

# WESTWOOD CREATIVE ARTISTS

LONDON  
CATALOGUE



SPRING 2022



WESTWOOD CREATIVE ARTISTS



# Westwood Creative Artists

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## SPRING CATALOGUE 2022

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April 2022

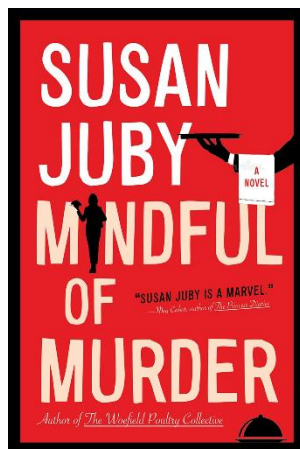
We are proud to present the Spring 2022 edition of Westwood Creative Artists' rights catalogue. Please allow us to spend a few words highlighting some of the recent accomplishments our clients have achieved over the past several months.

The critically acclaimed stage adaptation of *Life of Pi* by **Yann Martel**, which opened in London's West End last November, is shortlisted in every single [Olivier Awards](#) category for which it is eligible! Winners will be announced April 10<sup>th</sup>. The fact that *Life of Pi* started as a novel, became a Hollywood movie, and now a play in the West End truly testifies to the power of words to travel across formats.



**Kim Fu's** collection of stories *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (p.16) published in February and earned six starred pre-publication reviews. Published in Canada by Coach House Books and in the U.S. by Tin House Books, and forthcoming in Australia and New Zealand with Brio Books, it was called "powerful" ([Kirkus](#)), "breathtaking" ([Foreword](#)), "fabulous" ([Booklist](#)), "fantastic" ([Shelf Awareness](#)), "incisive" ([Quill & Quire](#)), and "a winner" ([Publishers Weekly](#)). [The New York Times Book Review](#) also called it "elusive and beckoning," and popular outlets like [The Hollywood Reporter](#), [NPR](#), and [Buzzfeed](#) have featured the collection in their list of hot new books. Racconti bought Italian rights, and Host bought Czech rights. Stay tuned for film/T.V. news for Fu!

With the release of *Tripping Arcadia* (p. 25) in February, **Kit Mayquist** and his debut novel have been featured by [Debutiful](#), [Writer's Digest](#), [BookPage](#), and over two dozen most anticipated and best-of roundups, including [Ms. Magazine](#), [Book Riot](#), [Gayming](#), and [Red Carpet Crash](#). Additionally, *Tripping Arcadia* has been selected by Shelves Bookstore in Charlotte, N.C. as their book subscription box title. Forthcoming appearances and features include an interview with *How Do You Write* and *The Bookstagays*, an essay with CrimeReads, a reading list compiled for Electric Lit, and a feature with *Belletrist* in April!



*Mindful of Murder* – **Susan Juby's** newest novel – published in March and landed immediately at #1 on the national independent bookstores' [bestsellers list](#)! *Canadian Living* magazine said:

"Take one newly graduated domestic professional, a holistic retreat on an isolated island, a murdered mentor and a group of fractious suspects and you have the makings of this comedic mystery from the lauded author of the hilarious *Republic of Dirt*." 'Knives Out' meets P.G. Wodehouse in this compelling, cozy mystery.

**Frances Itani**, author of numerous novels including *The Company We Keep*, *Requiem*, and *Deafening*, was honored with the [Matt Cohen Award](#), which recognizes a lifetime of distinguished work by a Canadian writer. The jury wrote: "Time after time, Itani tells an intimate, universal,

and poignant story. Her sculpted prose, quietly breathtaking, leaves us haunted and yearning for more."



In December, Indigenous author **Tomson Highway** was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in honor of his contributions to theater and Canadian culture. Highway's [award-winning](#) 2021 memoir, *Permanent Astonishment*, offers hilarious and profound insights into the Cree experience of culture, conquest, and survival; it's a 2022 nominee for the [Evergreen Award](#), and the Emmy-winning production company White Pine Pictures is scheduled to begin filming a documentary adaptation this spring. Also last December, WCA client **Yann Martel** was named a Companion to the Order of Canada for his literary contributions and philanthropic commitment.

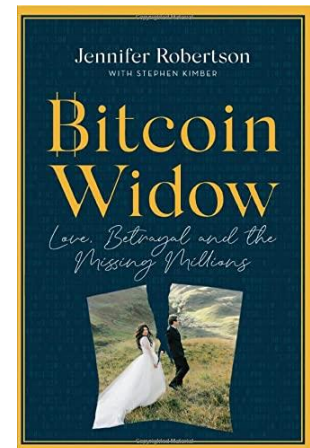


And in further non-fiction news, **Rahaf Mohammed's** gripping memoir *Rebel* (p. 43) published on March 8<sup>th</sup>, and has caused considerable stir internationally. Publishing in nineteen territories, this young Saudi woman's brave story of survival and empowerment has spoken to readers around the world. Rahaf made the [cover of The Times Magazine](#), which ran an excerpt of her book. [Kirkus](#) gave the book a glowing review, writing: "Mohammed creates a tense narrative of her desperate flight, the efforts of her powerful father to stop her, and the determined journalist who came to her aid. An absorbing chronicle of courage." [Publishers Weekly](#) wrote that the book leaves "an indelible mark. Her scorching indictment serves as a beacon for women worldwide yearning for freedom," while [The Daily Mail](#) gave it four stars. [The Guardian](#) named it the Book of

the Day in their Sunday edition, saying, "In nearly 300 pages of simple but effective prose, Rahaf Mohammed turns her journey into one that vast numbers of women in Saudi Arabia will relate to."

**Michael Ignatieff** was named chair of the jury for the Cundhill History Prize, which was awarded during the 2021 Frankfurt Book Fair. His latest book, *On Consolation* (p. 37), published in Canada with Random House and in the U.S. with Metropolitan/Henry Holt in November of last year, and has been sold in eleven other territories. The book was reviewed in [Shelf Awareness](#), [The New York Times](#), and listed in [Lit Hub](#).

*Bitcoin Widow: Love, Betrayal, and the Missing Millions*, a memoir by **Jennifer Robertson**, attracted significant television, radio, and print attention immediately upon publication in January. It was [front page news](#) in *The Globe & Mail*, featured in the *Globe's* podcast [The Decibel](#) and in *The Walrus's* podcast [The Deep Dive](#), and covered in [The Daily Mail](#), [The Independent](#), and [The Sunday Times](#), leading to a flurry of film interest and a swift pre-empt to lock up those rights by Nikki Ray Media. It immediately landed on the non-fiction bestseller lists in *The Globe & Mail* and *Toronto Star* and continues to be a consistent feature there.



The pages that follow comprise our current title list for our Spring 2022 catalogue. We welcome inquiries to our International Rights Director, [Meg Wheeler](#), and invite you to visit our [website](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). We thank you for your ongoing interest in our writers and we wish you every success for the upcoming publishing season.

Take care,

The Team at Westwood Creative Artists

# RECENT PRIZES

## FICTION

Dede Crane, *One Madder Woman*, winner of the Alberta Book Publishing Awards' Lois Hole Award for Editorial Excellence

Frances Itani, winner of the 2021 Matt Cohen Award: In Celebration of a Writing Life

Dean Jobb, *The Case of the Murderous Dr. Cream: The Hunt for a Victorian Era Serial Killer*, longlisted for the 2022 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction

Thomas King, *Indians on Vacation*, longlisted for the 2022 DUBLIN Literary Award

The Lunar Company, *Earth Eclipsed*, nominated for The Ambies Indie Podcast of the Year and Podcast of the Year

Beth Powning, *The Sister's Tale*, shortlisted for the 2022 New Brunswick Book Awards' Mrs. Dunster's Fiction Prize

## NON-FICTION

Stephen R. Bown, *The Company: The Rise and Fall of the Hudson's Bay Empire*, co-winner of the National Business Book Award

Darrell Bricker, *Next: Where to Live, What to Buy, and Who Will Lead Canada's Future*, longlisted for the National Business Book Award

Marcello Di Cintio, *Driven: The Secret Lives of Taxi Drivers*, shortlisted for the 2022 AICW Bressani Literary Prize

Tomson Highway, *Permanent Astonishment*, winner of the 2021 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction; nominated for the 2022 Ontario Library Association's Evergreen Award

André Picard, *Neglected No More: The Urgent Need to Improve the Lives of Canada's Elders in the Wake of a Pandemic*, finalist for the 2021 Balsillie Prize for Public Policy

Fred Van Vleet, *Bet On Yourself*, nominated for Best Podcast of 2021 by Amazon

## CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK & MIDDLE-GRADE

Gail Anderson-Dargatz, *The Ride Home*, shortlisted for the 2022 Chocolate Lily Award, Novel Category

Linda Bailey, winner of the 2021 Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature for Young People; *Princesses Versus Dinosaurs*, longlisted for the 2023-2024 Young Hoosier Book Award

Thomas King, *Borders* (graphic novel), selected for the American Library Association's 2022 Notable Children's Books; selected for the National Council for the Social Studies' 2022 Notable Social Studies Trade Books

Brittany Luby (author) and Joshua Pawis-Steckley (illustrator), *This is How I Know*, finalist for the 2021 Governor General's Literary Award for Young People's Literature - Illustrated Books

## RECENT PRIZES

Kyo Maclear, *The Big Bath House*, selected for the American Library Association's 2022 Notable Children's Books

David A. Robertson, *On the Trapline*, winner of the 2021 Governor General's Literary Award for Young People's Literature - Illustrated Books; honoree for the 2021 Evanston Public Library's Blueberry Award

Jordan Scott, *I Talk Like a River*, nominated for the 2022 German Youth Literature Prize; shortlisted for the 2022 Yoto Carnegie Greenaway Awards

Dena Seiferling, *Bear Wants to Sing*, nominated for the 2022 Ezra Jack Keats Best New Illustrator Award; finalist for the 2021 Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award

Lauren Soloy, *Etty Darwin and the Four Pebble Problem*, nominated for the 2022 Ezra Jack Keats Best New Illustrator Award; selected for the Junior Library Guild Gold Standard

Tasha Spillett-Sumner, *I Sang You Down From the Stars*, an American Indian Youth Literature Award (AIYLA) 2021 Honor Book; selected for the American Library Association's 2022 Notable Children's Books

Kevin and Basil Sylvester, *The Fabulous Zed Watson*, winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for Young People's Literature - Text; finalist for the 2022 Lambda Literary Awards - LGBTQ Children's/Middle Grade category



# RECENT SALES

## FICTION

Gina Buonaguro, *Virgins of Venice*, World English: HarperCollins Canada

Steve Burrows, A Birder Murder Mystery series, Film/T.V. (World): Shaftesbury (extension)

Sean Dixon, *The Abduction of Seven Forgers*, Canadian English: Freehand Books

Bobbi French, *The Good Women of Safe Harbour*, Germany: Kösel / Diederichs Verlag

Kim Fu, *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Australia/New Zealand: Brio Books / Booktopia;  
Czech Republic: Host; Italy: Racconti Edizioni

Don Gillmor, *Breaking and Entering*, North American English: Biblioasis Press

Quinlan Grim, *The Ghost of Danny McGee*, North American English: California Coldblood; Audio  
(North American English): Tantor Media

Thomas King, *A Coyote Solstice*, Stage (Saskatchewan): Globe Theatre; *Deep House* (DreadfulWater Book 6), French (North American): Alire; *The Red Power Murders* (DreadfulWater Book 2), French  
(World) excluding North America: Liana Levi

Lydia Kwa, *A Dream Wants Waking*, North American English: Wolsak & Wynn

Yann Martel, *Beatrice and Virgil*, China: Beijing Xiron Culture Group Co.

Sara O'Leary, *The Ghost in the House*, Slovenia: Desk

Loghan Paylor, *The Cure for Drowning*, Canadian English: Random House / Penguin Random House

Adam Pottle, *The Black Drum*, World: Playwrights Canada

Elizabeth Ruth, *Semi-Detached*, North American English & French: Cormorant Books

Josef Skvorecky, Anthology, Poland: Fundacja Pogranicze; *The Cowards*, Vietnam: Vietnam Women's  
Publishing House

M.G. Vassanji, *No New Land*, Film/T.V. (World): CineVedas Inc.

A.J. Vrana, The Chaos Cycle duology, Russia: Eksmo

Richard Wagamese, *Medicine Walk*, Portugal: Antígona

Sam Wiebe, The Wakeland series, Film/T.V. (World): Cineflix

## NON-FICTION

Kamal Al-Solaylee, *Brown*, French (North American): Editions Hashtag

B. Brett Finlay and Jessica Finlay, *The Whole-Body Microbiome*, Korea: Parabooks Co., Ltd.

Glenn Gould, *The Glenn Gould Reader*, Japan: Misuzu Shobo

## RECENT SALES

Charlotte Gray, *Murdered Midas*, Film/T.V. (World): Shaftesbury

Tomson Highway, *Permanent Astonishment*, French (North American): Prise de parole

Michael Ignatieff, *On Consolation*, Czech Republic: Kalich; Denmark: Kristeligt Dagblads Forlag; Italy: Vita e Pensiero; Korea: Kachi Books; Serbia: Kontrast

Jay Ingram, *The Science of Why*, China: Beijing Green Beans Book Co. (extension)

Dean Jobb, *Jewels for the Taking: The Jazz Age Heists of a Gentleman Thief*, Canadian English: HarperCollins; *The Case of the Murderous Dr. Cream*, U.S. large print: Thorndike (sales by Algonquin Books)

Stephanie Kain, *Lifeline*, World English: ECW Press

Paige Layle, *But Everyone Feels This Way!*, World: Hachette Go / Hachette U.S.

Marc Lewis, *Memoirs of an Addicted Brain*, Spain: Next Door; *The Biology of Desire*, Poland: Wilcza Anna Gruszcynska; Spain: Next Door

Simu Liu, *We Were Dreamers*, U.K. & Commonwealth excluding Canada: William Collins / HarperCollins

Kyo Maclear, *Ma: A Story of Plants, Love, and Family Secrets*, Canadian English: Knopf / Penguin Random House; U.S.: Scribner Books / Simon & Schuster

Scott McIntyre, untitled memoir, World: Cormorant Books

Rahaf Mohammed, *Rebel: My Escape from Saudi Arabia to Freedom*, Estonia: Rahva Raamat

Luis Najera, *Dark Corners*, Canadian English: Random House / Penguin Random House

Ray Ratnavel, *Prisoner 1056*, World: Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada

Jennifer Robertson, *Bitcoin Widow*, Film/T.V. (World): Nikki Ray Media

Donald Thompson, *\$12 Million Stuffed Shark*, Russia: Atticus-Azbooka (extension)

### CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK & MIDDLE-GRADE

Caroline Adderson, *Pond Poem* & Untitled Picture Book 2, World: Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press

Katie Arthur, *Woolly Bear* & *Ruthie Radish*, World: Owlkids Books

Linda Bailey, *Arthur Who Wrote Sherlock*, U.K. & Commonwealth excluding Canada: Andersen Press (sale by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

Aaron Chan, *The Broken Heart*, illustrated by Josiane Vlitos, World: Rocky Pond Books / Penguin Random House U.S.

Charis Cotter, *The Dollhouse*, Russia: Eksmo (sale by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

## RECENT SALES

Matt James, *I'm Afraid Said the Leaf*, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

Riel Nason, *The Little Ghost Who Was a Quilt*, France: Elcy (sale by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

Susin Nielsen, *Dear George Clooney*, *No Fixed Address*, *Optimists Die First*, *The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen*, *We Are All Made of Molecules*, *Word Nerd*, France (pocket book): Livre de Poche Jeunesse; *Word Nerd*, Germany: Urachhaus (sales by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

Jordan Scott, *I Talk Like a River*, Greece: Mikri Selini (sale by Neal Porter Books / Holiday House); Stage (World): Jamie Wilson Productions Ltd.

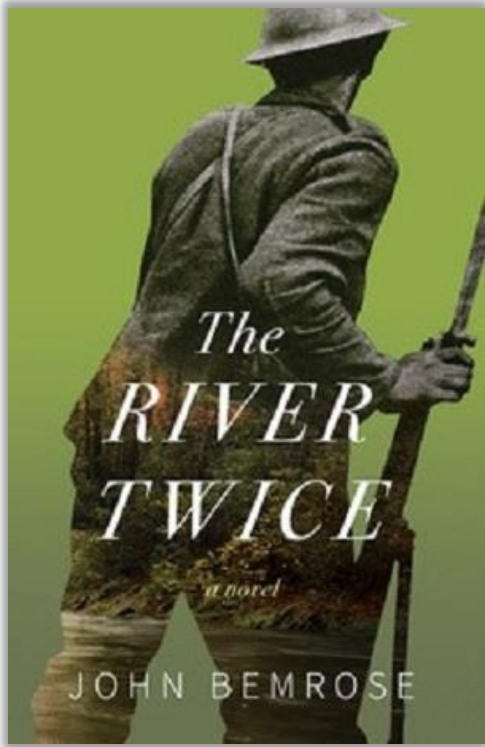
Erin Silver, *Mighty Scared*, World: Orca Books

Joshua Pawis-Steckley, *Stitches of Tradition*, World: Heartdrum / HarperCollins U.S.

Kira Vermond, *How Science Saves the Day*, World: Annick Press



# **FICTION**



*The River Twice, by the Giller-nominated author of the bestselling The Island Walkers, is a gripping World War I novel set in the Southern Ontario factory town familiar to his many readers, where residents are reeling as the wounded return and the list of local young men who have been killed continues to grow.*

**“Encompassing, bountiful, beautiful...”**

– *The Globe & Mail*, on *The Island Walkers*

**“A riveting read...”**

– *London Free Press*, on *The Island Walkers*

**“Bemrose finds magic in the details.”**

– *Quill & Quire*, on *The Island Walkers*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English: Thistledown Press (May 30, 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

## John Bemrose THE RIVER TWICE

*A Novel*

Wounded in body and spirit, Ted Whitfield returns home from the trenches to his wife, Miriam, who finds him deeply altered and virtually unreachable. Her sister, Grace, afflicted by her own secret trauma, falls into an immediate and electric affinity with Ted, and soon he is telling her – and only her – a story from the front lines that’s as shocking as it is extraordinary. As the novel moves back and forth between the lush, rolling landscape of southern Ontario and the devastated French countryside where exhausted Canadian troops are entrenched, the three characters at the center of the narrative become entwined in almost unbearable tension.

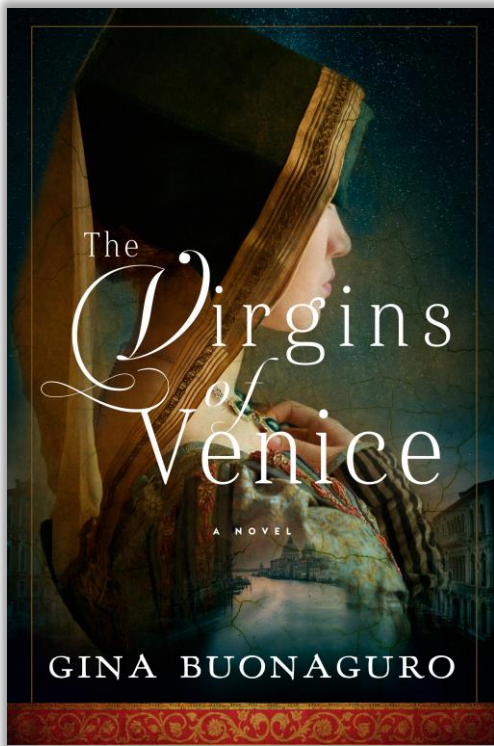
Miriam and Grace’s nine-year-old brother, Will, a thoughtful, quiet boy who often sees the adults more clearly than they see themselves, is at the moral center of the story. Each of Bemrose’s finely constructed characters strives to be as true and as honest as they can with one another, and yet are caught up in the evasions and deceptions that so complicate human life, especially during a war and its aftermath.

*The River Twice* does for Canada what Pat Barker’s *The Regeneration Trilogy* did for England – focuses our collective memory on the moral injustices that attend any war, contemporary or historic. John Bemrose draws readers in and won’t let them go until the last page of this astonishingly lyrical and deeply humane novel.



**JOHN BEMROSE’s** first novel, *The Island Walkers*, was a national bestseller, a finalist for the Giller Prize, and longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. He is also a well-known arts journalist with published reviews and articles in *The Globe & Mail*, *The National Post*, and *Maclean’s*. His second novel, *The Last Woman*, was published in 2009. He

has also published poetry and written a play, *Mother Moon*. Bemrose was born and raised in Paris, Ontario, a place that has inspired the settings for his fiction, including his latest novel, *The River Twice*. He lives in Toronto.



*In sixteenth century Venice, daughters of noble families were destined for marriage or the convent. In this engrossing historical novel, one young noblewoman dares to resist the choices made for her.*

**Rights sold:** World English including audio: HarperCollins Canada (Dec. 13, 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author's website:** [www.ginabu.com](http://www.ginabu.com)

**Agent:** John Pearce

Gina Buonaguro

## THE VIRGINS OF VENICE

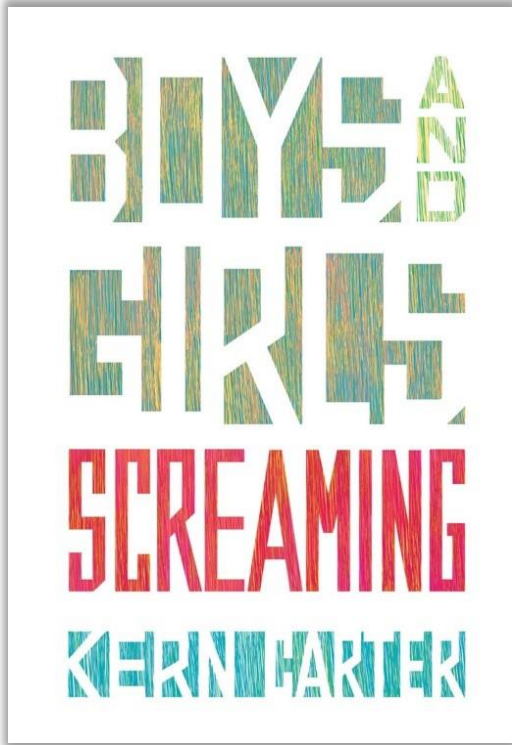
Venice in 1509 is on the brink of war. The displeasure of Pope Julius II is a continuing threat to the republic, as is the barely contained fighting in the countryside. Amid this political turmoil, noblewoman Justina Soranzo, just sixteen, hopes to make a rare love marriage with her sweetheart, Luca Cicogna. Her hopes are dashed when her father decides her younger sister Rosa will marry for a strategic alliance while Justina will be sent to San Zaccaria convent. But Lord Soranzo is not acting only to protect his family. It's well known that he is in debt to both his trading partners and the most infamous courtesan in the city, La Diamante, and the pressure is closing in.

Arriving at the convent, Justina takes solace in her Aunt Livia, a nun there, and the growing knowledge that all is not strictly devout at San Zaccaria. Justina is shocked to discover how the women of the convent find their own freedom in what seems to her like a prison. Soon, secrets, family scandals, and a threat from La Diamante erupt and Justina turns to Luca in ways she never expected, to protect the ones she loves. Will Justina risk her noble status, her family's good name, and the purity of her soul to follow her heart?



**GINA BUONAGURO** is the co-author of *The Wolves of St. Peter's*, *Ciao Bella*, *The Sidewalk Artist* and a number of romance titles under the name Meadow Taylor. This is her first solo novel. She has a BA in English from Villanova University (Pennsylvania) and attained an MA in English from the University of British Columbia while on a Fulbright Scholarship. Born in New Jersey, Buonaguro lives in Toronto.





*A story of friendship, betrayal and a generation of teens fighting their way through trauma by their own rules.*

“Carter’s writing really grips... The characters are honest and authentic, their voices wavering between childhood and maturity, their emotions alternating between feeling shattered and pretending to be whole. The friend group as a support system is a clever way into the teen mind, and is reflective of whom teens turn to when facing problems.”

– Heather Camlot, *Quill & Quire*

**Rights sold:** World including audio: Dancing Cat Books / Cormorant Books (Apr. 19, 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [www.kerncarter.com](http://www.kerncarter.com)

**Agent:** Chris Casuccio

## Kern Carter

# BOYS AND GIRLS SCREAMING

When Ever’s father passes away suddenly, she is devastated. Not long after that, her mom has a stroke and Ever’s anguish becomes almost too much for her to handle. That’s when she gets the idea to form a group she calls Boys and Girls Screaming. Along with her brother, Jericho, and her best friend, Candace, Ever wants to bring together kids from their school who have suffered trauma so they can share their stories and begin to heal.

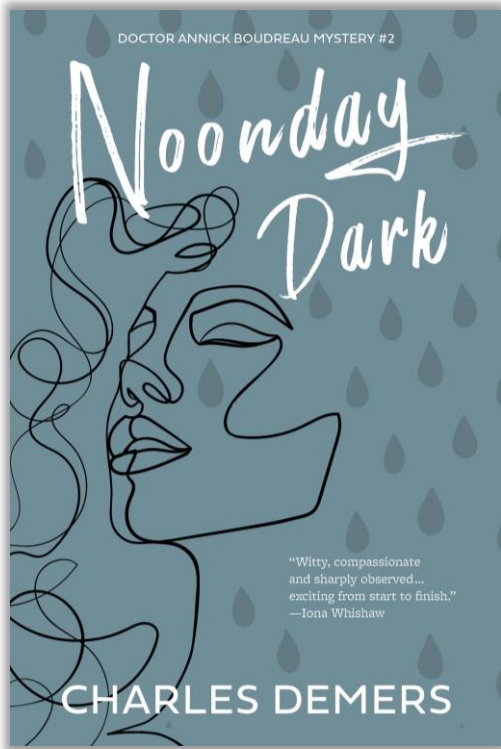
Although the other teens find solace in the group, Ever tumbles further into depression until she reaches a breaking point. As the group learns the true source of Ever’s pain, they jump into action to help her find a way out.

*Boys and Girls Screaming* tells the story of a generation of teens finding the support they need to process their trauma in their own ways.



**KERN CARTER** is a full-time freelance writer and author who has written and self-published two novels – *Thoughts of a Fractured Soul* (novella) and *Beauty Scars*. Carter is also a ghostwriter with credits in *Forbes*, *The New York Times*, *Global Citizen*, *Elle Magazine* and *Fatherly.com*, and has ghostwritten several books. When he’s not penning novels or ghostwriting, Carter is curating stories through CRY, his online publication that creates space for artists to navigate through the emotions of their creative journey. He lives in downtown Toronto with his nineteen-year-old daughter.

## FICTION



*The exciting second installment in the Doctor Annick Boudreau Mystery Series.*

“As the first of a projected series of mystery novels featuring Dr. Annick Boudreau, *Primary Obsessions* is a cracking good start. Boudreau is a likeable protagonist and mental illness is a subject surprisingly under-addressed by current mystery writers... By writing a novel that revolves around relatively common Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, rather than some rare violent psychopathology, Charles Demers brings freshness to a literary genre that has been in danger of turning as ripe as a week-old murder victim.”

– John Moore, *BC BookWorld* on *Primary Obsessions*

**Rights sold:** North American English: Douglas & McIntyre (Jun. 4, 2022)  
World English excluding North America: Legend Press U.K.

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author's website:** [www.charliedemers.com](http://www.charliedemers.com)

**Agent:** John Pearce

## Charles Demers NOONDAY DARK

*Dr. Annick Boudreau Mystery #2*

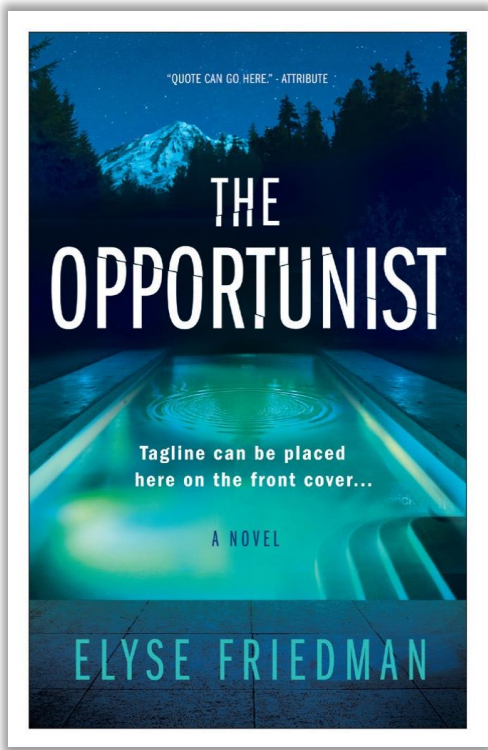
The endearing and unflappable Dr. Boudreau returns in this complex and nuanced portrait of psychology and a city. When Dr. Boudreau is contacted by the Vancouver Police and informed that her patient Danielle has been reported missing and there's a suicide note, she is shaken. Danielle, who was being treated for a major depressive episode, had been doing well – talking about her new relationship and the contract she just completed as a speechwriter for a bike-riding politician's successful mayoral campaign.

Dr. Boudreau is, once again, on a mission to discover what really happened and joins forces with Danielle's estranged father, Ivor, a former radical journalist turned right-wing blogger. Along the way, the realpolitik is illuminated in a clash over the Knight Street trucking route, protected by the Satan's Hammer Motorcycle Club, who have a strong presence on the waterfront and refuse to relinquish the port traffic to the suburbs.

Discover the clash and charisma of a city embroiled in politics in this twisting and turning story. Charles Demers renders a divisive cityscape entangled in questions of ownership and change – who owns the city and who has the right to change it – with humor, edge, and compassion, revealing the intricacies of a metropolis on the verge of myriad transformations.



**CHARLES DEMERS** is a writer, comedian, and playwright. He is a regular on CBC Radio's smash-hit comedy *The Debaters*, and the voice of Walter the Slug on the Emmy-winning Netflix cartoon *Beat Bugs*. Demers is the author of novels *Primary Obsessions* (the first Annick Boudreau mystery), *Property Values* (optioned by Pioneer Pictures) and *The Prescription Errors*, and the non-fiction books *The Horrors*, *The Dad Dialogues*, and *Vancouver Special* – which was shortlisted for the Hubert Evans BC Book Prize for Non-fiction. Demers is a longtime political activist who lives in East Vancouver with his wife and daughter.



*For fans of the HBO hit series Succession: A deliciously sly, intricately-plotted thriller about a family jockeying for control of a multibillion-dollar empire.*

**“A first-rate storyteller.”**

– Barbara Gowdy, author of *The White Bone*

**“Extraordinary... Richly conceived characters with compelling and sympathetic motives.”**

– *Toronto Star*, on *The Answer to Everything*

**“Completely engaging.”**

– *Booklist*, on *Waking Beauty*

**Rights sold:** World including audio: HarperCollins Canada (Dec. 2022) (U.S.: Mira / Harlequin Books)

**Status:** Galleys available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Elyse Friedman

# THE OPPORTUNIST

When Alana Shropshire starts receiving calls, texts, and emails from her brothers about Kelly, the 28-year-old “gold digger” their 76-year-old father has taken up with, she ignores them. Alana, a hardworking single mom, has more important things on her mind and has long since left her dysfunctional family and its excessive wealth behind.

But Alana’s brothers persist, and eventually she relents. In exchange for payment (which she sorely needs), she agrees to fly to her father’s private island retreat and perform one tiny task in Teddy and Martin’s simple plan to make the gold digger go away.

But when Kelly proves a lot more wily than expected, plans are upended, loyalties are tested, and that one small errand entangles Alana in an increasingly complex scheme full of secrets and surprises. She has long viewed her brothers as sycophants who sacrificed their integrity and freedom for a share of their father’s fortune, but what more are they capable of, and how far will they go to retain control?

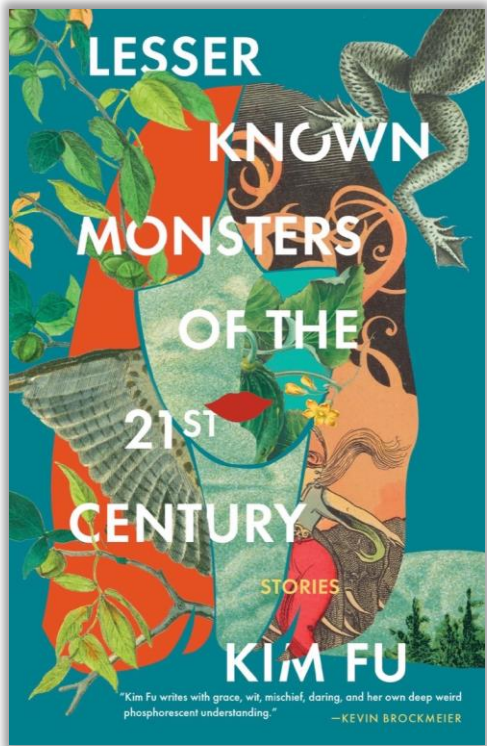
*The Opportunist* is a Trojan horse story: presenting as an addictively suspenseful and propulsive thriller, it rises above the usual confines of the genre to deliver a shrewd, relevant, and powerful commentary on the ways of women and men.



**ELYSE FRIEDMAN** is a critically-acclaimed, award-winning writer. Her work has been short-listed for the Trillium Book Award, the Toronto Book Award, the Relit Award, and the Thom Hendry Award. Her short story *The Soother* won the gold National Magazine Award for Fiction, and she has twice won the TIFF-CBC Screenwriter Award.



## FICTION



**Six starred pre-publication reviews! Praise from Kevin Brockmeier, Peter Ho Davies, Garth Greenwell, and Nathan Ripley!**

**“Elusive and beckoning.”**

– *The New York Times Book Review*

**“Powerful.”**

– *Kirkus Reviews* (starred)

**“A winner.”**

– *Publishers Weekly* (starred)

**“Breathtaking.”**

– *Foreword Reviews* (starred)

**“Sly, provocative, fabulous.”**

– *Booklist* (starred)

**Rights sold:** Australia/New Zealand: Brio Books / Booktopia | Canadian English including audio: Coach House Books (Feb. 1, 2022) | Czech Republic: Host | Italy: Racconti | U.S.: Tin House Books

**Status:** Books available

**Author's website:** [www.kim-fu.com](http://www.kim-fu.com)

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

# Kim Fu

## LESSER KNOWN MONSTERS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

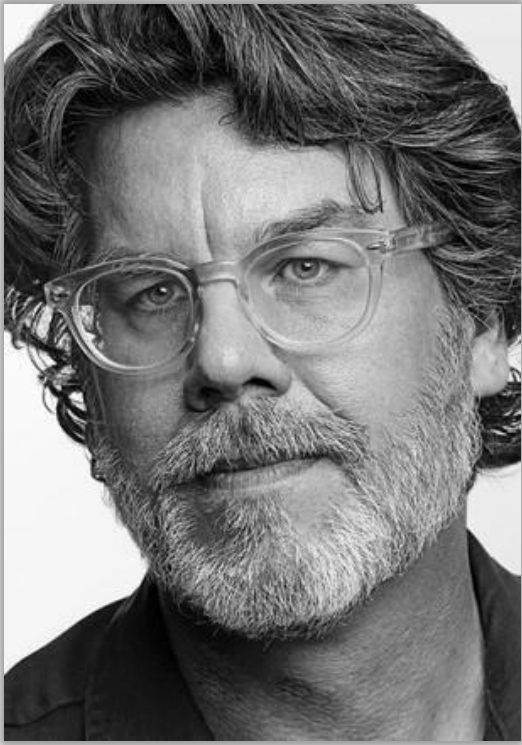
*Stories*

In the twelve unforgettable tales of *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century*, the strange is made familiar and the familiar strange, such that a girl growing wings on her legs feels like an ordinary rite of passage, while a bug-infested house becomes an impossible, Kafkaesque nightmare. Each story builds a new world all its own: A group of children steal a haunted doll; a runaway bride encounters a sea monster; a vendor sells toy boxes that seemingly control the passage of time; an insomniac is seduced by the Sandman. These visions of modern life wrestle with themes of death and technological consequence, guilt and sexuality, as they unmask the contradictions that exist within all of us.

Mesmerizing, electric, and wholly original, Kim Fu's *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century* blurs the boundaries of the real and fantastic, offering intricate and surprising insights into human nature.



**KIM FU** is the author of *For Today I Am a Boy* which won the Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction and was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award, as well as a *The New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice. Her second novel, *The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore*, was a finalist for the Washington State Book Award and the OLA Evergreen Award. Fu's writing has appeared in *Granta*, the *Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *Hazlitt*, and the *TLS*. She lives in Seattle.



*Traversing Harlem's Renaissance years and Ethiopia under Haile Selassie, and based on the true adventures of Hubert Julian, Chasing the Black Eagle explores how one man finds his own truth by spying on another.*

**Rights sold:** World English: Dundurn Press (Apr. 11, 2023)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Chris Casuccio

## Bruce Geddes

# CHASING THE BLACK EAGLE

April, 1923: Seventeen-year-old Arthur Tormes stands among thousands of Harlemites, waiting for a man to drop from the sky. The jumper is Hubert Julian, a.k.a. The Black Eagle of Harlem, First Air Officer in Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association. Riley Triggs, an unscrupulous federal agent, needs a stooge to spy on Julian, who he sees as a bona fide threat to America. Triggs finds his mark in the recently arrested Tormes, and for the next thirteen years, under the threat of prison, Arthur sets everything else aside to track Julian's every move. It's a wild ride.

Colonel Hubert Julian is an enigma. Adventurer, daredevil, hero, and visionary, he could also be described as a conman, a huckster, and a charlatan. Over thirteen years, Arthur bears witness to both sides, as Julian courts both fame and infamy. He witnesses the daring leaps into the streets of Harlem. He aids the attempt to be first to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. When Haile Selassie welcomes Julian to Ethiopia to help mark his coronation, Arthur tags along as *aide de camp*, and when Julian lashes out against Ethiopia after being twice dismissed, Arthur is there beside him, fighting to survive.

In the midst of all the spying on Julian and trying to satisfy Triggs, Arthur attempts to get on with his own life, hustling and scraping by, eager to grow and love and understand the world, despite his duties and obligations. Handcuffed by both men, Arthur watches his life slip by, until he finally decides he needs to wrest responsibility for his life and seize his own future.

**BRUCE GEDDES** was born in Windsor, Ontario. He studied Latin American Literature in Halifax, Bogotá, and Toronto, and creative writing at Humber College and the University of British Columbia. He is the author of *The Higher the Monkey Climbs*.



*A gallery owner looking to get out of a rut discovers her talent for lock-picking and breaks into her neighbours' houses, hoping that uncovering their secrets may lead her to understand her own.*

**"A book that makes you laugh with (and at) the characters but also, sheepishly, at yourself... Much of what Gillmor describes is part of the urban collective conscience."**

– *The Globe & Mail*, on *Mount Pleasant*

**"(V)ery funny, very timely... A great social novel, of the kind people are often complaining we don't have enough of... A tragicomedy of manners tinged with a real sense of loss."**

– *National Post*, on *Mount Pleasant*

**"Wisely, darkly, deeply, hysterically funny."**

– Linden MacIntyre, on *Mount Pleasant*

**Rights sold:** North American English: Biblioasis Press (Spring 2023)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author's Website:** [www.dongillmor.ca](http://www.dongillmor.ca)

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Don Gillmor BREAKING AND ENTERING

At 49, gallery owner Beatrice Billings is struggling to find meaning and comfort in her life. Her relationship with her son Thomas consists mainly of hostile text message haikus; her husband is allegedly buried in his work; she is the primary caregiver for her dementia-addled mother, whose long-held secret is revealed in a box of old photographs; and her relationship with her older sister Ariel, with whom she carries on arguments in her head, is increasingly complicated. A decade ago, Bea and everyone she knew was busy buying houses in gentrifying neighborhoods, having children, and renovating kitchens. What was left now that the forward momentum was gone?

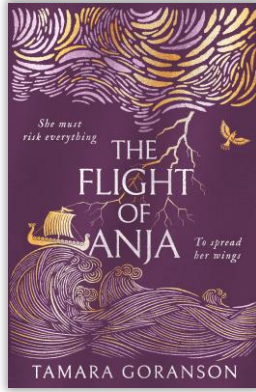
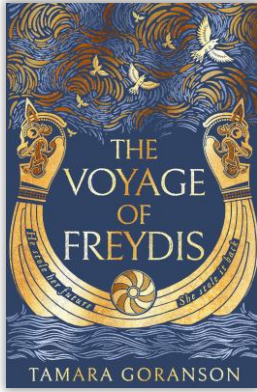
The sense of anticipation that has been missing in Bea's life unexpectedly returns when she googles "escape," signs up for a locksmith course, and finds that she has both a talent and a passion for picking locks. Breaking into other people's houses is something she's good at. And she is never, ever greedy, because it's not their stashes of cash, jewelry or electronics she's after; it's a glimpse into how they live, and where they keep their secrets.

Droll, witty, and original, *Breaking and Entering* takes a deep and entertaining dive into the issues that plague middle class existence, bringing into focus the overlooked details of our own lives.

**DON GILLMOR** is the bestselling and award-winning author of three novels – *Kanata*, *Mount Pleasant*, and *Long Change* – and three works of non-fiction, including the Carol Shields Award-shortlisted *The Desire of Every Living Thing*, the Libris Award-winning *Canada: A People's History*, and *To the River: Losing My Brother*, which won the Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction. Gillmor has also written nine books for children, two of which were nominated for a Governor General's Literary Award, and he is one of Canada's most accomplished journalists. He lives in Toronto with his wife and two children.



## FICTION



*History set her fate in stone...*

*The Voyage of Freydis sings the silenced tale of Freydis Eiríksdóttir, the first and only woman to lead a Viking voyage across the Atlantic, in this tempestuous retelling of an ancient Icelandic saga set at the dawn of the eleventh century.*

An Indigo pick for Most Anticipated Canadian Books in 2021

Featured in Canadian Living Magazine, September 2021, as a Notable New Release

“I have never felt so angry on behalf of how a character has been treated before, but all of Freydis’ pain and shame she felt just radiated off the page, as did her hope and happiness in later parts of the book.”

– Jessica C., early reviewer via *NetGalley*

“This author finally tells that story and gives [Freydis] a voice that has been ignored for years. This was very lyrically written, I felt as if I was reading a song.”

– Tiffany K., early reviewer via *NetGalley*

**Rights sold:** Italy: Mondadori  
World English including audio: HarperCollins U.K. (Book One: Jul. 22, 2021; Book Two: May 31, 2022)

**Status:** Books available (Book One);  
Manuscript available (Book Two)

**Author’s Website:**

[www.tamaragoranson.com](http://www.tamaragoranson.com)

**Agent:** Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

# Tamara Goranson

## THE VINLAND VIKING SAGA

*The Voyage of Freydis, The Flight of Anja, The Oath of Bjorn*

*The Voyage of Freydis* is the first book in The Vinland Viking Saga, three books which offer gut-punch revisionist accounts of the lives of the fierce Norsewomen whose stories have been neglected in ancient Viking sagas.

The year is 1000 A.D. Freydis, daughter of the revered Norse explorer Erik the Red, finds herself traumatized and trapped in a merciless, abusive marriage. To break the chains of terror and shame that prevent her from divorcing her husband, Freydis becomes the first and only Norsewoman to lead a Viking expedition to North America. With her husband Thorvard of Gardar at her heels, Freydis embarks on a harrowing journey across the icy North Atlantic on a longboat bound for Vinland shores. Freydis must manage to transcend trauma with only the help of her fiercely protective companion Logatha, and Achak, an honorable man from a Beothuk tribe. When Thorvard hunts her down, Freydis is forced to make the ultimate sacrifice in order to save the lives of those she loves.

*The Flight of Anja* takes place fifteen years later, when Anja Freydisdóttir must relinquish all – her homeland, her family, her gender – to break free from an assuredly abusive marriage. Liberation comes from an unexpected source when her estranged mother risks everything to help Anja escape to the same far-off coast that Freydis fled to years before. Haunted by the ominous shadows of a family history she does not know, Anja must follow a perilous path into unfamiliar, wilderness terrain that will ultimately allow her to find her future – and herself.



**TAMARA GORANSON** is an author and psychologist based in Victoria, BC, Canada. The Vinland Viking Saga are her first novels.



**The Ghost of Danny McGee** by *Quinlan Grim* is an adult, grounded, science fiction thriller that tells a very human story about youth, relationships, and the fear of growing older.

“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*

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**Rights sold:** North American English:  
California Coldblood Books (Nov. 15, 2022)  
North American English audio: Tantor Media  
**Status:** Manuscript available  
**Agent:** Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

## Quinlan Grim

# THE GHOST OF DANNY MCGEE

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.

While ghost stories might keep Logan from wandering off the trails, Sam knows there is something much more sinister lurking in the shadows at Camp Phoenix. *The Ghost of Danny McGee* has notes of the award-winning adventure novel *The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore* by Kim Fu, but with touches of *Black Mirror*’s relatable near-future horror. It is the perfect, escapist summer read for sci-fi, horror, and thriller fans alike.

**QUINLAN GRIM** is a copywriter and author based in California. *The Ghost of Danny McGee* is her debut novel.





*A propulsive debut that grapples with timely questions about what it means to be charitable, who deserves what, and who gets to decide.*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: ECW Press (Spring 2023)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Erum Shazia Hasan

### WE MEANT WELL

Sent to a developing country to manage a violent crisis, an aid worker gets caught up in a nightmare that threatens the charity she works for, destroys her marriage, and forever changes her understanding of home.

It's the middle of the night when Maya, a married mother of one, receives the phone call. Her colleague Marc has been accused of assaulting a local girl in Likanni, the village where they operate a charitable orphanage. Can she get on the next flight?

When Maya arrives, protesters are hovering around the compound. The accuser is Lele, her former protégé and the Chief's daughter. There is no witness, no proof of any crime.

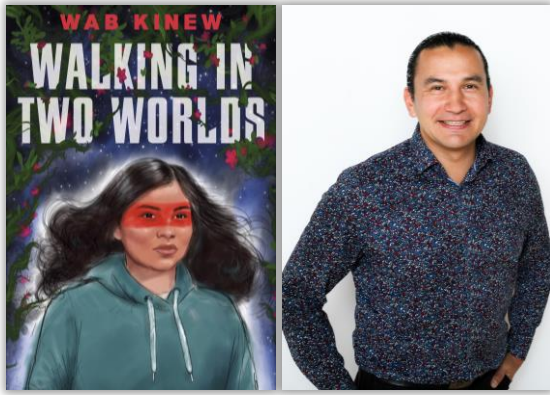
What really happened that night? And what will happen to the orphanage if she can't assuage the anger of the locals? Caught between Marc and Lele, the charity and the villagers, the first and third worlds, Maya lives the secret contradictions of the aid worker: there to serve the most deprived, but ultimately there to govern.

While Maya becomes reacquainted with the pleasures, freedoms and humanity of life in Likanni, her life back in L.A. disintegrates. As the distinction between who is doing the saving and who is being saved blurs, she sees that her American life is inextricably woven into this violent reality – and that dishonesty in one place affects the realities in another.

These are her confessions.

**ERUM SHAZIA HASAN's** life has spanned the globe. Born in Canada, raised in France, of Pakistani and Indian descent, Erum has worked on development projects throughout Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. She speaks English, French, Urdu and Hindi fluently. A sustainable development consultant for various UN agencies, she lives in Toronto, with her husband and their two children.

## FICTION – YOUNG ADULT



*An Indigenous teen girl is caught between real and virtual worlds in this young adult fantasy series from bestselling Indigenous author Wab Kinew. Perfect for fans of Ready Player One and the Otherworld series by Jason Segel and Kirsten Miller.*

**“Stands out in the field of speculative fiction.”**

– *Booklist* (starred)

**“Masterfully descriptive and character-rich.”**

– Cherie Dimaline, author of *The Marrow Thieves*

**“A thrilling, high-tech page-turner.”**

– *Kirkus Reviews*

**“A fun, brilliantly executed blend of gamer geekdom, social issues and Indigenous culture.”**

– *Shelf Awareness* (starred)

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**Rights sold:** World including audio: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada (Book One: Sep. 14, 2021; Book Two: Jan. 10, 2023)

**Status:** Books available (Book One); Manuscript available (Book Two)

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

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**WAB KINEW** is a bestselling, award-winning author. A member of the Midewin and an Honorary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, he is a former journalist, hip-hop artist, and television host. Kinew, who is a provincial politician in Manitoba, lives in Winnipeg with his family.

# Wab Kinew WALKING IN TWO WORLDS

*Book One*

In the real world, Bugz is a shy and self-conscious Indigenous teen facing the stresses of life on the Rez. But in the virtual world, her alter ego is not just confident, but dominant in a massively multiplayer video game universe. When Feng arrives from China to live with his aunt, a doctor on the Rez, Bugz and Feng instantly relate to each other as outsiders and avid gamers. Their connection strengthened through virtual adventures, they find much in common in the real world, too: Both must decide what to do in the face of temptations and pitfalls, and both are dealing with family challenges and community trauma.

When betrayal threatens everything Bugz has built in the virtual world, and her relationships in the real world, it will take all her newfound strength to restore her friendship with Feng and reconcile the dual aspects of her life: the traditional and mainstream, the east and west, the real and virtual.

## THE EVERLASTING ROAD

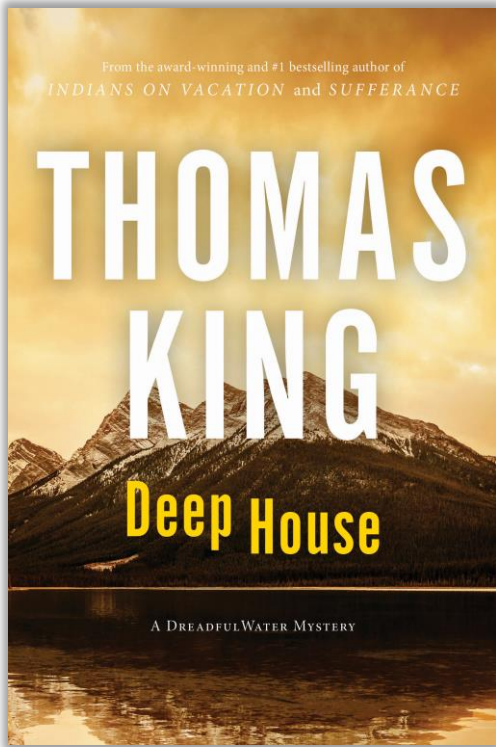
*Book Two*

Devastated by the loss of her older brother to cancer, Bugz returns to the Floraverse for solace and strength. While the remaining ClanLess members still plot against her, she's been secretly working on a bot that will be both an incredible weapon *and* a source of comfort: Waawaate.

The Waawaate bot looks and acts just like the brother she misses so much. Bugz feels ready to show him off to Feng, excited to team up with friend and bot to secure her dominance. But Feng has his own issues, especially when news that his parents are alive and want to contact him threatens to send his new life on the Rez into upheaval.

As they work through complex feelings of grief and loss, Feng and Bugz become ever closer. But disturbances in the Floraverse can't be ignored when Bugz realizes that her bot is growing in powers beyond her control.

## FICTION



*The sixth novel in an Indigenous mystery series from award-winning, #1 bestselling author Thomas King, one of Oprah Magazine's 31 Best Native American Authors to Read in 2020.*

**"Packed with sly humour, off-the-wall characters, and assured writing, King introduces a Native American detective who is sure to entertain."**

– Michael McGarrity, crime novelist, on the DreadfulWater series

**"The dialogue is crisp and just begs to head to the screen."**

– *The Globe & Mail*, on the DreadfulWater series

**"Whimsical and wry, large-hearted and at times laugh out loud funny, but with an underlying gravitas and significance."**

– *Quill & Quire*, on the DreadfulWater series

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (Jan. 18, 2022)

French (North American): Editions Alire

**Film/TV:** Prospero Pictures

**Status:** Books available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Thomas King DEEP HOUSE

*A DreadfulWater Mystery (Book 6)*

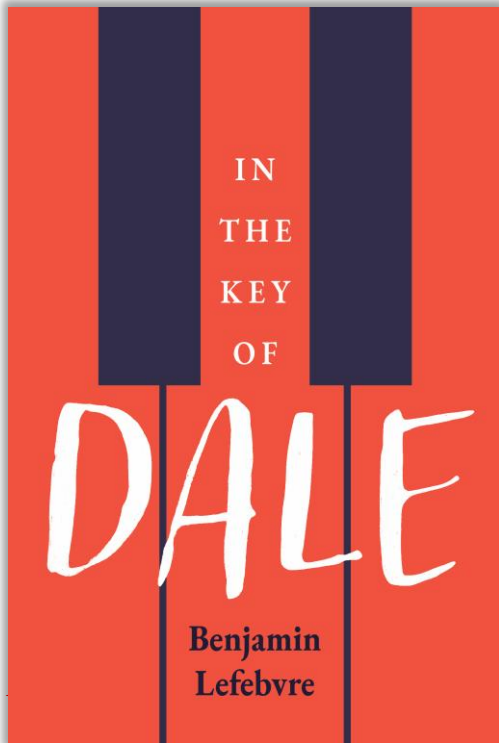
For the first time since the pandemic, Thumps DreadfulWater has finally found some peace in small-town Chinook. Sure, his beloved cat is still missing and his relationship with Claire is more than uncertain, but at least he can relax in the comfort of his home. And now that local businesses are starting to open their doors again, everything can go back to normal.

But when Thumps unintentionally discovers a body at the bottom of a treacherous canyon, he becomes entangled once again in an inexplicable mystery. As more puzzling details come to the surface, Thumps begins to question whom he can truly trust – especially when an unexpected visitor walks back into his life.

In the follow-up to *Obsidian* – a *Globe & Mail* favorite of 2020 and finalist for the Arthur Ellis Best Crime Novel Award 2021 – Thumps DreadfulWater returns with wit and wry humor to solve a mystery that only Thomas King could create. *Deep House* is a highly anticipated addition to the DreadfulWater mystery series, which has been published in four different territories and optioned for film.



**THOMAS KING's** writing has been published around the world and praised by Margaret Atwood as "funny but not funny." Beloved by readers of all ages, he is one of Canada's most critically acclaimed and commercially successful writers. Originally from California, he is of Cherokee and Greek descent, and lives in Guelph, Ontario.



*Part comedy, part grief narrative, In the Key of Dale is a disarming coming-of-age novel about a queer teen music prodigy who discovers pieces of himself in places he never thought to look.*

**“Dale Cardigan is an unforgettable teenager who is unapologetically true to himself. Lefebvre has written a moving celebration of teenage friendship, sex, and creative life.”**

– Susie Taylor, author of *Even Weirder Than Before*

**Rights sold:** World English including audio: Arsenal Pulp Press (Oct. 11, 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:**

[www.benjaminlefebvre.com](http://www.benjaminlefebvre.com)

**Agent:** Chris Casuccio

## Benjamin Lefebvre IN THE KEY OF DALE

Sixteen-year-old Dale Cardigan is a loner who’s managed to make himself completely invisible at his all-boys high school. He doesn’t fit with his classmates (whom he gives nicknames in his head), his stepbrother (whom nobody at school knows he’s related to), or even his mother (who never quite sees how gifted a musician Dale might be) – but they don’t fit with him either. And he’s fine with that. To him, high school and home are stages to endure until his real life can finally begin.

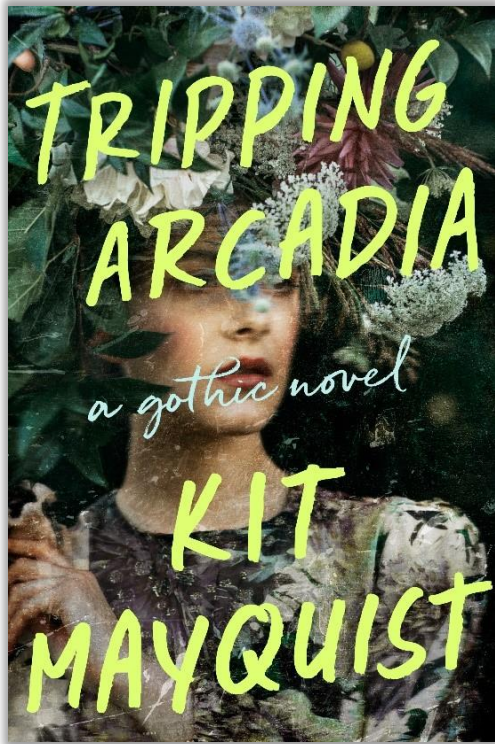
Somewhat against his will, he befriends his classmate Rusty, who gets a rare look at Dale’s complex life outside school – but their friendship is made awkward when it seems his growing attraction to Rusty is doomed to remain one-sided. Still, it’s to Rusty that Dale turns when he stumbles upon a family secret.

An epistolary novel written in the form of letters to his late father, *In the Key of Dale* is a beguiling, pitch-perfect book about growing up, fitting in, and finding a way out of grief and loneliness toward the melodic light of adulthood.



**BENJAMIN LEFEBVRE** has a Ph.D. in English from McMaster University and received a graduate certificate in creative writing from the Humber School of Writers. He teaches courses in literature at the university level and has published nine edited books, including an edition of L.M. Montgomery’s rediscovered final sequel to *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Blythes Are Quoted* (Penguin Canada), which has sold to Finland, Poland, Japan, and Brazil, and *The L.M. Montgomery Reader* (University of Toronto Press), a three-volume critical anthology that won the 2016 PROSE Award for Literature from the Association of American Publishers. This is his debut novel.





*An atmospheric modern Gothic with all the splendor of The Great Gatsby... and all the secrets, lies, and darkness that opulence can hide.*

“... a propulsive plot.”

– *Kirkus Reviews*

“... a salacious tale of family drama, corporate dealings, dangerous secrets, and poison...”

– *Library Journal*

“In this evocative depiction of a dangerously seductive world, awash in gothic overtones, Mayquist tweaks class tensions as he portrays Lena’s growing desperation for control.”

– *Booklist*

Most anticipated books: *LGBTQ Reads*, *BookRiot*, *Tor Nightfire*, *The Nerd Daily*, *Veranda Magazine*, *BookPage*

**Rights sold:** World including audio: Dutton / Penguin Random House U.S. (Feb. 22, 2022)

**Film/TV:** Tsepii Productions

**Status:** Books available

**Author’s website:** [www.kitmayquist.com](http://www.kitmayquist.com)

**Agent:** Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

Kit Mayquist

## TRIPPING ARCADIA

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.

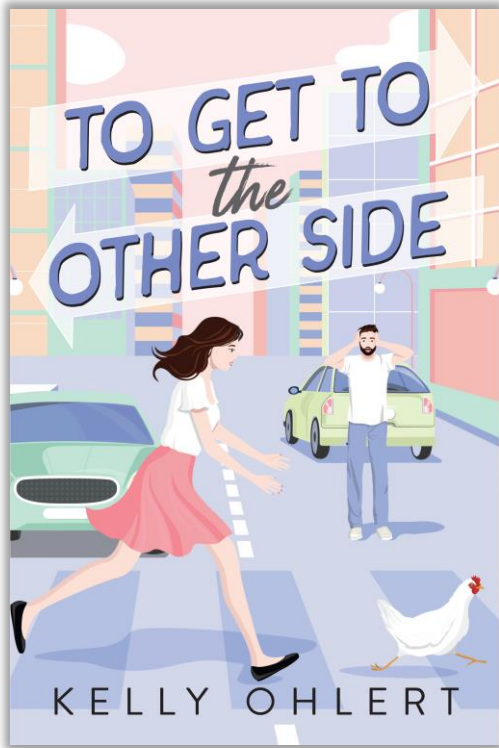
The perfect next read for fans of *Mexican Gothic*, *Tripping Arcadia* is a page-turning and shocking tale with an unforgettable protagonist that explores family legacy and inheritance, the sacrifices we must make to get by in today’s world, and the intoxicating, dangerous power of wealth.



**KIT MAYQUIST** is a trans male author who is a fan of everything spooky and indulgent. He can be found in the historic shadows of Boston, with a sullen Persian cat in his lap and surrounded in antiques.



## FICTION



*In the vein of Lyssa Kay Adams and Abby Jimenez, Kelly Ohlert's charming debut is a one-of-a-kind rom-com that explores the power of overcoming the past and fighting for the things you love.*

**"I adore unique fiction, and this is such an interesting premise. I recommend because of the story itself, writing style, and its ability to transport you into a different world."**

– Katie P., 5-star review on *NetGalley*

**"Listen this book was straight up hilarious! I can't remember the last time I laughed like this... Absolutely brilliant, heart-warming, hilarious and so sweet."**

– Thiane J., 4-star review on *NetGalley*

**"This novel has the most unforgettable meet-cute."**

– Andrea J., 5-star review on *NetGalley*

**Rights sold:** World including audio: Alcove Press / Crooked Lane Books (Dec. 6, 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

## Kelly Ohlert TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE

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.

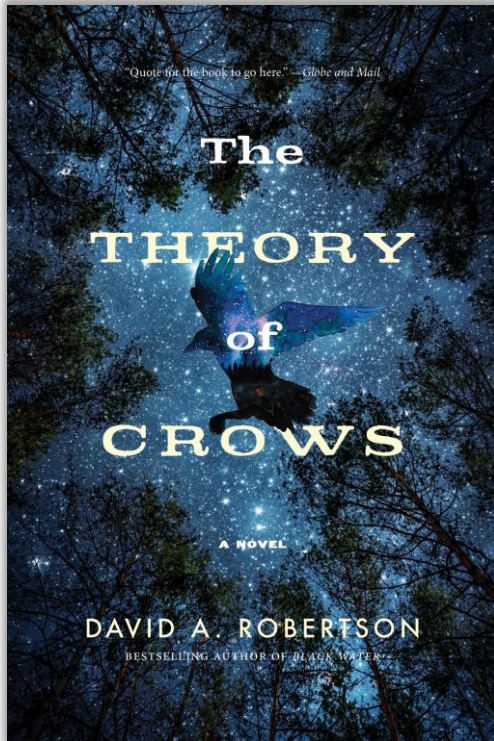
Bear likes his quiet life with his close-knit family, who own a flower business, but he's in for a rude awakening when his meddlesome sisters post an ad to rent the spare room in his simple home, without asking his permission. Still, when Trixie responds to the ad, he agrees to let her move in, despite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



**KELLY OHLERT** is an adult fiction author, with a focus on romantic comedy. She loves books about... well, love! She's a lifelong avid reader of all genres, and as a busy mom, has an enthusiastic appreciation for audio books and multi-tasking.

## FICTION



*When a troubled father and his estranged teenage daughter head out in search of the family trapline, they find their way back to one another, to their Cree identities, and to themselves.*

**“Robertson is a treasure: kind, honest and a master of storytelling.”**

– Cherie Dimaline, author of *The Marrow Thieves*, on *Black Water*

**“Essential and timely.”**

– Eden Robinson, bestselling author of *The Trickster* Trilogy, on *Black Water*

**“A deeply moving book.”**

– David Chariandy, author of *Brother*, on *Black Water*

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**Rights sold** Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (Sep. 13, 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author's website:** [www.darobertson.ca](http://www.darobertson.ca)

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

David A. Robertson

## THE THEORY OF CROWS

*A Novel*

Deep in the night, Matthew paces the house, unable to rest. Though his sixteen-year-old daughter Hallelujah, who goes by Holly, lies sleeping on the other side of a bedroom door, to him, she feels a universe away. How can he bridge the gap between them when he can't shake the emptiness inside?

Holly knows her father is drifting away from her; what she doesn't understand is why. Could it be her fault that he seems intent on blowing up his life? Doesn't he care that if he blows up his own life, he'll also be blowing up hers?

Following a tragedy close to home, Matthew invites Holly to head out onto the land with him to search for a long-lost cabin on the family trapline. Matthew makes the trip to reconnect with the father he has just lost, and the Cree teachings he instilled in him; Holly accompanies him because during the journey, the father she fears losing won't be able to walk away from her.

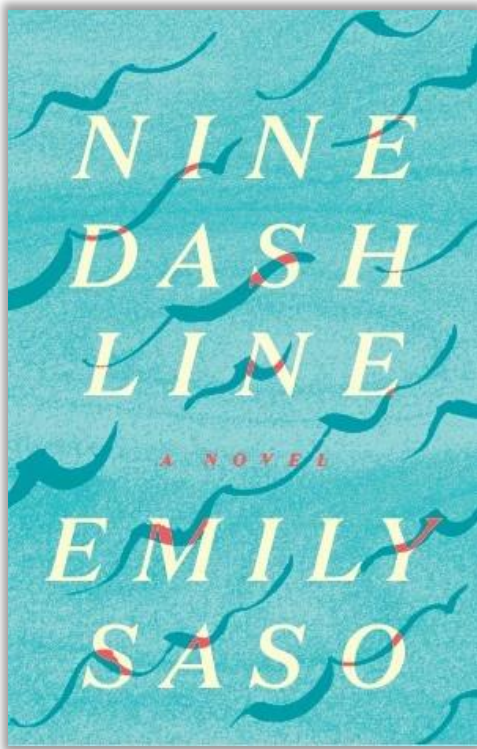
Each of them is searching for something more than a place. What happens in the wilderness will test them, and heal them, in ways they never thought possible. A moving novel about the bonds of family and the gifts of the land.



**DAVID A. ROBERTSON** is the two-time winner of the Governor General's Literary Award, and winner of the Beatrice Mosionier Indigenous Writer of the Year Award, and the John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer. He is the author of the memoir *Black Water*, which won the Alexander Kennedy Isbister Award for Non-fiction

and the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award, the bestselling Misewa trilogy, and the Reckoner series of graphic novels. Robertson is a member of Norway House Cree Nation. He lives in Winnipeg.

## FICTION



*In the middle of the South China Sea, a man and a woman battle the elements, the memories of the crimes that haunt them, and fate.*

**“*The Weather Inside* is a mighty examination of faith and love. Saso masterfully shows why these are two different words. Gritty and heartfelt and hilarious in all the right places, this book is a gift for readers who are looking for something fresh.”**

– Bradley Somer, author of *Fishbowl*, on *The Weather Inside*

**“A debut novel that is both heartbreaking and hilarious. Emily Saso is a unique and daring new voice.”**

– Rebecca Rosenblum, author of *The Big Dream*, on *The Weather Inside*

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**Rights sold:** Canadian English: Freehand Books (Sep. 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author's website:** [www.emilysaso.com](http://www.emilysaso.com)

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

## Emily Saso

### NINE DASH LINE

*A Novel*

A U.S. Navy intelligence officer, Jess is serving on an aircraft carrier – the first woman ever to do so – until she gets assigned a top-secret mission. When the mission goes wrong, she’s rescued by Philippine Navy sailors who’ve been strategically moored for far too long. Things get complicated when their unhinged leader declares Jess an angel sent to save them from their disastrous mission. But Jess is no angel; she’s done horrible things and she’s desperate for absolution.

The only person who can give it to her is Zi Shan. Exiled to a politically contentious coral sprawl called Mischief Reef, he’s been tasked with turning the reef into an island by dredging sand from the ocean floor. Each day he follows the bizarre directives from his fellow castoff, enduring the memories that torment him, and awaits a helicopter home to his daughter. But when Jess washes up on his shore, everything turns to chaos.

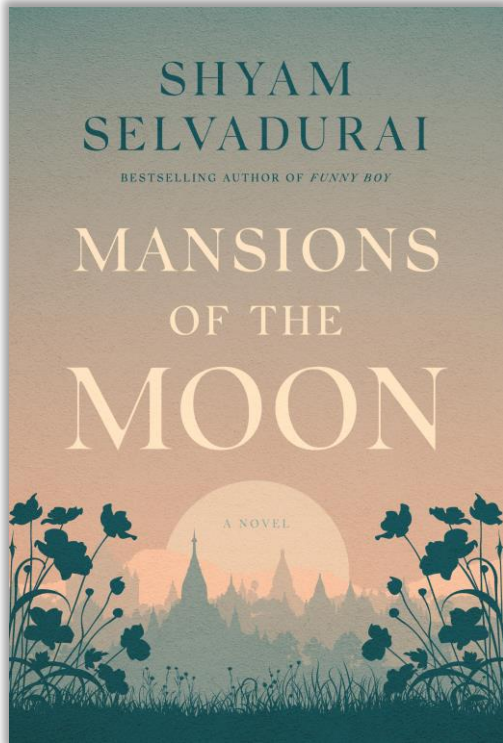
Inspired by real but re-imagined events, the mysteries of fate unfold dramatically in *Nine Dash Line*. What brought Jess and Zi Shan to Mischief Reef? What binds them together? And how in the world will they ever get home?



**EMILY SASO** writes novels and screenplays. Her voice, dark humor, and style have been compared to Margaret Atwood. Her debut novel, *The Weather Inside*, was published in 2016. She holds her master’s degree in political science (with a specialization in international security studies), and lives in Toronto.



## FICTION



**“A powerful and beautifully written novel.”**

– *Literary Review* (U.K.), on *Funny Boy*

**“Faultlessly elegant... Selvadurai is expert in capturing the nuances of this particularly precious time and place.”**

– *The New York Times Book Review*, on *Cinnamon Gardens*

**“Richly rewarding... This is a novel that deserves, and will surely gain, a wide readership.”**

– *Sunday Times* (U.K.), on *Cinnamon Gardens*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (May 3, 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author's website:**

[www.shyamselvadurai.com](http://www.shyamselvadurai.com)

**Agent:** Bruce Westwood & Meg Wheeler

# Shyam Selvadurai MANSIONS OF THE MOON

*A Novel*

This stunning portrait of a famous marriage in ancient India tells the story of Yasodhara, wife of the Buddha, as intimately reimagined by the bestselling author of *Funny Boy*.

In this sweeping story, at once epic and startlingly intimate, Selvadurai introduces us to Siddhartha Gautama, otherwise known as the Buddha, a promising and politically astute young man settling into his life as a newlywed to Yasodhara, a young woman of great intelligence and spirit.

The novel traces their early life together, and then the unthinkable turmoil as Siddhartha's spiritual calling takes over and their partnership slowly, inexorably crumbles. How does a woman live in ancient India if her husband abandons her? Even a well-born woman with a revered husband? And what path might she take towards enlightenment herself? Selvadurai examines these questions with empathy and insight, creating a rich, strikingly relevant portrait of a singular marriage, and of the woman who until now has been a shadow in the historical record. *Mansions of the Moon* is a literary event, and a remarkable moment in a beloved author's career.



**SHYAM SELVADURAI** was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka and moved to Canada at age nineteen. *Funny Boy*, his first novel, was published to immediate acclaim, was a national bestseller, and won the W.H. Smith/Books in Canada First Novel Award and the Lambda Literary Award, and was named a Notable Book by the American Library Association. *Cinnamon Gardens*, his second novel, was shortlisted for the Trillium Award and has been published in the U.S., U.K., India, and numerous other countries.



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**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Simon & Schuster (Spring/Summer 2023)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author's website:** [www.craigshreve.com](http://www.craigshreve.com)

**Agent:** Chris Casuccio

## Craig Shreve

# THE AFRICAN SAMURAI

In 1579, a Portuguese trade ship sails into port at Kinchotsu, Japan, loaded with European wares and weapons. Also aboard is an enormous East African slave named Yasuke. Taken from his village as a boy, sold as a slave to mercenaries and forced to fight in Indian wars that meant nothing to him, he is a young but experienced soldier. Serving as the protector for a high-ranking Italian priest, Yasuke joins an expedition pushing inland towards the capital city of Kyoto.

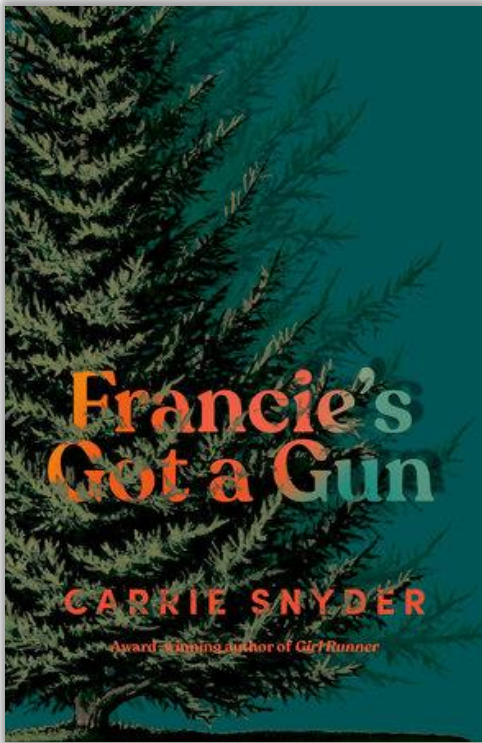
In central Japan, Oda Nobunaga, the land's most powerful warlord, is preparing a campaign to complete the unification of a nation that's been torn apart by over a hundred years of civil war.

At the center of these complex political machinations rises the most unlikely of heroes: the great warrior Yasuke, who against all odds becomes Japan's first foreign samurai, and the only one of African descent. His moral preoccupation is not a question of power, as it is for Nobunaga, but one notably and poignantly of freedom.

*The African Samurai* is based on the true-life story of Yasuke, history's first foreign born samurai. It is an incredible work of literary fiction; a magnificent reconstruction and moving study of a lost historical figure; and a truly enthralling narrative, thrilling in its dramatization, whether on a vessel traversing the ocean, in the ring depicting a sumo wrestling match, on stage recreating the songs and stories of Africa, or in the mounting of a final defense against an army of samurai. This is a timeless, epic story; a novel for the ages.

**CRAIG SHREVE** was born and raised in North Buxton, Ontario and is a descendant of Abraham Doras Shadd, the first black person in Canada to be elected to public office, and of his daughter, Mary Ann Shadd, the pioneering abolitionist, suffragette, and newspaper editor/publisher. Shreve is the author of *One Night in Mississippi*. He lives in Toronto.





*Reminiscent of the early novels of Miriam Toews, a suspenseful and poignant tale from an award-winning writer about a girl navigating chaotic family life in a close-knit small town.*

**“A novel of intriguing originality. The book is well written and totally captivating...”**

– *London Free Press*, on *Girl Runner*

**“A page turner... Revelatory.”**

– *Waterloo Chronicle*, on *Girl Runner*

**“Well-crafted and imaginative... Snyder’s tone and style is vivid and compelling.”**

– *The Globe & Mail*, on *The Juliet Stories*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Jul. 26, 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [www.carriesnyder.com](http://www.carriesnyder.com)

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

Carrie Snyder

## FRANCIE’S GOT A GUN

This novel starts exactly where the title does: with Francie, a panicked girl who, we quickly realize, is holding a gun and desperately looking for a place to hide. From this startling opening, each new chapter sweeps us into the life of a separate character who has interacted with Francie – until gradually a full picture comes into view. We piece together what has brought Francie to her breaking point, and the sometimes deliberate, sometimes unwitting complicity of an entire community in what eventually transpires with the illicit gun.

In *Francie’s Got a Gun*, award-winning writer Carrie Snyder realizes the great promise of her previous fiction, assembling a cast of unforgettable, tragi-comic characters who are equal parts compassion and cruelty, laughter and heartache. Here is a propulsive, multi-layered novel leavened with humor – and a memorable, affecting examination of the complex dynamics in a family that is breaking down and coming apart in front of the questioning, irrepressible young person at its center.



**CARRIE SNYDER** is an award-winning Canadian writer who has published three books of literary fiction. Her debut novel *Girl Runner* sold in twelve territories, was a finalist for the Rogers Writers’ Trust Award for Fiction, and has been optioned for film. She’s also the author of two collections of short fiction: *Hair Hat*, which was shortlisted for the Danuta Gleed Award for Short Fiction; and *The Juliet Stories*, which was a finalist for the 2012 Governor General’s Literary Award.

## FICTION



“Vrana’s dark, folklore-infused debut, the first of a duology, introduces readers to the residents of Black Hollow, who hold their daughters close and their twisted secrets closer... Vrana crafts a unique local mythology and draws from existing lore to create a sense of creeping dread. Vrana is off to a strong start with this solid, suspenseful tale.”

– *Publishers Weekly*, on *The Hollow Gods*

“*The Echoed Realm* pulls no punches and offers a masterfully crafted supernatural horror that’s not afraid to face the hard truths and imagine a different kind of world. *The Echoed Realm* leaves an aftertaste of a promise, of something bigger and better, deeper and even bolder than this.”

– *Three Crows Magazine*, on *The Echoed Realm*

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**Rights sold:** North American English: Parliament House Press (Book One: Jul. 28, 2020; Book Two: Aug. 10, 2021)  
North American English audio: Tantor Audio  
Russia: Eksmo  
**Status:** Books available  
**Author’s website:** [www.thechaoscycle.com](http://www.thechaoscycle.com)  
**Agent:** Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

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**A.J. Vrana** is a Serbian Canadian, lifelong resident of Toronto. Growing up between two cultures has always given her a sense of liminality, of being neither here nor there. In turn, this has provided her a unique perspective that has served as inspiration in both her professional life and her creative endeavors.

# A.J. Vrana

## THE HOLLOW GODS

*The Chaos Cycle (Book One)*

*Black Hollow is a town with a dark secret.*

For centuries, residents have foretold the return of the Dreamwalker – an ominous figure from local folklore said to lure young women into the woods and possess them. Yet the boundary between fact and fable is blurred by a troubling statistic: occasionally, women do go missing. And after they return, they almost always end up dead.

Miya is a twenty-something lifelong resident of Black Hollow, a student struggling with poverty, insomnia, and anxiety, who fears that she may be the next victim. Kai is haunted by a sinister presence – a voice that tries to convince him that he is responsible for the death of one of Black Hollow’s missing girls. Mason is a big city oncologist traumatized by the death of his first patient, who arrives in Black Hollow in hoping to escape his grief, but instead finds himself hopelessly consumed by the myths that permeate the small town. When the three protagonists are finally united, they discover that behind the town’s troubled history is an age-long spiritual battle.

## THE ECHOED REALM

*The Chaos Cycle (Book Two)*

*Sharpen your claws and bloody your teeth. There’s fear to be sown.*

It’s been three years since the Dreamwalker upended Miya’s life. A fledgling to the ethereal realm, she stumbles in and out of haunting nightmares. Kai has found a new purpose as her companion, but the price is his freedom. Bound and beholden to Miya, he struggles to adjust to his new role as her vanguard. Meanwhile, Mason discovers he may be a pawn trapped in a web of schemes.

As Black Hollow’s bloody stain spreads beyond its wooded borders, Miya fights to evade a past she barely understands. The Dreamwalker’s legacy is a vise grip, and it isn’t letting go. Primordial horrors draw near, fables come alive, and long-buried histories rise from the grave, ready to hunt.

# **NON-FICTION**



*A poet and journalist looks back on a remarkable overland journey he took from Turkey to Nepal in the late 1970s – when he was a young man and the region stood on the brink of massive transformation.*

**“Abley proves a deft social anthropologist.”**

– *Daily Telegraph*, on *The Prodigal Tongue*

**“A fascinating and often beautiful portrait.”**

– *BBC Music Magazine*, on *The Organist*

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**Rights sold:** World including audio: House of Anansi Press (Feb. 2023)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [www.markabley.com](http://www.markabley.com)

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

Mark Abley

## STRANGE BEWILDERING TIME

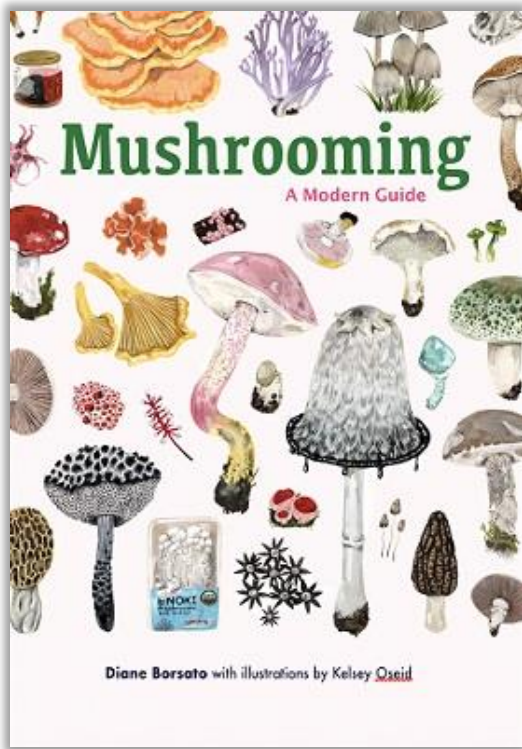
*Istanbul to Kathmandu in the Final Year  
of the Hippie Trail*

In the spring of 1978, at the age of 22, Canadian Mark Abley put aside his studies at Oxford and set off with a friend on a three-month trek across the notorious “hippie trail” – a sprawling byway used by bohemians and vagabonds that stretched between Europe and South Asia. It was a time when the Shah of Iran still reigned supreme, Afghanistan remained at peace, and city streets across Turkey to Pakistan teemed with unrest. Within a year, many parts of this trail would become inaccessible to Western travelers.

Drawing from the tattered notebooks he filled as a young wanderer, Abley brings his kaleidoscope of experiences back to life with fresh and vivid detail: dancing in a Turkish disco; riding an elephant in Rajasthan; traveling by train alongside Baluchi tribesmen who smuggled kitchen appliances across international borders. The lively immediacy of Abley’s youthful journals combined with the measured voice of his mature, contemporary point of view provide rich insight, bringing both fine detail and historical perspective to this portrait of a region during a time of irrevocable change.

**MARK ABLEY** is a Rhodes Scholar, a Guggenheim Fellow, a winner of Canada’s National Newspaper Award, and the first Canadian recipient of the LiberPress Prize for international writers. He has written six books of non-fiction, four collections of poetry, and two children’s books. Mark lives in Pointe Claire, Quebec.





*A beautiful, modern guide to more than 100 common and charismatic mushroom species found across the northern hemisphere.*

“In a period where many of us are seeking solace in nature, *Outdoor School* encourages us to consider our presence and the practices we have... [and] activates the conversation of art and nature and how we fit into it.”

– Ashley Culver, *Femme Art/Review*, on *Outdoor School*

**Rights sold:** North American English & French: Douglas & McIntyre (Canada: Sep. 3, 2022; U.S.: Mar. 2023)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [www.dianebersato.net](http://www.dianebersato.net)

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Diane Borsato

# MUSHROOMING

*A Modern Guide*

For everyone from beginner mushroomers to advanced mycophiles, learn about the edible, the poisonous, and the strange – from candy caps to earth stars, puff balls to poison pie, prized chanterelles, morels and hedgehogs, to deadly destroying angels. There are mushrooms named after fairies and demons, and mushrooms that are the color of precious jewels. Some mushrooms look so much like woodland birds that they are shot at by hunters, and some literally glow in the dark.

Written by artist and educator Diane Borsato, and including 120 full-color illustrations by Kelsey Oseid, *Mushrooming* looks at the culture of nature and the ways contemporary artists use mushrooms to explore the unexpected wilderness of cities, to live more sustainably with other beings, and to propose new ways for us to perceive the world and to see ourselves.

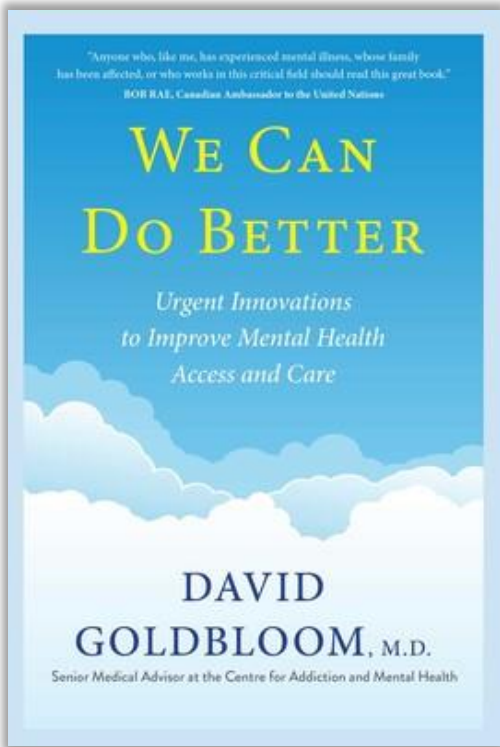
With nature hobbies like birding and foraging on the rise, this book proposes mushrooming as a compelling cultural practice, and describes how “the quiet hunt” can teach us to see what is often unseen, and to experience the world with greater intimacy and intelligence. Start foraging wherever you are, in the forest, the city park, the market, or the museum; there may even be mushrooms in your basement!



**DIANE BORSATO** is an award-winning artist, naturalist, and educator. Her works in performance, video, and photography have been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world. Her book on contemporary environmental art *Outdoor School*, edited with Amish Morrell, was released in 2021. She is Associate Professor of Studio Art at the University of Guelph, and lives in Toronto.



## NON-FICTION



*A leading psychiatrist and expert reveals important issues in mental health care today and introduces innovations to revolutionize and improve mental health for everyone.*

**"Anyone who, like me, has experienced mental illness, whose family has been affected, or who works in this critical field (have I missed anyone?) should read this great book. David Goldbloom is putting his knowledge to work in an engaging, thoughtful, and personal way. Bless him for sharing his wisdom and talent in a huge cause."**

– Bob Rae, Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations

**Rights sold:** World English: Simon & Schuster Canada (May 4, 2021)

**Status:** Books available

**Agent:** Michael A. Levine

## Dr. David Goldbloom WE CAN DO BETTER

*Urgent Innovations to Improve  
Mental Health Access and Care*

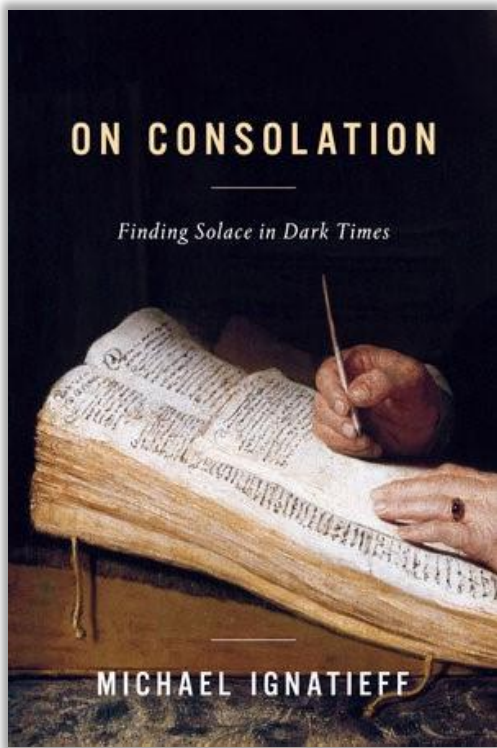
Mental health care systems are falling short and the consequences, for individuals and societies, are dire. In this urgent book, celebrated psychiatrist and mental health care advocate Dr. David Goldbloom outlines proven innovations in medicine and health care delivery that we all could benefit from.

Using fictional – but all too real – examples of people suffering with various mental illnesses, from depression to addiction, and drawn from his real-life experiences in this field, Dr. Goldbloom shows barriers to care and other faults in mental health care systems. He then reveals simple, yet startlingly effective tools for improving access and treatment that can help people now, if we only had the will to share, use, and fund these brilliant innovations – such as self-referrals – for faster access to care and remote coaching for effectively treating common childhood problems.

While technologies such as smart phones and genetic testing play a role, these innovations focus on people. They address waiting times to see specialists, the lack of coordination between health care institutions, and the stigma that often comes with seeking help, including stigma among health care providers. They broaden the definition of what mental health care can even be, such as providing housing, or low-intensity training for day-to-day life. Smart, candid, personal, and persuasive, this new book is a timely call for better access to and quality of help. It is a roadmap to better well-being for everyone.



**DAVID GOLDBLOOM, M.D.**, is Senior Medical Advisor at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto. He is a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. He has authored over 100 scientific articles and book chapters, and edited two psychiatric textbooks. He lives in Toronto.



**“A passionate, thought-provoking, unpredictable book.”**

– Carlo Ginzburg, author of *Threads and Traces*

**“Written with eloquence in an affecting spirit of humility by a man of uncommon intelligence...”**

– Leon Wieseltier, author of *Kaddish*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House (Nov. 9, 2021) | Czech Republic: Kalich | Denmark: Kristeligt Dagblads Forlag | Germany: Ullstein | Italy: Vita e Pensiero | Korea: Kachi Books | Netherlands: Cossee | Romania: Editura Trei Srl | Serbia: Kontrast | Spain: Taurus / Penguin Random House | Taiwan: Business Weekly Publications | U.K. & Commonwealth: Picador / Pan Macmillan | U.S.: Henry Holt / Macmillan

**Status:** Books available

**Author's website:** [www.michaelignatieff.ca](http://www.michaelignatieff.ca)

**Agent:** Michael A. Levine

## Michael Ignatieff ON CONSOLATION

*Finding Solace in Dark Times*

When we lose someone we love, when we suffer loss or defeat, when catastrophe strikes – war, famine, pandemic – we go in search of consolation. Once the province of priests and philosophers, the language of consolation has largely vanished from our modern vocabulary, and the places where it was offered, houses of religion, are often empty. Rejecting the solace of ancient religious texts, humanity since the sixteenth century has increasingly placed its faith in science, ideology, and the therapeutic.

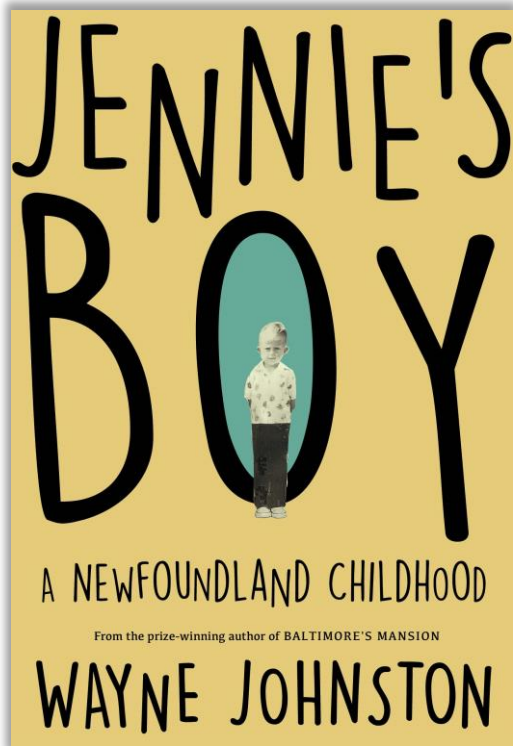
In a series of meditations on writers, artists, musicians, and their works from the books of Job and Psalms to Albert Camus, Anna Akhmatova, and Primo Levi – esteemed writer and historian Michael Ignatieff shows how men and women in extremity have looked to each other across time to recover hope and resilience. He answers the question of how we console one another in an age of unbelief.

Recreating the moments when great figures found the courage to confront their fate and the determination to continue unafraid, *On Consolation* takes those stories into the present, movingly contending that we can revive these traditions of consolation to meet the anguish and uncertainties of our precarious twenty-first century.



**MICHAEL IGNATIEFF** is the author of *Isaiah Berlin* and *The Warrior's Honour*, as well as sixteen other acclaimed books. He writes regularly for *The New York Times*, *the New York Review of Books*, and the *London Review of Books*. Former head of Canada's Liberal Party, he is currently the president of Central European University in Budapest. Former head of Canada's Liberal Party, he is currently the president of Central European University in Budapest.

## NON-FICTION



**“Wayne Johnston’s childhood was full of laughter, pain and poverty. And then laughter again. This is an uplifting account of a childhood not just survived – he came close to death too many times to count – but triumphed over. Thank god he lived to tell the tale.”**

– Rick Mercer

**“Beautiful, heartfelt, funny and engrossing.”**

– *San Francisco Chronicle*, on *Baltimore’s Mansion*

**“Absorbing... Elegantly and passionately written.”**

– Jury Citation, Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction, on *Baltimore’s Mansion*

**“A consummate storyteller.”**

– *The Times* (London), on *Baltimore’s Mansion*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Sep. 20, 2022) | U.S. including audio: Steerforth Press (Feb. 2023)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [www.waynejohnston.ca](http://www.waynejohnston.ca)

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Wayne Johnston

### JENNIE’S BOY

*A Newfoundland Childhood*

Sad, tender, and at times extremely funny, this is the story of a Newfoundland boyhood few thought the author would survive, himself included. For six months between 1966 and 1967, Wayne Johnston and his family lived in a wreck of a house across from his grandparents in Goulds, Newfoundland, among a scattering of houses on an unpaved road. At seven, Johnston was sickly, skinny, unable to keep food down or sleep, plagued with a relentless and undiagnosable cough, though doctors had already removed his tonsils, adenoids, and appendix. Heart murmur, pleurisy, a tapeworm? All were suspected; none confirmed. To the community he was known as “Jennie’s boy,” and his tiny, ferocious mother felt judged for his condition and worried he might not grow up to be his own man.

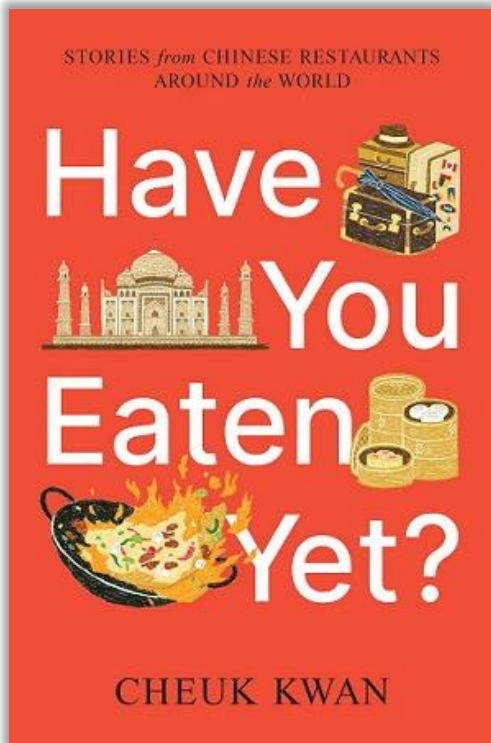
While his brothers went to school, and his parents to work, trying to stave off the next eviction, Johnston spent his days with his witty, religious, deeply eccentric maternal grandmother, Lucy, who kept a statue of the Blessed Virgin in her bedroom along with a photo of her son Leonard, who had died at seven. During these six months of Johnston’s childhood, he and Lucy faced two life-or-death crises, and only one of them lived to tell the tale.

*Jennie’s Boy* is Johnston’s tribute to a family and community that were fiercely protective of him and fed up with making allowances for him: grandparents, parents and siblings, aunts and uncles, and the people of Goulds, whose pet and nuisance he was. He recalls a boyhood full of pain but also laughter, tenderness, and the kind of wit that is peculiar to Newfoundlanders. By that wit, and by their love for each other so often expressed in the most unloving ways, he, and they, survived.



**WAYNE JOHNSTON** is the author of numerous award-winning, internationally acclaimed, bestselling books including *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, which was nominated for sixteen national and international awards, including the Scotiabank Giller Prize, Governor General’s Award, and Canada Reads.





“Every once in a lifetime an author comes along that pulls all the strands of social history, migration diaspora, regional politics and, above all, food, into a most comprehensive and thoughtful tome. Cheuk Kwan has done just this.”

– Chef Ken Hom, OBE

“With a masterful blending of rich textures, contours, and flavours, Kwan takes us on a lively journey of the omnipresent Chinese restaurant capturing the enduring spirit of the Chinese diaspora. I hear their voices - jumping off the pages. This is how history should be told!”

– Dora Nipp, historian and CEO of the Multicultural Historical Society of Ontario

**Rights sold:** North American English audio: Blackstone  
North American English: Douglas & McIntyre (Jan. 29, 2022)  
**Status:** Books available  
**Agent:** Chris Casuccio

Cheuk Kwan

## HAVE YOU EATEN YET?

*A Journey into the Chinese Diaspora*

Family-run Chinese restaurants are global icons of immigration, community, and good food. They dot even the most remote of landscapes, as cultural outposts of brave sojourners, the bringers of dim sum, Peking Duck, and unimagined culinary hybrids. But food is just an entry point. A deeper look inside reveals a complicated history of cultural migration and world politics.

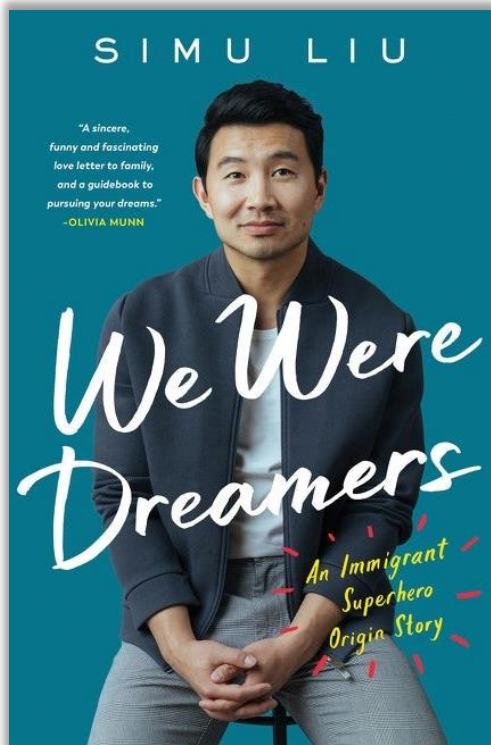
In *Have You Eaten Yet?* Cheuk Kwan draws out this global narrative by linking together the myriad personal stories of chefs, entrepreneurs, laborers and dreamers who populate Chinese kitchens world-wide. At the core of this exploration is the examination of an intriguing paradox which characterizes almost all of the Chinese communities. That is, how at once Chinese immigrants have resisted (or have been prevented from) complete assimilation into the social fabric of their new homes and maintained a strong sense of cultural identity, but at the same time, how the engine of their economic survival, the Chinese restaurant and its food, have become seamlessly woven into it.

This is an intrepid travelogue of grand vistas and local colors, of adventure and serendipity. Entertaining and eye-opening, *Have You Eaten Yet?* maps out a living atlas of the Chinese diaspora, and charts the synergy of politics, culture, and family that have created its incredible stories.



**CHEUK KWAN** grew up in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Japan. He co-founded *The Asianadian*, a progressive and influential magazine dedicated to the promotion of Asian Canadian arts, culture, and politics, and helped lead the Anti-W5 Campaign to fight against racist portrayals of Chinese Canadians on television. Kwan studied film production at NYU, and his five films from the *Chinese Restaurants* series combines his love of food, travel, and his appreciation of Chinese culture worldwide. Kwan speaks English, Japanese, French, Cantonese, and Mandarin. He is based in Toronto.





**“Don’t let Simu Liu fool you. On the outside you may see boyish good looks... But on the inside? [...] Beautiful ligaments and a soul made of spun sugar... [A] hilarious and heartfelt story about growing up, finding yourself, and seizing your moment.”**

– Ryan Reynolds, actor and film producer

**“A sincere, funny and fascinating love letter to family, and a guidebook to pursuing your dreams.”**

– Olivia Munn, actress and former TV host

**“Just what we need, another underdog immigrant story of overachievement.”**

– Ronny Chieng, actor and comedian

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (May 17, 2022)  
U.K. & Commonwealth including audio: William Collins / HarperCollins  
U.S. including audio: William Morrow / HarperCollins (May 17, 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:** [Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#)

**Agents:** Jackie Kaiser (WCA) & Cindy Uh (CAA)

Simu Liu

## WE WERE DREAMERS

*An Immigrant Superhero Origin Story*

In this honest, inspiring, and relatable memoir, newly-minted superhero Simu Liu chronicles his family’s journey from China to the bright lights of Hollywood with razor-sharp wit and humor.

Liu’s parents left him in the care of his grandparents, then brought him to Canada when he was four. Life as a Canuck, however, isn’t all that it was cracked up to be; Liu’s new guardians lack the gentle touch of his grandparents, resulting in harsh words and hurt feelings. His parents find their new son emotionally distant and difficult to relate to – although blood-related, they are separated by culture, language, and values.

As Liu grows up, he plays the part of the ideal son well – he gets straight As, crushes national math competitions, and makes his parents proud. But as time passes, he grows disillusioned with the path laid out for him. Barely a year out of college, he hits rock bottom when he’s laid off from his first job as an accountant. Unemployed, and with nothing left to lose, Liu embarks on a journey that will take him far outside of his comfort zone into the world of show business.

Through rejection and comical mishaps, Liu’s determination leads him to not only succeed as an actor, but also to open the door to reconciling with his parents.

*We Were Dreamers* is more than a celebrity memoir – it’s a story about growing up between cultures, finding your family, and becoming the master of your own extraordinary circumstance.



**SIMU LIU** is an actor and writer best known for his work on Marvel Studios’ *Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, in five seasons of the beloved family sitcom *Kim’s Convenience*, and for manifesting his dreams into existence with a Tweet. He lives in Los Angeles and Toronto.



*A writer studies a famous work of art only to see herself and her own cultural moment revealed at its heart. Featuring color illustrations, an expansion of Marshall's essay "At the Edge of the World," which was the seventh most popular piece published by The Common in 2018.*

"Michelangelo made a great and lasting work of art that changed history. But in Marshall's gifted hands, our experience of it becomes an adventure and a work of art in its own right. This is a book about discovery, unlike anything you have read before."

— Ian Brown, author of *Sixty* and *The Boy in the Moon*

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**Rights sold:** World including audio: Biblioasis Press (Sep. 13, 2022)  
**Status:** Manuscript available  
**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Jeannie Marshall

# SEEING THINGS IN THE SISTINE CHAPEL

Jeannie Marshall lived in Rome for ten years without visiting the Sistine Chapel: She didn't want to have a superficial experience of the frescos, but she wasn't sure how, amidst the crowds of tour groups and the noise of pop culture allusions, she could have anything but. What's more, she wondered what this very old, very Catholic art, created by a man who grew up under the warm Tuscan sun of the Renaissance, could possibly have to say to a modern woman raised in the New World by a family in retreat from Christianity – and what it could say to any of us living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*Seeing Things in the Sistine Chapel* is Marshall's story of her intentional encounter with one of the world's most cherished artworks and an impassioned defence of the role of art in our lives. A personal account of finding meaning, and a model for how to engage deeply with the past, *Seeing Things in the Sistine Chapel* is a quietly sublime meditation on how art, once invested with the power to save our souls, can enlarge our lives if only we learn how to look.



**JEANNIE MARSHALL** is a journalist who lives in Rome, Italy, with her husband and their young son. She has written for Canadian national newspapers and magazines such as *The Globe & Mail* and the *Walrus*. Before moving to Italy in 2002, she was a features writer at the Toronto-based *National Post*. She works as an occasional consultant for the

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. She is the author of *The Lost Art of Feeding Kids: What Italy Taught Me About Why Children Need Real Food*.



Is a global pandemic what it took to show us that saving our planet is possible?

**Rights sold:** North American English including audio: Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada (Sep. 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** John Pearce

Bob McDonald

## THE FUTURE IS NOW

*Solving the Climate Crisis with Today's Technologies*

In the absence of motorized boats and gondolas, Venice's waters have returned to a sparkling blue color. With decreased boat traffic, whales have returned to roaming Vancouver's harbors. The absence of "regular" human activities has dramatically affected our environment. In this book, Bob McDonald turns his focus to global energy sources, and shows how the global shutdowns may have been exactly what we needed to show us that a greener future is achievable.

What follows is an exploration of the incredible technologies that our species can use to get out of the mess we've made. It is a work of immense optimism – to counteract the sense of doom that hangs over most discussions of the environment.

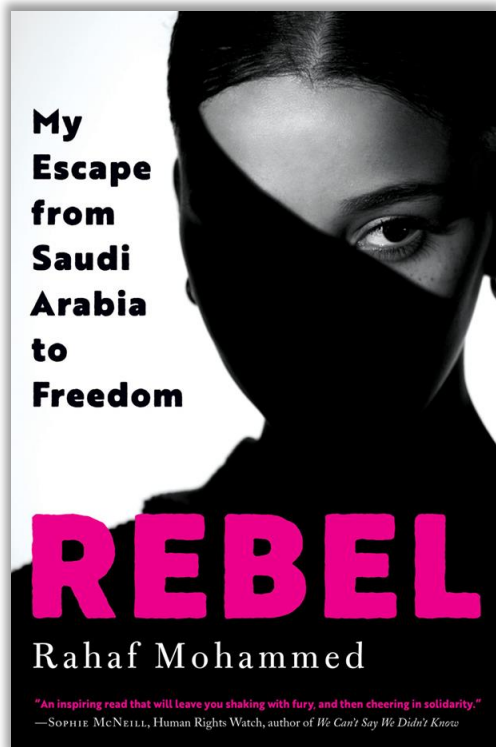
Many alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal have been available for decades – but they alone will not be enough. Additional power will come from small nuclear reactors the size of an office desk, and space-based solar power satellites with enormous mirrors that can capture sunlight, convert it to microwaves, and beam it to the ground to light up entire cities. Energy will be captured from waves, tides, and hydrogen. Vehicles will no longer have tailpipes that emit smog particles. Food will be sourced locally.

Green technology is one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy, and will only continue to skyrocket. A new green age is upon us – let this book be your guide.



**BOB McDONALD** has been the host of CBC Radio's *Quirks & Quarks* since 1992. He is a regular science commentator on CBC's *News Network* and a science correspondent for CBC TV's *The National*. In November 2011, he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. In 2014, an asteroid designated 2006XN67 was officially named BOBMCDONALD in his honor. McDonald lives in Victoria, British Columbia.





*Both a page-turner and a dramatic exposé, this book is a testament to the human spirit and the irrepressible desire for freedom.*

“Mohammed recounts her daring path to liberation in this potent debut... Her scorching indictment serves as a beacon for women worldwide yearning for freedom.”

— *Publishers Weekly*

**Rights sold:** Australia & New Zealand including audio: Pan Macmillan | Brazil: Alta Books | Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (Mar. 8, 2022) | Czech Republic: Euromedia | Denmark: People's Press | Estonia: Rahva Raamat | Finland: Otava | France: Albin Michel | Germany: Bertelsmann Verlag | Hungary: 21. Szazad Kiado | Italy: Rizzoli | Lithuania: Alma Littera | Poland: Sonia Draga | Romania: Polirom | Slovakia: Ikar | Spain: Peninsula | Sweden: Forum / Bonnier | U.K. & Commonwealth excluding Canada & ANZ: William Collins / HarperCollins | U.S. including audio: Ecco / HarperCollins  
**Status:** Books available  
**Agent:** John Pearce & Chris Casuccio

## Rahaf Mohammed

### REBEL

*My Escape from Saudi Arabia to Freedom*

Rahaf Mohammed opened her Twitter account on January 6, 2019. Stripped of her passport, she had barricaded herself into her Bangkok hotel room as she awaited either freedom or forcible return to Saudi Arabia. If the latter, she was sure she would be killed; that is what has happened to rebel women in her country. Desperate, she reached out to the world, and the world answered. Online, she rallied approximately 45,000 followers that day. Last summer *Time* named her one of the 25 Most Influential People on the Internet.

Now, just over two-years later and safely in Canada, Mohammed is ready to speak to the world. Her story, told in a fiercely original voice, promises to change the lives of women and girls who have known the same repression and abuse, and turn their hopelessness into hope.

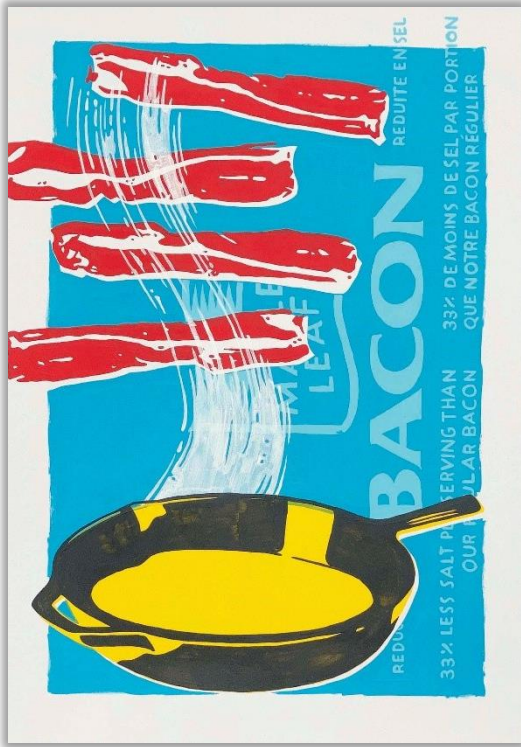
We have long heard about activist women being jailed, fathers beating and raping daughters, religion run amok – in Saudi Arabia and in other countries; but now we have the words, anecdotes, and life experience of a young woman who grew up with the abuse, the brainwashing, the deceit. Saudi Arabia's repressive, outmoded control of its women is a tragedy and a scandal, not only for girls and women, but for men robbed of their humanity, and for a country robbed of the contribution women such as Mohammed could make. Along with the story of her daring escape, Mohammed exposes the inside story of Saudi women; shares untold truths from the closed kingdom; and provides an eyewitness account of the brutal treatment of those who stand up and rebel.



**RAHAF MOHAMMED** is now twenty-two years old. She lives in Canada. Her book *Rebel* is 'as told to' acclaimed author Sally Armstrong.



## NON-FICTION



*In the tradition of great food memoirists Ruth Reichl, M.F.K. Fisher, Laurie Colwin, and Nigel Slater – part cookbook (with 52 easy-to-master recipes featuring new spins on breakfast classics) and part memoir by a gay parent (on the challenges and rewards of raising a neurodivergent child).*

**Rights sold:** North American English including audio: Appetite / Penguin Random House Canada (Mar. 28, 2023)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

Mark Pupo

## SUNDAYS

*A Celebration of Breakfast and Family  
with 52 Essential Recipes*

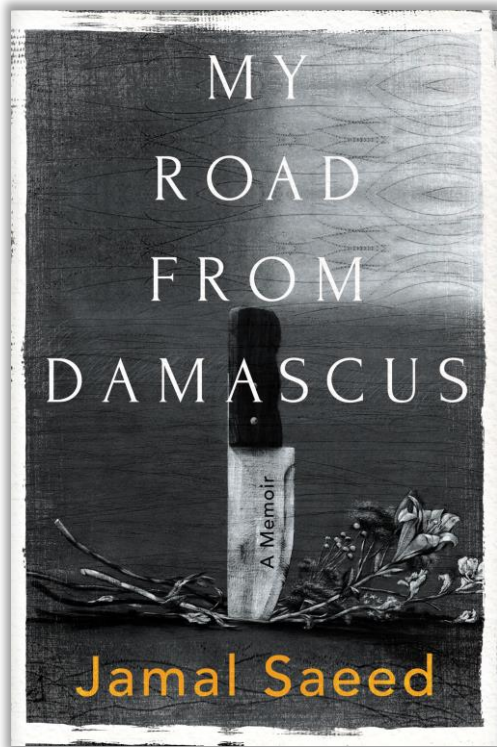
*Sundays* is one dad's unapologetically unconventional memoir-plus-cookbook about making breakfast with his neurodivergent son. It's also a heart-warming, universal story about rising above parenting challenges, the rewards of gathering around the kitchen table, and how we show our love through food. For home cooks, it includes 52 recipes for a full year of inspired weekend breakfasts, including Eggnog French Toast, Pumpkin-Spice Pancakes, Cheddar Polenta Cakes and Saucy Poached Eggs with Feta. It also includes lessons and tips for cooking with kids or teens, how to help build their confidence in the kitchen, and how to tap into their curiosity about the origins of their favorite breakfast staples.

By turns witty, charming, and honest, *Sundays* is an infectious celebration of the most important meal of the day and the most important people in our lives.

Featuring original interior illustrations by artist Christopher Rollicu.



**MARK PUPO** is an award-winning writer and the Editor-in-Chief of the Reader's Digest Canada Magazine group, which includes the titles *Reader's Digest* and *Best Health*. He's also a contributing editor at *Toronto Life*. His stories – on food, technology, society and culture – have appeared in *Toronto Life*, *Chatelaine*, *Today's Parent*, *Interior Design* and *Saturday Night*. At last count, he's breakfasted 17,000 times. He lives in Toronto.



“Jamal writes with brutal clarity, and yet, there is a poetic quality to the telling. He manages to hold in balance the idyllic memories of growing up in a land he loves, alongside his experiences inside Syrian prisons, where he peels back the dark walls and allows us to witness and pay heed to the unthinkable.”

– Frances Itani, author of *Deafening*

**Rights sold:** World English including audio: ECW Press (Oct. 4, 2022)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Chris Casuccio

## Jamal Saeed

# MY ROAD FROM DAMASCUS

*A Memoir*

Jamal Saeed arrived as a refugee in Canada in 2016. In his native Syria, as a young man, his writing pushed both social and political norms. For this reason, as well as his opposition to the regimes of the al-Assads, he was imprisoned on three occasions for a total of twelve years. In each instance, held without formal charge and without benefit of judicial process.

*My Road from Damascus* not only tells the story of his twelve years in Syria’s most notorious military prisons, but also his life during the country’s dramatic changes. From the 1950s right up to his escape to Canada in 2016, Saeed chronicles the life of modern Syria and its descent from a country of potential to the pawn of cynical and corrupt powers. It paints a picture of village life, how he first rebelled as a young Marxist and then evolved into a free thinker; it explores how he lived in hiding as a teenager for thirty months while being hunted by the secret police, his youthful love affairs, how he survived twelve brutal years in various prisons, his final release and his family’s harrowing escape to Canada.

While many prison memoirs focus on the cruelty of incarceration, *My Road from Damascus* offers a tapestry of Saeed’s whole life. It looks squarely at brutality, but also at beauty and poetry, hope and love.



**JAMAL SAEED** spent twelve years as a prisoner of conscience in Syria before being invited to Canada in 2016. He continues to raise awareness about Syria’s ongoing civil war and humanitarian crisis through his work as an activist, editor, visual artist, and author. He lives in Kingston, Ontario.



*"I have three strikes against me. I'm a woman, I speak out for women and I'm Hazara, the most persecuted tribe in Afghanistan."*

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**Rights:** Available  
**Status:** Proposal available  
**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

## Sima Samar WARRIOR

*A Life of Truth and Consequences in Afghanistan*

The Taliban threatened to kill Sima Samar if she didn't shut down her girls' schools and hospitals for women. This wasn't the first time she'd dealt with the Taliban; she knew they were serious. She refused.

Samar has been fighting this fight for many years. She was born into a polygamous family, learned early that girls had no worth, and had to agree to an arranged marriage if she wanted to go to university. By the time she was in medical school, she had a son and had become a revolutionary trying to overthrow the Russians. After her husband was disappeared by the pro-Russian regime, she escaped. With her son and medical degree, she took off into the rural areas – by horseback, by donkey, even on foot to treat people who had never had medical help before.

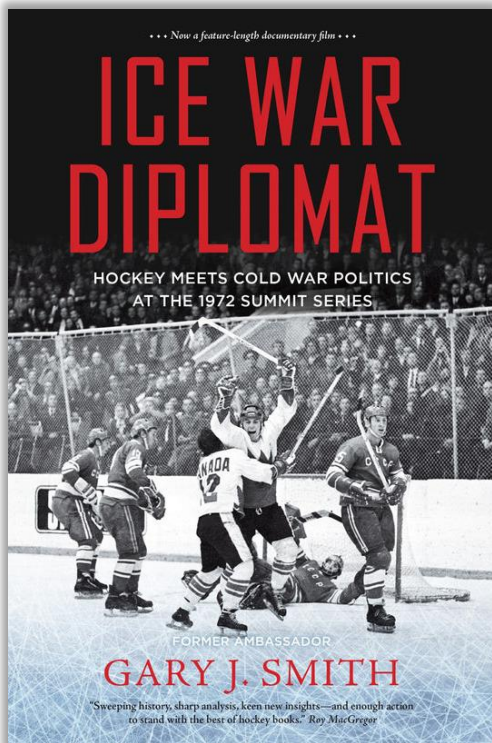
She has the inside story – all of it – the dishonesty, the collusion, the corruption, the self-serving leaders, the hijacking of the religion. She knows who is guilty and speaks about the consequences. She knows all the players in this chess game called Afghanistan. With stories that are at times poignant, at times terrifying, Samar provides an unparalleled view of Afghanistan's past and its present.

Samar says that we need to treat injustice anywhere as injustice everywhere. This wide-ranging memoir gives unparalleled insight into one woman's determination to save her people, inspiring as it informs, compelling us to act.

**SIMA SAMAR** is a globally renowned women's and human rights activist. Currently a visiting professor at Harvard University's Carr Center for Human Rights, she has served as Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Minister of Women's Affairs, and is a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Inter Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. Her many honors include the Right Livelihood Award and the Profile in Courage Award. Samar is telling her story with the assistance of acclaimed journalist and author Sally Armstrong.



## NON-FICTION



*Marking the 50th anniversary of the historic Summit Series, here is the incredible story of an unlikely political stage – the hockey rink – where a Cold War, and the threat of nuclear annihilation, is no less important than a power play in the final minute. Discover a diplomacy mission like no other: caught between capitalism and communism, Canada and the Soviet Union, young Canadian diplomat Gary J. Smith must navigate the rink, melting the ice between two nations skating a dangerous path.*

**“They were just supposed to be exhibition games, but the Summit Series turned out to be bigger than the Stanley Cup and a highlight of my career. I enjoyed Gary Smith’s excellent and accurate account – *Ice War Diplomat* brought back very good memories.”**

– Frank Mahovlich, hockey legend and Team Canada member

**Rights sold:** World English audio: Recorded Books | World English: Douglas & McIntyre (Apr. 16, 2022)

**Film/TV:** White Pine Pictures

**Status:** Books available

**Agent:** Chris Casuccio

## Gary J. Smith ICE WAR DIPLOMAT

*Hockey Meets Cold War Politics  
at the 1972 Summit Series*

Tasked with finding common ground and building friendships between the world’s two largest countries and arctic neighbors, a young Canadian diplomat finds himself on his first overseas assignment in Moscow. It’s the early 1970s and a Cold War between communism and capitalism, the west and the east, is simmering – while the ice rink is just starting to heat up. Trained in Russian and deployed by Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau’s détente policy, Smith opts for sports diplomacy, throwing off his embassy black tie dress codes and donning the blue and white sweater of the Moscow Maple Leafs.

Armed with cases of Molson, Smith sets forth into Russian beer league hockey. A vodka-infused encounter with the influential Izvestia journalist, “The Snowman,” leads him into the murky world of Soviet hockey officialdom, the K.G.B. and the decision that U.S.S.R. “amateurs” were finally ready to play Canadian professionals in an eight-game Friendship Series of the best versus the best.

Trusted with unparalleled access to officials, coaches, and players on both teams, Smith had a rare perspective of this unique and epic hockey series, that has come to transcend time, becoming a symbol of the unity and clarity that sports can offer. Discover amazing and surprising events: a motorcycle joyride around the Kremlin with Trudeau; a secret visit to a Soviet hospital by a blood-coughing Phil Esposito; an argument with Bobby Orr about Team Canada’s behavior.

The 1972 Canadian-Soviet Hockey Series was a pivotal political event in history, changing the course of two nations and the world of hockey – learn the fascinating story and more in this book, perfect for history and sports fans alike.



**GARY J. SMITH** was a diplomat at the Canadian embassy in Moscow in 1972. He was instrumental in making the 1972 Canadian-Soviet Hockey Series happen – and keeping it from falling apart. Smith lives in Perth, ON.



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