



K2 Literary
Spring 2023



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Contents

fiction

Anita Anand.....	5
Nic Brewer.....	6
Matt Cahill.....	7
Charlene Challenger.....	8
Dina Del Bucchia.....	9
J.J. Dupuis.....	10
Cary Fagan.....	12
Samantha Garner.....	13
Daniel Innes and Christina Wong.....	15
Brian Thomas Isaac.....	16
Kathryn Kuitenbrouwer.....	17
A.G. Pasquella.....	18
Sheung-King.....	21
Jaspreet Singh.....	22
Mike Steeves.....	23
Moez Surani.....	24
Aimee Wall.....	25
Dan K. Woo.....	26
Lindsay Zier-Vogel.....	27

nonfiction

DL Acken and Aurelia Louvet.....	29
Michelle Bilodeau and Karen Cleveland.....	30
Eden Boudreau.....	31
Del Cowie.....	32
Christopher Dewolf.....	33
River Halen.....	34
Jules Sherred.....	35
Julia Zarankin.....	36

children's

Hajer Nakua and Farah Qaiser.....	38
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fiction

Anita Anand

A Convergence of Solitudes

—Nominated for 2023 Forest of Reading® Evergreen Award™—
 —Finalist, 2022 QWF Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction—

“*A Convergence of Solitudes* is an ambitious novel structured as a double album and focusing on two different families. Over the decades that their stories unfold, members of both clans grapple with solitude in its myriad forms. The novel paints a multicultural portrait of Montreal as characters converge on the city from around the world: India, Vietnam, England, Ireland. Fans of seventies prog rock will catch the sly references to Quebec superstars Harmonium. Anita Anand has created an impressive opus.” –Neil Smith, author of *Jones*

A story of identity, connection and forgiveness, *A Convergence of Solitudes* shares the lives of two families across Partition of India, Operation Babylift in Vietnam, and two referendums in Quebec.

Sunil and Hima, teenage lovers, bravely defy taboos in pre-Partition India to come together as their country divides in two. They move across the world to Montreal and raise a family, but Sunil shows symptoms of schizophrenia, shattering their newfound peace. As a teenager, their daughter Rani becomes obsessed with Quebecois supergroup Sensibilité—and, in particular, the band’s charismatic, nationalistic frontman, Serge Giglio—whose music connects Rani to the province’s struggle for cultural freedom. A chance encounter leads Rani to babysit Mélanie, Serge’s adopted daughter from Vietnam, bringing her fleetingly within his inner circle.

Years later, Rani, now a college guidance counselor, discovers that Mélanie has booked an appointment to discuss her future at the school. Unmoved by her father’s staunch patriotism and her British mother’s bourgeois ways, Mélanie is struggling with deep uncertainty about her identity and belonging. As the two women’s lives become more and more intertwined, Rani’s fascination with Mélanie’s father’s music becomes a strange shadow amidst their friendship.



Publication:

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:

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-Les Éditions de Ta Mère
(French, World)



Photo Credit: Alexis Laflamme

ANITA ANAND is an author, translator and language teacher from Montreal. She is the winner of the 2015 QWF Concordia University First Book Prize for *Swing in the House and Other Stories*, which was also shortlisted for the 2016 Relit Award for Fiction and the Montreal Literary Diversity Prize. Her translation of *Nirliit*, by Juliana Léveillé-Trudel was nominated for the 2018 John Glassco Prize. She has also translated Fanie Demeule’s novel *Déterrer les os*, known in English as *Lightness*.

Nic Brewer

Suture

—Nominated for 2022 ReLit Award for Fiction—
—Nominated for 2021 Foreword INDIES (LGBT category)—

“*Suture* is a daring, visceral debut that examines the painful side of the creative process. Blending body horror with meditations on love, art, and forgiveness, this novel will startle and captivate you.” —Catriona Wright, author of *Difficult People*

“Nic Brewer’s *Suture* is a fleshy, flashy, not-for-the-faint-of-heart tale that poetically reimagines artmaking into the gory-yet-tender body horror that it has—perhaps—always figuratively been. Hold on to your guts.”

—John Elizabeth Stintzi, author of *Vanishing Monuments* and *My Volcano*

“*Suture* is Nic Brewer’s transgressively taught storytelling. The notes in these pages write desire, connection and art from the body’s vivid capacity for tenderness where the hard stuff tears. A nimble, fearless debut.”

—Canisia Lubrin, Griffin Poetry Prize-winning author of *The Dyzgraphxst*

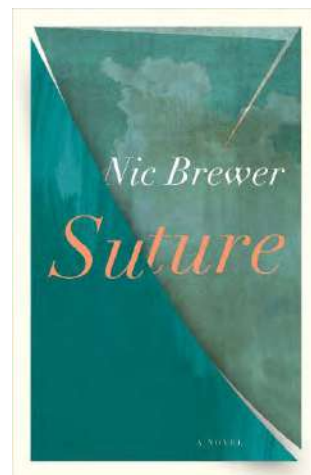
“I read this book with wonder—Brewer’s confident prose swept me along. Hers is sure, sharp writing that doesn’t flinch from tenderness. I felt this book in my body. I ached (in my heart and bones, along an old, spidery scar that split my chest in two) long after I set it down. What a privilege to read this work.” —Gillian Wigmore, author of *Glory*

To make her films, Eva must take out her eyes and use them as batteries. To make her art, Finn must cut open her chest and remove her lungs and heart. To write her novels, Grace must use her blood to power the word processor.

Suture shares three interweaving stories of artists tearing themselves open to make art. Each artist baffles their family, or harms their loved ones, with their necessary sacrifices. Eva’s wife worries about her mental health; Finn’s teenager follows in her footsteps, using forearm bones for drumsticks; Grace’s network constantly worries about the prolific writer’s penchant for self-harm, and the over-use of her vitals for art.

The result is a hyper-real exploration of the cruelties we commit and forgive in ourselves and others. Brewer brings a unique perspective to mental illness while exploring how support systems in relationships—spousal, parental, familial—can be both helpful and damaging.

This exciting debut novel is a highly original meditation on the fractures within us, and the importance of empathy as medicine and glue.



Publication: September 2021

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:
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-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available

-Audio: Book*hug (World)



Photo credit: Becca Lamire Photography

NIC BREWER is a queer, autistic writer, and editor. She writes fiction, mostly. She is the co-founder of *FronD*, an online literary journal for prose by LGBTQI2SA writers, and formerly co-managed the micropress *words(on)pages*. She doesn’t look like her author photo, doesn’t have an MFA, and really wants to hear about what you love most in the world. She lives in Kitchener, ON, with her wife and their dog. *Suture* is her debut novel.

Matt Cahill

Radioland

—Nominated for 2023 Foreword INDIES (Thriller category)—

“It has magic. It has murder. It has music. It has everything I was looking for and it is a literary thriller you are definitely not going to want to miss.”

–Emily Breitkopf, *The Ampersand Review*

“I loved the compellingly visceral descriptions and the fabulously rich prose. A triumph in psychological-disaster storytelling, *Radioland* blasts across the airwaves with an enviable power and originality.” –Lisa de Nikolits, *The Minerva Reader*

“Twisting and turning between rock musician Kris and ‘house cleanser’ Jill, *Radioland* serves up a terrifying, dangerous and electrifying tale that pinpoints where we belong and who we belong to. A wildly weird look at an off-kilter world full of crime and fear, Matt Cahill’s new novel will keep you up at night wondering what’s real and what isn’t.”

–Michelle Berry, author of *Everything Turns Away* and *The Prisoner and the Chaplain*

In *Radioland*, Matt Cahill’s mesmerizing new literary thriller, music, fame and magic wind together in an eerie mystery.

There are whispers about murders on the scene in Toronto, from bartenders, hairdressers and others who trade in rumours. When the bodies are found they are altered in disturbing ways. No one knows who the killer could be. Perhaps it is Kris, a troubled musician who has just reached a level of fame only to have his life collapse around him. Perhaps it is Jill, a sensitive with a dangerous magic that calls strangers to her.

As Kris struggles to deal with a childhood experience of sexual abuse he finds a strange advertisement on a hydro pole. By answering it he begins texting Jill, another lost soul reaching out for connection. In bits and pieces, they share their stories, discovering truths about themselves and the people surrounding them, until they must face the danger that is stalking them both.

Radioland explores the absurdity of fame, the legacy of trauma, and the morbid dangers unearthed as we seek a greater understanding of ourselves.



Publication: October 2022

Publisher:

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Rights Sold:

-Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books
(North America)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



Photo credit: Ingrid Paulson

MATT CAHILL is a Toronto writer. His novel, *The Society of Experience* (Wolsak & Wynn), was picked as one of the top reads of 2015 by *Harper’s Bazaar*. His short stories have appeared with *Found Press*, *The Quarantine Review*, and *Fusion Fragment*. His essay “On Madness Within Imagination” was selected for *Best Canadian Essays 2017*. He has a private practice as a psychotherapist.

Charlene Challenger

Keeper By Blood

Diana is the sole daughter born into the Zsuth family dynasty. The sons of Zsuth have ruled the country of West Solvo for over a century by maintaining a tyrannical cult of personality and constantly threatening their enemies with annihilation.

Indifferent to the suffering of the West Solvic people, Diana's life of ease and privilege is shattered when, upon her father's death, she's disguised as a young man and declared the Third Beloved Magistrate of the country. Thrust into the public eye, terrorized by her jealous brothers, and surrounded by sycophants and psychopaths alike, Diana must learn to navigate an increasingly hostile political atmosphere or risk being deposed and executed.

Keeper By Blood is an unnerving glimpse into the selfishness that can drive us, and the violent consequences of willful ignorance.

Praise for Charlene Challenger:

"*The Voices In Between* is an ambitious and sophisticated fantasy, written with evocative, brooding beauty. Challenger makes words on a page caress the ear like music or jar against the soul with a chilling and suspenseful grip." –*CM: Canadian Review of Materials*

"Challenger has given a gift of adventure with this beautifully painted journey."
–Catherine Hernandez, author of *Scarborough*

"Luckily for us all, [with *The Myth in Distance*] Challenger has given us a stirring encore to the tale she started in *The Voices In Between*, and has done so brilliantly, with feeling. Her words, her characters, sing on the page, and thrill you to your bones until the final note. Sonorous, moving, and with an authenticity rarely seen. Or heard."

–S.M. Beiko, author of *The Lake and the Library* and *Scion of the Fox*



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Manuscript available



CHARLENE CHALLENGER is a writer and graduate of Ryerson Theatre School. Her first novel, the young adult fantasy *The Voices in Between* (Tightrope Books) was nominated for the 2015 Aurora Award for Best Young Adult Novel and long-listed for the 2015 Sunburst Award Young Adult Novel category. Its sequel, *The Myth in Distance*, was published in 2016. Her work is also featured in Stone Skin Press's *Gods, Memes and Monsters*. She lives in Pickering, Ontario with her family and her adorable housewolves, Omi and Muffin.

Dina Del Bucchia

Tougher Than the Rest

Dark, funny, charming and set in the near future, *Tougher Than the Rest* uses comic premises to explore what is increasingly untenable about contemporary urban life, what destroys our abilities to be fully human, and how we resist in small and grand ways. These stories feature women protagonists at different stages of life, and looks at class, technology, white feminism, love, friendship, the loneliness of the world, and our ability to find connections and meaning.

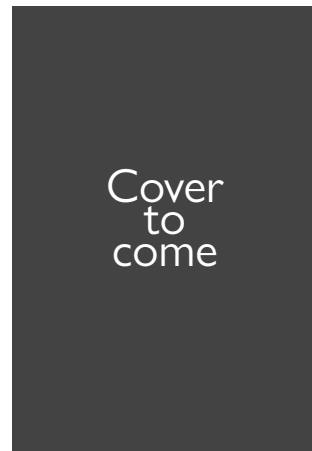
Taking each title from a classic rock radio song by a male musical artist, this collection reinvents the meaning of each. Springsteen's "Tougher Than the Rest" is about a low-income gig worker gig worker whose job is to moderate comments on YouTube. "Night Moves" is transformed from Bob Seger's sexually intense song about youthful sex without strings into a story about a lonely woman who buys a second-hand sex robot at the Salvation Army. In "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue," a woman grieving her husband's disappearance and possible suicide encounters talking animals and cryptids who become the tough love and reality she needs. Aerosmith's "Dream On" is the inspiration for the final story, about a social media influencer who undergoes a drastic cosmetic surgery to make her face literally adaptable to making more money for advertisers. Haunting the collection is a pervasive real estate developer whose existence touches on the lives of many of these characters in shocking, devastating and destructive ways.

Praise for *Don't Tell Me What to Do*:

"Dina Del Bucchia writes into and out of a very Vancouver tradition, following the line of writers like DM Fraser, while paludifying her own perky collision of community, class, and bra clasps." –Anakana Schofield, author of *Martin John*

"Each of the fifteen stories, mostly populated by female protagonists at less-than-perfect moments in their lives, show the work of a generous writer committed to creating characters unapologetically being themselves in all their flawed, misguided glory. These are irresistible, if not exactly admirable, women: the kind you gossip about and wish you actually knew." –*Room*

"Do not tell Dina Del Bucchia what to do, because she already knows what to do. Comedy like this only comes from an enormously rich mind, from a pounding heart, from bold and fearless guts. Reading this collection is like listening to an orchestra that knows all your secrets. Percussive and beautiful and sweepingly human, I'll be thinking about this book for the rest of my life." –Gabe Liedman, writer and actor



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Manuscript available



DINA DEL BUCCHIA Dina Del Bucchia is a writer, podcaster, literary event host, editor, creative writing instructor and otter and dress enthusiast living in Vancouver on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh people. She is the author of the short story collection, *Don't Tell Me What to Do*, and four collections of poetry: *Coping with Emotions and Otters*, *Blind Items*, *Rom Com*, written with Daniel Zomparelli, and, *It's a Big Deal!* She is the Artistic Director of the Real Vancouver Writers' Series, hosts the podcast, *Can't Lit*, with Jen Sookfong Lee and is on the editorial board of *fine.press*. Her chapbook, *Douche Process*, is available online at ryanfitzpatrick.ca/modelpress/. You can check out her website at dinadelbucchia.com

J.J. Dupuis

Umboi Island (Book 3 in the Creature X Mysteries)

“Dupuis’s entertaining third Creature X mystery (after 2021’s *Lake Crescent*) smoothly combines scientific mystery and action. Fans of Lincoln Child’s Jeremy Logan books will hope this series has a long run.” –*Publishers Weekly*

“First and foremost a romp and an evolutionary step forward for the Boys Own Adventure genre ... While writing a hunt for a mythological creature, Dupuis has managed a few blows in getting rid of other dinosaurs altogether.” –True Crime Fiction

“*Umboi Island* is a tremendously fun murder mystery, full of savvy characters, sensory depictions of a lush jungle, and morbid lawlessness.” –Delphic Reviews

The *Creature X* team travels to Papua New Guinea to investigate sightings of a surviving pterosaur.

Laura Reagan, host of *Creature X*, wants to leave North America behind and step out from the shadow of her father’s cryptozoological research. She leads her team to Umboi Island, off the coast of Papua New Guinea, to shoot a cryptozoological documentary about the mysterious ropen, a bioluminescent pterosaur-like creature that has somehow survived extinction. They’re sharing a camp with a U.K.-based team of scientists, and not all of their hosts are extending a warm welcome.

In a stroke of luck, Laura and some team members see a mysterious purple light above the trees. Could it actually be what they’re searching for? But the hunt for the ropen takes a drastic turn when a body turns up in the *Creature X* camp, and it belongs to someone from the team’s past. With walkie-talkies and satellite phones down, Laura and her team are stuck on the island with a murderer—and no chance of help.



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: March 2022

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

-Dundurn
(North America, English)
-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



JEFF DUPUIS is a Toronto-based writer. His fiction, satire and poetry have appeared in *Foliage Oak*, the *Spadina Literary Review*, *Valve*, *The Lapine* and *University of Toronto Magazine*. J.J. was a regular contributor to *The Barnstormer*. He is the co-founder of *The Quarantine Review*, an ongoing literary journal based on the COVID-19 pandemic.

When not in front of a computer, he can be found haunting the river valleys of Toronto, where he lives and works. Follow his journeys on Instagram, at @donvalleysafari.

J.J. Dupuis

Lake Crescent (Book 2 in the Creature X Mysteries)

“Dupuis nicely captures the feeling of Robert’s Arm with its quirky residents and slowly builds tension as what begins as a fish tale develops into a gripping murder mystery. With luck, Laura and her friends will be back soon.” –*Publishers Weekly*

“Going both behind the camera and on location, *Lake Crescent* is an intelligent mystery novel that balances facts and intrigue with finesse.” –Foreword Reviews

“What starts as a hunt for the lake monster Cressie, quickly turns into an enjoyable whodunnit with a plot that brings to mind both Raymond Chandler and Neil Gaiman.”

–Eduard Habsburg-Lothringen, writer and diplomat

“A mysterious and interesting romp into Canadian cryptid history! Readers — especially Atlantic Canadians — will enjoy this ‘deep dive’ into the legend of Cressie, the mythical eel-like serpent that supposedly inhabits Lake Crescent in Newfoundland and Labrador. *Lake Crescent: A Creature X Mystery* by J.J. Dupuis will keep you guessing until the end.”

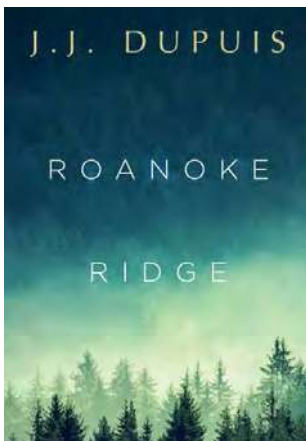
–Timothy S. Johnston, award-winning author of *The Tanner Sequence* series

A TV documentary crew explores murky waters in search of legendary lake monster Cressie, only to dredge up a body instead.

Laura Reagan, host of the cryptozoological documentary series *Creature X*, and her team are in Newfoundland shooting an episode about Cressie, a legendary giant eel. Things don’t start off great: scientific evidence is scarce, stories keep changing, and the locals are throwing a wrench into the production. But what began as a simple TV shoot takes a drastic turn when the crew pulls a body from the depths of Lake Crescent.

For Laura, unravelling the cold case means unearthing long-buried secrets about the most prominent citizens of the remote town of Robert’s Arm. With time running out, she and her team must put the pieces together and expose the killer before more blood is spilled.

Roanoke Ridge (Book 1 in the Creature X Mysteries)



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: March 2020

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

–Dundurn

(North America, English)

–Translation/UK/ANZ rights available

“A fun, engaging read, written with lots of informed insider insight on a fascinating field — and with some neat cameos from the real world of Sasquatch research and investigation.”

–Dr. Darren Naish, palaeozoologist, University of Southampton

“With *Roanoke Ridge*, J.J. Dupuis gives us a mystery centring around that primal human need to believe that something is out there. The book is mischievous, zany, and fast-paced, and it skewers our pop-culture lust the whole way through.”

–Jeff Parker, author of *Where Bears Roam the Streets*

“Brilliant ... indeed an excellent book.” –Maureen Jennings, author of the *Murdoch Mystery* series

Laura Reagan ventures into the Oregon woods in search of her mentor, who vanished amidst a rash of Bigfoot sightings.

When Bigfoot researcher Professor Berton Sorel goes missing in the temperate rainforest of Roanoke Ridge, Oregon, help is summoned in the form of his former star pupil, Laura Reagan, online science populist and avowed skeptic. But what begins as a simple search-and-rescue operation takes a drastic turn when a body is discovered—and the body isn’t the professor.

Caught in the fallout of the suspicious death, perplexed by a sudden wave of Bigfoot sightings, and still desperately searching for Professor Sorel, Reagan reluctantly admits two things: one, that her old mentor was right about there being secrets hidden in Roanoke Ridge, and two, that it’s up to her to uncover them.



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: July 2021

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

–Dundurn

(North America, English)

–Translation/UK/ANZ rights available

Cary Fagan

The Animals

“*The Animals* is a peculiar and weirdly compelling fable, a version of *Where the Wild Things Are*, but for adults of the kind who find the world as strange as the films of Wes Anderson.”

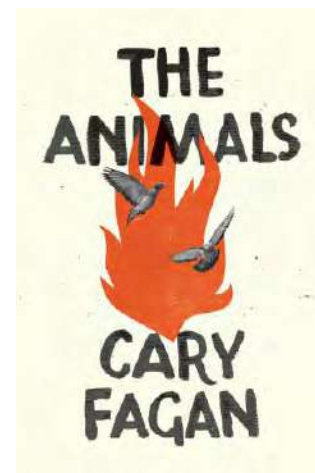
–Antanas Sileika, author of *Provisionally Yours*

“Charming, sad, hopeful and compelling, *The Animals* burns with intelligence, wry wit, and compassion.” –Gary Barwin, author of *Yiddish for Pirates*

In a quaint tourist village, Dorn makes miniature-scale models displayed in the local shops. Yet life is far from idyllic; he suffers under the thumb of a rich, philandering younger brother and an unloving father, and cannot find the courage to admit his love to Ravenna, the ungainly schoolteacher.

Life takes a strange turn when the government-sponsored “Wild Home Project” is introduced and wolves, rats, minks, otters, and bears move into villagers’ homes. Soon, Dorn receives a mysterious commission, finds a body in a park, and has several run-ins with a former classmate-turned police officer. When fire breaks out, Dorn takes on the unlikely role of hero in the hope of changing the course of his life.

A realist novel with the air of a fairy tale, *The Animals* is a surprising, funny, and thought-provoking story that explores the nature of relationships faunal and human and reminds us of the challenges of finding one’s place in society ... and that living with a wolf is not a very good idea.



Publication: October 2022

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:
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available



Photo Credit: Josh Levine

CARY FAGAN is the author of eight previous novels and five books of short stories, including *The Student*, *Great Adventures for the Faint of Heart*, and *A Bird's Eye*. He has been nominated for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Writers' Trust Fiction Award, the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, and has won the Toronto Book Award and the Canadian Jewish Book Award for Fiction. He is also an acclaimed writer of books for children, having won the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award, the IODE Jean Throop Book Award, a Mr. Christie Silver Medal, the Joan Betty Stuchner—Oy Vey!—Funniest Children's Book Award, and the Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature for Young People. Fagan's work has been translated into French, Italian, German, Dutch, Spanish, Catalan, Turkish, Russian, Polish, Chinese, Korean and Persian. He still lives in his hometown of Toronto.

Samantha Garner

Seeker of the Lost Song

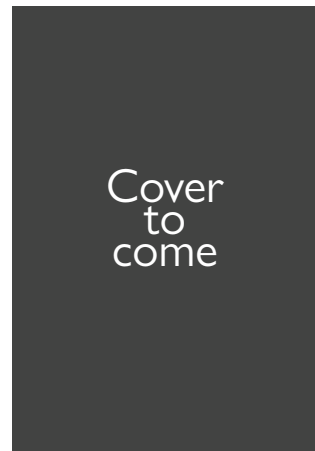
“History begins where magic ends”

Vetsa, like every part of the Leitir Empire, thrives on rumour. The Vetsi people survive by reporting the non-conforming behaviour of their neighbours, which keeps them from asking different questions: why their collective history only begins a thousand years ago with the mysterious Division, or why traditional stories and language are suppressed.

However, when Elis Kalevi hears a rumour of living vines consuming a dead village far to the east, she is stunned by its resemblance to her eerie dreams, as well as her closest friend’s unusual impulse to influence the magical song of plants and trees. Elis is unable to resist the call to the east and the source of this strange rumour.

Traveling with the only three people she trusts and two inscrutable outsiders with mysterious intentions, Elis must determine how to extract information in a society that hates curiosity – and why she is reliving disturbing memories that are not her own.

Seeker of the Lost Song is a thoughtful, character-driven adult fantasy novel exploring the mutability of memory, the weight of guilt, and the delicate balance between protection and partnership.



Agent: Kelvin Kong
Manuscript available



Photo credit: Susanna Kaapu

SAMANTHA GARNER is a Toronto-based writer. Her short fiction and poetry has previously appeared in *Broken Pencil*, *Sundog Lit*, *Kiss Machine*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Storychord*, *WhiskeyPaper*, and *The Quarantine Review*. Continually searching for new ways to share a story, she’s also created several hand-made books and zines, and has been blogging since the Geocities glory days of the late ’90s.

She can be found online at samanthagarner.ca and on Instagram at [@samanthakgarner](https://www.instagram.com/samanthakgarner).

Samantha Garner

The Quiet is Loud

—Nominated for Amazon First Novel Award, 2022—

“*The Quiet is Loud* is a zeitgeist zirconia, a choker of sparkling speculation for Gen Z readers whose reading tastes are migrating toward adult literary spec fic. For her debut novel, Toronto writer Samantha Garner pours her curiosity into an approachable, recognizable narrative... Garner wears her spec fic, geek, and SF influences on her sleeve, and *The Quiet Is Loud* is a warm welcome to the more literary part of that universe.” —*Understorey Magazine*

“The smallest, most personal details give the novel its viscerality. Garner’s touch is subtle and effective: I could sense the coolness in the air, hear the rustle of the trees opening up to a steely blue-tinged sky. I could smell the longsilog cooking in the kitchen, taste the sweet-and-sour bite into a crispy boot-shaped chicken nugget. I could shuffle Freya’s tarot deck, run my finger along the cards’ edges and corners frayed by the passage of time, hold in my hands the comforting heft of promised answers. All of these details braid together into a story that at once feels so easily real and also glimmers with possibility, that fantastical tug of *and yet*.” —Marías at Sampaguitas

“*The Quiet is Loud* made me believe wholeheartedly in the paradextrous powers of its characters and their world, so wholeheartedly that at times I forgot that what I was reading was not possible. Garner’s is an exciting new voice.”

—Liz Harmer, author of *The Amateurs* and *Strange Loops*

The perfect marriage of literary and speculative fiction for readers of Kazuo Ishiguro and NK Jemisin.

When Freya Tanangco was ten, she dreamed of her mother’s death days before it happened. Freya’s life since has been spent in hiding: from the troubled literary legacy created by her author father, and from the scrutiny of a society that is hostile to vekers—people who, like her, have enhanced mental abilities.

When her prophetic dreams take a dangerous turn, Freya finds herself increasingly forced to sacrifice her own anonymity—and the fragile safety that comes with it—in order to protect those around her.

Interwoven with themes of Filipino Canadian and mixed-race identity, fantastical elements from Norse and Filipino mythology, and tarot card symbolism, *The Quiet Is Loud* is an intergenerational tale about the consequences of secrets and what happens when we refuse to let others tell our stories for us.



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: May 2021

Publisher: Invisible Publishing
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/
translation rights)

Rights Sold:

- Invisible Publishing (World)
- Piper Verlag (Germany)
- Translation/UK/ANZ rights available

Daniel Innes and Christina Wong

Denison Avenue

“In *Denison Avenue*, we watch a recent widow desperately tread water in a city drowning under waves of gentrification. This tender lyrical novel is an anthem of grief, a swan song to cities as we know them and the loved ones we lose along the way.”

–Catherine Hernandez, author and screenwriter of *Scarborough*, the novel and film

“Christina Wong writes from the perspective of an elderly immigrant widow who collects bottles and cans in the streets and alleys of Toronto. It’s a thoughtful account of a difficult journey in a vanishing neighbourhood, complete with time capsule illustrations of Chinatown and Kensington Market by Daniel Innes. *Denison Avenue* is designed for people like me who fall in between the cracks of culture. I enjoyed reading the phonetic Cantonese and Toisan dialect translations in English that connected me to familiar languages and my neighbourhood.”

– Sook-Yin Lee, filmmaker, musician, and broadcaster

What happens when home moves further away from you? How do you find it again?

Weaving memories, the past, and the present, graphic novel-novella *Denison Avenue* follows 71-year-old Wong Cho Sum, living in Toronto’s Chinatown-Kensington Market. Following the death of her husband Henry, she decides to take up collecting bottles and cans, as a way to deal with her grief.

On her walks through Toronto, Cho Sum reflects on the life that she had with Henry and the one she must rebuild without him, all the while navigating language barriers, how seniors are viewed, and the changes taking place in her neighbourhood and community.

Told in the form of a double-sided book that encompasses a graphic narrative (wordless images) on one side and a series of vignettes, on the other, *Denison Avenue* combines fiction with local history, weaving past and present, a poignant meditation on grief, loss, and memory.



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: May 2023

Publisher: ECW Press

Rights Sold:
-ECW Press (World)



DANIEL INNES’S extensive portfolio includes painting, installation, graphic and textile design, illustration, sign painting, and tattooing. He uses traditional commercial art techniques, with a focus on the process. He has a special interest in creating works that have the possibility of an immersive physical experience.

Daniel was born in the north end of Toronto and has lived in the Spadina–Chinatown neighbourhood for over 20 years. Watching the neighbourhood change over the years has ended his love affair with Toronto. His time is now spent between Toronto and his studio (Hase House, an artist residency project) in Hyōgo, Japan.

CHRISTINA WONG is an interdisciplinary artist based in Toronto, primarily working as a playwright and writer, who also dabbles in sound installations, audio documentaries, community oral history projects, and photography. Themes of loss and its many iterations, memory, and the portrayal of everyday life have been running threads in her work. Her plays have been performed at Factory Studio, Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace, and Palmerston Library Theatre. Her work has also appeared in *TOK Magazine*, *Spacing*, at the Gladstone Hotel’s Art Hut, and on CJRU 1280AM.

Christina grew up with the sights, smells, and sounds of Toronto’s Chinatown and Kensington Market neighbourhoods, which have shaped her identity and view of the world.



Brian Thomas Isaac

All the Quiet Places

- Winner, 2022 Indigenous Voices Award—
- Nominated for 2022 Scotiabank Giller Prize—
- Nominated for *Canada Reads* 2022—
- Shortlisted, 2022 Amazon Canada First Novel Award—
- Shortlisted, 2022 Governor General's Literary Award—

“What a welcome debut. Young Eddie Toma’s passage through the truly ugly parts of this world is met, like an antidote, or perhaps a compensation, by his remarkable awareness of its beauty. This is a writer who understands youth, and how to tell a story” —Gil Adamson, winner of the Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize for *Ridgerunner*

“I feel that Brian Thomas Isaac has earned every single word, every single sentence, every single line. There’s so much hilarity in here. There’s so much wisdom ... My goodness, what a journey this book takes you on ...” —Richard Van Camp, *CBC Unreserved*

“A debut like no other ... beautifully written ... [Isaac has] a tremendous attention to detail.”
—Carol Off, *CBC’s As it Happens*

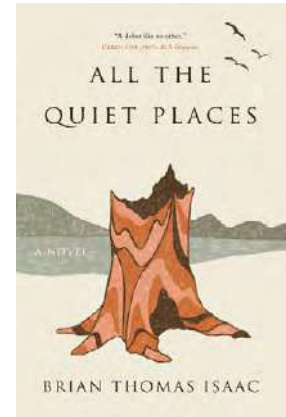
Brian Isaac’s powerful debut novel *All the Quiet Places* is the coming-of-age story of Eddie Toma, an Indigenous (Syilx) boy, told through the young narrator’s wide-eyed observations of the world around him.

It’s 1956, and six-year-old Eddie Toma lives with his mother, Grace, and his little brother, Lewis, near the Salmon River on the far edge of the Okanagan Indian Reserve in the British Columbia Southern Interior. Grace, her friend Isabel, Isabel’s husband Ray, and his nephew Gregory cross the border to work as summer farm labourers in Washington state. There Eddie is free to spend long days with Gregory exploring the farm: climbing a hill to watch the sunset and listening to the wind in the grass. The boys learn from Ray’s funny and dark stories. But when tragedy strikes, Eddie returns home grief-stricken, confused, and lonely.

Eddie’s life is governed by the decisions of the adults around him. Grace is determined to have him learn the ways of the white world by sending him to school in the small community of Falkland. On Eddie’s first day of school, as he crosses the reserve boundary at the Salmon River bridge, he leaves behind his world. Grace challenges the Indian Agent and writes futile letters to Ottawa to protest the sparse resources in their community. His father returns to the family after years away only to bring chaos and instability. Isabel and Ray join them in an overcrowded house. Only in his grandmother’s company does he find solace and true companionship.

In his teens, Eddie’s future seems more secure—he finds a job, and his long-time crush on his white neighbour Eva is finally reciprocated. But every time things look up, circumstances beyond his control crash down around him. The cumulative effects of guilt, grief, and despair threaten everything Eddie has ever known or loved.

All the Quiet Places is the story of what can happen when every adult in a person’s life has been affected by colonialism; it tells of the acute separation from culture that can occur even at home in a loved familiar landscape. Its narrative power relies on the unguarded, unsentimental witness provided by Eddie.



Publication: October 2021

Publisher: TouchWood Editions

Rights Sold:

(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/ translation rights on behalf of client publisher)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available

-Mirabelle (Hebrew)



BRIAN THOMAS ISAAC was born in 1950 on the Okanagan Indian Reserve, situated in south central British Columbia. As a teenager he had a short career riding bulls in local rodeos until common sense steered him away, then went on to work in the Northern Alberta oil fields and retired as a brick-layer. Writing is something he has done all of his life. A lover of sports, Brian has coached minor hockey and played slow-pitch, and when he’s not spending time with his three grandchildren you can find him on the golf course. He lives with his wife in the Salmon River Valley near Falkland, BC. *All the Quiet Places* is Brian’s first book.

Kathryn Kuitenbrouwer

Wait Softly Brother

From lost siblings to the horrors of war to tales of selkie wives, *Wait Softly Brother* is filled with questions about memory, reality and the truths hidden in family lore.

After twenty years of looping frustrations, Kathryn walks out of her marriage and washes up in her childhood home determined to write her way to a new life. There, she is put to work by her aging parents, sorting generations of memories and mementos as biblical rains fall steadily and the house is slowly cut off from the rest of the world.

Lured away from the story she is determined to write—that of her stillborn brother, Wulf—by her mother’s gift of crumbling letters, Kathryn instead begins to piece together the strange tale of an earlier ancestor, Russell Boyt, who fought as a substitute soldier in the American Civil War. As the water rises, and more truths come to the surface, the two stories begin to mingle in unexpected and beautiful ways.

In this elegantly written novel, Kuitenbrouwer deftly unravels the stories we are told to believe by society and shows the reader how to weave new tales of hope and possibility.



Publication: May 2023

Publisher: Wolsak & Wynn

Rights Sold:

(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/ translation rights on behalf of client publisher)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available

Photo credit: Tracey A. Clarke



KATHRYN KUITENBROUWER is the bestselling author of the novels *All the Broken Things*, *Perfecting* and *The Nettle Spinner*. She is also the author of the story collection, *Way Up*. Her work has appeared in *Granta*, *The Walrus*, *Maclean's*, *The Lifted Brow*, *Significant Objects*, *Storyville*, and others. Kathryn teaches literature and creative writing at the University of Toronto.

A.G. Pasquella

Welcome to the Weird America: Three Novellas

—Nominated for 2023 Foreword INDIES (Science Fiction category)—

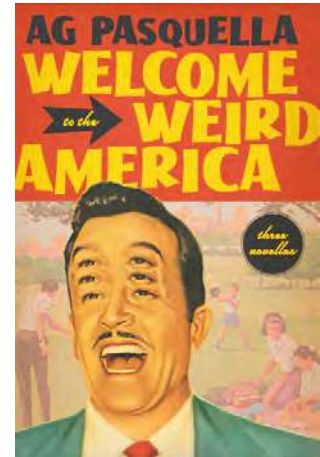
“This book is like the biggest carton of Neapolitan ice cream you could ever dream of, but instead of chocolate, the third flavour is a lit stick of dynamite.”

—Jack Pendarvis, writer for *Adventure Time* and *Steven Universe*

“Full of Altmanesque observations with a good twist of Hunter S. Thompson but uniquely, completely A.G. Pasquella!” —Lisa de Nikolits, *The Minerva Reader*

A.G. Pasquella’s *Welcome to the Weird America* brings together three of his brilliant, fabulist novellas, each of which is filled with strange language and extraordinary surprises. In *Why Not a Spider Monkey Jesus?*, written like a comic-book adventure without the images, a talking chimpanzee becomes a televangelist. In *NewTown*, the author’s love letter to science fiction, a teenage boy named Sammy joins a motley band of rebels intent on overthrowing the bungling admiral of a huge spaceship. And in *The This & the That*, Pasquella takes us back to the old weird America, an America of hucksters and hobos, cartoons and carnivals.

From questions about money and God to environmental collapse, to the intersection of humanity and technology, A.G. Pasquella tackles complex subjects with beautifully surreal prose and a deep delight in the tradition of weird fiction. These mesmerizing, upending stories will have readers setting off on a fascinating journey down an unknown road with no destination, or end, in sight.



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: October 2022

Publisher:

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books

Rights Sold:

-Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books
(North America, English)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



Photo credit: Julia Chan

A.G. PASQUELLA'S writing has appeared in various spots including *McSweeney's*, *Wholphin*, *The Believer*, *Black Book*, *Broken Pencil* and *Little Brother*. Pasquella’s story “I Was A Teenage Minotaur”, originally published by *Joyland*, was included in *Imaginarium 2013: The Best Canadian Speculative Writing*. Pasquella has published three novellas: *Why Not A Spider Monkey Jesus?* (Which also appeared as a thirty-page excerpt in *McSweeney's* #11), *NewTown* and *The This & The That*. He is the co-editor (along with Terri Favro) of *PAC’N HEAT: A Noir Homage to Ms. Pac-Man*.

When he’s not writing, A.G. makes music with his band *Miracle Beard*. He lives in Toronto.

A.G. Pasquella

Season of Smoke (Book 3 in the Jack Palace Series)

“It’s hard to change. It’s even harder to leave your past behind. What gets you through? Street smarts. Friends. A powerful right hook. And love. In this story, quick and sharp as a knife, we’re plunged into a cutthroat world of betrayal, loyalty, addiction and hope. Jack Palace is tougher than us, has seen more nasty things—heck, he’s caused them—but in the end he wants the same things we all want, a good life and a chance at happiness. And in this gripping story, he tries to get them while dodging those who really, really don’t want him to succeed. Season of Smoke is as compelling as a mobster and as good company as a best friend. With as many surprises as life itself, it’s a thriller with real heart.” –Gary Barwin, author of *Yiddish for Pirates*

“Pasquella easily captures the seamy side of Toronto and gives readers an array of memorable bad guys. Devotees of gritty crime fiction will eagerly await Jack’s next outing.”

–*Publishers Weekly*

“Pure hard-boiled comfort food: dangerous characters and tight spots always putting the squeeze on a tough guy we can root for. Jack Palace is fun to spend time with — especially if you like your fun a little bloody and bruised.” –Andrew Pyper, author of *The Residence*

It looks like ex-con Jack Palace’s troubles will never end when he is pressured by the mob to kill one of his best friends.

Jack Palace is trying to go legit with his own security company—but his old life keeps trying to pull him back in. A mobster named Sammy DiAngelo wants revenge for a killing that happened in Jack’s past. DiAngelo blames Jack’s friend Grover for the murder, and gives Jack an ultimatum: kill Grover or be killed himself. Meanwhile, Grover has plans of his own. He wants to rip off the mob, and he needs Jack’s help to do it.

Jack is desperate to start a new life with Suzanne, a woman from his past ... but is he desperate enough to kill?



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: February 2021

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

-Dundurn
(North America, English/French)
-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available

A.G. Pasquella

Carve the Heart (Book 2 in the Jack Palace Series)

“Sharply written, suspenseful and often funny as hell, *Carve the Heart* smashes its way through the streets of a noirishly entertaining Toronto the Bad like an out-of-control car chase. This is a book up to its shapely ass in double crosses, hot stakes poker games, rescue plans that go sideways, broken noses, strippers, bikers, drug heists, hot sex, plot twists and bottomless tumblers of smoky Scotch sipped in an illegal casino tucked away somewhere in Kensington Market.”

–Terri Favro, author of *Sputnik's Children*

“Pasquella vividly captures the dog-eat-dog existence of the Toronto underworld.”

–*Publishers Weekly*

“Getting impatient with hard-boiled conventions? Try this.” –*Booklist*

Ex-con Jack Palace returns in a world of violence, heartbreak, and revenge.

Cassandra, the woman who broke Jack Palace's heart, is suddenly back in his life. She owes \$600,000 to a brutal gangster who has threatened her life, and she needs Jack's help. Meanwhile, Melody, Jack's new girlfriend, has set a dangerous plan of her own in motion. Things start to get violent when Cassandra suddenly disappears. But not everyone believes Cassandra is in danger. Is Jack being set up?

Bikers, mobsters, and strippers collide as Jack storms the mean streets of Toronto searching for Cassandra. To find her, he must rip open old wounds and confront new enemies. But as loyalties falter and secrets are revealed, Jack begins to wonder who he can really trust. If he doesn't figure it out fast, he—and everyone he cares about—could end up dead.



Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: November 2019

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

-Dreamscape (Audio)

-Dundurn

(North America, English/French)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



Yard Dog (Book 1 in the Jack Palace Series)

“The writing here is very impressive: gritty and profane but also (in the right places) tender and quite moving.” –*Booklist*

“A rusty syringe of lurid pulp thrills. Pasquella's love of old school crime fiction is clear, but like a beer bottle smashed across your jaw, he's jolted the genre into the 21st century.”

–Elan Mastai, author of *All Our Wrong Todays*

“An old-school noir romp through the belly of the city, splashing sex and violence all over Spadina Avenue. Pasquella confidently squeezes pulp right out of the pavement and onto the page.”

–Andrew F. Sullivan, author of *Waste* and *All We Want is Everything*

Honour-bound ex-mob enforcer Jack Palace owes a life-debt to Tommy, the wild son of a Mafia boss. After being released from prison, Jack hits the streets to collect money for Tommy to repay his debt. Meanwhile, Tommy's father is on his deathbed and other gangsters are waiting to seize control.

Jack plans a better, safer life for himself and his girlfriend Suzanne but after Tommy's father dies, Jack finds himself caught in the crossfire of a mob war, doing things he never wanted to do, for people he never wanted to work for in the first place.

Now Jack has to navigate through hit men, backstabbers, and gritty neighborhoods toward a love, and life, that is far from certain.

Goodfellas meets Richard Stark, *Yard Dog* is a hard-boiled and fast-paced story with a motley cast of lethal characters including a yacht-owning assassin, a loyal Triad member with the patience of a saint, an emotionally sensitive mob heavy, and a legion of scofflaws. It's old-school noir with an updated twist—faster, funnier and sexy as hell.

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: November 2018

Publisher: Dundurn

Rights Sold:

-Dundurn

(North America, English/French)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights

available

Sheung-King

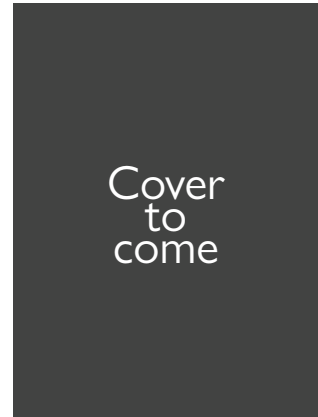
Batshit Seven

From *Canada Reads*-nominated author Sheung-King comes a satirical novel about a millennial living through the Hong Kong protests, as he struggles to make sense of modern life and the parts of himself.

Glen Wu (aka Glue) couldn't care less about his job. He's returned to Hong Kong to teach English, just to placate his parents. But he shows up hungover to class, barely stays awake, and prefers to spend his time smoking up at Shenzhen Bay until dawn breaks.

As he watches the city he loves fall – the protests, the brutal arrests – life continues around him. So he drinks more, picks more fights with his drug dealer friend, thinks loftier thoughts about colonialism and Frantz Fanon. The very little he does care about: his sister, who deals with Hong Kong's demise by getting engaged to a rich immigration consultant; his on-and-off-again girlfriend who steals things from him; and memories of someone he once met in Canada...

When the government tightens its grip, language starts to lose all meaning for Glue, and he's pulled into an unseemly venture, ultimately culminating in an act of violence. Inventive and utterly irresistible, *Batshit Seven* is Sheung-King's bold take on Asian male identity. It's an ode to a beloved city, an indictment of the cycles of colonialism, and a reminder of the beautiful things left under the hype of commodified living.



Publication: 2024

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publisher:
Penguin Canada

Rights Sold:
-Penguin Canada (World)



SHEUNG-KING's debut novel, *You are Eating an Orange. You are Naked*, was a finalist for the 2021 Governor General's Award and Amazon Canada First Novel Award, longlisted for Canada Reads 2021 and named one of the best book debuts by the *Globe and Mail*. Sheung-King taught creative writing at the University of Guelph and is now the creative writing coach at Avenues: The World School, Shenzhen. He holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Guelph.

Jaspreet Singh

Face: A Novel of the Anthropocene

“Dense with observation, this scalpel-sharp narrative flinches from nothing. It approaches memory, family, history, and the great oncoming disaster of the Anthropocene with courage bordering on fury.” –Premee Mohamed, author of *The Annual Migration of Clouds*

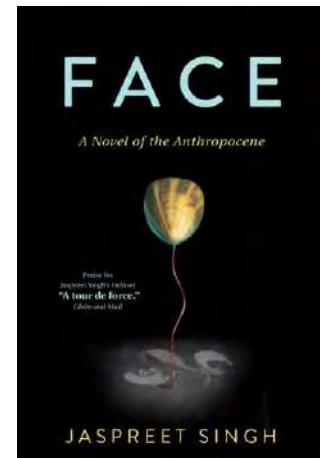
“*Face* is a mesmerizing novel about science and climate research in the Anthropocene ... [that] manages to convey some of the most wonderful aspects of doing science, and at the same time (via the character of a ruthless palaeontologist) the dark, criminal side all scientists must remain vigilant about.” –Helmut Weissert, professor of Earth Sciences, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

“*Face* sweeps us up in a science journalist’s struggle to forge meaning from her own, and the earth’s, fractured memories. Murder mystery, ghost story, science novel? Singh gives us an unsettling novel of ideas that questions the power of the stories we tell—about science, history, and our own lives—even as it employs that power to probe climate guilt and anxiety.”

–Susan M. Gaines, author of *Accidentals and Carbon Dreams*

Jaspreet Singh’s much anticipated third novel traces a past crime that suddenly becomes confrontable on another continent. Lila, a brilliant Indian-born science journalist, and Lucia, an aspiring European-born writer, meet at a creative writing workshop in Calgary. Both try to use fiction to work through real-life trauma, but their entangled paths may reach all the way back to Lila’s time as a geology student in the foothills of the Himalayas.

How best to tell Lila’s story and follow the links between a fossil fraud in India, an ice core archive in Canada, the Burgess Shale quarry, and a climate change laboratory in Germany? As their detective work unfolds, the two women encounter some of today’s most urgent and fascinating science, as well as the many shapes of internal criticism in the sciences. They also come face to face with ecological grief and human-non-human entanglements. With this playful and deeply serious genre-blurring work, Singh gives a new direction to the novel in the Anthropocene.



Publication: May 2022

Publisher:
TouchWood Editions

Rights Sold:
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/
translation rights on behalf of
client publisher)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights
available



JASPREET SINGH’s non-fiction has appeared in *Granta*, *Brick*, and the *New York Times*. He is the author of the novels *Chef* and *Helium*, the story collection *Seventeen Tomatoes*, the poetry collection *November*, and most recently, the memoir *My Mother, My Translator*. His work has been published internationally and has been translated into several languages. He lives in Calgary.

Mike Steeves

Bystander

“Steeves writes like a modern Dostoyevsky—or a literary Larry David—offering a searing indictment of white male mediocrity. *Bystander* is a howl and a rebuke, asking into the (smoke-filled) air, ‘why are we like this???’”

–Sean Michaels, award-winning author of *Us Conductors* and *The Wagers*

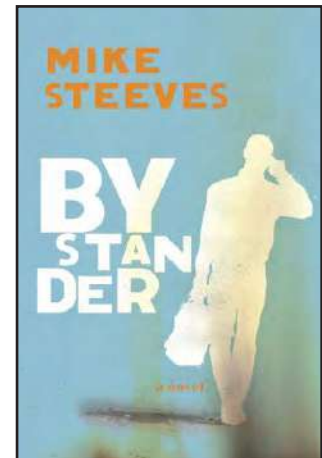
“*Bystander* is a late-capitalist morality tale about what we owe to neighbours—a black comedy about a contemporary American Psycho: not a serial killer, but a pathological invertebrate, a man whose compulsive passivity and sworn liberal-mindedness disconnect him emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually from those around him.”

–Sadie Graham, *Canadian Notes & Queries*

“The book reads, at least to this reviewer, as a critique of the isolating nature of our contemporary society.” –Jason Smith, *Broken Pencil*

Peter Simons doesn't spend much time at home in his apartment. Thanks to his job at a multinational company, he is often flying around the world, enjoying a life of luxurious solitude in five-star hotels. So when he returns after being away for nine months and notices a strange smell coming from his neighbour's apartment, he initially tries not to get involved, but when a body is discovered, Peter's carefully cultivated detachment begins to crumble. And when new people move into the vacant apartment, he gets caught up in a petty dispute that will bring him to the brink of moral ruin.

Bystander is a pitiless, bold work of intense psychological realism narrated by a professionally successful but socially bankrupt anti-hero who expects global connection and local anonymity. It excoriates the contingency of contemporary morality, and, at a time of growing isolation, forces the reader to examine what it means to be a good neighbour.



Publication: May 2022

Publisher:

Book*hug

Rights Sold:

(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/translation rights on behalf of client publisher)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



Photo credit: Nikki Tummon

MIKE STEEVES was born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia and lives in Montreal, Quebec. His first novel, *Giving Up*, was published by Book*hug Press in 2015 and was a finalist for the Concordia University First Book Award. His work has appeared in *The Globe & Mail*, *Matrix Magazine*, *The Shore*, and others.

Moez Surani

The Legend of Baraffo

“A lucid dream of a novel, a fable fierce in its moral clarity and gorgeous at the line level.”

–Omar El Akkad, Scotiabank Giller Prize–winning author of *What Strange Paradise*

A mythic work of sweeping literary imagination, *The Legend of Baraffo* speaks to our current social climate and the ingredients for progress.

In Baraffo, a town gripped by revolutionary fervour, a young boy is grappling with the motivations of an arsonist now imprisoned. Why, Mazzu asks, did Babello burn an empty building? Is the mayor, the chief aide, Giulietta—who the boy adores—the prisoner’s supporters, or Babello himself to be believed?

When Mazzu decides for himself, and helps Babello to escape in a mesmerizing spectacle, it ignites in the townspeople a desire for more upheaval, and they push for revolution. Years later, now mayor himself, Mazzu toils to quell the roiling instability that Babello unleashed, failing to do so through politics, but succeeding through art and the enchantment of exalted love.

Within an extraordinary world, this coming-of-age story—of a boy and a town—asks prescient questions about the nature of social change: is it better accelerated by those who seek total transformation, or attained by those trying to work within the system?



Publication: September 2023

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:

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-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



MOEZ SURANI'S writing has been published internationally, including in *Harper's Magazine*, *Best American Experimental Writing 2016*, *Best Canadian Poetry*, and *The Globe and Mail*. He has received a Chalmers Arts Fellowship, which supported research in India and East Africa, and he has been an artist-in-residence in Finland, Italy, Latvia, Myanmar, Switzerland, Taiwan, the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada and at MacDowell in the United States. He is the author of four poetry books: *Reticent Bodies* (2009), *Floating Life* (2012), *Operations* (2016), and *Are the Rivers in Your Poems Real* (2019). Surani lives in Toronto.

Aimee Wall

We, Jane

- Nominated for the 2022 Amazon First Novel Award
- Nominated for the 2022 ReLit Award—
- Nominated for the 2021 Scotiabank Giller Prize—
- Shortlisted, BMO Winterset Award—
- Shortlisted, Paragraphe Hugh McLennan Prize for Fiction—
- Shortlisted, Concordia University First Book Prize—
- Longlisted, Grand Prix du livre de Montréal 2021—

“*We, Jane* is an ode to the power of vulnerability, the potential intensity of connections between women, and the importance of continuing to support women even when it seems impossible.”
—*The Miramichi Review*

“The book is ultimately a feminist tale, one that shows how complicated and manipulative relationships between women can be, while implying the necessity of coming together for a greater purpose. *We, Jane* is captivating, well written, and mostly an important read for any woman who, through loss, wants to find a new beginning.” —*Montreal Review of Books*

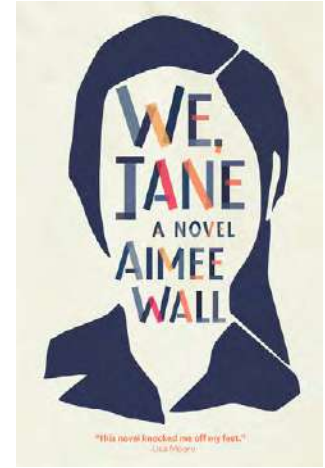
“Wall’s first novel is still electric in its fragmented, almost screenplay-like prose that dizzies the mind. The fragments capture abortion’s place in public discourse faithfully: something we gesture to, tip toe around, but never quite say openly ... *We, Jane* provides a personal, honest glimpse into the big questions we as women ask out loud and the small, private ones we only think about.” —*Canthius*

A remarkable debut about intergenerational female relationships and resistance found in the unlikeliest of places, *We, Jane* explores the precarity of rural existence and the essential nature of abortion.

Searching for meaning in her Montreal life, Marthe begins an intense friendship with an older woman, also from Newfoundland, who tells her a story about purpose, about a duty to fulfill. It’s back home, and it goes by the name of Jane.

Marthe travels back to a small community on the island with the older woman to continue the work of an underground movement in 60s Chicago: abortion services performed by women, always referred to as Jane. She commits to learning how to continue this legacy and protect such essential knowledge. But the nobility of her task and the reality of small-town life compete, and personal fractures within their group begin to grow.

We, Jane probes the importance of care work by women for women, underscores the complexity of relationships in close circles, and beautifully captures the inevitable heartache of understanding home.



Publication: April 2021

Publisher: Book*hug

Rights Sold:

(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/ translation rights on behalf of client publisher)

-Perce Neige (World French)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



Photo credit: Richmond Lam

Newfoundland-born **AIMEE WALL** is a writer and translator. Her essays, short fiction, and criticism have appeared in numerous publications, including *Maisonneuve*, *Matrix Magazine*, the *Montreal Review of Books*, and *Lemon Hound*. Wall’s translations include Vickie Gendreau’s novels *Testament* (2016) and *Drama Queens* (2019), and *Sports and Pastimes* by Jean-Philippe Baril Guérard (2017). She lives in Montreal. *We, Jane* is her first novel.

Dan K. Woo

Taobao: Stories

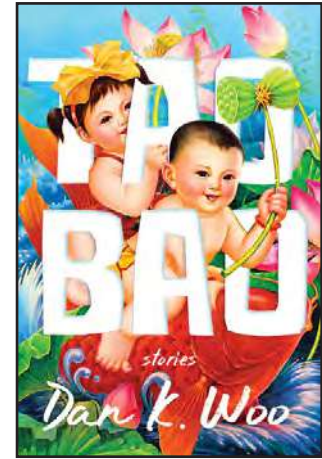
“The effect of the Taobao is striking. Woo’s stories make for difficult, often discomfiting, but necessary reading. They linger, not always easily, but like the best writing should, long after the book is done.” – Aaron Schneider, *The Temz Review*

“Woo details the shabbiness of urban slums, where derelict buildings and underground tunnels are used to house the city’s poorest residents. While the riches of an online merchant like Taobao beckon to everyone, for many, everyday life is a struggle filled with compromises.”
–Andrea Geary, *Winnipeg Free Press*

“Taobao means ‘seeking treasure’ in Mandarin, and this debut collection by the talented Dan K. Woo is a treasure trove. Set in different places across China, the stories contrast the lives of men and women, locals and foreigners, city dwellers and rural folks and the well off and the hard up, while exposing cultural clashes and delving into sexism and racism. Like Ren Hang’s photographs, the stories also serve as snapshots of the sexuality of young people in modern-day China. I really loved this book.” –Neil Smith, author of *Boo* and *Jones*

“I loved this book! Taobao is a surreal, bluntly hilarious and fable-like journey through a contemporary and lively China. Woo’s short story collection subverts stereotypes, immersing readers in the complicated lives of young people fumbling through family expectations and strict Chinese traditions, all the while discovering and rebelling against their ordinary and/or extraordinary destinies. Written with careful nuance, honesty and tenderness, Woo’s characters and world teem with the chaos and complexities of modern-day life. A must-read for readers of short stories.” – Lindsay Wong, author of *My Summer of Love* and *Misfortune* and *The Woo-Woo*

In twelve spare, fable-like short stories Dan K. Woo introduces us to a fascinating cast of characters from different regions of China. From rural villages to bustling cities, Woo deftly charts the paths of young people searching for love, meaning and happiness in a country that is often misunderstood in North America. Whether they are participating in a marriage market to appease their mother, working as a delivery boy in Beijing or dealing with trauma in a hospital in Shanghai, we see these young people push against both tradition and the lightning-fast economy to try and make their way in often difficult situations. Woo brings remarkable empathy to these dreamlike stories and their twists and turns, which will linger long in readers’ minds. Through it all, the spectre of Taobao—China’s online retail giant—hovers, providing everything the characters might need or want, while also acting as a thread that ties together a captivating and complex collection of stories set in a captivating and complex country.



Publication: June 2022

Publisher:

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books

Rights Sold:

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DAN K. WOO’s family came to Canada in the 1970s. His grandfather was a fire captain and the first firefighter to die on duty in British Hong Kong, partly a result of the British colonial system. In 2018, Woo won the Ken Klonsky Award for *Learning How to Love China* (Quattro Books). His writing has appeared in such publications as the *South China Morning Post*, *Quill & Quire* and *China Daily USA*. A Toronto native, he lives with his partner in the city and writes in his free time. He is currently studying at the Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst and SANS Institute.

Lindsay Zier-Vogel

Letters to Amelia

“A tender portrait of heartbreak and a thoughtful ode to new motherhood. *Letters to Amelia* is an endorsement of finding our own ways to heal, and a celebration of that big, messy, wonderful journey of coming into one’s own. Charming and beautifully rendered, this is a big-hearted hopeful novel, full of life and love.”

–Stacey May Fowles, author of *Baseball Life Advice: Loving the Game that Saved Me*

“When we think of Amelia Earhart, we think enigmatic adventurer and feminist pioneer—and, of course, of her mysterious disappearance. But in *Letters to Amelia*, we meet a different Amelia Earhart, as seen through the eyes of Grace, the novel’s protagonist, a young library tech tasked with reading her letters: an Amelia who is funny, charming, joyful, sad, and most of all, full of life. Zier-Vogel writes with uncanny empathy about heartbreak, friendship, motherhood, and the common threads that connect women across time, geography, and even between earth and sky. *Letters to Amelia* is a gorgeous, big-hearted debut that will make you feel like you are flying, and Zier-Vogel is a writer whose career is about to soar.”

–Amy Jones, author of *Every Little Piece of Me*

“Brimming over with Lindsay Zier-Vogel’s obvious love for the story of Amelia Earhart, *Letters to Amelia* is a wonderful novel about flight and passion, about love-letters and reaching out; a novel about how we never know quite what’s coming next, but still keep launching ourselves into the blue tomorrow.” —Jon McGregor, Booker Prize longlisted author of *Reservoir 13*

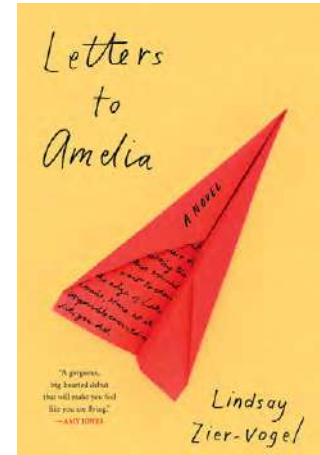
“*Letters to Amelia* invites us to hold our heroines close and to take heart—it is gentle and joyous, full of tenderness, alive and sturdy with hope.”

–Anne Michaels, author of *Fugitive Pieces* and *The Winter Vault*

Grace Porter is reeling from grief after her partner of seven years unexpectedly leaves. Amidst her heartache, the thirty-year-old library tech is tasked with reading newly discovered letters that Amelia Earhart wrote to her lover, Gene Vidal. She becomes captivated by the famous pilot who disappeared in 1937. Letter by letter, Grace understands more about Amelia while piecing her own life back together.

When Grace discovers she is pregnant, her life becomes more intertwined with the aviation hero and she begins to write her own letters to Amelia. While navigating her third trimester—amidst new conspiracy theories about Amelia’s mysterious disappearance, the search for her remains, and the impending publication of her private letters—Grace goes on a pilgrimage of her own.

Underscoring the power of reading and writing letters for self-discovery, *Letters to Amelia* is, above all, a story of the essential need for connection—and our universal ability to find hope in the face of fear.



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LINDSAY ZIER-VOGEL is a Toronto-based writer, arts educator and the creator of the internationally-acclaimed Love Lettering Project. After studying contemporary dance, she received her MA in Creative Writing from the University of Toronto. Her writing has been widely published in Canada and the U.K. Since 2001, she has been teaching creative writing workshops in schools and communities. Her hand-bound books are housed in the permanent collection at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library in Toronto. As the creator of the Love Lettering Project, Lindsay has asked people all over the world to write love letters to their communities and hide them for strangers to find, spreading place-based love. Lindsay also writes children’s books. Because of The Love Lettering Project, CBC Radio has deemed Lindsay a “national treasure.” *Letters to Amelia* is her first book.

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