

WESTWOOD CREATIVE ARTISTS

FRANKFURT
CATALOGUE

FALL 2024



FALL CATALOGUE

2024

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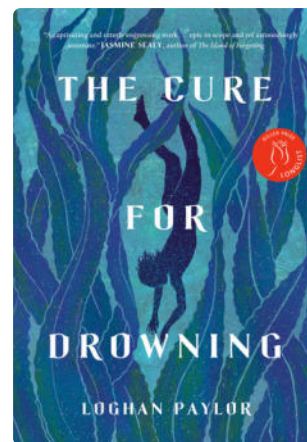
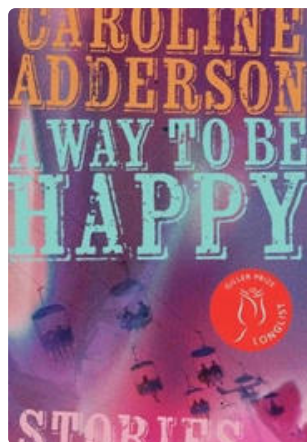
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September 2024

It is our honor to present the Fall 2024 edition of Westwood Creative Artists' rights catalogue. Please allow us to spend a few pages extolling some of the recent accolades and accomplishments our clients have achieved in recent months.

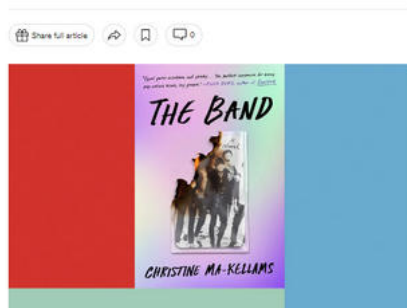
We are thrilled to have a short story collection and a novel on the [2024 Giller Prize longlist](#): **Caroline Adderson's** *A Way to Be Happy: Stories* (p. 14), and **Loghan Paylor's** *The Cure for Drowning* (p. 22). Congratulations to Caroline and Loghan, and to their hardworking publishers, Biblioasis and Random House Canada! Keep your eye out for the Giller Prize shortlist, to be announced on October 9, 2024.



And in other exciting news for these two books, *A Way to Be Happy*, which is the lead fiction title for Biblioasis this fall, earned a starred review in [Kirkus](#), which praised Adderson for her “gift for finding the tender parts in characters, even unlikable ones,” and called her “a deft, masterful storyteller whose literary fiction surely deserves more attention.” [The British Columbia Review](#) said: “Adderson expertly develops a detailed setting... That’s what Adderson does best: placing her characters in unsettling situations and then introducing them to a variety of possibilities.” Meanwhile, *The Cure for Drowning* landed on several CBC Books lists: “Writers to Watch: 30 Canadian writers making their mark in 2024”, “35 books for Pride month”, and “10 historical fiction books to transport you this summer”. It was also featured on [LitHub's](#) “Oh, Queer Canada: A Reading List for Americans in Search of LGBTQ Canadian History” and *The Miramichi Reader's* [Pride month editor's picks](#) list. The [Vancouver Sun](#) called *The Cure for Drowning* “a stirring page-turner of a historical love story that delves into the meaning of family – both inherited and created.” And [The Miramichi Reader](#) called it “A rich, beautifully wrought family saga about love, truth and identity... This is a deeply moving book, filled with historic detail, vividly drawn descriptions, and layered with haunting insights about family, loyalty and truth. ...Highly recommended.”

What if K-Pop Stars Are Actually Just Like Us?

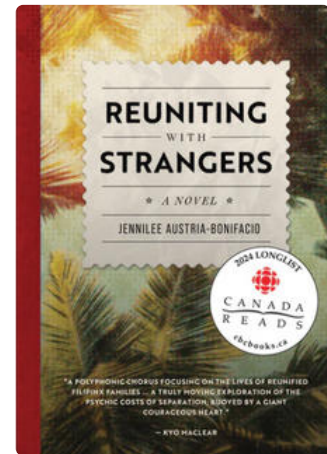
In the debut novel “The Band,” a burned-out pop idol meets a disillusioned professor, raising the question: What if the dangers of fame resemble white-collar ennui?



With a slew of accolades and media attention, *The Band* by **Christine Ma-Kellams** (p. 19) has been everywhere this spring and summer. [The New York Times Book Review](#) handed down a rave, stating: “Christine Ma-Kellams’s brief, thoughtful debut novel, *The Band*, explores these two ideas – K-pop as one more version of stardom; K-pop as something unique – while also posing new questions: What if K-pop stars, who work so hard to rise up and then inevitably tire out, actually resemble the rest of us? What if the dangers of fame resemble a more familiar white-collar ennui?” [Booklist](#) gave it a rave review as well: “Ma-Kellams takes readers on a gripping exploration of the complexities that accompany fame... [in t]his darkly humorous novel.” [Kirkus](#) called the novel a scathing

indictment of... the way the industry often turns a blind eye to the mental health of its stars... A satirical examination of the stars and fans of the music industry." The Band also landed on [Debutiful's](#) Most Anticipated Books of 2024 list with the following endorsement: "This could very well be the first great K-Pop literary phenomenon. Expect a stylized, pop culture romp." [People Magazine](#) selected it for its Best Books of April 2024 list, writing: "K-pop fans and readers who haven't yet fallen in with the phenomenon will both love this darkly funny novel about a troubled K-pop idol who disappears after he finds himself at the center of controversy, the discontented Chinese American woman who rescues him and the price of manufactured fame." There is so much more where this came from; for a full list of media, appearances, and reviews, please visit [this link](#).

Reuniting with Strangers by **Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio** was shortlisted for the [Toronto Book Awards](#)! The jury called it "a revelation." The novel, which follows the reunification of Filipino caregiver families over one Canadian winter – and the mysterious progress of Monolith, who appears and disappears in their lives – was included in the former mayor of Calgary Naheed Nenshi's list of [six books to help build empathy](#); he called the author "a rare and powerful talent." [Foreword Reviews](#) gave it a starred review, saying: "Every character is unique and memorable while also sharing an important quality: determination to succeed against the odds. ... For all of the people who ever loved someone enough to make painful sacrifices to secure their future."



Leanne Toshiko Simpson's *Never Been Better* (p. 25) – a hilariously offbeat and tender comedy about one bipolar woman's messy search for love – made a big splash this summer! It has been featured in [Good Morning America's](#) spring reading list, [Electric Lit's](#) "books that are rewriting bipolar disorder," [Elle Canada's](#) Asian Heritage Month reading list, [Book Riot's](#) "best romance books with neurodivergent main characters," and [The Seattle Times'](#) and [The Writers' Trust](#) summer reading list. Toshiko Simpson, who herself lives with bipolar disorder, is a charismatic and creative promoter who has wowed audiences at in-person events in Toronto, Vancouver, New York, and LA, and has been profiled by numerous media outlets including the [Toronto Star](#) and [She Does the City](#). Published by HarperCollins in Canada, international rights have been sold in Brazil (Alta Books), Germany (Rowohlt), the Netherlands (April Books), and the US (Putnam/PRH).



You might recognize **Glenn Dixon's** name from his bestselling memoir *Juliet's Answer*, which sold in ten territories. His new novel *The Infinite Sadness of Small Appliances* has been snapped up by HarperCollins Canada and Atria US for publication in spring 2026. Featuring a Roomba vacuum who christens herself Scout after hearing *To Kill a Mockingbird* read aloud, the charming, crossover speculative/upmarket commercial novel explores how a household of sentient appliances (Watch, Fridge, Volvo) become self-aware, come to understand feelings and finally confront the most profound ethical questions facing their humans. The manuscript will be ready for foreign submission early in 2025.

GENERAL CATEGORY

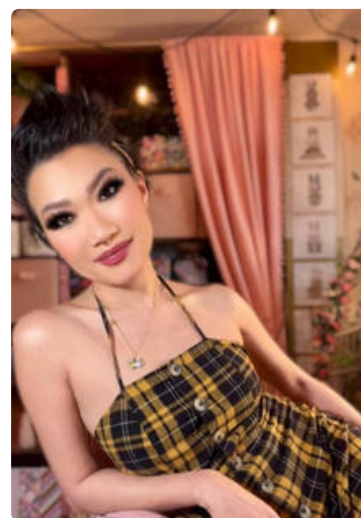
Her Space, Her Time
By Shohini Ghose

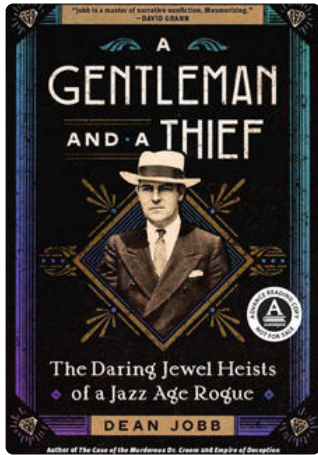


In other exciting news, on the non-fiction side, our author **Shohini Ghose** was recently named the winner of the Canadian Science Writers and Communicators 2023 Book Award (General category) for *Her Space, Her Time: How Trailblazing Women Scientists Decoded the Hidden Universe* (Canada: Random House; India: Jaico; Korea: YoungJin; Spain: Paidos; World English excl. Canada and India: MIT Press). *Her Space, Her Time* has received widespread praise, such as this from the [Boston Globe](#): “Ghose’s engaging book... explains complex concepts with clarity, understandable for the non-scientist, and the book is a passionate look at the women who’ve pushed our understanding forward in space exploration, radioactivity, the splitting of the atom, and subatomic imaging, revealing the crucial role women have played, bringing their achievements to light, and in doing, making a strong case for women’s place in science now.”

Michael Ignatieff has been awarded the [Princess of Asturias Award for Social Sciences](#). The jury referred to the writer as “an essential reference to navigate our current times of war, political polarization and threats to freedom.” Ignatieff’s most recent book, *On Consolation: Finding Solace in Dark Times*, has sold in sixteen territories including Canada (Random House/PRH), Czech Republic (Kalich), Denmark (Kristeligt Dagblads Forlag), France (Éditions Saint Simon), Germany (Ullstein), Italy (Vita e Pensiero), Korea (Kachi Books), Netherlands (Cossee), Poland (Wydawnictwo Nieoczywiste), Romania (Trei), Serbia (Kontrast), Spain (Taurus/PRH), Taiwan (Business Today Publisher), Thailand (Kobfai), the UK (Picador/Macmillan), and the US (Holt/Macmillan).

Hilary Weston Prize-winning author and transnational/transracial adoptee **Jenny Heijun Wills** is having a very busy autumn, promoting her new book at numerous literary festivals, appearing on a variety of flagship television and radio shows, and being profiled by major media. *Everything and Nothing At All* ([p. 38](#)) is a collection of brilliant, piercing, breathtaking personal essays on family, beauty, identity, language and belonging – as well as the grey zones that exist between and beyond these notions of self. The wonderful Kyo Maclear, author of *Unearthing*, said it best: “Defiantly wise. Unbeautifully beautiful. Capaciously loving. Mutinous.” With high praise like this, we can see why Wills’ collection was just shortlisted for the [2024 Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Nonfiction](#)! The jury praised her “elegant prose” and the “richly decorated and incisive essays” that altogether “weave a rich and complex tapestry of identity, belonging, and rejection...” This marks Wills’ second Writers’ Trust Awards recognition, having won this same category for her memoir, *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related*. Stay tuned for the award winner announcement in November, and in the meantime for media and festival updates!





Dean Jobb's *A Gentleman and a Thief* went straight to the Barnes and Noble, *Globe & Mail*, and *Toronto Star* bestseller lists upon publication, and has been garnering tremendous acclaim: *The New York Times* proclaimed it an Editors' Choice and called it "delectably entertaining... [Jobb] seems incapable of penning a dull moment," and *Publishers Weekly* in its starred review said, "A top-shelf work of true crime... Jobb tells Barry's tale with both rigor and pathos, painting a tender portrait of a crook who was never fearsome... This is liable to steal readers' hearts." HarperCollins bought Canadian rights and Azbooka acquired it for Russia; Algonquin Books holds all other rights.

In addition to these many literary successes, we are also increasingly active in securing film, television and stage deals for our talented clients. We have recently optioned a number of properties, including **Don Gillmor's** *Breaking and Entering* to Blink 49 Northern Productions, **Jillian Horton's** *We Are All Perfectly Fine* to BentFrame, **Thomas King's** *Sufferance* to Makwa Creative, **Dennis Lee's** *Alligator Pie* to Souleppper Theatre, and **Anna Porter's** *Gull Island* to Julijette Inc. The stage adaptation of **Mark Sakamoto's** book, *Forgiveness*, has recently been chosen as part of *Stratford Festival's* 2025 season lineup.

Finally, we are thrilled to report that the multi-award-winning stage adaptation of *Life of Pi* by **Yann Martel** will be starting its nine-month US tour in December, following a 44-week UK tour (and its runs in the West End and on Broadway). Currently on stage in Toronto, the show will be heading to Abu Dhabi and Mumbai in December, and then to mainland China and Taiwan in April.



Take care,

The Team at Westwood Creative Artists

RECENT PRIZES

FICTION

Caroline Adderson, *A Way to Be Happy*, longlisted for the Giller Prize

Gail Anderson-Dargatz, *The Almost Widow*, shortlisted for the Howard Engel Award

Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio, *Reuniting with Strangers*, shortlisted for the Toronto Book Award

Sean Dixon, *The Abduction of Seven Forgers*, shortlisted for the Alberta Book Publishing Awards Trade Fiction Book of the Year

Kim Fu, *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century*, finalist for the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing

Erum Shazia Hasan, *We Meant Well*, shortlisted for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize

Loghan Paylor, *The Cure for Drowning*, longlisted for the Giller Prize

Craig Shreve, *The African Samurai*, longlisted for the 2024 Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize for Best Published Novel

Sam Wiebe, *Sunset and Jericho*, shortlisted for Crime Writers of Canada Awards of Excellence in the Crime category

NON-FICTION

Abi Balingit, *Mayumu: Filipino American Desserts Remixed*, winner of the Emerging Voice Award and finalist for the Baking and Desserts Award at the 2024 James Beard Foundation Book Awards

Shohini Ghose, *Her Space, Her Time: How Trailblazing Women Scientists Decoded the Hidden Universe*, Winner of the 2023 Science Writers and Communicators of Canada Book Award (General category)

Michael Ignatieff, awarded the Princess Asturias Award for Social Sciences (career achievement)

Jay Ingram, *The Future of Us*, longlisted for the Science Writers and Communicators of Canada Book Award in the General category

Stephanie Kain, *Lifeline: An Elegy*, bronze award winner in the Death and Dying category at the IPPYs; honorable mention in the Grief/Grieving category at the Indies Book of the Year Awards

Deirdre Kelly, *Fashioning the Beatles*, finalist in the Pop Culture category at the Indies Book of the Year Awards

Sima Samar, *Outspoken: My Fight for Freedom and Human Rights in Afghanistan*, longlisted for the Moore Prize

Emelia Symington Fedy, *Skid Dogs*, finalist for the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize

Jenny Heijun Wills, *Everything and Nothing at All: Essays*, shortlisted for the 2024 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction

RECENT PRIZES

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK & MIDDLE GRADE

Matt James, *Tadpoles*, nominated for the Silver Birch Express Award

Alice Kuipers, *Polly Diamond and the Topsy-Turvy Day*, shortlisted for the Saskatchewan Book Awards

Sara O'Leary, *The Little Books of the Little Brontës*, winner of the Alice Kitts Memorial Award for Excellence in Children's Writing

David A. Robertson, *The Song that Called Them Home*, finalist for the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize

Jordan Scott, *My Baba's Garden*, finalist for the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize

Kevin Sylvester, *Apartment 713*, winner of the Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Awards

Nancy Vo, *Boobies*, nominated for the Silver Birch Express Award

RECENT SALES

FICTION

Gurjinder Basran, *The Wedding*, Audio (North American English): Tantor Media

Andrew Boden, *When We Were Ashes*, Audio (North American English): Tantor Media; Italy: Piemme

Glenn Dixon, *The Infinite Sadness of Small Appliances*, Canadian English incl. audio: HarperCollins; US: Atria Books / Simon & Schuster

Virginia Evans, *The Correspondent*, France: Table Ronde; Ukraine: Family Leisure Club (sales by Crown / Penguin Random House US)

Timothy Findley, *Headhunter*, *The Piano Man's Daughter*, and *Pilgrim*, French (World): Gallimard (renewal)

Bobbi French, *The Brink of Something Beautiful*, North American English incl. audio: HarperCollins Canada

Kim Fu, *The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore*, French (World): Hélotrope (renewal); *The Valley of Vengeful Ghosts*, US: Tin House Books

Don Gillmor, *Breaking and Entering*, Film/TV (World): Blink 49 Northern Productions

Elizabeth Hay, *Late Nights on Air*, Germany: Kampa Verlag

Robert Hough, *Anarchists in Love*, North American English: Douglas & McIntyre

Thomas King, *A Short History of Indians in Canada* and *The Inconvenient Indian*, French (World): Les Éditions du Boréal (renewal)

Alice Kuipers, *Life on the Refrigerator Door*, Iceland: Odinsauga

Lynne Kutsukake, *The Art of Vanishing*, Italy: Nuova Editrice (sale by Knopf / Penguin Random House Canada)

Yann Martel, *The High Mountains of Portugal*, Italy: Frassinelli (renewal); *Life of Pi*, Netherlands: Prometheus (renewal)

Kathryn Nicolai, *Nothing Much Happens: Cozy and Calming Stories to Soothe Your Mind and Help You Sleep*, Azerbaijan: Qanun

Anna Porter, *Gull Island*, Film/TV (World): Julijette Inc.

Robert Rotenberg, *One Minute More*, World English: Simon & Schuster Canada

Craig Shreve, *The African Samurai*, Ukraine: One More Page

Josef Skvorecky, *Short Stories*, Poland: Wydawnictwo Czarne; *The Engineer of Human Souls*, Mainland China: Alpha Books Co., Ltd.; *The Mournful Demeanor or Lieutenant Boruvka*, Germany: Braumüller Verlag

Sam Wiebe, *Wrath of Exiles*, Audio (World English): Tantor Media

RECENT SALES

NON-FICTION

Diane Borsato, *How to Eat Cake*, World incl. audio: Chronicle Books

Ian Brown, *Seventy*, US: The Experiment

Alastair and Jean Carruthers, *The Face of Change*, World: Sutherland House

Bill Cosgrave, *Love Her Madly*, Film/TV (World): Dara Cohen

Dr. B. Brett and Dr. Jessica M. Finlay, *The Microbiome Master Key: Harness your Microbes to Unlock Whole-Body Health and Lifelong Vitality*, Canadian English: Douglas & McIntyre; World English excl. Canada: The Experiment

Catherine Gildiner, *Good Morning, Monster*, Hungary: Libri Publishing; Serbia: Public Praktikum (sales by Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada); *Immaculate Deception*, North American English incl. audio: St. Martin's Press / Macmillan

Dr. David Goldbloom and Dr. Pier Bryden, *How Can I Help? A Week in My Life as a Psychiatrist*, China: Shanghai Educational Publishing House Co., Ltd. (renewal)

Charlotte Gray, *The Massey Murder*, Film/TV (World): Quiet Ghost Productions

Paul Henderson and David Gardner, *Lying Eyes: The Spy Who Broke a Mother's Heart*, Canadian English incl. audio: HarperCollins (on behalf of Andrew Lownie Literary Agency)

Catherine Hewitt, *The Women Impressionists*, North America incl. audio: Pegasus Books (on behalf of Andrew Lownie Literary Agency)

Jillian Horton, *We Are All Perfectly Fine*, Film/TV (World): BentFrame Film & TV

Douglas Hunter, *God's Mercies*, Film/TV (World): Collingwood Films

John Ibbitson, *Crucible: Canada in the Great War, 1914-1918*, World excl. French, incl. audio: Signal / McClelland & Stewart / Penguin Random House Canada

Jay Ingram, *The Science of Why 5*, Audio (China): Beijing Green Beans Co. Ltd.

Colin James, untitled memoir, World: Random House / Penguin Random House Canada

Dean Jobb, *A Gentleman and a Thief*, Russia: Azbooka (sale by Algonquin Books / Hachette Books); *Murder in the Cards: A Scandalous Life, a Mysterious Death, and the Turbulent Dawn of the Jazz Age*, Canadian English: HarperCollins (sale by Algonquin Books / Hachette), World incl. audio: Algonquin Books / Hachette

Benjamin Lefebvre, *The Glory and the Dream: L.M. Montgomery's Writing Life*, Audio (North American English): Tantor Media; World: Dundurn Press

Marc Lewis, *The Voices in Our Heads*, World: Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada

John Little, Mike Mentzer book, Film/TV (World): Sahand Marefy

Scott McIntyre, *Building the House*, World: ECW Press

RECENT SALES

Lance Mortlock, *Outside In/Insight Out: Unleashing the Power of Business Strategy in Times of Market Uncertainty*, World incl. audio: ECW Press

Peter Newman, untitled memoir, World: At Bay Press

Alpha Nkuranga, *Born to Walk: My Journey of Trials and Resilience*, Audio (North American English): Tantor Media

Kathy Page, *Getting Better at Being Worse: Dispatches from that Other Place*, Canadian English incl. audio: Penguin / Penguin Random House

Roy Ratnavel, *Prisoner #1056: How I Survived War and Found Peace*, Tamil: Discovery Publications

Mary Rubio, *Lucy Maud Montgomery*, Audio (World English): Tantor Media (sale by Penguin Random House Canada)

Sima Samar with Sally Armstrong, *Outspoken: My Fight for Freedom and Human Rights in Afghanistan*, Germany: Rüffer & Rub Verlag

Lawrence Scanlan and Birgit Stutz, *The Rescue of Belle and Sundance*, Film/TV (World): Good Entertainment Inc. and Donald Martin Enterprises

Julian Sher, *The Great Stork Derby: An Eccentric Millionaire, the Great Depression, and the Women Who Raced to Make Babies*, World incl. audio: House of Anansi Press

Julian Sher and Lisa Fitterman, *Hitman: A Hells Angel Assassin and the Messy Road to Justice*, Film/TV (World): KOC Media

The Right Honorable Mary Simon, *Ajuinnata: Never Give Up*, World: Simon & Schuster Canada

Don Thompson, *The \$12 Million Stuffed Shark*, Ukraine: Knigolove

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK & MIDDLE GRADE

Katie Arthur, *Backpack*, World: Owlkids Books; untitled biography of Jon Lien, World: Running the Goat Press (illustration)

Linda Bailey, *The Easter Wolf* & untitled book 2, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada; *The Great Dinosaur Sleepover*, French (North America): Éditions Scholastic; *The Three Little Mittens*, China: Beijing Green Beans Book Co. (sales by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

Charis Cotter, *The Mystery of the Haunted Dancehall*, Film/TV (World): Darius Films

Jennifer Harris, *Adventures of a Dime*, World: Kids Can Press

Nadia Hohn, *Anti-Black Racism*, World: Orca Books

Matt James, *How to Draw an Owl*, Korea: Wonderbox (sale by Neal Porter Books / Holiday House)

RECENT SALES

Anjali Joshi, *Sponsored*, World: Orca Books

Etta Kaner, *This Gift Stinks*, World: Owlkids Books

Brittany Lane, *Taking Turns with Turtles*, World: Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press (illustration)

Dennis Lee, *Alligator Pie*, Stage (Toronto): Souleppper Theatre

Kyo Maclear, *A Door is to Open* & untitled book 2, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

Susin Nielsen, *The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen*, Netherlands: Leminscaat (renewal); *We Are All Made of Molecules*, Albania: Dituria; Italy: Il Castoro (sales by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

Heather M. O'Connor, *Fast Friends Go for the Gold*, World: Scholastic Canada

Sara O'Leary, *The Little Books of the Little Brontës*, Korea: FIKA (sale by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley, *Gathering the Light*, World: Random House Studio / Penguin Random House US (illustration)

David A. Robertson, *The Kodiaks* books 3 and 4, World incl. audio: HighWater Press / Portage & Main Press; *Little Shoes*, French (North America): Éditions Scholastic (sale by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada); *The Stone Child* (The Misewa Saga book 3), French (North America) incl. audio: Éditions Scholastic (sale by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

Rahma Rodaah, *Dear Black Child*, Somalia & Sweden (World): SomaBooks Publishing (sale by HarperCollins Canada)

Jordan Scott, *My Baba's Garden*, Greece: Mikri Selini (sale by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

Richard Scrimger, *Autumn Bird and the Runaway*, Macedonia: Did Cudna Suma (sale by Scholastic Canada)

Lauren Soloy, *Every Leaf on Every Tree*, World: Nimbus Publishing; *The New Gnome*, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

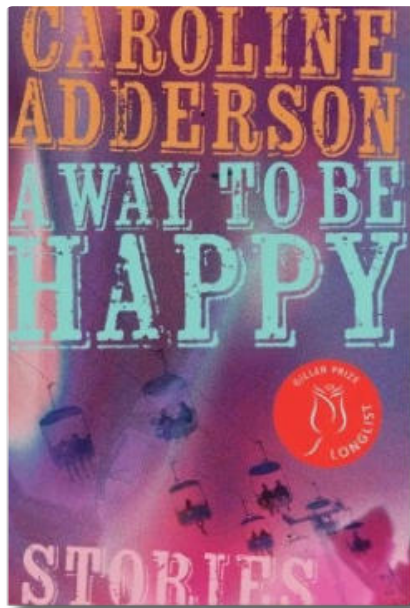
Tiffany Stone, *The Haunted Greenhouse* books 1-3, World: Owlkids Books

Kevin Sylvester, *Time Surfers*, World: HarperCollins Canada

FICTION



FICTION



Longlisted for the 2024 Giller Prize!

From one of Canada's foremost practitioners of the short story: Touching, funny, surprising stories of ordinary people who wring happiness from life, despite its disappointments.

"A deft, masterful storyteller whose literary fiction surely deserves more attention."

– *Kirkus* (starred)

"Adderson's voice is as vivid as ever... and her characters are unfailingly mesmerizing."

– Lynn Coady, author of *Watching You Without Me*

"Adderson builds terrific suspense... Each story... is its own mysterious world, shaped by her outstanding powers of imagination and sympathy."

– Elizabeth Hay, author of *Snow Road Station*

"Intricate, compassionate, complex, its every sentence carefully built, tested, and polished."

– Kathy Page, author of *Dear Evelyn*

Rights sold: World English incl. audio: Biblioasis (Sep. 10, 2024)

Status: Books available

Author's website: carolineadderson.com

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Caroline Adderson A WAY TO BE HAPPY

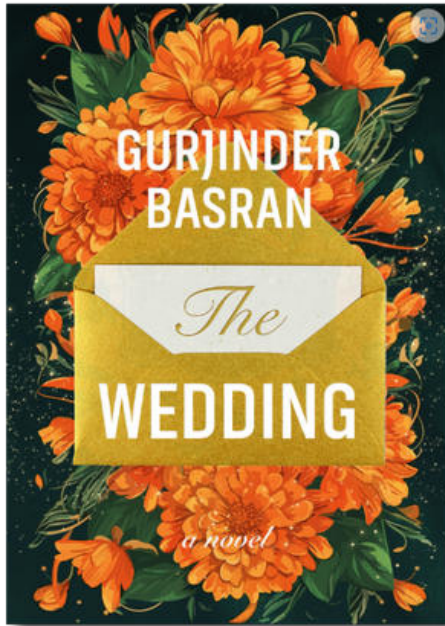
Stories

On New Year's Eve, a pair of addicts robs a string of high-end parties in order to fund their own recovery. A recently separated woman relocates to a small northern town, where she receives a life-changing visitation, and a Russian hitman, suffering from a mysterious lung ailment, retrieves long-buried memories of his past. In the nineteenth century, a disparate group of women coalesce in the attempt to aid a young girl in her escape from a hospital for the insane. These are but some of the remarkable characters who populate these stories, all of them grappling with conflicts ranging from mundane to extraordinary. Caroline Adderson's *A Way to Be Happy* considers what it means to find happiness – and how often it comes through the grace of others.



CAROLINE ADDERSON is the author of five novels and two collections of short stories, as well as many books for young readers. Published internationally, her work has received numerous award nominations, including for the *Sunday Times* EFG Short Story Award, the Dublin Literary Award, two Commonwealth Writers' Prizes, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Rogers

Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the Giller Prize. Winner of three BC Book Prizes and three CBC Literary Prizes, Adderson was also the recipient of the Marian Engel Award for mid-career achievement. She teaches in the Writing and Publishing Program at SFU and is the Program Director of the Writing Studio at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.



A delightful novel that shows how fourteen different characters are affected by a South Asian wedding in Vancouver – from the bride and groom to the photographer and make-up artist, family and friends.

One of *The Walrus*' Best Books of Fall 2024

"A richly textured, wonderfully imagined novel... This, and her beautiful, whip-smart prose make this a highly engrossing and un-put-down-able read. I loved every minute of it."

– Ayelet Tsabari, author of *Songs for the Brokenhearted*

"The Wedding feels like drinking a comforting cup of masala chai... Equal parts layered and entertaining, this breezy read... ropes you into a theatrical and complex family dynamic... You just have to RSVP to get a taste."

– *The Walrus*

Rights sold: North American English: Douglas & McIntyre (Canada: Sep. 7, 2024; US: Spring 2025); Audio (North American English): Tantor Media

Status: Books available

Author's website: gurjinderbasran.ca

Agent: John Pearce

Gurjinder Basran THE WEDDING

A Novel

If you liked the colorful characters and cultural insights in Netflix's top-trending reality show *Indian Matchmaker*, Hayu's hit series *Family Karma*, or the critically acclaimed film *Monsoon Wedding*, you'll love Gurjinder Basran's fourth novel, *The Wedding*. Set in present-day Vancouver, it exposes the secret lives of the wedding party, guests, and event staff and illustrates a South Asian community at odds with itself in the lead up to a lavish Indian wedding.

Centered around the impending marriage of Devi and Baby, it illustrates the union of two people, two families and all the ways in which an entire community bears witness, ensnares, and uplifts itself.

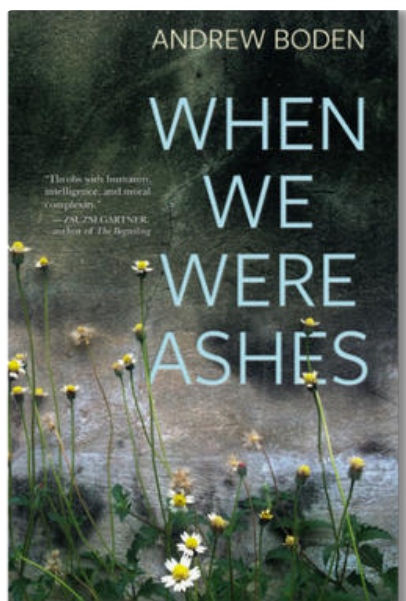
The Wedding is ripe with family drama, steeped in tradition and an ode to love in all its forms. With humor, nuance, and honesty, it spills the chai, exploring desire and expectation, suffering and judgment, class and race – all in search of a happy (or happy-enough) ever after. As the wedding reveals the participants and their interwoven story-lines, it also causes changes – some dramatic, some more subtle – in their lives. The result is a wide-ranging but intimate portrait of a vibrant, complex Sikh community.



GURJINDER BASRAN is the award-winning author of three novels: *Everything Was Goodbye* (Mother Tongue and Penguin Canada), winner of the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize and a *Chatelaine* Magazine Book Club pick; *Someone You Love is Gone* (Penguin Canada and Harper Perennial); and *Help! I'm Alive* (ECW Press). Hailed by the CBC as one of "Ten Canadian women writers you need to

read," she is currently the Director of Learning and Development at Bell Canada. She lives in Delta, British Columbia, with her family.

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.

“When We Were Ashes is a powerful novel, flawlessly executed and emotionally resonant. It is haunting, and its words have stayed with me long after I closed the book. Boden’s triumph is to marry the unthinkable cruelty of a world gone mad with a firmly rooted sense of human dignity that uplifts the human spirit.”

— *The British Columbia Review*

“When We Were Ashes is an amazing read – a page-turner plot-wise, imbued with language that dances on the page. An unflinching take on the macro and micro evils of Nazi Germany, Andrew Boden’s debut novel throbs with humanity, intelligence, moral complexity, and an understanding of the complications of extreme cruelty and extreme kindness.”

— Zsuzsi Gartner, author of Giller Prize finalist *Better Living Through Plastic Explosives* and Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize finalist *The Beguiling*

Rights sold: Canadian English: Goose Lane Editions (Sep. 10, 2024); Italy: Piemme

Status: Books available

Author’s website: 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.

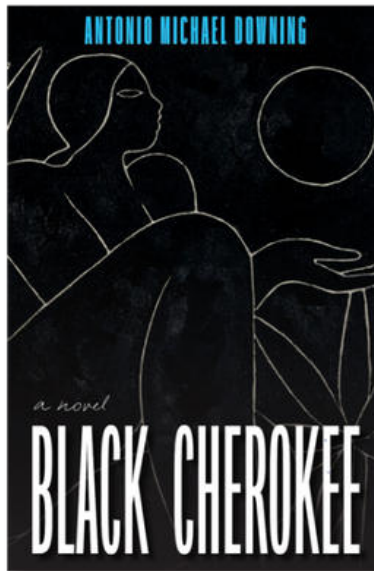
Years later, after the war, and with Peter Berger’s coded diary in hand, Rainor sets out to find the only other child who survived Trutzburg with him – Emmi, a girl who looked past his disfigurement to accept and love him. Rainor is led on a traumatic journey over a haunting landscape to learn the truth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



Praise for *Saga Boy*:

“Singularly dazzling, *Saga Boy* is a brilliant collage of the 21st century’s most incredible memoirs. Told with an unforgettable and innovative pace, this a book I will reread forever.”

– Kiese Laymon, author of *Heavy*

“A vibrant, evocative, and searing account of the lives of Black immigrants. Downing helps us understand the rage and resilience of Black boys – motherless, fatherless, itinerant – and the communities that intervene to raise them. The triumph of *Saga Boy* is the triumph of Blackness everywhere – the irrepressible instinct for survival in a world where Blacks are prey.”

– Ian Williams, Giller Prize-winning author of *Reproduction*

Rights sold: Canadian English incl. audio:

Scribner / Simon & Schuster; US incl.

audio: Simon & Schuster (Aug. 19, 2025)

Status: Manuscript available

Author’s website:

antoniomichaeldowning.com

Agents: Chris Casuccio & John Pearce

Antonio Michael Downing BLACK CHEROKEE

Black Cherokee is a timeless story of self-discovery and the search for identity, chronicling Ophelia Blue Rivers’ struggles to find her place in the world while being raised by the indomitable Grandma Blue, an old Black descendent of Cherokee freedmen in rural South Carolina in the 1990s. Ophelia is perpetually not fitting in and must reconcile the loss of the family she never had with the imperfect reality of the one that has her. Along the way she encounters moments of meanness and magic that shape her emergence and asks profound questions about the forces that make us who we are.

Written in prose that ranges from the poetic to the precise to the prophetic, Downing unfolds his vision of an American South where a culture of sumptuous soul food and deep ecclesiastical faith sit side by side with a legacy of erasing and enslaving Indigenous and Black peoples. These are the waters Ophelia must swim in to find her way to herself. Born into an estranged and unconventional family, she journeys through her youth haunted by a past she never lived. She has no simple answers to the questions troubling her: “Who am I?” “Where do I belong?” “Why is my family so scattered?” Ghosts return, patterns repeat, myths become reality, and the lush southern landscape persists like time itself.

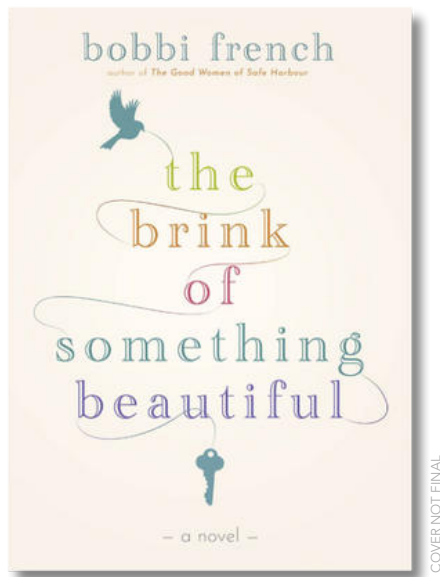
Black Cherokee is at once a vital portrait of 1990s American life and an intensely imaginative, lyrical meditation on family, love and belonging.



ANTONIO MICHAEL DOWNING is the author of *Saga Boy* (Penguin / PRH and Milkweed) – an acclaimed memoir admired by both Giller winner Ian Williams, who called it “...the triumph of Blackness everywhere,” and Kiese Laymon, who called it: “Singularly dazzling...” He has been shortlisted for several awards including as emerging author at the 2019 Taylor Prize and the 2021

Speaker’s Book Award. He is also the author of the children’s picture book *Stars in My Crown* (Tundra Books) and writes and performs music as John Orpheus. *Black Cherokee* is his debut novel.

FICTION



A heart-stirring novel of loss, healing and hope, and the second chances made possible by strong women, enduring friendships and found family.

Praise for *The Good Women of Safe Harbour*:

“Masterfully crafted, graceful and compassionate... French’s intertwining of heartbreaking and hilarious is nothing short of spectacular and advances a profound, satisfying, and rewarding experience... An absolutely engaging and unforgettable novel, I could not put it down.”

– Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award jury citation

“Heartfelt and moving... Honest, deeply satisfying, and with a gut-punch of an ending... A triumphant first novel.”

– *The Miramichi Reader*

Rights sold: North American English incl. audio: HarperCollins Canada (Spring 2026)

Status: Manuscript available

Author’s website: bobbifrench.com

Agent: Hilary McMahon

Bobbi French THE BRINK OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

Ruby Nolan is a new widow. Hidden in the grief and guilt for her husband Joe is a sense that she is free from a marriage she never wanted. As her mother Vera descends into dementia, Ruby starts thinking about who she will be as these dominant figures in her life move on.

An encounter with Maxine, a pregnant teen who reminds Ruby of her own sorry past, and a shocking revelation from Vera send Ruby on a collision course with old truths and regrets, and on a mission to help Maxine whether she wants it or not.

While a friend warns Ruby that you can’t help anyone until you help yourself, it’s a lesson Ruby has to learn the hard way if she wants to find peace and redemption.

Set over the course of one winter in 1990s Newfoundland, *The Brink of Something Beautiful* is the life-affirming, ultimately hopeful story of how women lift each other up and figure themselves out.



BOBBI FRENCH’s acclaimed novel *The Good Women of Safe Harbour* won Newfoundland Reads, was a finalist for the Dartmouth Book Award and the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award, and was longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award and the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour. It was translated into German and Hebrew. A former psychiatrist, she is also the author of *Finding Me in*

France, a memoir chronicling the year following her decision to leave medicine to pursue writing. She lives in Nova Scotia.



This whip-smart, darkly funny, and biting debut follows a psychologist with a savior complex who offers shelter to a recently canceled K-pop idol on the run.

“[A] brief, thoughtful debut... Ma-Kellams is not the first novelist to examine the supposedly poisoned chalice of fame... [but she may] be one of the first to get at these ideas through a roving, time- and perspective-jumping story that links K-pop with classic psychological research... [R]eferences and footnotes to studies... dot the novel like tasty peppercorns.”
– *The New York Times Book Review*

“This could very well be the first great K-pop literary phenomenon. Expect a stylized, pop culture romp.”
– *Debutiful*

“A gripping exploration of the complexities that accompany fame.”
– *Booklist*

“K-pop fans and readers who haven’t yet fallen in with the phenomenon will... love this darkly funny novel...”
– *People Magazine*

Rights sold: World English incl. audio:
Atria / Simon & Schuster US (Apr. 16, 2024)
Status: Books available
Website: christinema-kellams.com
Agent: Meg Wheeler

Christine Ma-Kellams THE BAND

Sang Duri is the eldest member and “visual” of a Korean boy band at the apex of global superstardom. But when his latest solo single accidentally leads to controversy, he’s abruptly canceled.

To spare the band from fallout with obsessive fans and overbearing management, Duri disappears from the public eye by hiding out in the McMansion of a Chinese American woman he meets in a Los Angeles H-Mart. But his rescuer is both unhappily married with children and a psychologist with a savior complex, a combination that makes their potential union both seductive and incredibly problematic.

Meanwhile, Duri’s cancellation catapults not only a series of repressed memories from his music producer’s earlier years about the original girl group whose tragic disbanding preceded his current success, but also a spiral of violent interactions that culminates in an award show event with reverberations that forever change the fates of both the band members and the music industry.

In its indicting portrayal of mental health and public obsession, fandom, and cancel culture, *The Band* considers the many ways in which love and celebrity can devolve into something far more sinister when their demands are unmet.



CHRISTINE MA-KELLAMS is a Harvard-trained cultural psychologist, Pushcart-nominated fiction writer, and first-generation American. As an associate professor of psychology at San Jose State University, her empirical work on the emotional lives and biases of Asians and white people has not only been published in premier academic journals but in mainstream media.

Rowman & Littlefield published her textbook, *Cultural Psychology*. Her short stories, essays, and interviews have been featured in over three dozen literary magazines and news outlets.

FICTION



A singularly ambitious, creatively adventurous novel that draws on history, the imagination, and Homer's Iliad to offer a fresh and original take on the Trojan War, and on the conflicts and losses incurred in the quest for a meaningful life.

"A story to make you believe in the soul-sustaining power of fiction."

– *Los Angeles Times Book Review*, on *Life of Pi*

"An explosion of ideas that keep the pages turning... [A] wild, provocative novel."

– *Independent on Sunday*, on *Beatrice and Virgil*

"Replete with every bizarre and beautiful thing on earth... [F]ans will delight."

– *The Times*, on *The High Mountains of Portugal*

Rights sold: Australia/New Zealand: Text Publishing; Canadian English incl. audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Fall 2025); French (North America): Éditions XYZ; Netherlands: Prometheus; UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada and Australia/New Zealand: Canongate Books

Status: Manuscript available

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Yann Martel SON OF NOBODY

A man arrives on a foreign shore. His expedition holds promise and he has high hopes. He strives mightily. It all goes wrong. He has much he could say about that, but his story is lost – until another man arrives on another foreign shore, he too with high hopes.

Psoas of Midea is a goatherd's son who leaves his wife and children behind in order to help Menelaus get his beautiful wife back. His story is discovered 30 centuries later by a scholar who has left his own wife and child behind in order to accept a fellowship at Oxford where he is intrigued by papyrus fragments he believes comprise a lost Trojan War epic, the *Psoad*.

Son of Nobody is composed in two voices: the first, a series of fragments from antiquity that tell the epic story of Troy from a lost, alt-Homeric tradition; the second, the voice of the modern-day scholar who assembles and comments on these fragments while navigating a conflict of his own.

By centering his tale on the story of a commoner, Martel upends the regal perspective of the Epic Cycle, which has been handed down to us through millennia; by providing a dual storyline, he offers a poignant glimpse into the foibles that lead to the folly of war, and those that lead to the folly of failed relationships.

For its sheer inventiveness, puzzle-like quality, and mingling of the serious and the playful, *Son of Nobody* is both thoroughly unique and distinctly Yann Martel.

YANN MARTEL is the author of the Man Booker Prize-winning novel *Life of Pi*, a #1 international bestseller that has been published in more than 50 territories, sold more than 15 million copies, spent more than a year on *The New York Times* bestseller list, and been adapted into an Oscar-winning film and a Broadway play. Martel is also the author of the novels *The High Mountains of Portugal*, *Beatrice and Virgil*, and *Self*, the collection of stories *The Facts Behind the Helsinki Roccamatios*, and *101 Letters to a Prime Minister*. He lives in Saskatchewan.

FICTION



A rollicking debut novel from an internationally bestselling and award-winning children's author and TV writer (Degrassi Junior High, Family Law).

"A beautifully wrought, compassionate and entertaining novel."

– *Sunday Times UK*, on *No Fixed Address*

"A charming wonder of a book... with an emotional acuity and force all its own."

– *Quill & Quire* (starred), on *No Fixed Address*

"A humorous, heart-breaking account of grief-induced anxiety."

– *The Guardian*, on *Optimists Die First*

"This savvy, insightful take on the modern family makes for nearly non-stop laughs."

– *Kirkus* (starred), on *We Are All Made of Molecules*

Rights sold: Canadian English incl. audio: HarperCollins (Spring 2025)

Film/TV (World): ABC Signature

Status: Manuscript available

Author's website: susinnielsen.com

Agent: Hilary McMahon

Susin Nielsen SNAP

A Novel

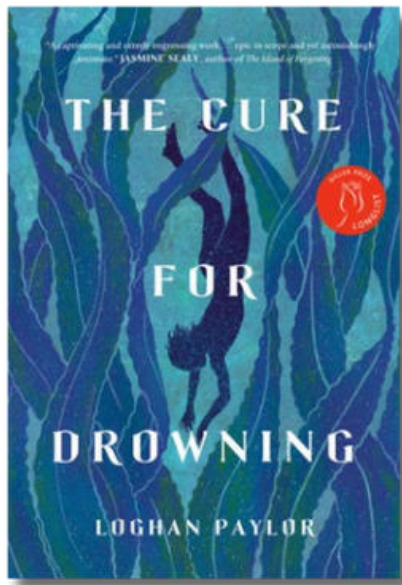
Frances Partridge, 55, is a beloved children's author. Geraint Blevins, 41, is an auto mechanic and devoted family man. Parker Poplawski, 23, is just starting her career as a wardrobe assistant on a hit TV show. What do these three people have in common?

Nothing, that's what. Until each of them reaches a breaking point, and snaps in spectacular ways. They meet in a court-mandated anger management class: three very different people forced to spend a lot of time together, who slowly end up bonding and helping one another in unexpected ways – whether it's to move on, or to exact revenge.

Lighthearted, timely and laugh-out-loud funny, *Snap* is Nielsen at the top of her story-telling game, featuring flawed but relatable characters whose heartaches, foibles and experiences are recognizable and universal. The novel explores marriage, parenthood, friendship, power, sexual assault and justice, and combines the quirky ensemble cast and vigilante justice of Richard Osman's *Thursday Murder Club* series with the comic poignancy of Clare Pooley and the sharp societal observations of Jenny Jackson.

SUSIN NIELSEN is the multiple-award-winning author of seven middle grade/young adult novels. Her books have won the Governor General's Literary Award, the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Award, the UKLA Book Award and over a dozen young readers' choice awards. A number of her titles have been nominated for the prestigious Carnegie Medal. Her books have been translated into more than fifteen languages, from French to Japanese to Ukrainian. Her latest award-winning TV creation, *Family Law*, aired on Global in Canada and on the CW in the US, and has fans around the world from Australia and Italy to Iceland and Brazil. She lives in Vancouver with her family and two extremely destructive cats.

FICTION



Longlisted for the 2024 Giller Prize!

Evocative, magical and luminously written, this brilliant, boundary-pushing love story and historical novel boldly centers queer and non-binary characters in unprecedented ways.

“The Cure For Drowning takes a page from Nicholas Sparks’ use of historical settings.”

– *Toronto Star*

“There is death; there is romance. It’s a soap opera in the best way possible. I will not spoil the ending, but... it is earned.”

– *The British Columbia Review*

“A stirring page-turner of a historical love story that delves into the meaning of family – both inherited and created.”

– *Vancouver Sun*

“A rich, beautifully wrought family saga about love, truth and identity... This is a deeply moving book, filled with historic detail, vividly drawn descriptions, and layered with haunting insights... Highly recommended.”

– *The Miramichi Reader*

Rights sold: Canadian English incl. audio: Random House / Penguin Random House (Jan. 30, 2024)

Status: Books available

Author’s website: loghanpaylor.com

Agent: Meg Wheeler

Loghan Paylor THE CURE FOR DROWNING

Born Kathleen to an immigrant Irish farming family in rural Ontario, Kit McNair has been a troublesome changeling since, at ten, they fell through the river ice and drowned, only to be nursed back to life by their mother’s Celtic magic. A daredevil in boy’s clothes, Kit chafes at every aspect of a farmgirl’s life, driving that same mother to distraction with worry about where Kit will ever fit in. When Rebekah Kromer, an elegant German doctor’s daughter, moves to town with her parents in April 1939, Rebekah has no doubt as to who nineteen-year-old Kit is. Soon she and Kit, and Kit’s older brother, Landon, are drawn tight in a love triangle that will tear them and their families apart, and send each of them off on a separate path to war.

Landon signs up for the Navy. Kit, now known as Christopher, joins the Royal Air Force, becoming a bomber navigator relied on for his luck and courage. Rebekah serves with naval intelligence in Halifax, Nova Scotia, until one more collision with Landon changes the course of her life and draws her back to the McNair farm – a place where she’d once known love. Fallen on even harder times, the McNairs welcome all the help she is able to give, and she believes she has found peace at last. Until, with the war over, Kit and Landon return home.

Told in the vivid, unforgettable voices of Kit and Rebekah, *The Cure for Drowning* is a powerfully engrossing novel that imagines a history that is truer than true.



LOGHAN PAYLOR is a queer, trans author who lives in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Their short fiction and essays have previously appeared in *Room* and *Prairie Fire*, among others, and their essay “Escape Velocity” won first place in *Room*’s Creative Non-fiction Contest. Paylor has a master’s in creative writing from the University of British Columbia, and a day job as a professional geek. *The Cure for Drowning* is their first novel.

FICTION



For fans of Claire-Louise Bennett's Pond, Kyo Maclear's Birds Art Life, Sheila Heti's Motherhood, and Doireann Ní Ghríofa's A Ghost in the Throat.

A year in the life of a restless woman who resists the temptation to run away from her disheveled life, and tries instead to make a familiar world unfamiliar, and a small life big.

"An exciting labor of love."

— *Kirkus* (starred), on *The Woman Who Wrote a Shark*

Rights sold: North American English incl. audio: Strange Light / Penguin Random House Canada (Mar. 2026)

Status: Manuscript available

Author's website: ailsaross.com

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Ailsa Ross HOVEL

A Novel of Fleeting Obsessions

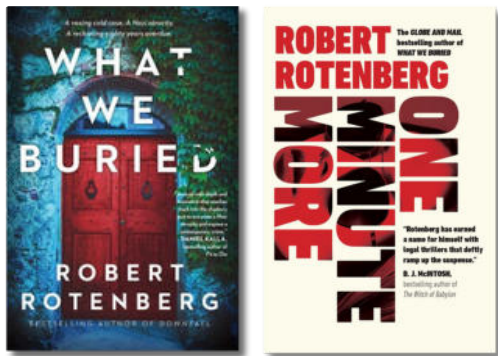
A Scottish woman has moved across the ocean, to a grubby, overpriced apartment in a town deep in the Canadian mountains, to be with a man. To stop herself from running away, for a year she devises weekly projects to keep herself in one place. Taking lessons from ascetics and anchoresses, adventurers and artists, she seeks to make her small world big and the familiar unfamiliar. She tries to accept the undesirable parts of her life – the sound of trains rattling the windows in the night, the bathroom mould, the bites of the mosquitoes in summer, her desultory online job. She thinks if she can just find a way of loving all that, she will accept her fate of living far from family and friends, four thousand miles across the sea.

The projects are varied, and they often break down amid bouts of homesickness. She photographs everything she dislikes in an attempt to turn that hate into love, practices walking barefoot, follows wolf and lynx tracks through the frost, writes letters advocating for foraging and birds, learns a Hebridean chant, sleeps in snow banks, and dreams up meetings with foxes and cabbages. She immerses herself, and the reader, in disappointment and wonder, loss and hope. Ultimately, she asks, can we accept our situation while also taking control of our story?

Set in Canada and Scotland, interspersed with beautifully curated black and white photographs, and rich in atmosphere like an old tapestry woven through with the strange, bright threads of these times, *Hovel* is an act of foraging – a fusion of lived moments and imagined ones that brings readers on a fresh trip through the instants that define us humans, and as beings.

AILSAROSS writes about people, place, and art for *Outside*, *Guardian*, *BBC*, *National Geographic Traveler*, and many others, and her work has been syndicated by Cambridge University Press. She is also the author of the illustrated children's book *The Girl Who Rode a Shark: and Other Stories of Daring Women*. Born and raised in the north of Scotland, Ross now lives on Treaty 4 territory in the Canadian Badlands.

FICTION



Praise for *What We Buried*:

“With unflinching empathy, [Rotenberg] masterfully uncoils the strands of two mysteries as his detective heroes unearth devastating secrets that span continents and generations.”

– Barbara Kyle, author of *The Deadly Trade*

“Sharp and masterfully written, this is storytelling at its best.”

– David Israelson, journalist and author

“A treat for longtime readers of Rotenberg’s mystery series, and a wonderful entry point for newcomers, *What We Buried* explores the intergenerational trauma of war that lies beneath the surface of modern life. A layered and propulsive thriller.”

– Kate Hilton, author of *Better Luck Next Time*

Rights sold: North American English incl. audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (Feb. 27, 2024; Feb. 25, 2025)

Status: *What We Buried*: books available; *One Minute More*: manuscript available

Author’s website: robertrotenberg.com

Agent: Michael A. Levine

Robert Rotenberg WHAT WE BURIED

Greene & Kennicott series (Book 7)

It’s been years since Daniel Kennicott’s brother, Michael, was shot and killed the night before he was about to depart for Gubbio, Italy. The case, never solved, has haunted Daniel ever since. Long suspecting the killing was tied to Michael’s planned trip but overwhelmed with grief, Daniel has put off going there – until now, the tenth anniversary of the murder.

As he’s about to leave, Daniel learns that his two mentors, detectives Ari Greene and Nora Bering, have been more involved in the investigation of Michael’s murder than he ever knew. Residents are still haunted by the brutal Nazi occupation, the brave acts of the local freedom fighters and the swift savagery of German retribution. And as Daniel delves into his family’s deadly connection to Gubbio, Ari Greene searches for a killer closer to home.

Inspired by the true story of the Forty Martyrs in Gubbio, Italy, during World War II, *What We Buried* is an extraordinary crime novel about troubled legacies, revenge, and the unbreakable bonds of family.

ONE MINUTE MORE

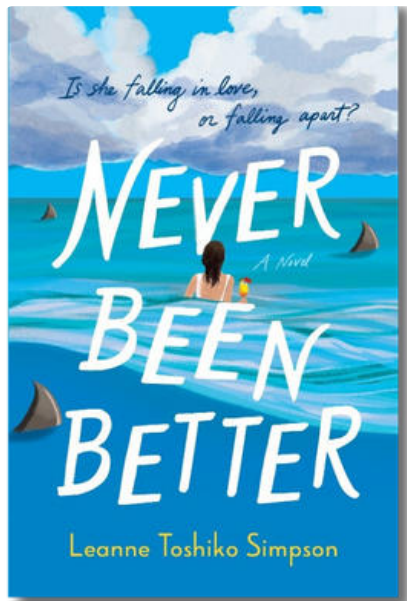
Prequel to the Greene & Kennicott series

It’s a long-shot mission. No one thinks much of the information the Toronto chief of police receives from a mysterious source: a would-be assassin is about to cross the border into Canada to kill the heads of the seven most powerful countries in the world. Undeterred, he sends young police officer Ari Greene to a sleepy Quebec-Vermont border town to investigate. During a festive and colorful July 4th parade, Greene spots his unlikely target and gives chase across borders and boundaries. But as the hours and the minutes until the summit tick down, bodies start to pile up. This prequel to Robert Rotenberg’s bestselling series, including *What We Buried* and *Downfall*, is an excellent introduction to one of Toronto’s favorite detectives, Ari Greene, on his first-ever case.



ROBERT ROTENBERG is the author of several bestselling novels, including *Old City Hall*, *The Guilty Plea*, *Stray Bullets*, *Stranglehold*, *Heart of the City*, *Downfall*, and *What We Buried*. He is a criminal lawyer in Toronto with his firm Rotenberg Shidlowski Jesin. He is also a TV screenwriter and a writing teacher.

FICTION



My Best Friend's Wedding meets Silver Linings Playbook – *an offbeat, heartfelt debut about a seaside wedding where no one can stay afloat.*

“A funny, refreshing, and generous story.”
– *Kirkus* (starred)

“Laugh-out-loud funny.”
– *Booklist*

“[An] unexpectedly funny but also sad but also uplifting tale of illness, recovery, and true love.”
– *Good Morning America*

Rights sold: Brazil: Alta Books; Canadian English incl. audio: HarperCollins (Mar. 5, 2024); Germany: Rowohlt Verlag; Netherlands: April Books; World English excl. Canada: Putnam / Penguin Random House US (US Large Print: Thorndike)

Status: Books available

Author's website:

leannetoshikosimpson.com

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Leanne Toshiko Simpson NEVER BEEN BETTER

Dee, Misa and Matt were the “three musketeers” of the psych ward. Matt is a teddy-bear musician with no discernable coping mechanisms. Wildly efficient Misa is quick to take care of others while neglecting herself. And Dee is a puddle with a heart of gold, eager to convince everyone that she’s finally turning things around. A year after discharge, Matt and Misa are tying the knot in Turks and Caicos, surrounded by guests who have no idea where they met, and the secrecy isn’t sitting well with Dee, who has been hopelessly in love with Matt since before she got kicked out of the hospital.

When Dee arrives at the swanky resort with her high-voltage sister, Tilley, it’s now or never to confess how she feels. But disrupting her best friends’ nuptials would jeopardize the entire support system that holds the trio together. When it comes to happily ever afters, how is a girl supposed to choose between love and recovery?

Introducing a sparkling new voice in commercial fiction, *Never Been Better* revels in the heartache and hilarity of falling in love when you haven’t quite figured out how to live with yourself.



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 and teaches at the University of Toronto. *Never Been Better* is her debut novel.

FICTION



PI Dave Wakeland returns to the streets of Vancouver for his most dangerous case yet.

“The best crime fiction writer in Canada.”

– Nathan Ripley, author of *Find You in the Dark*, on *Hell and Gone* (Book 3)

“...[O]ne of those fabulously rare literary figures who actually gets better with each successive book.”

– Steven Beattie, *Toronto Star*, on the Wakeland series

“The best of the crime genre.”

– Charles Demers, author of *Property Values*, on the Wakeland series

“One of the most respected names in crime fiction today and with good reason.”

– Robyn Harding, author of *The Drowning Woman*, on *Sunset and Jericho* (Book 4)

“A modern master of noir.”

– *The Strand*, on *Cut You Down* (Book 2)

Rights sold: Audio (World English): Tantor Media; North American English: Douglas & McIntyre (Spring 2025)

Status: Manuscript available

Author’s website: samwiebe.com

Agent: Chris Casuccio

Sam Wiebe THE LAST EXILE

A Wakeland Novel (Book 5)

Maggie Zito is being held for murder. The volatile single mother is accused of killing the retired leader of the notorious Exiles motorcycle gang and his wife aboard their million-dollar houseboat. With a mystery witness putting Maggie at the scene, and the Exiles baying for her blood, it’s unlikely she’ll make it to the trial alive.

Desperate, Maggie’s lawyer Shuzhen Chen calls in a favor to Dave Wakeland: Find evidence of Maggie’s innocence and get her client out of custody.

Wakeland reluctantly returns to a changing city, full of unfamiliar dangers. To prove Maggie’s innocence, he and Shuzhen must reckon with the Exiles crime syndicate and their bloodthirsty leader, Terry Rhodes. The bikers are on the verge of a civil war, and an unseen foe is gunning for Rhodes’s top spot. To preserve Maggie’s life, Wakeland will have to strike a deal with Rhodes himself.

Every minute Maggie is in custody, she’s at the mercy of the Exiles. Dave and Shuzhen have to learn the identity of the witness, find out why Maggie was framed for this killing, who really accomplished it and why – all while dealing with their evolving romantic history.

To complicate matters, Wakeland’s business partner Jeff Chen, who’s also Shuzhen’s cousin, is nowhere to be found. The security business they started teeters on the verge of bankruptcy. Even if the case can be resolved, and the business saved, can the partners ever trust each other?

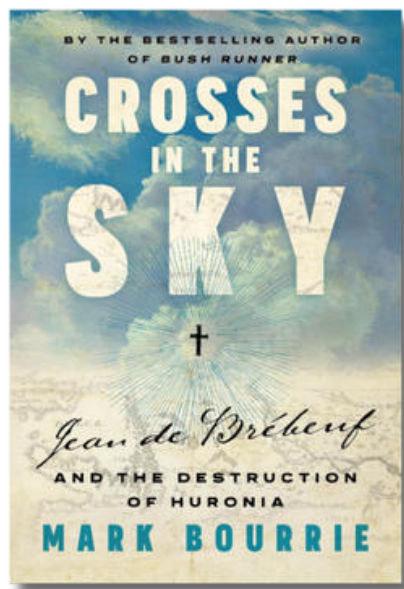
The Last Exile is a detective novel about home and exile, family and violence, love and wrath.

SAM WIEBE is the author of the Wakeland novels, one of the most authentic and acclaimed contemporary detective series. His work has won the Crime Writers of Canada Award and the Kobo Emerging Writers Prize, and been shortlisted for the Edgar, Hammett, Shamus, Independent Publisher, and City of Vancouver book prizes. Wiebe also writes (allegedly) as Nolan Chase, whose first mystery novel, *A Lonesome Place for Dying*, was released in May 2024 (Crooked Lane Books).

NON-FICTION



NON-FICTION



In his epic bestseller Bush Runner, Mark Bourrie displayed a terrific ability to make distant eras of history come vividly alive. He now employs that same art to tell the dramatic story of Jean de Brébeuf.

"Bourrie knows how to tell a great story; *Crosses in the Sky* is dramatic and enthralling... [Written] with attention-grabbing panache... *Crosses in the Sky* is reliable history and would make a stirring movie."

– Charlotte Gray, *The Globe & Mail*

"This is a ripping yarn in the classic sense – with plenty of action – epic canoe voyages, battles, and of course, martyrdom."

– *Zoomer Magazine*

"*Crosses in the Sky* paints a detailed and nuanced portrait of the destruction [of a native culture], enriching our modern understanding of a time and people who have been stereotyped or simply ignored for too long."

– *Ottawa Review of Books*

Rights sold: North American English including audio: Biblioasis (May 21, 2024)

Status: Books available

Agent: John Pearce

Mark Bourrie CROSSES IN THE SKY

Jean de Brébeuf and the Destruction of Huronia

In the 1640s, fundamentalist Christianity collided with Indigenous culture in the Great Lakes region of North America. Jean de Brébeuf, an obsessed French Jesuit with a dark mystical side, aimed to turn the Huron nation into a Jesuit-run country, and the Hurons, rich corn-growing traders, into a European peasant people.

Brébeuf brought intense zeal to his mission. The French also brought lethal diseases. Brébeuf tried to use the epidemics to save Huron souls but was often thwarted by healers who fought to preserve the religion and culture of their country. Racked by terrible visions, he decided the blood of martyrs was needed. His blind faith sometimes led him into stupid arrogance that alienated many. Eventually, the Huron leadership put a price on his head, and he had to leave. Frequently hallucinating, he now believed Satan and his devils lived in the earthly form of Hurons who opposed him.

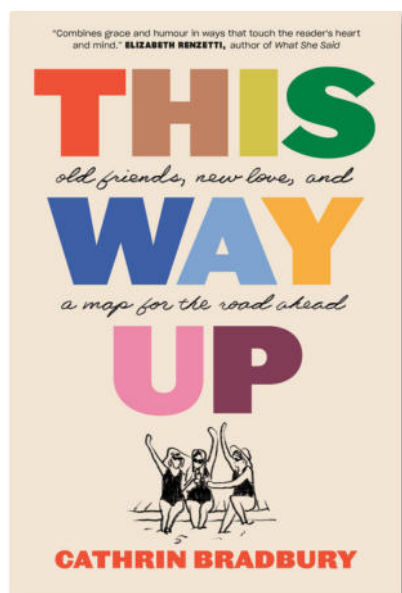
His colleagues managed to save the mission and, within a few years, the Hurons were divided between Christian converts and traditional Hurons. As the rift reached a peak, Brébeuf returned, but in 1649, as Huronia collapsed socially, politically and militarily, he was tortured to death by Huron adoptees of the Iroquois.

The story is a microcosm of North American, indeed much of world history: a proud, prosperous nation targeted for a colonial project led by a man sure he knew a better way of life. In the end, he and his colleagues brought epidemic, war and dependence. The complex, driven man who brought this misery was made a saint by the Catholic Church in 1928. Every year, hundreds of thousands visit his mission site, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, and pray to his skull. Heavily fictionalized versions of Brébeuf's life exist. But this intense and strange story is even more intriguing than the fiction.



MARK BOURRIE is a historian, lawyer and author of many books. *Bush Runner* was the winner of the 2020 RBC Taylor Prize. Before studying law, Mark earned a PhD in History from the University of Ottawa.

NON-FICTION



A funny, wise, and briskly honest guide to the pleasures and perils of living life fully as a woman on the road to the far side of mid-life.

Praise for *The Bright Side: A Happy Book About a Sad Year*.

“[T]his warm, chatty memoir... serves as both a meditation on family and friendship and a love letter to Toronto and its colourful media characters.”

– *The Globe & Mail*

“A beautifully written and unabashed family memoir focusing on one bummer of a year. A book that can evoke both laughter and tears on the same page.”

– *The Hamilton Spectator*

“[*The Bright Side*’s] charm lies in its relatability, which is underscored by Bradbury’s wry voice, black humour and frank assessment of the world and her place in it.”

– *Everything Zoomer*

Rights sold: North American English incl. audio: Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada (May 6, 2025)

Status: Manuscript available Nov. 2024

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Cathrin Bradbury THIS WAY UP

Old Friends, New Love, and a Map for the Road Ahead

At the age of 68, recently retired from a demanding career, with children well-launched and husband long-exed, Cathrin Bradbury realized she needed a map – several in fact, some physical, some of the mind and heart – to guide her through the coming milestones and all of the inevitable “comes with age” stuff.

This book is her report from the road; a vibrant, polished, often hilarious, sometimes heart-wrenching exploration of the questions and (some) answers that arise when you hit the three-quarter mark of a busy life.

How do you let go of a lifetime of list-making, of “creating the day,” and become someone who allows the day to unfold; how do you stop shaming yourself about an aging body? (Hint: listen to the kids!) What are you willing to give up to pursue the creative passion you long ago put aside – and what might you gain in return?

And what might happen if one day, after nearly 50 years, you suddenly get a text from your first true love?

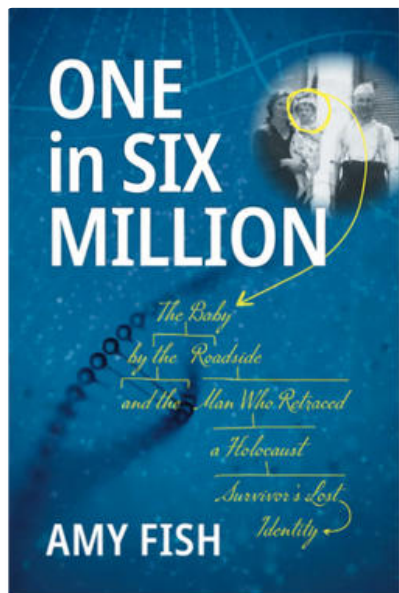
Drawing on her own life and conversations with siblings, younger family members, friends, as well as authorities in social science, philosophy, and literature, Bradbury carries us with her as she explores this territory that we all hope to reach, taking on new ideas and adventures with hard-earned wisdom, inherent optimism, and a bracing dose of humor.



CATHRIN BRADBURY is the author of *The Bright Side: A Happy Book About a Sad Year*, which was praised for its ability to “evoke both laughter and tears on the same page” (*Hamilton Spectator*) and its “warm, chatty” voice (*The Globe & Mail*). A former Senior News Director at CBC News, she has worked as a leader and top editor at *The Globe & Mail*, *Metro News*, and *Maclean’s* magazine. Her

writing often appears in the *Toronto Star*, where she is a regular contributor. She lives in Toronto.

NON-FICTION



“This is storytelling and complaint handling at their very best.”

– Lydia Cummings, Harvard University Ombudsman, on *I Wanted Fries with That*

“Laugh-out-loud funny and packed with wise and practical advice on making your voice heard, this book should be on everyone’s reading list.”

– Susan E. Opler, City of Toronto Ombudsman, on *I Wanted Fries with That*

Rights sold: North American English & French: Goose Lane Editions (Apr. 1, 2025)

Status: Manuscript available

Author’s website: amyfishwrites.com

Agent: Michael A. Levine

Amy Fish ONE IN SIX MILLION

The Baby by the Roadside and the Man Who Retraced a Holocaust Survivor’s Lost Identity

Maria was eight months old in 1942 when a childless couple found her, wrapped in a blanket, at the side of a road near Krosno, Poland. A note pinned to the blanket stated only her first name and her date of birth. The couple picked up Maria and raised her, but she grew up longing for identity and connection. Who was she, and what had happened to her family?

Years later, Maria’s story came to the attention of Stanley Diamond. Diamond was the founder of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, one of the largest databases of Jewish vital records and a crucial tool in researching the stories of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

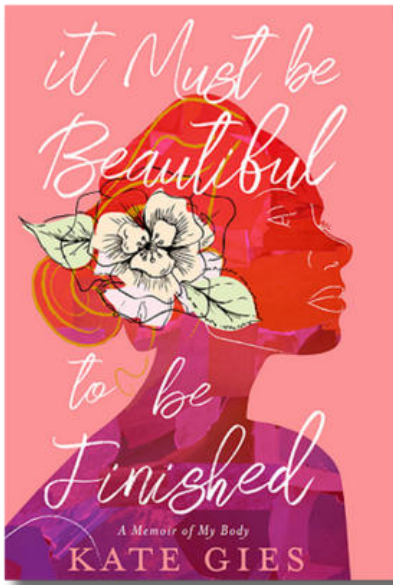
In this engrossing story, Amy Fish shows how Diamond and an intrepid band of international volunteers compared photographs with genealogical records and smuggled DNA tests to provide Maria with family ties that she thought were lost to her forever. A tale of unexpected coincidences, astonishing revelations, and more than a little luck, *One in Six Million* is an amazing story of lost – and found – identity.



AMY FISH is the author of *I Wanted Fries with That: How to Ask for What You Want and Get What You Need* (New World Library, 2019) and *The ART of Complaining Effectively* (Avmor, 2015). *Fries* was named by the CBC as one of “40 Works of Creative Non-Fiction to Watch Out For,” and was a pick for “14 books for those that love to laugh,” both in 2019. Fish is a staff reviewer and

interviewer for *Hippocampus Magazine for Creative Non-Fiction* and the Ombudsman at Concordia University in Montreal.

NON-FICTION



It Must Be Beautiful to Be Finished is the memoir of a girl born with a missing ear – and a medical system insistent on saving her from herself.

Rights sold: North American English incl. audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (Spring 2025)

Status: Manuscript available

Author's website: kategies.com

Agent: Sara Harowitz

Kate Gies IT MUST BE BEAUTIFUL TO BE FINISHED

A Memoir of My Body

Sometimes fixing the problem is the problem.

When Kate Gies was four years old, a plastic surgeon pressed a synthetic ear to the right side of her head and pulled out a mirror. He told her he could make her “whole” – could make her “right” – and she believed him. From the age of four to thirteen, she underwent fifteen surgeries, including skin and bone grafts, to craft the appearance of an outer ear. Many of the surgeries failed, leaving permanent damage to her body.

Written in short, lyrical vignettes, *It Must Be Beautiful to Be Finished* is the story of a “disfigured” body scrutinized, pathologized, and even weaponized. It details the physical and psychic trauma of medical intervention, and its effects on Gies’ burgeoning sense of self as a child needing to be fixed – and later, as a teenaged girl and adult navigating the complex expectations and dangers of being a woman. Put simply, this book will punch readers in the gut. Gies does not hold back; she is unflinching in her telling, and the result is a memoir that is beautiful, sad, shocking, and at times truly horrifying.

The book questions our culture’s desire to define a person’s appearance as a medical necessity and highlights the lengths our society will go to discipline and “normalize” a body. It is the story of a girl desperately trying to have a body that makes her acceptable, and of a woman learning to own a body she never felt was hers to define. In an age of speaking out about the abuse of marginalized bodies, this memoir takes a hard look at the medical system’s role in body oppression and trauma.



KATE GIES is a writing professor at George Brown College in Toronto. She was a participant in the Iowa Writers’ Summer Workshop and was a finalist for the CBC Nonfiction Prize. Her essay “Foreign Bodies” (excerpted from *It Must Be Beautiful to Be Finished*) is included in the 2024 *Best Canadian Essays* anthology by Biblioasis.

NON-FICTION



The astonishing account of a man who has, for decades, experienced the unexplained, the unfathomable and the impossible – and lived to talk about it.

“There’s footage and records of objects in the skies, that we don’t know exactly what they are.”

– Barack Obama

Rights sold: World English incl. audio: Sutherland House (Jul. 2, 2024)

Status: Books available

Agents: Hilary McMahon

Includes ten black and white photos



ROBERT HUNT is a Master Electrician with almost two decades of experience in the nuclear industry. He has experienced a lifetime of alien encounters and unexplainable

extraterrestrial phenomena. He lives in Toronto with his family.

Robert J. Hunt WHY ME?

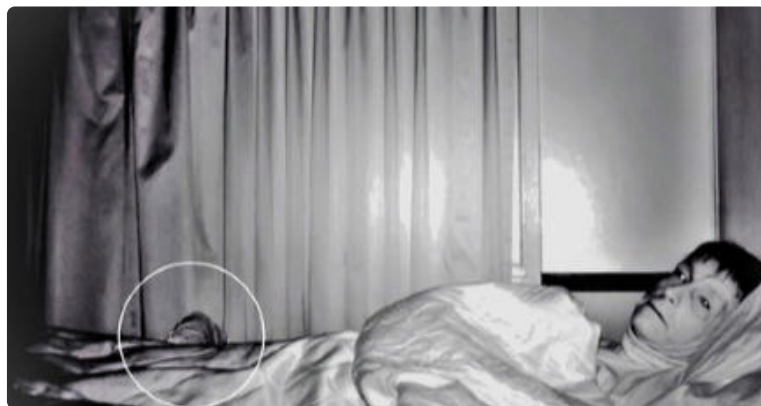
My Lifetime of Alien Encounters

The release of the Pentagon’s ‘Unidentified Aerial Phenomena’ report in 2021 attracted global attention, as did the US Department of Defense’s creation of an office to track unidentified objects.

Our fascination, fear and skepticism about extraterrestrial life is well-entrenched. Robert Hunt knows that extraterrestrials pluck us from our beds and cars, to study, teach and prepare us for the inevitable. He knows because he’s been abducted by aliens since the night of his seventh birthday.

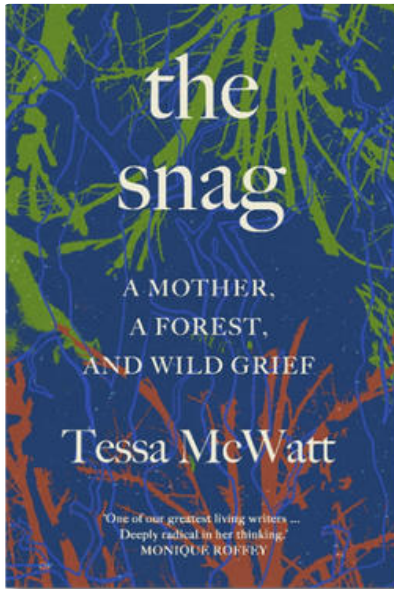
The narrative unfolds chronologically, from his first visitation to abduction by the grays to being told he will ascend “one Sunday in August.” The encounters vary as do the beings; sometimes benevolent, sometimes causing harm, and some captured in photos taken on Hunt’s motion-triggered camera and included in the book. He flies through the air and enters his girlfriend’s second-story bedroom. He is lifted to an alien craft, and subjected to excruciating experiments. On occasion, he is informed and reassured and protected, and prepared for what will come next.

Why Me? is a propulsive first-hand tale to sit between Pulitzer Prize winner John Mack’s *Abduction*, in print since 1994, and astrophysicist Adam Frank’s *The Little Book of Aliens*.



A motion-triggered camera photo from *Why Me?*

NON-FICTION



Grief is personal, is collective, is now planetary. Can personal grief propel us to imaginative solutions to our planetary crisis? McWatt digs deep into the soil of our contemporary moment to plant options for how we might live in the future.

Praise for *Shame on Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging*:

“Beautifully written and courageously told.”

– Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Nonfiction jury

“Intimate storytelling brings alive this memoir of racism, sexism and identity.”

– *The Guardian*

“Lyrical and haunting.”

– *The Saturday Paper*

Rights sold: Canadian English incl. audio: Random House / Penguin Random House (Spring 2025); UK & Commonwealth: Scribe Publications

Status: Manuscript available

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Tessa McWatt THE SNAG

A Mother, a Forest, and Wild Grief

Collective anxiety: we know it well. COVID-19 and the ongoing climate crisis have underscored how our current political and economic systems have neglected the relationships between humans, our environment, and our mental health. As the wheels of capitalism ground to a halt during the pandemic, many of us sought out new ways of being in relation to each other and to our environment, and found that nature provided both solace and inspiration.

Can forests be a model for future social structures? Can capitalism’s hold on our extractive processes on the planet be replaced by “tree thinking,” and lead us to reconsider what it means to be a part of nature? Drawing her central image from a tree in the final stages of its life, McWatt immerses herself into the prevailing contemporary moment to unpack ideas like “weathering” and “plant consciousness,” searching for signs of the kind of deeper understanding and healing that may propel us into imaginative solutions to our global crisis.

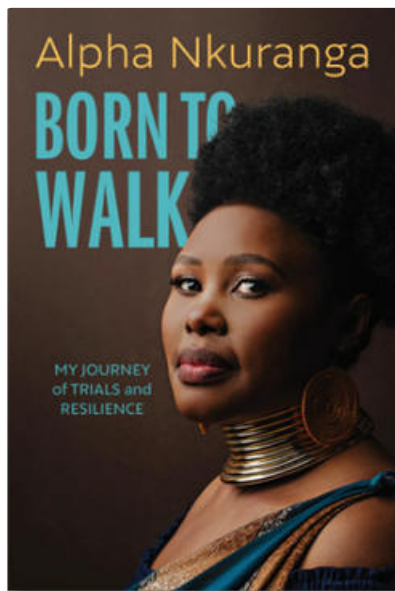
Intersecting with this political examination is McWatt’s account of helping care for her mother with dementia, which she braids with her mother’s personal history of loss. She considers how the universal experience of grief might help us reformulate how we live together, and lead us towards answers to “What now?” In the process, *The Snag* plants the seed of a crucial idea: that discovering what lies at the intersection of trees and spiritual practices might ease our collective anxiety and open us to a future of community and cooperation.



TESSA MCWATT is the author of seven novels and two books for young people. Her first book of non-fiction *Shame On Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging* won the Eccles British Library Award and the Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, and was shortlisted for the Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Nonfiction and the Governor General’s Literary Award. Her latest novel, *The*

Snow Line, was shortlisted for the Volcano Prize. She is also a librettist and Professor of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. In 2021 she was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature; in 2024 she completed a month-long residency at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Center in Italy. Born in Guyana, raised in Toronto, she lives in London, UK.

NON-FICTION



A stunning account of a young woman's resilience in the wake of the Rwandan Civil War.

“Alpha Nkuranga comes from a country where women are often forbidden to dream. As a thirteen-year-old, she entered the classroom illiterate. Her goal was so simple – just to read. Not even Alpha could have imagined how far her education would take her. This is a spine-tingling, true story of determination and resilience that will change and inspire all who read it.”

– Sharon E. McKay, author of *War Brothers*

“A gripping tale of resilience, terror, trauma, and survival. I’m in awe after reading this book.”

– Matthew R. Morris, author of *Black Boys Like Me*

Rights sold: Audio (North American English): Tantor Media; World English: Goose Lane Editions (Sep. 17, 2024)

Status: Books available

Agent: Chris Casuccio

Alpha Nkuranga BORN TO WALK

My Journey of Trials and Resilience

“My grandparents used to tell me Rwanda is a country unlike any other, and I knew they spoke the truth. Blessed with majestic mountains and breathtaking valleys, it is a sacred and spiritual land. And yet Rwandan men drenched the land in blood in acts of hate so horrific that the stains of those three years will not fade in one hundred lifetimes.”

At the age of eight, Alpha Nkuranga made a fateful decision. With war raging around her, she grabbed the hand of her younger brother, Elijah, and ran from her grandparents’ home. When they came to a swamp, they hid until it was safe to escape. Weeks later, they joined a group of refugees, who were fleeing to Tanzania. “If I kept walking,” Alpha remembers thinking, “I could tell my story.”

Nkuranga emigrated to Canada more than a decade later. She now works with women and children who face abuse and homelessness. In *Born to Walk*, she tells a remarkable story of resistance and survival.



ALPHA NKURANGA fled her village as an eight-year-old during the Rwandan Civil War of 1994 and subsequently lived in refugee camps in Tanzania and Uganda, where she overcame the odds to graduate high school and attend university. She came to Canada as a refugee in 2010 and currently lives in Kitchener, Ontario, where she works for Women’s Crisis Services of Waterloo Region.

NON-FICTION



A warm and poignant narrative about the uniquely grinding life of restaurant families, the costs of “making it” as an immigrant, and a daughter’s attempts to connect with parents who have always been just out of reach.

“A heartfelt tale about a third-culture kid searching for identity, belonging and a sense of home.”

– Cheuk Kwan, author of *Have You Eaten Yet?*

Rights sold: Canadian English: Douglas & McIntyre; World English excl. Canada incl. audio: Pegasus Books (Apr. 1, 2025)

Status: Manuscript available

Agent: Chris Casuccio



RACHEL PHAN is a Toronto-based Chinese Canadian writer. When she’s not scribbling sentences and thoughts in endless Google Docs, she’s daydreaming about her next meal and hoping it’s dim sum.

Rachel Phan RESTAURANT KID

A Memoir of Family and Belonging

When she was three years old, Rachel Phan met her replacement. Instead of a new sibling, her parents’ time and attention were suddenly devoted entirely to their new family restaurant. For her parents – whose own families fled China during the Japanese occupation during the Second Sino-Japanese War and then survived bombs and starvation during the war in Vietnam – it was a dream come true. For Phan, it was something quite different. Overnight, she became a restaurant kid, living on the periphery of her own family and trying her best to stay out of the way.

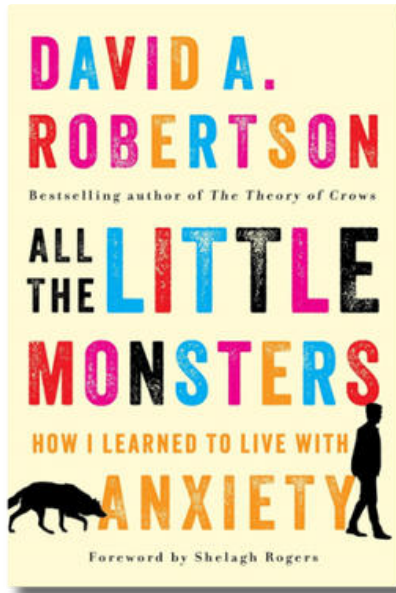
While Phan grew up, the restaurant was there – the most stalwart and suffocating member of her family. For decades, it’s been both their crowning achievement and the origin of so much of their pain and suffering: screaming matches complete with smashed dishes, bodies worn down by ever-spreading arthritis, and tenuous relationships where they love one another deeply without ever really knowing each other.

In *Restaurant Kid*, Phan seeks to examine the way her life has been shaped by the rigid boxes placed around her. She had to be a good daughter, never asking questions, always being grateful. She had to be a “real Canadian,” watching hockey and speaking English so flawlessly that her tongue has since forgotten how to contort around Cantonese tones. As the only Chinese girl at school, she had to alternate between being the Asian sidekick, geek, or slut, depending on whose gaze was on her.

Now, 31 years after their restaurant first opened, Phan’s parents are cautiously talking about retirement. As an adult restaurant kid, Phan’s good daughter role demands something new of her – a chance to get to know her parents on the trip of a lifetime.

Bringing to lyric life the prism of growing up in a “third culture,” Rachel Phan has crafted a vibrant new narrative of growing up, the strength and foibles of family, and how we come to understand ourselves.

NON-FICTION



With humor, warmth and heartbreaking honesty, award-winning author David A. Robertson explores the struggles and small victories of living with chronic anxiety and depression, and shares his hard-earned wisdom in the hope of making other people's mental health journeys a little less lonely.

"Robertson's raw honesty makes room for each of us who carry the same little monsters to be honest, too. A necessary read for not only those who struggle to live with mental illness, but also for those who love us... This book is the extended hand I wish I'd had so many times in my life."

– Alicia Elliot, author of *A Mind Spread Out on the Ground*

"A work of extraordinary generosity... This book not only made me understand my own anxiety better, it made me a more compassionate human to all those around me. Robertson understands that we all are travelling through this life with our own Little Monsters, and he shows us how to invite them out of the closet and greet them with love."

– Heather O'Neill, bestselling author of *The Capital of Dreams*

Rights sold: Canadian English incl. audio: HarperCollins (Jan. 21, 2025)

Status: Manuscript available

Author's website: darobertson.ca

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

David A. Robertson ALL THE LITTLE MONSTERS

How I Learned to Live With Anxiety

From the outside, David A. Robertson looks as if he has it all together – a loving family, a successful career as an author, and a platform to promote Indigenous perspectives, cultures and concerns. But what we see on the outside rarely reveals what is happening inside. Robertson lives with “little monsters”: chronic, debilitating health anxiety and panic attacks accompanied, at times, by depression. During the worst periods, he finds getting out of bed to walk down the hall an insurmountable task. During the better times, he wrestles with the compulsion to scan his body for that sure sign of a dire health crisis.

In *All the Little Monsters*, Robertson reveals what it's like to live inside his mind and his body and describes the toll his mental health challenges have taken on him and his family, and how he has learned to put one foot in front of the other and to get back up when he stumbles. He also writes about the tools that have helped him carry on, including community, therapy, medication, and the simple question he asks himself on repeat: *What if everything will be okay?*

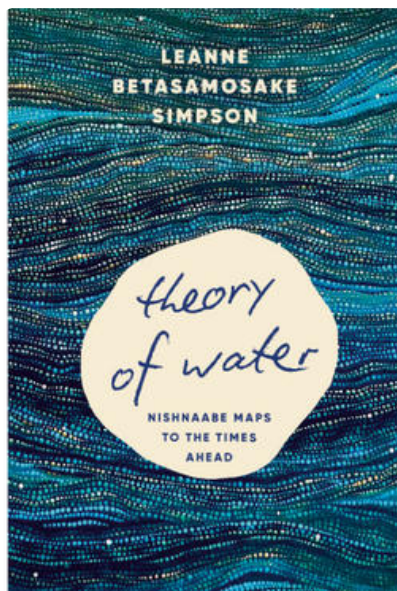
In candidly sharing his personal story and showing that he can be well even if he can't be “cured,” Robertson hopes to help others on their own mental health journeys.



DAVID A. ROBERTSON is an author, editor, and speaker on Indigenous issues, mental health and freedom of expression. His books include the memoir *Black Water*, the novel *A Theory of Crows*, the picture books *When We Were Alone* and *On the Trampoline*, and the middle-grade series *The Misewa Saga*. He has won awards such as the TD

Canadian Children's Literary Award, Alexander Kennedy Isbister Award, the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award, and the Governor General's Literary Award, and has been shortlisted for many others. He is a member of Norway House Cree Nation. He lives in Winnipeg.

NON-FICTION



Acclaimed writer Leanne Betasamosake Simpson takes a revolutionary look at that most elemental force, water, and through Indigenous stories, tradition, and thinking, suggests a powerful path for the future.

Praise for *Rehearsals for Living*:

“A balm for despair... Powerful.”

– *Quill & Quire* (starred)

“A critical contribution to radical scholarship.”

– *Los Angeles Review of Books*

“An important contribution... [A] must-read...”

– *The Brock Press*

Rights sold: Canadian English incl. audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Apr. 22, 2025); US & UK incl. audio: Haymarket Books (Apr. 22, 2025)

Status: Manuscript available

Author’s website: leannesimpson.ca

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson THEORY OF WATER

Nishnaabe Maps to the Times Ahead

For many years, Simpson took solace in skiing – in all kinds of weather, on all kinds of snow across all kinds of terrain. As she skied on this path against the backdrop of uncertainty, environmental devastation, rising authoritarianism and ongoing social injustice, her mind turned to the water in the creek and an elemental question: What might it mean to truly listen to water? To know water? To exist with and alongside water? So began a quest to understand her people’s historical, cultural, and ongoing interactions with water in all its forms (ice, snow, rain, perspiration, breath). Pulling together these threads, she began to see how a “Theory of Water” might suggest a radical rethinking of relationships between beings and forces in the world today.

In this inventive work, Simpson draws on Nishnaabeg origin stories and her own deep thinking while weaving the work of influential writers and artists alongside her personal memories and experience – and in doing so, reimagines water as a catalyst for radical transformation, capable of birthing a new world.

Theory of Water is a resonant and brilliant exploration of an intricate, multi-layered relationship with the most abundant element on our planet – one that is shaping our present even as it demands a radical rethinking of how we might achieve a just future.



LEANNE BETASAMOSAKE SIMPSON is a renowned Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg scholar, author of eight books, and artist, who has been widely recognized as one of the most compelling Indigenous voices of her generation. Her novel *Noopiming* was a finalist for the Governor General’s Literary Award and Dublin Literary Award, and *This Accident of Being Lost* was a finalist

for the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize and the Trillium Book Award. Her collaboration with Robyn Maynard, *Rehearsals for Living*, was praised by Naomi Klein as “a beacon of a book.” She is working on a companion novel to *Noopiming*, called *The Breathing Lands*, that will be published by Knopf Canada in Spring 2026.

NON-FICTION



Finalist for the 2024 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction

"[R]ichly decorated and incisive... In elegant prose, Wills fashions a searing cultural and social commentary and a moving personal journey."

– Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction jury

"Defiantly wise. Unbeautifully beautiful. Capaciously loving. Mutinous."

– Kyo Maclear, author of *Unearthing*

"[R]ings with clarity and sparkles with intelligence... This stunning, challenging book is nothing short of a gift."

– Alicia Elliott, author of *And Then She Fell*

"Unforgettable – a startling and visceral read... This book is sharp and it is living, and it is an essential and urgent."

– Claudia Dey, author of *Daughter*

Rights sold: Canadian English incl. audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Aug. 27, 2024)

Status: Books available

Author's website: jennyheijunwills.com

Agent: Jackie Kaiser

Jenny Heijun Wills EVERYTHING AND NOTHING AT ALL

Essays

From Hilary Weston Writers' Trust 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.

As an adoptee, 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, 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 was born in Seoul, South Korea, raised in Southern Ontario, Canada, and currently lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She is the author of *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related.: A Memoir*, which received the 2019 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction and the 2020 Eileen McTavish Sykes Award for Best First Book. She is a professor of English at the University of Winnipeg.

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