

VANCOUVER  
WRITERS  
FEST



*2021*  
Festival  
Reading  
List



## The Summer Book Club with Rivka Galchen

Thursday, July 22, 2021  
6:00pm PT  
Online

**TICKETS NOW  
ON-SALE**

Join us for our Summer Book Club event, featuring *New York Times* bestselling author **Rivka Galchen** in an exclusive Canadian event for her novel, *Everyone Knows Your Mother Is a Witch* (HarperCollins). Tune in July 22 at 6pm PT for a live event moderated by *The Burning* author and National Book Award nominee, **Megha Majumdar**.

Ticket buyers to our Summer Book Club will receive a hardcover of *Everyone Knows Your Mother Is a Witch* as part of their purchase.

“A resounding delight” (*Publishers Weekly*) and “dazzling in its humour, intelligence, and the richness of its created world” (Kirkus), this is certain to be a wickedly smart event to invigorate your summer evening plans.

It’s 1618 in Württemberg, Germany, and Katharina Kepler, an illiterate widow with a penchant for stirring up trouble, has just been accused of witchcraft. The rumour sticks, and as the plague spreads and aggrieved neighbours come out of the woodwork, Katharina must rely on her son Johannes Kepler (acclaimed astronomer) and widower Simon who lives next door to set the record straight.

Books may be picked up at Granville Island’s Festival House, or can be shipped to residential addresses for a nominal fee. Please note your preference while confirming your ticket.

*This event is presented in partnership with SFU Continuing Studies.*

# Welcome to our 2021 Festival Reading List!

What a pleasure it is to present you with a list of authors and books that will be showcased this fall at the Vancouver Writers Fest. It's been quite a year (and a half) but one constant has been the enduring and vital role that books play in times of difficulty. Over this period, some people turned to reading as a form of entertainment (Make me laugh! Make me cry!); others read as a way to connect with humanity and to pass the many hours of forced seclusion. Still others turned to books to help explain difficult social and political themes that continually knock at our consciences. Whatever the reason, books helped to get us through the long days and nights of the pandemic, and now they'll help us to embrace the brighter days ahead!

This fall, the VWF reimagines our programming to present over 110 Canadian and International authors and books that will be offered at a combination of in-person and digital events over our week-long Festival. As we move through these summer weeks we will adapt our Festival plans to best-suit the current environment as outlined by our government officials. The Festival shall run October 18-24, and will feature dozens of events, including five specially curated by award-winning author, **Lawrence Hill, our 2021 Guest Curator!**

We hope this collection of authors and books will inspire you to learn more about these writers and their work(s), and to join us for these outstanding events this fall.

These books are available for sale and for order through your favourite independent booksellers!

I wish you a joyful re-emergence, and a safe and happy summer.



©Yasmeen Strang



Leslie Hurtig,  
Artistic Director

*This Reading List represents all confirmed VWF authors as of press time. For additions please check our website regularly.*

# Important Dates

## Ticket On-Sale Dates

Members & Schools Wed, Sept 8	Public Wed, Sept 15
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## Festival Week

October  
18-24

## 2021 Guest Curator: *Lawrence Hill*



**Lawrence Hill** is the award-winning and internationally bestselling author of ten books of fiction and nonfiction, including *The Book of Negroes*, which was made into a six-part TV mini-series, and *The Illegal*, which was the winner of CBC Canada Reads. His previous novels, *Some Great Thing* and *Any Known Blood*, became national bestsellers. Hill's nonfiction work includes *Blood: The Stuff of Life*, the subject of his 2013 Massey Lectures, and the memoir *Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada*. Hill's volunteer work has included Crossroads International, the Black Loyalist Heritage Society, Book Clubs for Inmates, and The Ontario Black History Society. A professor of creative writing at the University of Guelph, he is working on a new novel about the thousands of African-American soldiers who travelled from military bases in the Deep South to help build the Alaska Highway in northern British Columbia and Yukon during World War Two. A member of the Order of Canada, Hill lives in Hamilton, Ontario.



# Adult Titles

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Jordan Abel	Chantal Gibson	Ruth Ozeki
Kamal Al-Solaylee	Francisco Goldman	Valérie Perrin
André Alexis	Ann Goldstein	Ben Philippe
Mona Awad	Hiromi Goto	Casey Plett
Linwood Barclay	Lauren Groff	Richard Powers
Gary Barwin	Tomson Highway	Pilar Quintana
Brit Bennett	Gord Hill	Jael Richardson
Joshua Bennett	Liz Howard	Jaap Robben
Shashi Bhat	Roy Jacobsen	Yusef Salaam
Bertrand Bickersteth	Uzma Jalaluddin	Renée Sarojini Saklikar
Lisa Bird-Wilson	Carrie Jenkins	Anne Serre
Myriam J.A. Chancy	Harold R. Johnson	jaye simpson
Te-Ping Chen	Wayne Johnston	Adam Sol
Joanna Chiu	Cherie Jones	Lisa Taddeo
George Elliott Clarke	Stephen Graham Jones	Eddy Boudel Tan
Douglas Coupland	Mieko Kawakami	Rob Taylor
Christa Couture	Linda Boström Knausgård	Miriam Toews
Molly Cross-Blanchard	Arno Kopecky	Jeff VanderMeer
Aminder Dhaliwal	Atticus Lish	Katherena Vermette
Anthony Doerr	Linden MacIntyre	Karina Vernon
Antonio Michael Downing	J.B. MacKinnon	Isabella Wang
Norma Dunning	Beverley McLachlin	Jesse Wente
Elisa Shua Dusapin	Darrel J. McLeod	Colson Whitehead
Esi Edugyan	Will McPhail	Zoe Whittall
Omar El Akkad	Silvia Moreno-Garcia	Sam Wiebe
Joshua Ferris	Billeh Nickerson	Ian Williams
John Freeman	Andrew O'Hagan	Kathleen Winter
Claire Fuller	Alix Ohlin	Alex Wood
Pik-Shuen Fung	Susan Orlean	Rachel Yoder

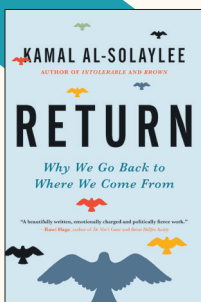


Available  
McClelland & Stewart  
\$32.95  
Memoir

## Nishga

Jordan Abel

From Griffin Poetry Prize winner **Jordan Abel** comes a groundbreaking autobiographical meditation on the complicated legacies of Canada's residential school system and contemporary Indigenous existence. *Nishga* shows the impact colonial violence had on multiple generations, drawing on autobiography and a series of interconnected documents. *Nishga* confronts difficult truths and explores how both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples engage with a history of colonial violence that is quite often rendered invisible.

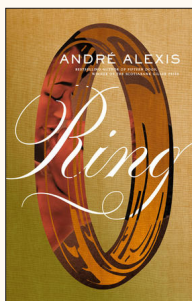


September 2021  
HarperCollins Publishers  
\$32.99  
Nonfiction

## Return: Why We Go Back to Where We Come From

Kamal Al-Solaylee

Drawing on extensive reporting, astute political analysis and his own memory, award-winning author **Kamal Al-Solaylee** brings readers to his homeland of Yemen: wracked by war, starvation and daily violence. In *Return*, Al-Solaylee interviews dozens of people like himself who have chosen to—or long to—return to their homelands. A chronicle of love and loss, of global reach and personal desires, *Return* sets the narrative of “going home” against the geopolitical forces that shape our tumultuous times.



September 2021  
Coach House Books  
\$21.95  
Fiction

## Ring

André Alexis

The Scotiabank Giller Prize–winning author of *Fifteen Dogs*, **André Alexis**, offers a fresh take on the romance novel in his latest, *Ring*. From their very first meeting, Gwen and Tancred were made for one another. Unfortunately, there is a wrinkle. Gwen's mother gives her a magic ring which has been passed down for generations. It allows the bearer to change three things about her beloved. But like all blessings, this may also be a curse. A playful meditation on the past, magic, and love, *Ring* promises to turn romance stories upside down forever.

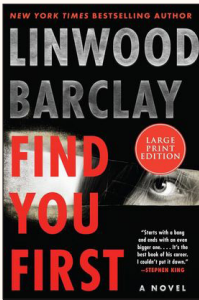


August 2021  
Hamish Hamilton  
\$29.95  
Fiction

## All's Well

Mona Awad

Miranda Fitch's life is a waking nightmare—and full of chronic back pain. On the verge of losing her job as a theater director, and determined to put on Shakespeare's *All's Well That Ends Well*, she faces a mutinous cast, and three peculiar strangers. From the critically acclaimed author of *Bunny*, **Mona Awad** has concocted her most potent, subversive novel yet. *All's Well* is the story of a woman at her breaking point, and a formidable, piercingly funny indictment of our collective refusal to witness female pain.



Available  
HarperLuxe  
\$36.99  
Thriller

## Find You First

Linwood Barclay

Called “the best book of his career” by Stephen King, *New York Times* bestselling author **Linwood Barclay's** *Find You First* explores the mysterious elimination of the heirs to a tech millionaire's empire. When Miles, a former sperm donor with a hereditary terminal illness, meets his daughter Chloe, their excitement is overshadowed by a deadly race against time. One by one, Miles's other potential heirs are vanishing. Who is the vicious killer—another heir methodically erasing rivals? Or is something even *more* sinister going on?



Available  
Random House Canada  
\$32.00  
Fiction

## Nothing the Same, Everything Haunted

Gary Barwin

A middle-aged Jewish man named Motl, who fantasizes about being a cowboy, goes on an eccentric quest across Europe after the 1941 Nazi invasion of Lithuania in this wild and witty yet heartrending novel from the bestselling author of *Yiddish for Pirates*, shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. This is an imaginative and deeply felt exploration of genocide, persecution, colonialism, and masculinity, saturated in **Gary Barwin's** sharp wit and perfect pun-play. *Nothing the Same, Everything Haunted: The Ballad of Motl the Cowboy* is a one-of-a-kind novel of sheer genius.



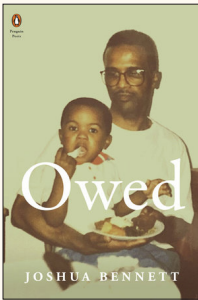
Available  
Riverhead Books  
\$36.00  
Fiction

# The Vanishing Half

Brit Bennett

A #1 *New York Times* Bestseller and one of Barack Obama's Favorite Books Of The Year, *The Vanishing Half* is a stunning, Women's Prize shortlisted novel about twin sisters, formerly inseparable, who live in two very different worlds, from their families, their communities, their racial identities. One lives with her Black daughter in the same southern town she once ran away from. The other secretly passes for white, her white husband knowing nothing of her past.

**Brit Bennett** considers the influence of the past and why we sometimes live as something other than our authentic selves.

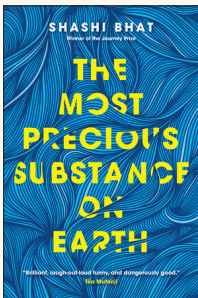


Available  
Penguin Books  
\$27.00  
Poetry

# Owed

Joshua Bennett

From 2021 Whiting Award and Guggenheim Fellow recipient **Joshua Bennett**, a "rhapsodic, rigorous poetry collection, which pays homage to everyday Black experience in the U.S." (*The New Yorker*) *Owed* is a book with celebration at its center, asking how we might mend the relationship between ourselves and the people, spaces, and objects we have been taught to think of as insignificant, as fundamentally unworthy of study, reflection, attention, or care, and asking us to imagine the possibilities of our shared, unpredictable present, anew.

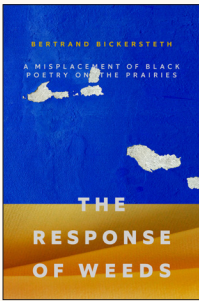


August 2021  
McClelland & Stewart  
\$24.95  
Fiction

# The Most Precious Substance on Earth

Shashi Bhat

A humorous coming-of-age novel and a sharp-edged look at how silence can shape a life, from **Shashi Bhat**, winner of the Journey Prize. Nina, a bright, sensitive teacher, doesn't say anything when strange things happen. And she won't ever speak of the incident in high school that changes the course of her life. Darkly funny, deeply moving, at times unsettling and even shocking, Bhat's irresistible novel examines the fraught relationships between those who take and those who have something taken.

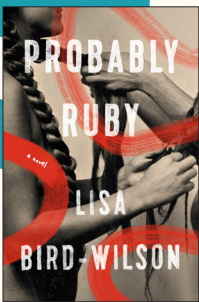


Available  
NeWest Press  
\$18.95  
Poetry

# The Response of Weeds

Bertrand Bickersteth

**Bertrand Bickersteth's** debut poetry collection—a 2020 CBC Poetry Book of the Year—explores what it means to be Black and Albertan through a variety of prisms: historical, biographical, and geographical. *The Response of Weeds* offers a much-needed window on often overlooked contributions to the province's character and provides perspectives on the question of Black identity on the prairies. Through these evocative poems, Bickersteth uses language to call up the contours of the land itself, land that is both mesmerizing and dismissively effacing. Such is Black identity here on this paradoxical land, too.



August 2021  
Doubleday Canada  
\$29.95  
Fiction

# Probably Ruby

Lisa Bird-Wilson

An audacious, brave book about an adopted woman's search for her Indigenous identity, **Lisa Bird-Wilson's** *Probably Ruby* is a breathtakingly crafted debut novel with stunning, intimate revelations. Relinquished as an infant, Ruby is placed in a foster home and finally adopted by Alice and Mel, a less-than-desirable couple. But when her new parents' marriage falls apart, Ruby begins to search in the unlikeliest of places for her true identity. Seeking understanding of how we come to know who we are, *Probably Ruby* lingers beautifully.

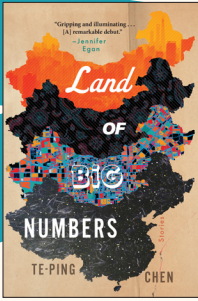


September 2021  
Harper Perennial  
\$24.99  
Fiction

# What Storm, What Thunder: A Novel

Myriam J.A. Chancy

At the end of a sweltering day, as markets and businesses begin to close, an earthquake of 7.0 magnitude shakes the capital of Haiti, Port-au-Prince. Award-winning author **Myriam J. A. Chancy** masterfully charts the inner lives of the characters affected by the disaster. Brilliantly crafted, fiercely imagined, and deeply haunting, *What Storm, What Thunder* is a singular, stunning record, a reckoning of the heartbreaking trauma of disaster, and—at the same time—an unforgettable testimony to the tenacity of the human spirit.



Available

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

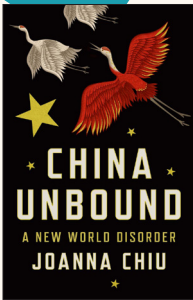
\$15.99

Short Stories

## Land of Big Numbers: Stories

Te-Ping Chen

Gripping and compassionate, *Land of Big Numbers* traces the journeys of Chinese communities, their history, their government, and how all of that has tumbled—messily, violently, but still beautifully—into the present. Cutting between clear-eyed realism and tongue-in-cheek magical realism, **Te-Ping Chen's** stories show people striving for openings where mobility is limited. She layers years of experience reporting in China for the *Wall Street Journal* with incantatory prose in this taut, surprising debut, proving herself both a remarkable cultural critic and an accomplished new literary voice.



September 2021

House of Anansi

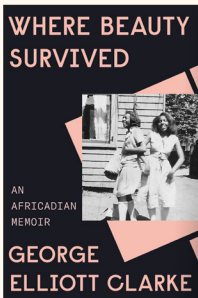
\$24.99

Nonfiction

## China Unbound: A New World Disorder

Joanna Chiu

As the world's second-largest economy, China is extending its influence across the globe with the complicity of democratic nations. **Joanna Chiu** has spent a decade tracking China's propulsive rise, from a multi-billion-dollar "New Silk Road" global investment project to the protests in Hong Kong, underground churches in Beijing, and exile Uyghur communities in Turkey, exposing Beijing's high-tech surveillance and aggressive measures that result in human rights violations against those who challenge its power.



August 2021

Knopf Canada

\$32.00

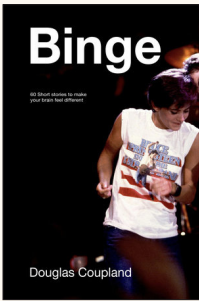
Memoir

## Where Beauty Survived: An Africadian Memoir

George Elliott Clarke

As a boy, **George Elliott Clarke** knew that a great deal was expected from him and his two brothers. They were the descendants of an accomplished, Virginia-descended family on his father's side. In contrast, his mother's family were down-to-earth country folk. Such contradictions underlay much of his life—Black and White, outstanding and ordinary, high and low. With vulnerability and humour Clarke explores these dualities in *Where Beauty Survived* and shows us how they shaped him as a poet and thinker. This is a revealing memoir set in the Black Canadian community that Clarke calls Africadia, in Halifax, Nova Scotia.





October 2021  
Random House Canada  
\$29.95  
Short Stories

## Binge

Douglas Coupland

The first new work of fiction since 2013 from one of Canada's most successful, idiosyncratic and world-defining writers, **Douglas Coupland**. *Binge* is a collection of sixty stories laced with Coupland's observational profundity and existential worry. The characters, of course, are Coupland's own: crackpots, cranks and sweetie-pies, dad dancers and perpetrators of barbecues. People in the grip of unconscionable urges; lonely people; dying people; silly people. If you love Doug's fiction, this collection is like rain on the desert.

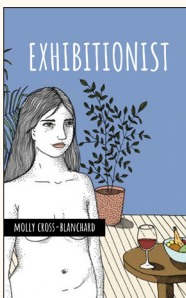


Available  
Douglas & McIntyre  
\$26.95  
Memoir

## How to Lose Everything

Christa Couture

From the amputation of her leg at a young age and her first child's single day of life to the heart transplant and subsequent death of her second child, to divorce born of grief and then the thyroidectomy that threatened her career as a professional musician, award-winning musician **Christa Couture** understands the heart of loss. In a stunning, transformative memoir, Couture evokes the joy and lightness that both precede and eventually follow grief, as well as the hope and resilience that grow from connections with others.



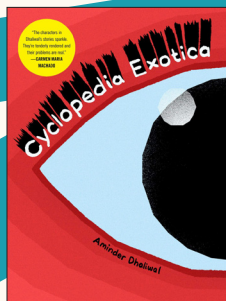
Available  
Coach House Books  
\$21.95  
Poetry

## Exhibitionist

Molly Cross-Blanchard

One minute she's drying her underwear on the corner of your mirror, the next she's asking the sky to swallow her up: the narrator of *Exhibitionist* oscillates between a complete rejection of shame and the consuming heaviness of it. Painfully funny, brutally honest, and alarmingly perceptive, Métis writer and Publisher of *Room Magazine*, **Molly Cross-Blanchard's** poems use humour and pop culture as vehicles for empathy and sorry-not-sorry confessionalism. What this speaker wants more than anything is to be *seen*, to tell you the worst things about herself in hopes that you'll still like her by the end.



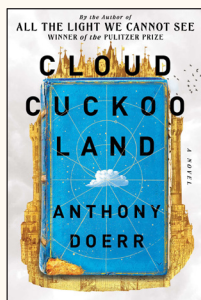


Available  
Drawn & Quarterly  
\$29.95  
Graphic Novel

# Cyclopeda Exotica

Aminder Dhaliwal

After the success of *Woman World*—the Instagram comic which appeared on 25 “best of” lists—**Aminder Dhaliwal** returns with *Cyclopeda Exotica*, in which doctor’s office waiting rooms, commercials, dog parks, and dating apps capture the lives of the cyclops community, a largely immigrant population displaying physical differences from the majority. The cyclops face microaggressions and overt xenophobia, but still find love, community, and navigate life alongside the two-eyed majority. Through this parallel universe, Dhaliwal comments on race, difference, beauty, and belonging with her distinctive humour steeped in millennial references.

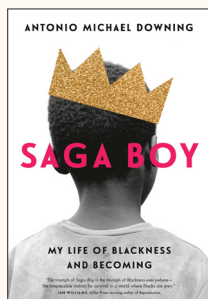


September 2021  
Scribner  
\$39.99  
Fiction

# Cloud Cuckoo Land: A Novel

Anthony Doerr

From the Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *All the Light We Cannot See*, comes a soaring novel about children in a broken world finding resilience and hope as they face the perils of a world across several centuries. **Anthony Doerr** has created a tapestry that reflects our vast interconnectedness—with other species, with each other, with those before and after us. *Cloud Cuckoo Land* is a hauntingly beautiful and redemptive novel about stewardship—of the written word, of the Earth, and of the human heart.

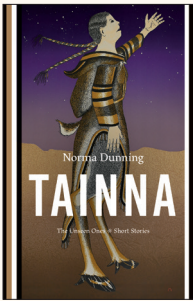


Available  
Viking  
\$26.95  
Memoir

# Saga Boy: My Life of Blackness and Belonging

Antonio Michael Downing

**Antonio Michael Downing**'s memoir is a startling mash-up of memories and mythology, told in gripping, lyrical prose. Raised in the rainforests of Trinidad until their grandmother dies, Downing and his brother are sent to live in a tiny Ontario town where they are the only Black children. There, he begins a journey using music and performance to transform himself. Richly evocative, *Saga Boy* is a heart-wrenching, uplifting story of a lonely boy who overcomes adversity and abandonment to reclaim his Black identity and heritage.



Available  
Douglas & McIntyre  
\$19.95  
Short Stories

## Tainna: The Unseen Ones

Norma Dunning

Drawing on both lived experience and cultural memory, **Norma Dunning** brings together six new short stories centred on modern-day Inuk characters in *Tainna*. Ranging from homeless to extravagantly wealthy, from spiritual to jaded, young to elderly, and even from alive to deceased, Dunning's characters are united by shared feelings of alienation, displacement and loneliness resulting from their experiences in southern Canada, where prejudice, misogyny and inequity are most often found hidden in plain sight.

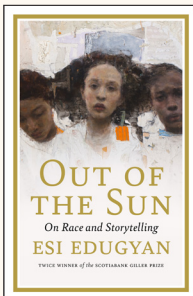


Available  
Open Letter  
\$14.95  
Fiction

## Winter in Sokcho

Elisa Shua Dusapin

It's winter in Sokcho, a tourist town between South and North Korea. A young French Korean woman works in a guesthouse. When a cartoonist arrives to find inspiration in the landscape, the two form an uneasy bond. She accompanies him to discover an "authentic" Korea, visiting snowy mountaintops and dramatic waterfalls—but he takes no interest in the Sokcho she knows. As she's pulled into his vision, she strikes upon a way to finally be seen. A remarkable debut from **Elisa Shua Dusapin**.



September 2021  
House of Anansi  
\$32.99  
Cultural Essays

## Out of the Sun: On Race and Storytelling

Esi Edugyan

Two-time Scotiabank Giller Prize winner **Esi Edugyan** delivers an incisive analysis of the relationship between race and art in her CBC Massey Lectures, compiled in *Out of the Sun*. History is a construction. What happens when we consider the stories at the margins? How do they complicate our certainties about who we are, as individuals, as nations, as human beings? Through the lens of visual art, literature, film, and her own lived experience, Edugyan offers new perspectives on Black histories to challenge the accepted narrative.

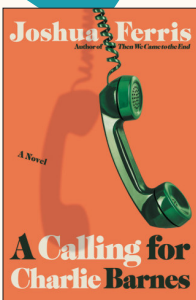


Available  
McClelland & Stewart  
\$29.95  
Fiction

## What Strange Paradise: A Novel

Omar El Akkad

From **Omar El Akkad**, the widely acclaimed author of *American War*, comes a beautifully written, unrelentingly dramatic, and profoundly moving novel that brings the global refugee crisis down to the level of a child's eyes. More bodies have washed up on the shores of a small island. Only one has survived the passage: nine-year-old Amir, a Syrian boy who has the good fortune to fall into the hands of Vanna, a teenage girl. As the novel unfurls, so too does a story of empathy, hope and how both can guide us to a better future.



September 2021  
Little, Brown and Company  
\$18.99  
Fiction

## A Calling for Charlie Barnes

Joshua Ferris

A stunning new work from **Joshua Ferris**, a *New Yorker* 40 Under 40 and PEN/Hemingway Award recipient. Charlie Barnes is divorced, discontent, and in a house he hates. When the Great Recession and a cancer scare come along, he calls on his storyteller son to help him survey the facts of his life, finding his true calling—at last becoming the man his son knew he could be. This is a tender portrait of a man whose desperate need to be loved is his downfall, and a brutally funny account of how that love is ultimately earned.

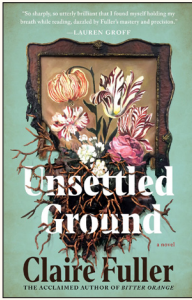


October 2021  
Grove Paperback  
\$23.95  
Fiction

## Freeman's: The Best New Writing on Change

John Freeman

The Covid-19 pandemic forced us to reimagine our homes, work, relationships, and adapt to a new way of life—one with fewer possibilities for interaction. And yet, in this period of intense isolation, we've faced dilemmas which are nearly universal. How to love, to care for aging parents, to find a home, attend to a planet in flux, fight for justice. This vast range of experiences is captured by the greatest storytellers, essayists, and poets, in the new issue of *Freeman's* from acclaimed writer and critic **John Freeman**. The latest installment features work from Lauren Groff, Ocean Vuong, Rickey Laurentiis, and more.



Available

Anansi International

\$22.95

Fiction

# Unsettled Ground

Claire Fuller

From bestselling author **Claire Fuller** comes a Women's Prize-shortlisted novel of life on the fringes of society, a heart-stopping portrait of betrayal and resilience, love and survival. Twins Jeanie and Julius have always been different from other people. At fifty-one years old, they still live with their mother, Dot, in rural isolation and poverty. But when Dot dies suddenly, threats start raining down. Jeanie and Julius would do anything to preserve their small sanctuary against the perils of the outside world, even as their mother's secrets begin to unravel, putting everything they thought they knew about their lives at stake.



Available

Strange Light

\$27.00

Fiction

# Ghost Forest: A Novel

Pik-Shuen Fung

How do you grieve if your family doesn't talk about feelings? As the unnamed protagonist of **Pik-Shuen Fung's** *Ghost Forest* revisits memories of her father after his death, she struggles with unresolved questions and misunderstandings. Buoyant, heartbreaking, and unexpectedly funny, *Ghost Forest* is a slim novel that envelops the reader in joy and sorrow. Fung writes with a poetic and haunting voice, layering detail and abstraction, weaving memory and oral history to paint a moving portrait of a Chinese-Canadian astronaut family.



September 2021

Caitlin Press

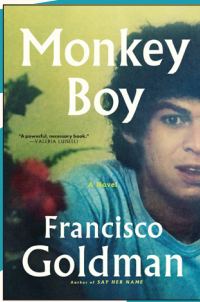
\$20.00

Poetry

# with/holding

Chantal Gibson

In this follow-up to her award-winning collection *How She Read*, **Chantal Gibson** delivers an unflinching critique of the representation of Blackness, past and present, in *with/holding*. Examining the representation and reproduction of Blackness across popular culture, *with/holding* disrupts the fetishizing algorithms that reproduce Black pain, promote anti-Black racism, and reinforce white supremacy. An act of protest and reclamation, this collection seeks to build a meaningful connection to the past through acts of resistance.

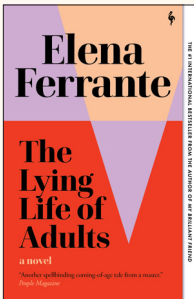


Available  
Grove Atlantic  
\$38.95  
Fiction

# Monkey Boy

Francisco Goldman

After fleeing Mexico following a threat, Francisco, an American journalist, heads to New York City hoping to start afresh. Soon, he finds himself on the cusp of a new love with a young Mexican woman he meets in Brooklyn. But Francisco is soon pulled back to his childhood home by an old girlfriend to visit his mother, whose intermittent lucidity unearths forgotten pockets of the past. An extraordinary portrait of family and growing up “halfie,” *Monkey Boy* is a masterwork from **Francisco Goldman**, one of the most important literary voices today.



September 2021  
Europa Editions  
\$25.50  
Fiction

# The Lying Life of Adults: A Novel

Elena Ferrante, translated by Ann Goldstein (Festival Attendee)

Named one of the Best Books of the Year by *The Washington Post* and *NPR* and an instant bestseller, **Elena Ferrante's** *The Lying Life of Adults* is a powerful novel set in a divided Naples. Fourteen-year-old Giovanna searches for her reflection in two kindred cities that fear and detest one another: Naples of the heights, which wears a mask of refinement, and Naples of the depths, a place of excess and vulgarity, where her guide is the unforgettable Aunt Vittoria. Ferrante has given her readers another gripping Neapolitan story. Translated by **Ann Goldstein**.



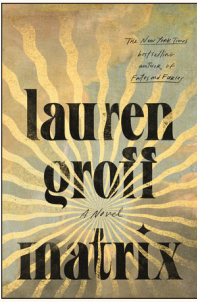
Available  
First Second  
\$33.99  
Graphic Novel

# Shadow Life

Hiromi Goto, illustrated by Ann Xu

Poet and novelist **Hiromi Goto** effortlessly blends wry, observational slice-of-life literary fiction with poetic magical realism in the tender and surprising graphic novel *Shadow Life*, illustrated with haunting art from debut artist **Ann Xu**. When Kumiko's daughters try to place her in assisted living, the seventy-six-year-old widow goes on the lam and finds a cozy bachelor apartment. But Kumiko's new life is shattered when Death's shadow swoops in to collect her. How long can an old woman thwart fate?



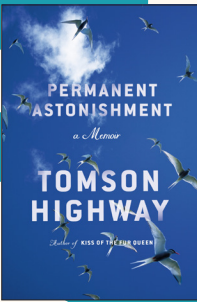


September 2021  
Riverhead Books  
\$37.00  
Fiction

# Matrix: A Novel

Lauren Groff

Two-time National Book Award finalist **Lauren Groff** returns after her groundbreaking novel, *Fates and Furies*. Cast out of the royal court by Eleanor of Aquitaine, seventeen-year-old Marie de France is sent to England to be the new prioress of an impoverished abbey, its nuns on the brink of starvation and beset by disease. Equally alive to the sacred and the profane, *Matrix* gathers currents of violence, sensuality, and religious ecstasy in a mesmerizing portrait of consuming passion and aberrant faith.

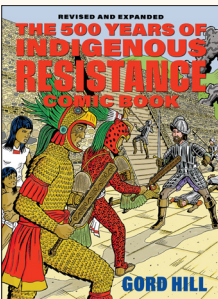


September 2021  
Doubleday Canada  
\$32.95  
Memoir

# Permanent Astonishment

Tomson Highway

Capricious, big-hearted, joyful: an epic memoir from **Tomson Highway**, one of Canada's most acclaimed Indigenous writers and performers. Born in a snowbank on an island in the sub-Arctic to a nomadic, caribou-hunting Cree family, one of the greatest writers of our time animates the magical world of his northern childhood, paying tribute to a way of life that few have experienced and fewer still have chronicled. Infused with joy and outrageous humour, *Permanent Astonishment* offers insights, both hilarious and profound, into the Cree experience of culture, conquest, and survival.



October 2021  
Arsenal Pulp Press  
\$19.95  
Graphic Novel

# The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book

Gord Hill

The *500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book* portrays flashpoints in history when Indigenous peoples fought back against colonizers and other oppressors. The book includes events such as the Battle of Wounded Knee in 1890; the resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016; and the Wet'suwet'en anti-pipeline protests in 2020. With strong, plain language and evocative illustrations, this revised edition reveals the tenacity of Indigenous peoples as they endured 500-plus years of genocide, massacre, torture, rape, displacement, and assimilation: a necessary antidote to conventional histories of the Americas, by **Gord Hill**.

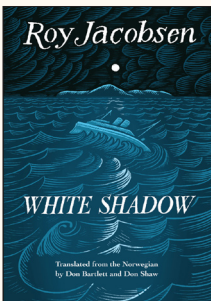


Available  
McClelland & Stewart  
\$19.95  
Poetry

## Letters in a Bruised Cosmos

Liz Howard

Griffin Poetry Prize-winning author **Liz Howard**'s daring and intimate second collection, *Letters in a Bruised Cosmos*, asks who do we become after the worst has happened? Invoking the knowledge histories of Western and Indigenous astrophysical science, Howard takes us on a breakneck river course of radiant and perilous survival. Everyday observation, family history, and personal tragedy are sublimated in propulsive verse that is relentlessly its own, and not soon forgotten.

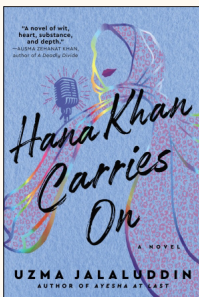


Available  
Biblioasis  
\$22.95  
Fiction

## White Shadow

Roy Jacobsen

*White Shadow* is the follow-up to **Roy Jacobsen**'s International Booker-shortlisted novel, *The Unseen*. Ingrid lives alone on the island of Barrøy during the Nazi occupation of Norway. When the bodies of Russian prisoners of war begin to wash up on the shore, Ingrid meets a soldier who is alive and falls in love with him. She does not anticipate the suffering she will endure in hiding her lover from the German authorities, or the journey she will face to return home, after being wrenched from her island for protecting him. Or that, surrounded by the horrors of war, she will receive a gift, the value of which is beyond measure.



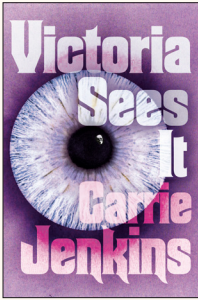
Available  
HarperAvenue  
\$24.99  
Fiction

## Hana Khan Carries On

Uzma Jalaluddin

From **Uzma Jalaluddin**, the author of *Ayesha at Last*, comes a sparkling new romcom for fans of *You've Got Mail*. Sales are slow at Three Sisters Biryani Poutine. Hana waitresses there, but what she really wants is to tell stories on the radio. Instead, Hana pours her thoughts and dreams into a podcast, where she forms a lively relationship with one of her listeners. But soon she'll need all the support she can get: a new competing restaurant, a more upscale halal place, is about to open next door, threatening the livelihood of Three Sisters.



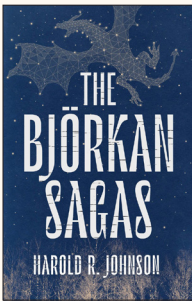


Available  
Strange Light  
\$24.95  
Fiction

## Victoria Sees It

Carrie Jenkins

Victoria is unraveling. Her best friend is missing, and she's the only one who seems to care. In her search for her friend, Victoria finds an unlikely ally—a police officer named Julie. They travel the countryside, finding a miasma of sexism, isolation, physical, and mental health issues. All the while, Victoria is haunted by the spectre of her mother, whose own assault and subsequent pregnancy represent a break in her contract with the world. A queer psychological thriller from **Carrie Jenkins**, a beguiling, fresh new voice.

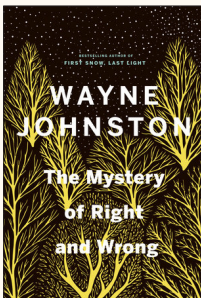


October 2021  
House of Anansi  
\$24.99  
Fiction

## The Björkan Sagas

Harold R. Johnson

Drawing upon his Cree and Scandinavian roots, **Harold R. Johnson** merges myth, fantasy and history in this epic saga of exploration and adventure. While sorting through the possessions of a neighbour, Johnson discovers a manuscript known as *The Björkan Sagas*. The saga tells of a quest that brings three heroes into contact with the devious story-trader, gun-toting aliens, an ethereal Medicine Woman, and a deadly enemy. *The Björkan Sagas* is a bold, innovative fusion of narrative traditions set in a world of heroic storytellers.



September 2021  
Knopf Canada  
\$34.95  
Fiction

## The Mystery of Right and Wrong

Wayne Johnston

Not long after falling in love with the fascinating Rachel van Hout, Wade Jackson learns she is the youngest of four troubled van Hout daughters, an Anne Frank obsessive who diarizes her days in a secret language of her own invention, writing to the point of breakdown. A masterwork from a critically acclaimed writer, **Wayne Johnston** has created a world both compulsively readable and heartstopping, full of haunting family secrets, unfolding them in a novel that grapples with sexual abuse, male violence, and madness.

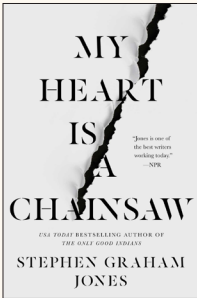


Available  
HarperCollins  
\$23.99  
Fiction

## How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House

Cherie Jones

One of the most lauded debuts of 2021 and shortlisted for the Women's Prize, set in Barbados and told in the traditions of Zadie Smith and Marlon James: *How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House*. **Cherie Jones's** novel is an intimate and visceral portrayal of race and class in a rapidly changing resort town. Lala's husband is thwarted in his burglary of a beach mansion, setting off a chain of events. A gunshot no one was meant to witness. A mother whose baby is found lifeless. And two men, driven by desperation and greed, who attempt a crime that may cost them their freedom—and their lives.

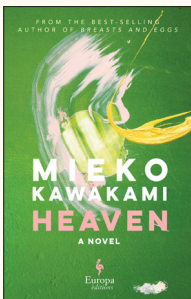


August 2021  
Gallery / Saga Press  
\$22.99  
Thriller

## My Heart Is a Chainsaw

Stephen Graham Jones

In her quickly gentrifying rural town, Jade sees events only her vast knowledge of horror films could have prepared her for: tourists go missing and a killer is on the loose. The tension between her community and some celebrity newcomers reaches a tipping point as Jade watches her small town head towards catastrophe. Yachts compete with canoes and the rich change the landscape of what was once park lands. **Stephen Graham Jones's** new novel explores the transformation of the West through his particular voice of sharp humour and prophetic violence that will have you cheering for the American heroine we need.



Available  
Europa Editions  
\$34.50  
Fiction

## Heaven: A Novel

Mieko Kawakami

From the bestselling author of *Breasts and Eggs*, international literary sensation **Mieko Kawakami**, comes a sharp and illuminating novel about the impact of violence and the power of solidarity. *Heaven* follows a 14-year-old student subjected to relentless bullying for having a lazy eye. The only person who understands what he is going through is a female classmate who suffers similar treatment. *Heaven* stands as a dazzling testament to Kawakami's talent, cementing her reputation as one of today's most important young authors.



Available

World Editions

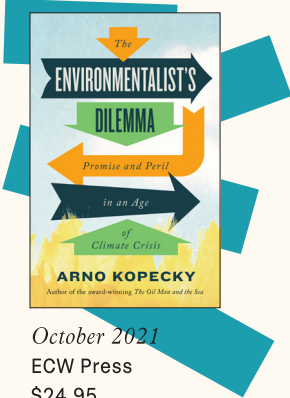
\$24.95

Fiction

## October Child

Linda Boström Knausgård

After being interned in a psychiatric ward where she was subjected to electroconvulsive therapy, the narrator's memories began to disappear. But what good is a writer without her memory? This novel, based on the author's experiences, is an eloquent and profound attempt to hold on to the past, to create a story, to make sense, and to keep alive ties to family, friends, and even oneself. **Linda Boström Knausgård's** *October Child* is the story of one woman's struggle against mental illness and isolation and testimony to how writing can preserve and heal.



October 2021

ECW Press

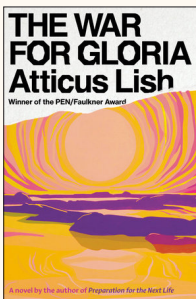
\$24.95

Nonfiction

## The Environmentalist's Dilemma

Arno Kopecky

A compelling inquiry into our relationship with humanity's greatest calamity, award-winning journalist **Arno Kopecky's** *The Environmentalist's Dilemma* zeroes in on a core predicament: the planet may be dying, but humanity's doing better than ever. In a realm of difficult decisions, is hope naive or indispensable? Kopecky strikes a rare note of optimistic realism in the moral minefields of our polarized world, returning again and again to the central question of how we engage with the story of our times.



September 2021

Bond Street Books

\$34.95

Fiction

## The War for Gloria

Atticus Lish

From **Atticus Lish**, the PEN/Faulkner winning author of *Preparation for the Next Life*, comes a searing, tender, haunting story about parental relationships and a young boy's struggle to become a man. Set against the backdrop of a small town where the working class collide with the affluent, *The War for Gloria* tells the story of a young man straddling childhood and adulthood, whose yearning to protect his mother brings him to dismantle myths—and possibly destroy—his father. A gripping, indelible work from a fearless new voice.



August 2021

Random House Canada

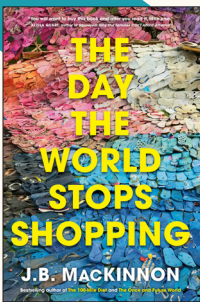
\$34.95

Fiction/Crime Fiction

# The Winter Wives

Linden MacIntyre

A thrilling new drama from Scotiabank Giller Prize winner **Linden MacIntyre** weaving threads of crime, disability and dementia. Two old friends get together for a weekend of golfing: Allan, a football hero, worldly and financially successful, and his quieter friend Byron, lame from a childhood injury and caretaker to his mother with Alzheimer's. The fault lines between them start to show. Then, the next morning, Allan suffers a stroke, forcing both to confront their weaknesses and strengths, and their tangled relationships.



Available

Random House Canada

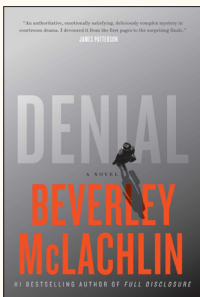
\$32.95

Nonfiction

# The Day the World Stops Shopping

J.B. MacKinnon

Despite our efforts to “green” our consumption—through recycling, energy efficiency, or solar power—we have yet to see a decline in global carbon emissions. The economy says we must always consume more, because even the slightest drop in spending leads to widespread unemployment, bankruptcy and home foreclosures. Prize-winning author **J.B. MacKinnon** asks, *What would really happen if we simply stop shopping?* Is there a way to reduce our consumption to earth-saving levels without triggering an economic collapse?



September 2021

Simon & Schuster

\$24.99

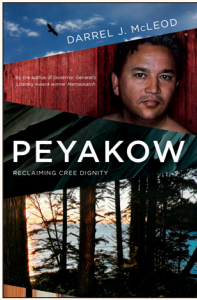
Thriller

Adult

# Denial: A Novel

Beverley McLachlin

From **Beverley McLachlin**, the former Chief Justice of Canada and #1 bestselling author of *Full Disclosure*, comes a taut new thriller. Joseph Quentin has asked Jilly Truitt to defend his wife, who has been charged with murdering her own mother. But as the trial approaches, Jilly stumbles across a dark truth hanging over the accused family. Is it enough to prove the wife's innocence? Or is Jilly in denial herself? Thrumming with tension, *Denial* is a riveting thriller about the lengths we will go to for the ones we love and the truths we hold dear.

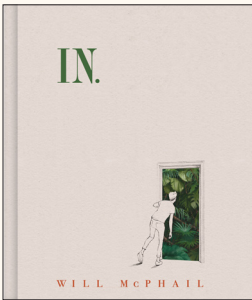


Available  
Douglas & McIntyre  
\$29.95  
Memoir

## Peyakow: Reclaiming Cree Dignity

Darrel J. McLeod

*Mamaskatch*, **Darrel J. McLeod's** memoir of growing up Cree in Northern Alberta, was a publishing sensation—winning the Governor General's Literary Award for Nonfiction and shortlisted for many other major prizes. In *Peyakow*, McLeod continues the poignant story of his impoverished youth to triumph. Brutally frank but buoyed throughout by an unquenchable spirit, *Peyakow* is an inspiring account of someone whose career path has crossed both sides of the Indigenous/white chasm and resonates with particular force in today's Canada.



Available  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
\$40.00  
Fiction

## In: A Graphic Novel

Will McPhail

In this poignant, witty graphic novel by a leading *New Yorker* cartoonist, Nick can't shake the feeling there is a hidden realm of human interaction beyond his reach. He haunts coffee shops, listens to Joni Mitchell albums too loudly, and stares at his navel in the hope that he will find it. Illustrated in both color and black-and-white in **Will McPhail's** instantly recognizable style, *In* elevates the graphic novel genre, capturing his trademark humor and compassion with a tale that is uncannily appropriate for our isolated times.



August 2021  
Del Rey  
\$37.00  
Fiction/Noir

## Velvet Was the Night

Silvia Moreno-Garcia

From the bestselling author of *Mexican Gothic*, **Silvia Moreno-Garcia**, comes a “delicious, twisted treat for lovers of noir.” Mexico City, 1970s. When Maite's neighbour Leonara disappears, the secretary finds herself working alongside the mysterious Elvis as they journey deep into the secret lives of student radicals and dissidents. As they come closer to discovering the truth behind the woman's disappearance, danger threatens to consume their lives, with hitmen, government agents, and Russian spies all aiming to protect Leonora's secrets—at gunpoint.



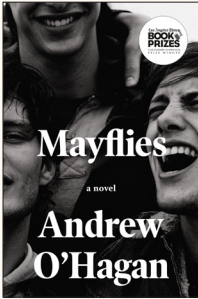


Available  
Book\*hug Press  
\$20.00  
Poetry

# Duct-Taped Roses

Billeh Nickerson

In *Duct-Taped Roses*, **Billeh Nickerson** shares heartbreaks and reflections on family, community, life, and loss. As a bush pilot, Nickerson's father would duct-tape his planes to keep them flying. The poignancy of his relationship with his father is celebrated here in the long poem "Skies." Other poems reminisce about love and the complex resiliency of gay men. Through his signature irreverence, honesty, and wit, Nickerson explores what can be repaired, what must be celebrated, and what—inevitably—is lost to time.



Available  
McClelland & Stewart  
\$29.95  
Fiction

# Mayflies: A Novel

Andrew O'Hagan

Everyone has a Tully Dawson: the friend who defines your life. In the summer of 1986, in a small Scottish town, James and Tully ignite a brilliant friendship based on music, films, their shared rebel spirit, and a magical weekend in Manchester. There, against the greatest soundtrack ever recorded, a vow is made: to go at life differently. Thirty years on, Tully receives news that forces the friends to confront their own mortality. What follows is a finely-tuned drama from **Andrew O'Hagan** about the delicacy and impermanence of human connection.

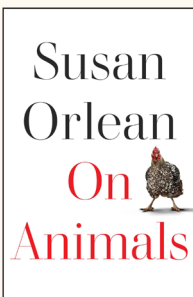


July 2021  
House of Anansi  
\$22.95  
Short Stories

# We Want What We Want

Alix Ohlin

Two-time Scotiabank Giller Prize finalist **Alix Ohlin** delivers a masterclass in the short story with *We Want What We Want*, populated by bad parents and inescapable old flames. "Money, Geography, Youth" begins when Vanessa arrives home to find her father is engaged to her best friend. In "The Brooks Brothers Guru," Amanda tries to rescue her cousin from a cult, only to find well-dressed men living in a beautiful home, drinking cocktails and exchanging Classical knowledge. Ohlin's stories sparkle with humour, pain, and beauty.

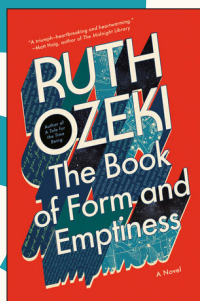


October 2021  
Avid Reader Press  
\$36.00  
Essays/Memoir

## On Animals

Susan Orlean

**Susan Orlean**—a beloved *New Yorker* staff writer hailed as “a national treasure” by *The Washington Post* and the author of the bestselling *The Library Book*—gathers a lifetime of musings, meditations, and in-depth profiles about animals. Examining animal-human relationships through compelling tales, Orlean considers a range of creatures—from pets to animals who could eat us for dinner. Equal parts delightful and profound, these stories celebrate the meaningful cross-species connections that grace our collective existence.

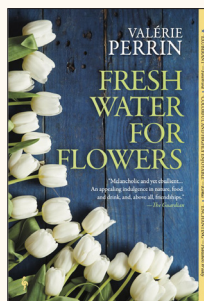


September 2021  
Viking  
\$34.95  
Fiction

## The Book of Form and Emptiness

Ruth Ozeki

A brilliant new novel about loss, growing up, and our relationship with things, by the Booker Prize-finalist author of *A Tale for the Time Being*, **Ruth Ozeki**. After the death of his father, Benny Oh begins to hear voices. Some are pleasant, a gentle hum or coo, but others are snide, angry and full of pain. When his mother develops a hoarding problem, the voices grow more clamorous. *The Book of Form and Emptiness* is classic Ruth Ozeki—bold, poignant, playful, and heartbreaking.



Available  
Europa Editions  
\$16.95  
Fiction

## Fresh Water for Flowers

Valérie Perrin

A #1 bestseller in France and in Italy, **Valérie Perrin's** *Fresh Water for Flowers* is an intimately told story about Violette, the caretaker at a cemetery in Bourgogne. Her life follows the predictable rhythms of the confidences that mourners, visitors, and colleagues share with her. Violette's routine is soon disrupted by the arrival of Julien—local police chief—who has come to scatter the ashes of his recently deceased mother on the gravesite of a complete stranger, an inexplicable gesture intertwined with Violette's own complicated past.





Available  
Harper  
\$33.50  
Humour/Essays

## Sure, I'll Be Your Black Friend

### Ben Philippe

In the biting, hilarious vein of *What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Blacker* and *We Are Never Meeting in Real Life* comes **Ben Philippe's** candid memoir-in-essays, chronicling a lifetime of being the Black friend (see also: foreign kid, boyfriend, coworker, student, teacher, roommate, enemy) in predominantly white spaces. Extremely timely, *Sure, I'll Be Your Black Friend* is a conversational take on topics both light and heavy, universal and deeply personal, which reveals incisive truths about the need for connection in all of us.

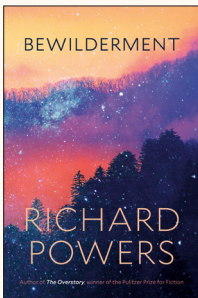


September 2021  
Arsenal Pulp Press  
\$21.95  
Short Stories

## A Dream of a Woman

### Casey Plett

Lambda Literary Award-winning author **Casey Plett's** book of short stories, *A Dream of a Woman*, centers transgender women seeking stable, adult lives. In "Hazel and Christopher," two childhood friends reconnect after one of them has transitioned. In "Perfect Places," a woman grapples with undesirability as she navigates fetish play with a man. In "Couldn't Hear You Talk Anymore," the narrator recalls tender moments with another trans woman. An ethereal meditation on partnership, sex, addiction, and love, *A Dream of a Woman* buzzes with quiet intensity and the intimate complexities of being human.



September 2021  
Random House Canada  
\$32.00  
Fiction

## Bewilderment

### Richard Powers

From **Richard Powers**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Overstory*, a powerful new novel on family and the cosmos. Theo Byrne is a young astrobiologist who is also the widowed father of Robin, a funny, loving boy on the verge of being expelled for hitting his friend with a metal thermos. What can a father do, when the only solution offered to his troubled son is to put him on psychoactive drugs? What can he say when his boy comes to him wanting an explanation for a world that is clearly in love with its own destruction? The only thing for it is to take the boy to other planets.

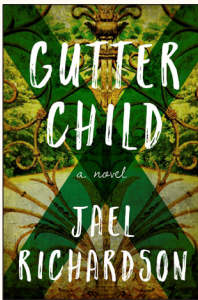


Available  
World Editions  
\$22.50  
Fiction

## The Bitch

Pilar Quintana

A finalist for the 2020 National Book Award for Translated Literature, **Pilar Quintana's** *The Bitch* is a story in which dreams and nightmares coexist. On Colombia's Pacific coast, everyday life entails warding off the brutal forces of nature. Damaris lives with her husband on a bluff overlooking the sea. Childless and at an age "when women dry up," she is eager to adopt a puppy. But this may bring more than affection into her home. *The Bitch* is written in a prose like storms—both meteorological and emotional—lurking around each corner.



Available  
HarperAvenue  
\$24.99  
Fiction

## Gutter Child

Jael Richardson

A fierce and illuminating debut from FOLD founder and CBC q Books Columnist **Jael Richardson** about a young woman who must find the courage to determine her own future. Set in a world where the most vulnerable gain their freedom by working off their debt to society, *Gutter Child* reveals one young woman's journey through a world of heartbreaking and shocking injustices. Elimina is a modern heroine in an all too recognizable reality who must find the strength to forge her future and defy a system trying to shape her destiny.

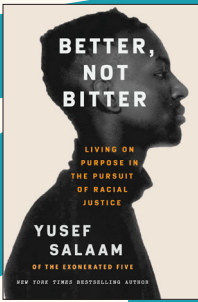


Available  
World Editions  
\$25.50  
Fiction

## Summer Brother

Jaap Robben

Longlisted for the Booker Prize, **Jaap Robben's** *Summer Brother* is an honest, tender account of brotherly love, which will resonate with readers of *Rain Man*. Brian lives in a trailer with his divorced and uncaring father. His older brother Lucien, physically and mentally disabled, has been institutionalized for years. While Lucien is sent to live with his father and younger brother for the summer, their detached father leaves Brian to care for Lucien's special needs. But how do you look after someone when you don't know what they need?



Available

Grand Central Publishing

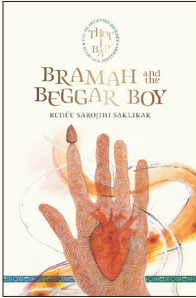
\$18.99

Nonfiction

## Better, Not Bitter: Living on Purpose in the Pursuit of Racial Justice

Yusef Salaam

No one's life is the sum of the worst things that happened to them, and during **Yusef Salaam's** seven years of wrongful incarceration as one of the Central Park Five, he grew from child to man, and gained a spiritual perspective on life. An inspiring story that grew out of one of the gravest miscarriages of justice, Salaam's message is not only vital for our times, it is a motivating resource for enacting change. *Better, Not Bitter* has the power to soothe, inspire and transform as a galvanizing call to action.



Available

Nightwood Editions

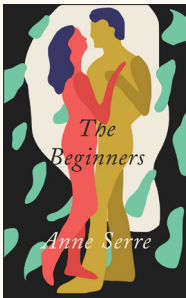
\$26.95

Poetry

## Bramah and the Beggar Boy

Renée Sarojini Saklikar

This introduction to *The Heart of This Journey Bears All Patterns* (THOT J BAP) series features a world in which a small band of resisters and survivors meet five eco-catastrophes and a viral bio-contagion with rhymes, resourceful skills, and the supernatural. Shapeshifting in and out of it all is the nimble Bramah, a female locksmith, part human, part goddess—brown, brave and beautiful. Ten years in the making, this work by award-winning poet **Renée Sarojini Saklikar** builds a new tradition of poetic narrative and form, replete with time travel.



Available

New Directions Publishing

\$14.95

Fiction

## The Beginners

Anne Serre

Her third book in English, **Anne Serre's** *The Beginners* is an unpredictable, sensual, exhilarating, absurd, and unforgettable tale for our time. Anna has been living happily for twenty years with her loving, sturdy Guillaume when she suddenly falls in love with Thomas. Intelligent and handsome, but troubled, he reminds Anna of *Jude the Obscure*. She tries unsuccessfully to fend off her attraction, torn between the two men. A restless, prowling novel which explores love as greed, and confused need as one shape of bereftness.



Available  
Nightwood Editions  
\$18.95  
Poetry

# it was never going to be okay

jaye simpson

*it was never going to be okay* is a collection of poetry and prose exploring the intimacies of understanding intergenerational trauma, Indigeneity and queerness, while addressing urban Indigenous diaspora and breaking down the limitations of sexual understanding as a trans woman. As a way to move from the linear timeline of healing and coming to terms with how trauma does not exist in subsequent happenings, **jaye simpson** airs years of silence in a powerful debut collection of poetry.

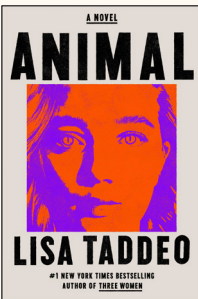


September 2021  
ECW Press  
\$19.95  
Poetry

## Broken Dawn Blessings: Poems

Adam Sol

How do we respond to others' pain, both the pain of those we love and the larger global pain of those we don't know? In a religious context, a witness can offer blessing when those in the midst of suffering cannot, as a way to shoulder that burden for the sufferer. Trillium Book Award-winning poet **Adam Sol**'s newest collection tries to find moments of blessing in the midst of personal and public pain, shame and worry, revealing new intimacy for one of Canada's most respected poets.

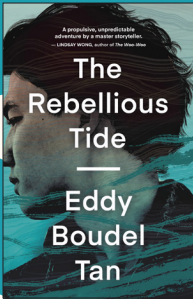


Available  
Avid Reader Press  
\$36.99  
Fiction

## Animal

Lisa Taddeo

**Lisa Taddeo** illustrates one woman's exhilarating transformation from prey into predator in *Animal*, a gripping, and ferociously beautiful debut novel from the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller and global phenomenon *Three Women*. Joan has spent a lifetime enduring the cruelties of men. But when one of them commits a shocking act of violence in front of her, she flees New York City to find help. *Animal* is a depiction of female rage at its rawest, and a visceral exploration of the fallout from a male-dominated society.

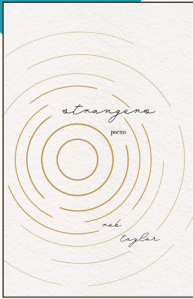


Available  
Dundurn Press  
\$21.99  
Fiction

# The Rebellious Tide

Eddy Boudel Tan

Sebastien only heard stories about his father, a mysterious sailor who abandoned his mother thirty years ago. But when his mother dies, he decides to find him. Posing as a member of the ship his father is stationed on, Sebastien stalks his unwitting father for answers. Soon after, Sebastien finds himself entangled in a revolt against the oppressive ruling class of the ship. As **Eddy Boudel Tan**'s novel races to its conclusion, Sebastien uncovers something his father has hidden in the belly of the ship—forcing him to confront everything he's always feared.



Available  
Biblioasis  
\$19.95  
Poetry

# Strangers

Rob Taylor

In *Strangers*, **Rob Taylor** makes new the epiphany poem: the short lyric ending with a moment of recognition or arrival. In his hands, the form becomes not simply a revelation but, in Wallace Stevens' phrase, "a revelation in words by means of the words." The epiphany here is not only the poet's. It's ours. A book about the songlines of memory and language and the ways in which they connect us to other human beings, to read *Strangers* is to become part of the lineages that it braids together.

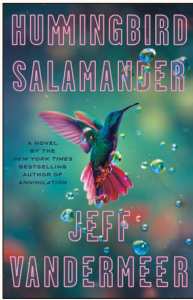


August 2021  
Knopf Canada  
\$29.95  
Fiction

# Fight Night

Miriam Toews

The beloved author of bestsellers *Women Talking*, *A Complicated Kindness*, and *All My Puny Sorrows*, **Miriam Toews** returns with a funny, smart, headlong rush of a novel full of wit and tributes to perseverance and love. *Fight Night* is told in the unforgettable voice of Swiv, a nine-year-old living with her pregnant mother and lively grandmother. Unspooling the pain, love, and will to live across three generations of women, *Fight Night* shows a family that has found a way—painfully, joyously, ferociously—to love and fight on their own terms.

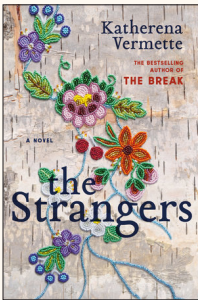


Available  
McClelland & Stewart  
\$34.95  
Fiction

## Hummingbird Salamander

Jeff VanderMeer

When Jane Smith receives an envelope containing a key to a storage unit that holds a taxidermied hummingbird and salamander, she has no idea they are two of the most endangered species in the world. By removing them from the storage unit, she sets into motion a series of dangerous events over which she has no control. *Hummingbird Salamander* is *Annihilation* author **Jeff VanderMeer** at his brilliant, cinematic best, wrapping profound questions about climate change and identity in a stunning speculative thriller of dark conspiracy.

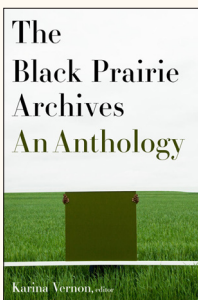


September 2021  
Hamish Hamilton  
\$29.95  
Fiction

## The Strangers

Katherena Vermette

Cedar has nearly forgotten what her family looks like. Phoenix has nearly forgotten the feeling of freedom. And Elsie has nearly given up hope. After life in foster homes, the women diverge and reconnect, fighting a system that expects them to fail, urging one another to move through the darkness. A breathtaking companion to her bestselling debut *The Break*, **Katherena Vermette's** *The Strangers* brings readers a searing exploration of race, inherited trauma, and matrilineal bonds that—despite everything—refuse to be broken.



Available  
Wilfrid Laurier  
University Press  
\$44.99  
Cultural Studies

## The Black Prairie Archives

Edited by Karina Vernon

*The Black Prairie Archives*, edited by **Karina Vernon**, recovers an archive of “Black prairie” literature, including writing that ranges from work by nineteenth-century Black fur traders and pioneers to contemporary writing of the twenty-first century. Letters, recipes, oral literature, autobiographies, rap, and poetry provide vivid glimpses into the reality of lived experiences in Canada’s prairies, enriching our understanding of Black Canada by bringing to light their unique Black histories, cultures, and presences.



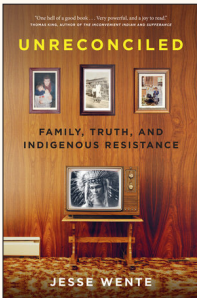


# Pebble Swing

Isabella Wang

*Pebble Swing* evokes the skipping of stones across a body of water, or, in the author's case, syllables and traces of her mother tongue bouncing back at her from the water's reflective surface. As an immigrant whose grasp of Mandarin is fading, **Isabella Wang** explores absences in her caesuras and fragmentation—that which is unspoken but endures. Tracing Wang's experiences as a young poet who left home at seventeen to pursue writing, this is a much-anticipated debut collection from one of Canada's promising emerging poets.

October 2021  
Nightwood Editions  
\$18.95  
Poetry

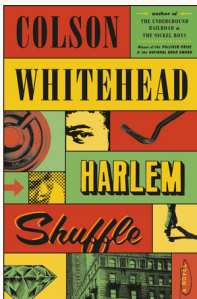


# Unreconciled: Family, Truth, and Indigenous Resistance

Jesse Wenthe

Part memoir and part manifesto, *Unreconciled* is a stirring call to arms to put truth over the flawed concept of reconciliation, and to build a new, respectful relationship between the nation of Canada and Indigenous peoples. **Jesse Wenthe**, an Ojibwe writer, broadcaster, producer and speaker, explores and exposes the lies that Canada tells itself, unravels “the two founding nations” myth, and insists that the notion of “reconciliation” is not a realistic path forward.

September 2021  
Allen Lane  
\$29.95  
Memoir



# Harlem Shuffle

Colson Whitehead

FALL BOOK CLUB SELECTION (ON-SALE: AUGUST)

From Pulitzer Prize-winning author, **Colson Whitehead**, a gloriously entertaining novel of heists, shakedowns, and rip-offs set in 1960s Harlem. Ray Carney is an upstanding furniture salesman, making a decent life for himself and his family. But cash is tight; so Ray joins his cousin Freddie to rob the Hotel Theresa. But the heist doesn't go as planned and Ray gets mixed up with assorted Harlem lowlifes. Thus begins the internal tussle between Ray the striver and Ray the crook. *Harlem Shuffle* is a family saga posing as a crime novel, a hilarious morality play, a novel about race and power, and ultimately a love letter to Harlem.

September 2021  
Bond Street Books  
\$36.00  
Fiction





ANNOUNCING OUR FALL BOOK CLUB SELECTION

# *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead

Sunday, September  
26th at 5pm PT

TICKETS ON-SALE  
MID-AUGUST



Join us for a conversation in celebration of *Harlem Shuffle*, the highly-anticipated new release from **Colson Whitehead**, Festival favourite and critically acclaimed author of *The Nickel Boys* and the Pulitzer and National Book Award-winning novel, *The Underground Railroad*, both of which were instant, #1 *New York Times* bestsellers.

Whitehead is also the author of *The Noble Hustle*, *Zone One*, *Sag Harbor*, *The Intuitionist*, *John Henry Days*, *Apex Hides the Hurt*, and *The Colossus of New York*. He is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and a recipient of the MacArthur and Guggenheim Fellowships.

*Further details to be announced in August.*

“Two-time Pulitzer winner Colson Whitehead returns with a sizzling heist novel set in civil rights-era Harlem. Whitehead’s loving depiction of a Harlem 60 years gone—“that rustling, keening thing of people and concrete”—lands as detailed and vivid as James Joyce’s *Dubliners*. Don’t be surprised if this one wins Whitehead another major award.”

*Publishers Weekly*, ★

“Whitehead adds another genre to an ever-diversifying portfolio with his first crime novel, and it’s a corker, delivering a portrait of Harlem in the early ‘60s, culminating with the Harlem Riot of 1964, that is brushed with lovingly etched detail and features a wonderful panoply of characters who spring to full-bodied life, blending joy, humor, and tragedy. A triumph on every level.”

*Booklist*, ★



August 2021  
Harper Avenue  
\$32.99  
Literary

## The Spectacular: A Novel

Zoe Whittall

It's taboo to regret motherhood. But what would happen if you did? Shifting perspectives and time periods, *The Spectacular* explores sexuality, gender, and the weight of reproductive freedoms, from **Zoe Whittall**, the acclaimed author of the Scotiabank Giller Prize-nominated *The Best Kind of People*, now being adapted for television. By turns sharp and provocative, Whittall captures three generations of women who struggle to build authentic, beautiful lives in the absence of traditional familial and marital structures.

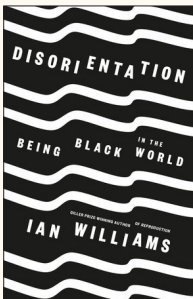


September 2021  
Harbour Publishing  
\$24.95  
Thriller

## Hell and Gone: A Wakeland Novel

Sam Wiebe

A captivating new thriller from **Sam Wiebe** that explores the depths of Vancouver's criminal underworld. When masked men and women storm an office building in Chinatown, leaving a trail of carnage, Vancouver PI Dave Wakeland and his partner, Jeff Chen, find themselves caught up in a mystery that won't let them go. A botched undercover operation, an ambitious gangster and a double-crossing killer abound. Skill and luck are needed for Wakeland and Chen to emerge with the killers, the money, and their own lives.

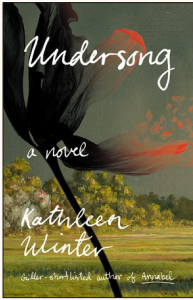


September 2021  
Random House Canada  
\$25.00  
Nonfiction

## Disorientation: Being Black in the World

Ian Williams

2019 Scotiabank Giller Award winner **Ian Williams** brings fresh insights to conversations on race and racism in startling, illuminating essays on his experiences as a Black man moving through the world. Spurred by the police killings and street protests of 2020, Williams realized he could offer a perspective distinct as someone who has lived in Trinidad, in Canada, and in the United States. Examining the past and the present in order to speak to the future, Williams offers new thinking and an astonishing, piercing gift of language.

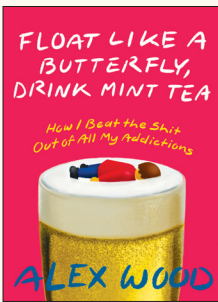


August 2021  
Knopf Canada  
\$32.00  
Historical Fiction

# Undersong: A Novel

Kathleen Winter

When James Dixon meets Dorothy Wordsworth, he's never met a woman like her. As her famous brother William's collaborator, Dorothy lives a seemingly idyllic life with William and his wife. Dixon is hired by William to do some handiwork around the estate, but he soon realizes that his job is to keep an eye on Dorothy, who is frail and melancholic. The pair form a strong bond, and soon Dixon witnesses the everyday life of this extraordinary family. Giller-shortlisted author **Kathleen Winter** weaves a complex "undersong" through the novel, revealing the surprising effect of Dorothy's tragically unacknowledged brilliance.

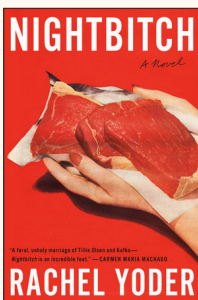


Available  
Arsenal Pulp Press  
\$22.95  
Memoir

# Float Like a Butterfly, Drink Mint Tea

Alex Wood

As an alcoholic, drug-addicted comedian with tendencies to over-indulge and under-achieve since he was a teenager, **Alex Wood** was on track to die young and drunk. Then, he decided to quit it all: alcohol, drugs, red meat, dairy, social media, porn, credit cards, nail-biting, and gossip. With plenty of self-effacing wit and grace, *Float like a Butterfly, Drink Mint Tea* tears down the walls of shame surrounding addiction, providing an open portrait of the stakes involved when one is willing to quit everything in order to survive.



Available  
Knopf Canada  
\$27.00  
Fiction

# Nightbitch: A Novel

Rachel Yoder

In this blazingly smart, voracious debut from **Rachel Yoder**, a stay-at-home mom becomes convinced she's turning into a dog. As the mother's symptoms intensify, and her temptation to give into her new dog impulses peak, she struggles to keep her secret. Soon, she discovers the mysterious tome "A Field Guide to Magical Women: A Mythical Ethnography," and meets a group of mommies who may be more than what they seem. An outrageous novel about power and womanhood wrapped in a satirical fairy tale, *Nightbitch* will make you want to howl in laughter.

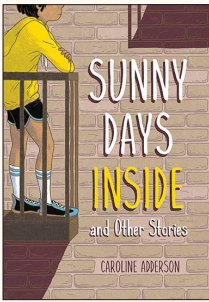


# Youth Titles

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Caroline Adderson  
Karim Alrawi  
Whitney Gardner  
Wab Kinew  
Gordon Korman  
Jen Sookfong Lee  
Susin Nielsen  
Sara Pennypacker  
Lois Peterson

Sarah Raughley  
David A. Robertson  
Tom Ryan  
Kevin Sands  
Brian Selznick  
Ashley Spires  
Robin Stevenson  
Peyton Thomas  
Xiran Jay Zhao

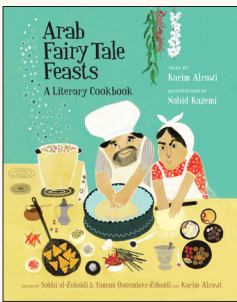


August 2021  
Groundwood Books  
\$16.99  
Middle Grade

## Sunny Days Inside and Other Stories

Caroline Adderson

When the “grownup virus” hits, kids who live in the same apartment building must cope with new rules and extended time at home with family. Twin boys conduct a research assignment. A budding track star runs laps on his balcony while a crush looks on. A troublemaker finds his father help when he exhibits signs of mental illness. A young entrepreneur rents out the family dog, and a girl finds a way to communicate with her hearing-impaired neighbour. Funny, poignant and wise, this book from **Caroline Adderson** will long outlive even the pandemic.

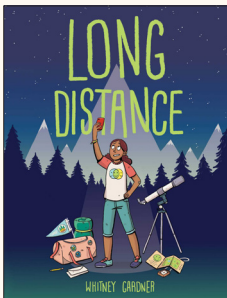


Available  
Tradewind Books  
\$29.95  
Middle Grade

## Arab Fairy Tale Feasts

Karim Alrawi

Award-winning writer **Karim Alrawi** draws on his deep knowledge of Arab culture to create original stories that take young readers on a delicious cultural journey and invite them to consider an Arab perspective. Each tale incorporates food and concludes with a traditional recipe, lovingly flavoured with colourful folkloric illustrations, making this a literary banquet to savour with family and friends across generations. *Arab Fairy Tale Feasts* is the latest title in the highly praised *Fairy Tale Feasts Collection*, a creative series that folds enchanting folk tales into cookbooks of kid-friendly recipes.



Available  
Simon & Schuster Books  
for Young Readers  
\$19.99  
Graphic Novel, Middle Grade

## Long Distance

Whitney Gardner

When her parents decide it's time to pack up and leave her hometown of Portland for boring Seattle, Vega is more than upset—she's downright miserable. Forced to leave her one and only best friend, Halley, behind, Vega is convinced she'll never make another friend again. To help her settle into her new life, her parents send Vega to summer camp. However, when her cellphone unexpectedly calls it quits and things at camp start getting weird, Vega has no choice but to team up with her bunkmates to figure out what's going on! A charming new graphic novel from **Whitney Gardner**.



September 2021

Penguin Teen

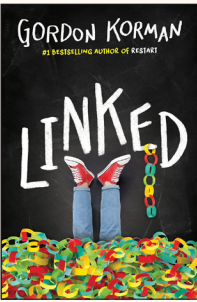
\$21.99

Young Adult

# Walking in Two Worlds

Wab Kinew

An Indigenous teen girl is caught between the real and virtual world in the YA fantasy debut from bestselling Indigenous author **Wab Kinew**. Bugz is shy and self-conscious. Feng has been sent from China to live with his aunt after his online activity suggests he may be developing extremist sympathies. Bugz and Feng bond as outsiders and gamers. However, both must decide what to do in the face of temptations and pitfalls, and the impacts of family and community trauma. Perfect for fans of *Ready Player One* and the *Otherworld* series.



Available

Scholastic Canada

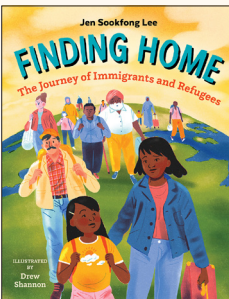
\$23.99

Middle Grade

# Linked

Gordon Korman

Link, Michael, and Dana live in a quiet town. But one day, someone sneaks into their school and vandalizes it with a swastika. Because Michael was the first person to see it, he's the first suspect. Because Link is popular, everyone's looking to him to figure it out. And because Dana's the only Jewish girl in town, everyone's treating her like an outsider. The closer Link, Michael, and Dana get to the truth, the more there is to face—not just the crimes of the present, but the crimes of the past. With *Linked*, beloved author **Gordon Korman** poses a mystery for all readers where the *who did it?* isn't nearly as important as the *why?*



Available

Orca Book Publishers

\$24.95

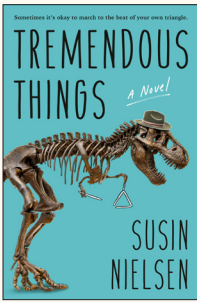
Middle Grade

# Finding Home: The Journey of Immigrants and Refugees

Jen Sookfong Lee, illustrated by Drew Shannon

What drives people to search for new homes? From war zones to politics, there are many reasons people have searched for better places to call home. Award-winning author **Jen Sookfong Lee** shows how human migration has shaped our world in *Finding Home: The Journey of Immigrants and Refugees*. Exploring the current issues facing immigrants and refugees today, Lee shares first-hand stories of people looking for safety, security, and happiness, as well as her personal experience growing up as the child of immigrants.





Available

Penguin Teen

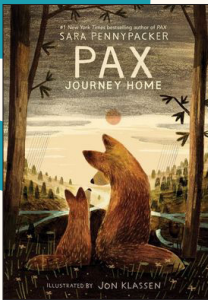
\$21.99

Young Adult

# Tremendous Things

Susin Nielsen

From Governor General's Literary Award-winning author **Susin Nielsen** comes a funny and heartfelt story about rising above your most embarrassing moment with humour, best friends, and a killer triangle solo. Wilbur plays the triangle in his ninth grade band. During an exchange program with students from Paris, Charlie, a tall, chic young woman who burps with abandon captures his heart. When Wilbur's friends host an intervention to build his confidence, Wilbur hopes to replace humiliation with true romance in the City of Love.



September 2021

Balzer + Bray

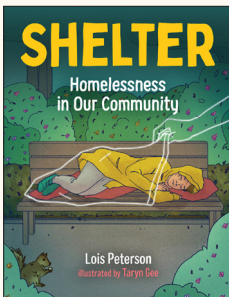
\$21.99

Middle Grade

# Pax, Journey Home

Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Jon Klassen

From acclaimed author and illustrator, **Sara Pennypacker** and **Jon Klassen**, the long-awaited sequel to the Amazon Best Book of the Year *Pax*. Peter and his pet fox, Pax, were once inseparable, but now they lead different lives. Pax and his mate, Bristle, have welcomed a litter of kits they must protect in a dangerous world. Meanwhile Peter—newly orphaned after the war, racked with guilt and loneliness—leaves his home to join a group of water activists. When one of Pax's kits falls ill, he turns to the one human he knows he can trust. Now both boy and fox find themselves on journeys toward home, healing—and each other, once again.



October 2021

Orca Book Publishers

\$24.95

Middle Grade

# Shelter: Homelessness in Our Community

Lois Peterson, illustrated by Taryn Gee

There are 150 million people experiencing homelessness worldwide, and that number is increasing every year. Homelessness is not a choice, yet it exists in almost every community. But why are people homeless? What can you do? In *Shelter*, readers get answers to these complex questions. As a former homeless-shelter worker, **Lois Peterson** encourages readers to approach the issue with knowledge and compassion. She dispels myths around homelessness and shows why everyone deserves a safe, permanent place to call home.



September 2021

Margaret K. McElderry Books

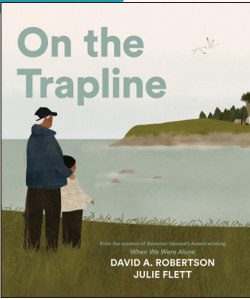
\$19.99

Young Adult

# The Bones of Ruin

Sarah Raughley

This exhilarating new release from **Sarah Raughley** features Iris, an African tightrope dancer in Victorian London with an unnatural power: she cannot die. When Iris meets the alluring Adam Temple, a member of a mysterious order called the Enlightenment Committee, she realizes that he knows more about her than he lets on. But Adam will only tell her the truth if she becomes his champion in an apocalyptic battle called the Tournament of Freaks, made up of vicious fighters with fantastical abilities. Iris has no choice; but the further she gets in the tournament, the more she begins to remember and the more she wonders if the truth is something best left forgotten.



Available

Tundra Books

\$21.99

Primary; Ages 4–8

# On the Trapline

David A. Robertson, illustrated by Julie Flett

A picture book celebrating Indigenous culture and traditions. The Governor General Award-winning team behind *When We Were Alone*, **David A. Robertson** and **Julie Flett**, share a story that honors our connections to our past. A boy and Moshom, his grandpa, take a trip to visit a place of great meaning. It is a trapline, where people hunt and live off the land. A heartfelt story about memory intergenerational connection, *On the Trapline* perfectly captures the experience of a young child's wonder as he is introduced to places that hold meaning for his family.



September 2021

Puffin Canada

\$21.99

Middle Grade

# The Great Bear: The Misewa Saga, Book Two

David A. Robertson

In this second book in the Narnia-inspired Indigenous middle-grade fantasy series by **David A. Robertson**, Eli and Morgan journey once more to Misewa to visit their animal friends. This time they travel back in time and meet a young fisher that might just be the one they lost. But they discover that the village is once again in peril, and they must dig deep within themselves to find the strength to protect their beloved friends. Can they carry this strength back home to face their own challenges?



Available  
Running Press Kids  
\$22.99  
Young Adult

## When You Get the Chance

Tom Ryan & Robin Stevenson

From highly-respected and award-winning authors **Tom Ryan** and **Robin Stevenson** comes a story of cousins on a road trip to Pride. Mark and Talia are cousins and queer, but that's about all they have in common. Talia is desperate to see her high school sweetheart Erin; Mark, on the other hand, is just looking for some fun, and Toronto Pride seems like the perfect place to find it. With a bit of luck, and some help from a series of unexpected new friends, they might just make it to the big city and find what they're looking for.

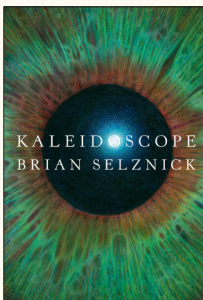


September 2021  
Puffin Canada  
\$21.99  
Middle Grade

## Children of the Fox: Thieves of Shadow, Book One

Kevin Sands

A new adventure from the bestselling author of the *Blackthorn Key Series*, **Kevin Sands**. Lured by the promise of money, five young criminals are hired to steal a heavily guarded treasure from a powerful sorcerer. There's the con artist, the acrobatic, the researcher, the jack of all trades, and Foxtail, whose eyeless mask doesn't hinder her from climbing walls. Though they've never trusted anyone but themselves, the five must learn to rely on each other. Faced with these insurmountable odds, can the new friends pull off this legendary heist, or has their luck finally run out?



September 2021  
Scholastic Canada  
\$26.99  
Young Adult

## Kaleidoscope

Brian Selznick

An astounding new feat of storytelling from **Brian Selznick**, the award-winning creator of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* and *Wonderstruck*. A ship. A garden. A library. A key. In *Kaleidoscope*, Selznick presents the story of two people bound to each other through time and space, memory and dreams. At the center of their relationship is a mystery about the nature of grief and love which will look different to each reader. *Kaleidoscope* is a feat of storytelling that shows how even the wildest tales can help us in the hardest times.



Available

Kids Can Press

\$14.99

Primary; Ages 5–8

## Burt the Beetle Doesn't Bite

Ashley Spires

**Ashley Spires** brings her signature deadpan humor to this funny story about one bug's quest for greatness (with some cool insect facts mixed in!). Burt is a ten-lined june beetle who's sure he belongs in the category of bugs with superpowers. He can't carry 50 times his weight or spray paralyzing venom like some other bugs, but he can chase porch lights and flail his legs in the air. And when some other bugs find themselves in big trouble that even their superpowers can't get them out of, Burt suddenly realizes there is one thing that he can do to save his friends—and it's something that only a june beetle can do!



August 2021

Penguin Teen

\$21.99

Young Adult

## Both Sides Now

Peyton Thomas

There's only one thing standing between Finch Kelly and a full-blown case of high school senioritis: the National Speech & Debate Tournament. The problem? This year's topic for Nationals: transgender rights. If he wants gold, Finch might have to argue against his own humanity. People say there are two sides to every argument. But, as Finch is about to discover, some things—like who you are and who you love—are not up for debate. **Peyton Thomas's** *Both Sides Now* is a witty and warm-hearted novel about a trans teen finding his place in the world.



September 2021

Penguin Teen

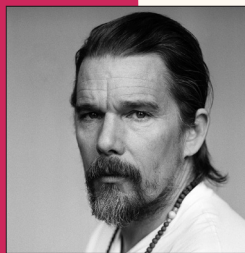
\$21.99

Young Adult

## Iron Widow

Xiran Jay Zhao

The boys of Huaxia dream of pairing up with girls to pilot giant transforming robots that can battle aliens that lurk beyond the Great Wall. The girls often end up dying from mental strain. But when 18-year-old Zetian kills her co-pilot, she becomes an Iron Widow, a feared pilot who can sacrifice boys to power up the robots instead. To tame her, she is paired up with Li Shimin, the strongest male pilot in Huaxia. Now Zetian is set on combining their might to survive, until she can figure out a way to stop more girls from being sacrificed. *Pacific Rim* meets *The Handmaid's Tale* in **Xiran Jay Zhao's** *Iron Widow*, a unique blend of Chinese history and science fiction.



# Books & Ideas

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