FERRON

A LIFE LIVED IN SONG

BY SYLVIA OLSEN WITH FERRON

A POWERFUL PORTRAIT OF FERRON'S JOURNEY FROM SILENCE AND SURVIVAL TO BECOMING ONE OF FOLK MUSIC'S MOST INFLUENTIAL SONGWRITERS, SET AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF CANADA'S RISING FEMINIST MUSIC SCENE

Ferron: A Life Lived in Song tells the story of the life and songs of Ferron, the groundbreaking poet and singer-songwriter whose work became a touchstone during the feminist and lesbian awakening of the 1970s through the 1990s. Through songs of striking honesty and emotional depth, Ferron reached listeners in ways that were both intimate and universal, "cracking open" hearts and minds. Her poetic lyrics, forged through struggle, self-discovery and resilience, have earned comparisons to musical icons such as Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell. Yet despite her critical acclaim and devoted following, much of her story has remained untold.

Written by best-selling Canadian author Sylvia Olsen in close collaboration with Ferron, this biography-memoir draws on conversations with Ferron, members of the women's music movement, fellow performers, writers and longtime followers who witnessed this transformative cultural moment. Blending personal narrative with social history, Olsen situates Ferron's life within a period of profound change while capturing the intimacy, insight and distinctive voice that have defined her work. Throughout, readers encounter selections of Ferron's poetry, illuminating the creative journey behind her music.

At its heart, *Ferron* is a deeply moving story of survival and self-creation, tracing Ferron's experiences of childhood abuse and neglect, and her determination to become an authentic and honourable human being through the healing power of poetry and song. In telling her own story, she became a cultural hero for a generation.



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"Writing became a quiet way to be noisy. Everything in my life was to shatter my confidence. And yet I did end up walking out on a stage, even though at first I had a stutter and couldn't look up."

—FERRON

SYLVIA OLSEN (PhD) is a historian and award-winning author. Sylvia writes in different genres; she has written many young adult novels and children's books, as well as a book of essays. Her history of Coast Salish knitters, *Working with Wool*, won the Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for Historical Writing in 2011 and her most recent book, *Unravelling Canada* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2021), was on the BC Bestsellers' list for sixteen weeks. Sylvia has been a keynote speaker and presenter at various events, and conducted numerous writing and knitting workshops and retreats. Inspired by her large family, Sylvia is a storyteller who writes the stories she believes must be shared. Sylvia and her husband, Tex, own and operate the Saturna Lodge on Saturna Island, BC.

ERASING MEJADE'SSE

THE LIFE OF ONE REMARKABLE WOMAN AND A GENERATION NEARLY LOST TO COLONIALISM

BY T.C. ARNETT



NON-FICTION / BC HISTORY
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AS GOVERNMENTS SOUGHT TO ERASE INDIGENOUS WAYS OF LIFE, MEJADE'SSE FOUND WAYS TO ENDURE, ADAPT, AND PRESERVE WHAT MATTERED MOST

Born in the remote territories of the Tahltan and Kaska Dena, Mejade'sse lived through a period of profound change following British Columbia's entry into Confederation in 1871. In her ninety-two years, she shared a full life with six husbands—four of which represented the new order—and eight surviving children. Her life spanned the decline of the Hudson's Bay era, the arrival of missionaries, the restructuring of Indigenous governance, and the growing reach of the Indian Act.

More than a biography or family history, *Erasing Mejade'sse* situates one woman's experiences within the broader story of colonialism in northwestern Canada. Drawing on family history, Indigenous genealogy, and local historical records, Tahltan Elder and descendant of Mejade'sse T.C. Arnett explores the pressures Indigenous communities faced as governments imposed new systems of land tenure, education, governance and identity.

At its heart, *Erasing Mejade'sse* is a story of resilience. Mejade'sse's life and the lives of her descendants exemplify how Indigenous people adapted to dramatic, often devastating, cultural change while maintaining their integrity, knowledge and connection to the land. Once actively suppressed by colonial society, many of the values Mejade'sse embodied now offer important, even essential, lessons in sustainability, reconciliation, and humanity's future.

T.C. ARNETT is a registered Tahltan First Nations elder. He studied at UBC, Washington and Edinburgh University where he was awarded a PhD in architecture. He believes in continuous learning and has held memberships in eight related professions while serving as a federal senior executive providing oversight for the delivery and evaluation of capital portfolios, programs and projects. A summary of this book was published by the BC History Federation when he was their 2023 researcher in residence.

WHERE THE WATER IS DARK BLUE

INDIGENOUS YOUTH WRITE CHANGE AND HOPE IN A NORTHERN COMMUNITY

BY JUDY MCFARLANE

THE HEARTFELT AND CANDID STORY OF ONE SMALL NORTHERN COMMUNITY'S TIRELESS, CREATIVE AND INSPIRING QUEST FOR HOPE

In 2013, the students of the Long Lake #58 First Nation, a small community north of Thunder Bay, Ontario, wrote a play called *Change is Coming*. They wrote about drugs, bullying and suicide, about their love for their grandparents and their traditions, and what they yearned for: more help from their parents, more hope for their futures, and more love.

On the night of the performance, the entire community watched, transfixed; at curtain, applause and cheers filled the school. But the following day, as the students performed for students in a nearby town, they faltered, pausing to whisper to each other that there were only white people in the audience. In that moment, writer Judy McFarlane, who had worked with the students to write the play, recognized the gap that existed between these students and their neighbours.

In spite of the sorrow and dysfunction sown by the trauma of residential schools and centuries of oppression, the Long Lake #58 First Nation is a proud community, dedicated to fostering a better quality of life for all of its young members. When told by Indian Affairs that they would have to wait twenty-five years for a school, they took out a mortgage and built their own school building, designed to be a safe and welcoming space. Since then, they've increased the high school graduation rate many times over, and their teachers receive pay comparable to that of provincially compensated teachers.

As McFarlane's journey with these students unfolds, she questions her own role: *Why should these students listen to us? Who am I*, she asks, *to think I can do this?* Recalled through interviews with students and community members, *Where the Water Is Dark Blue* tells the moving story of the youth of this small community, how they are grappling with their collective past, and how they see their futures as something that is within their grasp to change. Years after the play was performed in front of the Long Lake #58 First Nation community, the principal of the elementary school ended each day by telling her students that "you are brave, you are beautiful, you are strong, you are smart, you are loved."



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JUDY MCFARLANE's memoir, *Writing with Grace: A Journey Beyond Down Syndrome*, was published by Douglas & McIntyre in 2014; it was selected by the International Board of Books for Young People as an outstanding book about young people with disabilities, and as an Editor's Choice by *Reader's Digest*. It was also shortlisted for the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Nonfiction. In 2012, Judy was a finalist for the CBC literary nonfiction prize. She lives in Vancouver, BC.

A TREE OF MY ONLY ADDRESS

BY RUSSELL THORNTON



MEMOIR / ESSAYS
978-1-77386-214-9
6" x 8", paperback
$25.00 CAD / $18.00 USD

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LCO010000
LITERARY COLLECTIONS
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LITERARY COLLECTIONS
/ Subjects & Themes / Places

FOLLOWING THE LENGTH OF LONSDALE AVENUE FROM SEA TO MOUNTAIN AND BACK AGAIN, THORNTON CREATES A POWERFUL TREE OF LIFE ROOTED IN MEMORY AND LANDSCAPE

With *The Tree of My Only Address*, Russell Thornton adapts creative non-fiction to unique and compelling purposes, crafting a tree of life bound to place in one of Vancouver's most familiar neighbourhoods. In this collection of a dozen interrelated pieces, Thornton explores events and scenes from his childhood through early adulthood at and around various addresses along Lonsdale Avenue, the main street of North Vancouver, BC. From the root flare of the base of Lonsdale at Burrard Inlet, to the uppermost branches where the avenue meets the base of Grouse Mountain, these addresses recount a journey through time and experience. Along the way, detailing aspects of the city's history, Thornton maps changes in the area; the natural world of mist- and light-filled air of North Vancouver, the ravines, and rainfed creeks, present an underlying drama of its own. In language by turns unflinching in its realism and elegant and lyrical in its apprehensions, this book investigates with genuine imaginative intensity the mysteries of self and place.

RUSSELL THORNTON's work as a poet has been recognized by every major poetry prize in Canada. His *Two Songs: Selected Poems 2000–2025* (2026) brought together representative work from nine previous collections, including: *Birds, Metals, Stones & Rain* (2013), a finalist for the Governor General's Award, the Raymond Souster Award, and the Dorothy Livesay Prize; *The Hundred Lives* (2014) a finalist for the Griffin Poetry Prize; and *House Built of Rain* (2003), a finalist for the Dorothy Livesay Prize. Thornton lives in North Vancouver, BC.

PLAYING BY HEART

BY FIONA TINWEI LAM

WITH COMPASSION, INSIGHT, AND WRY HUMOUR, FIONA TINWEI LAM TRACES THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN MEMORY, HOME, AND THE STORIES THAT SHAPE US

Themes of memory, home, and mortality thread through this radiant memoir-in-essays by Vancouver's former poet laureate Fiona Tinwei Lam. Coming from a diasporic first generation Chinese Canadian family, Lam reflects upon growing up, working and living in Vancouver through the lyrical lenses of music, poetry, family, Asian Canadian identity, and more. This eclectic collection brings together new work alongside the best of over two decades of Lam's non-fiction published in anthologies, literary magazines, *The Tyee* and *The Globe & Mail*. Brave, beautiful, and brimming with unforgettable images and scenes, this collection reveals the compassion, insight and wry humour that are hallmarks of Lam's work.

FIONA TINWEI LAM has authored three poetry collections and a children's book. She edited *The Bright Well: Contemporary Canadian Poems about Facing Cancer* (Leaf Press, 2011), and co-edited two non-fiction anthologies: *Love Me True* (Caitlin Press, 2018) and *Double Lives: Writing and Motherhood* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2008). Shortlisted for the City of Vancouver Book Prize and other awards, her work appears in over forty-five anthologies, including *Best Canadian Poetry* (2010, Best of the Best anniversary edition 2017 and 2020) and *Best Canadian Essays 2024* as well as in *The Globe and Mail*, *The Fiddlehead*, *The New Quarterly* and *Maisonneuve Magazine*. She has produced and collaborated on several award-winning poetry videos that have screened at festivals internationally. She was Vancouver's poet laureate for the years 2022–2024. Since 2015, she has been a poetry instructor at SFU Continuing Studies.



MEMOIR / ESSAYS
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"This is a moving, compelling book, shot through with strands of wry humour. Lam's heart and mind are both on full display within these pages. When she ponders whether one 'flawed' person can make a difference in the world, this book proves beyond a doubt that the answer is yes."

—EVELYN LAU

BUCKHORN

BY AL REMPEL



POETRY
978-1-77386-217-0
5.5" x 8", paperback
$22.00 CAD / $16.00 USD

Available January 26, 2027

POE011000
POETRY
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ROOTED IN THE LANDSCAPES OF BUCKHORN, THESE SPARE AND LUMINOUS POEMS REVEAL THE HIDDEN CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE, ANIMALS AND PLACE

In his fifth book of poetry, Rempel returns to his cabin in the woods, observing the rural area of Buckhorn from a fresh vantage. *Buckhorn* maps the serendipitous intersections of human and animal pathways, recording the rich ecosystem at the edge of the sub-boreal forest. Playing off thirteen haiku scattered throughout the book and charged with keen insight and past histories, *Buckhorn* is packed with compelling poems stripped bare of punctuation and pretence.

AL REMPEL's books of poetry are *Sprocket*, *Undiscovered Country*, *This Isn't the Apocalypse We Hoped For*, *Understories*, and a handful of chapbooks, including *Deerness* and *Behind the Bladed Green*. His poems have also appeared in various journals and anthologies, some of which have been translated in Spanish and Italian. Rempel's video-poem collaborations have been shown internationally. Rempel currently lives in Prince George where he teaches at a high school on the beautiful, unceded territory of the Lheidli T'enneh. More information can be found at alrempel.com.

CHEF

BY MICHELLE BARKER

WRITTEN IN THE SHADOW OF VANCOUVER'S DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE AND THE ESCALATING OVERDOSE CRISIS, MICHELLE BARKER'S *CHEF* EXAMINES THE IMPACT OF ADDICTION ON HER FAMILY

Chef traces Michelle Barker's attempt to understand the life and death of her son, Harry. The youngest of four children, Harry struggled for years with disability, addiction, and profound social isolation before dying of an overdose. His lifelong dream was to become a chef.

Bullied as a teenager and unable to fully navigate a world he didn't fit into, Harry drifted toward increasingly dangerous drugs after high school and soon spiraled into the chaos of addiction. When he finally committed to rehab, he and his mother planned to write a book together about what he had lived through—one that might offer hope and support to others facing similar struggles. But he relapsed and died before they could begin.

Written in the shadow of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and the escalating overdose crisis, *Chef* examines the impact of addiction on the author's family. At the same time, the collection confronts the systems surrounding addiction: schools that fail vulnerable children, government support that can unintentionally sustain addiction, and a culture more comfortable with looking away from suffering than facing it.

MICHELLE BARKER is the author of three award-winning novels, three books on writing co-authored with David Griffin Brown, a picture book, and a chapbook. Her poetry, short fiction and non-fiction have been widely published in literary reviews. She holds an MFA in creative writing from UBC and works as a senior editor at *The Darling Axe*. She lives in Vancouver, BC, on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh nations.



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WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL