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Spring
Catalogue
2022



Adult Fiction

PRAIRIE GOTHIC THRILLER

APPARITIONS

BY: ADAM POTTLE

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: ALL

Drafted at 70K words, APPARITIONS by award-winning Deaf author Adam Pottle is a chilling twist on the prairie Gothic thriller, inspired by true stories, that excavates the dark recent history and complex beauty of Deafness and disability.

In 1970s Saskatchewan, a young boy who is born Deaf is taken from his mother's house and imprisoned in a sparse room in his father's basement. He spends the next several years locked in that room, coming out only to entertain his father and his friends. As he watches their lips move, their words form haunting ghosts on the air. During a bloody raid on his father's house, the boy, now a teenager, escapes and roams the prairies, searching for food, water, shelter. He is eventually found and hospitalized, then committed to a rural psychiatric facility.

In the institution, he meets another Deaf young man, Felix. Felix is cunning, pious, ambitious, resentful of his family, and tuned into the horrors of the world. Felix is the first person to teach his nameless friend how to communicate using his hands. It soon becomes clear that the bond between Felix and the narrator is fierce and complicated, and the ghosts of the past continue to claw at the narrator. When Felix asks for help committing an atrocious crime, the story reaches a horrifying zenith.

A claustrophobic thriller for fans of Sarah Pearse's NYT bestseller THE SANATORIUM, perfect for fans of Netflix's The Haunting of Hill House, APPARITIONS imports the conventions of Gothic storytelling and subverts tropes to confront the horrors of ableism. Pottle is a fresh voice in the landscape of prairie storytelling, where the setting is a sparse and foreboding terrain loaded with beauty, violence, and terror.



MEET THE AUTHOR:

ADAM POTTLE

Adam Pottle is a Deaf author whose work has challenged and expanded the way Disabled people are portrayed on the page. His books include the 2019 memoir *VOICE*; the 2016 novella *THE BUS*, which won the Ken Klonsky Prize; and the 2013 novel *MANTIS DREAMS*, which won the 2014 Saskatoon Book Award. His short story "The Rottweiler" was shortlisted for a National Magazine Award, while his acclaimed play *The Black Drum* is the world's first all-Deaf musical and will be published in paperback in 2024. He has written several magazine pieces focusing on Deafness, Disability, and horror and has taught horror, creative writing, and English literature at several universities. His unproduced horror film script *People of Merrit* has won several festival awards, including prizes at the Crimson Screen Festival and the Nightmares Film Festival. He is the 2021/22 writer in residence at Sheridan College. He lives in Saskatoon.



ROMCOM

LET'S GET QUIZZICAL

BY: KELLY OHLERT

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE:
ALL**

Currently drafted at 70K words, LET'S GET QUIZZICAL by author Kelly Ohlert is a dual POV, second-chance adult romantic comedy for her existing readership, and any of the 11 million viewers who rooted for Amy Schneider during her 40-game winning streak on Jeopardy! in January 2022.

Family-focused Charlotte has always loved game shows, and she's finally gotten the call she's always wanted – an invitation to compete on her favourite program. The timing couldn't be better, because the prize money at stake could help her get the best care for her elderly Gran. Meanwhile, the call also comes in for Eli, and not a moment too soon. He and his father are struggling to balance multiple jobs, college courses, and the constant temptation to stray from the straight and narrow. All Eli wants is a chance at stability for him and his dad.

When they end up paired on a team together on set, little do the casting assistants know that Charlotte and Eli dated as teens and went through a terrible breakup. Between trivia questions, sparks fly and old grudges are aired. The two get caught up in the intensity of the show, and their bickering quickly turns into a tension relieving hand squeeze captured on camera. Eat your hearts out, viewers.

Things quickly get complicated when the show's producer, Clint, sees the far from trivial viewership the duo are bringing in. Wanting to keep those ratings high, he proposes giving them the answers beforehand—something they all well know to be illegal. With the wellbeing of their families at stake, a second chance at happiness on the line, and a live national audience watching their every moves... Charlotte and Eli have important decisions to make.

The Game Show Network (GSN), is currently available to nearly 75 million households in America, primarily through traditional cable and satellite services. Unlike the network cable industry's average at large, GSN hasn't experienced a loss in viewership in recent years. The first half of the year 2020 sparked a ratings resurgence at the network, following its impressive acquisition of 14 million new subscribers in 2019. A list of 2020 Nielsen ratings published by Variety indicated that Game Show Network averaged 432,000 viewers in prime time, up 6% from the 2019 average.

LET'S GET QUIZZICAL is the perfect next read for fans of the second-chance romance in Helena Hunting's MEET CUTE, or who enjoyed the competition television plotlines in THE DATING GAME by Sandy Barker and CHARM OFFENSIVE by Alison Cochrun.



MEET THE AUTHOR: KELLY OHLERT

Kelly Ohlert is an adult fiction author, with a focus on romantic comedy. Her debut novel, *To Get To The Other Side*, comes out December 6, 2022 with Alcove Press. She loves books about... well, love! Since laughter is the best medicine, she's only doing her civic duty to heal human souls by incorporating humor as well. She's a lifelong avid reader of all genres, and as a busy mom has an enthusiastic appreciation for audio books and multi-tasking.

Kelly grew up in the Chicago area, but moved to attend Western Michigan University. She stuck around Michigan, hopping from city to city. Her meet cute involved "borrowing" that hot guy's baseball cap, and it's been love ever since. She, her husband(the aforementioned ball cap owner), and their two young daughters reside in the Lansing area, with their menagerie of six fur babies.



LITERARY FICTION

THE BAND

BY: CHRISTINE MA-KELLAMS

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: ALL

Inspired by viral Kpop phenomenon BTS, THE BAND is Christine Ma's debut novel, drafted at 58K words. In its indicting portrayal of mental health and public obsession, fandom and cancel culture, THE BAND considers how tribal allegiances based on ethnicity or history can disrupt modern-day celebrity and the many ways in which love devolves into something far more sinister when its demands are unmet.

Sang Duri is the eldest member and "visual" of a Korean boy band at the apex of global dominion. Korean pop music has become a worldwide sensation, and for the idols, public image is everything. When Duri launches a solo single that ruffles the political feathers of three East Asian superpowers – Korea, Japan, and China – he suddenly finds himself cancelled by his group's notorious fandom, known as much for their commitment as their obsession. To spare the band from the fallout and cope with his increasing anxiety, Duri absconds from the public eye by hiding out in the McMansion of a Chinese-American woman he meets in an Angeleno H-Mart. She is unhappily married with children and a practicing psychologist with a savior complex.

In his absence, Duri's music producer, Pinocchio, suddenly finds himself unearthing a series of repressed memories from his earlier years. He finds himself thinking back on the original girl group who he built from scratch to stardom before their tragic disbanding. Until now, Pinocchio had hoped that working with a boy band would keep him and his idols safe. Tortured by his recollections, he begins to realize that he was wrong. Meanwhile, Duri's bandmates aren't able to escape public scrutiny, and a spiral of increasingly violent interactions between his band and the fandom ultimately culminates in a confusing and terrifying attack on an award show that forever alters the fates of the idols themselves, and the nature of the music industry.

THE BAND is the Pulitzer-winning A VISIT FROM THE GOON SQUAD by Jennifer Egan, meets Rachel Cusk's SECOND PLACE, perfect for any reader who felt seen by Michelle Zauner's CRYING IN H-MART.



MEET THE AUTHOR: CHRISTINE MA- KELLAMS

Christine Ma-Kellams is a Harvard-trained cultural psychologist and a Pushcart-nominated writer. She occupies the rare intersection where storytelling meets an empirical understanding of what makes people tick (i.e., fiction writing with a non-fiction hook). She received her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of California. Her fiction has appeared in 27 literary magazines, including *Prairie Schooner*, the *Kenyon Review*, *ZYZZYVA*, the *Rupture/theCollagist*, *Catapult*, and the *Southern Humanities Review*. Her essays have appeared or are forthcoming in the *Rumpus*, *Colorado Review*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Psychology Today*, *Salon*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Huffington Post* and elsewhere. Rowman & Littlefield also published her academic book on *Cultural Psychology: Cross- and Multicultural Perspectives*, which has been adopted in classes across the US and overseas.



LGBTQ2S+ FICTION

LOVE ALWAYS, DUSTY

BY: CHELSEA BARTLETT

RIGHTS AVAILABLE:
ALL

Complete at 87K words, *LOVE ALWAYS, DUSTY* by debut author Chelsea Bartlett is a tender #OwnVoices literary novel. This story plumbs the unique and often messy depths of emotional intimacy experienced by isolated queer people who, too often, lack the language and tools to make sense of their blossoming lives.

The ever-captivating Dusty was the keystone in the intense friendship that began in childhood for her, Jason, and Steve. The lives of the three best friends diverged in adulthood but come crashing back together following Dusty's death. When Jason returns to his hometown in Maine for her funeral, he encounters Steve for the first time in a decade. Despite the time that has passed, Steve remains the reserved and stoic man that Jason remembers, seeming still to be the child for whom his friendships were a refuge.

Jason and Steve discover a series of cryptic messages that Dusty left behind, the chapters alternate between their idyllic past and their heartrending present. In their past, the bonds between Jason, Steve, and Dusty develop from childhood friendship to adolescent stirrings, and ultimately to youthful sexuality, which all culminates in Jason's birthday weekend spent exploring an abandoned house in the woods. Just as Jason begins to believe it might be possible to imagine a future where all three of them can be together, he faces the inciting betrayal which rends them apart.

In the present, Dusty's letters lead Jason and Steve back to that same house in the woods—a place where their recollections are still held within the walls. There, Dusty reveals that she purchased the house before her death, and now she has left it to Jason and Steve. As they work to renovate the house, they consider what to do next, and begin to unpack their tense history in the process. When they discover an extra letter from Dusty hidden in the fireplace of the house, it reveals a secret that threatens not only their precious memories, but also their futures.

LOVE ALWAYS, DUSTY is perfect for the readers of *NORMAL PEOPLE* by Sally Rooney who may have missed the opportunity to see themselves reflected in its pages, or those who teared up watching the 2007 film, *P.S. I LOVE YOU*. It is a book that captures the complexity of our present, full of longing, uncertainty, love, and hope.



MEET THE AUTHOR: CHELSEA D.G. BARTLETT

Chelsea D.G. Bartlett was born and raised in beautiful coastal Maine, which is where she earned her MFA at the Stonecoast Writers' Program. Chelsea's short fiction has previously appeared in such places as Oyster River Pages and The Stonecoast Review. Their story "A Different Kind of Sea" is forthcoming from After Happy Hour Review. When not writing, Chelsea can be found studying art history or playing spooky video games with their partner.



LGBTQ2S+ FICTION

PAINTED

BY: ANTON PROSSER

RIGHTS AVAILABLE:
ALL

Complete at 92K words, *PAINTED* by #OwnVoices author Anton Prosser is a pulpy LGBTQ2S+ suspense novel that gives readers a glimpse behind the curtain into two concealed worlds: the insular culture of fine art, and the elusive coterie of trans and queer communities. Featuring a trans feminine protagonist and diverse representation throughout, *PAINTED* allows readers a unique opportunity to see themselves in a tense, punchy, and compulsively readable story, swimming in nostalgia.

It's New York City in 1986. Despite having an amazing sidekick in her best friend and employer Kim, up and coming indie art gallery manager Christine Williams is 29 years old and feeling adrift. She is attending the opening party for one of the city's biggest stars, a reclusive modern artist named Alex Smith, when she first encounters Kenneth Gordon. He is the powerful and wealthy owner of one of the most successful galleries in New York, and despite lingering insecurities, Christine accepts his dinner invitation.

Their relationship starts like a fairy tale, with fancy dinners and glamorous dates, but Christine soon discovers that lurking underneath Ken's extravagant gestures is a nagging desire for control. In a pre-#MeToo era, Christine struggles to reconcile Ken's occasional cruelty with his exorbitant apologies, charisma, and lavish promises for the future.

Meanwhile, Christine seems unable to extricate herself from the rumours surrounding Ken's most intriguing client, Smith, who has disappeared from public view. When the warehouse where he was living burns down, a frenzy of tabloid speculation begins to take hold. Where is Alex Smith, and who is this blonde bombshell who's always on Ken's arm these days?

Fears are raised about unearthing her best-forgotten past when Christine is approached by a private investigator looking for information about the missing artist, and her anxiety is heightened as she begins to receive creepy phone calls at her apartment and reporters start harassing her at work. She tries to downplay her worries and focus on enjoying her new life as a high-flying art world socialite, but when she discovers Smith's diary at Ken's country home, Christine realizes that there may be more to the connection between her boyfriend and his client's disappearance than she initially wanted to see.

PAINTED is perfect for everyone who re-watched *Sex and the City* in quarantine or got swept away by the world of *Pose*. Readers enthralled by the art world intrigue of *FAKE LIKE ME* by Barbara Bourland or by the allure of *THE HOUSE OF IMPOSSIBLE BEAUTIES* by Joseph Cassara will love sinking into this highly commercial escapist page-turner that author Anton Prosser describes as his love letter to the 80's.



MEET THE AUTHOR: ANTON PROSSER

Anton Prosser is a queer writer born in the Panhandle Plains of Texas. Despite coming from six generations of Texans, he does not own a horse. A child of the 1980s, Anton had unsupervised childhood with unsupervised access to books and MTV. He started writing largely to recreate things he loved with queer characters and experiences that were missing from page and screen.

Anton studied Czech and Russian at the University of Texas. He resides in Austin with his husband, a cat, and two Roombas. He enjoys movies, traveling to see friends, and creating meals to match his writing projects. When not writing, Anton maintains a small rose garden through the unforgiving Texas summers.



ROMCOM

UNFORTUNATELY FAMOUS

BY: JORDAN D'AMICO

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE:
ALL**

UNFORTUNATELY FAMOUS, by debut novelist Jordan D'Amico, is a standalone upmarket romcom, complete at 97K words. An earlier version was a Pitch Wars 2019 selection.

24-year-old publicist-in-training Levi Harlow is free at last. After living the first two decades of his life in secrecy, under the thumb of his rich, famous, and controlling parents, he's desperate to reclaim his identity and independence. He's finally living his best life: building his career, finding friends, and embarking on a real romantic relationship. It's a perfect life on the fringes of celebrity spotlight, just the way that he likes it.

Then, out of nowhere, Levi's Hollywood darling mother, actress Lydia Ainsley, goes on television to dish the dirt, and in the process, she blows Levi's life apart. Unbeknownst to those in his new life, Levi is the illegitimate child that Lydia had in secret with a billionaire English duke: the #HainsleyBaby. Suddenly, Levi's toxic past is everywhere he turns, and he finds himself dodging paparazzi, his controlling father, and ghosts from his past, when all he really wants is to build a life with the man he loves.

Nearly 3 million millennials call New York City home. Fresh, ambitious, coffee cup in hand, they are flocking to neighbourhoods like the financial and garment districts and shaping the city. They are globally adored and reviled, and readers everywhere want a window into their lives. UNFORTUNATELY FAMOUS offers the perfect view.

Fans of Casey McQuiston's 2019 breakout novel RED, WHITE & ROYAL BLUE will relate to the lighthearted voice and heartwarming LGBTQ2S+ romance, and anyone who's ever comfort-watched THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA, based on Lauren Weisberger's NYT bestselling novel, will find themselves instantly endeared to celebrity wrangler Levi Harlow and his quest for a happy ending.

MEET THE AUTHOR: JORDAN D'AMICO

Jordan D'Amico is a Toronto-based writer who is definitely still in his twenties and not almost thirty like his birth certificate would have you believe. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Rights (which is most certainly not human resources like a lot of people think) and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Public Relations (sure, that's like marketing).

He doesn't have a pen name, but if he did it would probably be Stockard Channing Tatum O'Neal. The novel he's currently working on would be a great Netflix series produced by Mindy Kaling.



For Young Readers

PICTURE BOOK

THE FAMILY TREE

BY: ALISON MCGAULEY

RIGHTS AVAILABLE:
ALL

One summer Saturday, Kenzie and her family plant a beautiful, young tree. Kenzie is delighted, and promises to provide it with care – but when fall blows in and brings challenges to her family, Kenzie isn't so sure that she'll be able to keep her promise! As the seasons turn, Kenzie has to adjust to the changes in her world and rethink her promise so that she can enjoy the tree with her family again when spring returns.

THE FAMILY TREE is an identity-inspired picture book that aims to resonate with children who are impacted by chronic illness, like the author's family – and peripherally, also my own! Kenzie's story deals with themes of change and acceptance, in a similar vein to Julie Flett's *BIRDSONG* (2019), and Loretta Garbutt's *A STOPWATCH FROM GRAMPA* (2020), as well as family fun and adventure, as in Oge Mora's *SATURDAY* (2019).



MEET THE AUTHOR:

ALISON MCGAULEY

Alison McGauley is a part-time special education teacher, part-time picture book author, and full-time mom. She resides in the region of Waterloo, Ontario with her partner, two daughters, and ragdoll cat.

As a person living with multiple chronic illnesses, Alison is passionate about writing stories that speak to children who are impacted by illness or disability. She aims to create books with big heart for little readers.

Alison works on her craft through memberships with SCBWI, CANSCAIP, and the 12x12 Picture Book Challenge. She has also participated in the Children's Book Academy.

When not teaching, writing, or reading, Alison enjoys adventuring in nature and watching movies with her family.



CHAPTER BOOK SERIES

SALEM SLEEPWALKS

BY: MARISSA ELLER

RIGHTS AVAILABLE:
ALL

Salem Prescott is a sleepwalking eight-year-old from Cooper Springs, North Carolina. Cooper Springs isn't where she stays, though, not at night. There's no telling where she'll end up, because she doesn't just sleepwalk! Her mind moves as fast as her feet. Wherever she goes on her nighttime walks, she always meets someone in need of her help, and someone who just might be able to help her answer some of life's biggest questions, too. Salem Sleepwalks is a series of chapter books for early readers, in the escapist vein of the Magic Tree House books, but with themes of anxiety as depicted in the Alvin Ho series.

Within each book, there is a problem to solve within the sleepwalking landscape, and there is a larger scale, not as easily solvable problem that Salem is dealing with in her real life. As readers are learning about Salem, they're also learning about the rich settings and locales that Salem is experiencing. At the end of each book, the problem within the sleepwalking landscape is solved, and the bigger problem is somehow easier to manage. It's all about acceptance and adaptation. Salem won't try to conquer her sleepwalking; she'll just learn to form her life around it in a positive way. As a very serious and analytical kid, her journey is about progressing toward accepting problems she can't solve and adapting to her own intense thoughts and feelings.



MEET THE AUTHOR: MARISSA ELLER

Marissa Eller is a novelist and a college writing tutor. She holds a BA in English from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and an MFA in Writing from Lindenwood University. She resides in Hickory, North Carolina with her family and two rescue cats, all of whom she couldn't love more if she tried.

An avid reader of YA and a devoted supporter of the #OwnVoices movement, threads of her own life are woven into her fiction. Her writing focuses on the depth of human emotion, and the power words have to change a life.

When not writing or helping students, she can be found thinking entirely too much about her favorite TV shows, obsessing over a band she's loved since she was fifteen, or enjoying an afternoon nap.



MG CONTEMPORARY

EVER AFTER

BY: CARA LIEBOWITZ

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE:
ALL**

Complete at 62K words, *EVER AFTER* is a whimsical and empowering middle grade contemporary novel by multiply disabled author, sensitivity consultant, and disability rights advocate Cara Liebowitz. Fans of Jennifer Dugan's *HOT DOG GIRL* will love the dynamic and immersive amusement park setting, and *EVER AFTER* is the perfect next book for readers who saw themselves in Ellie's journey to finding her place in the world in Lisa Fipps' *STARFISH*.

Thirteen-year-old Anna's summer plans evaporate the moment her parents surprise her with a trip sponsored by Wish Kids Global, an organization that grants wishes for kids with life-threatening conditions. Anna thinks she's way too old for Starlight Wonderland, but if it'll take her parents' minds off her progressing muscular dystrophy? She'll grin and bear it. But as soon as Anna arrives at the Enchanted Village – where wish recipients stay during their time at the park – she feels like a total imposter. The kids there are sick sick.

That's until Anna meets Chrissy, a confident and mischievous girl with cystic fibrosis who's determined to make friends with Anna. Soon, she talks Anna into having fun on their own terms. They hatch a rebellious plan to do Starlight Wonderland their way – no adults, no rules, and no one but each other. Without everyone else around, they can just be themselves – free of the stigma and expectations that come with being a sick kid.

The girls sneak into Starlight Wonderland and bond over a few rides before they are rudely interrupted by a medical emergency. Before they know it, news of Anna and Chrissy's disastrous park antics go viral on social media, and Village donors begin to question if the Enchanted Village is safe enough for “medically fragile” children. Anna and Chrissy band together with the other Wish kids to clean up their mess and raise money so that the Enchanted Village can continue to offer a haven for kids like them – but the real challenge is raising the money without playing into the exact stereotypes they were trying to escape.

According to the 2019 census, over three million kids in America have disabilities, and the CDC reports that 40% of school-aged children have some form of chronic illness. Still, according to the Cooperative Children's Book Center's 2019 study, only 3.4% of children's books have disabled main characters, and fewer still are written by authors with lived experience. *EVER AFTER* is a transportive friendship story about kids finding their place and making a difference in their community, for readers who see their experiences reflected in the work of Marieke Nijkamp and Sarah Kapit.

MEET THE AUTHOR: CARA LIEBOWITZ

Cara Liebowitz is a multiply disabled author and activist originally from Long Island, New York. Her work has been featured in a variety of outlets, including Washington Post, Everyday Feminism, and Uncanny Magazine. She works for a variety of disability rights related causes, both locally and nationally. She is also a sensitivity reader for mobility disability and anxiety representation, who has worked with Scholastic, HarperCollins, and Penguin Random House, as well as DC Comics. In her increasingly limited spare time, Cara can be found watching Star Trek, petting her cat, and participating in adaptive dance classes.



YA ROMCOM

JOINED AT THE JOINTS

BY: MARISSA ELLER

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE:
ALL**

Complete at 76K words, **JOINED AT THE JOINTS** introduces readers to a fresh new voice in the highly popular genre of coming-of-age romcoms about sick teens, popularized through wildly popular stories like **A WALK TO REMEMBER** and **THE FAULT IN OUR STARS**. Chronically ill author Marissa Eller draws on her rich life experiences in this hopeful, raw, and charming identity-driven novel.

Ivy Harding has spent her entire summer in her kitchen because she's more comfortable around pots and pans than people. She hasn't seen or heard from her so-called best friend in months. As the first day of her sophomore year approaches, her mom and sister, Caroline, hatch a sneaky plan to get Ivy out of the house. Convinced she's only there to keep her sister Caroline from walking in alone, Ivy agrees to attend a support group meeting for teens with chronic illness.

There, Ivy meets Grant Deluca. Gregarious and instantly popular, he's Ivy's polar opposite. He's also the only kid she's ever met who shares her exact diagnosis. From the moment Ivy lays eyes on him, she can't help but wonder about him. Which is weird, considering she's never been interested in a boy before, let alone considered dating anyone.

JOINED AT THE JOINTS is a slice of life in a chaotic time, perfect for readers who saw themselves reflected in **SICK KIDS IN LOVE** by Hannah Moskowitz and **BRAVE ENOUGH** by Kati Gardener. It's also for those who know that the quickest way to the heart is through the appetite, like fans of **HUNGRY HEARTS: 13 TALES OF FOOD AND LOVE** edited by Caroline Tung Richmond and Elsie Chapmanm, **SAINT ANYTHING** by Sarah Dessen, and **WHERE THERE'S A WHISK** by Sarah J. Schmitt.



MEET THE AUTHOR: MARISSA ELLER

Marissa Eller is a novelist and a college writing tutor. She holds a BA in English from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and an MFA in Writing from Lindenwood University. She resides in Hickory, North Carolina with her family and two rescue cats, all of whom she couldn't love more if she tried.

An avid reader of YA and a devoted supporter of the #OwnVoices movement, threads of her own life are woven into her fiction. Her writing focuses on the depth of human emotion, and the power words have to change a life.

When not writing or helping students, she can be found thinking entirely too much about her favorite TV shows, obsessing over a band she's loved since she was fifteen, or enjoying an afternoon nap.



YA CONTEMPORARY

WHAT IT DOES TO YOUR BODY

BY: ALEX O'CONNELL

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE:
ALL**

WHAT IT DOES TO YOUR BODY is a fictional translation of YOUR BODY KEEPS THE SCORE for a young audience. In voicey, lyrical prose, it explores the physical impact of trauma in a raw, relatable, and immediate story of toxic friendship.

Life feels stagnant for June: she has a chaotic home life, Senior year and the future are both looming menacingly overhead, her mental health is shaky, and she can't quite connect to anyone around her. That is, until she meets Eva, a new transfer student at St. Sebastian Academy. When Eva finds June crying in the bathroom one day, the girls are drawn together. They have the same favorite bands, the same rocky relationships with their mothers, and the same feelings of discontent with their school and the lives being offered to.

Soon, June and Eva are spending all their spare time together, sharing lunches, wandering aimlessly through Target, and talking on the phone late into the night. Everything seems perfect in the little world they've created together. One day, however, June cancels plans with Eva, and something feels strange about Eva's response—first the cold shoulder, then strings of insulting texts, followed by a return to normal the next day—but June brushes off her misgivings.

Without realizing how it's happening, June finds herself answering to Eva and only Eva, walking on eggshells to avoid setting off any further angry outbursts. She stops talking to any of her other friends, answers every call and text of Eva's right away, and starts doubting her words and actions based on what Eva tells her about herself. As her relationship dynamic with Eva sharpens, the other areas of June's life that she's been avoiding start to feel overwhelming. Her mother's turbulent mood swings, the sister who's always off with her boyfriend, the weird looks her other friends are giving her—all of it contributes to an intense loneliness that Eva doesn't even seem to notice.

Told in a suspenseful then/now alternating timeline structure, WHAT IT DOES TO YOUR BODY is internal but pacey; a quiet story with a tense, reverberating plot that explores the mundane and shocking dynamic of an unhealthy friendship – and how to move on. This book is perfect for readers of other identity-driven explorations of complicated and formative relationships, like BEFORE WE WERE BLUE by E. J. Schwartz, SQUAD by Mariah MacCarthy, and LAST GIRL LIED TO by L. E. Flynn.




MEET THE AUTHOR:

ALEXANDRA

O'CONNELL

Alex O'Connell was born on June 12, 1995, in Illinois, where they grew up. Alex has a BA in English from Fordham University and is currently pursuing a PhD in English at Syracuse University. They are a reader, teacher, and researcher, and both their creative and critical work explores the ways in which people harm and help each other. As a bisexual and nonbinary author, Alex is interested in writing nuanced narratives for young people about mental health, embodiment, and the connections people forge with one another. While not reading or writing, they enjoy cooking, walking, watching reality TV, and hanging out with friends. They currently live in Syracuse, NY, with far too many plants. Learn more about Alex at alexkoconnell.com.





Non-Fiction

MUSIC MEMOIR

PIANO LESSONS SUCK

BY: MATT WEBB;
GUITARIST, MARIANAS TRENCH

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: ALL

Currently drafted at 75K words, PIANO LESSONS SUCK is the autobiography of Matt Webb, guitarist of the multi-platinum selling pop rock band Marianas Trench.

Matt has come a long way since begrudgingly accepting a \$100 bribe from his dad to continue piano lessons as a teenager. Matt has gone on to become a successful working musician, has toured with world with Marianas Trench, and has definitely kept his sense of humour through it all. Turns out, it takes more than talent and tight pants to be a successful musician. Who knew?

PIANO LESSONS SUCK chronicles Matt's journey with Marianas Trench, examines the unique and complex bond between bandmates, and unmask the physical and mental sacrifices necessary to persevere and thrive in the competitive and ever evolving music industry. With a tongue-in-cheek writing style, Matt recounts the highs and lows of a musical career spanning decades, sharing a candid perspective on everything from nervously meeting his superstar idols, to death-defying award show red-carpet shenanigans, to the heartache of being away from loved ones while on tour.

Haven't you always wanted to know how to survive overnight in lavish venue-provided accommodation, like a haunted and abandoned motorcycle dealership hotel room? Perhaps you're curious how to effectively barricade the exits of a venue to encourage

patrons to purchase a CD or merchandise item they don't know they need. Maybe you're interested in how to feel confident on stage in front of 10,000 people when you are wearing an Elizabethan era doublet and look like Gaston from Beauty and the Beast! These answers, and more, lie within.

From demoralizing performances for unenthusiastic folks who could barely be described as audiences, to award-winning shows in front ten thousand cult-followers who've nicknamed themselves The Trenchers, the journey in PIANO LESSONS SUCK is sure to pique the interest of not only Marianas Trench aficionados, but anyone interested in an honest and close-up look at the human side of popular contemporary music.

Packed with laugh out loud anecdotes and some keen life lessons, Matt Webb's account of the gritty, vainglorious grind of rock star land is so deftly described you'll swear you can smell the crowd.

"Reading it, you'll be glad of 3 things.... that 1) he survived the music business' 'evil circle of evilness', 2) what happened on the road didn't stay on the road, 3) he doesn't suck as a human."

-Denise Donlon, member of the Order of Canada, media trailblazer, author, and "feminist who survived that Whitesnake Tour"



MEET THE AUTHOR: MATT WEBB

Matt Webb is best known for his work as the guitarist in the multi-platinum selling band, Marianas Trench. He is proud of his accomplishments in the entertainment industry, including his 2013 Juno award win for best group of the year – but he is even more proud of being a father and husband.

When he's not making award-winning music or dedicating time to his family and his community, Webb is a lover of Car & Driver magazine, and an avid triathlete. He signed up for a half-ironman in 2022, and is hoping to not drown in a lake.

Webb is also a Dog Guy™, though remains unsure if dogs need rain jackets, because the last time he applied one to his dog Fred, he ended up in the emergency room with five stitches in his face.





Graphic

LITERARY GRAPHIC

TEENAGE FEELINGS

BY: AMBIVALENTLY YOURS

RIGHTS AVAILABLE:
ALL

Envisioned as a 200-page, full-colour graphic novel, *TEENAGE FEELINGS: The Fictional Autobiography of an Ambivalent Artist* is the debut literary work by Canadian artist and writer, Ambivalently Yours.

TEENAGE FEELINGS is part autobiography and part fiction. It follows the life of Rosie, a young woman who feels everything. As she enters puberty, she begins to realize that all the intense emotions that are expressed by people in her presence, or that others attempt to hide, reveal themselves to her as manifestations of pink light. This strange power comes into full force when she reaches her teen years in the mid 90's. The narrative follows Rosie as she enters an abusive relationship in early adulthood, only to find that in the aftermath, her special power has been diminished and even disappears as an effect of trauma.

Readers are along for a surreal ride as Rosie relatably tries to put herself back together through a series of bad career choices, the false promise of grad school, feminist failures, complicated friendships, and a little light murder – fictional, of course. *TEENAGE FEELINGS* explores feminist themes, the burdens of heteronormativity, the messy process of healing, and our general inability as people to truly understand our emotions as they happen in real time, especially in the aftermath of loss and abuse.

TEENAGE FEELINGS is built upon the fiction that Ambivalently Yours has created around her anonymous and vulnerable public persona over the last 10 years since completing her MFA, divulging more clues into the facets of her personal life that the media have been inquiring about for years. The book is also intended as a manifestation of retroactive compassion for the author's former teenage self – and through this intention, readers will be invited into an uncertain, sometimes fabulist, and always rosy, space of compassion for the ambivalent teenager within us all.



MEET THE AUTHOR: AMBIVALENTLY YOURS

Ambivalently Yours is a semi-anonymous, aggressively sensitive, perpetually ambivalent, Canadian illustrator, animator, and writer. Her work aims to highlight the transformative potential that exists within conflicting emotions.

Ambivalently Yours' work has been exhibited locally and internationally, featured prominently in media publications, teenage blogs and zines worldwide, shared virally on the Internet (her latest viral drawing had a reach of over 4M accounts), and reposted by several celebrities such as Florence Welch, Stephanie Beatriz, Brie Larson and Millie Bobby Brown. Her meticulous online engagement as Ambivalently Yours has resulted in a large social media following and her interactions with her online community directly influence in her practice.



Subrights
Available

CONTEMPORARY GOTHIC

TRIPPING ARCADIA

BY: KIT MAYQUIST

RIGHTS SOLD: WORLD, UNDER
SHOPPING AGREEMENT FOR FILM/TV
AVAILABLE FOR TRANSLATION

Med school dropout Lena is desperate for a job, any job, to help her parents, who are approaching bankruptcy after her father was injured and laid off nearly simultaneously. So when she is offered a position, against all odds, working for one of Boston's most elite families, the illustrious and secretive Verdeaus, she knows she must accept it—no matter how bizarre the interview or how vague the job description.

By day, she is assistant to the family doctor and his charge, Jonathan, the sickly, poetic, drunken heir to the family empire, who is as difficult as his illness is mysterious. By night, Lena discovers the more sinister side of the family, as she works overtime at their lavish parties, helping to hide their self-destructive tendencies . . . and trying not to fall for Jonathan's alluring sister, Audrey. But when she stumbles upon the knowledge that the Verdeau patriarch is the one responsible for the ruin of her own family, Lena vows to get revenge—a poison-filled quest that leads her further into this hedonistic world than she ever bargained for, forcing her to decide how much—and who—she's willing to sacrifice for payback.

The perfect next read for fans of Mexican Gothic, *Tripping Arcadia* is a page-turning and shocking tale with an unforgettable protagonist that explores family legacy and inheritance, the sacrifices we must make to get by in today's world, and the intoxicating, dangerous power of wealth.





MEET THE AUTHOR: KIT MAYQUIST

A fan of everything spooky and indulgent, Kit Mayquist is a trans man and Gothic writer who can be found in the historic shadows of Boston, MA, hunched over his desk with a sullen Persian cat in his lap and surrounded in antiques.

He has a MA degree in Medieval History from the University of Iceland, and a BA from Portland State University (and if you ask him, yes, Stumptown will always have the best coffee).



NARRATIVE NON-FICTION

BUT EVERYONE FEELS THIS WAY!

BY: PAIGE LAYLE

RIGHTS SOLD: WORLD INCL AUDIO
AVAILABLE FOR TRANSLATION

On January 13, 2020, Paige Layle posted a video to TikTok in response to a trending audio clip that was being used to degrade autistic people. An Autistic human herself, Paige said, "Autism and being dumb are not synonyms, okay? And I will tell you for a fact! Hi there, I'm Autistic!... That's not speaking for everyone, though. Autistic people are all over... but using Autism as an insult to say that you're dumb is untrue and ableist." These words kickstarted Paige's massive online following, and before she knew it, she found herself working as an influencer, both bringing the autistic community together and educating neurotypical people about Autism and other kinds of neurodiversity based on her own in-depth research and lived experiences.

In BUT EVERYONE FEELS THIS WAY, Paige writes candidly about her life with Autism; the challenges she's faced; what other Autistic people seeking a diagnosis, self-diagnosed, or already diagnosed need to know to thrive; and what neurotypical people can do to be good allies and supports to the Autistic people in their lives. Paige is articulate and unrestrained in her writing, but her approach and authorial voice remain relatable and accessible to a Gen Z audience and beyond. This book is part narrative non-fiction, part self-help, part manifesto for a whole new generation of Autistic adults and the people who are lucky enough to have the opportunity to know them.

Across TikTok, Instagram and YouTube, Paige Layle has almost 2.9 million followers who hang on her every word, knowing she speaks to and for them. Paige's entirely new way of talking about Autism has challenged stigmas, taboos and stereotypes and won her a global audience of Autistic followers, their loved ones and families, champions of neurodiversity, and also the respect and interest of the entire medical and scientific field working with or researching Autism. Increasingly, Paige's videos are used by Autism experts around the world as reference tools within neurological, medical, psychological and healthcare frameworks – for example, her videos are used as educational and therapeutic tools within the NHS in the UK. Paige is the first young Autistic person to give voice to a developmental disability long shrouded in confusion and misunderstanding and her book will be the first ever to bring a fresh accessibility to a complex subject.

"Paige is a gift to the autistic community and the world. Her perspective is so vital to helping those of us who are autistic better understand our needs and capabilities. What's more, so many people who love and support autistic individuals can learn positive actions and outlooks that will benefit everyone as we move towards true inclusion. She is funny, articulate and wise."

-Kim Rhodes, actress; @kimrhodes4real on TikTok (1.4M followers, 19.5M likes)



MEET THE AUTHOR: PAIGE LAYLE

Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at the age of 15, Paige Layle is today the leading advocate and influencer for a better understanding of Autism on social media, and through that work, the voice of an Autistic generation.

Paige initially downloaded TikTok as a joke, and began making videos in March 2020 in response to a degrading post about autistic people. She initially created a four-part video series to address common misconceptions about Autism, and her platform has grown from there. Now at 21 years old, Paige is a professional Autism acceptance activist, YouTuber, and TikTokker. She currently has over 2.6M followers.

An avid bookworm, she is thrilled to have recently put her public speaking and theatrical skills to work as the narrator for the Audible Original audiobook AMERICAN GIRL, by Wendy Walker, described as “an instant #1 Audible bestseller”.



COOKBOOK

MAYUMU REMIXING FILIPINO AMERICAN DESSERTS

BY: ABI BALINGIT

RIGHTS SOLD: WORLD ENGLISH

When Abi Balingit was thrust into the work-from-home life in 2020, she swiftly and passionately directed her attention to the thing that was giving her life at the time: baking. Although she'd been making desserts since her high school years, this time, she took her carefully developed recipes, and started testing them at scale. MAYUMU: REMIXING FILIPINO AMERICAN DESSERTS is the culmination of those efforts.

Subverting the idea that you have to have the perfect Instagram life to create unique and mouth-watering desserts, Abi drew on recipes passed down through generations and infused them with the flavours of her diasporic childhood in California. Her focus at the time was supporting her community. To do so, she began producing Pasalubong treat boxes, full of snacks packed with Filipino-inspired flavours, in her tiny, shared apartment in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn. Since then, she's produced and sold over 200 boxes – consistently selling out within hours of opening for orders – with all the proceeds going to community organizations. All that work hasn't gone unnoticed. In April, Abi was profiled by Jasmine Ting for Bon Appétit.

There are over 4 million Filipino people living in the United States, the largest group of overseas Filipinos worldwide, and a further million in Canada.

They were described in a 2003 study by Asian American University of California professor Pei-te Lien as the most culturally and economically acculturated Asian American group – truly a multicultural melting pot.

Abi Balingit and her contemporaries show that while diasporic Filipinos may have integrated enthusiastically into new cultural surroundings, they have not forgotten their roots. According to Bon Appétit, Filipino flavors and ingredients stand out in the landscape of beige baked goods, and thanks to social media, there is an audience for them way beyond the Filipino community. As people seek comfort, adventure, new experiences, and delight in a (post?) pandemic landscape, MAYUMU could not be more timely.

"As the world opens up to new narratives and possibilities, preservation of culture and tradition is crucial in our evolution, so that none of us forget where we are from and others have a deeper understanding of our place in the world. Food is an integral way to contextualize voices with cultural evolution and preservation in mind--And it's fun and yummy. I look forward to Abi's contribution to the culinary conversation."

- Nicole Ponseca, restaurateur & James Beard Award-nominated cookbook author of I AM A FILIPINO AND THIS IS HOW WE COOK



MEET THE AUTHOR: ABI BALINGIT

Abi Balingit is a young Filipino American woman who has always had a love-hate relationship with baking. Although she was an avid experimental baker as a teenager, she was a perfectionist, and didn't feel comfortable with unless she had all my essential tools and equipment. For a while, she stopped baking altogether. Then, after lugging her Kitchen Aid stand mixer from her family home in California across the country to where she's now based in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, New York, she started baking for friends and rekindling a passion for a pastime she thought she'd left behind years ago.



ROMCOM

TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE

BY: KELLY OHLERT

RIGHTS SOLD: WORLD,
AVAILABLE FOR TRANSLATION

Trixie isn't exactly sure what she was thinking when she stopped her car in the middle of downtown Chicago, scooped up a chicken struggling to cross the road, and drove off... but she does know that she has to find a new home for herself and her new feathered friend. The landlord at her apartment doesn't allow pets and has caught Trixie in one too many pet-smuggling attempts in the past.

Bear likes his quiet life with his close-knit family, who own a flower business, but he's in for a rude awakening when his meddlesome sisters post an ad to rent the spare room in his simple home, without asking his permission. Still, when Trixie responds to the ad, he agrees to let her move in, despite immediate worries about keeping things platonic.

Determined to keep her new room, befriend Bear, and give her rescue chicken the care she deserves, Trixie fights to keep her walls up and resist her romantic feelings for Bear. However, it's not long before the pair's proximity and chicken parenting ignite flames that have Trixie and Bear testing the boundaries of their platonic ground rules. They have to figure out how to save a family business, pay for mounting vet bills, and navigate their own emotional baggage if they want to find the love that they all deserve.





MEET THE AUTHOR: KELLY OHLERT

Kelly Ohlert is an adult fiction author, with a focus on romantic comedy. Her debut novel, *To Get To The Other Side*, comes out December 6, 2022 with Alcove Press. She loves books about... well, love! Since laughter is the best medicine, she's only doing her civic duty to heal human souls by incorporating humor as well. She's a lifelong avid reader of all genres, and as a busy mom has an enthusiastic appreciation for audio books and multi-tasking.

Kelly grew up in the Chicago area, but moved to attend Western Michigan University. She stuck around Michigan, hopping from city to city. Her meet cute involved "borrowing" that hot guy's baseball cap, and it's been love ever since. She, her husband(the aforementioned ball cap owner), and their two young daughters reside in the Lansing area, with their menagerie of six fur babies.



SPECULATIVE FICTION

A DREAM WANTS WAKING

BY: LYDIA KWA

RIGHTS SOLD:
NORTH AMERICAN ENGLISH

Chinese science fiction has been described by the New York Times as having “conquered America” following the incredible successes of authors in translation like Cixin Liu and Hao Jingfang in the North American market. Meanwhile, diasporic authors have been bringing aspects of this tradition, such as the chaotic timelines and wildly imaginative fabulism, to English-language readers to great acclaim – from Larissa Lai’s multi-award-winning *SALT FISH GIRL* to recent Hugo award winner *THE EMPRESS OF SALT AND FORTUNE* by Nghi Vo. Complete at 70K words, *A DREAM WANTS WAKING* by Lydia Kwa follows in the footsteps of these accomplished books and traditions.

This literary speculative novel interweaves narratives from various times and places set in an alternate China of the past and future. The main protagonist is Yinhe, a female-presenting half-human, half-fox who has reincarnated several times, with the purpose of performing good deeds and aiding others.

Yinhe is tasked with wresting a precious, magical drawing from a powerful demon. This drawing has the potential to liberate a class of enslaved chimeric, if Yinhe is able to get it into the right hands. Yinhe is told that if she is able to complete this daunting task, she will be richly rewarded – she will be reunited with Ling, a lover whose soul she lost contact with more than a thousand years earlier.

A DREAM WANTS WAKING draws on and subverts mythological tropes in oral and classical Chinese mythology and literature. The novel poses timely questions about the nature of consciousness and the transgressive and transformative power of dreaming, and of dismantling dualities imposed by forces of political and social oppression.

MEET THE AUTHOR:

LYDIA KWA

Lydia Kwa was born in Singapore but moved to Toronto to begin studies in Psychology at U of T. After finishing her graduate studies in Clinical Psychology at Queen's University in Kingston, she moved to Calgary, Alberta; then to Vancouver, and has lived and worked here on the traditional and the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples since 1992.

Kwa has published two books of poetry (*The Colours of Heroines*, 1992; *sinuous*, 2013) and four novels (*This Place Called Absence*, 2000; *The Walking Boy*, 2005 and 2019; *Pulse*, 2010 and 2014; *Oracle Bone*, 2017).

She won the Earle Birney Poetry Prize in 2018; and her novels have been nominated for several awards, including the Lambda Literary Award for Fiction.

She has also exhibited her art work at Centre A (2014) and Massy Art Gallery (2018); and has self-published two poetry-visual art chapbooks.



SPECULATIVE THRILLER

THE GHOST OF DANNY MCGEE

BY: QUINLAN GRIM

RIGHTS SOLD: NORTH AMERICAN
ENGLISH, AUDIO

Camp Phoenix is a controversial and expensive summer camp program that transfers adults' consciousness into a clone of their childhood selves. On the surface, it's an ordinary summer camp. Twelve-year-old Logan has come to have a relaxing, carefree summer. She wants to ride horses, make new friends, and she loves listening to ghost stories. Sam is a twenty-year-old counselor, taking on the responsibility of the kids' care by day, and riding the rollercoaster of a summer romance after hours.

As Logan faces the ups and downs of puberty, Sam watches over her and struggles with the bizarre truth: the campers in her care are not kids at all, but wealthy adults immersed in the ultimate escape from reality.

What Logan doesn't know—or at least, can't remember—is that she and her friends will all have to return to their grownup bodies once the summer is over. Logan will again be a successful, middle-aged woman, and the popular boy she has a crush on? He will return to his life as a celebrity suspect at the center of a high-profile murder case.

"Twisted, sinister, and wildly inventive, Quinlan Grim delivers a chilling campfire story that will keep you up past lights out."

—Mary McCoy, author of *CAMP SO-AND-SO*



MEET THE AUTHOR: QUINLAN GRIM

Quinlan Grim is a writer, traveler, and freelancer from Northern California. She has a BA in Philosophy and an MA in Global Studies. She spends her time reading, studying, and working as a content writer. Fiction is her first love, and she's particularly fond of spooky stories in woodsy settings reminiscent of home in the Sierra Nevada mountains.



AUTOFICTION

MERCY GENE

BY: JD DERBYSHIRE

RIGHTS SOLD: NORTH AMERICAN
ENGLISH, WORLD FRENCH, INCL AUDIO

Currently drafted at 35K words, MERCY GENE: the man-made making of a madwoman is the debut auto-fiction by comedian, voice-hearer, gender queer weirdo, dyslexic, and certified insane person, JD Derbyshire. Written with the financial support of the Canada Council for the Arts, MERCY GENE is inspired by Derbyshire's critically acclaimed and award-winning solo play *Certified*, during which the audience becomes a mental health review board that determines her current state of sanity by the end of the show. The main narrative circles around being incarcerated in mental health facilities and certified insane six times, firing up memories and imaginings in her life decades preceding, and years following, the incarcerations: memories of sexual assault, gender confusion, a Catholic childhood, and familial dysfunction.

MERCY GENE was professionally edited by acclaimed author Zsuzsi Gartner, who calls the project "exceptional, original, arresting, unconventional, at-times hilarious, and necessary". The narrative concedes to the tragedy and humour of unreliable memory and the need to let a story land the way it needs to land. The themes are of the moment: #MeToo, gender identity, and mental health. To mirror JD's own thought process, the narrative is related through three different POVs: the present is in first person, the past in third person, while the voices in her head speak in the first-person plural directly addressing the reader.

Think Maggie Nelson meets Fran Liebowitz – MERCY GENE is a literary case study in the terror and wonder that comes with walking through life with your own brain and letting your definition of self continually evolve. It teases out methods of prescribed radical self-care by leaving behind the lectures of experts and the treatments by doctors and becoming your own mental-health specialist, with a little help along the way from a lesbian road-hockey league, and tour-de-force (fictional) appearances by Miriam Toews, and the late, great Margot Kidder.



MEET THE AUTHOR: JD DERBYSHIRE

JD is a comedian, theatre maker, writer, and mad activist. Their play *Certified*, during which the audience becomes a mental health review board to determine her sanity by the end of the show, won two 2020 Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards on Vancouver for Outstanding Original Script and The Critic's Innovation Award. Select plays include *Certified*, *A Modern Woman's Guide to Female Impersonation*, *Bearded Circus Ladies*, *The Opposite of Everything is True*, *Me on the Map* (with Adrienne Wong), *Dog of my Understanding*, *Auditions for an Embarrassed Woman*, and *Ingenious Speculations* (with Rita Bozi and Kim Selody).



INDIGENOUS MEMOIR

A TWO-SPIRIT JOURNEY

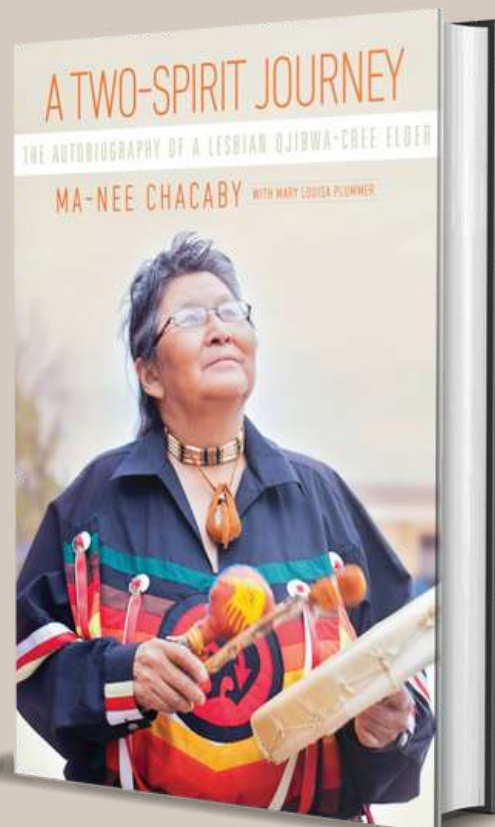
BY: MA-NEE CHACABY AND MARY LOUISA PLUMMER

RIGHTS AVAILABLE:
FILM/TV, TRANSLATION

A Two-Spirit Journey is Ma-Nee Chacaby's extraordinary account of her life as an Ojibwa-Cree lesbian. From her early, often harrowing memories of life and abuse in a remote Ojibwa community riven by poverty and alcoholism, Chacaby's story is one of enduring and ultimately overcoming the social, economic, and health legacies of colonialism.

As a child, Chacaby learned spiritual and cultural traditions from her Cree grandmother and trapping, hunting, and bush survival skills from her Ojibwa stepfather. She also suffered physical and sexual abuse by different adults, and in her teen years became alcoholic herself. At twenty, Chacaby moved to Thunder Bay with her children to escape an abusive marriage. Abuse, compounded by racism, continued, but Chacaby found supports to help herself and others. Over the following decades, she achieved sobriety; trained and worked as an alcoholism counsellor; raised her children and fostered many others; learned to live with visual impairment; and came out as a lesbian. In 2013, Chacaby led the first gay pride parade in Thunder Bay.

Ma-Nee Chacaby has emerged from hardship grounded in faith, compassion, humour, and resilience. Her memoir provides unprecedented insights into the challenges still faced by many Indigenous people.



MEET THE AUTHOR:

MA-NEE CHACABY

Ma-Nee Chacaby is an Ojibwe-Cree writer, artist and activist from Canada. You may have met her at a rally in Thunder Bay or Toronto, seen her on the evening news or on the dance floor at Glad Day, or maybe she taught you how to make a drum.

She lives in Thunder Bay, one of the most dangerous places in Canada for Indigenous people. Here, she mentors many individuals and groups, including Wiindo Debwe Mosewin and Not One More Death, who work to make safety for all people in Thunder Bay.

She is dedicated to mentoring young people, sharing Anishinaabe teachings and stories, and supporting access to ceremony for 2SLGBTQ+ Indigenous peoples.



MEET THE AUTHOR: MARY LOUISA PLUMMER

Mary Louisa Plummer is an international public health researcher and social scientist who believes that quality writing about science and social justice requires strong evidence, clear language, and good story-telling.

In recent years, her day job has involved researching and writing global guidance documents for the World Health Organization. Prior to that, Mary worked for UNICEF, Save the Children, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where she obtained her PhD.

Mary's photographs have been exhibited in the Steuben Gallery in New York, and she has co-authored three non-fiction books, including *A TWO-SPIRIT JOURNEY*, which won the 2017 US Oral History Association Book Award and 2018 Ontario Historical Society Award for Best Book on Women's History, and also was a finalist for 2016 Lambda Literary and Publishing Triangle Awards.



LGBTQ2S+ MEMOIR

THE QUEER EVANGELIST

BY: REV. DR. CHERI DINOVO, C.M.

RIGHTS AVAILABLE:
FILM/TV, TRANSLATION

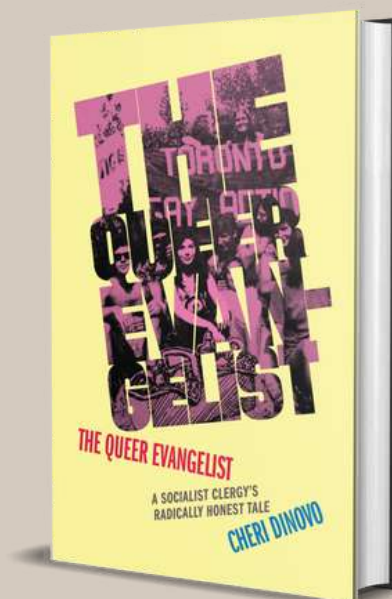
A queer minister, politician and staunch activist for LGBTQ rights, Cheri DiNovo went from living on the streets as a teenager to performing the first legalized same-sex marriage registered in Canada in 2001. From rights for queer parents to banning conversion therapy, her story will inspire people (queer or ally) to not only resist the system—but change it.

In *The Queer Evangelist*, Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo (CM) shares her origins as a young socialist activist in the 1960s, and her rise to ordained minister in the '90s and New Democratic member of provincial parliament. During her tenure representing Parkdale-High Park in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 2006 to 2017, DiNovo passed more LGBTQ bills than anyone in Canadian history.

She describes the behind-the-scenes details of major changes to Canadian law, including Toby's Law: the first Transgender Rights legislation in North America. She also passed bills banning conversion therapy, proclaiming parent equality for LGBTQ parents, and for enshrining Trans Day of Remembrance into Ontario law. Every year on November 20th in the legislature, the provincial government is mandated to observe a minute of silence while Trans murders and suicides are detailed.

Interspersed with her political work, DiNovo describes her conversion to religious life with radical intimacy, including her theological work and her ongoing struggle with the Christian Right. Cheri DiNovo's story shows how queer people can be both people of faith and critics of religion, illustrating how one can resist and change repressive systems from within.

"Living on the street, using drugs, abandoned by the adults in her life, all while identifying as 'queer' in a hostile world—any one of these things could have unravelled many of us. Cheri hauled herself up and not only survived but thrived." —Kathleen Wynne, former premier of Ontario



**MEET THE AUTHOR:
REV. DR. CHERI
DINOVO, C.M.**

Reverend Dr. Cheri DiNovo, C.M. is an ordained United Church minister who performed Canada's first legalized same sex marriage. She is currently the minister at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre for Faith, Justice, and the Arts. Cheri is a Member of the Order of Canada, recognized for her contributions to provincial politics and for her lifelong advocacy of social justice. As the former Member of Provincial Parliament for Parkdale-High Park in Ontario, Cheri passed into law more pro-LGBTQ2+ legislation than anyone in Canadian history.



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#SpineSquad