# **Vancouver Writers Fest 2023 Reading List:**

# **Simple Text Version**

# **Contents**

[Welcome](#_o1k7k1a2caua)

|  |
| --- |
| [New Additions](#_mzwqqmmxee3y)  [Adult Titles](#_68phevixa6ck)  [Youth Titles](#_l5gl6gmravff) |

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# **Welcome**

Welcome to the 2023 Reading List! This Reading List represents over 115 authors who will be joining the Vancouver Writers Fest at our flagship Festival, taking place this year from October 16–22.

Click on any book title below to read the book’s synopsis. You’ll also find options there to purchase the books in hardcover, paperback, audiobook, or ebook form (where available).

To find a list of only books with audiobooks available for purchase, check out our playlist on Libro.fm: <https://libro.fm/playlists/4606?bookstore=writersfest>

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# **New Additions!**

[*On Browsing*](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/on-browsing)Jason Guriel

[*The Boy Who Woke the Sun*](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-boy-who-woke-the-sun) by A.T. Woodley

[*This Other Eden*](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/this-other-eden)Paul Harding

[*The Future*](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-future)Catherine Leroux

[*Breaking and Entering*](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/breaking-and-entering)Don Gillmor

[*The Compassionate Imagination: How the Arts Are Central to a Functioning Democracy*](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-compassionate-imagination)Max Wyman

[*Races: The Trials and Triumphs of Canada's Fastest Family*](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/races)Valerie Jerome

[*All Things Move: Learning to Look in the Sistine Chapel*](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/all-things-move)Jeannie Marshall

[*Not Too Late: Changing the Climate Story from Despair to Possibility*](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/not-too-late)  
edited by Rebecca Solnit

[*The Grover School Pledge*](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-grover-school-pledge)  
Wanda Taylor

[*Where Do Your Feelings Live?*](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/where-do-your-feelings-live)  
Catherine Hernandez

[Landbridge: Life in Fragments](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/landbridge)  
Y-Dang Troeung (1980–2022; posthumously presented and honoured)

[Kairos](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/kairos)

Jenny Erpenbeck

[Wannabe: Reckonings with the Pop Culture That Shapes Me](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/wannabe)

Aisha Harris

[Best Young Woman Job Book](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/best-young-woman-job-book)

Emma Healey

[A Super Scary Narwhalloween (A Narwhal and Jelly Book #8)](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/a-super-scary-narwhalloween)Ben Clanton

[Ploof](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/ploof)Ben Clanton

[How to Be a Climate Optimist](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/how-to-be-a-climate-optimist)

Chris Turner

[The Vaster Wilds](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-vaster-wilds)

Lauren Groff

[Fire Weather](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/fire-weather)

John Vaillant

[Pictures on the Wall](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/pictures-on-the-wall)

Michael Audain

[Truth Telling](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/truth-telling)

Michelle Good

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# **Adult Titles**

[Quiet](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/quiet)Victoria Adukwei Bulley

[Nothing Good Happens in Wazirabad on Wednesday](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/nothing-good-happens-in-wazirabad-on-wednesday)Jamaluddin Aram

[The Whispers](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-whispers)Ashley Audrain

[Rouge](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/rouge)Mona Awad

[Carving Space: The Indigenous Voices Awards Anthology](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/carving-space)Carleigh Baker

[The Winter Knight](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-winter-knight)Jes Battis

[The Postcard](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-postcard)Anne Berest

[Huge: A Novel](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/huge)Brent Butt (Pre-Festival Special Event)

[The Only Suspect](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-only-suspect)Louise Candlish

[The Whole Animal](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-whole-animal)Corinna Chong

[The Double Life of Benson Yu](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-double-life-of-benson-yu)Kevin Chong

[Autosarcophagy: To Eat Oneself](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/autosarcophagy)Helen Cova

[After That](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/after-that)Lorna Crozier

[The Adversary](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-adversary)Michael Crummey

[The Librarianist](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-librarianist)Patrick deWitt

[Daughter](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/daughter)Claudia Dey

[VenCo](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/venco)Cherie Dimaline

[Learned By Heart](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/learned-by-heart)Emma Donoghue

[On Class](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/on-class)Deborah Dundas

[And Then She Fell](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/and-then-she-fell)Alicia Elliott

[The Syrian Ladies Benevolent Society](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-syrian-ladies-benevolent-society)Christine Estima

[How to Build a Boat](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/how-to-build-a-boat)Elaine Feeney

[I Only Read Murder](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/i-only-read-murder)Will Ferguson & Ian Ferguson

[Freeman’s: Conclusions](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/freemans-conclusions)John Freeman

[Reckoning](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/reckoning)Patrick Friesen

[It Stops Here: Standing Up for Our Lands, Our Waters, and Our People](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/it-stops-here)Rueben George

[Almost Brown: A Mixed-Race Family Memoir](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/almost-brown)Charlotte Gill

[The Wolf Hunt](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-wolf-hunt)Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

[The Full-Moon Whaling Chronicles](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-full-moon-whaling-chronicles)Jason Guriel

[The Drowning Woman](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-drowning-woman)Robyn Harding

[Quantum Physics Made Me Do It: A Simple Guide to the Fundamental Nature of Everything](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/quantum-physics-made-me-do-it)Jérémie Harris

[She Who Lies Above](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/she-who-lies-above)Beatriz Hausner

[Snow Road Station](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/snow-road-station)Elizabeth Hay

[The Story of Us](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-story-of-us)Catherine Hernandez

[Message in a Bottle: Ocean Dispatches from a Seabird Biologist](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/message-in-a-bottle)Holly Hogan

[We Should Not Be Afraid of the Sky](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/we-should-not-be-afraid-of-the-sky)Emma Hooper

[Denison Avenue](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/denison-avenue)Daniel Innes & Christina Wong

[Loot](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/loot)Tania James

[Fit to Die](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/fit-to-die)Daniel Kalla

[Doppelganger: A Trip into the Mirror World](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/doppelganger)Naomi Klein

[Becoming a Matriarch](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/becoming-a-matriarch)Helen Knott

[Landscapes](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/landscapes)Christine Lai

[Superfan: How Pop Culture Broke My Heart](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/superfan)Jen Sookfong Lee

[Seas Move Away](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/seas-move-away)Joanne Leow

[Last Winter](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/last-winter)Carrie Mac

[On Writing and Failure](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/on-writing-and-failure)Stephen Marche

[Minique](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/minique)Anna Maxymiw

[The Sleeping Car Porter](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-sleeping-car-porter)Suzette Mayr

[A Season in Chezgh’un](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/a-season-in-chezghun)Darrel J. McLeod

[Not That Kind of Place](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/not-that-kind-of-place)Michael Melgaard

[Do You Remember Being Born?](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/do-you-remember-being-born)Sean Michaels

[Silver Nitrate](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/silver-nitrate)Silvia Moreno-Garcia

[Exculpatory Lilies](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/exculpatory-lilies)Susan Musgrave

[Our Missing Hearts](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/our-missing-hearts)Celeste Ng

[Orphan Bachelors](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/orphan-bachelors)Fae Myenne Ng

[Strange Sally Diamond](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/strange-sally-diamond)Liz Nugent

[A History of Burning](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/a-history-of-burning)Janika Oza

[Hollow Bamboo](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/hollow-bamboo)William Ping

[On Community](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/on-community)Casey Plett

[A Safe Girl to Love](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/a-safe-girl-to-love)Casey Plett

[A Grandmother Begins the Story](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/a-grandmother-begins-the-story)Michelle Porter

[River Mumma](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/river-mumma)Zalika Reid-Benta

[Atomweight](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/atomweight)Emi Sasagawa

[Ordinary Notes](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/ordinary-notes)Christina Sharpe

[The Cobra and the Key](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-cobra-and-the-key)Sam Shelstad

[The Fraud](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-fraud)Zadie Smith (Pre-Festival Special Event)

[Queers Like Me](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/queers-like-me)Michael V. Smith

[A Death at the Party](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/a-death-at-the-party)Amy Stuart

[The Marigold](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-marigold)Andrew F. Sullivan

[Roaming](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/roaming)Jillian Tamaki & Mariko Tamaki

[In the Upper Country](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/in-the-upper-country)Kai Thomas

[White Riot: The 1907 Anti-Asian Riots in Vancouver](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/white-riot)Henry Tsang

[The Circle](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-circle)Katherena Vermette

[What Remains of Elsie Jane](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/what-remains-of-elsie-jane)Chelsea Wakelyn

[Whitemud Walking](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/whitemud-walking)Matthew James Weigel

[Crook Manifesto](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/crook-manifesto)Colson Whitehead (Pre-Festival Special Event)

[Sunset and Jericho: A Wakeland Novel](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/sunset-and-jericho)Sam Wiebe

[Tell Me Pleasant Things about Immortality](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/tell-me-pleasant-things-about-immortality)Lindsay Wong

[The Sorrows of Others](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-sorrows-of-others)Ada Zhang

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# **Youth Titles**

[Where the Water Takes Us](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/where-the-water-takes-us)Alan Barillaro

[Snulli Likes Being Alone](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/snulli-likes-being-alone)Helen Cova

[Snulli Learns To Say No](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/snulli-learns-to-say-no)Helen Cova

[Candle Point](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/candle-point)Mike Deas & Nancy Deas

[Spooky Sleuths #4: Fire in the Sky](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/spooky-sleuths)Natasha Deen

[Into the Bright Open](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/into-the-bright-open)Cherie Dimaline

[Funeral Songs for Dying Girls](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/funeral-songs-for-dying-girls)Cherie Dimaline

[Maggie Lou, Firefox](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/maggie-lou-firefox)Arnolda Dufour Bowes

[Those Pink Mountain Nights](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/those-pink-mountain-nights)Jen Ferguson

[Saving the Spotted Owl: Zalea’s Story](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/saving-the-spotted-owl)Nicola Jones

[We the Sea Turtles: A Collection of Island Stories](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/we-the-sea-turtles)Michelle Kadarusman

[Berani](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/berani)Michelle Kadarusman

[The Skull: A Tyrolean Folktale](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-skull)Jon Klassen

[Catfish Rolling](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/catfish-rolling)Clara Kumagai

[The Best Way to Get Your Way](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-best-way-to-get-your-way)Tanya Lloyd Kyi

[Maybe a Whale](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/maybe-a-whale)Kirsten Pendreigh & Crystal Smith

[Wrath Becomes Her](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/wrath-becomes-her)Aden Polydoros

[The Grimmer](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-grimmer)Naben Ruthnum

[At the Speed of Gus](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/at-the-speed-of-gus)Richard Scrimger

[Burt the Beetle Lives Here!](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/burt-the-beetle-lives-here)Ashley Spires

[The Most Magnificent Maker’s A to Z](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-most-magnificent-makers-a-to-z)Ashley Spires

[The Space between Here & Now](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/the-space-between-here-now)Sarah Suk

[Haunted Canada 12](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/haunted-canada-12)Joel A. Sutherland

[House of Ash and Bone](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/house-of-ash-and-bone)Joel A. Sutherland

[Wings of Fire: A Guide to the Dragon World](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/wings-of-fire)Tui T. Sutherland

[Rise Up and Sing! Power, Protest, and Activism in Music](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/rise-up-and-sing)Andrea Warner

[Focus. Click. Wind.](https://writersfest.bc.ca/reading-list-2023/focus-click-wind)Amanda West Lewis