

WESTWOOD CREATIVE ARTISTS

LONDON
CATALOGUE

SPRING 2023



WESTWOOD CREATIVE ARTISTS



Westwood Creative Artists

SPRING CATALOGUE 2023

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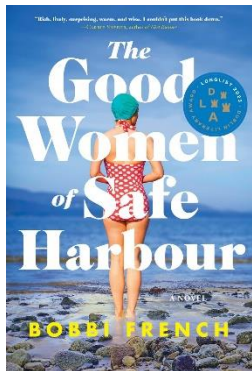
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April 2023

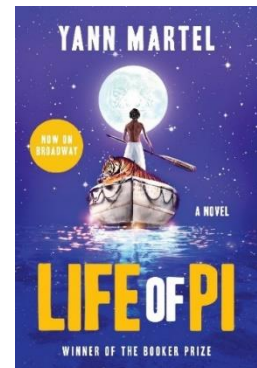
We are proud to present the Spring 2023 edition of Westwood Creative Artists' rights catalogue. Please allow us to spend a few words highlighting some of the recent accomplishments our clients have achieved over the past several months.



Starting off with news in the fiction world, we're thrilled that **Bobbi French's** *The Good Women of Safe Harbour* has just won the lively months-long [Newfoundland Reads competition](#), a province-wide initiative spearheaded by the library system and voted on by the public! An insider told us that *Good Women* has had the most downloads in the history of the public library! This affecting debut is also on the shortlist for the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award and the Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction, as well as the longlist for the [Dublin Literary Award](#). French has been a tireless promoter on the book club circuit, accepting invitations to more than 300 clubs in the year since the debut novel published. Rights have sold in Canada (HarperCollins), Germany (Kösel / Diederichs Verlag / Penguin Random House) and Israel (Kinneret).

After announcing that **Craig Shreve's** novel, *The African Samurai* ([p. 25](#)), was being developed by Netflix, the world took notice! Rights have now been sold in fourteen territories, most at auction, and buzz around this captivating novel continues to grow. A magnificent reconstruction and moving study of a lost historical figure, *The African Samurai* is an enthralling narrative about an African man brought to feudal Japan under enslavement who became the country's first non-Japanese samurai. [Netflix's TV adaptation](#) is being written by Nick Jones, Jr. and produced by 21 Laps' Shawn Levy and Josh Barry (*Stranger Things*) as well as Significant Productions' Forest Whitaker and Nina Yang Bongioviboy.

After a smash run in Boston, the award-winning stage production of *Life of Pi* officially opened on [Broadway](#) on March 30th at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theater. To mark the occasion, the book's US publisher, HarperCollins, is releasing a limited run Broadway tie-in edition - the first stage tie-in of a WCA title. WCA agents Jackie Kaiser and Hilary McMahon were honoured to join **Yann Martel** in New York for the thrilling opening night performance and afterparty.



2022 was the year of **Kim Fu**, and the end of year lists certainly knew it. Fu's [Pacific Northwest Book Award](#)-winning and [Giller](#)-finalist short story collection *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century* was featured on lists by [Kirkus Reviews](#), [NPR](#), [the Chicago Public Library](#), [Time](#), [CBC Books](#), [The Globe & Mail](#), [Lit Hub](#), [Book Riot](#), and more. The story "#Climbing Nation" was also read aloud and featured on [LeVar Burton's immersive podcast](#) in November last year. And while the details are top secret for now, we are thrilled to let you know that two of the stories in this stellar collection have been optioned for film. Rights to this exceptional title are still available in a number of territories including the UK, so please reach out if you'd like to read. And if you happen to be attending the Cork International Short Story Festival in October, you can meet Fu in person.

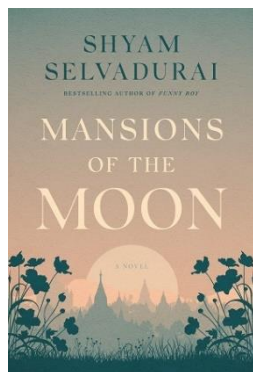
Dutton / Penguin Random House US recently released the paperback edition of *Tripping Arcadia*, the debut novel by **Kit Mayquist**, and along with the new format has come some more attention! *Tripping Arcadia* was [picked by a Powell's bookseller](#) as one of their top five books, was featured in the [Chicago Review of Books' list of notable debuts](#) by trans, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming authors, and was included in [Tor.com's roundup](#) of the best gothic horror novels of 2022.



Erum Shazia Hasan's debut novel *We Meant Well* ([p. 18](#)) is off to a great start in advance of its publication. *The Huffington Post* featured the novel in their article "[15 Bestselling Books And Their Indie Twins](#)" and compared it to Zadie Smith's iconic 2000 bestseller *White Teeth*. The influential [Carmichael's Bookstore](#) in the US has similarly noted that it's the perfect book club pick, and a perfect read for fans of Imbolo Mbue and Barbara Kingsolver. *We Meant Well* has

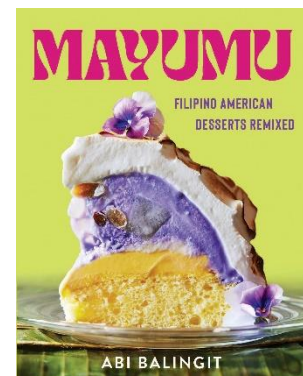
also been named to three coveted and most anticipated lists: [Ms. Magazine's](#) "Most Anticipated Feminist Books of 2023," Apple's "2023's Most Anticipated Books," and [49th Shelf's](#) "Most Anticipated Spring 2023 Fiction" list.

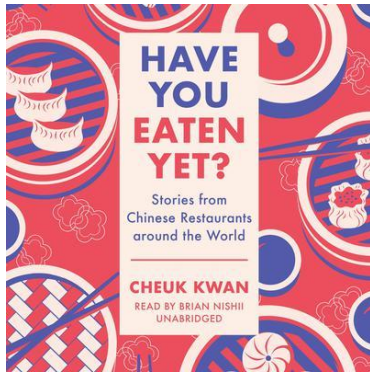
US rights to **Leanne Toshiko Simpson's** debut novel, the romantic comedy *Never Been Better* ([p. 26](#)), were snatched up late last year by Kate Dresser at Putnam / Penguin Random House, who will publish in March 2024 – simultaneously with HarperCollins Canada's Iris Tupholme, the first editor to fall in love with this special book. Dresser calls it "an uproarious, touching, brilliant book that has the humor and hijinks of 'My Best Friend's Wedding' and the empathy and gimlet eye of 'Silver Linings Playbook'". Smart, incisive commercial, it teaches us that love and friendship and family – in all their messiness – are worth the risks."



We were thrilled to see *Mansions of the Moon* by **Shyam Selvadurai** get some well-deserved attention on best-of-the-year lists at the end of 2022. Selvadurai's latest novel earned a coveted spot on *The Globe & Mail's* [Globe 100](#) list, for which Harley Rustad wrote, "In this deeply textured novel, Shyam Selvadurai recentres the classic story-legend of the Buddha to spotlight Yasodhara, the enlightened one's wife. This is a love story on the surface, but also an elegant tale about the weight of power, relationship and ambition – and the figures who shouldn't stay in the shadows of history." It was also selected by CBC Books for their [Books of the Year](#) list, writing, "*Mansions of the Moon* paints a rich portrait of a marriage and illuminates a woman who has remained in the shadows of history."

Moving into the non-fiction side of things: **Abi Balingit** has been extraordinarily busy promoting her new cookbook *Mayumu: Filipino American Desserts Remixed* ([p. 30](#)) which published in English worldwide with Harvest / HarperCollins US on February 28th. Her podcast and interview appearances are too numerous to list in full here, but they include [this love letter](#) that Balingit wrote to pandan for *Delish* along with a [recipe for pandan pops](#); an appearance as *The Kitchn's* [guest editor](#) for Filipino American History Month; [an interview](#) with NPR for Lunar New Year; [a feature](#) in *Tasting Table's* "19 Upcoming Cookbooks We Can't Wait to Read in 2023"; [a feature](#) in *Book Riot's* "Most Anticipated Cookbooks of 2023"; and [an interview](#) in *Salon*.

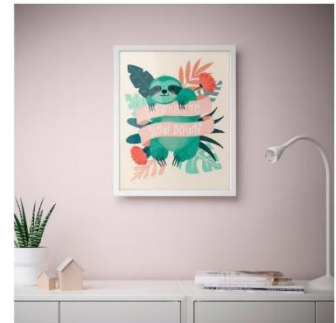




Cheuk Kwan's *Have You Eaten Yet?* has received some fantastic coverage since its publication with Pegasus Books in January. An intrepid travelogue of grand vistas, adventure and serendipity, *Have You Eaten Yet?* weaves a global narrative by linking the myriad personal stories of chefs, entrepreneurs, laborers and dreamers who populate Chinese kitchens worldwide. *The New York Times* [adored](#) the book, calling it "a kind of love letter to his varied homes and a memorial to his journey through them, as refracted through the lives of far-flung strangers." Named one of *People* magazine's "Best New Books", the magazine gushed: "This delicious and delightful tour of Chinese food around the world blends sharp journalism and tender memoir." [The Washington Post](#) raved "Many of the subjects' stories are astonishing, and each is unique, even if the forces that shaped them – hardship, war, familial ties – are not... It is these stories that bring *Have You Eaten Yet?* to life." [Kirkus Review](#) observed it as "a heartfelt and entertaining culinary and historical survey of the Chinese diaspora." [The Economist](#) called it "a charming book that weaves its profiles together into an extended meditation on identity, belonging and a sense of home."

Valley of the Birdtail by **Andrew Stobo Sniderman** and **Douglas Sanderson** has made a triumphant return to the bestseller lists recently. This is no surprise, since it was already a *Globe & Mail* and *Toronto Star* bestseller, as well as being a *Quill & Quire* pick for their Truth and Reconciliation Day list, and a OLA Forest of Reading Evergreen Award nominee.

And to cap things off with another first for a WCA client, illustrator **Josiane Vlitos** achieved a unique milestone recently. One of her illustrations was licensed by Ikea and sold in stores as part of their BILD line of posters. Vlitos has been hard at work illustrating the forthcoming children's book *The Broken Heart* written by Aaron Chan and *Do You Speak Bee?* written by Josh Oaktree.



The pages that follow comprise our current title list for our Spring 2023 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

Bobbi French, *The Good Women of Safe Harbour*, winner of Newfoundland Reads, longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award, shortlisted for the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award and the Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction

Kim Fu, *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century*, winner of the 2023 Pacific Northwest Book Awards and longlisted for the Joyce Carol Oates Prize

Thomas Trofimuk, *The Elephant on the Karlûv Bridge*, shortlisted for the 2023 Saskatchewan Book Awards Publishing Award

NON-FICTION

Tomson Highway, *Permanent Astonishment: Growing Up Cree in the Land of Snow and Sky*, shortlisted for the 2022 Evergreen Award

Thomas King, recipient of the 2022 Governor General's History Award for Popular Media: The Pierre Berton Award

Marc Raboy, *Looking for Alicia: The Unfinished Life of an Argentinian Rebel*, winner of the Quebec Writers' Federation 2022 Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction

Jaspreet Singh, *My Mother, My Translator*, finalist for the 2022 Betsy Warland Between Genres Award

Gary J. Smith, *Ice War Diplomat: Hockey Meets Cold War Politics at the 1972 Summit Series*, documentary adaptation 'Ice Breaker' nominated for a Rockie Award for Best Sports Program at the Banff World Media Festival

Andrew Stobo Sniderman and Douglas Sanderson, *Valley of the Birdtail*, shortlisted for the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK & MIDDLE-GRADE

Caroline Adderson, *Izzy's Tail of Trouble*, longlisted for the 2022 Outstanding Works of Literature Award; *Sunny Days Inside and Other Stories*, a White Raven notable book

Alison Hughes, *Fly*, shortlisted for the 2023 Snow Willow Award (Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Awards)

Wab Kinew, *Walking in Two Worlds*, shortlisted for the 2023 Red Maple Award

Thomas King, *Borders* (graphic novel), winner of the 2022 Northern Lights Book Award, finalist for the Kids' Book Choice Awards and Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award

Joanne Levy, *Sorry For Your Loss*, shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award in the Young People's Literature - Text category, shortlisted for the Red Maple Award

David A. Robertson, *The Barren Grounds*, a 2023 Read Aloud Indiana Selection; *The Stone Child*, nominated for the Silver Birch Fiction Award

Gillian Sze, *You Are My Favorite Color*, finalist for the 2022 Janet Savage Blachford Prize for Children's and Young Adult Literature

RECENT SALES

FICTION

Caroline Adderson, *Middle of Nowhere*, Film/TV (World): Shotglass Productions

Gail Anderson-Dargatz, *The Atlas of Longing*, World: HarperCollins Canada

Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio, *Reuniting with Strangers*, North American English: Douglas & McIntyre

Andrew Boden, *When We Were Ashes*, Canadian English: Goose Lane Editions

Charles Demers, *Untitled third Annick Boudreau Mystery*, North American English: Douglas & McIntyre

Marissa Eller, *Joined at the Joints*, World: Holiday House

Sandra Gulland, *The Josephine B. Trilogy*, Denmark: Saga-Egmont

Tasneem Jamal, *I Never Said That I Was Brave*, World: House of Anansi Press

Wayne Johnston, *The Mystery of Right and Wrong*, Film/TV (World): Ruby Line Productions

Thomas King, *Double Eagle* (DreadfulWater Book 7), Canadian English: HarperCollins

Lynne Kutsukake, *The Art of Vanishing*, World English excluding US: Knopf / Penguin Random House Canada; *The Translation of Love*, France (paperback): 10/18 (sale by La Geste and Penguin Random House Canada)

Annabel Lyon, *The Sweet Girl* and *The Golden Mean*, France: Editions de la Table Ronde (extension)

Christine Ma-Kellams, *The Band*, World: Atria

Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*, Kazakhstan: Mazmundama; Korea: Jakkajungsin (extension); Romania: Editura Polirom (extension); Taiwan: Crown Publishing (extension)

Damhnait Monaghan, *New Girl in Little Cove*, Film/TV (World): Nikki Ray Media Agency

Shyam Selvadurai, *Mansions of the Moon*, India excluding Sinhalese: Penguin / Penguin Random House India

Craig Shreve, *The African Samurai*, Czech Republic: Euromedia; France: Fayard; Germany: Droemer; Greece: Anubis Publishing; Hungary: Libri; Italy: Piemme; Portugal: Porto; Russia (print): Arkadia; Russia (digital): MTS; Spain: Navona; Turkey: Ithaki Yayincilik; UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada: Canelo

Leanne Toshiko Simpson, *Never Been Better*, World English excluding Canada: Putnam / Penguin Random House US

Josef Skvorecky, *The Cowards*, Croatia: Matica; *The Engineer of Human Souls*, Albania: Dritan Editions; *The Miracle Game*, France: Gallimard (extension)

Thomas Trofimuk, *The Elephant on Karlův Bridge*, Serbia: Laguna; Taiwan: China Times Publishing Company

RECENT SALES

Richard Wagamese, *Ragged Company*, Film/TV: Sea to Sky Entertainment and Grinding Halt Films

NON-FICTION

Erin Boynton and Eric Wong, *The Injury Guide: Manage Pain, Heal Your Injuries, and Keep Moving Forever*, World: Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada

Shohini Ghose, *Her Space, Her Time: How Trailblazing Women Scientists Decoded the Hidden Universe*, Spain: Paidos / Planeta

Catherine Gildiner, *Good Morning, Monster: Five Heroic Journeys to Recovery*, Spain: Kairos; Ukraine: Vivat (sale by Penguin Random House Canada)

Tomson Highway, *Laughing with the Trickster: On Sex, Death, and Accordions*, Quebec: Prise de parole (sale by House of Anansi Press)

Michael Ignatieff, *Fire and Ashes: Success and Failure in Politics*, Spain: Taurus / Penguin Random House Spain (extension); *Isaiah Berlin: A Life*, China: Yilin Press (extension)

Paige Layle, *But Everyone Feels this Way*, World: Hachette Go

Kyo Maclear, *Unearthing: A Story of Tangled Love and Family Secrets*, UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada: ONE / Pushkin Press

Yann Martel, *101 Letters to a Prime Minister: The Complete Letters to Stephen Harper*, China: Thinkingdom (extension)

Christina Myers, *Halfway Home (Without a Map): Thoughts from Midlife*, World: House of Anansi Press

Mark Sakamoto, *Agent 50: The Untold Story of Canada's Most Accomplished Spy*, World: HarperCollins Canada

John Ralston Saul, *The Unconscious Civilization*, China: Shanghai Sanhui Culture and Press (extension)

Doug Saunders, *Arrival City: The Final Migration and Our Next World*, Spain: Debate / Penguin Random House Spain (extension; sale by Penguin Random House Canada)

Julian Sher and Lisa Fitterman, *Hitman: The Shocking Story of the Hells' Angels Most Prolific Assassin*, World: HarperCollins Canada

Shefa Siegel, *The Origin of Avarice: A Journey of Greed, Gold, and Love in a Time of Scarcity*, World: Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, *Theory of Water*, Canadian English: Alchemy / Penguin Random House Canada

Emelia Symington-Fedy, *Skid Dogs*, World English Audio: Tantor Media

Don Thompson, *The Orange Balloon Dog: Bubbles, Turmoil and Avarice in the Contemporary Art Market*, Russia: Atticus-Azbooka (extension)

Margaret Visser, *The Rituals of Dinner: The Origins, Evolution, Eccentricities, and Meaning of Table*

RECENT SALES

Manners, Spain: Antoni Bosch Editor

Jenny Heijun Wills, *Asian, Adopted, Queer, Hungry: Essays on Being Everything and Nothing at All*, Canadian English: McClelland & Stewart / Penguin Random House

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK & MIDDLE-GRADE

Linda Bailey, *Arthur Who Wrote Sherlock*, France: ELCY Editions / Kimane; *The Three Little Mittens*, Germany: cbj / Penguin Random House; Japan: Kagaku Dojin (sales by Penguin Random House Canada)

Jennifer Harris, *The Witching Hour*, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

Marie Hoy-Kenny, *Plants are NOT Boring!*, World: Orca Books

Alison Hughes, *Outside the Box*, World: Orca Books

Matt James, *I Know How to Draw an Owl*, World: Neal Porter Books / Holiday House; *Tadpoles*, China: Everafter (sale by Holiday House); *The One About the Blackbird*, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

Kyo Maclear, *Story Boat*, Farsi: Pink Magician Studio (sale by Penguin Random House Canada)

Katty Maurey, *Sunny Wants to Play*, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

Sara O'Leary, *A Family is a Family is a Family*, Catalonia and Spain: Carambuco; *A Kid is a Kid is a Kid*, Korea: Lizardbook; *The Little Books of the Little Brontës*, UK & Commonwealth: Walker Books (sales by House of Anansi Press)

Jordan Scott, *I Talk Like a River*, Italy: Orecchio Acerbo; *My Baba's Garden*, Japan: Kaiseisha; Portugal: Fábula; China: Beijing Cheerful Century (sales by Holiday House)

Dena Seiferling, *Night Lunch*, China: CITIC Press; UK & Commonwealth: Frances Lincoln / Quarto (sales by Penguin Random House Canada); *Couch in the Yard*, World: Neal Porter Books / Holiday House

Lauren Soloy, *The Hidden World of Gnomes*, Italy: Terre di Mezzo (sale by Penguin Random House Canada)

FICTION



From an incisive, resonant, and fresh new voice comes a linked short story collection about the experiences of the Filipino diaspora, inspired by the work of Souvankham Thammavongsa and Wayson Choy.

“In these astonishing stories from the perspectives of migrant caregivers, Austria-Bonifacio forces us to witness the emotional truths of those in servitude, and desperate to get a foot in the door.”

– Catherine Hernandez, award-winning author of *The Story of Us* and *Scarborough*

Rights sold: North American English including audio: Douglas & McIntyre (Fall 2023)

Status: Manuscript available

Author’s website:

www.jennileeaustriaonifacio.com

Agents: Hilary McMahon & Bridgette Kam

Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio

REUNITING WITH STRANGERS

A Novel Told in Stories

Why is it called the “motherland” when it isn’t where our mothers are?

When a Filipina caregiver reunites with Monolith, her non-verbal five-year-old son, he attacks her and destroys her apartment. As the stories unfold, Monolith is the common link, and his volatile character is a metaphor for the experiences of a diaspora facing separation, displacement, loss, and longing for healing and home.

Each short story depicts family reunification through a different perspective, by turns humorous, joyful, devastating, and surprising. A caregiver fired by her Québécois cousin leaves an instruction manual for her replacement. A sea-faring husband vows to make his wife love him after a decade apart. A caregiver’s daughter tries to reach her mother through an honest self-help guide. A second-generation Filipina reluctantly welcomes her urbanite godchild to her oil refinery town. A grandfather left behind in the Philippines mourns his family’s rich musical legacy. A non-binary Filipinx teen in Toronto’s Little Manila wins Monolith’s trust. The collection concludes with a chapter from Monolith himself, who finally shares everything he had struggled to say.

Poignant, insightful, and informed by a career in frontline community work, *Reuniting with Strangers* shines a light on a diasporic community’s struggles behind closed doors.

JENNILEE AUSTRIA-BONIFACIO is a Filipina-Canadian author, speaker, and school board consultant who builds bridges between educators and Filipino families. After completing her Masters in Immigration and Settlement Studies, she graduated from the Humber School for Writers and completed a residency at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. She was a finalist for the Jim Wong-Chu Emerging Writers Award and has been published in various anthologies. She lives in Toronto.

FICTION



When the grey bus came to take Rainor Schacht and his friends in the ward for disabled children to a remote Nazi hospital called Trutzburg, no one told them what dark reality awaited them behind closed doors.

“Wonderfully inventive and expansive... A audacious debut.”

– Zsuzsi Gartner, author of *The Beguiling*, on *The Secret History of My Hometown*

Rights sold: Canadian English: Goose Lane Editions (Fall 2024)

Status: Manuscript available May 2023

Author’s website: www.andrewboden.com

Agent: John Pearce

Andrew Boden

WHEN WE WERE ASHES

One winter morning in Stuttgart, an ominous grey bus comes to take Rainor and his friends from one hospital to another – from a ward for disabled children to a Nazi hospital deep in the countryside. No one will tell them what awaits them there – not Nurse Hilde; not Peter Berger, the kind bus driver; not Dr. Lutz, the doctor who runs Trutzburg with ruthless efficiency.

Years later, after the war, and with Peter Berger’s coded diary in hand, Rainor sets out to find the only other child who survived Trutzburg with him – Emmi, a girl who looked past his disfigurement to accept and love him. Rainor is led on a traumatic journey over a haunting landscape to learn the truth about his past and the even more extraordinary truth about his present.

Told from three points of view, *When We Were Ashes* features uniquely sympathetic characters, a compelling account of a terrible true crime and its aftermath, and rare moral complexity – a shattering and rewarding novel.

ANDREW BODEN lives in British Columbia and works at Simon Fraser University as executive director of the Administrative Professional Staff Association. He is the author of *The Secret History of My Hometown* (stories) and a director of Books Over Borders, a Canadian children’s literacy charity that has helped tens of thousands of children in Afghanistan and Canada learn to read. As a hobby, he explores British Columbia caves. His above-ground time is mostly spent in Burnaby, where he lives with his wife and three calculating cats.



‘Little Miss Sunshine’ meets The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test in a darkly-funny debut that explores the fuzzy lines between sanity and insanity, love and duty.

“... Immediacy infuses Buffy Cram’s brilliant ‘Large Garbage,’ which cleverly envisions an alternative to the ever-widening circle of consumption.”

– *Los Angeles Times*, on “Large Garbage”

“... [Giving] you the unexpected is what this promising young writer is best at... A whip-smart storyteller.”

– Zoe Whittall, *The Globe & Mail*, on *Radio Belly*

“A speculative, off-kilter tinge... allows Cram to represent shifts of mental and emotional ballast with a very light and descriptive touch.”

– *Quill & Quire*, on *Radio Belly*

Rights sold: World English: Douglas & McIntyre (Fall 2023)

Status: Manuscript available

Author’s website: www.buffycram.com

Agent: Hilary McMahon

Buffy Cram

ONCE UPON AN EFFING TIME

It’s 1969. To save her mother, Margaret, eight-year-old Elizabeth commits the first of many crimes. She steals the keys to a school bus called *Far Out* and they flee their home in pursuit of free love and rock n’ roll.

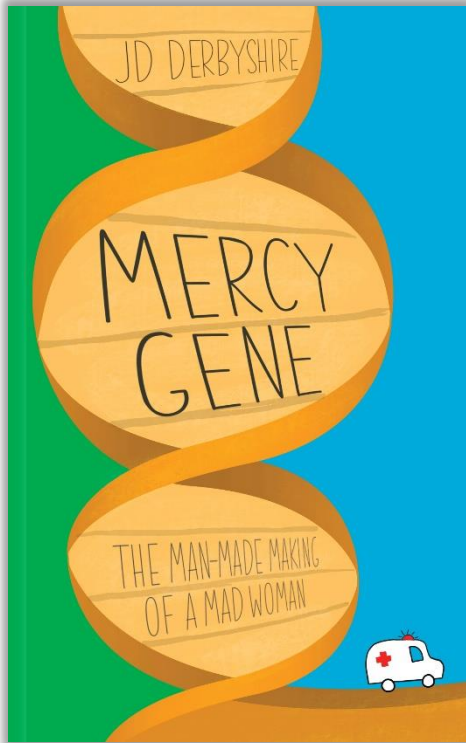
Haunted by the ghost of her twin brother, Michael, and with money running out, Elizabeth transforms herself into MeMe Fantastica, a roadside psychic who speaks primarily in Bob Dylan song lyrics, and Margaret becomes Fran Sisco, her agent. As the duo moves from diner to diner, reading fortunes and encountering a weird and wonderful cast of misfits, hustlers, and clowns, it becomes clear America is at a tipping point. Before they know it, they have been seduced into an end-of-the-world LSD cult in New York City and Elizabeth is faced with another choice: whether to save herself or follow her mother down the rabbit hole.

3805 days later, having paid the price for a horrific crime, Elizabeth is let out of the Willingdon Youth Detention Center and heads to a group home where she must come to terms with her sometimes-magical, sometimes-disturbing childhood.

Buffy Cram’s vivid world of misfits will resonate with fans of Chloe Benjamin, Heather O’Neill, and Emily St. John Mandel. *Once Upon an Effing Time* is a quirky, often terrifying novel that asks how *does* it feel, to be on your own, with no direction home, like a rolling stone? What is the difference between love and delusion? And is it *really* really possible to overcome the past?

BUFFY CRAM grew up in a co-operative housing project on Vancouver Island and spent most of her childhood running wild. Her debut short story collection *Radio Belly* was called “a terrific mélange of overt weirdness and exquisite subtlety” by *The San Francisco Book Review*. She has an MFA in creative writing, has been teaching for more than a decade and now lives on a small farm on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia.

FICTION



“Brilliant and heart-searing... [A] fierce and beautiful account of what it means to be an artist, a mother, and a human when you cannot be drawn or, too often, even seen inside the lines. A supernova of a book, to read *Mercy Gene* is to be changed by it.”

– Claudia Dey, author of *Heartbreaker*

“*Mercy Gene* is an incredible book that lifted me right up off the ground and away to other places both hard and soft. It’s essential reading for anyone wanting to know what the agony of psychic pain is really like, but it’s also very funny. Thank you... for this ferocious, devastating and illuminating, tender and vulnerable, human... mountain peak and universal embrace of a book and for being in the world. Exquisite.”

– Miriam Toews, author of *Fight Night*

Rights sold: North American English including audio and World French: Goose Lane Editions (Mar. 14, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author’s website: www.jdderbyshire.com

Agent: Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

JD Derbyshire MERCY GENE

The Man-Made Making of a Mad Woman

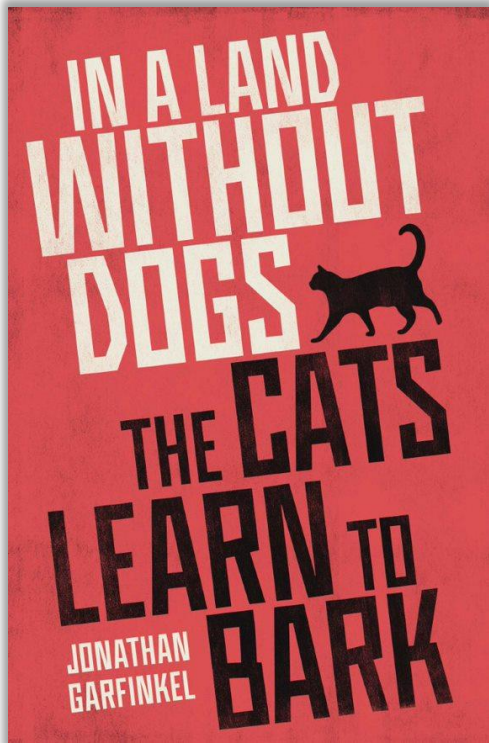
Think Maggie Nelson meets Hannah Gadsby.

Told in kaleidoscopic bursts of erratic recollections, daydreams, poetry, and lists, *Mercy Gene* is the powerful, genre-smashing debut work of auto-fiction by acclaimed writer, playwright, and comedian JD Derbyshire. Inspired by Derbyshire’s critically acclaimed and award-winning stage play, *Certified*, and anchored by protagonist Janice/Jan/JD, *Mercy Gene* is a beautiful, humorous, and sometimes brutal look at queerness, gender confusion, institutionalization, addiction, and abuse.

Through flashes of memory and imaginings, Derbyshire illustrates the intense and invisible “side effects” of psychiatric treatment and the unreliability of memory. In a stream-of-conscious narrative that provokes and consoles, eliciting tears and laughter at equal pace, Derbyshire re-examines a life of unspoken and repressed trauma. Between devastating bouts of depression, hilarious side-quests into the author’s dryly sardonic inner monologue, helpless moments at the mercy of their own psyche, and tour-de-force appearances by fictional versions of Miriam Toews and the late, great Margot Kidder, Derbyshire leads readers through a non-linear narrative to treatment, forgiveness, and acceptance.



JD DERBYSHIRE is a comedian, theater maker, writer, and mad activist. Their play *Certified*, during which the audience becomes a mental health review board to determine their sanity by the end of the show, won two 2020 Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards for Outstanding Original Script and The Critic’s Innovation Award. JD’s plays have been produced by Belfry Theatre (Victoria, British Columbia), Buddies in Bad Times (Toronto), and Vancouver companies Touchstone Theatre, The Frank Theatre, Newworld Theatre, and Solo Collective. Festival presentations include High Performance Rodeo (Calgary), The Progress Festival (Toronto), FoldA (Kingston, Ontario), Uno (Victoria), PuSh (Vancouver), and Summerworks (Toronto). *Certified* was selected to be part of World Pride in Sydney, Australia in February 2023.



In his wildly ambitious and darkly funny debut novel, Jonathan Garfinkel probes the fractured nature of identity, the necessity of lies, and the bloody legacy of the Soviet Empire.

“Will have you forgo sleep to find out what happens next.”

– Zoe Whittall, author of *The Fake*

“A wild, page-turner of a novel.”

– Claudia Dey, author of *Heartbreaker*

Rights sold: World including audio: House of Anansi Press (Audio [World English]: OrangeSky; Germany: Rowohlt) (Feb. 21, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author's website: www.jonathan-garfinkel.com

Agent: John Pearce

Jonathan Garfinkel IN A LAND WITHOUT DOGS THE CATS LEARN TO BARK

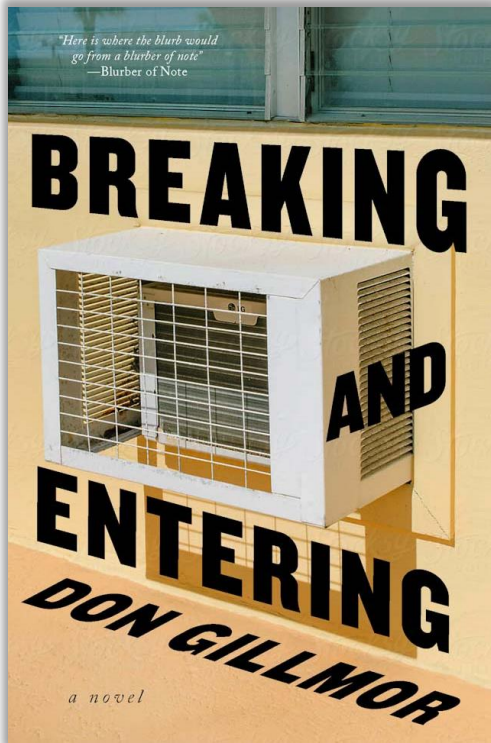
Spanning generations, continents, and cultures, *In a Land without Dogs the Cats Learn to Bark* is an electric tale about a nation trying to emerge from the shadow of the Soviet Union to embrace Western democracy. Driven by a complexly plotted mystery that leads from Moscow to Toronto to Tbilisi, punctuated by wild car chases and drunken jazz reveries, and featuring an eccentric cast of characters including Georgian performance artists, Chechen warlords, and KGB spies, Garfinkel delivers a story that questions the price of freedom and laughs at the answer.

With exhilarating prose reminiscent of Rachel Kushner and more twists than a John le Carré thriller, *In a Land without Dogs the Cats Learn to Bark* is a daring, nuanced, and spectacularly entertaining novel by an exceptional talent.



JONATHAN GARFINKEL is an award-winning playwright and author. His play, *House of Many Tongues*, was nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama, and *The Trials of John Demjanjuk: A Holocaust Cabaret* has been performed across Canada, Russia, Ukraine, and Germany. His memoir, *Ambivalence: Crossing the*

Divide, was published in numerous countries to wide critical acclaim, and his long-form non-fiction has appeared in *The Walrus*, *Tablet*, *The Globe & Mail*, and *PEN International*. Named by the *Toronto Star* as “one to watch,” Garfinkel is currently pursuing a PhD in the field of Medical and Health Humanities at the University of Alberta, where he is writing a memoir about life with type 1 diabetes and the revolutionary open-source Loop artificial pancreas system. He lives in Berlin, Germany.



*From Governor General's Award-winning Don Gillmor, **Breaking and Entering** is an exacting look at the fragility of all the things we take on faith.*

"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 including audio: Biblioasis Press (Aug. 15, 2023)

Status: Manuscript available

Author's website: www.dongillmor.ca

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Don Gillmor BREAKING AND ENTERING

At 49, Beatrice Billings is rudderless. Her marriage is stale, her relationship with her son Thomas is strained, she carries on ongoing arguments with her older sister in her head, and her mother is in the early stages of dementia. Bea misses the momentum she remembers from in her thirties, when she and everyone she knew were buying houses, having children, and renovating kitchens.

But when Bea discovers that she has both a talent and a passion for picking locks, the sense of anticipation that had been missing from her life returns. Breaking into other people's houses is something she's good at: she is a quick study, subtle, discreet, and never greedy. It's a dangerous hobby that makes her feel alive – and so she begins the guilty analysis of other people's lives, and eventually, her own.

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 Literary Award, and he is one of Canada's most accomplished journalists. He lives in Toronto with his wife and two children.



Rights sold: Audio (World English): Tantor Media; Canadian English: Caitlin Press (Oct. 6, 2023)

Status: Manuscript available

Author's website: www.debigoodwin.com

Agent: Chris Casuccio

Debi Goodwin

RAINS, AT TIMES HEAVY

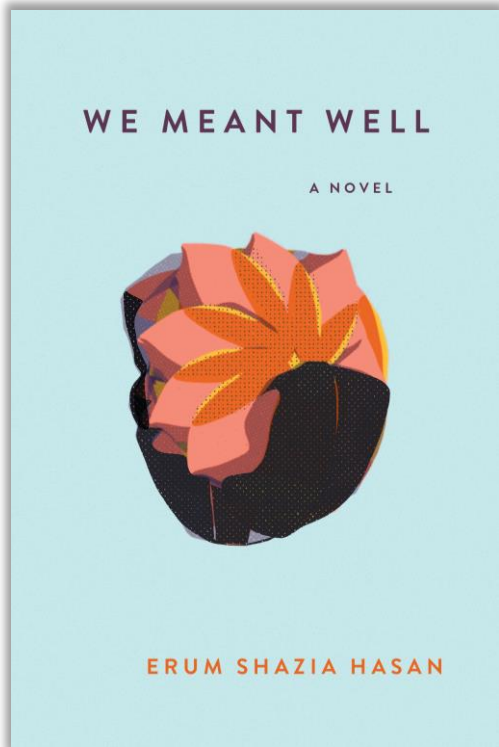
Linden Kemp's grandmother tells her: *Old age is a privilege our men never got to know.*

Linden's grandfather drowned trying to save others when Hurricane Hazel lashed an unprepared Toronto. The hippie father she never knew died in the monsoons of India. Her husband slipped from life on the black ice of freezing rain. In her work as a climatologist, Linden knows the world faces more natural disasters. This knowledge and her legacy of death darken her view of the future.

When a letter, held back by her grandmother, reveals her father had a second child who lives in California, Linden travels to Death Valley, the driest place on the continent and a cherished spot she visited often with her husband. There, in the sparseness of the desert, she seeks her half-brother and answers to the mystery of her father's abandonment. She says goodbye to her husband and vows never to rely on anyone else ever again. But weather still has a lesson to teach her: life must be lived fully in the calm between storms.

Through vivid landscapes and complex characters, *Rains, At Times Heavy* explores how one moment, one trauma, can spiral through the generations until a single person steps bravely into its path.

DEBI GOODWIN is the author of two non-fiction books: *Citizens of Nowhere*, which documents the first year of Somali refugees in Canada, and *A Victory Garden for Trying Times*, a memoir of grief and the healing power of gardens. For more than twenty years she was a producer with CBC Television, latterly a documentary producer with The National, creating current affairs pieces from throughout North America and the world. She is a travel writer, a photographer and an avid gardener. She lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.



A *Ms. Magazine*'s Most Anticipated Feminist Books of 2023

"This peek into the international aid community and the type of people who dedicate their lives to this work is equal parts fascinating and devastating. Dealing with themes of violence, power, and identity, *We Meant Well* is for readers of Imbolo Mbue and Barbara Kingsolver, and is the perfect book club pick."

– Carmichael's Bookstore, Louisville, KY

"With a daring use of craft both exacting in detail and sensual in tone... A remarkable literary debut by a gifted new voice."

– C.S. Richardson, award-winning author of *All the Colour in the World*

"[A]n urgent and engrossing read."

– Farzana Doctor, award-winning author of *Seven* and *Six Metres of Pavement*

Rights sold: North American English including audio: ECW Press (Apr. 11, 2023)

Status: Books available

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Erum Shazia Hasan WE MEANT WELL

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?

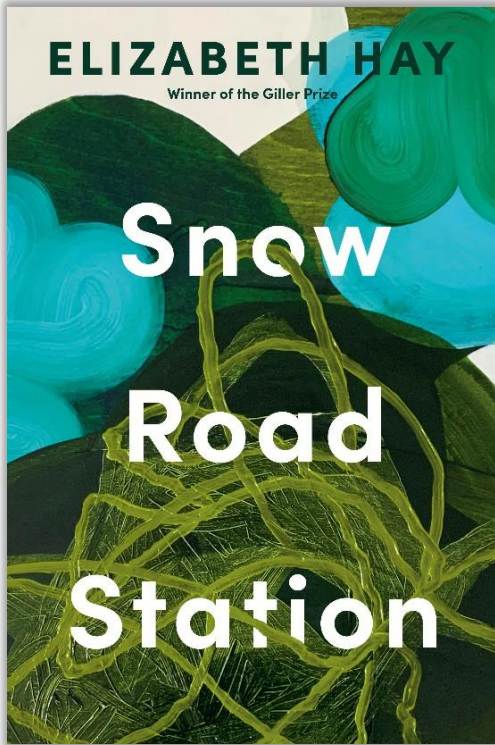
When Maya arrives, protesters are hovering around the compound. The accuser is Lele, her former protégé and the Chief's daughter. There is no witness, no proof of any crime.

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 LA 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.



ERUM SHAZIA HASAN's life has spanned the globe. Born in Canada, raised in France, of Pakistani and Indian descent, Hasan 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.



From the Giller Prize-winning author comes a novel, witty and wise, about thwarted ambition, unrealized dreams, the enduring bonds of female friendship, and love's capacity to surprise us at any age.

"An exquisitely etched coming-of-middle-age story."

– Ann-Marie MacDonald, author of *Fayne*

"Joyous and lyrical."

– Mary Lawson, author of *A Town Called Solace*

"Hay has a delightful, deadpan wit..."

– *The New York Times*, on *His Whole Life*

"Brings to mind Annie Proulx."

– *Washington Post*, on *His Whole Life*

Rights sold: North American English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House Canada (Apr. 11, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author's website: www.elizabethhay.com

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Elizabeth Hay

SNOW ROAD STATION

In the winter of 2008, as snow falls without interruption, an actor in a Beckett play blanks on her lines. Fleeing the theater, she beats a retreat into her past and arrives at Snow Road Station, a barely discernible dot on the map.

The actor is Lulu Blake, in her sixties now, a sexy, seemingly unfooled woman well-versed in taking risks. Out of work, humiliated, she enters the last act of her life wondering what she can make of her diminished self. In *Snow Road Station* she decides she is through with drama, but drama, it turns out, isn't through with her. She thinks she wants peace. It turns out she wants more.

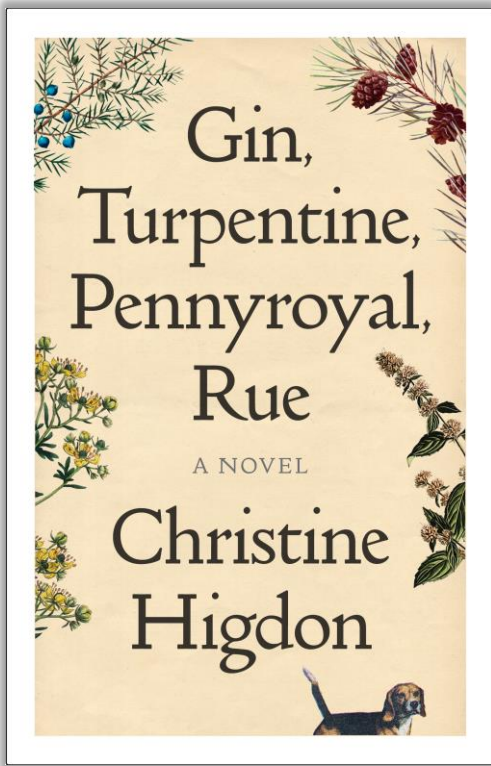
Looming in the background is that autumn's global financial meltdown, while in the foreground family and friends animate a round of weddings, sap harvests, love affairs, and personal turmoil. At the center of it all is the friendship between Lulu and Nan. As the two women contemplate growing old, they surrender certain long-held dreams and confront the limits of the choices they've made and the messy feelings that kept them apart for decades.

In a novel fascinated with the rise and fall of older women in love, sometimes with a person, sometimes with a place, what begins as a retreat from failure becomes a journey to a single, defining embrace



ELIZABETH HAY is the author of the #1 nationally bestselling novel *Alone in the Classroom*, the Scotiabank Giller Prize-winning novel *Late Nights on Air*, as well as other highly acclaimed works of fiction, including *His Whole Life*, *A Student of Weather*, *Garbo Laughs*, and *Small Change*. Her memoir *All Things Consolled* won the Hilary Weston Prize for Non-fiction, was shortlisted for the RBC Taylor Prize, and was a #1 national bestseller. Formerly a radio broadcaster, she spent a number of years in Mexico and New York City before returning to Canada. She lives in Ottawa.

FICTION



A deeply satisfying, affirming novel about love that cannot be acknowledged.

“This wondrous book concerns more than mere detective work, expanding instead on the grander mysteries of love and hate, survival and destruction – and most powerfully, perhaps, of decades-long journeys home.”

– *Toronto Star*, on *The Very Marrow of Our Bones*

“A finely observed chronicle of two women’s lives.”

– *Publishers Weekly*, on *The Very Marrow of Our Bones*

“An ambitious debut novel that will make you cry, cringe and laugh... This small-town drama is jam-packed with revelations and sweet portraits that stick.”

– *Kirkus Reviews*, on *The Very Marrow of Our Bones*

Rights sold: World English including audio: ECW Press (Fall 2023)

Status: Manuscript available

Author’s website: www.christinehigdon.com

Agent: Hilary McMahon

Christine Higdon GIN, TURPENTINE, PENNYROYAL, RUE *A Novel*

Gin, Turpentine, Pennyroyal, Rue is a love story – but like all love stories, it’s complicated...

Four working-class Vancouver sisters, still reeling from the impact of World War I and the pandemic that stole their only brother, are scraping by but attempting to make the most of the 1920s.

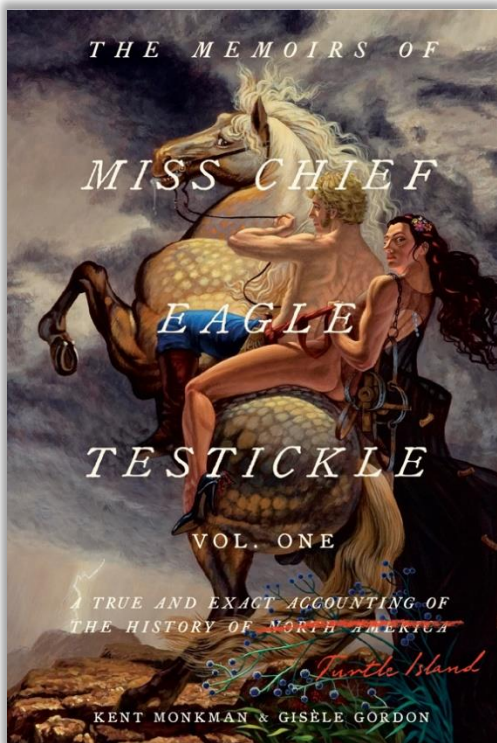
Morag is pregnant; she loves her husband. Georgina can’t bear hers and dreams of getting an education. Harriet-Jean, still at home with her opium-addicted mother, is in love with a woman. Isla’s pregnant too – and in love with her sister’s husband. Only one soul knows about Isla’s pregnancy and it isn’t the father. When Isla resorts to a back-street abortion and nearly dies, Llewellyn becomes hellbent on revenge. But can revenge lead to anything but disaster for a man like Llew – a policeman tangled up in running rum to Prohibition America?

Gin, Turpentine, Pennyroyal, Rue is immersed in the complex political and social realities of the 1920s and, not so ironically, of the 2020s: love, sex, desire, police corruption, abortion, addiction, and women wanting more. In elegant and witty prose, Christine Higdon explores loss and regret, risk and defiance, abiding friendship, and the powerful bonds of chosen family.



CHRISTINE HIGDON’s debut novel, *The Very Marrow of Our Bones*, won the *Foreword Reviews* Editor’s Choice Fiction Prize. Her widely published short fiction won a National Magazine Award. Higdon lives in Ontario; writing, hooking rugs, worrying about the bees, and longing for the ocean.

FICTION



From global art superstar Kent Monkman and his longtime collaborator Gisèle Gordon, a transformational work of imagined history that will remake readers' understanding of the land called North America.

"This is my story. Some of it is true. Much of it is truer than your truth. This âcimowin – this story that carries history and knowledge – begins in the stars and is about the land. We've been here for so long. There is too much to tell, and much I cannot say."

– Miss Chief Eagle Testickle

Rights sold: World including audio: McClelland & Stewart / Penguin Random House Canada
(Book 1: Nov. 7, 2023; Book 2: Nov. 28, 2023)
Status: Manuscripts available
Authors' website: www.kentmonkman.com;
www.urbannation.com
Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Kent Monkman &
Gisèle Gordon

THE MEMOIRS OF MISS CHIEF EAGLE TESTICKLE

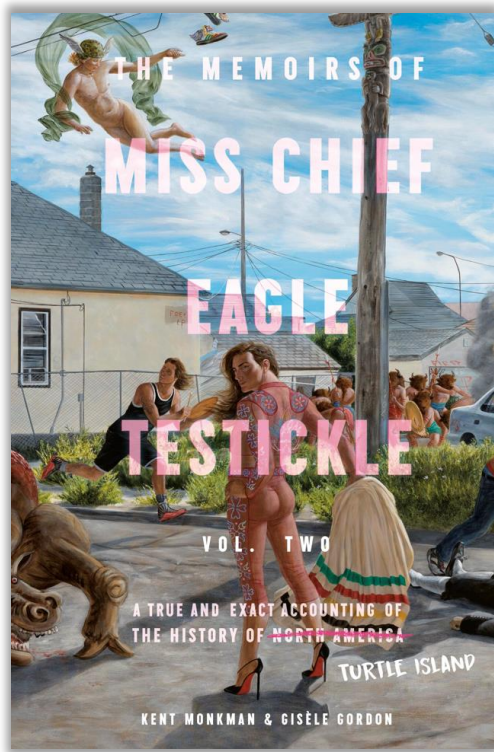
*A True and Exact Accounting of
the History of Turtle Island*

For decades, the singular and provocative paintings by Cree artist Kent Monkman have featured a recurring character – an alter ego of sorts, a shape-shifting, time-travelling elemental being named Miss Chief Eagle Testickle. Though we have glimpsed her across the years, and in countless canvases, it is finally time to hear her story, in her own words. And, in doing so, to hear the whole history of Turtle Island anew. *The Memoirs of Miss Chief Eagle Testickle: A True and Exact Accounting of the History of Turtle Island* is a genre-demolishing work of genius, the imagined history of a legendary figure through which a profound truth emerges – a deeply Cree and gloriously queer understanding of our shared world, its past, and its possibilities.

Volume 1

Volume one, which covers the time period from the creation of the universe to the confederation of Canada, follows Miss Chief as she moves through time, from a complex lived experience of Cree cosmology to the arrival of the first settlers, many of whom will be familiar to students of history. An open-hearted being, she tries to live among those settlers, and guide them to a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of all beings and the world itself. As their numbers grow, though, so does conflict, and Miss Chief begins to understand that the challenges posed by the hordes of newly arrived Europeans will mean ever greater danger for her, her people, and, by extension, all of the world she cherishes.

FICTION



KENT MONKMAN (b. 1965) is an interdisciplinary Cree visual artist. A member of Fisher River Cree Nation in Treaty 5 Territory (Manitoba, Canada), he lives and works in Dish With One Spoon Territory (Toronto, Canada).

Monkman's gender-fluid alter ego Miss Chief Eagle Testickle appears in his work as a time-traveling, shape-shifting, supernatural being who reverses the colonial gaze to challenge received notions of history and Indigenous peoples. His painting and installation works are held in the public collections of institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Denver Art Museum; Hirshhorn Museum; National Gallery of Canada; Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal; Art Gallery of Ontario; and La maison rouge, Paris.



GISÈLE GORDON is a Toronto-based settler media artist, film programmer, and writer based in Dish With One Spoon Territory (Toronto, Canada). Her solo work includes the feature-length documentary, *The Tunguska Project* (Best Feature Length

Film at the Planet in Focus Film Festival, 2005), the video installations *Crosscurrent* (2013 Moscow Biennale), and projection/performance piece *The Land that Dreams* (with Hannah Hurtzig, Luminato 2014).

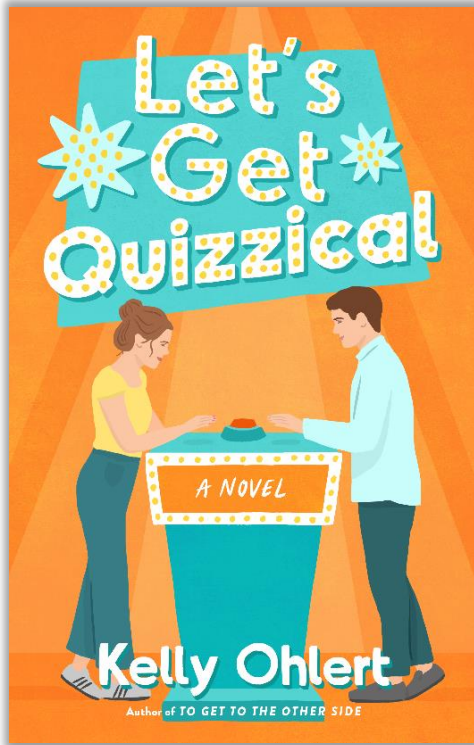
Volume 2

Volume two, which takes us from the moment of confederation to the present day, is a heartbreaking and intimate examination of the tragedies of the twentieth century. Zeroing in on the story of one family told across many generations, Miss Chief bears witness to the genocidal forces and structures that dispossessed and attempted to erase Indigenous peoples. Featuring many figures pulled from history as well as new individuals created for this story, volume two explores the legacy of children's work camps (called residential schools by some), the sixties scoop, and the urban disconnection of contemporary life. Ultimately, it is a story of resilience and reconnection, and charts the beginnings of an Indigenous future that is deeply rooted in an experience of Indigenous history – perspective Miss Chief, a millennia-old legendary being, can offer like none other.

Blending history, fiction, and memoir in bold new ways, *The Memoirs of Miss Chief Eagle Testickle* are unlike anything published before. And in their power to reshape our shared understanding, they promise to change the way we see everything that lies ahead.



Giséle Gordon and Kent Monkman's collaborative art practice spans three decades. Their work together includes the sound and light installation *Iskootāo* (Nuit Blanche, 2010) and over a dozen short films that have screened at TIFF, Sundance, and Berlin. Gordon wrote the narrative text for Monkman's *Being Legendary* exhibition and co-wrote, with Monkman, the exhibition text for *Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience* (nominated for the 2017 Ontario Association of Art Gallery Awards for Curatorial Art Writing).



"[An] adorable debut... Breezy humor leavens the themes of self-acceptance and trust."

– *Publishers Weekly*, on *To Get to the Other Side*

"A clever twist on the roommate-friends-to-lovers trope... [A] funny, slow-burn romance."

– *Booklist*, on *To Get to the Other Side*

"*To Get to the Other Side* is a sweet and heartwarming debut. Bear and Trixie fill this grumpy-sunshine romance with quirky fun."

– Kelly Siskind, author of *New Orleans Rush*

"*To Get to the Other Side* delivers humor, delightful yearning, and a completely charming meet-cute. Ohlert shows us what's on the other side of the road, and it's sparkling chemistry."

– Denise Williams, author of *The Fastest Way to Fall*

Rights sold: World including audio: Alcove Press / Crooked Lane Books (Oct. 17, 2023)

Status: Manuscript available

Agent: Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

Kelly Ohlert

LET'S GET QUIZZICAL

For fans of Lyssa Kay Adams and Jen DeLuca comes this fresh, funny take on second chances that proves love is anything but trivial.

For family-focused Charlotte, the chance to compete on her favorite trivia game show is a dream come true – the prize money could ensure the best care for her aging grandmother. But when she arrives on set, who does she see among the other contestants? Eli, her high school first love, at least until their shattering breakup. He has his own reasons for competing, not least of which is the stress of multiple jobs, college courses, and a father who tends to stray from the straight and narrow.

When the casting department pairs them on a team, both Charlotte and Eli are determined to grit their teeth and make the best of it. That's easier said than done, of course, and before long a national audience is breathlessly watching them bicker and air years-old grudges. Far from being angry, the program's producers are ecstatic – the ratings are positively soaring.

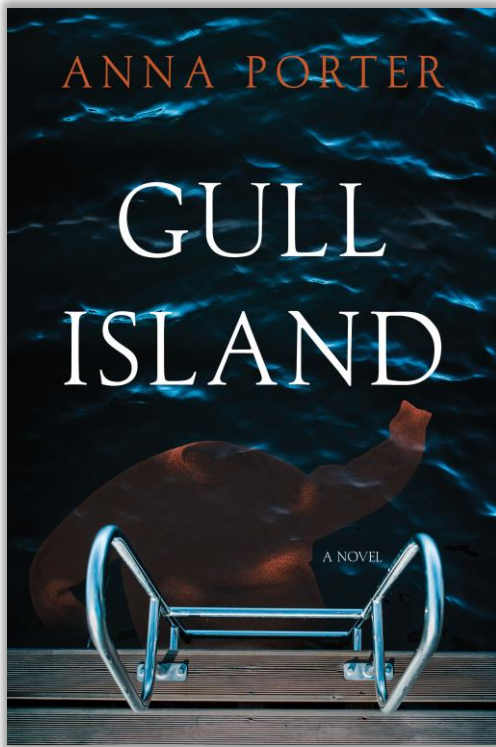
As they compete together over several episodes of the show, Charlotte and Eli begin to suspect that old wounds might actually heal. Touring LA in their free time has given them the opportunity to get to know each other again – and reawakened feelings that are hard to resist. Until the show's producers throw a wrench in their hopeful plans that will compromise everything Charlotte and Eli have worked so hard for.

Kelly Ohlert's warm, witty second novel proves that the best thing to know is always your own heart.



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 audiobooks and multi-tasking.

FICTION



A chilling story, told by a young woman, alone on an island in Georgian Bay where loneliness, explosive memories, bad weather, and terrifying dreams invade her mind during three days and nights. Slowly she comes to believe that some of her dreams may not be dreams, that there is someone else here, someone who wishes her harm...

“A deep dive into a darkly troubled family that is overflowing with razor-sharp characterizations.”

— Linwood Barclay, *New York Times*–bestselling author of *Look Both Ways* and *Take Your Breath Away*

Rights sold: North American English including audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (Sept. 5, 2023)

Status: Manuscript available

Author's website: www.annaporter.ca

Agent: John Pearce

Anna Porter GULL ISLAND

It's early April, the ice is barely gone, when Jude comes to the family cottage at her mother's bidding to find her father's will. Being alone brings back frightening memories of cottage times, most of them around her father's penchant for killing things – ducks, squirrels, porcupines, beavers, crows, Scoop (the family dog), and maybe a child... He had an obsessive hatred of everything he deemed useless.

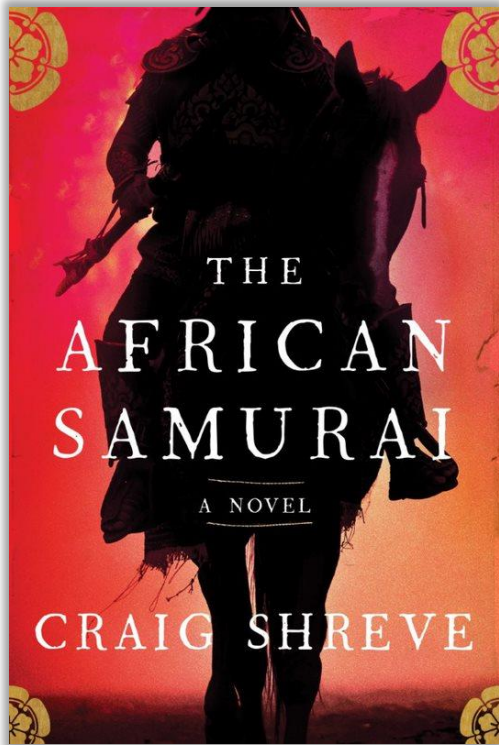
Jude's alcohol-fueled need to know whether she had been loved as a child leads her to search through old photographs and old memories. The sense of not being alone begins to weigh on her, an awareness that this place may be haunted by more than the past. Eva, her mother's friend, a shadowy presence at the family cottage, her jealous sister, Gina, whose dead child keeps invading Jude's nightmares, her distant mother who now has dementia, but most of all her father who had suddenly disappeared, all infest Jude's increasingly confused mind.

A storm takes her boat, and Jude starts to fear for her life and her sanity. Then she finds an open gun-case... Do ghosts kill people?

A novel of psychological suspense in the vein of *Death in Her Hands* and *The Winter People*, *Gull Island* is a rich and addictive read.



ANNA PORTER's most recent book is *Deceptions*, a savvy art-world thriller with a strong, independent heroine. Anna is the author of five non-fiction books: her memoir *In Other Words*; *Buying a Better World*; *The Ghosts of Europe*, winner of the Shaughnessey Cohen Prize for Political Writing; *Kasztner's Train*, winner of the 2007 Writers' Trust Non-fiction Award and the Jewish Book Award for Non-fiction; and *The Storyteller*. She has written four other novels: *Hidden Agenda*, *Mortal Sins*, *The Bookfair Murders*, and *The Appraisal*, and her books have been published internationally. She has written numerous articles for magazines and newspapers on a broad range of topics ranging from Israel, the Palestinians, Hungary, and Central Europe, to cultural xenophobia and anti-Semitism. She was the founder and publisher of Key Porter Books.



Set in late sixteenth-century Africa, India, Portugal, and Japan, The African Samurai is a powerful historical novel based on the true story of Yasuke, Japan's first foreign-born samurai and the only samurai of African descent – for readers of Esi Edugyan and Lawrence Hill.

“Like all the best historical novels, it feels relevant and even essential to our present moment.”

– David Bezmozgis, award-winning author of *Immigrant City* and *The Betrayers*

Rights sold: Brazil: Alta Books; Czech Republic: Euromedia; France: Fayard; Germany: Droemer; Greece: Anubis; Hungary: Libri; Italy: Piemme; North American English including audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (Aug. 1, 2023); Portugal: Porto; Russia (digital): MTS; Russia (print): Arkadia; Serbia: Vulkan; Spain: Navona; Turkey: Ithaki Yayincilik; UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada: Canelo
Film/TV: Netflix (World)
Status: Galleys available
Author's website: www.craigshreve.com
Agent: Chris Casuccio

Craig Shreve

THE AFRICAN SAMURAI

A Novel

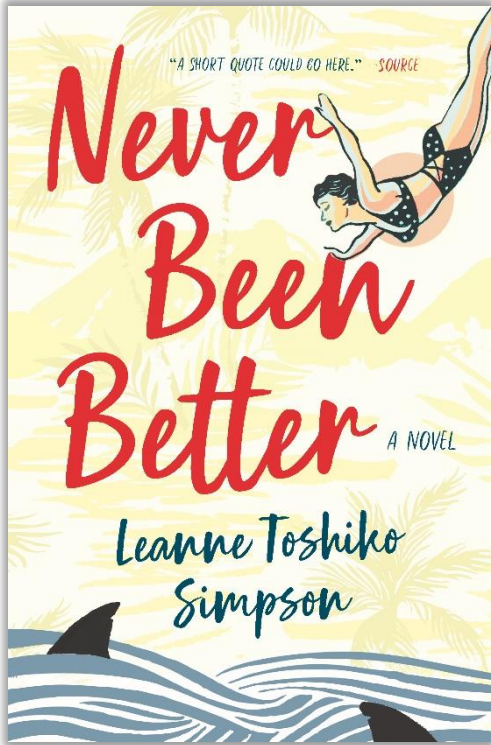
In 1579, a Portuguese trade ship sails into port at Kuchinotsu, Japan, loaded with European wares and weapons. On board is Father Alessandro Valignano, an Italian priest and Jesuit missionary whose authority in central and east Asia is second only to the pope's. Beside him is his protector, a large and imposing East African man. Taken from his village as a boy, sold as a slave to Portuguese mercenaries, and forced to fight in wars in India, the young but experienced soldier is haunted by memories of his past.

From Kuchinotsu, Father Valignano leads an expedition pushing inland toward the capital city of Kyoto. A riot brings his protector in front of the land's most powerful warlord, Oda Nobunaga. Nobunaga is preparing a campaign to complete the unification of a nation that's been torn apart by over one hundred years of civil war. In exchange for permission to build a church, Valignano "gifts" his protector to Nobunaga, and the young East African man is reminded once again that he is less of a human and more of a thing to be traded and sold.

After pledging his allegiance to the Japanese warlord, the two men from vastly different worlds develop a trust and respect for one another. The young soldier is granted the role of samurai, a title that has never been given to a foreigner; he is also given a new name: Yasuke. Not all are happy with Yasuke's ascension. There are whispers that he may soon be given his own fief, his own servants, his own samurai to command. But all of his dreams hinge on his ability to protect his new lord from threats both military and political, and from enemies both without and within.



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. Craig is the author of *One Night in Mississippi*. He lives in Toronto, Ontario.



‘My Best Friend’s Wedding’ meets ‘Silver Linings Playbook’ – a humorous, empathetic debut about navigating love, friendship and family while living with mental illness.

“A sparkling romantic comedy that defies the usual tropes of the genre. What does it mean to meet ‘the one’ if he’s about to marry your best friend? And how do you grow the complicated relationships that began inside a psychiatric hospital? Filled with punchy dialogue, scenes that will leave you bursting into laughter and wiping away tears in the same breath, and a cast of flawed but utterly charming characters, *Never Been Better* is a story about love of all kinds: between lovers, between friends, between sisters, but most of all, the love offered towards oneself.”

– Carianne Leung, author of *That Time I Loved You*

Rights sold: Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (Mar. 12, 2024)
World English excl. Canada: Putnam / Penguin Random House US (Mar. 2024)
Status: Manuscript available
Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Leanne Toshiko Simpson

NEVER BEEN BETTER

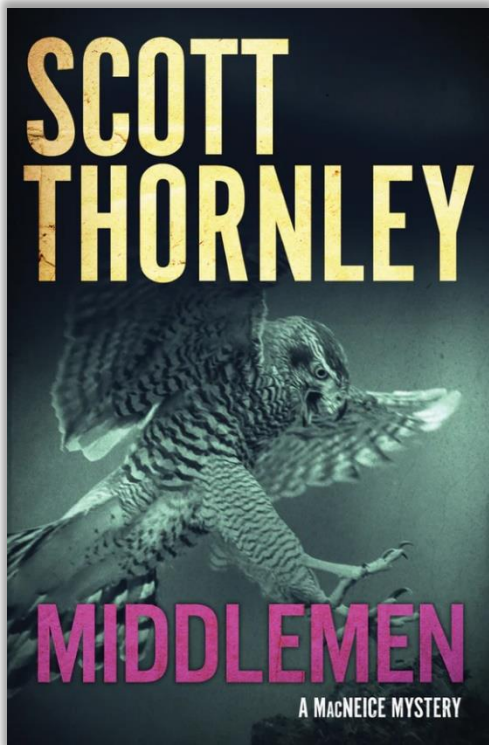
Matt, Misa, and Dee are the three musketeers of the psych ward. Matt is a teddy bear human with a lopsided grin and no discernible coping mechanisms. Soft-spoken and strong-willed, Misa is wildly efficient at taking care of others and avoiding her own problems. And Dee is a puddle with a heart of gold, trying to overcome a track record of not finishing what she starts. A year after discharge, Matt and Misa are hosting a picture-perfect destination wedding in Turks and Caicos. There is only one problem: Dee has been in love with Matt ever since he got her kicked out of the hospital.

When Dee arrives at the swanky resort with her high-voltage sister Tilley as her “plus one” and human fire extinguisher, Dee feels morally obliged to confess her feelings and disrupt Matt and Misa’s upcoming nuptials, Julia Roberts–style. But when Dee realizes that Misa, the poster child of the mood disorders clinic, doesn’t want the other wedding guests to know where they met, she worries that she’s being left behind and starts to self-destruct. Then there are the complexities of the wedding party to contend with – Misa’s family’s discomfort with mental illness, Matt’s sudden detour from his treatment plan, and Tilley’s growing frustration with Dee’s habit of prioritizing love over recovery.

With the beachside ceremony due to take place in a matter of days, it’s now or never for Dee to tell Matt how she feels. The problem is, disrupting Matt and Misa’s nuptials would jeopardize the entire support system that holds them all together. When it comes to happily ever afters, how is a mad girl supposed to choose between love and recovery?



LEANNE TOSHIKO SIMPSON is a mixed-race Yonsei writer who lives with bipolar disorder. Named Scarborough’s Emerging Writer in 2016 and nominated for the Journey Prize in 2019, she co-founded a reflective writing program at Canada’s largest mental health hospital. Since her hospitalization, Simpson has connected with students, cultural centres, companies and media outlets about the power of storytelling in shaping recovery. *Never Been Better* is her debut novel.



In the fifth installment of the celebrated MacNeice Mysteries, police track a bloody trail to a grisly crime scene in the woods, uncovering a series of murders that appears to be the work of professional hitmen.

“[MacNeice is] one of Canada’s best-loved fictional detectives, whose insight-laden conversations with his deceased wife and fascination with bird calls herald the kind of oddball investigative savant whom readers adore.”

— *Booklist* on *Vantage Point*

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

Film/TV: Shaftesbury (World)

Status: Manuscript available

Author’s website:

www.scottthornleyauthor.com

Agent: Chris Casuccio

Scott Thornley

MIDDLEMEN

A MacNeice Mystery

When Jack is found covered in blood and bone fragments by the roadside, and his best friend, retired professor and birdwatching enthusiast Dr. Evan Moore, can’t be located, Detective Superintendent MacNeice is called in to investigate.

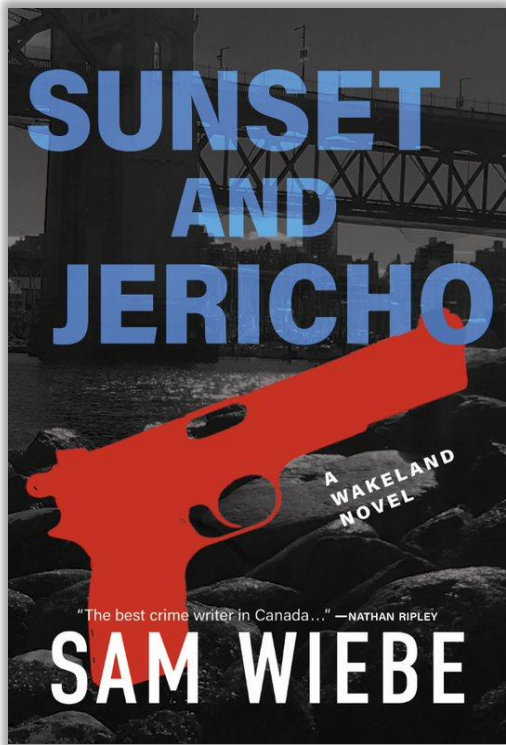
Following the blood-splattered trail along Highway 8 to a forested area, MacNeice discovers a grisly crime scene, but no bodies. Nearby, an observation blind accompanies evidence of Moore’s recent presence, leading Mac and his team to believe that Jack and the professor stumbled upon a botched midnight execution in the woods. But why would the killers remove the bodies from the forest? Where are they now?

When a corpse turns up on the mountain in Lincoln with two shots to the head, MacNeice suspects the work of professional hitmen and sets out to uncover the truth about who hired them – and why.



SCOTT THORNLEY grew up in Hamilton, Ontario, which inspired his fictional Dundurn. He is the author of five novels in the critically acclaimed MacNeice Mysteries series: *Erasing Memory*, *The Ambitious City*, *Raw Bone*, *Vantage Point*, and *Middlemen*. He was appointed to the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts in 1990.

In 2018, he was named a Member of the Order of Canada. Thornley divides his time between Toronto and the southwest of France.



The fourth thrilling installment of the Wakeland detective series, exploring the depths of Vancouver's criminal underworld.

"Dave Wakeland is back; battered, shot, soul-sick and heartbroken, and as tenaciously single-minded as ever in the pursuit of evil... He might be tired of it all, but his fans will be enthralled. Wiebe is the absolute master of noir with heart. Wakeland had better not be planning to quit, because as far as I'm concerned, when you're tired of Wakeland, you're tired of life."

– Iona Wishaw, bestselling author of The Lane Winslow Mystery series

Rights sold: Audio (World English): Blackstone; North American English: Douglas & McIntyre (Apr. 15, 2023)
Film/TV: Cineflix Productions (World)
Status: Books available
Author's website: www.samwiebe.com
Agent: Chris Casuccio

Sam Wiebe

SUNSET AND JERICO

A Wakeland Novel

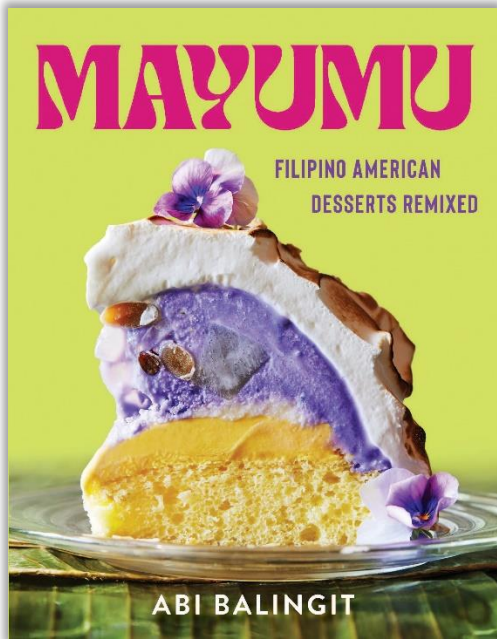
The mayor's brother is missing. A transit cop lies beaten and blinded, her service weapon stolen. A new series of graffiti tags are appearing, linked to an underground group calling themselves The Death of Kings. Class warfare has broken out on the streets of Vancouver, and PI Dave Wakeland finds himself on the front lines – but unsure which side he's on.

Reeling from a bad breakup, and increasingly alienated from the city he calls home, Wakeland nevertheless agrees to look for the missing gun. The investigation takes him from flophouses to city hall, and from a clinic in the West Vancouver hills to a mega-mansion in the exclusive British Properties neighborhood – along the way, crossing every ethical line the PI has drawn for himself. Even then, Wakeland may not be able to pull it off.



SAM WIEBE is the award-winning author of the Wakeland novels, one of the most authentic and acclaimed detective series in Canada, including *Invisible Dead*, *Cut You Down* and *Hell and Gone*. Wiebe's other books include *Never Going Back*, *Last of the Independents* and the *Vancouver Noir* anthology, which he edited. He lives in New Westminster, BC.

NON-FICTION



“Simultaneously nostalgic and eye-opening in its novelty, *Mayumu* is the perfect example of what makes the modern Filipino American food movement so exciting. By building on the basics of both American and Filipino desserts, Abi shows us how refreshing and fun it can be to loosen the boundaries of tradition and let the two schools mingle a little more.”

— Bettina Makalintal, food writer at *Eater*

“Every recipe and every story in *Mayumu* bursts off the page with joy, love, ingenuity, and personality. Abi’s work is vibrant, eclectic, comforting, funny, deeply moving, and, to me, feels like a uniquely perfect articulation of the intricacies, depths, and jubilations of being Asian American. *Mayumu* is a celebration of what it means to be human and alive today. I absolutely adore this book.”

— Jonny Sun, *New York Times*–bestselling author of *Goodbye, Again*

Rights sold: World English: Harvest / William Morrow / HarperCollins US (Feb. 28, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author’s website:

www.theduskykitchen.com/

Agent: Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

Abi Balingit

MAYUMU

Filipino American Desserts Remixed

Sweets that taste like home.

Abi Balingit made waves from her tiny, dimly lit, shared kitchen, where she produced hundreds of “pasalubong” (souvenir) boxes filled with especially creative treats that blended the Filipino favorites and Western style desserts she grew up with. Think Adobo Chocolate Chip Cookie, Strawberry Shortcake Sapin-Sapin, and Matcha Pastillas.

Now Balingit shares some of her cult-favorite recipes in *Mayumu* (which means “sweet” in Kapampangan, one of the eight major languages in the Philippines), a celebration of the Filipino American experience, perfect for home bakers wanting both nostalgic and excitingly new recipes.



ABI BALINGIT is the young, energetic Filipino American woman behind the blog *The Dusky Kitchen*. She made waves during the pandemic by selling pasalubong (which means souvenir in Tagalog) treat boxes filled with incredibly imaginative Filipino-inspired desserts and donating the proceeds to help those impacted by COVID-19, and has been covered by *Thrillist*, *Eater*, *Bon Appétit*, *Food52*, *TimeOut*, *VICE*, and more. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.



From celebrated author Denise Chong, a harrowing story of domestic violence in times of cultural turmoil, and the Bangladeshi woman whose irrepressible spirit found light in sudden darkness.

“Monzur’s tenacity is at the root of her success... The trauma she experienced in Bangladesh has only motivated her to defy expectations of what a blind, single woman can do.”

– *The New York Times*, on Rumana Monzur

“Chong draws every strand of the story together so skillfully and excitingly that her book reads like the best kind of novel – both moving and startling.”

– *The Times* (UK), on *The Girl in the Picture: The Story of Kim Phuc, the Photograph, and the Vietnam War*

Rights sold: Canadian English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House (Apr. 2024)

Status: Manuscript available Jun. 2023

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Denise Chong

OUT OF DARKNESS

*One Woman’s Journey through Betrayal,
Tyranny and Violence*

In 2011, Rumana Monzur, a professor of international relations at Dhaka University, graduate student at the University of British Columbia and mother of a young daughter, was blinded by her husband in an attack that left her grievously injured. Monzur seemed an unlikely victim of domestic violence: city-bred, with a prestigious position at a university, and married to a man of her own choosing from a good family. After her story garnered international headlines, she was flown to Canada where surgeons tried and failed to restore her sight. Astonishingly, in defiance of her blindness, she returned to school to take up the study of law.

In this globe-spanning narrative of loyalty and politics, perseverance and human dignity, Denise Chong takes readers behind the headlines to reveal the devolution of a love story. *Out of Darkness* is a cautionary tale of tyranny behind closed doors, elusive justice, and a woman’s determination to leave victimhood behind to rebuild a life with meaning.



DENISE CHONG is an award-winning author whose work portrays the lives of ordinary people caught in the eye of history. Best known for her family memoir, *The Concubine’s Children*; *The Girl in the Picture* about the napalm girl of the Vietnam War; and *Egg on Mao*, a story of love and defiance in China of 1989, she lives in Ottawa.

RUMANA MONZUR was born in Dhaka, lost her sight in 2011, and graduated from law school in 2017. She practices law and champions the rights of women and of persons with disabilities in Vancouver.



The inspiring stories of the long-overlooked women physicists who discovered the fundamental rules of the universe – and reshaped the rules of society.

Rights sold: Canadian English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House (Oct. 31, 2023); India (English): Jaico; Spain: Paidos / Planeta; World English excluding Canada and India: MIT Press

Status: Manuscript available

Author's website:

www.wlu.ca/science/sghose

Agent: John Pearce

Shohini Ghose

HER SPACE, HER TIME

*How Trailblazing Women Scientists
Decoded the Hidden Universe*

Women physicists from around the world have transformed science and society. So why haven't we heard of these remarkable women who made indelible marks in physics? *Her Space, Her Time*, authored by award-winning quantum physicist Shohini Ghose, seeks to correct the injustice of these scientists' anonymity by bringing them to the fore and giving credit where credit is long overdue.

In each chapter of the book, Ghose addresses a particular aspect of women's experiences in physics using a common physics theme to connect the featured women in that chapter: In the chapter on time, for instance, we learn of Henrietta Leavitt and Margaret Burbidge, who helped discover the big bang and the cosmic calendar; in the chapter on space exploration, we learn of the hundreds of Navajo (Diné) women of Shiprock who built the silicon microchips critical to the Moon landings; and in the chapter on subatomic particles, we learn of Marietta Blau, Hertha Wambacher, and Bibha Chowdhuri, who contributed to the discovery of the building blocks of the universe, and, in doing so, played a crucial role in determining who gets to do physics today.

Engaging, accessible, and timely, *Her Space, Her Time* is a collective story of scientific innovation, inspirational leadership, and overcoming invisibility that will leave a lasting impression on any reader curious about the rule-breakers and trendsetters who illuminated our understanding of the universe.



SHOHINI GHOSE is a professor of Physics and Computer Science at Wilfrid Laurier University. A quantum physicist and a TED Senior Fellow, her TED talks have received over five million views. In Canada, she is a past president of the Canadian Association of Physicists and one of five chairs appointed by the federal government to advance the cause of women in science. In 2019 she was among 25 women scientists worldwide featured in a UNESCO exhibit in Paris. A frequent speaker on science topics and gender issues, she has given talks at over 100 international events and is often interviewed or featured by worldwide media.



A fascinating look at the cutting-edge science and technologies that are on the cusp of changing everything from where we'll live, how we'll look, and who we'll be, by the popular science broadcaster and bestselling author Jay Ingram.

"Deft... Ingram unravels the complexities of science past and present."

– *Nature*, on *The End of Memory*

"Riveting... A must-read."

– *Publishers Weekly* (starred), on *The End of Memory*

"Highly readable and informative."

– *Library Journal* (starred), on *The End of Memory*

"Clear, accessible, and upbeat."

– *Kirkus Reviews*, on *The End of Memory*

Rights sold: North American English including audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (Oct. 3, 2023)

Status: Manuscript available

Author's website: www.jayingram.ca

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Jay Ingram

THE FUTURE OF US

The Science of What We'll Eat, Where We'll Live, and Who We'll Be

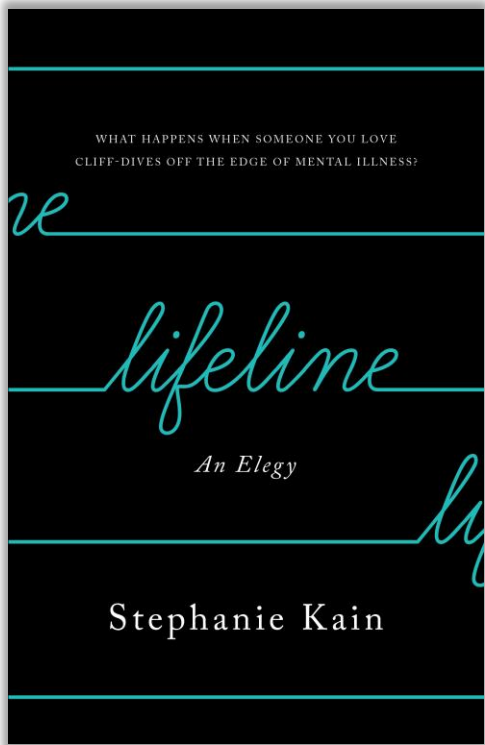
Where will we live? How will we get around? What will we look like? These are just some of the questions bestselling author and popular science broadcaster Jay Ingram answers in this exciting examination of the science and technologies that will affect every aspect of human life.

In these pages, Ingram explores the future of our technological civilization. He reports on cutting-edge research in organ and limb regeneration, advances in prosthetics, the merging of the human and the synthetic, and gene editing. Vertical farming and lab-grown food might help feed millions and alleviate pressure on the planet. Cities could accommodate green space and the long-awaited flying car. Finally, he speculates on the future of artificial general intelligence, even artificial superintelligence, as well as our place on Earth and in the universe.

The potential impact of these developments in science and technology will be powerful and wide-ranging, complicated by ethics and social equity. And they will inevitably revolutionize every aspect of life and even who we are. This is *The Future of Us*.



JAY INGRAM has hosted two national science programs in Canada and is the author of nineteen books, which have been translated into fifteen languages, including the bestselling five-volume *The Science of Why* series. He won the Walter C. Alvarez Award from the American Medical Writers' Association for excellence in communicating health care developments and concepts to the public. Ingram has six honorary degrees, was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, and is a Member of the Order of Canada. He lives in Calgary.



What happens when someone you love cliff-dives off the edge of mental illness?

Rights sold: World English including audio:
ECW Press (Oct. 3, 2023)

Status: Manuscript available

Agent: Meg Wheeler

Stephanie Kain

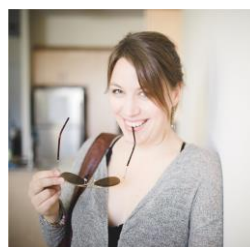
LIFELINE

An Elegy

This experimental memoir reflects on the author's intimate and complicated relationship with her best friend and soulmate S., a young woman diagnosed with suicidal depression, and the startling and chaotic new world of locked wards, heavy medications, and electroconvulsive therapy that follows.

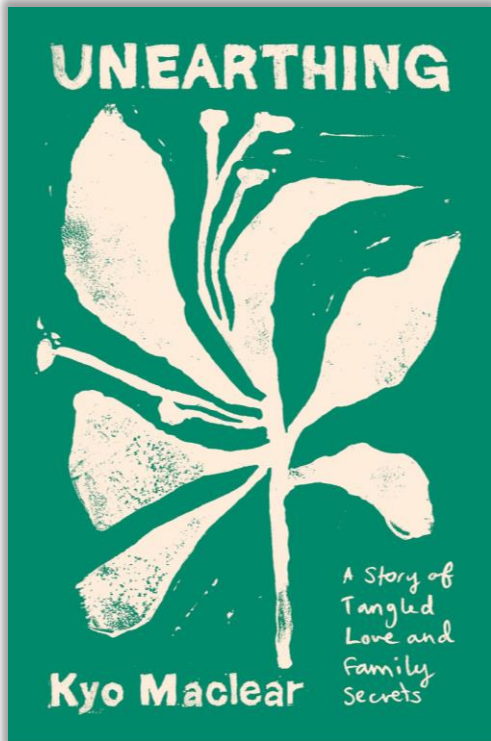
Interweaving personal essays, fragmented prose, poetry, stream-of-consciousness, and text exchanges, this collage-style memoir invites the reader into the mysterious world of a treatment-resistant condition and illuminates the urgency and intimacy of caring for someone with an ultimately fatal mental illness. Running through the center of the narrative is the relationship between two people whose fierce love for each other is both the tie that binds and the anchor that drowns.

Lifeline is a testament to the importance of hard conversations, humor, and dignity in the face of a courageous battle for sanity; an interrogation of the flawed medical treatments provided to those afflicted with mental illnesses; a debate on when life stops being worth living; and a conversation and reflection on what it means to love someone enough to go on without them.



STEPHANIE KAIN, PhD, is a creative writing professor at the University of Ottawa. She is the author of five novels for adults and a series of children's books. She's twice been shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award, once for the Golden Crown Literary Award, and won the Mom's Choice

Gold Award for Best Series. Her work has been published in *Sleet*, *Stone Highway Review*, and *Adanna Literary Journal*.



An unforgettable story of a family secret revealed by a DNA test, and the indelible power of love – for readers of Dani Shapiro’s Inheritance and Katherine May’s Wintering.

“Quirky, imaginative... I perched with her, happily charmed, for hours... [W]ondrous.”

– *The New York Times*, on *Birds Art Life*

“A gorgeous personal statement that has universal implication.”

– *NOW Magazine*, on *Birds Art Life*

“Maclear’s musings will appeal to readers who enjoy nature writing focused most on the search for meaning in a hectic world.”

– *Booklist*, on *Birds Art Life*

Rights sold: Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Apr. 18, 2023); UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada: ONE / Pushkin Press (Mar. 2024); US: Scribner / Simon & Schuster (Aug. 22, 2023)

Status: Books available

Author’s website: www.kyomaclear.com

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Kyo Maclear UNEARTHING

A Story of Tangled Love and Family Secrets

Three months after Kyo Maclear’s father dies in December 2018, she gets the results of a DNA test showing that she and the father who raised her are not biologically related. Suddenly Maclear becomes a detective in her own life, unraveling a family mystery piece by piece, and assembling the story of her biological father. Along the way, larger questions arise: What exactly *is* kinship? And what does it mean to be a family?

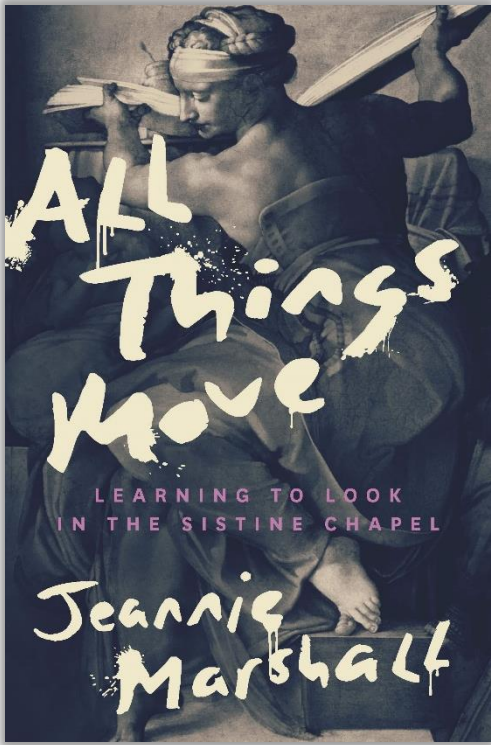
Unearthing is a captivating and propulsive story of inheritance that goes beyond heredity. Infused with moments of suspense, it is also a thoughtful reflection on race, lineage, and our cultural fixation on recreational genetics. Readers of Michelle Zauner’s bestseller *Crying in H Mart* will recognize Maclear’s unflinching insights on grief and loyalty, and keen perceptions into the relationship between mothers and daughters.

What gets planted, and what gets buried? What role does storytelling play in unearthing the past and making sense of a life? Can the humble act of tending a garden provide common ground for an inquisitive daughter and her complicated mother? As it seeks to answer these questions, *Unearthing* bursts with the very love it seeks to understand.



KYO MACLEAR was born in London, UK and moved to Toronto at the age of four. Her most recent book for adults, *Birds Art Life*, was published in seven territories and became a Canadian #1 bestseller. Kyo received a PhD from York University in the Environmental Humanities. Her short fiction, essays, and art criticism have been published in *Orion Magazine*, *Asia Art Pacific*, *Lithub*, *Brick*, *The Millions*, *The Guardian*, *Shambhala Sun*, *The Globe & Mail*, among other publications. She is also a children’s author, editor, and teacher.

NON-FICTION



A deeply personal search for meaning in Michelangelo's frescoes – and an impassioned defence of the role of art in a fractured age.

“[A] thoughtful read for armchair art lovers, history buffs, and those who are just in the mood for a well-told story.”

– *Quill & Quire*

“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*

“[A] deeply personal, multi-layered, and thoroughly captivating meditation... I was both moved and enchanted.”

– Modris Eksteins, author of *Solar Dance*

Rights sold: World including audio:
Biblioasis (Apr. 4, 2023)

Status: Books available

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Jeannie Marshall

ALL THINGS MOVE

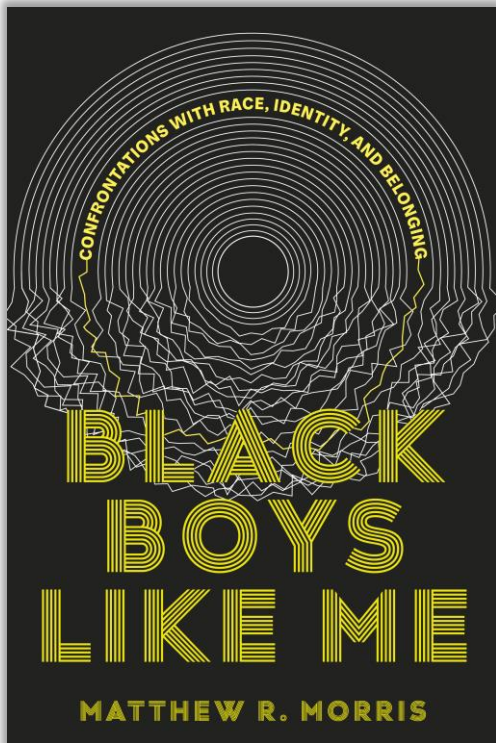
Learning to Look in the Sistine Chapel

What do we hope to get out of seeing a famous piece of art? Jeannie Marshall asked that question of herself when she started visiting the Sistine Chapel frescoes. She wanted to understand their meaning and context – but in the process, she also found what she didn’t know she was looking for.

All Things Move: Learning to Look in the Sistine Chapel tells the story of Marshall’s relationship with one of our most cherished artworks. Interwoven with the history of its making and the Rome of today, it’s an exploration of the past in the present, the street in the museum, and the way a work of art can both terrify and alchemize the soul. An impassioned defence of the role of art in a fractured age, *All Things Move* is a quietly sublime meditation on how our lives can be changed by art, if only we learn to look.



JEANNIE MARSHALL is a writer who has been living in Italy with her family since 2002. A non-fiction author, journalist, and former staff features writer at the *National Post* in Toronto, she contributes articles to *Maclean’s* and the *Walrus* and has published literary non-fiction in *The Common*, the *Literary Review of Canada*, *Brick*, and elsewhere.



Startlingly honest, bracing personal essays, from educator and writer Matthew R. Morris, that explore the intersection of race, Black masculinity, hip-hop culture, and education.

Rights sold: World including audio: Viking / Penguin Random House Canada (Jan. 2024)

Status: Manuscript available

Author's website: www.matthewrmorris.com

Agent: Chris Casuccio

Matthew R. Morris

BLACK BOYS LIKE ME

Confrontations with Race, Identity, and Belonging

What does it mean to be a young Black man with an immigrant father and a white mother, teaching in a school system that historically has held an exclusionary definition of success?

In eight illuminating essays, Matthew R. Morris grapples with this question, and others related to identity and perception. After graduating high school in Scarborough, Morris spent four years in the US on multiple football scholarships and, having spent that time in the States experiencing “the Mecca of hip hop and Black culture,” returned home with a newfound perspective.

Now a middle school teacher himself in Toronto, Morris explores the tension between his consumption of Black culture as a child, his teenage performances of the ideas and values of the culture that often *betrayed* his identity, and the ways society and the people guiding him – his parents, coaches, and teachers – received those performances. What emerges is a painful journey toward transcending performance altogether, toward true knowledge of the self.

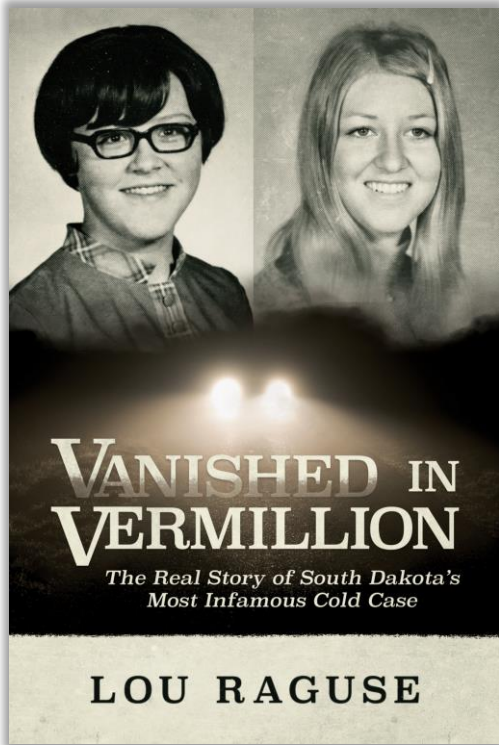
With the wide-reaching scope of Desmond Cole’s *The Skin We’re In* and the introspective snapshot of life in *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Black Boys Like Me* is an unflinching debut that invites readers to create braver spaces and engage in nuanced conversations around race and belonging.



MATTHEW R. MORRIS currently teaches middle school in the Toronto District School Board and holds a Master of Arts from the University of Toronto in Social Justice Education. He is a TEDx speaker and has been featured in the *Toronto Star* and

Toronto Sun, and on CBC Radio and CityNews Toronto. His writing focuses on the intersection of race, Black masculinity, hip-hop culture, and education.

NON-FICTION



“Lou’s terrific storytelling and investigative skills give the reader a front-row seat as he unravels this bizarre case, chock-full of twists and turns.”

– Caroline Lowe, veteran crime journalist and member of the FindJodi team

“A wonderfully written, compassionate, and shocking true crime story. Lou Raguse mastered the technical retelling of courtrooms long adjourned, bringing an emotional edge to this heart-wrenching tale.”

– Michael Brodkorb, award-winning author of bestselling true crime book *The Girls Are Gone*

Rights sold: Audio (World English): Tantor Media; World English: Post Hill Press (Feb. 12, 2023)

Status: Books available

Agent: Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

Lou Raguse

VANISHED IN VERMILLION

The Real Story of South Dakota’s Most Infamous Cold Case

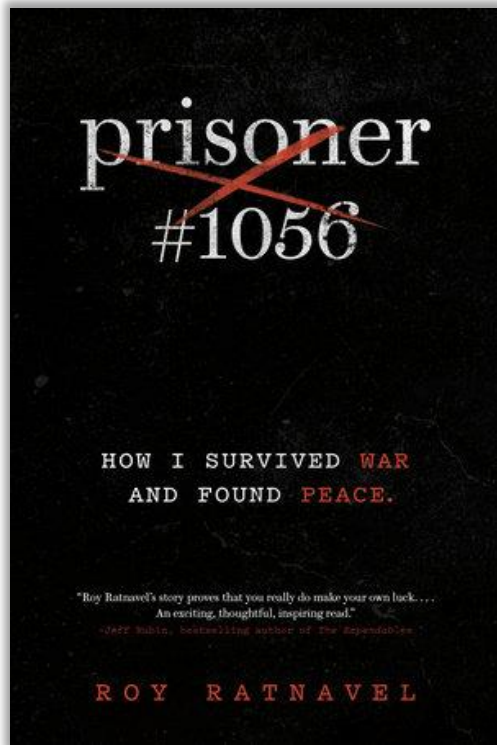
The result of hundreds of interviews, *Vanished in Vermillion* is a cold case story that flips the script on a typical investigation narrative, revealing the biggest law enforcement embarrassment in South Dakota history.

In May 1971, Pam Jackson and Sherri Miller were two seventeen-year-olds driving to an end-of-the-school-year party in a rundown Studebaker Lark when they seemingly disappeared off the face of the earth. Police back then didn’t do enough to try to find them. Investigators 30 years later did too much. Two families endure decades of pain as they await answers of what happened to their girls. When a third family is pulled into the mystery, they quickly learn their nightmare is just beginning.



LOU RAGUSE is a journalist based in Minnesota specializing in crime and courts. Since 2005, he’s reported for local NBC, CBS, and FOX affiliates in Minnesota, New York, Arizona, and South Dakota. Besides countless regional Emmys and other

broadcast news awards, Raguse produced an eight-part podcast on the Closs case, *88 Days: The Jayme Closs Story*, which won an Edward R. Murrow Award and was a top-ten performer on the iTunes podcast charts.



“Pick up this book and you’ll feel like taking on the world. Roy Ratnavel’s story proves that you really do make your own luck, that you really can make it to the top with hard work – and that there are still people out there with the courage to speak their minds. An exciting, thoughtful, inspiring read.”

– Jeff Rubin, bestselling author of *The Expendables*

“A stirring struggle to forge promise and purpose from a life scarred by pain, and to bridge two worlds with compassion and hustle learned in each of them. Ratnavel shows we can pull each other up by our bootstraps.”

– James Bradshaw, reporter for *The Globe & Mail*

Rights sold: World including audio: Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada (Apr. 18, 2023)

Status: Books available

Agent: Michael A. Levine

Roy Ratnavel

PRISONER #1056

How I Survived War and Found Peace

Roy Ratnavel’s incredible journey began at age seventeen, when he was seized by government soldiers and interned in a notorious prison camp for no reason other than being born a Tamil. He saw friends die, and was tortured for a few months – until an unlikely encounter allowed him to send a message beyond the prison walls, which led to his release.

Seeing nothing but more danger in his son’s future, Ratnavel’s father sought refuge for his son in Canada, far from the ethnic violence that was consuming Sri Lanka. Three days after he left by plane, his father was shot and killed.

To repay the debt he owed to his hero of a father, Ratnavel was determined to find the bright future that had been envisioned for him. He went to night school, worked three jobs at a time, and lived in a tiny space with seven housemates. Ratnavel persevered, and he hustled. He accepted no charity, even from relatives, but he made the most of the opportunities set in his path, the mentorship offered by those Canadians who recognized his potential, and by his new homeland, a country shaped by openness, tolerance, and a commitment to merit.

Prisoner #1056 is not only a moving immigrant success story and a searing account of surviving unimaginable injustice and trauma – it is an urgent warning that the dark forces of populism that tore apart the once-prosperous island of Sri Lanka can do their ugly work in Western societies too. Passionate, raw, thoughtful, and far-seeing, *Prisoner #1056* makes the case that our destiny is in our own hands.



ROY RATNAVEL was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and arrived in Canada all alone at the age of eighteen. Ratnavel is now an executive at Canada’s largest independent asset management company. *Prisoner #1056* is his first book. Ratnavel currently resides in Toronto with his wife and son.



“A riveting, raucous, and tender look at growing up a girl in a boy’s world. This is real life and that’s what makes it haunting... Beautifully written and bravely told, this book is the ‘Stand By Me’ for girls that’s been far too long in coming.”

— Aislinn Hunter, award-winning author of *The Certainties*

Rights sold: Audio (World English): Tantor Media; World English: Douglas & McIntyre (Fall 2023)

Status: Manuscript available

Author’s website:

www.emeliasymingtonfedy.com

Agent: Hilary McMahon

Emelia Symington-Fedy

SKID DOGS

With her girl gang, Emelia Symington-Fedy’s coming of age played out on the railroad tracks of a small town in British Columbia. With no witnesses to their wildness in the innocence of the 90s, the girls explored the bonds of friendship and the power that came with their developing sexuality, making promises and pacts; often breaking them.

Twenty years later, a girl is murdered on those same tracks, and the media fixates on why the victim dared to walk there alone. Symington-Fedy returns to stay with her terminally ill mother, who is fearful of the killer on the loose, and slowly comes to terms with the mistreatment of her body and the pervasiveness of small-town rape culture.

Skid Dogs is an engrossing, provocative window into female relationships and a powerful indictment of the dangers of being a girl, advancing a necessary reckoning about promiscuity and consent. Carried by a wryly humorous voice as sharp as the steel of the tracks, *Skid Dogs* will resonate with fans of Lisa Taddeo, Jenny Slate, and Yellowjackets.

EMELIA SYMINGTON-FEDY is an international theater creator and the founding co-artistic director of The Chop, who has toured to global critical acclaim. A graduate of Simon Fraser University’s Creative Writing Program and a contributing essayist to CBC Radio, she has told personal stories about motherhood, addiction, grief, her body, and other forbidden topics. Her radio documentary ‘The Tracks’ earned an honorable mention at the New York Doc Festival. *Skid Dogs* is her first book.

NON-FICTION



From Hilary Weston Prize-winning author Jenny Heijun Wills, reflections on ambiguity, stereotypes about queer Asian diasporic women, and how she might exist in the in-between when the world so desperately wants her to fit its image of what she should be.

“Finely observed, meticulous, and candid...”

– Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Nonfiction Jury, on *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related*.

“One of the most courageous, moving and achingly beautiful memoirs I’ve ever read.”

– David Chariandy, author of *Brother*, on *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related*.

“[A] memoir of lasting power.”

– Kim Fu, author of *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century*, on *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related*.

Rights sold: Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Aug. 2024)

Status: Manuscript available Jun. 2023

Author’s website: www.jennyheijunwills.com

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Jenny Heijun Wills ASIAN, ADOPTED, QUEER, HUNGRY

Essays on Being Everything and Nothing at All

As an adoptee, Jenny Heijun Wills navigates the in-betweenness of race and ethnicity. As an Asian pan-polyam femme, she occupies a liminal space between family and “freedom,” queerness and heteronormativity, monogamy and a constellation of love. As a person who self-harms to cope with mental illness, she balances wanting to be beautiful and making herself ugly, preening in the limelight while daily wishing her body would disappear. As a parent with a lifelong eating disorder, her love language is to feed, but she herself refuses to consume love; she is both culturally consumed and consumes culture to learn how to be what society expects of her.

In these devastating, illuminating, and beautifully crafted essays, Jenny Heijun Wills probes personal grey zones, ambiguities, and excesses to consider how to claim her space in the in-between when the world so desperately wants her to be one thing or another.

JENNY HEIJUN WILLS is a creative writer and scholar (critical race and American studies) who was born in Seoul, South Korea and was adopted and raised in a white family in Canada. She’s lived, studied, and worked in Toronto, Montreal, Boston, and Seoul and holds a PhD in English Literary Studies. She currently teaches at the University of Winnipeg in Manitoba where she is the first creative writer serving as Chancellor’s Research Chair. The author of over 50 essays and co-editor of two essay collections, she won the 2019 Hilary Weston Writers Trust Prize for Nonfiction for her debut book *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related*, a heartbreaking memoir about kinship and culture rediscovered. Wills is a Fulbright Alumni (Harvard) and a graduate of the School of Criticism and Theory (Cornell), and in 2016 was Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (Stanford).

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