A scenic sunset over a large body of water, likely a lake or bay. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water's surface. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, some of which are illuminated by the setting sun. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of pine trees are visible on the right side, and the water is calm with gentle ripples. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

**Acacia House**  
**Winter 2022-23**  
**Catalogue**



1.

Bill Hanna Photo© Frank Olenski



Kathy Olenski Photo© Frank Olenski

Dear Reader,

We invite you to look at our Winter 2022-2023 International Rights Catalogue, a list that includes works by adult authors represented by Acacia House, but also recent and forthcoming titles from: Douglas & McIntyre; ; Harbour Publishing; Lilygrove; NeWest Press; Rock Mills Press and West End Books; whom we represent for rights sales. We hope you enjoy reading through our catalogue. If you would like further information on any title(s), we can be reached by phone at (519) 752-0978 or by e-mail:

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With all best wishes,

**Bill Hanna**

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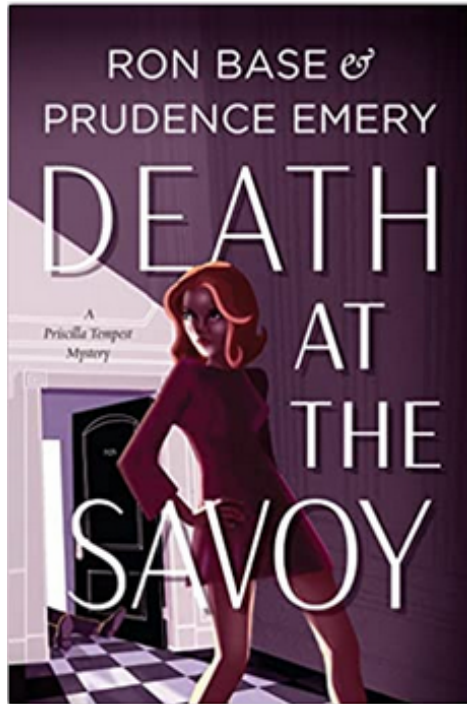
Cover Photo © Carolyn Purden



# Death at the Savoy

## Prudence Emery and Ron Base

*Mystery*



The time: 1968; the location: London's Savoy, the world's most famous and luxurious hotel.

Our unlikely heroine is Priscilla Tempest, the eager-to-please head of the Savoy Press Office, a young woman who adores champagne and becoming involved with the wrong men. Currently, she has her hands full as the rich, famous, and aristocratic arrive from all over the world.

Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton are drinking too much champagne in the American Bar. The iconic American comedian Bob Hope is making demands as he is about to hold a press conference.. Luciano Pavarotti is fast becoming a legend next door at the Royal Opera House. The playwright Noël Coward is forever looking for someone to share a Buck's Fizz.

And...?

Well, there is the matter of the dead body in river suite 705.

A dead body at the Savoy? Impossible! But there you have it. The dead man is a notorious international arms dealer named Amir Abraham. What's uncertain is whether he was murdered. The police are baffled.

It soon is revealed that our Priscilla had been with Amir the night before he was found dead. This brings her under the suspicious gaze not only of Scotland Yard Inspector Robert "Charger" Lightfoot, but also of her boss, the Savoy's unforgiving general manager, Clive Banville.

And was that a notorious member of the Royal Family seen leaving Amir's suite minutes before his body was discovered?

Suspected of murder, her job on the line, Priscilla had better get to the bottom of what happened in suite 705—and do it fast.

A plucky heroine! The world's most famous hotel! Swinging 1960s London in full swing! Lots of champagne! A bit of humor! And just possibly—

*Death at the Savoy!*

Think *Fleabag* meets Agatha Christie. How can anyone possibly resist?

In 1968 **Prudence Emery**, a Canadian from Vancouver was offered the job as Press and Public Relations Officer at the prestigious Savoy Hotel where champagne was a daily rite. While there

for five and a half years she dealt with celebrities and politicians from Canada's Prime Minister, Pierre-Elliott Trudeau, to British singer Petula Clark, musician Louis Armstrong, and actors such as Sir Laurence Olivier, Marlene Dietrich, Liza Minnelli, and Ginger Rogers among endless others. The press attaché had a farewell party in her honour at Canada House in 1973 before she returned to Toronto to launch Global Television network, the Metro Toronto Zoo, and work on her first film, which led to more than 100 other film productions which took her around the world.

She has worked with Sofia Loren, Julianne Moore, Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck, Viggo Mortensen, Jenifer Aniston, Jennifer Lopez, Robert Redford, Jeremy Irons, and the Olsen Twins among many others. Her roster of films includes ten directed by David Cronenberg. In 2020 her memoir *The Nan* She has worked with Sofia Loren, Julianne Moore, Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck, Viggo Mortensen, Jenifer Aniston, Jennifer Lopez, Robert Redford, Jeremy Irons, and the Olsen Twins among many others. Her roster of films includes ten directed by David Cronenberg.

She is also a playwright and in 2014 her comedy *Hattie's Heist* was produced. In 2020, her memoir *Nanaimo Girl* became a Canadian bestseller

**Ron Base** is a former newspaper and magazine journalist and movie critic. His works include 20 novels, two novellas and four nonfiction books and has been published in the United States, Canada and Great Britain. He has written screenplays and worked with such legendary filmmakers as John Borman (*Deliverance*) and Roland Joffe (*The Killing Fields*). His *Sanibel Island Sunset Detective* series now numbers thirteen.

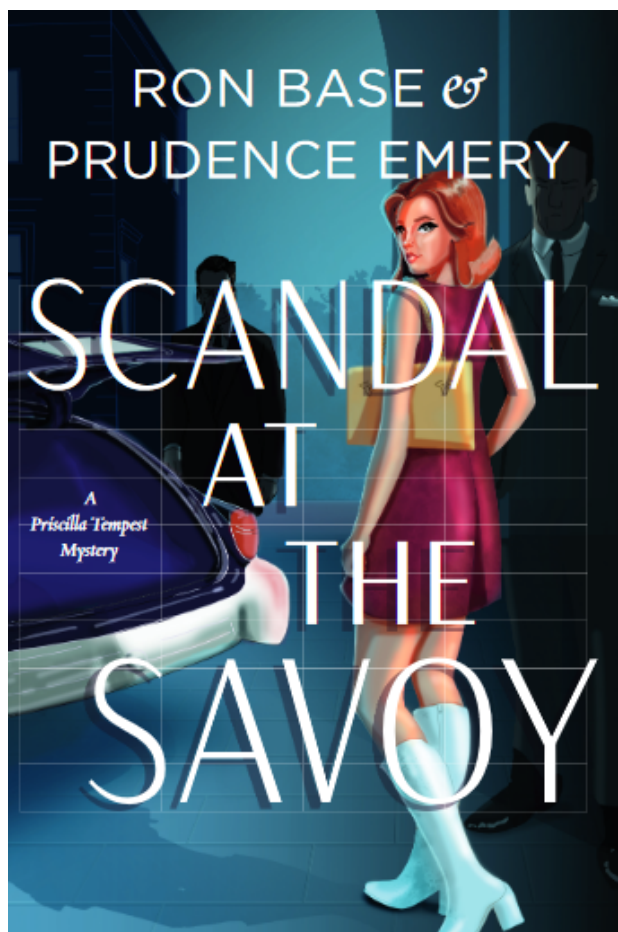
Douglas & McIntyre • Spring 2022 • French, audio rights sold, Film rights optioned, all others available • 6 x 9 • 320 pages

# Scandal at the Savoy

*Mystery*

## A Priscilla Tempest Mystery, Book 2

Prudence Emery and Ron Base



The rich and famous, are converging on the iconic Savoy Hotel in swinging '60s London—a famous Broadway producer with anger issues, a demanding rajah from India, a gorgeous film star with certain kinky predilections. All is as it should be—until the murder of a notorious showgirl threatens to scandalize the hotel.

The list of suspects includes Priscilla Tempest, the trouble-prone Canadian head of the Savoy Press Office. Clearing her name would be easy enough, if only she hadn't spent the night of the murder with a certain beguiling Canadian prime minister.

A Scotland Yard detective blackmails her, a notorious gangster woos her, and the press is after her. Priscilla must use wit and resourcefulness to survive the treacherous upper echelons of London society and find a killer.

This is the thrilling sequel to *Death at the Savoy*, described by *Publisher's Weekly* as "light and frothy ... perfect escapist fare".

Exactly!

Douglas & McIntyre • Spring 2023 • Audio and French rights sold all others available

# Five Moves Of Doom

*Mystery*

A.J. Devlin



Hired by local mixed martial arts trainer Elijah Lennox to find a missing UFC Championship belt, pro-wrestler PI “Hammerhead” Jed must extract answers from the tight-knit MMA community. Still consuming his weight in banana milkshakes, Jed ventures into a world of jewel thieves, bodybuilders, eccentric yoga enthusiasts, and adorable baby goats. As he infiltrates an exclusive and unique no-holds-barred fight club, Jed might just find himself down for the count ...

*Five Moves of Doom* is a high-altitude and high-attitude entry in A.J. Devlin’s award-winning mystery series, one that finds its hero pushed to his absolute limit, relying on his closest allies to survive, and making choices he never thought he’d have to make.

**A.J. Devlin** grew up in Greater Vancouver before moving to Southern California where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Screenwriting from Chapman University and a Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting from The American Film Institute. After working as a screenwriter in Hollywood, he moved back home to Port Moody, BC, where he now lives with his wife and two children.

Cobra Clutch, the first book in the "Hammerhead" Jed professional wrestling mystery-comedy series, was released in spring 2018 and nominated for a Lefty Award for Best Debut Mystery and won the 2019 Crime Writers of Canada Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel. The sequel, Rolling Thunder, was released in spring 2020 and was featured in the Vancouver Sun, The Province, The Globe and Mail, Kirkus Reviews, and Library Journal, and on CBC The Next Chapter.

NeWest Press • October 2022 • All rights except English North America available  
4.75" x 7.75" • 272 pages

# Killings in the Kawarthas: Loves Lost

*Mystery*

M M Hill



Stenson Photography

The death of an employee at a tourist attraction brings together OPP Detective Sergeant Billy Dugan and Inspector Matt Baker on their first big case together. With the backdrop of the small towns of the Kawartha region, Dugan and Baker work to forge a partnership while they sift through the life of the victim—her wife, estranged parents, co-workers and a baffling connection to a local Indigenous lawyer.

Amid the investigation, and suffering imposter syndrome, Dugan is tempted to return to his first career and first love: baseball. A fictionalized account of his rise from a broken home in Phoenix to a star player in Baltimore forces Dugan to reflect on his hot-tempered younger self, the life he once had, and the man he has become.

*Killings in the Kawarthas* is 96,700 words and is the first in a planned series of character-driven, upmarket murder mysteries in the Kawartha region of Ontario. As well as a general readership, it will appeal to book clubs, senior high school grades, murder mystery fans and baseball fans.

**M.M. Hill** works in communications. She was in newspaper journalism beginning in the late 1980s, working full time at the national and community level as a copy editor, reporter and humour columnist in Toronto, Ottawa and the City of Kawartha Lakes. At the same time, she published freelance news, feature and travel stories in newspapers throughout Canada. Her column about life in the Kawarthas twice won an Ontario Community Newspapers Association award.

She has travelled to the U.S. and written about the Arizona Fall League for freelance feature stories in the *Ottawa Citizen*, and visited Baltimore as part of her research. The baseball minor league parts are based on the Ottawa Lynx, the Triple-A team of the Baltimore Orioles.

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In manuscript

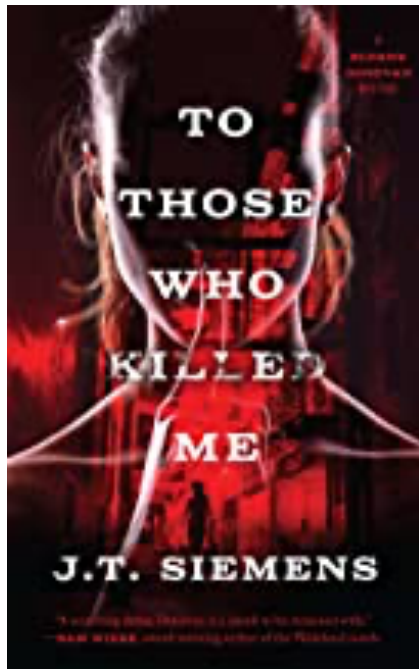
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# To Those Who Killed Me

*Mystery*

J.T. Siemens



Disgraced ex-cop Sloane Donovan has relied on her job as a fitness instructor to keep her mental illness and PTSD in check--until she finds a close friend dead, apparently by her own hand. Obsessive demons triggered and doubtful of the official narrative, she teams up with Wayne Capson, a PI willing to bend the law, to find out who really killed her friend. The search leads Sloane from Vancouver's wealthiest enclaves to the street's darkest corners, questioning millionaires, tennis instructors, sex workers, former police colleagues--anyone who might provide answers.

J.T. Siemens's *To Those Who Killed Me* is a debut that provides a heavy dose of hardboiled suspense and introduces a fiery new heroine in crime fiction.

:"This gritty crime tale, which snakes through Vancouver's squalid backstreets, plunges the fearless, at times reckless heroine into a surfeit of horrific encounters with addicts and abusers, rapists, and killers. This isn't for the faint-hearted."-Publishers Weekly

"An exhilarating white-knuckled thrill ride that blasts out of the gates and doesn't let up for a moment. In his debut crime novel, Siemens brilliantly weaves together gripping tension and page-turning twists while showcasing a penchant for depicting the glamour and grit of Vancouver and introducing one of the most complex heroines I've ever read. Sloane Donovan is a compelling force not to be missed."~ A.J. Devlin, award-winning author of *Cobra Clutch* and *Rolling Thunder*

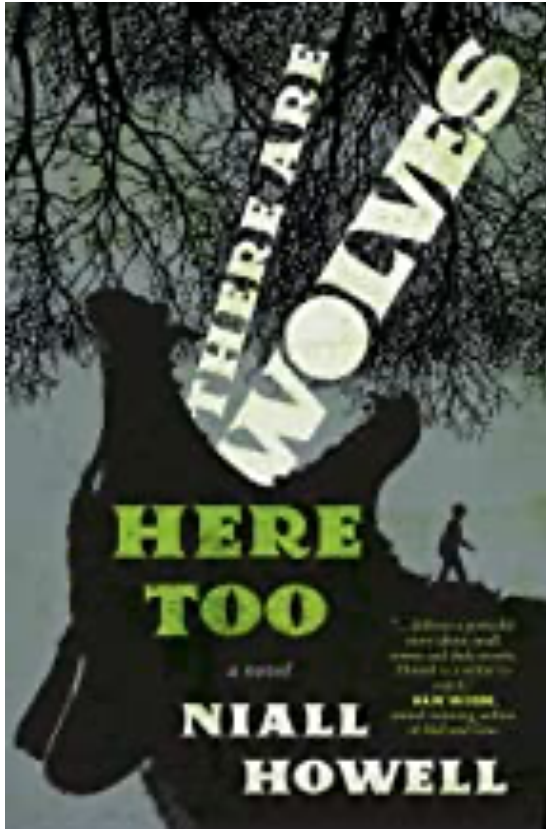
J.T. Siemens's work he has been published in *Mystery Weekly*, *Down in the Dirt*, *CC&D*, and *Vancouver Magazine*. After a murder occurred outside his workplace, he was inspired to write a novel, *To Those Who Killed Me*, which was nominated for the Arthur Ellis Unchanged Award. The novel introduces the character of Sloane Donovan and is the first in a series about a bipolar ex-cop turned PI. He recently completed the second Sloane Donovan novel, *The Call of the Void*.

NeWest Press • April 2022 • All rights available except English North America  
5 x 8 • 388 pages



# There Are Wolves Here Too *Mystery*

[Niall Howell](#)



Spilt blood whets the appetite of a ravine at the heart of Haddington Springs, a bedroom community with a closet full of bones.

It's 1997, and Robin and his two best friends, Steph and Dylan, are ready to dive into their first summer as teenagers. But when Catherine, a classmate's younger sister, disappears, Robin finds his carefree life of mall arcades, soccer, and slasher movies swapped out for one of paranoia, guilt, and confusion. While parents form search parties and police chase vaporous leads, Robin becomes convinced that there is a darker element at play, one that he might have accidentally set loose. All the while, he is trying to figure out his changing relationships, growing closer to Steph as his friendship with Dylan is increasingly marred by mercurial moods and secrets. Delving into the most awkward and bewildering time of adolescence, Niall Howell's *There Are Wolves Here Too* blends coming of age with noir and horror elements as we move with Robin through the difficulties of learning who to trust and when to trust yourself.

"*There Are Wolves Here Too* delivers a powerful story about small towns and dark secrets. Howell is a writer to watch."

~Sam Wiebe, award-winning author of *Hell and Gone*

"Howell is an incredible storyteller with characters who, though young, drive this story forward with intensity"

~ Jaaron Collins, *Worn Pages and Ink*

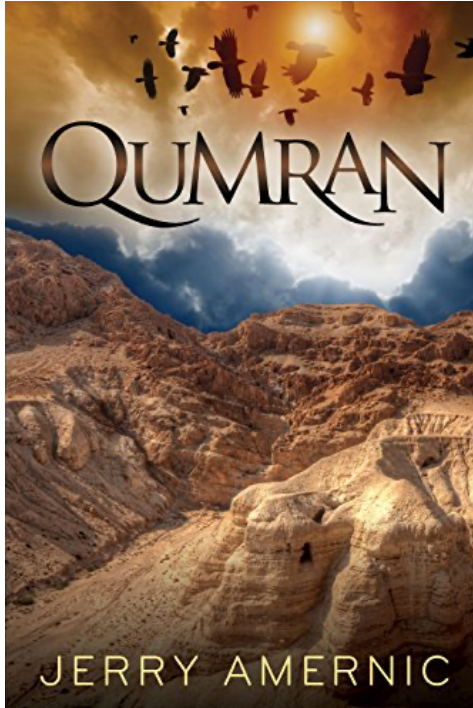
**Niall Howell** lives in Calgary, Alberta with his wife, son, and pets. His debut noir novel *Only Pretty Damned* was shortlisted for the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize for Literary Fiction. His short fiction has been featured in *The Feathertale Review* and *FreeFall*. He can be found on Twitter [@niall\\_howell](#).

NeWest Press • October 2022 • All rights except English North America  
5.5" x 8.5" • 320 pages

# Qumran

Jerry Amernic

*Thriller*



David Marr, archeologist and world authority on the Romans, has spent his life studying the Holy Land with all its violence and unrest that go back to the time of the scriptures. While teaching in Jerusalem, he makes the most dramatic discovery of his life just off the shore of the Dead Sea near the site of the ancient monastic settlement at Qumran. It is something that could have huge repercussions with the potential to turn the world on its side.

David first whet his appetite as a student when he played a crucial role in the 1947 discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. His later adventures with the Holy Grail and Holy Shroud brought him to the forefront of the maelstrom that develops whenever science confronts religion

The backdrop to these experiences was always war--Israel's War of Independence in 1948, the Six Day War in 1967, the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Throughout it all, he has carved a career of widespread renown, but has seen so much evidence of man's brutality to man that he is spiritually disillusioned.

As he begins to unearth clues about what he has found, he and those closest to him--his Jewish-American wife Gita, the brilliant Egyptian pathologist Jamil Hassad, and his Israeli research assistant Robbie Schueftan--all find themselves in danger. Now David the scientist, whose life has always be ruled by logic and reason, isn't certain about anything and he won't rest until he finds the truth.

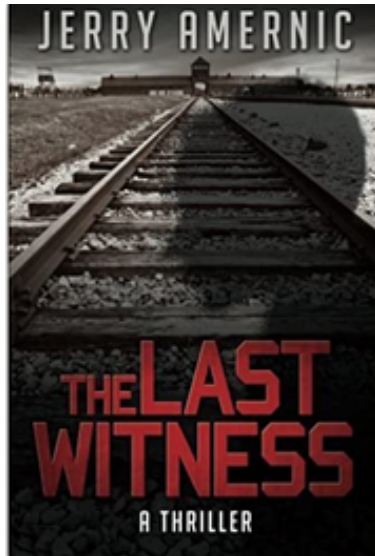
**Jerry Amernic** has been a newspaper reporter and columnist, feature writer for magazines, editor and teacher of writing at several community colleges in Ontario, and a media consultant. His first novel Gift of the Bambino got great reviews in Canada and the United States. His other novels, both of them historical, are The Last Witness and Qumran and garnered strong reviews. He is also the author of several non-fiction books including Victims: The Orphans of Justice, and DUTY – the Life of a Cop which is the memoir of Julian Fantino.

Acacia • Available • All rights except English available  
6" x 9" • 302 pages

# The Last Witness

Thriller

Jerry Amernic



The year is 2039, and Jack Fisher is the last living survivor of the Holocaust. Set in a world that is abysmally complacent about events of the last century, Jack is a 100-year-old man whose worst memories took place before he was 5. His story hearkens back to the Jewish ghetto of his birth and to Auschwitz where, as a little boy, he had to fend for himself to survive after losing his family. Jack becomes the central figure in a missing-person investigation when his granddaughter suddenly disappears. While assisting police, he finds himself in danger and must reach into the darkest corners of his memory to come out alive.

"Amernic expertly juxtaposes a future that seems both uninformed and uninterested in the past with a past brought vividly to life with well-researched details, squarely tackling such issues as anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial."- *Historical Novel Society*

"Jerry Amernic's *The Last Witness* is beautifully written and well-researched. It is a look into the near-future without Buck Rogers spaceships whizzing around, where the changes tend to be subtle, except where memory is concerned. In the world of 2039, certain inconvenient truths have been more or less erased. That's what makes a one hundred-year-old Auschwitz survivor so dangerous. An accomplished work, an unusual approach to an oft-written about subject, and a timely reminder about the dangers of forgetting."- Ron Base, author of the *Sansibel Sunset Detective* series and coauthor of the *Priscilla Tempest* series (*Death at the Savoy*)

Jerry Amernic's *THE LAST WITNESS* is one of the finest thrillers I've read in years. The pages turned late into the night, with real and relatable characters, impeccable dialogue and a riveting plot that provided important information as much as it entertained. Although it is a work of fiction, *THE LAST WITNESS* is framed with such historical accuracy that it should—in my opinion—be deemed required reading for high school students."- Steven Manchester, author of *The Rockin' Chair* and other works

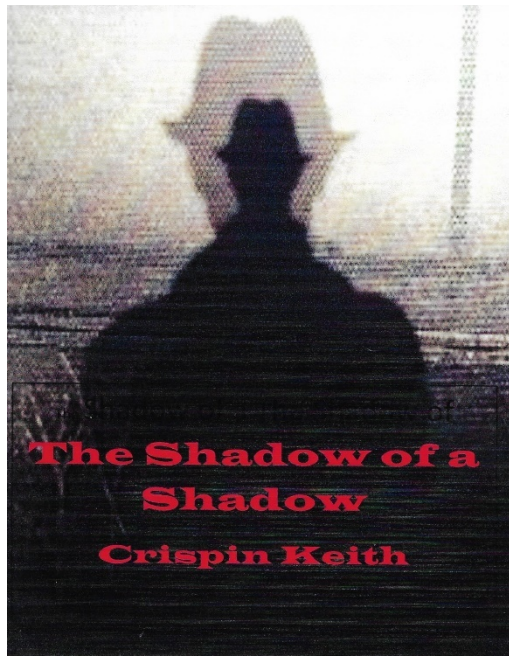
**Jerry Amernic** is an author of fiction and non-fiction books. He has been a columnist and correspondent for daily newspapers, and is a contributor to many magazines. An avid student of history, the sciences, and archaeology, he is a member of such organizations as, the James A. Michener Society, and International Thriller Writerst. In his research for the book, Jerry met with former child survivors of the Holocaust in order to better capture their experiences in his

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6" x 9" • 330 pages

# The Shadow of a Shadow – the first in the Lydia Twomey Series

Thriller

Crispin Keith



Exploring the darkest corners of the British Intelligence Service, *The Shadow of a Shadow* is the first in a series of five thrillers that are very contemporary but also recall both John LeCarré and Agatha Christie. It's a classic whodunit set against a political plot and terrorist outrages, with a lethal mix of civil service infighting and gender issues. Much of the action takes place in H11, an archive of material so sensitive that it has an "air gap": housed in the deepest basement of MI5's London HQ, it is electronically unconnected to the outside world. It is staffed by MI5 rejects and oddballs.

Lydia Twomey, a "modern suffragette", no fan of the public school and Oxbridge-educated male elite who run MI5, is sent down to H11 to investigate the death of one of the staff who supposedly died in an autoerotic accident. She finds a claustrophobic, isolated world ruled over by the charismatic Gerard Bell; Lydia is quickly convinced that the accident was murder and that one of the seven H11 staff were involved. Another murder takes place, and Lydia becomes a target herself. She is aided by her mother (a multiple sclerosis sufferer), hindered by her bosses, and targeted by Turkish gangsters with connections to MI5. As the body count rises, it becomes clear that an attempted coup d'état is about to be triggered by missing evidence in H11 and a spate of terrorist attacks. Lydia knows she can identify the killer down in H11 if she can find the missing evidence, but she doesn't know who is on her side. The terrifying climax takes place in a blacked-out H11 with the security doors jammed, leaving Lydia with a corpse and the killer.

Subsequent Titles:

## 2. The Grit in the Machine

Fact: In 2018 the handling of security threats from right wing extremists was transferred from Counter Terrorism (SO15) to MI5.

When some right-wing informers previously run by SO15 are threatened and one of them is killed, SO15 and MI5 blame each other for the leak. Lydia is directed to investigate along with SO15 officers. She suspects that the informers know of a serious plot. Her SO15 colleague, the charismatic Giles Mortimer begins an affair with her. Is he genuinely on her side against the



obstruction of their bosses, or is he a right-wing stooge who will kill her if she gets too close to the truth? Lydia's mother reveals some of Giles' disguises, but Lydia still trusts him. Will she be proven correct? The deadly climax takes place on the icy Essex marshes.

### **3.The Truth is a Snare**

This is a tale of betrayals, banks scams, obsessive stalking, childbirth, departmental infighting, social media defamation, assassinations and official cynicism.

When Lydia is visiting her brother in Dubai, he goes missing, and she finds herself caught up in the international plot that ensnared him. Her investigation into Birmingham Islamic radicals is compromised, and she is targeted by Lebanese gangsters, mercenary assassins, senior MI6 agents and a vengeful Emirati who wants to rape and kill her. She is aided by a fraudulent young crypto-security bank employee, her ailing mother, her heavily pregnant boss and a hangdog Lincolnshire birdwatcher. It should be no contest.

### **4.Toxic Behaviour**

It is 2020, and the Covid pandemic has struck the UK.

In London, Members of Parliament play their annual bridge match against MI5. It ends badly; a beautiful woman is poisoned by one of the seven other players—but which one, and why? Lydia is brought in to investigate alongside the Metropolitan Police Special Branch. Meanwhile, an ambitious journalist gets wind of the murder and, scenting a scoop, goes on the trail of the killer. The investigation is complicated by Covid lockdowns, an intrigue involving Russian money laundering, sex scandals and government cover-ups. Will Lydia get to the truth before she too is silenced?

### **5.Then Silence**

Lydia and her boss Sophie Hutchings are carrying out “Deep Vetting” on three very different candidates for the post of Director of GCHQ, the UK spy centre.

A chance meeting in a Cheltenham hotel lobby comes back to haunt Lydia. She has no idea that the man trying to chat her up is one of the world's deadliest assassins. When she discovers the truth about three shocking, brutal slayings, on one believes her, including Sophie, and the plot to smear candidates for the post of GCHQ Director gathers pace.

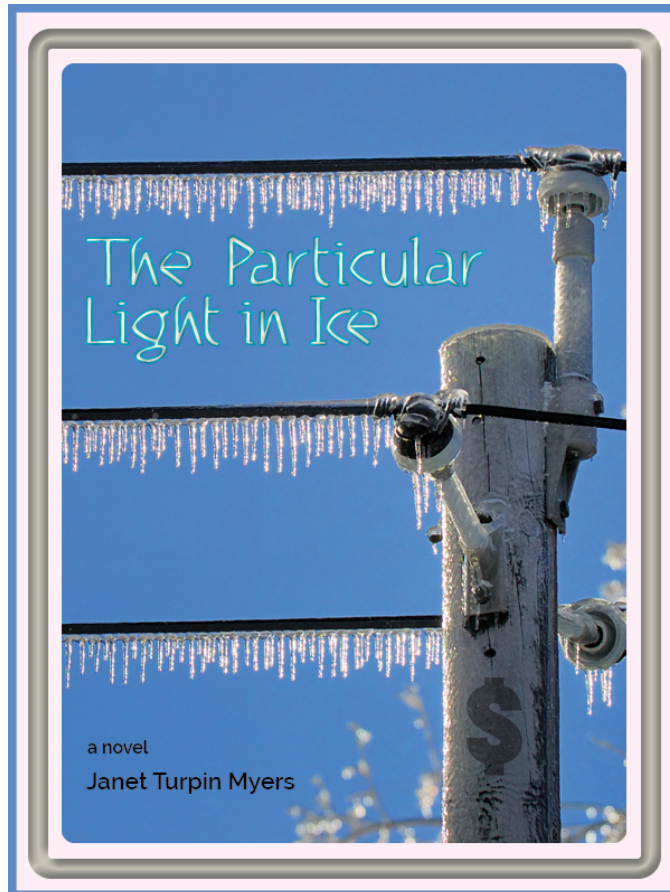
Which of the candidates has set up the murders, and how is Lydia's boss involved? Why is the mysterious assassin always one step ahead and why has he shifted his sights to target Lydia? The stakes are high and the killings won't stop.

**Crispin Keith** has had five previous thrillers, one historical novel, and a collection of short stories published as ebooks and in paperback on Amazon, and has had numerous educational works for secondary history conventionally published.

# The Particular Light In Ice

*Fiction*

Janet Turpin Myers



Lily Moreau, billionaire bunker-buyer and demanding mistress of a high-tech country estate, is at war over landscaping plans with her only neighbour, Django Limberger. To Lily, Django is an exasperating, tree-hugging, off-grid, “gypsy”, who lives in a “bit-of-nothing house” the size of her master bathroom. A catastrophic ice storm encases both Lily’s and Django’s world in unyielding ice, downing Lily’s hydro-electric line, stranding her powerless in her mansion, suffering alone and hungry in the freezing darkness. Django’s Christmas lights, powered by wind energy, twinkle across the ice-encrusted expanse of field that separates their two hostile houses. These are the only lights visible to Lily in the frozen darkness. She desperately needs someone’s help, but Django is the last person on earth she can ask for it.

The Particular Light In Ice is the story of two warring neighbours forced together by an ice storm.

## PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR’S PREVIOUS WORKS

### Nightswimming

“Have you ever read a book that just keeps surprising you with its truth and beauty at every turn of the page? A book that takes you to places you know like the back of your hand, and then flips your hand over to read the map of its lines?” *Bernadette Rule*

“...the work of an utterly sophisticated stylist, who plays the reader like a piano.” *Robert Nielsen, Potlatch Publications*

“...memory soaked language that serves as a guide through experiences we’ve all had; experiences that call back those summer evenings, with sunsets that belong on postcards.” *Pepper Parr, Burlington Gazette*

“Probably the best summer read I’ve ever come across, *Nightswimming* evokes the smell of summer, water, wooden dock, even if read in the midst of a Canadian autumn.” *Review on Goodreads*

“It’s a story for neo-hippies and true hippies, and for anybody who wants not-to-forget the exquisitely consuming fire of their first love.” *‘First Fiction’, Literary Press Group*

“Beautiful, funny, lyrical and terribly moving.” *Bernadette Rule, Artwaves, INDI 105.1FM*

“*Nightswimming* by Janet Turpin Myers is (an) engaging debut novel that harnesses the sights and sounds of the Muskokas, the momentous events of the Apollo 11 moon landings, and the stirring passions of first love. Beautiful yet funny, Myers explores the major turning points of the 60s and how these events affect us in our consciousness and our memories, in language that is lyrical and moving.” *Stephen Near, Hamilton Arts Council [21st Literary Awards](#)*.

### The Last Year of Confusion

“A funny, insightful and refreshing dystopian novel with strong imagery and insights, *The Last Year of Confusion* is a biting, and yet tender, commentary on life today.”  
*Hamilton Arts Council, Fiction Prize, Judge’s Comments (2016)*

“A ‘Midsummer’s Night Dream’ for the 21st Century”.  
*Jean Rae Baxter, award-winning novelist*

“For those looking to situate *The Last Year of Confusion*’s place in the Canadian canon, think Stephen Leacock wrapped in a Hudson’s Bay blanket with Joseph Boyden and the late Paul Quarrington. If this jumble of comparisons is a bit confusing to you, rest assured that Myers works hard to position her readers with her clear plot progressions and convincing relationships: stories of friendship won, maintained, and lost are thread throughout the narrative”. *Rhonda Dynes (Humber Literary Review, Issue 2, Vol 2, 2015. Pg 56)*

**Janet Turpin Myers** is a Canadian novelist and poet. Her debut novel, *Nightswimming*, was released by Seraphim in 2013 and her second *The Last Year of Confusion* in 2015, again by Seraphim. Her short story, *Crashing*, won third place in the 2013 gritLIT Fiction competition. Her poems have been published in 'Hammered Out' and 'Tower Poetry' anthologies. A tireless promoter, she has recently appeared at the Ottawa Writer's Festival;; Hamilton's gritLIT Festival;; Burlington's, Meet the Author series;; North Words Literary Festival;; Hamilton's LitLive Reading Series and the Junction Reads Series in Toronto

Acacia

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In manuscript

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# Once Upon an Effing Time

*Fiction*

Buffy Cram



It's 1969. An eight-year-old girl, Elizabeth Squire, has a choice to make: to be disabled by the circumstances of her own botched birth or to become extraordinary.

The story begins in Hell Hole, Ontario, a Kraft company town in "the cheese belt" of Canada.

To save her mother, Margaret, from an ordinary life of cheese, Elizabeth commits the first of many crimes.

She steals the keys to a school bus called "The Far Out" and they flee south of the border, in pursuit of a life of free love and Rock 'n' Roll, as advertised in *Time Life Magazine*. But by the time they've arrived in America, they're broke and their options are narrowing. To protect themselves, Elizabeth and Margaret must shed their old names and identities. Elizabeth transforms herself into MeMe Fantastica, a roadside psychic, healer of hearts, minds and bum trips, who speaks primarily in Bob Dylan song lyrics, and Margaret becomes Fran Sisco, her agent.

As this mother-daughter duo move from diner to diner, reading fortunes and encountering a weird and wonderful cast of misfits, hustlers and clowns, it becomes clear America is at a tipping point. Before they know it, they have been seduced into an increasingly-dark world of counterculture and Elizabeth is faced with another choice: whether to save herself or follow her mother down the rabbit hole.

Now, 3805 days later, having paid the price for her crimes, Elizabeth has just been let out of the Willingdon Youth Detention Centre and is headed to a group home where she must take the necessary steps to rebuild herself and try to come to terms with her sometimes-magical, sometimes-terrifying past.

Reminding one of Emily St John Mandel, Chloe Benjamin, Heather O'Neill.- literary but with up-market potential, *Once Upon An Effing Time* is a quirky, terrifying, darkly-funny romp that explores the fuzzy lines between sanity and insanity, magic and reality, love and duty. It asks the questions: how *does* it feel, to be on your own in a different country, with no direction home, like a rolling stone? And what exactly *is* the difference between love and delusion? And is it *really* really possible to overcome the past?

## Reviews of Buffy Cram's earlier work

"A man transforms his lover into a chair. A well-to-do suburbanite joins a troupe of cultured, ragtag vagrants. Buffy Cram's characters exist in off-kilter realities, just slightly in the future perhaps, yet they're as real as the people next door. Such is life in the funny-strange, quirky-sad world of Radio Belly. A wonderful, inventive debut." -- Charlotte Gill, Author of Ladykiller

"...[a] speculative, off-kilter tinge....allows Cram to represent shifts of mental and emotional ballast with a



very light and descriptive touch." — Quill & Quire

"Buffy Cram's book of short stories, *Radio Belly*, is full of kooky tales that reel a reader in and don't let go. She tackles issues, but combines them with magical thinking, so that the resulting stories are both really far out, but also very real at the same time." -- Tracy Sherlock — Vancouver Sun

"Buffy Cram's debut short story collection is full of the stuff publishers salivate over. Oddball characters - a between-careers museum writer; a girl who believes her belly picks up radio -- in absurd situations -- on a giant island of plastic after the Armageddon; facing a growing hoard of middle-class homeless. Cram's stories, like her characters and situations, are slightly unhinged, often choosing inventive quirk over heartfelt truth...Cram shows she doesn't need a smile to be smart, leaving you hungry for more." -- Mike Landry — Telegraph-Journal

"...an often-emotional, always-entertaining journey..." — Victoria Times Colonist

"...because of [Buffy Cram's] characters strange quirks, they seem to leap off the page and stand before you fully formed in glorious living colour...a must read." — Vancouver Weekly

"...an entertaining read, and Cram's writing pulled me from story to story with its promise of wit and a new lens through which to see the world. It is not every writer who can successfully combine stories about Dead Heads, dystopian futures and moustache conspiracy theories, and that Buffy Cram not only did so, but did so in her first collection, is an exciting indication of what she might have in store for us in the future." — National Post

"...I found myself loving Cram's quirky and original perspective, as well as her observant description and unique story-telling. Readers looking for a fresh short story collection, or even just something a little out of the ordinary, would be well served by picking up *Radio Belly* and I am excited to see what Cram publishes next." — In the Next Room

"...giving you the unexpected is what this promising young writer is best at...a whip-smart storyteller." -- Zoe Whittall — Globe & Mail

"...a terrific melange of overt weirdness and exquisite subtlety." — San Francisco Book Review

"Buffy Cram's *Radio Belly*, another noteworthy first book, splits the difference between...meta-fictional hijinks and...unflinching realism. Put another way, Cram takes the quiriness in her stories seriously." -- Joel Yanofsky — Montreal Gazette

**Buffy Cram's** fiction and non-fiction have appeared in multiple literary publications on both sides of the border as well as in the best-selling anthology, *Darwin's Bastards: Stories From Tomorrow*. She has been a fiction finalist for the Western Magazine Awards, has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and has won a National Magazine Award for her non-fiction. Her first book, *Radio Belly*, was published in 2012 by Douglas

Douglas & McIntyre  
Manuscript available

Fall 2023

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# HIROSHIMA BOMB MONEY

*Fiction*

**Terry Watada**



A powerful work of historical fiction that reminds us of the horrors of nuclear war, and the effects of racism.

The protagonist of *HIROSHIMA BOMB MONEY*, by **Terry Watada**, is based on the author's wife's great-aunt Chiemi, who survived the Hiroshima atom bomb for about three weeks. During her final days, she searched for her twin babies, hoping they were still alive. Also included in the novel are the stories of her fictional siblings, a brother who joined the Japanese army to fight in China and a sister who immigrated to Canada and suffered internment and exile during World War II. Being told entirely from the point of view of Japanese characters, the novel gives a new perspective on the war.

The bomb money of the title actually exists. The author's wife's family gave her a small mass of coins melted together by the bomb. Chiemi had buried the money two feet below her backyard at the beginning of the war. The radiation heat reached down far enough to fuse the coins together. It serves as a grim reminder of the horror of the atom bomb.

*HIROSHIMA BOMB MONEY* revolves around the true story of Chiemi Akamatsu, who survived the atom bomb despite being at Ground Zero. Though horribly disfigured and mortally injured, she spent almost three weeks searching for her twin babies. Her portion of the book covers the events leading up to the bomb and to the moment she finds her children. She then succumbs to her injuries.

The book also looks at the journeys of her brother and sister. Hideki, Chiemi's younger brother, joins the military and, like his comrades, dreams of doing his duty for the Emperor which ends in his "glorious" death in combat. His attitude changes because of the cruelty exhibited by his sergeant: the dressing downs, the humiliations, and the beatings. During his time in China, he witnesses and participates in mass slaughter, execution by beheading and burying alive members of the Chinese military and citizenship. What finally breaks him is witnessing his sergeant raping a young teenage girl in a Korean Comfort Women station. He kills him, but is not punished. The sergeant is declared a hero who "died in battle". The leaders cover up the sickening indiscretions of their sergeant. Soon thereafter, Hideki, disillusioned, gives up and dies in the blast of a suicide bomber.

Chisato Kimura (nee Akamatsu), the youngest, heeds the Emperor's advice to travel and gain knowledge of the world. Through an arranged marriage, she immigrates to Canada, where she experiences unjust and cruel immigration practices, a cheating husband, and the cruelty of the Japanese Canadian internment. The story focusses on the terrors of Hastings Park, a

“distribution centre for Japanese Canadians” (including the separation of babies from their mothers) at the outbreak of WWII, and the primitive conditions in the Interior of British Columbia. The book ends in Toronto after the war when Chisato receives the bomb money (buried Japanese coins melted together due to the heat of the bomb) from Japan and comes to terms with the loss of her family.

The writing does not shy away from the brutal and inhumane actions of countries involved in war. The Japanese atrocities in China in particular are rarely discussed in Western literature, and never in Japan.

**Terry Watada** is a Toronto writer with many publications including three novels, five poetry collections, a short story collection, two manga, two children’s books and two histories. His latest books are *Mysterious Dreams of the Dead* (Anvil Press, Vancouver 2020), a novel about the Japanese Canadian third generation, and *The Four Sufferings* (Mawenzi House Publishers, Toronto, 2020), a volume of poetry. He maintains a monthly column in the *Vancouver Bulletin* magazine.

Acacia	•	In Manuscript	•	All rights available
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# The Bomber in the Basement *Fiction*

Colleen Isherwood



Scottie Bronson, a teenager from an LA suburb, who participates in a huge protest bombing in Vietnam-era California, flees, and enters Canada under the guise of a draft dodger.

When Scottie is just five, he sneaks into his brothers' friend Dylan's house to retrieve a longbow, earning the acceptance of his two older brothers and their friend. The four are inseparable until 1964, when Scottie's oldest brother Tom is drafted into the U.S. Army. When he comes back to the States two years later, he is traumatized by what he has seen and done in the Vietnamese jungle, and the Bronson family suffers along with him. Scottie drops out of school, while his brother Allan and his friend Dylan go off to university. Scottie, Allen, and Scottie's girlfriend Mary Anne visit Dylan's communal flat in San Francisco's Haight Ashbury district on the weekends, and become caught up in the anti-war movement of the time.

Then Tom commits suicide; and the anti-war protests become more personal and more violent, culminating in the Kent State massacre in May 1970.

Tom's suicide, Kent State, the looming threat of the draft, Dylan's increasing radicalization, and some words of wisdom from Scottie's father, form a deadly cocktail of emotions that makes them want to do more than simply march and carry signs. A month after Kent State, using brother Allan's scientific know-how, Scottie and the others set off an enormous bomb at the L.A. Research Center to protest Vietnam. No one is supposed to die, but someone does.

The bombers are soon on America's Most Wanted list. Scottie, now known as Barry Burns, hitchhikes to Toronto. After changing identities, jobs and cities and witnessing the capture of his co-conspirators, Scottie ends up back in Toronto after seven years on the run.

He rents the basement of a house owned by John and Katie McKittrick. Katie's new tenant's secret is gradually revealed as the story unfolds and an unlikely friendship blossoms between Scottie and his landlady.

Meanwhile, Katie has her own problems: an unfaithful husband, a boss who tries to suppress her talent as a writer, and parents who are less than supportive. Her police officer father takes an immediate dislike to her new renter.



Inspired by real events, the story includes flashbacks to the Vietnam anti-war movement of the 1960s, and the circumstances that led Barry to Katie's basement apartment. **THE BOMBER IN THE BASEMENT** is an evocation of a rapidly-changing era, a charming story of an evolving friendship, and an exploration of the moral complexity of political actions.

**Colleen McCavour Isherwood** is a writer and editor, who has worked as a journalist for 45 years, producing newsletters and magazines on subjects ranging from environmental control to the hotel and restaurant business. Now retired, she has turned to fiction writing. *The Bomber in the Basement* is her first novel. Colleen lives in Toronto with her husband Steve.

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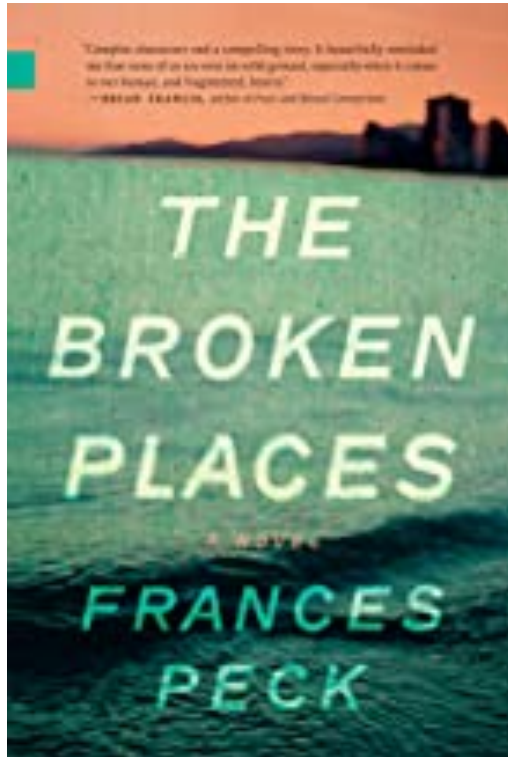
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# The Broken Places

*Fiction*

Frances Peck



Vancouver. A day like any other. Kyle, a successful cosmetic surgeon, is punishing himself with a sprint up a mountain. Charlotte, wife of a tech tycoon, is combing the farm belt for local cheese and a sense of purpose. Back in the city their families go about their business: landscaping, negotiating deals, skipping school. It's a day like any other--until suddenly it's not.

When the earthquake hits, the city erupts in chaos and fear. Kyle's and Charlotte's families, along with two passersby, are thrown together in an oceanfront mansion. The conflicts that beset these wildly different people expose the fault lines beneath their relationships, as they question everything in an effort to survive and reunite with their loved ones stranded outside the city.

Frances Peck's debut novel examines the unpredictable ways in which disaster can shake up lives and test personal resilience.

"The Broken Places is a rare treat that combines high-tension narrative with true literary craft, delivering characters that readers will love to love, hate, pity, and grieve. Set against the backdrop of a devastating earthquake, the story of how a diverse group of people react to their new reality is beautifully delivered, offering many moments of masterful writing and rich, sensory engagement. Layer by layer, Peck reveals the motivations, fears and desires of her characters, doling out clues that culminate in an explosive and heartbreaking climax. Yet the novel ends with hope. Not a sweet-sugary treat, but a hope grounded firmly in believable characters and situations that resonate."~ Ruth E. Walker, author of *Living Underground*

"Not a soul emerges unscathed in this intense and absorbing drama."  
~ Brett Josef Grubisic, *Vancouver Sun*

**Frances Peck** wrote fiction and poetry until her early twenties, when the realities of adulthood and rent steered her toward a career as a freelance writer, ghostwriter, editor, and instructor. Known for her writing and workshops on the finer points of language, she's the author of Peck's English Pointers (an online writing tool), a co-author of the HyperGrammar website, and an occasional essayist and blogger. Frances returns to her first love, fiction, with *The Broken Places*, part of the Nunatak First Fiction Series.

Newst Press  
6 x 9

• April 2022  
• 400 pages

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# The Blue Bomber

*Fiction*

John Cooper



The Blue Bomber is a fascinating novel with the main protagonist looking back on his life as he nears the end of it.

An aged man, his body lined, cracked, folded, creased by experience and pain, lies in a hospital bed, and he awaits death. Death is not unwelcome, not now; death promises peace and closure, as it always does in one way or another.

The man knows himself only as ‘the kid,’ for that is what they called him as he was growing up, and his own name, to himself, is long gone from his memory.

If the name is mentioned to him, it will slip away, eluding his grasp, the way morning mist escapes the grip of a laughing toddler, playing on the grass in the morning dew, but though his name is now a shadow, the old man’s deathscaped final days are a stream of vivid Crayola memories, a condensation, a gathering of droplets that collect into a cloud and then become a rain and a river and a flood of thoughts, the thought coming not only from his own life but strangely for him the lives of his ancestors going back three or four generations; the man is awash in these dreams of others and of himself as he lies prone, weak, exhausted on the hospital bed. The kid closes his eyes and he sees images sharper than real-life, honed to perfection, carved neatly, expertly, falling away, chunks of meat, memory-flesh falling before a severe and unforgiving butcher’s blade; cut sinew; despite the nerves of his wasting body failing, the pulse in his wrist fading, amidst the feel of piss being emptied, catheter-carried into a collection bag, all sensations falling away, his life replays before him, staged easily and loosely across his brainpan by a collection of ragged actors.

**John Cooper** has been a journalist with the Metroland Group and has taught courses in journalism and public relations, he is the author of a number of books on African-Canadian history including *Rapid Ray: The Story of Ray Lewis* (Tundra) and *Season of Rage: Hugh Barnett and the Struggle for Civil Rights*(Tundra). He is also the author of the teen novel *The Greyhound* (Dundurn) and a true crime title *Everything runs like a Movie*(Dundurn). Cooper lives in Whitby, Ontario.

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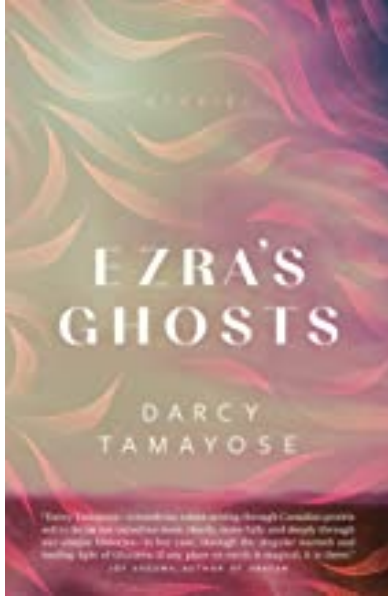
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# Ezra's Ghosts: Stories

*Short Stories*

Darcy Tamayose



Award-winning author Darcy Tamayose returns with *Ezra's Ghosts*, a collection of fantastical stories linked by a complex mingling of language and culture, as well as a deep understanding of grief and what it makes of us. Within these pages a scholar writes home from the Ryukyu islands, not knowing that his hometown will soon face a deadly calamity of its own. Another seeker of truth is trapped in Ezra after her violent death, and must watch how her family--and her killer--alter in her absence. The oldest man in town, an immigrant who came to Canada to escape imperial hardships, sprouts wings, and a wounded journalist bears witness to his transformation. Finally, past and present collide as a researcher reflects on the recent skinwars that have completely altered the world's topography. Binding the stories together is an intersection of arrival and departure--in a quiet prairie town called Ezra.

:"[a]n immersive and intelligent page turner.... this is a treasure."  
~Publishers Weekly

Praise for her earlier book *Odori*:

"Tamayose's prose brims with lyrical display ... We're offered fevid reminders of nature's beauty every few pages ... *Odori* is finally a war novel, its point to seek meaning amid chaos, to show the exquisite and eternal amid the blood and brutality and death. Yet where Tamayose truly excels, where her writing seizes you (well, me) in mind and heart, is where mortal truths insist on breaking through her gauzy curtain."~The Globe and Mail

"[A] sprawling, poetic and ambitious debut novel ... *Odori* is fascinating ... It's clear Tamayose has a gift for creating a sense of place."~The Edmonton Journal

Darcy Tamayose is a writer, graphic designer, and PhD student. Her work, which includes the novel, *Odori*, and youth fiction book, *Katie Be Quiet* received the Canada-Japan Literary Award, and has been shortlisted for both the Alberta Writer's Guild Georges Bugnet Award and Foreword Indie Juvenile Award.

Newest Press • April 2022 • All rights available except English North America  
5.5 x 8.5 • 288 Pages



# The Wildest Hunt: True Stories of Game Wardens and Poachers

Adventure

## Randy Nelson



A lively collection of wilder-than-fiction poaching stories from across Canada and the US, including insights from investigating officers involved in real poaching situations.

Get ready to read some of the wildest true crime imaginable. Showcasing fish and wildlife poaching stories from every province and territory in Canada and every state in the United States, decorated fishery officer Randy Nelson offers a thrilling look into a dangerous industry.

With insights gathered through thousands of phone calls and emails to investigating officers, *The Wildest Hunt* collects over one hundred North American fish and wildlife officers' stories, with tales ranging from absolutely disgusting to hysterically hilarious. Nelson takes readers across North America, from busting turtle-trafficking rings in Oklahoma to collecting a 4.5-metre beluga whale from a bus in Saskatchewan.

Nelson's entertaining stories also shed light on the important work of fish and wildlife officers, and the often messy, sometimes dangerous situations they must face, as well as how important the public can be in solving wildlife crime.

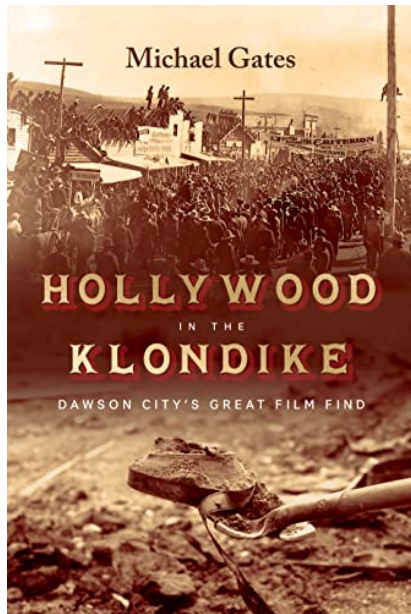
**Randy Nelson** was born and raised in Saskatchewan and moved to the BC coast for a job as a fishery officer without ever having seen a salmon. He has since become the most decorated fishery officer in the history of the province, having received multiple awards, such as the international Pogue-Elms Award and the Queen's Jubilee Medal, in his thirty-five year career. Randy is an accomplished athlete, having raced in over two hundred competitions including ten marathons. He used that running ability to literally run down and catch hundreds of poachers. Randy is also the author of *Poachers, Polluters and Politics* (Harbour Publishing, 2014).

Harbour Publishing • October 2022 • all rights except English North America available  
6" x 9" • 288 pages

# Hollywood in the Klondike *Film*

## Dawson City's Great Film Find

Michael Gates



In this exciting first-hand account of an unexpected cinematic discovery, Michael Gates delves into the history behind a hoard of silent films found buried beneath the permafrost of an Arctic gold rush town.

In 1978, hundreds of reels of silent films were unearthed from beneath the demolished site of an old hockey arena in Dawson City, Yukon. Author Michael Gates witnessed the cinematic discovery of these once-lost films—and in this book excavates and illuminates the history of a gold rush town like no other.

An event in the most unlikely of places and circumstances, the Klondike gold rush was unique in the history of Canada and the development of the North. Dawson City, the “Paris of the North,” was the hub of the Klondike gold rush 125 years ago. There were more saloons, gambling halls and theatres than there were places serving food, and the live theatre was at the centre of it all. Discover the icons who went from the Klondike to Hollywood: Robert Service, Jack London, Charlie Chaplin, Alexander Pantages, Sid Grauman, Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, Marjorie Rambeau and more.

Join Gates on this cinematic journey as he ponders the question: Did the Klondike help make Hollywood, or did Hollywood make the Klondike? Crafted from Gates's first-hand experience and extensive research, *Hollywood in the Klondike* casts a spotlight on an exciting piece of cinematic history.

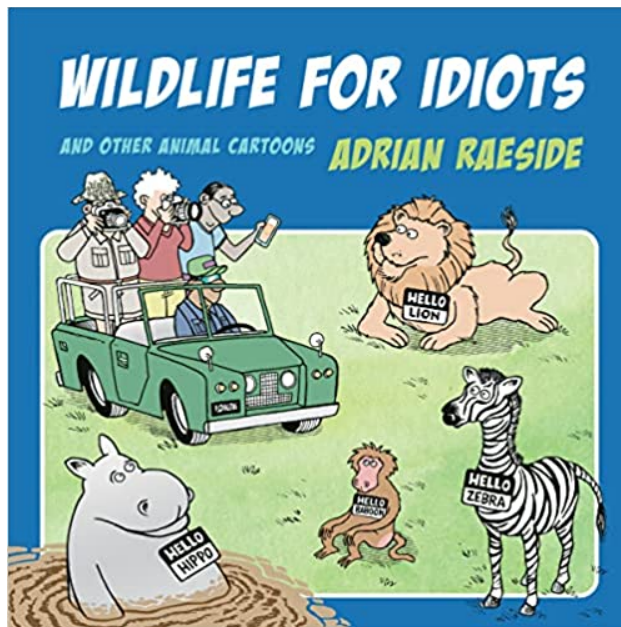
**Michael Gates** is the Yukon story laureate. He is the author of several historical books, including *From the Klondike to Berlin*, which was shortlisted for the Canadian Authors Association Fred Kerner Book Award, and *Dublin Gulch: The History of the Eagle Gold Mine*, which received the Axiom Business Book Award silver medal for corporate history. He was formerly the curator of collections for Klondike National Historic Sites in Dawson City and pens the popular column *History Hunter* for the *Yukon News*. He lives in Whitehorse, YT.

Harbour Publishing • August 2002 • All rights except English Canada available  
6" x 9" • 304 pages

# Wildlife for Idiots: And Other Animal Cartoons

*Humour*

Adrian Raeside



From best-selling cartoonist Adrian Raeside, a new collection of wildly funny animal-themed cartoons.

Prepare to walk on the wild side with 340 full-colour Raeside cartoons, now collected for the first time into a single volume. Here is a menagerie of garbage-rummaging bears, squabbling eagles, philosophizing wolves, pre-handbag alligators, artistic elephants, shedding mammoths and many more from the animal kingdom.

**Adrian Raeside** is the author of over twenty books, including *Tails Don't Lie* (1 & 2), *The World According to Dogs* and *Wildlife for Idiots*. His comic strip, *The Other Coast*, appears in over two hundred newspapers and magazines worldwide. Raeside lives on Vancouver Island, BC.

Harbour Publishing • October 2022 • All rights available except English Canada  
8.5" x 8.5" • 128 pages

# Pacific Voyages

## Exploration of the Greatest Ocean

GORDON MILLER

History



“Few artists are also historians, and few historians have the talent to illustrate the people and events they study. [Gordon Miller’s] paintings of ships under sail, wrecked on a lee shore, in storms and in cities are luminous.”—*Pacific Yachting*

In Western myths and imagination, the Pacific is the home of soft, warm, gentle trade winds, idyllic island lagoons and waving palms—the exotic earthly paradise of escapists, adventurers and romantics. Until James Cook showed otherwise, eighteenth-century Europeans also believed this ocean to contain a great southern continent of untold riches and beauty. The islands of the South Pacific can indeed be enchanting, their charm often exceeding expectations, but as European mariners realized when they first arrived here in the sixteenth century, the Pacific Ocean is also a region of ferocious tropical cyclones, treacherous, reef-littered atolls, wearying doldrums and mind-numbing distances

This book is maritime artist and historian Gordon Miller’s tribute to the humble little ships that first ventured across the great Pacific, and the brave sailors that manned them. It is a brief, selective and condensed story of the charting, exploitation and occupation of the Pacific Ocean, mostly in small, wooden ships, with only wind and human muscle for power. These maritime pioneers united North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, the entire Pacific Ocean, all the coasts that surround it, and all the islands within. Even confined to the last four centuries of oceangoing sail, this is a large and complex story—a story brought to life by Miller’s carefully researched text and masterfully rendered maritime paintings.

**Gordon Miller** is a distinguished maritime artist, author (*Voyages: To the New World and Beyond* by Gordon Miller) and illustrator. In his youth he worked as a seaman, sailing the West Coast from Alaska to Seattle. Later, he was chief designer for both the Vancouver Maritime Museum and Vancouver Museum. Since 1977, he has freelanced with commissions from institutions such as the UBC Museum of Anthropology, Parks Canada, the National Film Board and the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa. His work has been used by many publishers, including Canadian Geographic and National Geographic. His paintings appear in collections in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver. He lives in Vancouver, BC.

Douglas & McIntyre • May 2023 • All rights accepting that Canada available  
11" × 10" • 224 pages • 65 colour illustrations



# The Mirror Horse

*Memoir*

TAMARA WILLIAMSON



English/Canadian indie musician Tamara Williamson offers an unbridled account of a life in the world of horses.

From her first Clever little bay pony, Stroller, to brilliant ribbon-winning Fletcher, Tamara Williamson recalls the many significant horses in her life, grappling with what it means to be horse-obsessed and what drives this desire to connect with horses. As Williamson discovers, during the tumultuous years of relationships with people and horses, these complicated equine creatures reflect back to us our best and worst selves.

Woven throughout the stories of individual horses in Williamson's life is her own story of a creative, chaotic, challenging and adventurous life. Raised by an eccentric family, with a distant mother who disappeared into alcoholism and a charismatic father who left one sunny morning with a younger woman, Williamson struggles with dyslexia, and a sense of increasing detachment.

Horses, and the exacting sport of dressage, provide her with opportunities to connect, sometimes imperfectly. Her drive for accomplishment in equestrian sports, whether as a trainer or a rider, is regularly at odds with the fear that lingers from a traumatic childhood riding accident.

While reckoning with the financial and psychological expense of training and competition, and with the multitude of industries that benefit from horses, Williamson never loses sight of the enormous burden of responsibility she feels toward horses and the respect she has for their individual characters, memories and instincts. On the surface, *The Mirror Horse* is a book about horses—but beyond the bridles and braided manes, Williamson crafts a complex story about courage, family, and the unexpected places where we find a reflection of our souls: As a rider you can confuse yourself with being the teacher, but horses are constantly showing us something important. They are holding up a mirror.

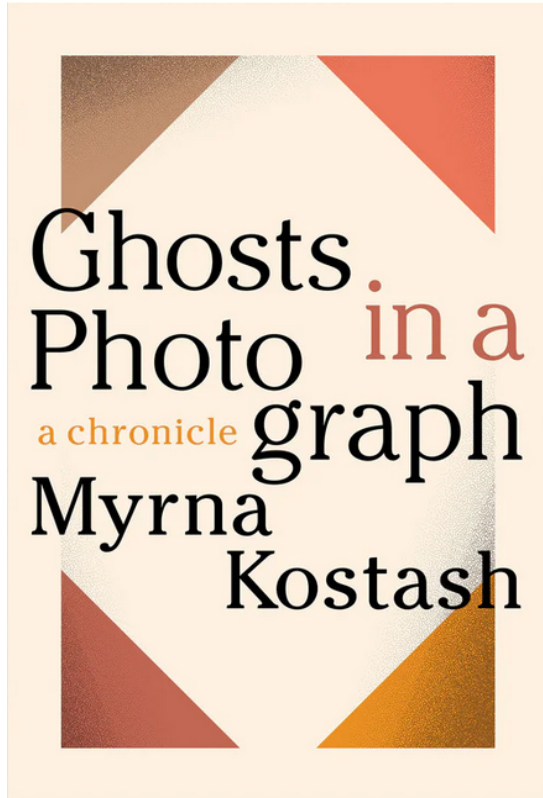
**Tamara Williamson** is a multidisciplinary storyteller, musician, songwriter, producer, playwright, multimedia artist, podcaster and equestrian. She has toured internationally as a musician, recording albums as a solo artist and with her band Mrs. Torrance. Her award-winning alternative musical-theatre debut *The Break-Up Diet* received rave reviews. Williamson is lifelong horse enthusiast and equestrian coach. She runs a business creating music for dressage performances.. For more information, visit [www.tamarawilliamson.ca/](http://www.tamarawilliamson.ca/)

Douglas & McIntyre • Spring 2023 • All rights except English Canada available  
6" x 9" • 272 pages • 16 B&W photographs

# Ghosts in a Photograph

*Memoir*

Myrna Kostash



In *Ghosts in a Photograph*, award-winning nonfiction writer Myrna Kostash delves into the lives of her grandparents, all of whom moved from Galicia, now present-day Ukraine, to Alberta at the turn of the twentieth century. Discovering a packet of family mementos, Kostash begins questioning what she knows about her extended families' pasts and whose narrative is allowed to prevail in Canada.

This memoir, however, is not just a personal story, but a public one of immigration, partisan allegiance, and the stark differences in how two sets of families survive in a new country: one as homesteaders, the other as working-class Edmontonians. Working within the gaps in history—including the unsolved murder in Ukraine of her great uncle—Kostash uses her remarkable acumen as a writer and researcher to craft a probable narrative to interrogate the idea of straightforward and singular-voiced pasts and the stories we tell ourselves about where we come from.

Rich in detail and propelled by vital curiosity, *Ghosts in a Photograph* is a determined, compelling, and multifaceted family chronicle.

"In the memoir *Ghosts in a Photograph*, ancestors populate vintage albums, their voices echoing across time in recorded interviews. But more salient, their efforts join in a personal, generational story about making a home on the Canadian plains."

~ Karen Rigby, *Foreword Reviews*

**Myrna Kostash** is the author of the classic *All of Baba's Children, No Kidding: Inside the World of Teenage Girls*, winner of the Alberta Culture and Writers' Guild of Alberta prize for Best Non-Fiction, and *Prodigal Daughter: A Journey to Byzantium*, which received the 2010 City of Edmonton Book Prize, the Writers' Guild of Alberta Wilfred Eggleston Award for Best Nonfiction, and was shortlisted for the 2011 Runcimann Award (UK). Her other titles include *The Doomed Bridegroom: A Memoir*, *Bloodlines: A Journey into Eastern Europe Canada and Europe*. In 2010, she was awarded the Writers Trust Matt Cohen Award for a Life of Writing.

NeWest Press • October 2022 • All rights available except English North America  
6" x 9" • 304 pages

# Tracking the Caribou Queen: *Memoir*

## Memoir of a Settler Girlhood

[Margaret Macpherson](#)



In this challenging memoir about her formative years in Yellowknife in the '60s and '70s, author Margaret Macpherson lays bare her own white privilege, her multitude of unexamined microaggressions, and how her childhood was shaped by the colonialism and systemic racism that continues today. Macpherson's father, first a principal and later a federal government administrator, oversaw education in the NWT, including the high school Margaret attended with its attached hostel: a residential facility mostly housing Indigenous children. Ringing with damning and painful truths, this bittersweet telling invites white readers to examine their own personal histories in order to begin to right relations with the Indigenous Peoples on whose land they live.

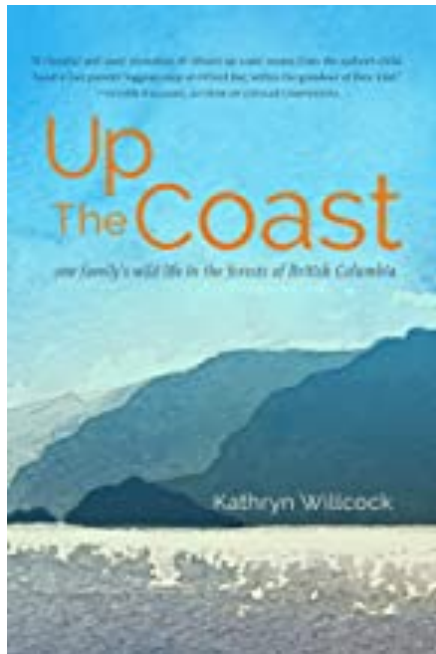
*Tracking the Caribou Queen* is beautifully crafted to a purpose: poetic language and narrative threads dissect the trope that persisted through her girlhood, that of the Caribou Queen, a woman who seemed to embody extreme and contradictory stereotypes of Indigeneity. Here, Macpherson is not striving for a tidy ideal of “reconciliation”; what she is working towards is much messier, more complex and ambivalent and, ultimately, more equitable.

Margaret MacPherson's publication of her short story collection *Perilous Departures* that launched her literary career. A first novel, *Released* was nominated for a Manitoba best book award in 2009, followed by a second novel *Body Trade* which won the De beers NorthWords Prize for Outstanding book in 2012.

NeWest Press • October 2022 • All rights except English North America available  
6" x 9" • 296 pages

# Up the Coast: One Family's Wild *Memoir* Life in the Forests of British Columbia

Kathryn Willcock



Kathryn Willcock and her sisters grew up in logging camps on the coast of B.C. in the 1960s when children were set loose to play in the wilderness, women kept rifles next to the wood stove, and loggers risked their lives every single day. The author's tales of grizzly bears, American tourists, and a couple of terrified gangsters, along with the wisdom of Indigenous elders, pour off the page like warm syrup on a stack of cookhouse hotcakes.

Praise for *Up The Coast*:

"A cheerful and sassy recreation of vibrant up-coast scenes from the author's childhood in her parents' logging camp at Orford Bay, within the grandeur of Bute Island."

~ Judith Williams, author of *Cougar Companions*

"Like the eight wandering arms of Jules Verne--the octopus who lives under the float--Kathryn Willcock's stories in *Up The Coast* delve in every direction. Told with humour, honesty, and charm, the author depicts Orford Bay's memorable cast of characters as well as experiences both bizarre and everyday."

~ Meaghan Marie Hackinen, author of *South Away*

**Kathryn Willcock** was born in Vancouver and spent her early years in float camps on the coast of B.C., particularly Bute Inlet where she and her sisters spent their days playing on the banks of the Orford River, an area considered one of the world's best locations for viewing grizzly bear.

Newest Press • April 2022 • All rights available except English North America  
6 x 9 • 224 pages



# L.M. MONTGOMERY'S COMPLETE JOURNALS THE ONTARIO YEARS 1911-1917

Preface by Jonathan F. Vance      Edited by Jen Rubio



The years following L.M. Montgomery's departure from Prince Edward Island were among the most eventful of her life. She travelled in England and Scotland on her honeymoon; she began her new role of minister's wife in Leaskdale, Ontario; she gave birth three times; and, in August 1914, she watched Canada go to war.

The original publication of Montgomery's journals in 1987 contained only a selection of her entries. Published now for the first time ever is the full record from 1911 to 1917, a wonderful account of the small and the large, the tragic and the funny. She delights in the birth of her first son. A second baby, however, is stillborn on the eve of war. By the time her third is born, war has become a disquieting reality, with local boys dying overseas.

This edition includes all of Montgomery's original photographs, many of which have never been published. The hundreds of annotations, completely new and exclusive to this edition, incorporate the most up-to-date historical thinking. A new preface by historian Jonathan F. Vance is lively and insightful.

Montgomery's record of global war and politics is fascinating; she would draw on it later in writing her novel *Rilla of Ingleside*, available in a newly annotated edition from Rock's Mills Press. Another new Rock's Mills Press title, [Reading Rilla: L.M. Montgomery Reworks Her Manuscript](#), reveals how Montgomery crafted and revised her work.

**Lucy Maud Montgomery** (November 30, 1874 – April 24, 1942), [published](#) as **L. M. Montgomery**, was a Canadian author best known for a collection of novels, essays, short stories, and poetry beginning in 1908 with [Anne of Green Gables](#). She published 20 novels as well as 530 short stories, 500 poems, and 30 essays. *Anne of Green Gables* was an immediate success; the title character, orphan [Anne Shirley](#), made Montgomery famous in her lifetime and gave her an international following.<sup>[1]</sup> Most of the novels were set in [Prince Edward Island](#), and those locations within Canada's smallest province became a literary landmark and popular tourist site – namely [Green Gables](#) farm.

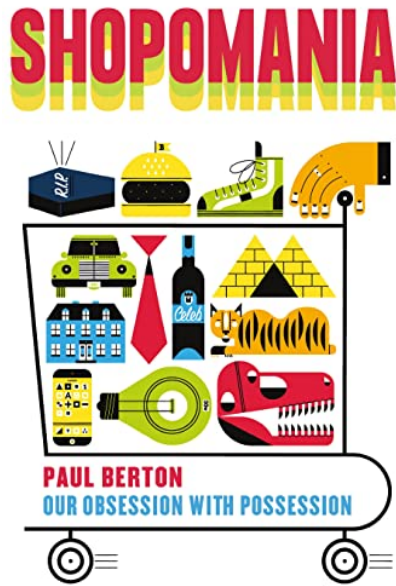
Her work, diaries, and letters have been read and studied by scholars and readers worldwide.<sup>[2]</sup>

Rock Mills Press      •      Available      •      All rights available except English  
6 x 9      •      368 pages

# Shopomania: Our Obsession with Possession

*Social Science*

Paul Berton



A thought-provoking and provocative challenge to consumerism (with plenty of name-dropping and celebrity antics).

Sassy and satirical, Shopomania is an economic, environmental and social study. This light-hearted, dark-souled dictionary of coined words, or “shoponyms,” takes readers on a roller-coaster ride of avaricious antics and outrageous profligacy.

Shopping in one form or another has existed for millennia but, aside from a few slumps, each generation has outdone the previous one. In the past fifty years, shopping—and its associated carbon footprint—has grown exponentially.

Berton argues that if we invented today’s consumer culture, then we can invent something to replace it. We can do a better job of making the cycle of stuff truly circular rather than linear. We can be more environmentally, socially and politically conscious of what we buy and how it comes to us—and where it will go after we are finished with it. A species that has made shopping ubiquitous can figure all these things out with little more than co-operation and creativity, and by asking if it is really necessary to “own it now” as we have been told—endlessly—since childhood. Must we possess a thing to enjoy it? Do we really need all that stuff?

"Shopomania is the improvised explosive device that Paul Berton has planted under the concept of shopping in all its forms. More explicitly, he has used surgical tools, corrosive chemicals and a wealth of words like “clandestine” and “limoncello” to destroy our previous regard for humanity’s built structures and made objects. The Adam Curtis of retail, Berton has destroyed my last remaining pleasure in life but isn’t it better to know the truth about our stuff? Isn’t it?" — Heather Mallick, Toronto Star

**Paul Berton** is an award-winning journalist and editor-in-chief of The Hamilton Spectator and His weekly “editor’s desk” column in the Spectator is a must-read for 100,000 print readers.-chief.

Douglas & McIntyre • October 2022 • All rights available except English Canada  
6" x 9" • 320 pages

# Storylines

Social Science

## The Power of Stories and Songs

J. Edward Chamberlin



A brilliant and timely exploration of the power of stories and songs— from both the distant past and today’s news—counters despair and disillusionment with hope and possibility.

Stories are our first and last survival strategy. For tens of thousands of years, they have told humanity what we know and what we don’t know, what to wonder about and what to watch out for. We draw comfort from our great myths, and from the storytelling of our contemporaries (including members of our families).

Storytelling holds us together. And sometimes it keeps us apart.

From the stories we tell children, to literary works, to pop music, stories take many forms and give shape and substance to things we believe, perpetuating ideals and identities and provoke controversy and conflict. They include explanations of the origin and purpose of things, of causes and effects and sequences of events, and of our relationships to the forces that surround us. They also shape the institutions we establish, the ways in which we constitute ourselves as communities, and the covenants we enter into with secular as well as spiritual powers. Stories that celebrate growth and development and “civilized” progress can be a hazard when we use them to destroy Indigenous homelands and heritages and the environment. Stories can also provide a form of resistance to the overpowering realities of the everyday, empowering our imaginations to create a sense of possibility. It is within storytelling, and by understanding how stories work, that we can find a way to bring sympathy and judgment back into the centre of our conversations about what we can—and what we must—do. Stories and songs, ours and those of others, can help us. They can save us.

**J Edward Chamberlin** is professor emeritus at the University of Toronto and was senior research associate with the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. He has worked on sovereignty and land claims throughout Canada and around the world, and has spoken widely on literary, historical and cultural issues. He is the author of several acclaimed titles, including *Horse: How the Horse Has Shaped Civilizations* (2006), which was a national bestseller, and *If This Is Your Land, Where Are Your Stories? Finding Common Ground* (2003), both published by Knopf Canada.

Douglas & McIntyre • Spring 2023 • All rights available except English Canada  
5.5 x 8.5 • 208 pages

# Return to the Rainbow Bridge *Children's Paradise for Cats*

**Adrian Raeside**



*Bestselling cartoonist Adrian Raeside captures the special bond between humans and their pets and, with marvelous illustrations, brings gentle humour to a story that will resonate with cat lovers of all ages.*

Amy and Poppy are best friends, as close as a girl and a cat can be. They have been by each other's side since Amy was born, and seasons pass happily in companionship with tea parties, yarn chasing and warm naps. But as Poppy grows older, her purrs grow fainter—and one night, Poppy disappears. Amy is heartbroken until a helpful but flatulent friend of Poppy brings her to the Rainbow Bridge, a magical paradise for pets of all kinds.

There, Amy finds Poppy again and together they explore the Rainbow Bridge, a place where there are fields of catnip and cats never run out of fragile things to break, and where the feline inhabitants have formed a truce with pet birds, mice and hamsters.

Since publication in 2012, Adrian Raeside's *The Rainbow Bridge: A Visit to Pet Paradise* has sold over **75.000** copies in Canada and the United States, providing a story that comforts children as they deal with the loss of a pet. This companion volume will have special appeal for cat lovers.

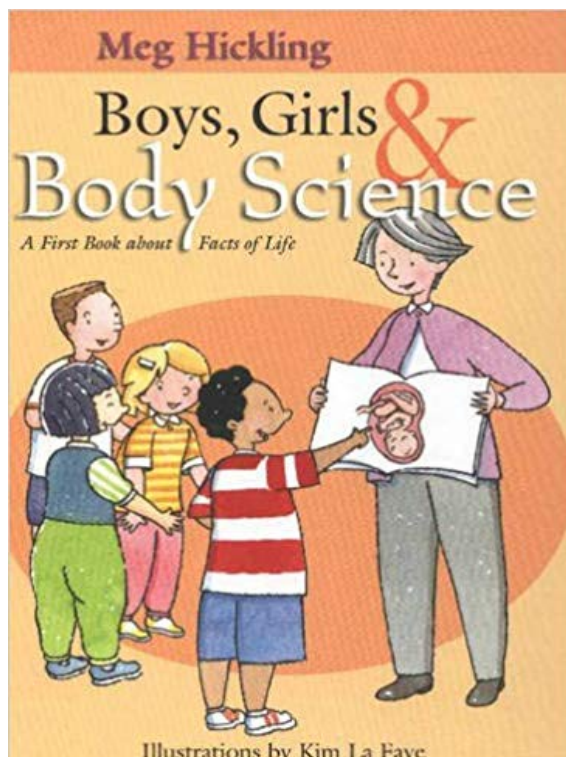
**Adrian Raeside** is the author of over twenty books, including *TailsDon't Lie* (1 & 2), *The World According to Dogs*, and *Wildlife for Idiots*. His comic strip, *The Other Coast*, appears in over two hundred newspapers and magazines worldwide. Raeside lives on Vancouver Island, BC.

Harbour Publishing • Spring 2023 • All rights except English North America available  
8" x 8" • 32 pages • 32 colour illustrations



# Boys, Girls & Body Science: *Children's A First Book About Facts of Life*

Meg Hickling, illustrated by Kim La Fave



*“an excellent resource that will make life easier for parents struggling to find the words to explain reproduction and sex to their children.” -Quill & Quire*

With humour and sensitivity, *Boys, Girls & Body Science* provides no-nonsense answers for children—and parents—with questions about sex. Specifically designed for young readers, *Boys, Girls & Body Science* walks children through the wonders of their bodies in a direct, easy-to-read manner.

The story begins with Nicholas, 7, and Jenny, 5, learning about different types of science in their class - from ecology to the digestive system.

Then Meg Hickling, a guest speaker, comes to talk to them about a new type of science. Hickling talks about the “science names” for the children's body parts, about good and bad touches and about making babies. She coaches the children not to be embarrassed or shy about body science: “We are going to make this just like a science lesson, we will learn to think like a scientist and we will learn the scientific names for our private parts,” she says.

**Meg Hickling** is a Registered Nurse who has been teaching sexual education for over 25 years. She is an outstanding educator, and her ability to convey difficult material with sensitivity, gentle humour and warmth distinguishes her as a remarkable teacher and role model. Kim La Fave, a Governor General's Award-winning artist, is the illustrator of *Amos's Sweater* (by Janet Lunn) — winner of the Ruth Schwartz Children's Book Award and the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award for illustration — *Follow That Star* (by Kenneth Oppel), *I Am Small* (by Cherrie Fitch), the bestselling *The Bones and Skeleton Book* (by Steven Cumbaa).

Harbour • Available • Bulgarian, Chinese, Greek, Japanese, Turkish rights sold, all others available

# The Science and Superpowers *Children's* of Seaweed: A Guide for Kids

Amanda Swinimer



A middle-grade and family-friendly introduction to the enchanting world of seaweed. young readers will Be delighted to learn about the wonderful, watery world of seaweed, where emerald-green kelp forests grow as tall as trees and rainbow seaweeds shimmer like gemstones in the sunlight.

Seaweed can be fun too, providing tasty snacks like nori crisps and cool things to do: hunt for dead man's fingers to squeeze like a squirt gun, have a popping contest with rockweed or make seaweed art. Seaweeds are also critical to the health of the planet—they produce most of the oxygen we need to breathe, help to keep the earth cool and provide habitat for sea creatures. And they're full of healthy vitamins and have more minerals than any other food!

This colourful, activity-packed book explores the science of seaweed while showing how to sustainably harvest and use it, and providing many fun facts about marine plants and animals. It is a unique field guide, featuring seaweeds from both Atlantic and Pacific oceans and showcasing the beautiful and vital ecosystems of the coasts, and is sure to inspire curious beachcombers of all ages.

**Amanda Swinimer** (Bsc), a.k.a. "Mermaid of the Pacific", hand harvests wild seaweed from the beaches and kelp forests of the Salish Sea for her business, Dakini Tidal Wilds. She also conducts seaweed tours and gives presentations on seaweed to schoolchildren and audiences of all ages, passing on her knowledge of ocean ecology and the nutritional benefits of seaweed. She is the author of *The Science and Spirit of Seaweed: Discovering Food, Medicine and Purpose in the Kelp Forests of the Pacific Northwest*. She lives on the west coast of Vancouver Island with her two daughters.

Harbour Publishing • Spring 2023 • All rights available except English Canada  
8½" × 8½" • 144 pages • Colour illustrations