



Thistledown Press

Fall 2019

New Titles and Selected Backlist

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An Honest Woman

JoAnn McCaig

Truths about lust and ambition in the life of a woman of a certain age

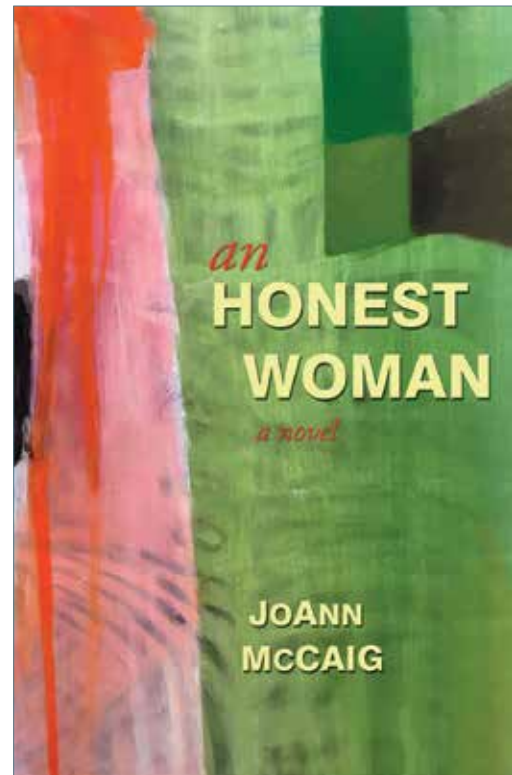
If there ever was a time and place to explore the territory of mature women and their journeys this would be the time. The subjects of sex, passion, confidence in JoAnn McCaig's *An Honest Woman* are beautifully played out against society's stereotypes of women as they age and as they confront the truths of themselves outside the societal frameworks in which they have been boxed.

There are metafictional elements turned loose in this novel. First, there is an intensely self-conscious narrator and second, there are characters who live inside fictional worlds and travel outside those worlds for intense real-life encounters. Their storytelling draws attention to themselves as both living, breathing people but also fleshed-out fictional world characters.

The structure of the novel is complex, layered, and interwoven. There are several narrators, stories within stories, and writers making things up and fantasizing while living real (albeit fictional) lives. There are literary allusions galore and cameo appearances by thinly disguised famous authors. It can all get a little crazy, so McCaig has provided a few support materials: an infographic that maps out the different characters, and relationships and authorships, a fairly detailed table of contents, a few postscripts, and a couple of appendices. Watch for symbols that indicate that the narrator has lapsed into fantasy and for when she returns to her "real" life, such as it is. That said, *An Honest Woman* has enough grounded familiar plot lines to keep a general reader interested and layered ambiguities to keep the well-read interested. While there is some undermining of traditional literary conventions, there is nothing lost in McCaig's exploration of the relationship between literature and life. The novel is humorous, and sometimes really funny; it is also a smart and warm and moving read.



JOANN MCCAIG is a very bookish person, and is the author of a novel, *The Textbook of the Rose*, and of a critical study, *Reading In: Alice Munro's Archives*. She taught university English for many years and now is the co-owner of an independent bookstore in Calgary.



NOVEL

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-178-5

ISBN-10: 1-77187-178-4

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

\$20.00 CAD / \$20.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"
304 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC005000 (Fiction/ Erotica / General)

FIC044000 (Fiction / Women)

THEMA CODES:

FMM - MAGICAL REALISM

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

PUB DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

MARKETING & PROMOTION

LAUNCH

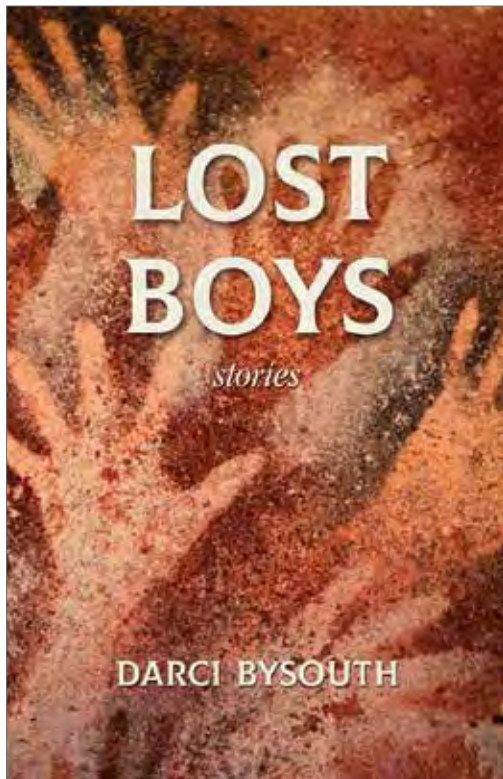
- Calgary, Shelf Life Books

READINGS

- Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon
- Festival Pitches
- Exploring Wordfest Calgary and Saskatchewan Festival of Words

ADVERTISING

- Literary Trade Magazines and Journals
- Canada-wide review copy list



SHORT STORIES

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-175-4

ISBN-10: 1-77187-175-X

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

\$20.00 CAD / \$20.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"
328 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC029000 (Fiction/ Short Stories single author)

FIC019000 (Fiction / Literary)

THEMA CODES:

FYB - Short Stories

FB FICTION - general & literary

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

PUB DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

MARKETING & PROMOTION

LAUNCH

- Black Bear Books in Creston, or Otter Books in Nelson.

READINGS

- Vernon, Kamloops, Kelowna

ADVERTISING

- Literary Trade Magazines
- Canada-wide review copy list

Lost Boys

Darci Bysouth

Stories that embody some kind of loss, especially the masculine ideal gone missing

Each of the (eighteen) stories in Darci Bysouth's debut collection *Lost Boys* documents a world in the process of unravelling, as the inhabitants of these richly drawn narratives face losing what they hold most dear.

The rivalry between two brothers in "Meat" mirrors a nation divided, with bitter consequences. "Cryptodome" sets two sisters' guilty collusions against Mount St. Helens, which is on the brink of eruption. In "Petey", a father realises the ghastly implications of his daughter's all powerful love for him. A teenage girl outgrows her idolized brother in "The Heartbreaks", after a road trip to a seventies rock concert goes awry. A randomly violent incident in "Sacrifice" reveals the treachery within a lonely woman's relationships, while "Hold" gives a grieving widow a glimpse of hope in the supernaturally dark waters of a childhood lake. The title story depicts a sister struggling with her brother's declining mental health, only to question her own grasp of reality.

Bysouth's writing style leans toward the literary and traditional, but it does employ threads of magic realism especially as the characters' react to their loss and grief. These emotional shifts create moods that range from love to horror and from hope to confused absurdity. The story elements, though, remain traditional with accessible plots, varied and unique settings, and well-made characterizations.



DARCI BYSOUTH was raised in the ranchlands of British Columbia, and studied literature at the University of British Columbia and creative writing at the University of Edinburgh. She has been an artist, a naturalist, and a rather tuneless pianist, and has regularly imposed these gifts upon her students during her many years as a teacher. Above all, she is a lifelong reader and writer. Her stories have appeared in *The Antigonish Review*, *The Bridport Prize Anthology*, *New Writing Scotland*, *The Bristol Prize Anthology* and *The Cutthroat Journal of the Arts*.



Corridor Nine

Sophie Stocking

A family suspense story of real purgatories and guiding angels

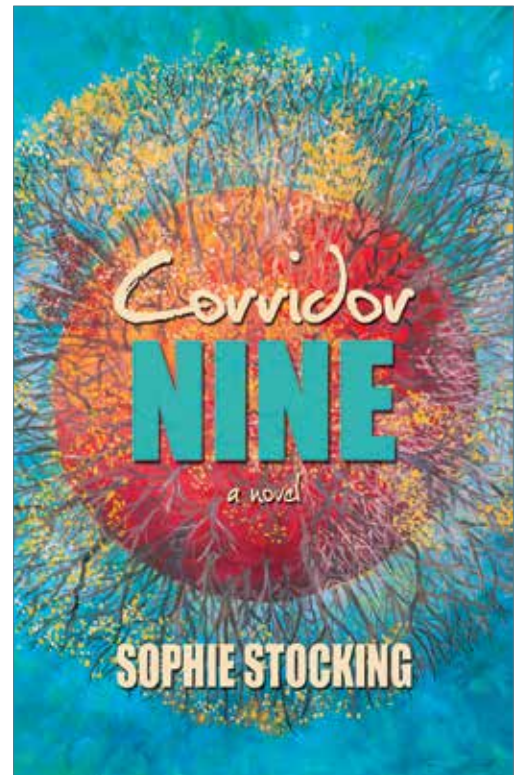
Seven years ago Bernadette Macomber did everything she could to cut her ties to her father Fabian, his opiate addiction, gun collection, and increasingly bizarre behaviour. She moved with her husband and four children, leaving no return address. Now, following his suicide, her father paradoxically makes contact again, and Bernadette finds herself not liberated but tethered to him ever more tightly by the bonds of familial guilt. Desperate for absolution, Bernie returns to her father's home to hunt for evidence of his insanity and to try and understand why suicide became his answer. While she remains driven in her quest to understand the power of the parent/child bond, her father, Fabian, locked into his after-life purgatory, pushes for freedom via any available loophole through the punishing bureaucracy of personal evolution. While exploring his options, he encounters his jailor, the demon/angel Bune in the afterlife space of Corridor Nine.

The colliding events trigger a complicated set of mysteries: there is the planet at the centre of Bune's "master plan" diagram and the puzzle of its eventual connection to Bernadette's painting; there is the addiction artifact that Bune pulls out of Fabian's chest, and a host of other symbols and rites such as a blastosphere and embryo division all revealed while Fabian wanders the constant maze of Corridor Nine. On planet Earth Bernadette continues obsessively in her need to solve the mystery of her father's death and his continued contact with one question guiding her: how can she achieve a father and daughter reunion that will bring them both peace and liberty?



Burdened by the notion that a career should encompass everything, Sophie Stocking changed her major so often she narrowly escaped a degree in General Studies. Chapters in social work, architecture, and motherhood followed. She finally noticed that she'd always been writing, and as for encompassing everything, writing fit the bill. From there she found the courage to pursue fiction at the Alexandra Writers Centre and went on to study with Aritha van Herk at the University of Calgary.

Corridor Nine is her debut novel.



NOVEL

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-181-5

ISBN-10: 1-77187-181-4

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

\$20.00 CAD / \$20.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

320 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC031070 (Fiction / Thrillers / Supernatural)

FIC033000 (Fiction & Relationships / Parenting)

THEMA CODES:

FBA - Modern & Contemporary Fiction

FH - Thriller / Suspense Fiction

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

PUB DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

MARKETING & PROMOTION

LAUNCH

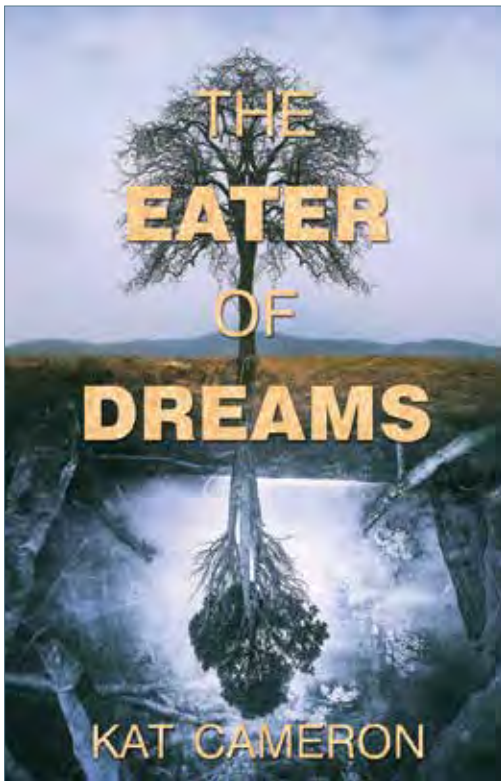
- Calgary's Owls Nest or Shelf Life

READINGS

- TBA

ADVERTISING

- Literary Trade Magazines
- Canada-wide review copy list



SHORT STORIES

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-184-6

ISBN-10: 1-77187-184-9

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

\$20.00 CAD / \$20.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"
304 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC029000 (Fiction/ Short Stories single author)

FIC019000 (Fiction / Literary)

THEMA CODES:

FYB - Short stories

FB - Fiction, general & Literary

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

PUB DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

MARKETING & PROMOTION

LAUNCH

- Edmonton: Audreys Books

READINGS

- Olive Reading series. Concordia University of Edmonton (fall 2019)
- Saskatoon, Toronto
- Vancouver, Growing Room Festival

ADVERTISING

- Literary Trade vehicles
- Canada-wide review copy list send-out

The Eater of Dreams

Kat Cameron

Inter-related stories about women's psyche and dreams

The past haunts the characters in *The Eater of Dreams*. In fifteen interconnected stories, Kat Cameron's vivid characters — teachers, singers, writers, and misfits — examine the inner fractures in their lives. A woman muses about her miscarried child while watching a friend's daughter play; an opera singer in Edmonton is stalked by an abusive ex-lover; a student's story of bullying reminds a woman of her own childhood traumas; a woman cuts out the heart of a faithless man; the ghost of Lafcadio Hearn haunts the bedroom of a grieving teacher in Japan.

The title for the collection is taken from a Japanese folktale about the baku, a mythological creature that eats nightmares, and her tales pulsate with this energy. In the darkest moments of her characters, they find or discover the energy they need to survive, but not without breaking down the surface to see clearly who they really are. Her portraits bear witness to the longing, yearning, unspoken desire of her characters' dreams and to the uncertainty and contemplation of their lives in the flux of travel and change. *The Eater of Dreams* is at once contemporary but also ancient in its probing; it is a collection that blurs the borders between realism and the magic that lies outside it.



KAT CAMERON was born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. She has an MA in Creative Writing from the University of New Brunswick and has worked for two years as an ESL teacher in Japan. Her debut collection of poetry, *Strange Labyrinth*, was published by Oolichan Books in 2015. Her fiction, poetry, and book reviews have appeared in over fifty journals and anthologies in Canada and the United States, including *The Antigoniish Review*, *Canadian Literature*, *Descant*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Forage*, *Grain*, *Literary Review of Canada*, *NonBinary Review*, *Paperplates*, *Prairie Fire*, *PRISM international*, *The New Quarterly*, *Room*, *subTerrain*, *40 Below: Volume 2*, and *Beyond Forgetting: Celebrating 100 Years of Al Purdy*. Her poems have been shortlisted for the *Malahat Review's* Far Horizons Award for Poetry and *FreeFall's* Prose and Poetry contest. She teaches English literature and writing at Concordia University of Edmonton.



Travellers May Still Return

Michael Kenyon

Travellers are usually in search of meaning, and whether they will or can return is never completely certain.

Jesse Green, the young narrator of the first novella, wants to escape the developed world (Vancouver) and with her boyfriend takes a meandering trip down to Panama, the land bridge to South America. The central short story has an ambiguous setting and period, and is about the loss of a child. Charles Darwin, hero of the closing novella, whose historical namesake found his life work's inspiration in South America, finds his inspiration in studying village life. The collection takes its visual form (novella-story-novella) from the shape of the Americas, North and South, and its psychological trajectory is from the present "daylight" world to the collective unconscious or archetypal. Carl Jung looms in the background and a fictionalized Charles Darwin dominates proceedings.

The collection's obsessions are Darwinian diversity read into human inner life; what happens when diversity is lost to homogeneity? That is, what happens when we do not accept parts of ourselves; what happens when genre and classification engulf "freedom" and spirit. New storytelling requires diversity within mind underwritten by the implicit paradoxes of the unconscious. These characters' journeys are as much into the psyche as into the world. Kenyon's people often find outer form in their lives through inner exploration and vice versa. This book is full of expressions of escape and commitment, knowledge and acts, introversion and extroversion, feminine and masculine.



MICHAEL KENYON is the author of four books of poetry, seven of fiction, and four chapbooks. *The Beautiful Children* won the 2010 ReLit Award for best novel. Other work has been shortlisted for the ReLit Award, the Commonwealth Writers Prize, the SmithBooks/Books in Canada First Novel Award, the Baxter Hathaway Prize (Cornell) in fiction, The *Malahat Review* Novella Prize, *Prism international's* fiction contest (won twice), the Journey Prize, and the National and Western Magazine Awards. His work is concerned with form and style, but always strives to get in touch with the deepest human moments. Kenyon lives in Victoria, BC.



Recent Publications:



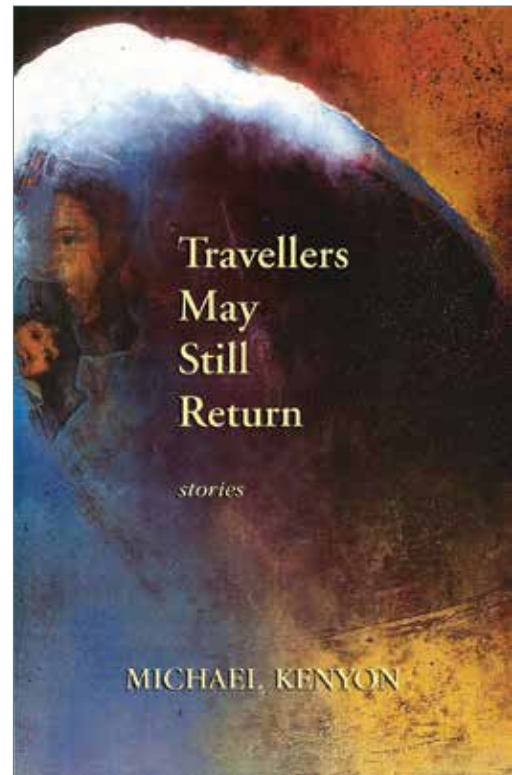
A Year at River Mountain
978-1-927068-04-5



Parallel Rivers
978-1-927068-82-3



9 781771 871877



SHORT STORIES

ISBN-13: 978-1-77187-187-7

ISBN-10: 1-77187-187-3

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

\$20.00 CAD / \$20.00 USD / 5.5" X 8.5"

344 PAGES / TRADE PAPER

BISACS:

FIC039000 (Fiction / Visionary & Metaphysical)

FIC 025000 (Fiction / Psychological)

THEMA CODES:

FMM - MAGIC REALISM

SHIP DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

PUB DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

MARKETING & PROMOTION

LAUNCH

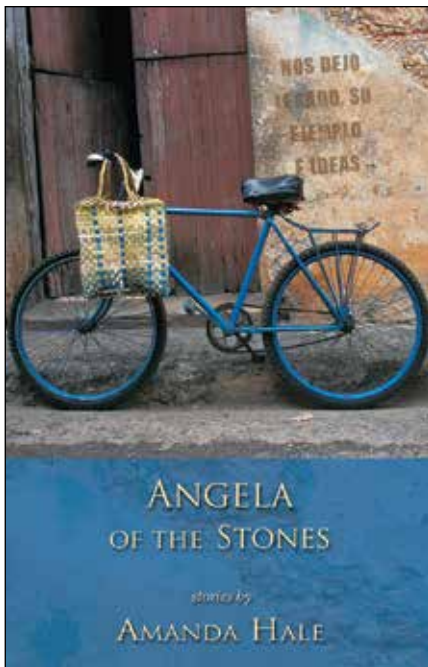
•Victoria, BC

READINGS

- Vancouver; Vernon; Duncan; Nanaimo
- Vancouver Writers Festival.
- The Victoria Festival of Authors

ADVERTISING

- Literary Trade magazines
- Canada-wide review copy list



Angela of the Stones

Amanda Hale

SHORT STORIES

978-1-77187-165-5 | \$19.95 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

On Cuba's southeastern shore in the town of Baracoa everyone knows everyone else's business. People love to gossip, be it over coffee, on street corners, or walking along the seawall. But within the community's closeness is the weight of Cuba's past and the economic travails that give her characters a profound vulnerability and beauty. Though our circumstances may be worlds apart their stories are not so different from our own but, somehow, on Baracoa's vibrant streets they become more than stories; they become the poetry of place and politics.

"These sharp-but-tender stories are flash bulletins that illuminate dubious news reports and naïve tourist-tales. Only a writer intimately engaged and deeply curious can make an art out of hunting down the easy stereotypes of Cuba and its people." — Cornelia Hoogland, poet, author of *Trailer Park Elegy* and *Woods Wolf Girl*

Thorn-Field

James Trettwer

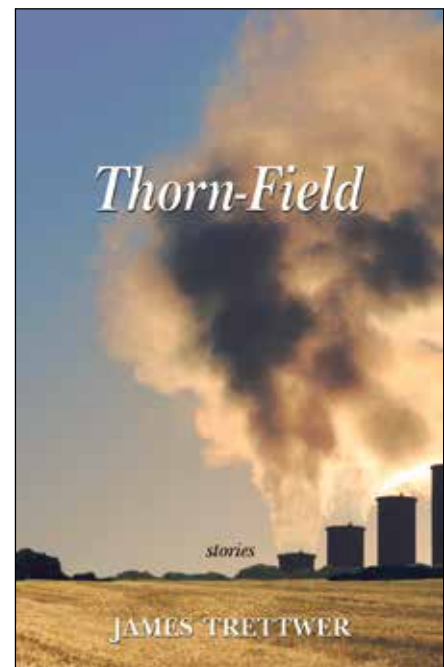
SHORT STORIES

978-1-77187-170-9 | \$19.95 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

In James Trettwer's *Thorn-Field*, the denizens of Liverwood and its potash corporation are not unique but are living authentic lives. While the townspeople may be passed by with little more than a glance by those travelling on the highway, the microcosm of the town is pulsating with all the idiosyncrasies and peculiarities that make life both interesting and plausible. Under the shadow of the main employer, the potash mine — a place that can kill and leave orphans vulnerable, the corporation's tendrils are thick and invasive in the dreams of the young — the mine that pays for cardboard coffins and peoples' mortgages. As its four-rotor boring machines rumble deep under the earth, Liverwood's town and corporate office embrace their rhythm. The young and old, the fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters thread their way through the thorn-fields of their relationships which are complicated by addictions and obsessions, by cravings and suspicions, and by the desire to leave or stay.

"The characters in these linked stories don't like the universe they're in. With dramatic flair and gutsy dialogue, James Trettwer exposes their subterranean reality and their daily struggles against disappointment, pain, addiction and loneliness, and towards hope. *Thorn-Field* is a thoughtful, compassionate, accomplished debut." — Connie Gault, award winning author of *A Beauty*



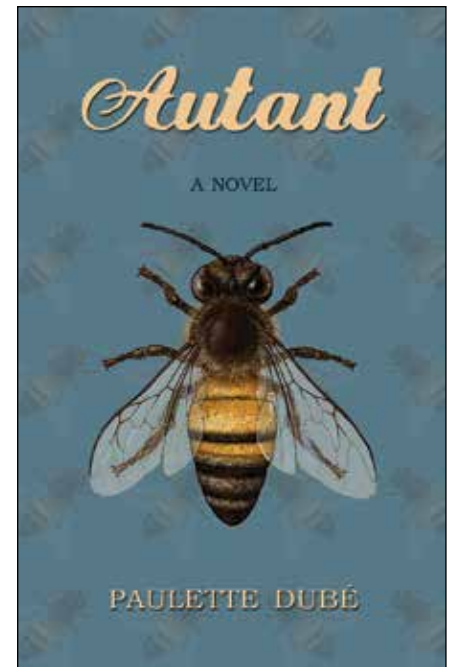
Autant

Paulette Dubé

NOVEL

978-1-77187-156-3 | \$19.95 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK



“Dubé has written a fearless novel that stands easily alongside Marian Engel’s *Bear*, or Sheila Watson’s *The Double Hook*, and has all the playfulness of Timothy Findley’s *Not Wanted on the Voyage*. As if this isn’t enough, she moves effortlessly in the realm of Gabriel García Márquez’s magic realism.”

— Thomas Trofimuk, author of *This is All a Lie* and *Waiting for Columbus*

“Paulette Dubé commands a complex narrative that gives us rare, poetic glimpses of the daily life of a Franco-Alberta family in small town Alberta south of Peace River country . . . This is a story that will shock you and mystify you but above all will keep you reading to the very end.”

— Robert Hilles, author of *A Gradual Ruin*, *Line*, and *Little Pink Houses*

“In *Autant* the spirit world hovers as close to the Garance family as the bees they keep on their northern Alberta farm. The spirits can’t help but fall a little in love with the flesh and blood people who inhabit this gorgeous, heartbreaking novel. I know I did.” — Thomas Wharton, author of *Icefields*

The Things She'll Be Leaving Behind

Vanessa Farnsworth

SHORT STORIES

978-1-77187-157-0 | \$19.95 CAD

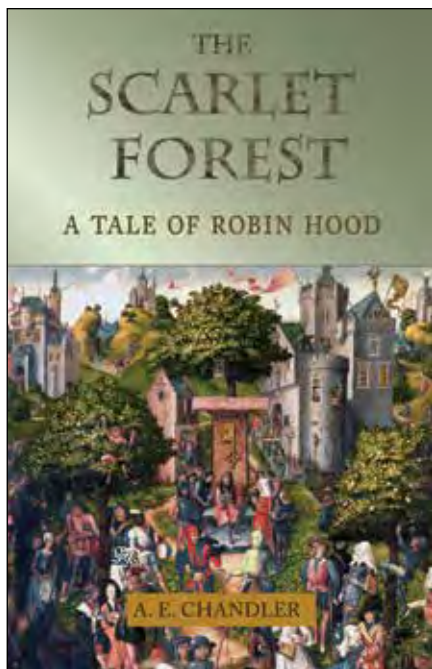
AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

The women in *The Things She'll Be Leaving Behind* have nothing in common except that they all find themselves trying to find their footings, preserve their sanity, and just generally survive in circumstances they never thought they would encounter. They don't always do it gracefully. Occasionally alcohol or firearms are involved. Just like in real life.

These women go toe-to-toe with chronic liars, dead grandfathers, beleaguered sons, mysterious voices, unfaithful husbands, midnight callers, spiteful sisters, and hallucinated clowns. Husbands go crazy or wayward or missing. Life hits walls and somersaults and does breathless, tactless things. And always it must be dealt with even when the means to do so seem to be entirely absent.

Filled with burnt-at-the-edges dialogue, contemporary humour, and compelling pacing, the stories in *The Things She'll Be Leaving Behind* are inventive, energetic and thoroughly original.

“Though Farnsworth’s stories aren’t always the most accessible, they remind us that the purpose of fiction is not always to entertain but occasionally to confound expectations, provoke discomfort, or probe the various folds of the unknown.” — Stacey Madden, *Quill & Quire*



The Scarlet Forest: A Tale of Robin Hood

A. E. Chandler

NOVEL

978-1-77187-138-9 | \$19.95 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

You are invited underneath the great greenwood tree to hear how a young man became a hero, and a hero became a legend. When Robin takes a shortcut through Sherwood Forest, the path he chooses leads not to Nottingham's archery contest, but to a life on the run from the law. Unable now to become a knight, and joined by his childhood friends, Robin Hood leads the most infamous outlaw band ever to evade the king and his sheriff.

Blending true history with new stories, popular inaccuracies, and some medieval legends, *The Scarlet Forest* brings a new life to the greenwood, which here feels as fresh as it does traditional. With an academic background in medieval English studies, Chandler captivates with this unique and nuanced reinterpretation of Robin Hood's struggles and adventures. The forest is waiting.

"Each chapter is an episode of an adventure of Robin Hood and his merry men, and reading it felt like I was being told a story while sitting under the stars by the fire . . . This is a wonderful read."

— Janice Ottersberg, *Historical Novel Society*

Glass Beads

Dawn Dumont

SHORT FICTION

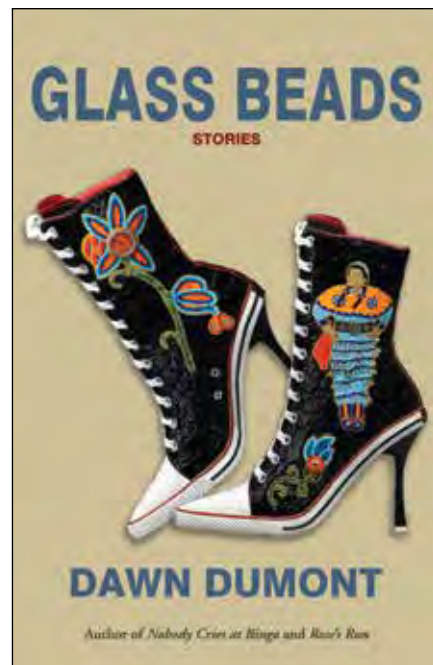
978-1-77187-126-6 | \$20.00 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

"*Glass Beads* is deeply political but never ideological. Its characters are full and complex. Like Catherine Hernandez's recently released novel, *Scarborough*, this book tells the stories of people vastly underrepresented in CanLit." — J.C. Sutcliffe, *Quill & Quire*

"Dumont balances characters off one another, offering a range of experiences as the four navigate 15 years through education, ceremony, politics, work, violence and love. Comparable to the complexity of Richard Van Camp's work, *Glass Beads* is a compelling representation of urban Indigenous life." — Jade Colbert, *The Globe and Mail*

- Nominated for the 25th Saskatchewan Book Awards for the Regina Public Library Book of the Year Award, the Muslims for Peace and Justice Fiction Award, the Rasmussen, Rasmussen & Charowsky Indigenous Peoples' Writing Award, and the Rasmussen, Rasmussen & Charowsky Indigenous Peoples' Writing Award



A Matins Flywheel

John Lent

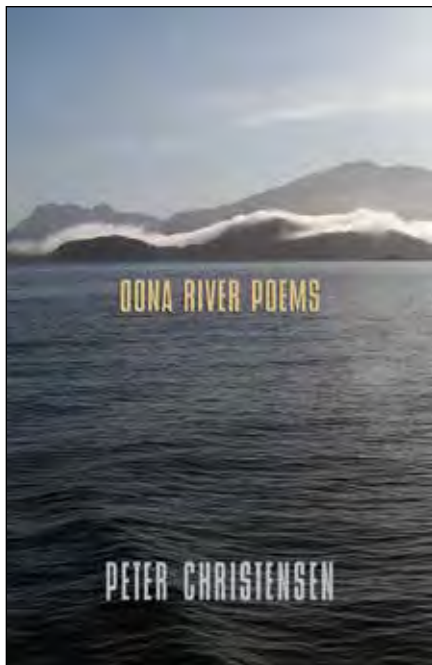
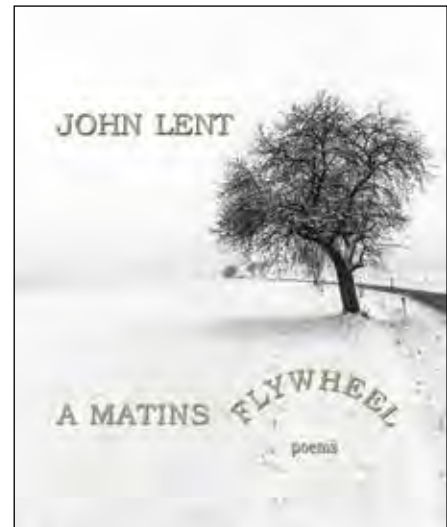
POETRY

978-1-77187-191-4

96 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

“All the glittering, hilarious muck of grace — that’s what’s here: all of the doggy and sun-edged textures of grace. John Lent’s *A Matins Flywheel* is a book of exquisite meditations that makes up an entire world—you just go into it, you wander around inside, and you are changed utterly by its rainy, profound, dazzling days and nights.”
— Jake Kennedy, author of *Hazard*, *The Lateral*, and *Merz Structure No. 2: Burnt by Children at Play*.

“*A Matins Flywheel* — a bibliography of the saints of poetry, literature, and music; a late-life and very personal “defence” of the living truths of art; an awesome sanctus for the beauty of the world — is John Lent’s finest and most important testament. From the complicated standpoint of someone given a “second chance” after a near-fatal heart attack and in his tenderness toward the health concerns of his beloved wife Jude, Lent actively proposes in this gorgeous text that his subject, as Patti Smith says of her own in *M Train*, is “life.” This is one of the most heartening books I’ve read in years. It is also a serious reckoning we should all take note of and be inspired by.” — Sharon Thesen



Oona River Poems

Peter Christensen

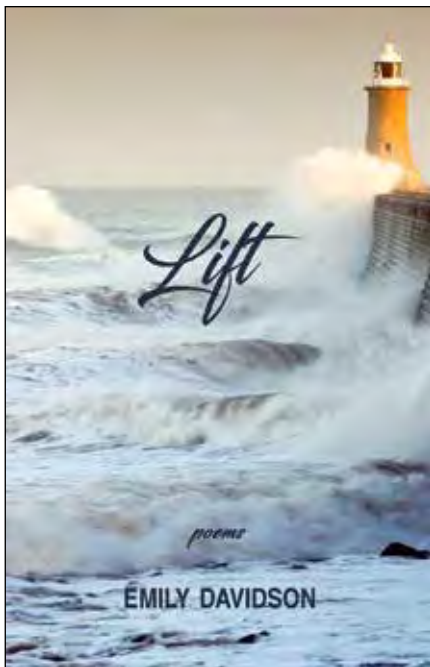
POETRY

978-1-77187-190-7

112 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

This collection of poems is bigger than the idea of a poet turned loose in the natural world because Peter Christensen intends the work to be also an antidote to the plethora of information, propaganda, and opinion with which we are confronted every day. His poetry is a vehicle to tell stories, to juxtapose ideas and images that share insight into human and natural affairs. He acts as a guide to the inner self and as a chronicler of the collision of nature, and human emotion and action.

Christensen juggled his literary writing career with his passion for exploring wilderness mountain areas of Alberta, BC, and Yukon. He worked as a guide, ranch hand, and park ranger. As a result, his literary career is diverse; his relationship with the natural world became his muse and is reflected in this collection. He lived in Oona River in the years it took him to write this collection.



Lift

Emily Davidson

POETRY

978-1-77187-192-1

64 PAGES | \$12.95 CAD

“Whether on the West Coast or the East, Emily Davidson is an urban *flâneuse*. Vancouver — in its bridges, bistros, and condos — is a “yellow spill of the fantastic,” and her home ground, Saint John, a tumultuous city of wharves and vaulted markets, of builders and workers. The street life of coastal cities comes alive in her brilliant imagery and startling metaphors. A persuasive new voice in Canadian poetry, Davidson compels us to walk and watch with her.” — Anne Compton, Governor General’s Literary Award for Poetry

“Grounded as they are in place as being, the poems in Emily Davidson’s *Lift* cause the everyday to break and spill into wonder, longing, and grief. A child’s chant, a bird’s song become incantations. Davidson writes in language “skinned and glistening,” and it is in the pauses between words that she creates spaces “made tall enough for god to fit.” — Rhea Tregobov, author of *All Souls*’

Snow Melts First in the Middle of the Slough

Catherine J. Stewart

POETRY

978-1-77187-194-5

64 PAGES | \$12.95 CAD

“Catherine Stewart is a superb guide to the Columbia River valley, as it was and is. Her view is a long one. From creatures alive 500 million years ago whose “last breath is mud,” moving through layers of ancestors with “always the pull of the river in their bones,” her book is a sinewy, rich, topophilic honouring of place and past.” — Tim Lillburn

“Catherine Stewart’s *Snow Melts First in the Middle of the Slough* is a work bent on etching its place and time into the muck and mire of your mind, carving out a space there so you might forget these poems are not your memories. Much like the snowbound fence post in the ghazal that loans the work its title, Stewart’s first book is a surprising old friend waiting to greet you. I suggest you wave back as it doffs its white hat to the wind.” — George Murray



This Hole Called January

Paula Jane Remlinger

POETRY

978-1-77187-193-8

64 PAGES | \$12.95 CAD

Remlinger writes of the beginning and end of things, the balance between life and death, and the spaces we live between. With humour and elegance, these poems will speak to everyone who has felt the dark days of winter closing in, physically and metaphorically.

“How small this world, how like a pyrite vein / in gold-panned rock this moment gleams.’ In line after line, with ‘their fire-bang whiff of cap guns / and smoke,’ can be found everything we need to know of life. The business of living, with a seasoning of snow.”— Susan Musgrave, author of *Origami Dove*

Five Red Sentries

Raye Hendrickson

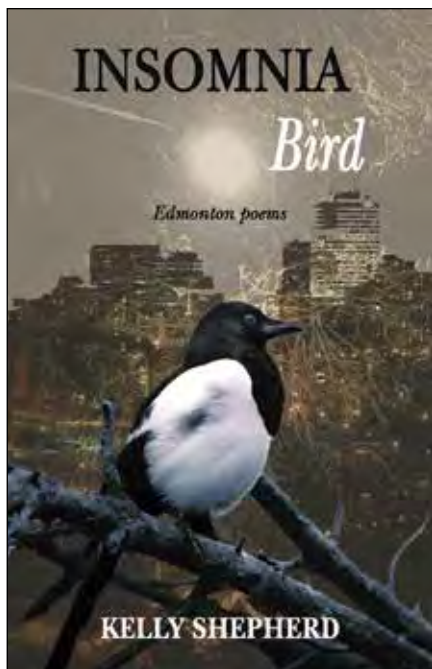
POETRY

978-1-77187-195-2

64 PAGES | \$12.95 CAD

“These are poems of keen observation, of questioning steeped in wisdom, of vulnerability arriving at strength. *Five Red Sentries* watches over loss and transforms it into understanding.” — Barbara Klar, author of *Cypress*

“Drawing on astronomy, nature and the body, Raye Hendrickson dazzles the reader with images of stars and flowers, stones and chakras in words that rearrange our way of perceiving the world and make us experience love and what it is to be alive with new eyes. In poems close to the earth and never far from memory of the prairie farm, the minimalist words spin you under to rise again in a dance of life filled with epiphanies.” — Gillian Harding-Russell, author of *In Another Air*



Insomnia Bird

Kelly Shepherd

978-1-77187-169-3

112 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

“Kelly Shepherd’s *Insomnia Bird* graces the landscapes of northern Alberta with its lively and brilliant poetic attention, its awesome skill and revelatory, democratic sweep. Edmonton’s blandishments are documented in various locations, from the No. 9 bus to Syncrude work camps, from homeless shelters to the nests of magpies, in a series of long poems that chart the obliterations by civic and corporate interests of tender, invisible, and sacred geographies.” — Sharon Thesen

“At the pavement-leaf interface, Kelly Shepherd brings us a cacophonous poetic mapping and catalogue of prairie-urban lip and tongue, wearing a bright safety vest, digging a (w)hole. *Insomnia Bird* is a raucous flap where the idioms of magpie (there are several) tickle the wingless sentences of parking mandates and social planners. It’s a loving uproar, it’s all Edmonton, and fun!” — Erin Mouré

For the Changing Moon: poems and songs

Anna Marie Sewell

978-1-77187-168-6

96 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

At a time of cultural change for Indigenous people that feels relentlessly tidal and epochal, *For the Changing Moon: Poems and Songs* records the ebb and flow of what it is to live here and now in Canada, as a woman, an Indigenous woman, a culturally mixed woman, a daughter, a mother, a peace-seeker, and a warrior.

Anna Marie Sewell’s poems court performance as they incorporate the energy of slam and employ the beat structures of chant. They encourage us to enter their spells and incantations always built with an ear for sound and with an eye for images of dream and wonder. Her invite and challenge is clear: “Come lovers of language, seekers of change, moon-mad prophets, come.

“Anna Marie Sewell’s poems help us remember inner knowing. When read aloud, body memory kicks in and a re-awakening occurs, like an unearthing of wisdom we didn’t know was buried. She paints events from unapologetically Indigenous perspectives, disguised as innocent lyrics, enthusiastically unpretentious, timely and current.”

— Janet Rogers, Victoria Poet Laureate 2012-14



Matronalia

A. B. Dillon

POETRY

978-1-77187-153-2

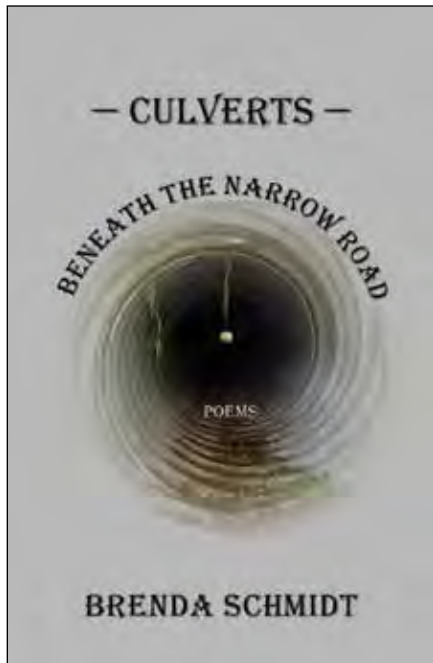
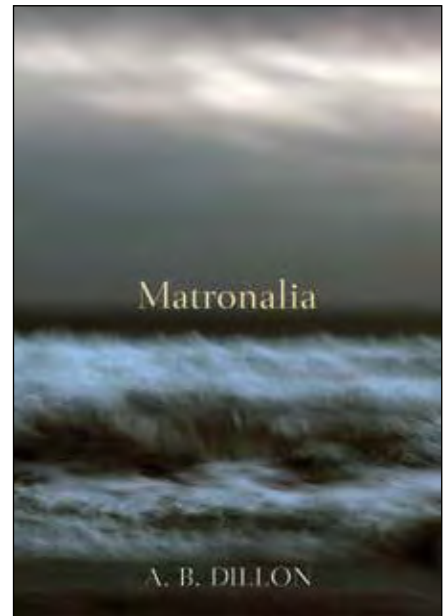
152 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

A mother offers fierce counsel to her daughter to atone for a festering secret. Personal and congenital mythologies reticulate like Celtic knot work, revealing in fragments what she has tried in vain to suppress — a malaise of the heart and a hereditary disease, eased only in confessing its pathology to her daughter.

In their tone and vivid imagery, as well as emotional precision, these poems are reminiscent of the mother poems of Sharon Olds and Sylvia Plath, with the grieving defiance of Gwendolyn Brooks. Uniquely, Angela Dillon locates this specific mother's tribulations in an ancestral context: the pains, joys, and failures are not only of her time but also of every time before.

"[*Matronalia*] is extraordinary. I want to send it to my daughter. I want to send it to every mother in the world. It broke my heart, and opened my heart. I haven't read anything in years that has affected me this much."

— Susan Musgrave

Culverts Beneath the Narrow Road

Brenda Schmidt

POETRY

978-1-77187-154-9

80 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

Culverts first called to Brenda Schmidt's imagination when she was a child. In and around their steel dark openings she played and took risks. In the daring poetry and prose of *Culverts Beneath the Narrow Road*, the risk-taking continues. In her journeys, she asked people from all walks of life — construction workers, farmers, biologists, writers, musicians — about their culvert stories. Their recollections brought to light her own, giving another sense of the connections we share and the way stories emerge and flow.

By using various poetic forms as well as essay, Schmidt is able to examine these stories and make connections through images, and to stretch and bend the quotes from her research into new visual representations of the source phrases.



nipê wânîn: my way back

Mika Lafond

POETRY

978-1-77187-129-7

184 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

From grandmother's stories comes a book of poems exploring the relationships and experience of a Cree woman. *nipê wânîn: my way back* is a poetic journey of one woman discovering her heritage and how it has shaped her. Moving between Lafond's own Cree language and her adopted English language, the poems create a kind of cultural dialogue, on facing pages, that invests heavily in the close relationship she had with her grandmother and the teachings that were offered to her.

“What adds significantly to Lafond's collection is the Cree translation of all her poems on each facing page. Even if you can't read Cree, to see the words lined up across from the English, and to see Lafond use Cree, untranslated, in some of her English versions, is to feel the home about which she so strongly speaks. The land and the spirit are in the language. The pairing of languages is a gift to the reader.” — *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*

- ♦ *Nominated for the 25th Saskatchewan Book Award for the City of Saskatoon and Public Library Saskatoon Book Award*
- ♦ *Winner of the Indigenous Literary Studios Association Award for Most Significant Book in an Alternate Format*

Cartograph

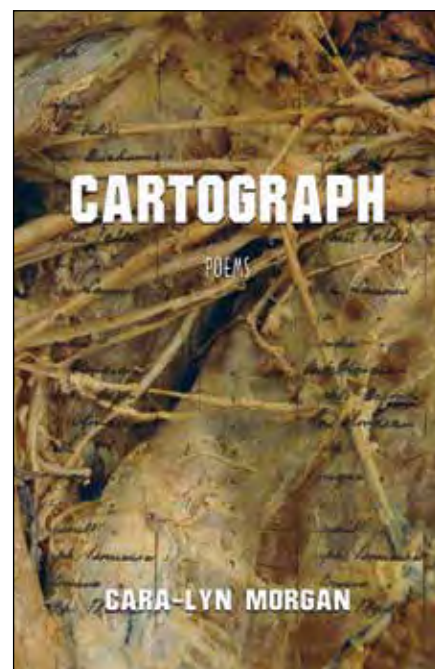
Cara-Lyn Morgan

POETRY

978-1-77187-151-8

184 PAGES | \$20.00 CAD

From accidental injury to the deeply imbued wounds of colonization, these are poems of a woman's healing journey. Cara-Lyn Morgan metaphorically maps out the process of recovery within her own body and the landscapes around her, reclaiming the art of cartography from its colonial imposition of borders and railway lines on traditional lands. Her words create new maps and revisit the ancient ones: Vancouver Island, Georgian Bay, and the prairies all become “a merle of blackbirds,” “wayward unsettling of red lilies after the thunderstorm,” and “soil and sweat, sunlight and crop.” She finds the medicine in each of her different voices: Métis, Trinidadian, and stretchy-pant-wearing yoga lover. In *Cartograph* she braids together these voices like sweetgrass. Within their woven map, we meet Cara-Lyn Morgan.



Rank 6: Firestorm

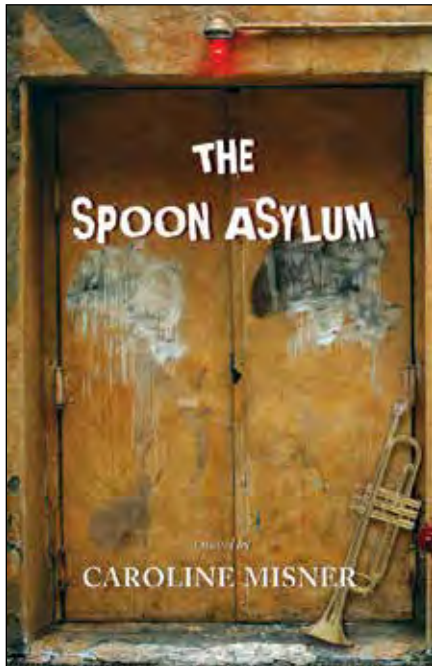
Barry McDivitt

NOVEL

978-1-77187-162-4 | \$15.95 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

As the large Rank 6 forest fire rages ever closer to civilization, fear and panic begin to set in when people witness its destructive power. Emily knows something about that. Her struggles with depression and her own suicidal thoughts have recently brought her face to face with death. As she rashly races into the danger to rescue a panic-stricken dog, she wonders what makes her so recklessly impulsive. Is it the seduction of the fire's awesome power, or her identification with the dog's vulnerability and helplessness? Her actions are spontaneous and thoughtlessly bold at first, but once cut off from the safety of the firefighters and alone in the fiery inferno, Emily begins to see that her actions could kill her. She realizes that she wants to live and that the dark struggles and personal battles of her life may be her redemption.



The Spoon Asylum

Caroline Misner

NOVEL

978-1-77187-147-1 | \$15.95 CAD

AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK

It is the summer of 1933 and young Haven Cattrell, seeking work, finds himself abandoned in the small northern Ontario town of Davisville. At an exclusive summer camp for girls he befriends Wetherby Moss and his son Jude who introduce him to the joys and heartaches of jazz.

Jazz had taken a hard blow during the first half of the 1930s. Although there was still work to be had for some in places like New York, musicians in other parts of the country were barely existing on what venues remained. Wetherby and Jude had come from that reality and, as Haven mastered the jazz trumpet, he learns the horrifying truth about why Wetherby, his mentor, had to flee his home in Detroit and find sanctuary with his son among the unique subculture of rural Northern Ontario.

But Haven's story is bigger than his love of jazz. It is the story of the racism that haunted black jazz musicians in the 30s, and how that racism found its way to Davisville. It is the story of how love can blind young men and save them from themselves, and it is the story of how important it is to dream when the chaos and hard times around you want to drag you down.

“Misner crafts this story with dialogue that is chock-full of wit and intellect. Despite its heavy topics, it is a book that made me laugh out loud on several occasions. . . . *The Spoon Asylum* is Canadian historical fiction at its finest and a beautifully crafted story from start to finish.

— *SaskBooks Reviews*

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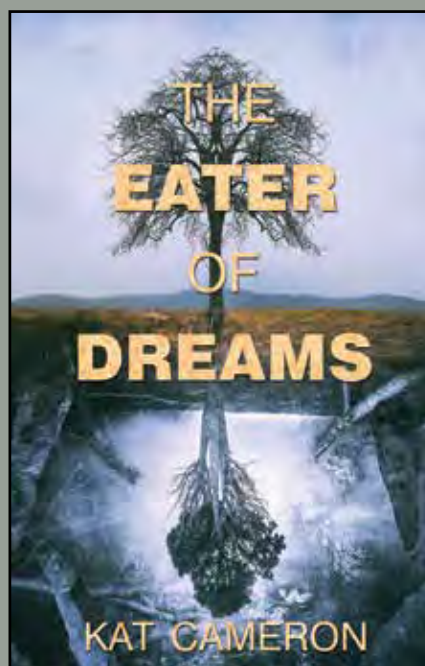
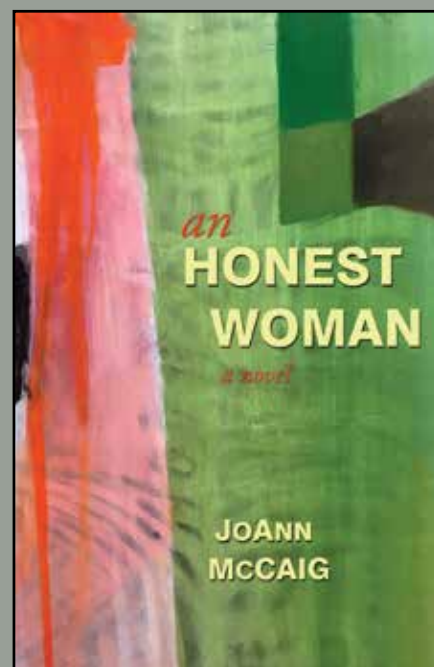
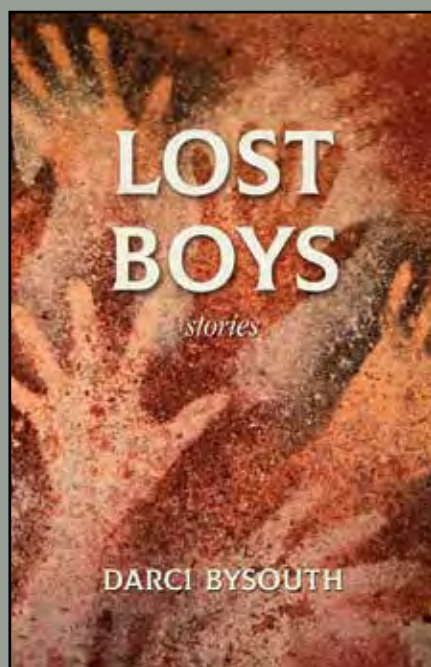
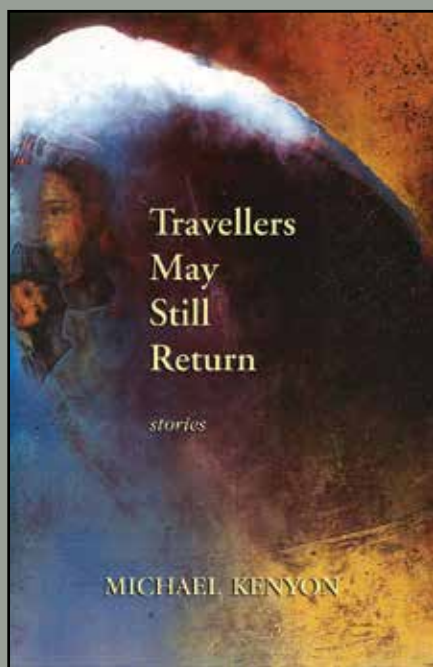
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