



FREEHAND
BOOKS
SPRING
2019



Message from the publisher

Freehand Books has always put quality ahead of quantity. We only publish four to six titles a year, but each one is carefully curated and produced with the highest standards. In 2018, our books were recognized with a number of awards and we were truly honoured that they stood out among the thousands published in Canada. There was a Freehand book on the shortlist for the prestigious Amazon Canada First Novel Award. This is the third year in a row one of our books has been selected. We won both Trade Fiction Book of the Year AND Trade Non-Fiction Book of the Year at the Alberta Book Publishing Awards. And, to top it off, we were up for a 2018 Governor General's Literary Award for Non-Fiction. We couldn't be more proud of the little list that has done such big things.

In 2019, we are excited to release an innovative piece of fiction: *The Student*, by Cary Fagan, offers a portrait of a life in two snapshots, illustrating how we are shaped by—and can eventually overcome—the constraints of the times we occupy.

We are also looking forward to releasing our very first self-help book. *Seizure the Day: Living a Happy Life with Illness* is an accessible, science-based guide that will help people with chronic health challenges live a measurably happier life. While the genre may be new to Freehand, the themes are familiar and in line with some of the books we've been most proud to publish in the past.

Freehand Books turned ten years old this year. Over the next decade, we plan to continue publishing books that will surely delight, inspire, challenge and amaze you, our readers. Thanks for coming along on the ride.

ANNA BOYAR

Interim Managing Editor, Freehand Books

MAY 2019

A portrait of a life in two snapshots: 1957, 2005.

LATE SUMMER – AUTUMN, 1957: Miriam Moscovitz is starting her final year of university with unwavering ambition. She is a serious and passionate student of literature who studies hard, dates a young Jewish man with a good job, and is the apple of her father's eye and the worry of her mother's. But then, in a single moment, her dreams crumble around her. Unsure of how to break a path for herself, she begins a reckless affair with an American student obsessed with the civil rights clashes in the south. When the young man abandons her to join the movement back home, Miriam gets on a bus to follow him, no longer sure of anything in her life.

AUGUST 21, 2005: It is the morning of Miriam's son's wedding (a newly-legal, same-sex marriage). She climbs the stairs to her study to look at a book she had carried with her forty-eight years earlier. In the days before, she had deciphered every word of marginalia in her young, minuscule handwriting. It had been familiar and strange, embarrassing and exhilarating, and she had wondered what the young person who had written all these words had to do with the old woman who read them now.

The Student is a compassionate and compelling work of fiction that brings together two pivotal times in history. With its innovative structure, masterful prose, and intelligently crafted characters, this book illustrates how we are shaped by — and can eventually overcome — the constraints of the times we occupy.

CARY FAGAN is the author of six novels and three story collections for adults, as well as many award-winning books for children. His books include *A Bird's Eye* (finalist for the Rogers Trust Fiction Prize, an Amazon.ca Best Book of the Year) and the story collection *My Life Among the Apes* (longlisted for the Giller Prize, Amazon.ca Best 100 Books of 2013). Cary was born and raised in Toronto, where he lives with his family.

The Student Cary Fagan

ISBN 978-1-988298-44-3

\$21.95 CDN

5 x 8 PAPERBACK

192 PAGES

(Canadian rights)

FIC019000 FICTION/LITERARY

FIC044000 FICTION/WOMEN

FIC046000 FICTION/JEWISH



JANUARY 2019

This guide to being happy while living with chronic illnesses and conditions is grounded in scientific research

When philosophy professor Brian Orend began having debilitating seizures that his doctors couldn't explain, he set out to learn how he could be happier, despite his challenging circumstances. As he dove into books and research on happiness, he realized that most of the advice about happiness was aimed at "everyone" — failing to take into consideration the unique circumstances and challenges faced by those with chronic illnesses and conditions.

Grounded in the latest scientific research, *Seizure the Day* is specifically written for those experiencing ongoing health challenges. It's a smart, accessible guide that provides not only a satisfying look into what happiness is, but also practical, hands-on steps for living a happier life. As *Seizure the Day* demonstrates, people confronting challenging circumstances can make themselves measurably and sustainably happier. A better life, for each of us, awaits.

BRIAN OREND is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Waterloo in Canada. He is the author of six books, including *The Morality of War*, one of the most widely-used books on the ethics of war and peace. He is best-known for his work on human rights and post-war justice. His Ph.D. is from Columbia University in New York City, and he has been Distinguished Visiting Professor of Human Rights at Lund University in Sweden. He has lectured around the world and around the web, and has epilepsy owing to a brain tumour, which has motivated his researches into happiness.

Living a Happy Life with Illness

Seizure the Day

BRIAN OREND

ISBN 978-1-988298-41-2

\$22.95 CDN/US

5.5 × 8.5 PAPERBACK

416 PAGES

(World rights)

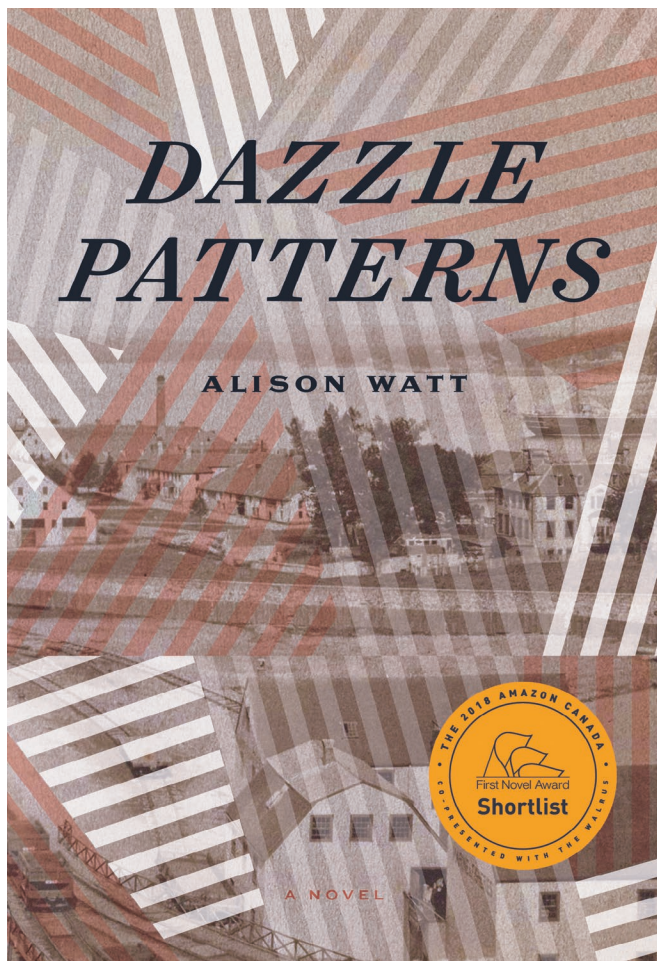
SEL016000 SELF-HELP/PERSONAL GROWTH/HAPPINESS

HEA039000 HEALTH & FITNESS/DISEASES/GENERAL

PHI000000 PHILOSOPHY/GENERAL



RECENT AWARDS

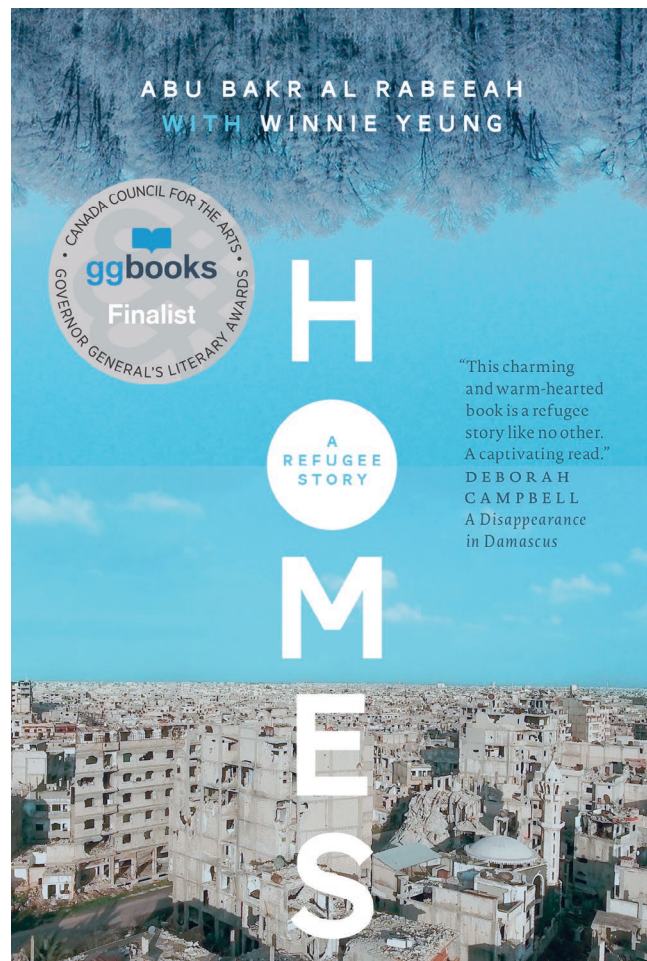


ISBN 978-1-988298-18-4 \$21.95 CDN/US

- ★ Winner of the 2018 Alberta Trade Fiction Book of the Year Award
- ★ Shortlisted for the 2018 Amazon Canada First Novel Award

Beginning the day of the devastating Halifax Explosion of 1917, *Dazzle Patterns* is an unforgettable story about resilience, the power of art, and the casualties of war.

"This is the most honest depiction of recovery I have ever seen in a novel before... *Dazzle Patterns* is a story of hope and resilience and healing." — *The Martlet*



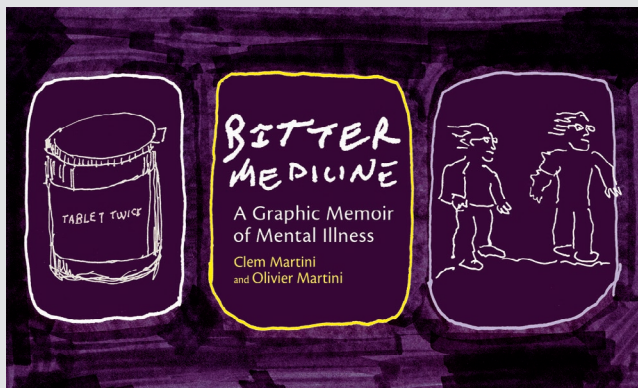
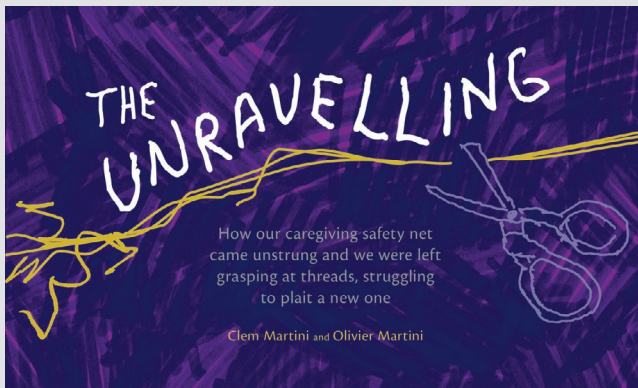
ISBN 978-1-988298-28-3 \$19.95 CDN/US

- ★ Finalist for the 2018 Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction

When Abu Bakr al Rabeeah came to Canada from Syria, he told his ESL teacher, Winnie Yeung that he wanted to share his story. After months, and then years of listening, Yeung crafted a heart-breaking, hopeful, and urgently necessary book.

"This charming and warm-hearted book is a refugee story like no other. A captivating read." — Deborah Campbell

NON-FICTION



(The Unravelling) ISBN 978-1-988298-15-3 \$23.95 CDN/US

- ★ Winner of the 2018 Alberta Trade Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award
- ★ Finalist for the City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize

"[A] poignant, heart-wrenching and at times infuriating story about the Martini family's 30-year battles with schizophrenia and the mental health-care system." — *Calgary Herald*

(Bitter Medicine) ISBN 978-1-55111-928-1 \$23.95 CDN/US

- ★ Winner of the City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize
- ★ Winner of the 2011 Alberta Trade Non-Fiction Book of the Year

"There's hope in the art of Olivier... he infuses a remarkable amount of humour and joy into his drawings." — Mark Medley, *The National Post*



ISBN 978-1-55481-195-3 \$21.95 CDN

- ★ Winner of the 2015 British Columbia National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction
- ★ Longlisted for Canada Reads 2017
- ★ A Globe and Mail Top 100 Book of 2014
- ★ Shortlisted for the 2018 Trade Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award

"One Hour in Paris is a slim book but a powerful one, and has the potential to catalyze the kind of dialogue that can lead to social change." — BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction jury citation

"...combines the visceral force of lived experience with the nuance and narrative drive of the best fiction." *Nino Ricci*



PATHOLOGIE S

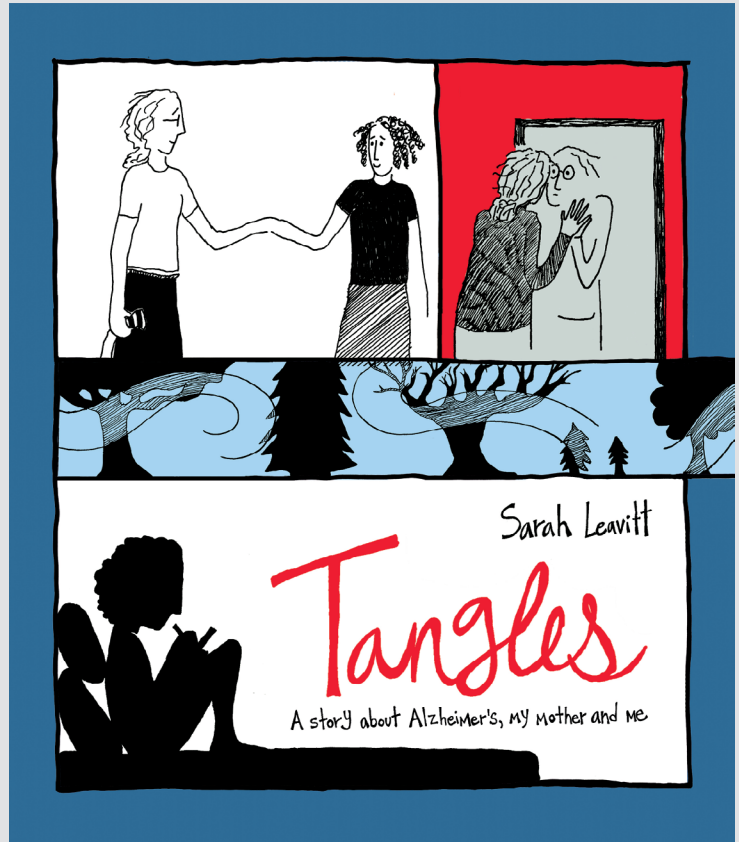
A Life in Essays

SUSAN OLDING

ISBN 978-1-55111-930-4 \$23.95 CDN/US

- ★ An Amazon.ca "Top 100 Canadian Books to Read in a Lifetime"
- ★ Winner of the 2010 Creative Nonfiction Collective Readers' Choice Award
- ★ Longlisted for the BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction
- ★ Longlisted for the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction
- ★ Longlisted for Canada Also Reads, 2009

"Susan Olding's father was a pathologist, a man who studied the nature of disease, the essence of it — a man who brought home a human heart. In these superbly written personal essays, Olding too is going for the essential, going straight to the human heart.... Her father once laid human organ tissue on a counter and challenged her: 'Go ahead, Susie... You've had a good look... Name it.' She has." — Keith Maillard

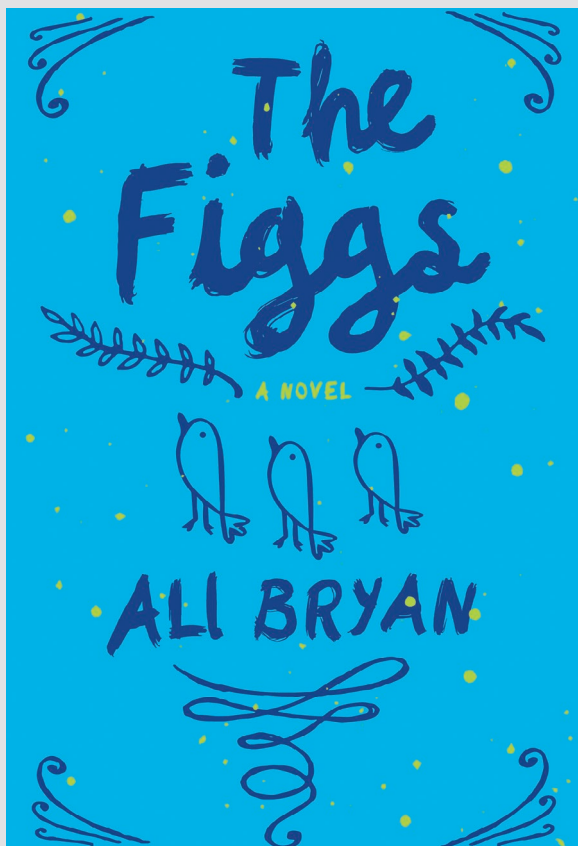


ISBN 978-1-55111-117-9 \$23.95 CDN

- ★ Finalist for the Writers Trust Non-Fiction Prize
- ★ A Globe and Mail Top 100 Book of 2010
- ★ Winner of the 2011 CBC Bookie Award for Best Comic or Graphic Novel
- ★ Finalist for the Alberta Readers' Choice Award
- ★ Finalist for the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize

"Sarah writes and draws with perspicacity, humour and even anger... Her experience pulsates with realism and life, even while her mother is slowly disappearing... By creating this book, she has re-created her mother, a woman anyone would be privileged to have known." — *The Vancouver Sun*

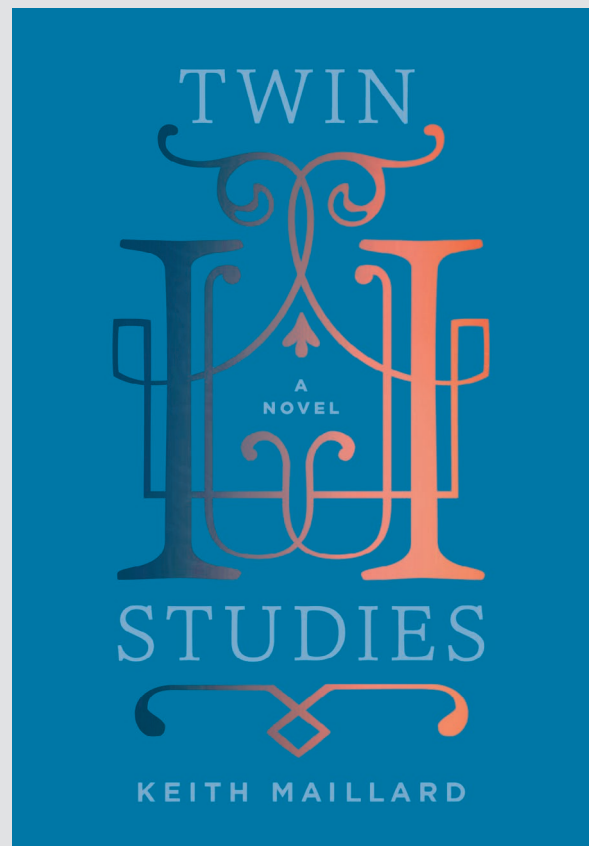
FICTION



ISBN 978-988298-25-2 \$21.95 CDN/US

“Modern mayhem at its finest, *The Figgs* dives into the comical and profound challenges of family life. Tackling enablement, empowerment, and the sticky bonds of love, this is a soaring read with both sarcasm and soul.” — Cassie Stocks, winner of the Leacock Medal for *Dance, Gladys, Dance*

“Ali Bryan does a deft job of painting the human charm of family.... Don’t be surprised if this gets a Stephen Leacock nomination.” — *Alberta Views*



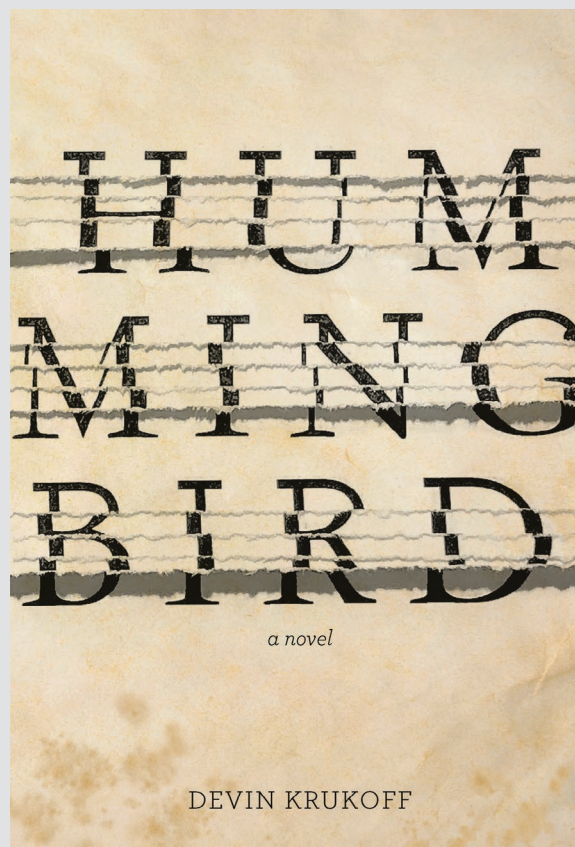
ISBN 978-988298-31-3 \$24.95 CDN

“[T]his new fiction deepens and extends the fascination with power, gender, death and beauty that has characterized all his earlier work, and it finds the author working at the peak of his considerable talents as he explores the uncanny elements of the twin experience.... This novel is that very rare work: a story that grapples with difficult intellectual issues without ever abandoning the novelist’s primary duty — compelling narrative. Maillard can deal with complexity at all levels and turn it into engaging story and moving lyrical beauty.” — *Vancouver Sun*



ISBN 978-988298-34-4 \$21.95 CDN

"This is such a beautiful novel. It begins kaleidoscopic and then, almost without the reader realizing, coheres into an extraordinary train of thought and action, driven by both happenstance and connection... [Thapa] writes about Nepal with great intensity and insight and she writes about the utter necessity of these interdependent lives." — Madeleine Thien, author of *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*



ISBN 978-988298-37-5 \$21.95 CDN/US

"Devin Krukoff's *Hummingbird* is a suspenseful, cinematic contemporary novel about living your life out of time. A provocative page turner that at times reminded me of Ryu Murakami's darker novels." — Guillaume Morissette, author of *The Original Face* and *New Tab*

THE COMPLETE LIST

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