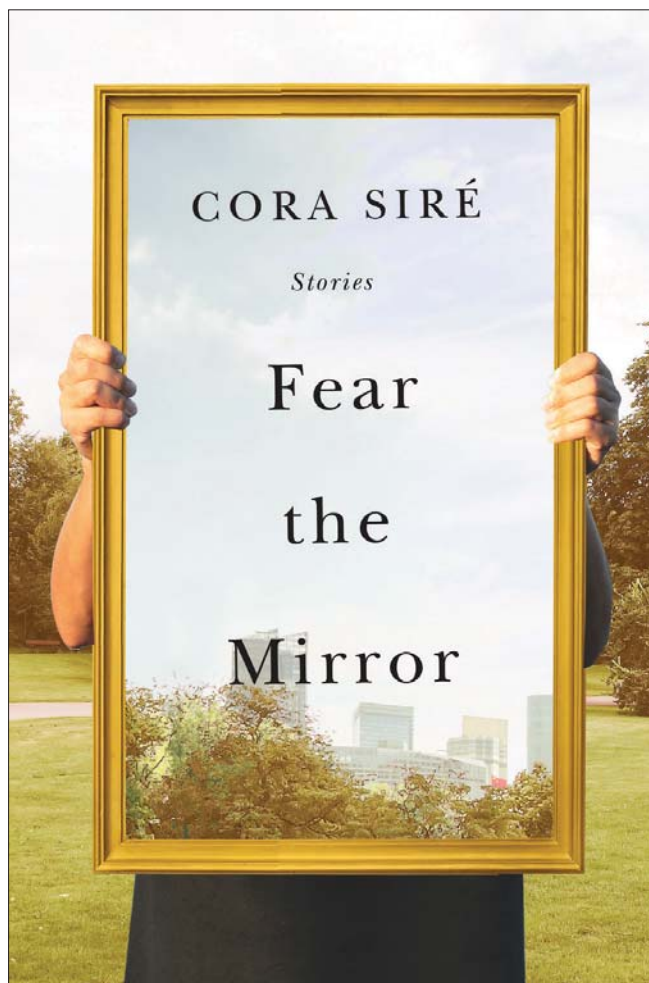
ISBN: 978-1-55065-577-3 • \$19.95 CDN • \$16.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 X 7 ½ • 240 PP

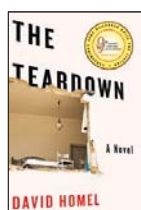
EPUB: 978-1-55065-585-8 • \$12.99

Advance reading copies • Review copy mailing • Web advertising • Online promotions • Virtual launch

A fusion of biography, history, art and politics—told through
the lives branching off one family tree.



Recommended Fiction



The Teardown
David Homel

ISBN: 978-1-55065-520-9
\$19.95 CDN
5 ½ x 7 ½ • 240 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE



A Three-Tiered Pastel Dream
Lesley Trites

ISBN: 978-1-55065-464-6
\$19.95 CDN • \$15.95 US
5 ½ x 8 ½ • 212 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE

OPEN YOUR HEART

Alexie Morin

Translated from the French by Aimee Wall

In this frank and unforgettable debut novel, celebrated Québécois writer Alexie Morin becomes the subject of her own story as she places a childhood friendship under a microscope. Set in a small industrial town in Quebec during the 1990s, *Open Your Heart* recounts the story of a difficult friendship between two girls brought together by illness. One girl suffers from severe strabismus, while the other was born blue. The first, defiant, feels that something is wrong with her, while the second is an angelic child loved by all. One becomes a writer, and the other dies at eighteen, during an operation that should have saved her life.

In *Open Your Heart*, Morin stakes out an exceptional pursuit for truth in these old memories as she grapples with death, love, bonding and solitude.

“A shocking and brutal book.” —Dominic Tardif, *Les libraires*

“A powerful story that strikes you with its aggressive frankness and the depth of its introspection.” —Véronique Rossignol, *Livres Hebdo*



Alexie Morin is the author of *Royauté* (2013), *Chien de fusil* (2018) and *Ouvrir son cœur* (2020). Born in Windsor in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, Morin is an editor for the publishing house Le Quartanier and lives in Montréal.



Aimee Wall is the author of the novel *We, Jane* (2021) and the translator of several Quebec novels. She lives in Montréal.

NOVEL • SEPTEMBER 2021

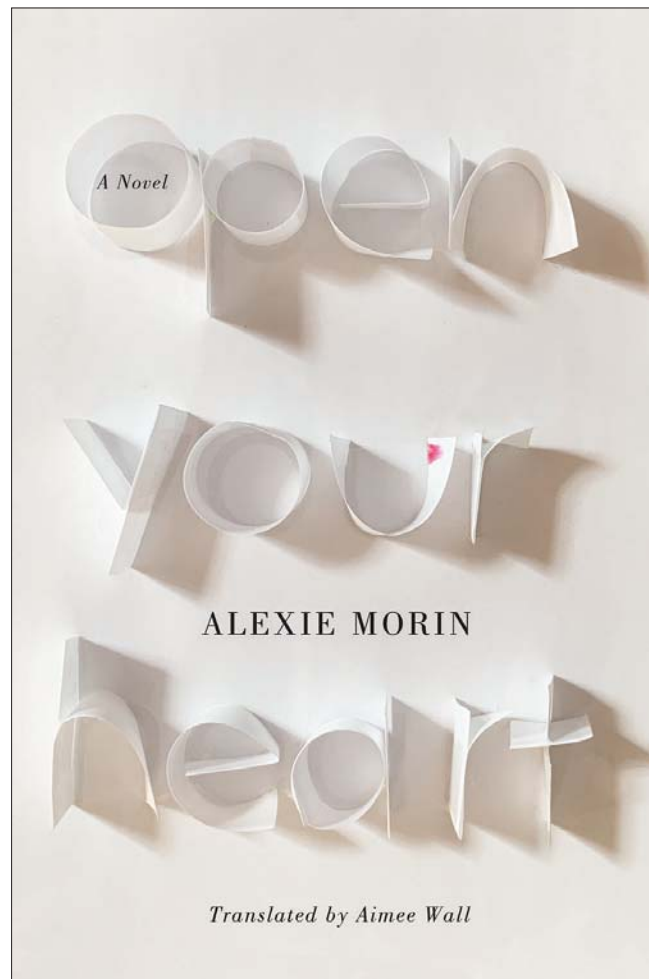
ISBN: 978-1-55065-578-0 • \$19.95 CDN

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 X 7 ½ • 300 PP

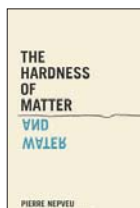
EPUB: 978-1-55065-586-5 • \$12.99

Advance reading copies • Review copy mailing • Web advertising • Online promotions • Virtual launch

**A much-celebrated auto-fictional feminist memoir,
finally available in English.**



Recommended Translations



**The Hardness of Matter
and Water**
Pierre Nepveu
tran. Donald Winkler

ISBN: 978-1-55065-509-4
\$19.95 CDN • \$14.95 US
5 ½ x 8 ½ • 104 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE



Swallowed
Réjean Ducharme
tran. Madeleine Stratford

ISBN: 978-1-55065-553-7
\$22.95 CDN • \$17.95 US
5 x 7 ½ • 348 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE

MY MOTHER, MY TRANSLATOR

Jaspreet Singh

In 2008, Jaspreet Singh made a pact with his mother. He would give her the go-ahead to publish her significantly altered translation of a story from his collection, *Seventeen Tomatoes*, if she promised to write her memoirs. After she died in 2012, he decided to take up the memoir she had started. *My Mother, My Translator* is a deeply personal exploration of a complex relationship. It is a family history, a work of mourning, a meditation on storytelling and silences, and a reckoning with trauma—the inherited trauma of the 1947 Partition of India and the direct trauma of the November 1984 anti-Sikh violence Singh experienced as a teenager.

My Mother, My Translator takes us through Singh's childhood in Kashmir and with his grandparents in Indian Punjab to his arrival in Canada in 1990 to study the sciences, up to the closing moments of 2020, as he tries to locate new forms of stories for living in a present marked by COVID-19 and climate crisis.



Jaspreet Singh's non-fiction has appeared in *Granta*, *Brick: A Literary Journal*, and *The New York Times*. He is the author of two novels, *Chef* (2008) and *Helium* (2014); a story collection, *Seventeen Tomatoes* (2004); and a poetry collection, *November* (2017). His work has been published internationally and has been translated into several languages. He lives in Calgary.

Praise for *Helium*:

“A powerful meditation on historical forgetting.” — *Financial Times*

“A wonderfully well-woven tale that shines a light on fascinating and appalling events.” — Michael Palin

MEMOIR • SEPTEMBER 2021

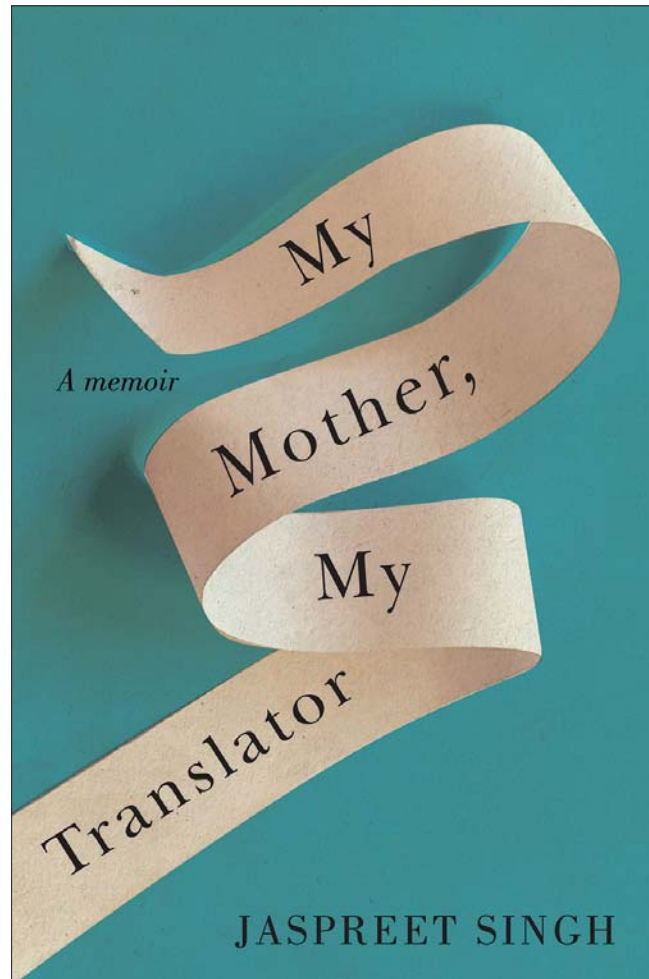
ISBN: 978-1-55065-579-7 • \$22.95 CDN

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 × 7½ • 320 PP

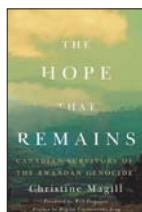
EPUB: 978-1-55065-587-2 • \$14.99

Advance reading copies • Review copy mailing • Web advertising • Online promotions • Virtual launch

A meditation on storytelling and silences,
and a reckoning with historical trauma.

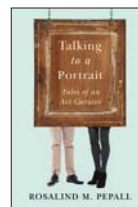


Recommended Non-Fiction



The Hope That Remains:
*Canadian Survivors of the
Rwandan Genocide*
Christine Magill

ISBN: 978-1-55065-518-6
\$19.95 CDN • \$16.95 US
5 ½ x 8 ½ • 212 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE



Talking to a Portrait:
Tales of an Art Curator
Rosalind Pepall

ISBN: 978-1-5506-541-4
\$22.95 CDN • \$17.95 US
5 ½ x 8 ½ • 224 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE

SAVING THE CITY: THE CHALLENGE OF TRANSFORMING A MODERN METROPOLIS

Daniel Sanger

When it was dreamed up in the early 2000s by a transportation bureaucrat with a quixotic goal of bringing tramways back to Montreal, few expected *Projet Montréal* to go anywhere. But a decade and a half later, the party was a grassroots powerhouse with an ambitious agenda that had taken power at city hall—after dumping its founder, barely surviving a divisive leadership campaign and earning the ire of motorists across Quebec.

Projet Montréal aspired to transform Montreal into a green, human-scale city with few rivals in North America. Equal parts reportage, oral history and memoir, *Saving the City* is a highly readable chronicle of what the party did right, where it failed, and where it's headed. Written from the perspective of someone who worked for *Projet Montréal's* administration for almost a decade, Daniel Sanger's book draws on dozens of interviews with other actors in the party and on the municipal scene, past and present.

Saving the City will also discuss issues of interest to city-dwellers across Canada. What are the best ways to control urban car use? What is the optimum width for a sidewalk? And why free parking is a terrible idea.



A founding editor of the *Montreal Mirror* in 1985, **Daniel Sanger** moved to the *Montreal Gazette* and *The Canadian Press*, including a stint as a correspondent at Quebec's National Assembly. He was the Quebec correspondent for *The Economist* for more than a decade while writing and editing for *Saturday Night*, and contributing articles to *The Walrus* and many other magazines and newspapers.

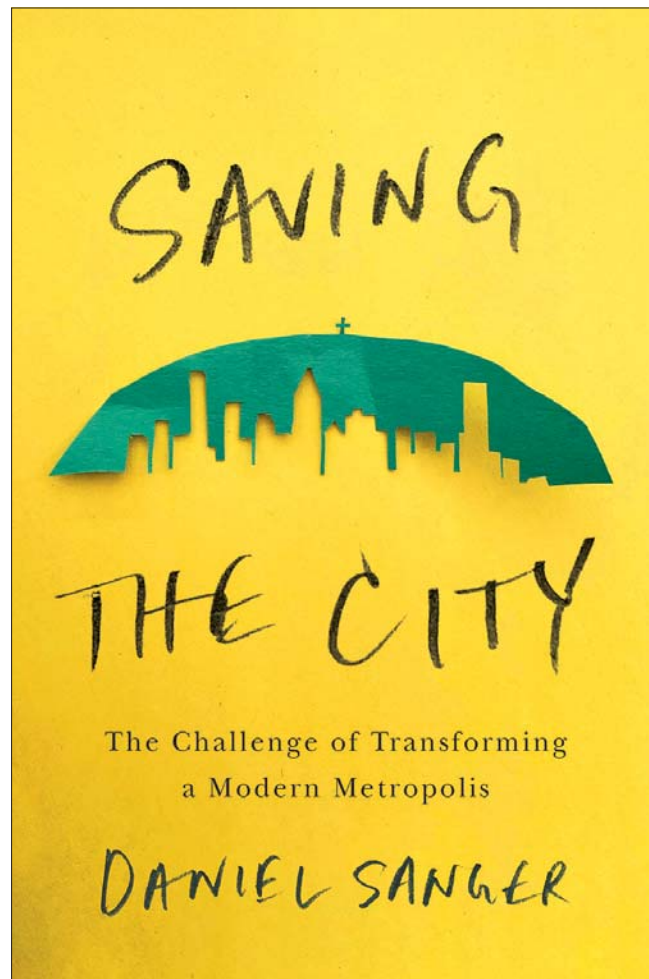
POLITICS • SEPTEMBER 2021

ISBN: 978-1-55065-580-3 • \$22.95 CDN • \$17.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5½ × 8½ • 300 PP

EPUB: 978-1-55065-588-9 • \$14.99

The rise to power of one of Canada's most progressive municipal movements in recent memory.

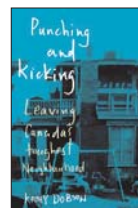


Recommended Non-Fiction



A Place in Mind: Designing Cities for the 21st Century
Avi Friedman

ISBN:978-1-55065-452-3
\$19.95 CDN
5 X 7 • 224PP
EPUB AVAILABLE



Punching and Kicking: Leaving Canada's Toughest Neighbourhood
Kathy Dobson

ISBN: 978-1-55065-500-1
\$24.95 CDN • \$19.95 US
5½ × 8½ • 240 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE

ANTONYMS FOR DAUGHTER

Jenny Boychuk

Antonyms for Daughter, Jenny Boychuk's poetry debut, addresses a harrowing subject: the loss of the poet's mother to addiction. Deploying a range of forms and techniques astonishing in a first collection, Boychuk creates unsparing scenes of their complicated life together. Poem after poem attempts to wring clarity from memories ripe with trauma and love, as Boychuk questions whether it is possible for a child to ever extricate herself from an abusive parent—to become, as it were, a living “antonym” of a painful family legacy. A booklength loss-lyric of vivid beauty, *Antonyms for Daughter* is a singular example of grief transformed into art.



Jenny Boychuk's poems and essays have appeared in *The Walrus*, *The Malahat Review*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Grain*, *The New Quarterly*, *PRISM international*, among other publications. In 2018, she won the Copper Nickel Editors' Prize in Poetry. She is also the winner of the 2019 CBC Nonfiction Prize. She holds an MFA from the University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers' Program and lives in Victoria, British Columbia.

“Mother, when you were alive / your words undressed me.’ Scathing in their honesty, beautiful in their lyricism, the poems in *Antonyms for Daughter* undressed me and chilled my skin in the way only poetry can do. There’s a feeling of necessity and rightness in every line, the poet daughter driven to confront what her mother bestowed, what she left and what she took away. I haven’t read poems as powerful and exquisite in a long time. This is a book to celebrate.” — Lorna Crozier

POETRY • SEPTEMBER 2021

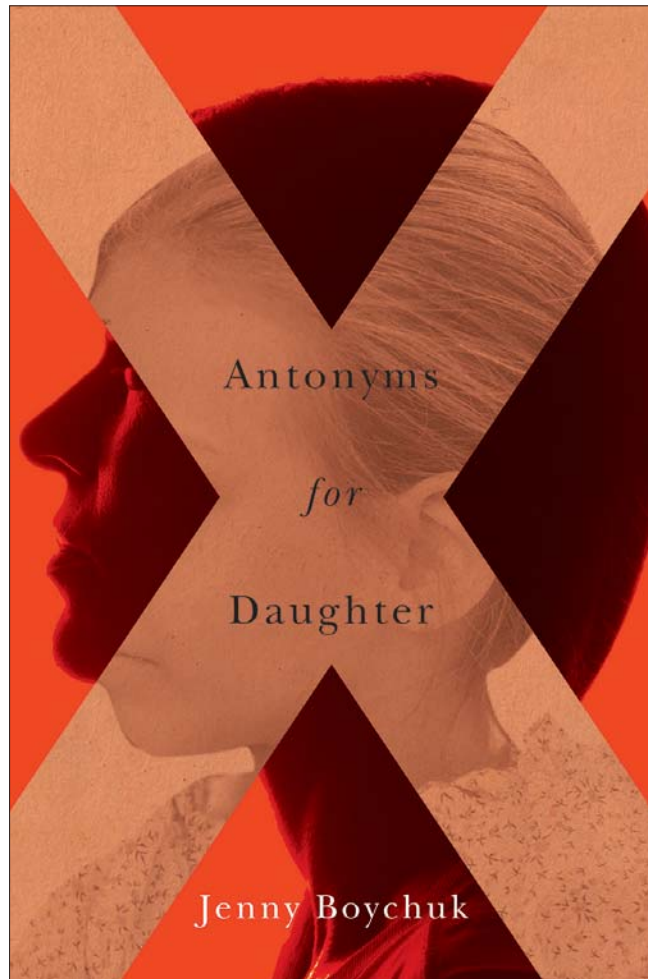
ISBN: 978-1-55065-581-0 • \$17.95 CDN • \$14.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 X 7 ½ • 75 PP

EPUB: 978-1-55065-589-6 • \$10.99

Advance reading copies • Review copy mailing • Web advertising • Online promotions • Virtual launch

**Harrowing poems about
the loss of the poet's mother to addiction.**



Recommended Poetry



The Outer Wards
Sadiqa de Meijer

ISBN: 978-1-55065-545-2
\$17.95 CDN • \$14.95 US
5 x 7 ½ • 84PP
EPUB AVAILABLE



The Suicide's Son
James Arthur

ISBN: 978-1-55065-522-3
\$17.95 CDN • \$14.95 US
5 x 7 ½ • 90PP
EPUB AVAILABLE

HALLELUJAH TIME

Virginia Konchan

Hallelujah Time, Virginia Konchan's third full-length poetry collection—and the first to appear in Canada—delivers up poetry unlike anything being written today. Specializing in fast-moving monologues that track the vagaries and divagations of a mind in action, Konchan cuts our most hallowed cultural institutions and constructions down to size. She bravely confronts the contemporary need to constantly adjust our masks to appease impossible standards, and our desperate fear of having our true selves be seen and understood. *Hallelujah Time* embraces a dazzling mix of idioms, registers, and tones in poems that compress everything they know into aphoristic, hard-boiled insights as arresting as they are witty, theatrical as they are sincere. “My human desire,” Konchan writes, “is simple: / to live on the perpetual cusp / of extremity.”



Virginia Konchan is the author of two poetry collections, *The End of Spectacle* (2018) and *Any God Will Do* (2020), as well as a collection of short stories, *Anatomical Gift* (2017). Her poems and essays have appeared widely throughout the U.S. and Canada, including in *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *The Believer*, and *Boston Review*. A former Montrealer, she now lives in Halifax.

“Urgent, whip-smart—each poem opens like shaken champagne.” — John Emil Vincent

“Konchan’s audacious, sophisticated, and valiant poems... are a revelation.” — Catherine Wagner

POETRY • SEPTEMBER 2021

ISBN: 978-1-55065-582-7 • \$ 17.95 CDN

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 X 7 ½ • 110 PP

EPUB: 978-1-55065-590-2 • \$10.99

Advance reading copies • Review copy mailing • Web advertising • Online promotions • Virtual launch

Fast-moving monologues that track the
divagations of a mind in action.



Recommended Poetry



Siren
Kateri Lanthier

ISBN: 978-1-55065-466-0
\$17.95 CDN • \$14.95 US
8.5 X 5.5 • 80 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE



Table Manners
Catriona Wright

ISBN: 978-1-55065-467-7
\$17.95 CDN • \$14.95 US
8.5 X 5.5 • 88 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE

WORDS ARE THE WORST: *SELECTED POEMS*

Erik Lindner

Translated from the Dutch by Francis R. Jones

Born in 1968 in The Hague, Erik Lindner is one of the Netherlands's most acclaimed poets. Admired for a style that fuses simplicity with strangeness, Lindner builds his poems through a montage of descriptive images that, by fending off closure, generate extraordinary visionary power. Gathering together new work with a selection from his previous six collections, *Words are the Worst* offers a range of pleasures that have made him celebrated in his home country: an austere eloquence; a hard, unsparing precision; a restless and idiosyncratic eye. Best of all is how his intensely filmic observations transform haunted landscapes of windmills, birds, dogs and houseboats on canals into, as one critic put it, "Lindner-like" moments. Brilliantly translated by Francis R. Jones, with an introduction by Canadian poet David O'Meara, *Words are the Worst* introduces a leading Dutch voice to English readers.

"With a cinematic eye, Erik Lindner tracks the traces of human activity. The poems in *Words are the Worst*, awash in reflections and flotsam, illuminated by sea air, tease out meaning and motive from the everyday. Fleeting pleasures—a picnic, juicy apple, train ride, stride into the surf—dissolve in a moment. We are left with a plaintive, searching song in which the simplest actions become enigmatic." — Kateri Lanthier



Erik Lindner is a Dutch poet, writer, and critic. His first book of poetry, *Tramontane*, appeared in 1996. Five more collections followed, including two novels. His work has been translated into French, German and Italian. *Words are the Worst* is his first volume of poetry in English.



Francis R. Jones translates poetry from Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Hungarian, Russian and Dutch. He is Professor of Translation Studies at Newcastle University.

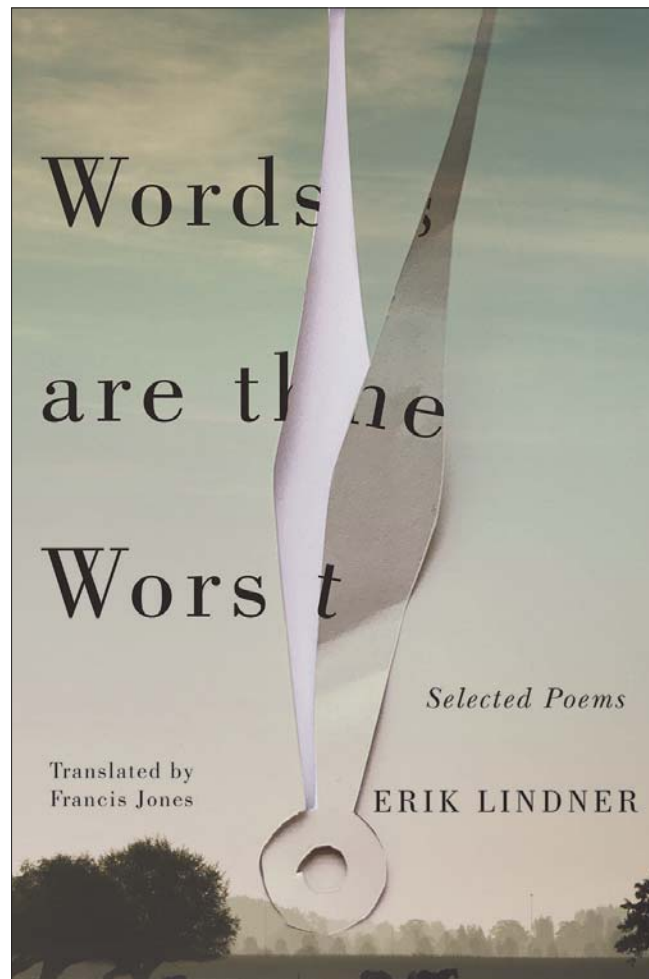
POETRY • SEPTEMBER 2021

ISBN: 978-1-55065-583-4 • \$17.95 CDN • \$14.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 X 7 1/2 • 96 PP

EPUB: 978-1-55065-591-9 • \$10.99

Available for the first time in English, poems of extraordinary visionary power from a leading Dutch poet.



Recommended Poetry



Afterwords
Geoffrey Cook

ISBN: 978-1-55065-508-7
\$17.95 CDN • \$14.95 US
8.5 X 5.5 • 72 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE



No Grave For This Place
Judy Quinn
tran. Donald Winkler

ISBN: 978-1-55065-556-8
\$17.95 CDN • \$14.95 US
5 X 7 1/2 • 86 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE

PERILOUS PASSAGE

Arthur Mayse

Introduction by Susan Mayse

A semi-conscious man looks about a boat's cabin as a woman presses a wet cloth to his forehead. She's young, her nails are short, and her small hands are calloused. When another man tries to enter, she grabs a gun: "If you come down here, Joe, I'll shoot you."

So begins the story of Clint, a reform school runaway, and Devvy, an orphaned farm girl saddled with a deceitful drunk of a stepmother. Clint and Devvy are pushed together as they struggle against the corrupt, criminal, violent adults trying to exert control over their lives, *Perilous Passage* first appeared in 1949 as a serial in *The Saturday Evening Post*. It has since been published in hardcover, paperback, and in Swedish translation. Our Ricochet Books edition marks the first new edition since 1952.

"A rousing tale about drug-running on the British Columbia coast. It is fast-moving, full of plot and surprises, including a nice assortment of incidental murders." —*The Globe & Mail*



Born in 1912, **Arthur Mayse** sold his first story at age twelve. He edited fiction for *Maclean's*, before leaving to focus on his own short stories; more than three-dozen appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post* alone. His other novels include *Morgan's Mountain* (1960) and *Hardliner's Island* (1990). Mayse died in 1992.



Susan Mayse is the author of the novels *Merlin's Web* and *Awen*. She is the daughter of Arthur Mayse.

NOIR CRIME • SEPTEMBER 2021

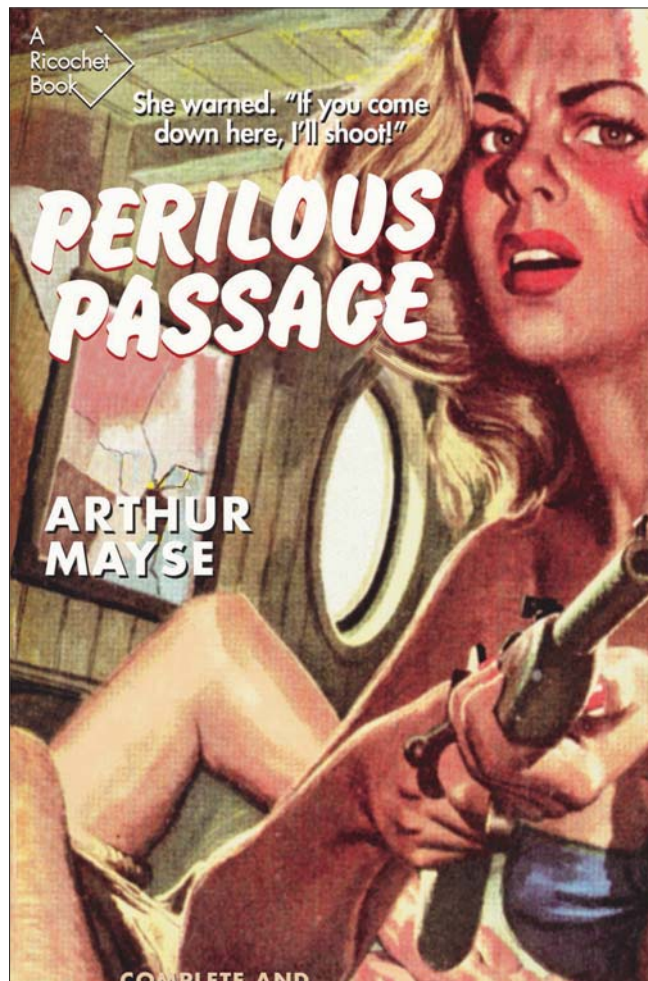
ISBN: 978-1-55065-584-1 • \$14.95 CDN • \$11.95 US

TRADE PAPER • 4 1/4 X 7 • 220 PAGES

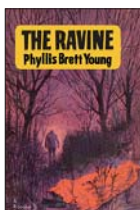
EPUB: 978-1-55065-592-6 • \$8.99

Advance reading copies • Review copy mailing • Web advertising • Online promotions • Virtual launch

A mystery adventure starring a reform school runaway and an orphaned farm girl.

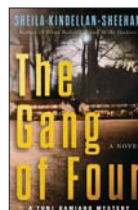


Recommended Mysteries



The Ravine
Phyllis Brett Young

ISBN: 978-1-55065-544-5
\$14.95 CDN • \$11.95 US
4 ¼ x 7 • 240 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE



The Gang of Four
Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan

ISBN: 978-1-55065-534-6
\$19.95 CDN • \$15.95 US
5 ½ x 8 ½ • 240 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE

DOMINOES AT THE CROSSROADS

Kaie Kellough

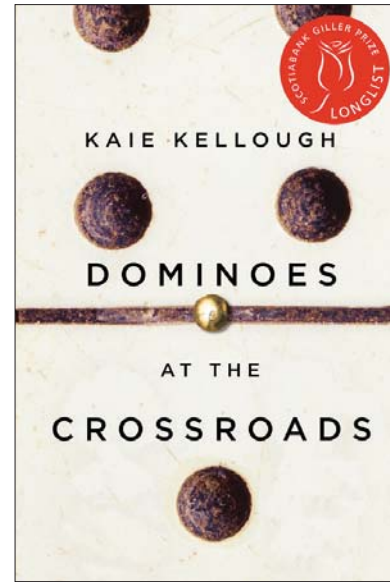
In this collection of stories, Kaie Kellough's characters navigate race, history, and coming-of-age by way of their confessions and dreams. Through the eyes of jazz musicians, hitchhikers, quiet suburbanites, student radicals, secret agents, historians, and their fugitive slave ancestors, Kellough allows the force of imagination to tip the balance of time like a line of dominoes.

Winner, 2020 QWF Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction

Finalist, 2020 Grand prix du livre de Montréal

Longlist, 2020 Scotiabank Giller Prize

Shortlist, 2020 Danuta Gleed Literary Award



"Dominoes at the Crossroads articulates how Black history is not marginal to Canada's story, but central to it—encoded in its history, and therefore its future too." — Jade Colbert, *The Globe and Mail*

"The sheer torque of *Dominoes at the Crossroads* is a testament to Kellough's willingness to dwell in the hurricane. The result is an urgent and inimitable collection that honours the rebels in the diaspora." — Shazia Hafiz Ramji, *Quill & Quire*

STORIES • ESPLANADE FICTION

ISBN: 978-1-55065-531-5 • \$19.95 CDN • \$15.95 US

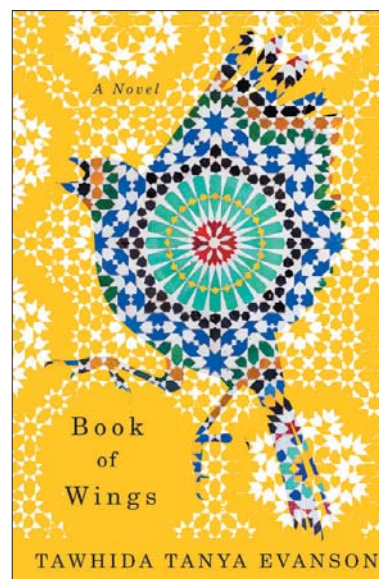
TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 × 7½ • 224 PP

EPUB: 978-1-55065-536-0 • \$19.95 CDN

BOOK OF WINGS

Tawhida Tanya Evanson

In this sweeping, allusive novel, the celebrated poet, dervish, and oral storyteller Tawhida Tanya Evanson comes to terms with what it means to stand on one's own two feet in an uncertain world. The acclaimed Antiguan-Canadian artist traces a global journey from Vancouver to the United States, Caribbean, Paris, and Morocco. As a relationship with her lover and travel partner disintegrates, she finds herself on a path toward personal discovery and spiritual fulfillment that leads her deep into the North African landscape.



“Written in hyper-lucid vignettes only a poet of the highest order could master... *Book of Wings* is more than a novel—it is a catalogue of revelation and redemption, surrender and solitude, a companion for those who choose to confront their own broken hearts.”

— Sheniz Janmohamed, *Quill & Quire*

“Tawhida Tanya Evanson’s *Book of Wings* is a beautifully compelling tale of grief.” — *cathius*

“Tanya Evanson is one of Canada’s best-kept secrets.”

— *carte blanche*

NOVEL • ESPLANADE FICTION
 ISBN: 978-1-55065-564-3 • \$19.95 CDN • \$17.95 US
 TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 × 7½ • 180 PP
 EPUB: 978-1-55065-570-4 • \$12.99

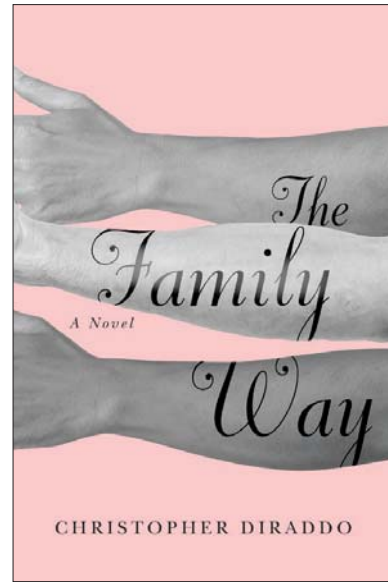
THE FAMILY WAY

Christopher DiRaddo

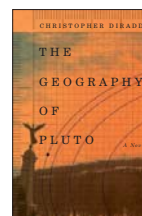
The year Paul turns forty, his friends Wendy and Eve ask him to help them get pregnant. Nothing about the process feels natural to him. But for a gay man of a certain age, making a family still means finding your own way through a world with few ready answers. The eighteen month journey reveals many insights about Paul's past and present, from his strained relationship to his father, his overprotective relationship with his partner Michael, and the many friends around him whom he considers his family.

"*The Family Way* is a love letter to families, chosen and otherwise, and an engagingly bittersweet tale of the city of Montreal." — Ann-Marie MacDonald

"Tender, affectionate and sexy, *The Family Way* is an astute chronicle of modern queer life at middle age. With sharp-eyed observations on love, loss, sex and friendship, Christopher DiRaddo has crafted a timely tale about creating families that can fit us all." — Rachel Giese



Also by Christopher
DiRaddo



The Geography of Pluto

ISBN: 978-1-55065-568-1
\$19.95 CDN • \$17.95 US
5 × 7½ • 288 PP
EPUB AVAILABLE

NOVEL • ESPLANADE FICTION

ISBN: 978-1-55065-565-0 • \$22.95 CDN • \$17.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 × 7½ • 400 PP

EPUB: 978-1-55065-571-1 • \$14.99

NECTARINE

Chad Campbell

Memory—how it retrieves and replenishes us—is at the heart of *Nectarine*, Chad Campbell's visionary second collection. Figures, cities, and landscapes from the author's life shift in and out of these dreamlike poems that explore the "unaccountable, uncountable" ways in which our past keeps speaking to us: through objects, through paintings, through colours, and through the spectre of experiences that gather in things like "the weight of night in a chandelier." Subtle, unsettling, compressed, and full of incandescent language, *Nectarine* is about lost things, moments that persist despite their passing, and traces preserved in time like "a glass of frozen nectarine halves / on a table made of ice."



"A poem, a really good poem, can capture a mood and fix it in time, the way a painter traps light in pigment and breathes life into images. 'They say one brushstroke changes the composition.' The poems in *Nectarine* behave that way: a kind of amber in which the aches and satisfactions of living are preserved like wasps, ever stinging, never stinging, frozen somewhere between happening and happened." — D.A. Powell

Praise for *Laws & Locks*:

"Imagine an image hitting the eye with rapid-fire description, as if it were projected through a television that allowed the viewer to delight in the flicker of each frame. This is the technique Campbell favours." — Jim Johnstone, *Carousel*

Also by Chad Campbell



Laws & Locks

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Medrie Purdham

Medrie Purdham's *Little Housewolf* delves deeply into the world of domestic miniatures, a realm where thimbles, baby teeth, push pins, keyholes, teacups, and wedding rings become meticulously realized scale models of one's terrors and joys. Purdham uses the fine-grained signatures of her poetry—close observation, exact detail, precise sounds—not only to examine childhood and its fascination with size and scale, but also to measure herself against the larger, untamed landscapes she feels increasingly alienated from (“It is all anachronism, / grasses vintage wild”). Marked by bold emotion and arresting imagery, *Little Housewolf* is a brilliant debut.



“To praise *Little Housewolf* as being the work of a nimble and intricately accomplished poet is accurate enough. But the observation doesn’t contain the unpredictable jubilation of Medrie Purdham’s debut. Reading her poetry is like watching time-lapsed photography, except that, instead of a seed magically becoming a flower, a thimble, devising its own ‘bucket list,’ desires not only to ‘cap the digit of a falconer’s glove,’ but also ‘to jamb the torturer’s tongue like a stone in the beak.’ Listen, you can almost overhear the individual words murmuring their surprise and, indeed, gratitude at suddenly finding themselves appearing on the page together.”

— Michael Trussler

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A GUIDE TO MAKING CONSISTENTLY GREAT WINES

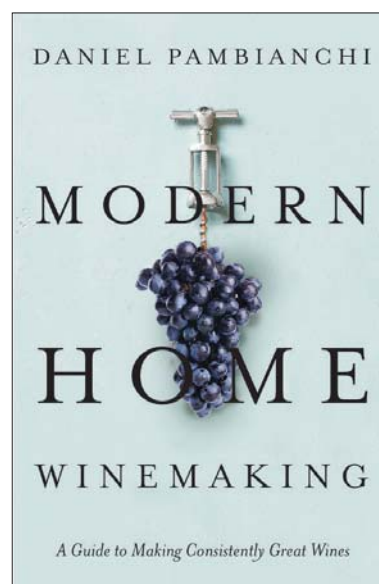
Daniel Pambianchi

Modern Home Winemaking describes the process of making flawless wine, consistently, from crush to bottle, using modern techniques and the latest products. Making wine is not only about fermenting juice; this book details the many other processes involved in making outstanding wine—wines good enough to win medals at competitions.

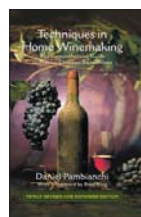
“Daniel Pambianchi’s hand-on approach demystifies wine and makes it accessible to the neophyte as well as the seasoned enthusiast.” — Tony Aspler, wine writer and educator

“Daniel has been able to capture the true essence in the art and science of wine-making in a way that can be understood by the consumer and vintner alike.” — Donald J.P Ziraldo, LLD, CM, co-founder of Inniskillin Wines Inc.

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Also by Daniel Pambianchi



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MONTREAL: A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY

Like most news organizations, the *Montreal Gazette* maintains digital archives of its journalism. But for most of the 20th century, we kept "hard copies" of our clippings and photographs, as well as microfilm and microfiche, stored in row upon row of filing cabinets in the newspaper library.

When the Gazette was preparing to change locales in summer 2019, we faced the daunting task of trying to figure out what would make the move with us and what would be relegated to the dumpsters of history. It quickly became clear that newspaper clippings could be found elsewhere in digital archives. But not all of the photographs in our filing cabinets were in those digitized newspapers.

The quality and resonance of those images was the inspiration for *History Through Our Eyes*, a year-long celebration of the work of Montreal's photojournalists that was originally published in the Gazette in 2019.

Some of the photographs capture events central to the history of our city and our province. The devastating Laurier Palace Fire, the October Crisis, two Quebec referendums—all of those milestones are part of this collection. But so are glimpses of the way we lived, from dormitory life in the 1940s to the Boxing Day lineup at Sam the Record Man on Ste-Catherine Street. And so are photos that remind us that when women first became lawyers or legislators, that was news.

We hope the collection serves as an appreciation of all the photographers over the years who have slogged through terrible weather, sometimes hostile crowds and other challenging circumstances to capture what is happening around us. But it is also a tribute to the readers who have shared their lives with us and our journalistic predecessors since the *Montreal Gazette* was founded in 1778. It is a great pleasure to see that relationship celebrated yet again in this volume.

Lucinda Chodan

Montreal Gazette, editor in chief



History Through Our Eyes

Edie Austin and Lucinda Chodan

ISBN: 978-1-55065-554-4

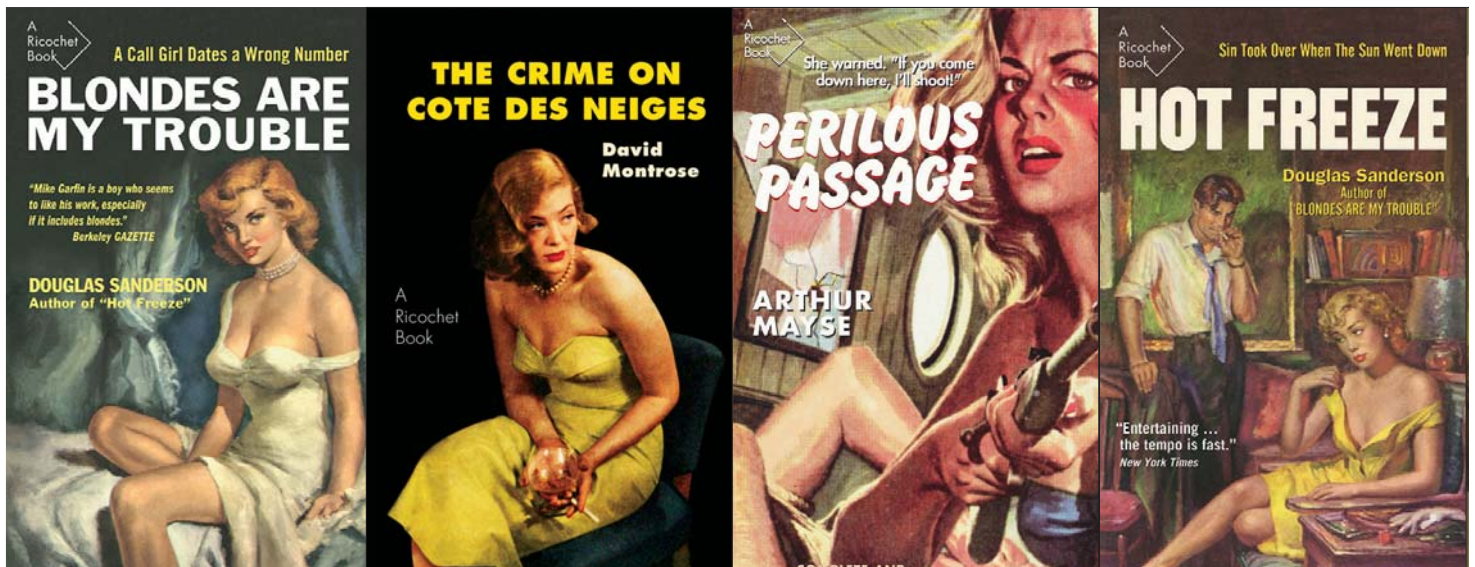
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12 X 9 • 200 PP



Top: October 27, 1995, Unity Rally for Canada.

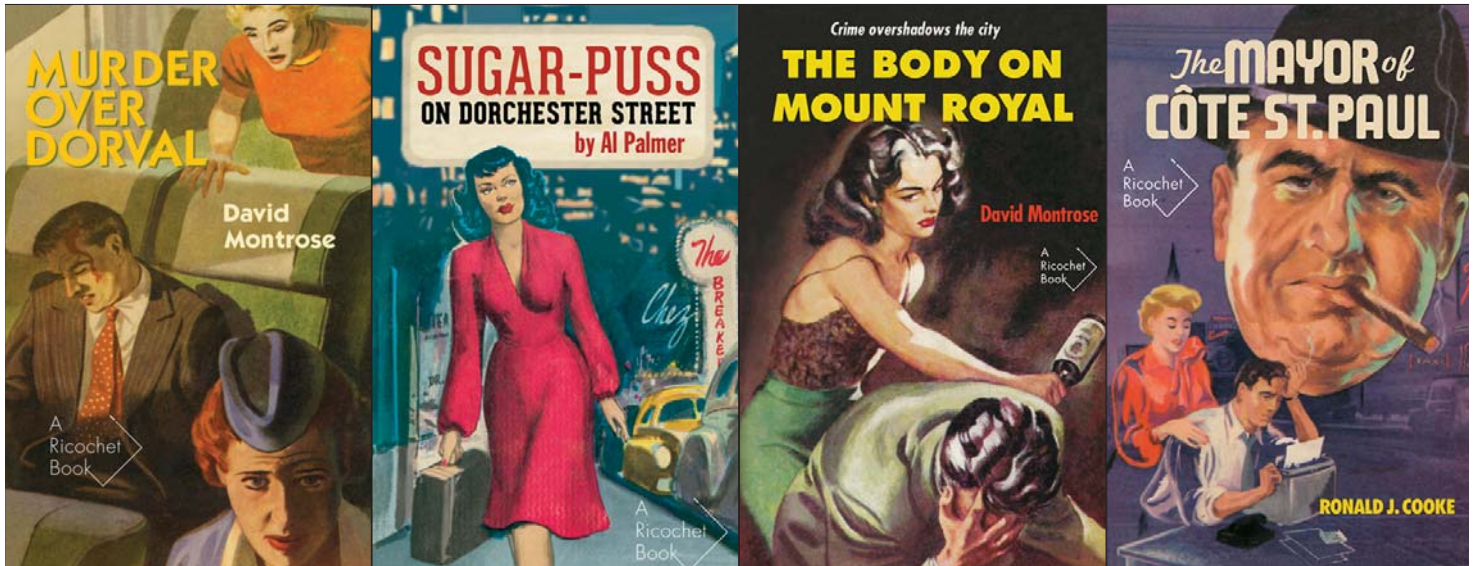
Left to right: January 22, 1978, mob boss Paolo Violi's funeral; May 11, 1938, a fascist rally in Verdun; October 15, 1970, troops roll into Montreal during the October Crisis; October 3, 1980, William Shatner; September 10, 1970, bank robbery tunnel; July 11, 1990, the Oka Crisis begins.



THE QUEST FOR CANADIAN NOIR: RICOCHET BOOKS

Canadian pulp novels of the 40s and 50s have always fascinated me, and in the mid-1970s I would collect them regardless of condition. I was aided and abetted by publishing partner Guy Lavoie, particularly after he became the manager of Cheap Thrills, a Montreal seller of used books and records. As a Montrealer, how could I not be attracted by such titles as *The Crime on Cote des Neiges*, *Murder Over Dorval*, and *The Body on Mount Royal* (all by the elusive David Montrose)? Although there were a few exceptions, most were set in Montreal. Their gritty, fast-paced plots which referenced streets and places we still recognize today, reflected a time when Montreal was Canada's entertainment capital—a wide-open city of clubs, theatres, and relaxed liquor laws.

I wanted to bring these forgotten authors back into print but found the racism and sexism in the earliest books to be disturbing. The idea was shelved for many years until I met literary historian Brian Busby whose books and blog, *The Dusty Bookcase*, champion neglected Canadian writers. He



suggested that an introductory essay would provide history and context. This was the turning point and the Ricochet series was launched in 2010 with Brian as editor. Even with sixteen titles under our belt (with new typesetting and the original cover artwork), it's still an adventure tracking down a single existing copy of a book, and searching for rights holders (if not in public domain). More than half are set in Montreal, but there is also Niagara Falls and Toronto, and we now have a West Coast title, Arthur Mayse's *Perilous Passage*. In a male-dominated genre it is gratifying to have in the series the novels *The Keys of My Prison* and *I Am Not Guilty* by Frances Shelley Wees, and *The Ravine* by Phyllis Brett Young.

In the 40s, 50s, and early 60s many of these titles were only available on drugstore or newsstand wire racks. Their shelf life was ephemeral, and their presence in libraries across the country, or at Library and Archives Canada, was spotty at best. As publishers we were in the unique position to reclaim these novels. Our quest for Canadian noir continues.

Simon Dardick
Véhicule Press, co-publisher



A HUMBLE IMMORTALITY

Shortlisted for the 2021 Derek Walcott Poetry Prize, *Lost Family: A Memoir* is a book of sonnets that centres around the deaths of John Barton's parents and sister, but also tracks much of the poet's early life in Alberta through to a complicated, restless adulthood. Alongside accounts of love, friends and heroes, intolerance, AIDS, and the struggle for equality, Barton's collection of poems—his first in six years—explores how being queer rewrites and expands society's sense of lineage, both given and chosen.

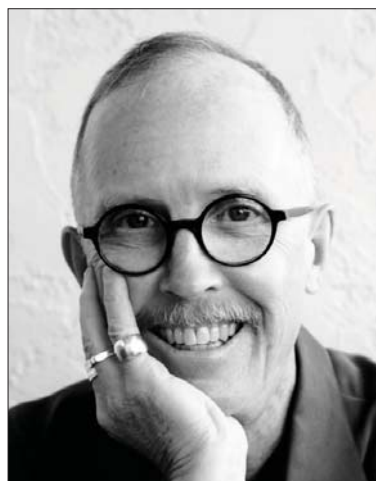
In this excerpt from an interview with Robin Dyke, conducted for the 2020 Victoria Festival of Authors, Barton discusses the sonnet form and its relationship to his new collection.

RD: What is it about the sonnet that captivates you?

JB: Dante's description of the sonnet is "little song." I love that about the sonnet, that you can take something ephemeral and turn it into something, into a poem about my mother cutting apples ("Malus Pumila") or about waking up to a singing box in my bedroom, a phenomenon that turned out to be a canary singing inside a cloth-covered cage ("Fourth Birthday"). The most fleeting things can be fit into a sonnet and gain heft. To me, that's what is so beautiful about the form.

RD: A workshop with Molly Peacock in March 2016 was a formative moment in your appreciation and use of the sonnet, a catalyzing hook for you —

JB: Molly gave me the push I needed to explore the cross-over between poetry and creative nonfiction and I decided to appropriate the sonnet to do so. What Molly made me



Born in Edmonton and raised in Calgary, **John Barton** has won three Archibald Lampman Awards, an Ottawa Book Award, a CBC Literary Award, and a National Magazine Award. He currently lives in Victoria, British Columbia, where he is the city's fifth, first male and first queer poet laureate.



**Lost Family:
A Memoir**

ISBN: 978-1-55065-555-1
7.5 X 5 • 176 PP
CDN \$17.95 • US \$14.95
EPUB AVAILABLE

THREE AMAZING THINGS I SAW ON THURSDAY

*“Life remains a blessing
Although you cannot bless.”*
—W. H. Auden

While I was out walking late one evening

Toward the Salish Sea beneath dusk-stained
Chestnuts, the lanterns’ budding flames sustained

By rain-rinsed air, the calm unplumbed meaning

Behind the peacocks’ crazed, sitar-sharp cries
Unscored, I stopped to watch a freshly horned

Stag twist blossoms off bent-low and forlorn
Boughs of cherry, his soft lips grimaced wide

The tide laid flat on the bias as blue

Milky linen to the shore where I next
Stood, waves rucked against the dimness stars shed

A single dangling thread of mist slipped through
A gap in the Sooke Hills until the last

Of tangential day is, by crispness, spread.

realize is that I could write a sonnet quickly, at one sitting, and have something worth working with later on. I thought, “Okay, this is a perfect form for me.” This was an amazing realization, one that arrived at the right moment. I saw that I could fit writing a draft of a sonnet into my busy life, I could apply all the skills I’ve developed thus far and push them further through this form. The sonnet provided me with all the challenge that I wanted and to keep writing them gave my writing practice both shape and continuity. The game of the sonnet asked me to cram everything I wanted to say

into fourteen lines.

RD: I felt an optimistic tone throughout your book, had a sense you thought you were progressing in the right direction with your *Lost Family* —

JB: I think it comes down to observation, how you approach the world. If you approach it with wonder then you are a citizen of that world. That’s why I end the second-last chapter of the book with “Three Amazing Things on Thursday,” which captures the awe that the natural world, even in its depleted state, can still inspire.

I hope the joys of the language are clear in my work. To me a poem becomes alive when you can sense, even unconsciously, the pleasure the writer experienced in its composition. I think that’s where immortality lies. As a poet you’re downloading your assets—your being—into the words; they will survive long after you are no more. What you leave behind may be a humble immortality, even an ignored immortality. I don’t think immortality has anything to do with fame, it’s what you pass on. Poetry expedites that.

EDITORIAL

Véhicule Press

P.O.B. 42094 BP ROY
Montreal, QC H2W 2T3
514.844.6073
www.vehiculepress.com

PUBLISHERS: Simon Dardick and Nancy Marrelli
sd@vehiculepress.com

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER & POETRY EDITOR: Carmine Starnino

MARKETING & EVENTS: Jennifer Varkonyi
jvarkonyi@vehiculepress.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Patrick Goddard
admin@vehiculepress.com

FICTION EDITOR: Dimitri Nasrallah

EXAMINATION AND REVIEW COPIES

Email requests to jvarkonyi@vehiculepress.com.

ORDERS – CANADA

LitDistCo

8300 Lawson Road, Milton, Ontario L9T 0A4
800.591.6250 FAX 800.591.6251
Other enquiries:
905.877.4411 FAX 905.877.4410
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Quebec & Atlantic Provinces

Jacques Filippi
1.855.626.3222 ext. 244 | jfilippi@mandagroup.com

Ontario

Ryan Muscat
416.516.0911 ext. 230 | rmuscat@mandagroup.com

David Nadalin

416.516.0911 ext. 400 | dnadalin@mandagroup.com

Alberta, Manitoba & Saskatchewan

Jean Cichon
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British Columbia, Yukon, Northern Territories

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"I'm afraid of other people. Other people are strange to me. I don't know how to make friends. I never take the first step. I don't remember a time when I was capable of taking the first step."

— Alexie Morin, *Open Your Heart*



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