

# WESTWOOD CREATIVE ARTISTS

LONDON  
CATALOGUE

SPRING 2024





WESTWOOD CREATIVE ARTISTS

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# SPRING CATALOGUE

## 2024

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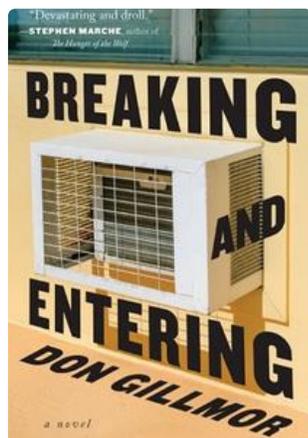
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## March 2024

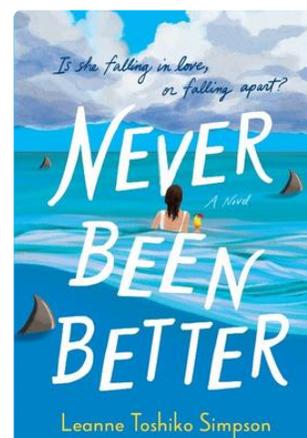
We are proud to present the Spring 2024 edition of Westwood Creative Artists' rights catalogue. Please allow us to spend a few words highlighting some of the recent accomplishments our clients have achieved over the past several months.



Starting off with news about our authors' works of fiction, Don Gillmor's *Breaking and Entering* ([p. 16](#)) has a fan in Oprah! The novel was picked as one of the best books of 2023 on [Oprah Daily](#), which called it "surely the most interesting midlife crisis of the year." [Kirkus](#) and [The Globe & Mail](#) have also featured it in their best books of the year lists. In a [New York Times Book Review](#) feature highlighting what their readers are reading, Robert J. Katz called it "one of the best, most complete novels I've read." *Breaking and Entering* was recently longlisted for the 2023 Republic of Consciousness Prize, a \$35,000 prize that honors fiction published by an independent publishing house in the US and Canada. Biblioasis holds North American English rights; publishing rights in all other territories are available, and a television deal is currently in negotiation!

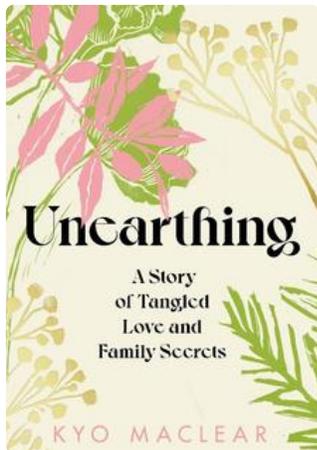
**Virginia Evans'** *The Correspondent* is a charming epistolary debut that has been capturing publishers' hearts around the world. Amy Einhorn at Crown acquired world rights in a pre-empt and will publish in May 2025. Heated auctions in Germany and Italy were won by Goldmann and Rizzoli respectively, and recently offers were accepted from Michael Joseph for UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada and Arqueiro / Sextante for Brazil. Ann Patchett's advance blurb calls *The Correspondent* "a cause for celebration."

*Never Been Better* ([p. 22](#)), **Leanne Toshiko Simpson's** debut novel has received many glowing reviews. Uzma Jalaluddin, bestselling author of *Much Ado About Nada*, called it "delightful... searing and honest, *Never Been Better* is that most rare of things – a novel that combines humour, heartache and hope in one page-turning package, with lyrical and wickedly funny writing in spades. Simpson is a writer to watch!" [Booklist](#) called it "laugh-out-loud funny," and [Kirkus](#) gave a starred review, deeming it "invigoratingly comic... full of sharp, pithy dialogue and farcical scenes that will put a grin on your face... a funny, refreshing, and generous story full of wisdom on mental health." *Never Been Better* has been published by Putnam US and HarperCollins Canada, and we've completed deals for rights in Brazil, Germany, Netherlands, as well as US Large Print.



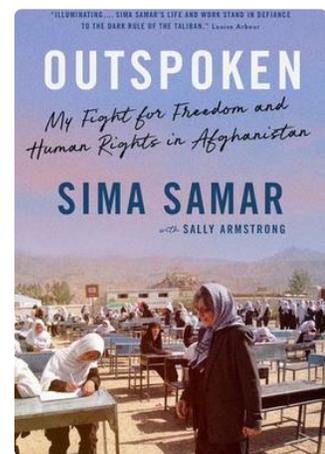
**Susan Juby's** *A Meditation on Murder* was an instant national bestseller, landing on both *The Globe & Mail* and *Toronto Star* lists. The hilarious mystery follows butler-detective Helen Thorpe helping a wannabe influencer get her life in order – and solve the murders of her fellow content creators. Praised for her "compulsively readable, self-deprecating wit, a candid voice, and an entertainer's penchant for the lively turn of phrase" ([Toronto Star](#)), Juby's clever, comic cozy will delight fans of *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* and *The Thursday Murder Club* series. Her previous novel *Mindful of Murder* was shortlisted for the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour and debuted at #1 on the independent bookstore bestsellers list.

The debut novel by **Loghan Paylor**, *The Cure for Drowning* (p. 20), has been amassing great attention in the media since its publication on January 30th. An action-packed historical romance that tells the story of Kit McNair, a non-binary person during WWII, its magical realism and high-concept hook have captured the attention of media and readers alike. Jessica Poon in *The British Columbia Review* called the book “a soap opera in the best way possible,” while the *Toronto Star* said, “*The Cure for Drowning* takes a page from Nicholas Sparks’ use of historical settings.” Paylor made their television debut on [Global News](#) publicizing their book on the Palma’s Picks segment. And, if you’re curious about the music that inspired Paylor while they were writing, you can check out their *The Cure for Drowning* playlist on Spotify [here](#) and on YouTube [here](#).



Moving into non-fiction, the past few months have given us numerous opportunities to celebrate alongside **Kyo Maclear**! In addition to winning to the \$25,000 [Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature for Young People](#) in recognition of her lifetime achievement in children’s writing, Kyo Maclear won the \$25,000 [Governor General’s Literary Award in the Non-fiction category](#) for her beautiful memoir *Uncarthing: A Story of Tangled Love and Family Secrets* (p. 28). In its citation, the peer assessment committee called the book “a finely plotted and intricate narrative [that] reimagines the garden metaphor and explores the porous grounds of self, culture and belonging.” *Uncarthing* was also a [National Jewish Book Award finalist](#) in the category of Autobiography and Memoir. Published in the UK by Pushkin Press, in Canada by Knopf, and in the US by Scribner, *Uncarthing* will be published in translation by AdMarginem in Russia and Barambooks in Korea. All other rights are available.

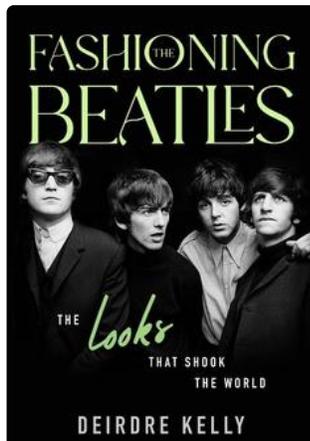
**Sima Samar’s** *Outspoken: My Fight for Freedom and Human Rights in Afghanistan*, written with Sally Armstrong (p. 30), has been called an “inspirational lifelong legacy of resistance and resilience... palpably present in this memorable self-portrait” by [Kirkus](#). Samar’s advance blurbers have given glowing reviews – among them, Louise Arbour, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, wrote “Samar’s life and work stand in defiance to the dark rule of the Taliban”; Eleanor Smeal, president of Feminist Majority Foundation and publisher of *Ms. Magazine*, called it a “must read for every woman – indeed for every person – who supports equality and human rights”; and Lisa LaFlamme of Journalists for Human Rights said, “Samar gives bravery a face.” Random House published the memoir in Canada; it will also be published by Saqi Books in the UK, Europe, and Middle East, and HarperCollins Australia.



Quantum physicist and Senior TED Fellow **Shohini Ghose** has garnered extraordinary praise around the world for *Her Space, Her Time: How Trailblazing Women Scientists Decoded the Hidden Universe*. From the [BBC Sky at Night](#) magazine: "This book is truly for everyone, and I can't overstate how much I enjoyed it." From [The Boston Globe](#): "Ghose's engaging book... explains complex concepts with clarity... and 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." A reviewer on GoodReads called it, "Groundbreaking! A truly remarkable account of a history that is profoundly important to the story of humanity. ... I loved every minute of this powerful and exquisitely written book." Top science magazines



agreed: "The seven chapters are highly informative, each one having dramatic moments and discoveries" ([American Scientist](#)); and "A disdain for misogyny past and present shines through in Shohini Ghose's rich history of women's underappreciated contributions to astronomy and physics" ([New Scientist](#)). With all this praise, no surprise that [The Next Big Idea Club](#) named it one of the "Top 50 Science Books of 2023."



*Fashioning the Beatles* by **Deirdre Kelly** has been getting rave reviews around the world! The *New York Sun* called it "not only an investigation of the Beatles' love of fashion, but a detailed portrait of a fascinating cultural decade... Nostalgia and Beatles Buffs will feel enriched and reflective, and younger readers will find much to discover about their grandparents' generation." The beautifully illustrated book received a gorgeous four-page feature in Italian women's magazine [iO Donna](#) and [The Bite Magazine](#). Kelly has appeared in author Q&As for the book in [The Style That Binds Us](#) mini mag and Carl Thompson's UK-based menswear [blog](#), and has received kudos from art and pop culture writer Donald Brackett's [blog](#), [The Chap Magazine](#), [Culture Sonar](#), and the music collector's magazine [Goldmine](#). Sutherland House holds World English rights; all other rights are available.

Take care,

The Team at Westwood Creative Artists

# RECENT PRIZES

## FICTION

Jennilee Austria-Bonifacio, *Reuniting with Strangers*, longlisted for Canada Reads

Gina Buonaguro, *The Virgins of Venice*, semi-finalist for the 2023 Chaucer Early Historical Fiction Award

Don Gillmor, *Breaking and Entering*, longlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize

Carrie Snyder, *Francie's Got a Gun*, shortlisted for the Kerry Schooley Book Award

## NON-FICTION

Kyo Maclear, *Unearthing: A Story of Tangled Love and Family Secrets*, winner of the Governor General's Literary Awards (Non-fiction) and finalist for the National Jewish Book Award

Bob McDonald, *The Future is Now: Solving the Climate Crisis with Today's Technologies*, shortlisted for the Lane Anderson Award for Canadian Science Writing

Julian Sher, *The North Star: Canada and the Civil War Plots Against Lincoln*, finalist for the Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-fiction; audiobook featured on Audible Canada's "Best of 2023" list

Andrew Stobo Sniderman and Douglas Sanderson, *Valley of the Birdtail*, winner of the High Plains Book Award in the Indigenous Writer category

## CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK & MIDDLE GRADE

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

Kyo Maclear, winner of the Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature for Young People; *Kumo the Bashful Cloud*, honor book for the 2023 Sheila Barry Best Canadian Picturebook Award

Jordan Scott, *I Talk Like a River*, winner of Le Prix Littéraire

Dena Seiferling, *Night Lunch*, honor book for the 2023 Sheila Barry Best Canadian Picturebook Award

Nancy Vo, *As Glenn as Can Be*, honor book for the 2023 Sheila Barry Best Canadian Picturebook Award; *Boobies*, finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award (Young People's Literature – Illustrated Books)

# RECENT SALES

## FICTION

Caroline Adderson, *A Way to Be Happy: Stories*, World English: Biblioasis

Gurjinder Basran, *The Wedding*, Canadian English: Douglas & McIntyre

Andrew Boden, *The Secret History of My Hometown*, Canadian English: Goose Lane Editions

Antonio Michael Downing, *Black Cherokee*, US: Simon & Schuster

Virginia Evans, *The Correspondent*, World: Crown / Penguin Random House US (Brazil: Arqueiro / Sextante; Germany: Goldmann; Italy: Rizzoli; UK and Commonwealth excl. Canada: Michael Joseph / Penguin Random House)

Kim Fu, *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century*, Indonesia: Marjin Kiri

Elizabeth Hay, *Snow Road Station*, UK, Europe and Commonwealth excl. Canada: Mountain Leopard Press / Headline

Thomas King, *Black Ice* (DreadfulWater Book 8), Canadian English: HarperCollins

Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*, Malayalam: DC Books; Russia: Exmo; Vietnam: Nha Nam Publishing

Susin Nielsen, *Snap & Untitled Book 2*, Canadian English: HarperCollins

Anna Porter, *Gull Island*, Audio (North American English): Audible (sale by Simon & Schuster Canada)

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, *The Breathing Lands*, Canadian English: Alchemy / Knopf / Penguin Random House

Leanne Toshiko Simpson, *Never Been Better*, Brazil: Alta Books

Josef Skvorecky, *Dvorak In Love*, Poland: Książkowe Klimaty

Carrie Snyder, *Girl Runner*, Film/TV (World): Wonderful Content

# RECENT SALES

## NON-FICTION

Craig Baird, *The Trans-Canada Highway*, World: Sutherland House

Amy Fish, *One in Six Million*, North American French and English: Goose Lane Editions

Shohini Ghose, *Her Space, Her Time*, Audio (World English excl. Canada and India): Tantor Media (sale by MIT Press); Korea: YoungJin

Catherine Gildiner, *Good Morning, Monster*, Netherlands: Michiel Boek (sale by Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada)

Larry Grant and Scott Steedman, *Reconciling: My Lifelong Search for Belonging as a Musqueam Chinese Canadian*, North American English: ECW Press

Chris Honey, MD, *Lightening Our Darkness: A Brain Surgeon's Stories of the Patients Who Taught Him About Depression, Addiction and True Happiness*, World: Knopf / Penguin Random House Canada

Robert Hunt, *Why Me? A Lifetime of Alien Encounters*, World English: Sutherland House

Jay Ingram, *Pet Science*, World English: Simon & Schuster Canada

Dean Jobb, *Murder in the Cards: A Scandalous Life, a Mysterious Death, and the Turbulent Dawn of the Jazz Age*, World: Algonquin Books / Hachette; *The Case of the Murderous Dr. Cream: The Hunt for a Victorian Era Serial Killer*, Azerbaijan: Qanun Publishing House (sale by Algonquin Books / Hachette)

Ben Kaplan, *Catch a Fire*, World: Dundurn Press

Benjamin Lefebvre, *Pruned Down and Branched Out: 100 Years of Anne of Green Gables on Screen*, Audio (North American English): Tantor Media; World: Dundurn Press

Harry Malcolmson, *The Scene*: World: University of Toronto Press

Bob McDonald, *Just Say Yes: An Autobiography*, World English: Douglas & McIntyre

Tessa McWatt, *The Snag*, UK and Commonwealth excl. Canada: Scribe

Dennis Molinaro, *Shadows of the Dragon: China's Secret Operations in Canada*, Canadian English: Random House / Penguin Random House

## RECENT SALES

Marc Raboy, *Marconi: The Man who Networked the World*, Italy: Hoepli

David A. Robertson, *52 Ways to Reconcile: How to Walk with Indigenous People on the Path to Healing*, World: McClelland & Stewart / Penguin Random House Canada

Sima Samar, *Outspoken*, UK, Europe, Middle East, & Commonwealth excl. Canada and ANZ: Saqi Books

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, *Theory of Water*, US & UK: Haymarket Books

### CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK & MIDDLE GRADE

Linda Bailey, *The Three Little Mittens*, Italy: Il Castello Editore (sale by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

Yolanda Bonnell, *The Golden Birch* (Book 1) & 2 Untitled Books, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

Kern Carter, *Rival Week*, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

Brittany Lane, *Icarus Migration & Icarus Book 2*, World: Greystone Books (illustration)

Flo Leung, *Foodie Baby*, World: Orca Book Publishers

Joanne Levy, *Let It Glow*, North American English: Feiwel and Friends / Macmillan; *Sorry for Your Loss*, China: Beijing Yutian Hanfeng Books (sale by Orca Book Publishers)

Stacey Matson, *Eleven Out of Ten*, World English and French: Scholastic Canada

Susin Nielsen, *The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen*, Korea: LIME; *Word Nerd*, Netherlands: Leminscaat (sales by Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada)

Alpha Nkuranga and Jordan Scott, *Alpha and Elijah*, World: Viking Children's Books / Penguin Random House US

Sara O'Leary, *A Friend is a Friend is a Friend* & Untitled Picture Book, World: Greenwood Books / House of Anansi Press

David Robertson, *The Kodiaks: The Legend of Dusty Bender*, World: Portage & Main

Jordan Scott, *My Baba's Garden*, Turkey: Ilksatir (sale by Holiday House)

## RECENT SALES

Tiffany Stone, *Cow of the Castle*, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

Linda Trinh, *The Legendary Allies Series* (4 books), World: Annick Press

Richard Wagamese (author) and Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley (illustrator), *Canada & Untitled Book Two*, World: Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada

# FICTION



## FICTION



**“Caroline Adderson was made for the short story. ... [She is] one of the best writers to come out of this country.”**

– *Quill & Quire*, on *Pleased to Meet You*

**“Insightful, gritty, stark, elegant and poised. Like Alice Munro and Margaret Atwood before her, she owns this genre.”**

– *The Hamilton Spectator*, on *Pleased to Meet You*

**“Adderson has the ability, essential in a fiction writer, to create with a few sentences of description or dialogue characters whose reality is vivid and unquestionable.”**

– *Toronto Star*, on *Bad Imaginings*

**Rights sold:** World English including audio: Biblioasis (Fall 2024)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:**

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

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Caroline Adderson A WAY TO BE HAPPY

*Stories*

With stylistic bravado and compassion, award-winning fiction writer Caroline Adderson – celebrated for her linguistic confidence as well as for her humanity – returns to the short story form with a faultlessly written collection that offers readers an intimate glimpse into the astonishing lives of others.

From inmates in an early twentieth century psychiatric institution to a struggling young writer, a Russian hitman, and a husband bewildered by his flailing long-term marriage, the characters in these stories inhabit lives that are by turns funny and deeply serious. Together, they are a poignant reminder that we are all, independent of our circumstances, looking for a way to be happy.

**CAROLINE ADDERSON** is the author of five novels and two prior 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 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, two Commonwealth Writers’ Prizes, the Governor General’s Literary Award, the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize, and the Scotiabank 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.

# FICTION



*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.*

**“A beautiful, haunting story of one family, spanning generations and continents, as they face life’s inevitable losses, struggle with grief and reach for redemption.”**

– Shilpi Somaya Gowda, on *Someone You Love is Gone*

**“Although epic in scope, *Someone You Love is Gone* is economically and poetically written. It serves up a rich narrative with a cultural and generation-crossing protagonist supported by a cast of equally compelling characters.”**

– *Toronto Star*, on *Someone You Love is Gone*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English: Douglas & McIntyre (Fall 2024)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:**

[www.gurjinderbasran.ca](http://www.gurjinderbasran.ca)

**Agent:** John Pearce

## Gurjinder Basran THE WEDDING

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.



*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 an amazing read – a page-turner plot-wise, imbued with language that dances on the page. A sui generis and 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. I was loath for it to end, yet read at a trot – the child narrator Rainor, his brilliant friend Emmi, and the conflicted bus driver Peter Berger have stayed residents in my mind even months later.”**

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

**Rights sold:** Canadian English: Goose Lane Editions (Sep. 2024)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:**

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

**Agent:** John Pearce

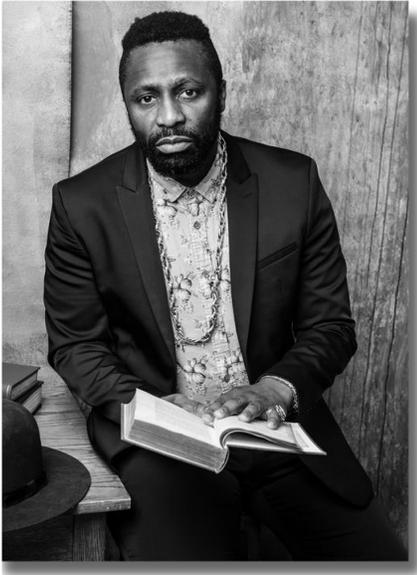
## Andrew Boden WHEN WE WERE ASHES

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.



## Antonio Michael Downing BLACK CHEROKEE

*Black Cherokee* is a timeless story of self-discovery and the search for identity. It is the coming of age of Ophelia Blue Rivers, a young orphan who in her own words is: “Half Black, half Cherokee and all mixed up.”

The novel chronicles Ophelia’s struggles to find her place in the world while being raised by the indomitable Grandma Blue, a descendent of Cherokee freedmen in rural South Carolina in the ‘90s. Ophelia is a perpetual misfit 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.

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

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Scribner / Simon & Schuster (Spring 2025); US including audio: Simon & Schuster (Spring 2025)

**Status:** Manuscript available

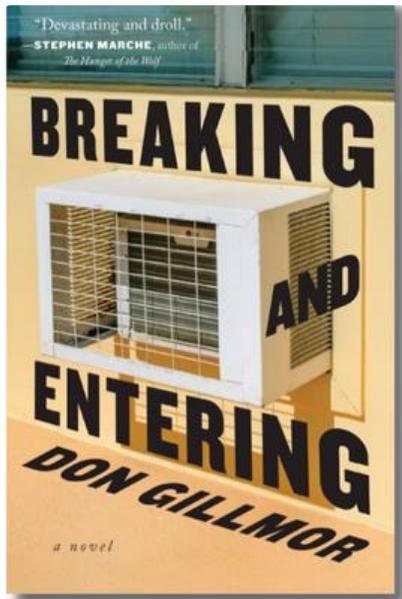
**Author’s website:**

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

**Agents:** Chris Casuccio & John Pearce

**ANTONIO MICHAEL DOWNING** was raised in Brooklyn, Trinidad, and Toronto, and is the author of *Saga Boy* (Penguin / Penguin Random House Canada and Milkweed) – an acclaimed memoir admired by both Scotiabank Giller Prize winner Ian Williams, who called it “...the triumph of Blackness everywhere,” and Black American icon Kiese Laymon, who called it: “Singularly dazzling....” He has been shortlisted for several awards including as emerging author at the 2019 RBC Taylor Prize and the 2021 Speaker’s Book Award. He is also the author of the forthcoming children’s book *Stars in My Crown* (Tundra Books / Penguin Random House Canada) and writes and performs music as John Orpheus. *Black Cherokee* is his debut novel.

## FICTION



*In the throes of a sanity-destroying heatwave, a woman explores a dangerous new hobby.*

**An Oprah Daily Best Book of 2023!**

**“Thrilling and relatable.”**

– *The New York Times*

**“Surely the most interesting midlife crisis of the year.”**

– *Oprah Daily*

**“Devastating and droll.”**

– Stephen Marche

**“Smart, funny, and sneakily terrifying.”**

– *Kirkus* (starred)

**“A fitting book for the moment in which we are living.”**

– *The Globe & Mail*

**Rights sold:** North American English:  
Biblioasis (Aug. 15, 2023)

**Film/TV (World):** Offers pending

**Status:** Books available

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

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Don Gillmor BREAKING AND ENTERING

*A Novel*

Forty-nine and sweating through the hottest summer on record, Beatrice Billings is rudderless: her marriage is stale, her son communicates solely through cryptic text messages, her mother has dementia, and she conducts endless arguments with her older sister in her head. Toronto feels like an inadequately air-conditioned museum of its former self, and the same could be said of her life. She dreams of the past, her days as a newlywed, a new mom, a new homeowner gutting the kitchen – now the only novel experience that looms is the threat of divorce.

Everything changes when she googles “escape” and discovers the world of amateur lock-picking. Breaking into houses is thrilling: she’s subtle and discreet, never greedy, but as her curiosity about other people’s lives becomes a dangerous compulsion and the entire city feels a few degrees from boiling over, she realizes she must turn her guilty analysis on herself.

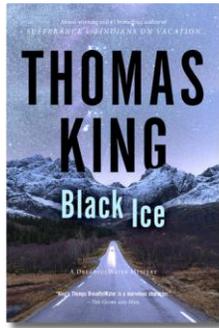
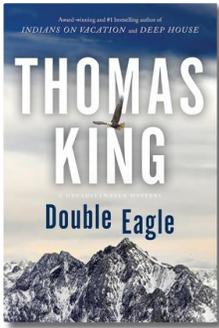
A searingly insightful rendering of midlife among the anxieties of the early 21st century, *Breaking and Entering* is an exacting look at the fragility of all the things we take on faith.



**DON GILLMOR** is the author of *To the River*, which won the Governor General’s Literary Award for non-fiction. He is the author of three novels, *Long Change*, *Mount Pleasant*, and *Kanata*, a two-volume history of Canada, and nine books for children, two of which were nominated for the Governor General’s Literary Award. He was a senior editor at *The Walrus*, and his journalism has

appeared in *Rolling Stone*, *GQ*, *The Walrus*, *Saturday Night*, *Toronto Life*, *The Globe & Mail*, and the *Toronto Star*. He has won twelve National Magazine Awards and numerous other honors. He lives in Toronto.

## FICTION



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

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

– Michael McGarrity, crime novelist, on the DreadfulWater series

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

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

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

– *Quill & Quire*, on the DreadfulWater series

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (Book 7: Sep. 26, 2023; Book 8: Sep. 24, 2024)

**Status:** Book 7: Books available; Book 8: Manuscript available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

**THOMAS KING** has been published around the world and praised by Margaret Atwood as “funny but not funny.” One of Canada’s most beloved, critically acclaimed, and commercially successful writers, he is of Cherokee and Greek descent. He lives in Guelph, Ontario.



## Thomas King DREADFULWATER MYSTERY SERIES DOUBLE EAGLE

*Book 7*

Buffalo Mountain is set to host a gold coin exhibition with dealers coming from all over, and Thumps DreadfulWater winds up with the task of making sure the event goes off without a hitch. As if he didn’t already have enough to do. For starters, he and Claire Merchant are trying to work out their relationship. And there’s Sheriff Duke Hockney, who wants Thumps to give up landscape photography and return to law enforcement. And lastly, Cisco Cruz, the ninja assassin, shows up in town with a fiancée in tow.

Can things get any more complicated for our hero? Yes, they can. When one of the dealers at the exhibition winds up dead, Cruz’s fiancée is revealed to be an FBI agent responsible for his protection. And Claire’s adoption of Ivory hits a major snag. Like it or not, Thumps is going to have to help Claire as best he can, discover why Cruz is really back in town and try to unravel the murder of the coin dealer – before anyone else dies.

## BLACK ICE

*Book 8*

Thumps DreadfulWater has a lot on his plate. With Duke out of commission following his wife’s tragic death, Thumps is appointed Temporary Deputy Sheriff, a role that makes him doubly eager for Duke’s swift recovery. First, a myopic private investigator dies while in custody. The autopsy concludes that he died of natural causes; then an assault rifle is found in the trunk of the dead man’s rental car, and the mystery woman he was investigating disappears. Meanwhile, Thumps contends with a couple of horse thieving octogenarians and a large, slobbery dog acquired in the line of duty.

As the rest of Chinook comes together to cheer on golf novice Wutty Youngbeaver, who is competing in the US Open qualifying tournament up at Shadow Ranch, Claire and Ivory decamp to Alberta, leaving Thumps to contemplate the simplicity of a life lived alone. If he can’t manage something as simple as a dog or a couple of cats, how could he be responsible for another human being? Two human beings?

# FICTION



*Perfect for fans of Mouth to Mouth and Black Buck, 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.*

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

– *Debutiful*, which listed the book as one of its Most Anticipated Books of 2024

**“Equal parts academic and cheeky, Christine Ma-Kellams’ debut novel *The Band* is the perfect companion for brainy pop culture heads, my people.”**

– Anna Dorn, author of *Exalted*

**Rights sold:** World English including audio: Atria / Simon & Schuster US (Apr. 16, 2024)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Website:** [www.christinema-kellams.com](http://www.christinema-kellams.com)

**Agent:** Emmy Nordstrom Higdon

## 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 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 including audio: HarperCollins (Spring 2025)

**Status:** Manuscript available

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

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

## Susin Nielsen SNAP

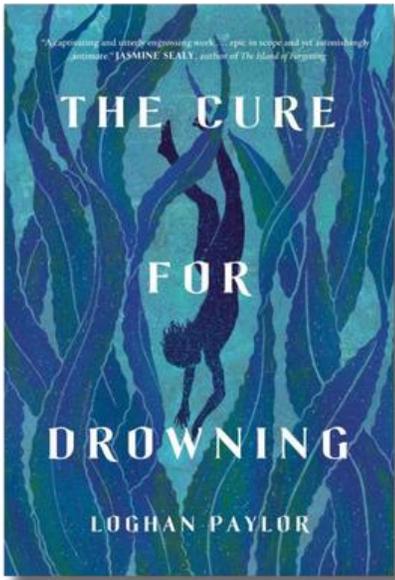
Frances Partridge, 55, is a beloved children's author. Geraint Blevins, 41, is an auto mechanic and devoted family man. Parker Poplawski, 23, is just starting her career as a wardrobe assistant on a hit TV show. What do these three people have in common?

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 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



*Evocative, magical and luminously written, The Cure for Drowning is not only a brilliant, boundary-pushing love story but an historical novel that 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 I will say, it is earned.”*

– *British Columbia Review*

*“I’ll be thinking about this novel for years to come.”*

– Jessica Johns, author of *Bad Cree*

*“A page-turning read and a richly imagined study of love – the kind that overcomes and endures, and ultimately transforms us into who we’re meant to be.”*

– Ami McKay, bestselling author of *The Birth House* and *The Witches of New York*

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

**Status:** Books available

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

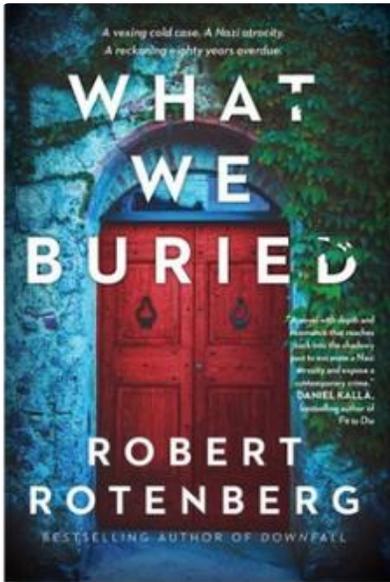
Landon signs up for the Navy. Kit, now known as Christopher, joins the Royal Air Force, becoming a bomber navigator relied on for his luck and courage. Rebekah serves with naval intelligence in Halifax, Nova Scotia, until one more collision with Landon changes the course of her life and draws her back 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



*A Toronto homicide detective is attacked at his doorstep when his investigation into possible links between the Nazi occupation of Italy and the murder of his brother decades later gets too close to the truth – in the new crime thriller from bestselling author Robert Rotenberg. Perfect for fans of Scott Turow and David Baldacci.*

**Rights sold:** North American English:  
Simon & Schuster Canada (Feb. 27, 2024)

**Status:** Books available

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

**Agent:** Michael A. Levine

## Robert Rotenberg WHAT WE BURIED

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. And they're concerned about Daniel's safety. But why? Is Daniel risking his life – and those of others – by trying to uncover the truth?

When Daniel arrives in the bucolic Italian hill town, he learns the past has not been put to rest. Residents are still haunted by the brutal Nazi occupation, the brave acts of the local freedom fighters, and the swift savagery of German retribution.

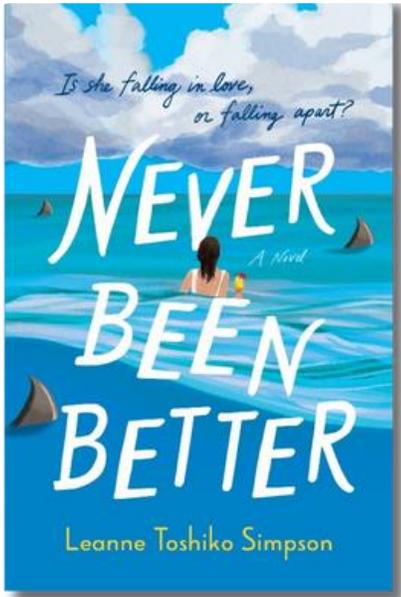
And as Daniel delves into his family's deadly connection to Gubbio, Ari Greene searches for a killer closer to home.

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.



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

## FICTION



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

“Laugh-out-loud funny.”

– *Booklist*

“Hilarious, honest, refreshing, and moving.”

– Emily Austin, author of *Everyone in this Room Will Someday Be Dead*

“Navigating the contrast between humor and pain can be tricky, but Simpson makes it look easy... Funny, refreshing, and generous.”

– *Kirkus* (starred)

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: HarperCollins (Mar. 5, 2024); Brazil: Alta Books; 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:**

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

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Leanne Toshiko Simpson NEVER BEEN BETTER

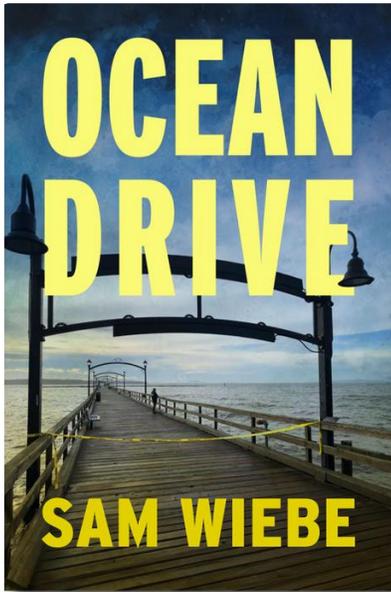
Dee, Misa, and Matt were the “three musketeers” of the psych ward. Matt is a teddy bear musician with no discernable coping mechanisms. Wildly efficient Misa is quick to take care of others while neglecting herself. And Dee is a puddle with a heart of gold, eager to convince everyone that she’s finally 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.



*A paroled killer and a small-town cop find themselves on a collision course when the murder-by-arson of a college student sparks off gang violence along the forty-ninth parallel.*

**Rights sold:** Audio (World English): Tantor Media; North American English: Harbour Publishing (Apr. 20, 2024)

**Status:** Manuscript available

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

**Agent:** Chris Casuccio

## Sam Wiebe OCEAN DRIVE

His first day out of prison, paroled killer Cameron Shaw meets with a mysterious lawyer who offers him a small fortune to infiltrate the League of Nations crime syndicate. Shaw turns her down, intending to go straight. But with no job, no family and no prospects, he's soon compelled to take her offer.

In the small Pacific Northwest town of White Rock, a body is pulled from a burning house. Staff Sgt. Meghan Quick identifies the victim as grad student Alexa Reed. Alexa's behaviour during her last few days strikes Quick as bizarre. Why did she remove the for-sale sign from her parents' house, and why was she trying to meet with the League of Nations?

As Quick tries to solve Alexa's homicide, Shaw moves deeper into the League's cross-border drug trade.

With the threat of a gang war looming, and long-buried secrets coming to light, Quick must find Alexa's killer, while rescuing Shaw from the brutal gang violence that threatens the future of White Rock.

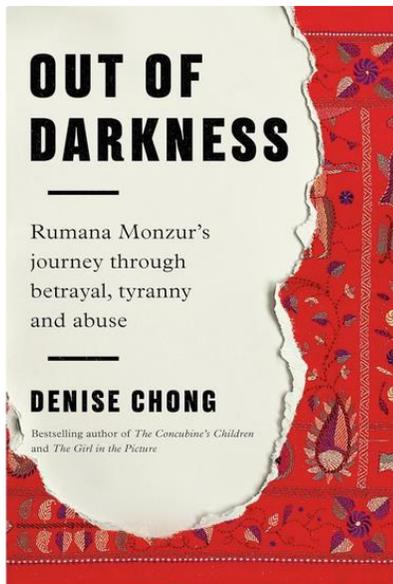


**SAM WIEBE** is the author of the Wakeland novels, one of the most authentic and acclaimed contemporary detective series. His work has won the Crime Writers of Canada award and the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize, and been shortlisted for the Edgar, Hammett, Shamus, Independent Publisher, and City of Vancouver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

# NON-FICTION



# NON-FICTION



*From the bestselling author of 'The Girl in the Picture, a story of domestic violence, cultural turmoil, and political influence – and the Bangladeshi woman whose irrepressible spirit found light in sudden darkness.*

**“In this gripping, moving account of human resilience, Chong thoughtfully unwinds the cultural, political and personal circumstances surrounding the brutal attack on Rumana Monzur and her subsequent fight for justice. Dread builds slowly; Rumana is the steel spine...”**

– Stephanie Nolen, reporter, *The New York Times*

**“Chong draws every stand of the story together so skillfully and excitingly ... [the narrative] both before and after that decisive click of the camera shutter is masterly .... [H]er book reads like the best kind of novel – both moving and startling.”**

– *The Times Literary Supplement*, on *The Girl in the Picture*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House (Apr. 23, 2024)

**Status:** Galleys available

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

*Includes eight pages of black and white photos*

## Denise Chong OUT OF DARKNESS

*Rumana Monzur's Journey through  
Betrayal, Tyranny and Abuse*

From the outside, Rumana Monzur seemed an unlikely victim of domestic abuse: well educated, married to a man of her own choosing, and progressing in her career as a professor of international relations at Dhaka University. But in 2011, on return from graduate studies at the University of British Columbia, her husband attacked and blinded her in front of their young daughter. As Monzur's horrifying story garnered international headlines, and connections brought her to Vancouver in an attempt – ultimately futile – to restore her sight, her plight underscored the fact that there are no typical victims of intimate-partner violence.

Denise Chong goes behind the headlines to reveal the devolution of a love story into a tale of tyranny behind closed doors, and the pursuit of justice that proved all the more elusive during the rise of social media. *Out of Darkness* tells a globe-spanning narrative of loyalty, perseverance and a woman's determination to face the future and rebuild a life with meaning.

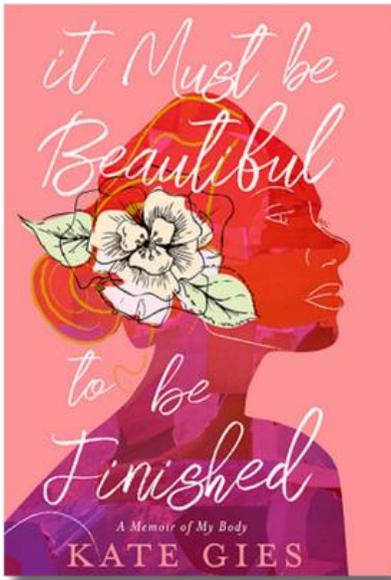


**DENISE CHONG** is an award-winning author whose work portrays the lives of ordinary people caught in the eye of history. She is best known for *The Concubine's Children*, a family memoir; *The Girl in the Picture* about the “napalm girl” of the Vietnam War; and *Egg on Mao*, a story of love and defiance in China of 1989. Formerly an adjunct professor at Carlton University's Feminist Institute of Social Transformation, she lives in Ottawa, Canada.



**RUMANA MONZUR** was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh; 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.

## 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 including audio: Simon & Schuster Canada (Spring 2025)

**Status:** Manuscript available April 2025

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

**Agent:** Sara Harowitz

## Kate Gies IT MUST BE BEAUTIFUL TO BE FINISHED

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.

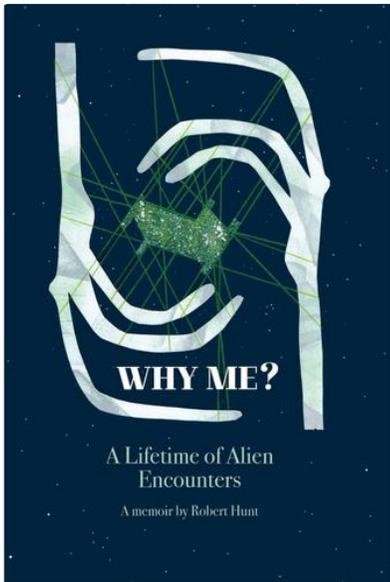
Written in short, lyrical vignettes, *It Must Be Beautiful to Be Finished* is the story of a “disfigured” body scrutinized, pathologized, and even weaponized. It details the physical and psychic trauma of medical intervention, and its effects on Gies’ burgeoning sense of self as a child needing to be 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 Non-fiction Prize. Her essay “Foreign Bodies” (excerpted from *It Must Be Beautiful to Be Finished*) is being included in the forthcoming *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 including audio: Sutherland House (Jun. 11, 2024)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

*Includes ten black and white photos*



**ROBERT HUNT** is a master electrician who has been specializing in the nuclear industry for the past two decades. He lives in Toronto with his family.

## Robert Hunt WHY ME?

*A 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.

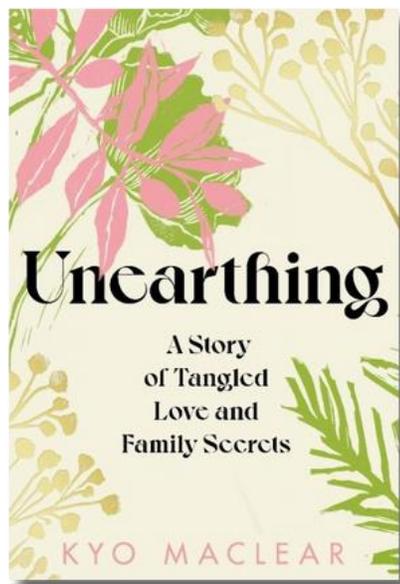
The narrative unfolds chronologically, from his first visitation to abduction by the greys to being told he will ascend “one Sunday in August.” The encounters vary as do the beings; sometimes benevolent, sometimes causing harm, and some captured in photos taken on Hunt’s motion-triggered camera and included 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



Winner of the 2023 Governor General's Literary Award for Non-fiction and National Jewish Book Award finalist

“Masterful, original... Truly a wow.”  
– Zibby Owens, *Good Morning America*

“[S]taggering... Brilliant and profound.”  
– *The Guardian*

“Unforgettable.”  
– *People*

“Generous, open-handed.”  
– *NPR*

“Beautiful.”  
– *Washington Post*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Apr. 18, 2023); Korea: Barambooks; Russia: Ad Marginem; UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada: Pushkin Press (Mar. 7, 2024); US: Scribner / Simon & Schuster (Aug. 22, 2023)

**Status:** Books available

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

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Kyo Maclear UNEARTHING

*A Story of Tangled Love and Family Secrets*

For readers of *Crying in H Mart* and *Wintering*, an unforgettable memoir about a family secret revealed by a DNA test, the lessons learned in its aftermath, and the indelible power of love.

Three months after Kyo Maclear's father dies, a DNA test reveals that they were not biologically related. All at once Kyo's mother becomes unknown to her; she has a big story to tell, the story of a secret buried for half a century, but her memories are fading. Words are failing them both, so Kyo looks to gardening – her mother's second fluent tongue – to bridge the gap between them.

*Unclearing* is written in the wild green language of soil, seed, leaf, and mulch. A memoir of inheritance that goes far beyond heredity, this is the story of what happens when we give up the weeded and pruned plots of our family histories and open ourselves up to a more expansive view of kinship. Told through the passage of seasons, with beautiful illustrations by the author, it is a deeply thoughtful meditation on race, lineage, and grief, and a tender testimony to the ineradicable love between a mother and a daughter.



**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. Maclear 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*, and *The Globe & Mail*, among other publications. She is also an award-winning children's book author, editor, and professor.

## NON-FICTION



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

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Agent:** Chris Casuccio

# Alpha Nkuranga BORN TO WALK

*My Journey of Trials and Resilience*

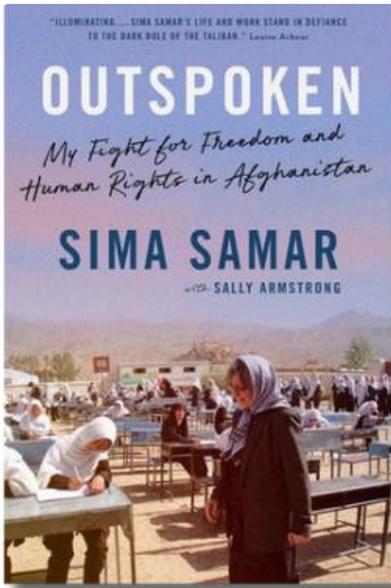
Alpha Nkuranga died a hundred times during the Rwandan civil war. Or at least, she should have. Hiding in the swamp near her village, she clutched her little brother, praying that he would not die in her arms while rebels burned her family alive within earshot. After ten days, the two escaped by walking to Tanzania, where they endured the daily horrors of life in the refugee camps and an uncertain future.

Growing up in Rwanda, Nkuranga quickly learned that the world has no space for girls with ambition. She knew she had to escape the horrific fate of forced marriage and abuse that many Rwandan women, including her mother, had to face, and she knew that her best chance to escape would come through education. It was an unlikely dream, full of overwhelming obstacles, but she'd risk everything to find her voice.

*Born to Walk* is a true accounting of Nkuranga's survival of the Rwandan civil war and the aftermath as one of the millions who were displaced. Her story is one of hope, endurance, and faith that she would one day escape the confines of her culture and emerge triumphant.

**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. 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



*The impassioned memoir of Afghanistan's Sima Samar: medical doctor, public official, founder of schools and hospitals, thorn in the side of the Taliban, nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, and lifelong advocate for girls and women.*

**“Samar’s life and work stand in defiance to the dark rule of the Taliban.”**

– Louise Arbour, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

**“Dr. Sima Samar gives bravery a face.”**

– Lisa LaFlamme, Journalists for Human Rights

**“[A] must read for every woman – indeed for every person – who supports equality and human rights.”**

– Eleanor Smeal, president, Feminist Majority Foundation and Publisher, *Ms. Magazine*

**Rights sold:** Australia/New Zealand: HarperCollins (Feb. 27, 2024); Canadian English including audio: Random House / Penguin Random House (Feb. 27, 2024); UK, Europe, Middle East & Commonwealth excl. Canada/ANZ: Saqi Books

**Status:** Books available

**Agent:** Hilary McMahon

*Includes eight pages of black and white photos*

## Sima Samar with Sally Armstrong OUTSPOKEN

*My Fight for Freedom and Human Rights in Afghanistan*

**“I have three strikes against me. I’m a woman, I speak out for women, and I’m Hazara, the most persecuted ethnic group in Afghanistan.”**

Dr. Sima Samar has been fighting for equality and justice for most of her life. Born into a polygamous family, she learned early that girls had inferior status, and she had to agree to an arranged marriage if she wanted to go to university. By the time she was in medical school, she had a son, Ali, and had become a revolutionary. After her husband was disappeared by the pro-Russian regime, she escaped. With her son and medical degree, she took off into the rural areas – by horseback, by donkey, even on foot – to treat people who had never had medical help before.

Samar’s wide-ranging experiences both in her home country and on the world stage have given her inside access to the dishonesty, the collusion, the corruption, the self-serving leaders, and the hijacking of religion. And as a former Vice President, she knows all the players in this chess game called Afghanistan. With stories that are at times poignant, at times terrifying, inspiring as well as disheartening, Simar provides an unparalleled view of Afghanistan’s past and its present. Despite being in grave personal danger for many years, she has worked tirelessly for the dream she is convinced is an achievable one: justice and full human rights for *all* the citizens of her country.



**SIMA SAMAR** is a doctor for the poor, an educator of the marginalized and a human rights defender. She is currently a visiting scholar at Tufts University’s Fletcher School.



**SALLY ARMSTRONG** is an award-winning author, journalist, and human rights activist. She has written four bestselling books and was the first journalist to bring the story of the women of Afghanistan to the world. She has also covered stories in conflict zones from Bosnia and Somalia to Rwanda, Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan, Jordan, and Israel.

## NON-FICTION



*From one of the most compelling Indigenous voices of her generation, interconnected essays that draw on Nishnaabe traditions to dismantle the present moment.*

“I have learned more about this battered world from reading Leanne Betasamosake Simpson than from almost any writer alive today. A dazzlingly original thinker and an irresistible stylist, Simpson has gifted us with a field guide not to mere political resistance but to deep and holistic transformation. It arrives at the perfect time.”

– Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine* and *This Changes Everything*, on *As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom through Radical Resistance*

“[A]n exceptional critical achievement and a joy to read.”

– *Oxford University Press Journals*, on *As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom through Radical Resistance*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Spring 2025); US and UK including audio: Haymarket Books (Spring 2025)

**Status:** Manuscript available Jul. 2024

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

**Agent:** Jackie Kaiser

## Leanne Betasamosake Simpson THEORY OF WATER

*Essays*

After three years of pandemic and in the face of amplified fascism, freedom convoys, extinct glaciers, police killings, children alone in cages at borders, the resurgence of fascist states, open air prisons for entire peoples, and a dying planet, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson is asking herself, what does it mean, as Rebecca Belmore asks us in her installation *Wave Sound*, to listen to water? What does it mean, as Dionne Brand writes through her diaspora consciousness and by inventorying the quotidian disasters of our time, in her epic poem *Nomenclature*, “to believe in water?”

Drawing on Nishnaabe origin stories, poetry, and thinking alongside writers and artists such as Christina Sharpe, Olúfẹ̀mí O. Táíwò, William C. Anderson, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Natalie Diaz, Katherine McKittrick, and Françoise Vergès, Betasamosake Simpson turns to water as a generative space for worldmaking against empire, within the network of life that makes up this planet. *Theory of Water* immerses the reader into water as a liminal space resistant to regiment, and considers future formations for life beyond our current collective imaginings.

**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: The Cure for White Ladies* was shortlisted for the Governor General’s Literary Award for fiction and the 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.” Working for two decades as an independent scholar using Nishnaabeg intellectual practices, Betasamosake Simpson has lectured and taught extensively at universities across Canada and the US, and has twenty years’ experience with Indigenous land-based education. She holds a PhD from the University of Manitoba, and teaches at the Dechinta Centre for Research & Learning in Denendeh.

## NON-FICTION



**Praise for *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related.***

**“An electric meditation on connection, culture, and desire.”**

– Alexander Chee, on *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related.*

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

– Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Nonfiction Jury

**“Courageous, moving, and achingly beautiful.”**

– David Chariandy, author of *Brother*

**“[A] memoir of lasting power.”**

– Kim Fu, author of *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century*

**Rights sold:** Canadian English including audio: Knopf / Penguin Random House (Fall 2024)

**Status:** Manuscript available

**Author’s website:**

[www.jennyheijunwills.com](http://www.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** 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 Alum (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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