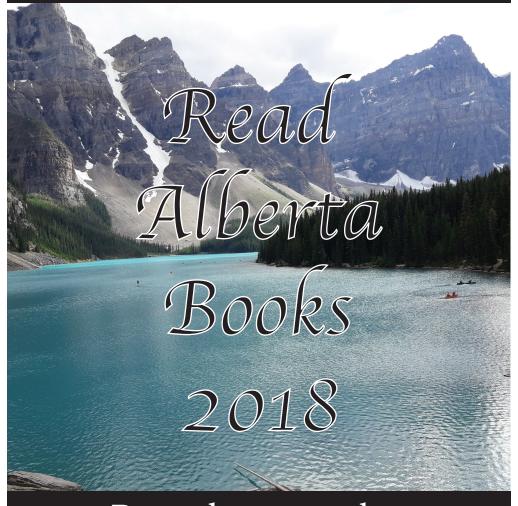
See what shortlisted and award-winning Alberta authors have to offer!



Brought to you by:

Writers' Guild of Alberta

WHY READ ALBERTA BOOKS?

Through poetry, drama, fiction, and non-fiction, our authors offer stories that reflect not only Alberta's



culture, art, and landscape, but also dynamically situate us within the global writers' community.

This collection of books includes literature from multicultural backgrounds, tales for all ages and walks of life, and a range of delightful children's stories to haunting memoir.

Embracing the diversity of our province and our nation, Alberta books offer something for anyone and everyone.

Experience Alberta Literature at Its Finest

FICTION

Deborah Willis | The Dark and Other Love Stories

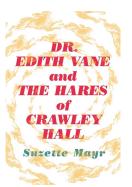
The characters in these thirteen masterful and engaging stories exist on the edge of danger, where landscapes melt into dreamscapes and every house is haunted. A drug dealer's girlfriend signs up for the first manned mission to Mars. A girl falls in love with a man who wants to turn her into a bird. A teenage girl and her best friend test their relationship by breaking into suburban houses. Full of longing and strange humour, these subtle, complex stories show how love ties us to one another and to the world. The Dark and Other Love Stories announces the emergence of a wonderfully gifted storyteller whose stories enlarge our perceptions about the human capacity to love.



Hamish Hamilton, 256 pages, 9780670069576, \$24.95

Suzette Mayr | Dr. Edith Vane and the | Hares of Crawley Hall

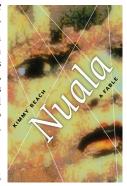
Dr. Edith Vane, scholar of English literature, is contentedly ensconced at the University of Inivea. Her dissertation on pioneer housewife memoirist Beulah Crump-Withers is about to be published, and her job's finally safe, if she only can fill out her AAO properly. She's a little anxious, but a new floral blouse and her therapist's repeated assurance that she is the architect of her own life should fix that. All should be well, really. Except for her broken washing machine, her fickle new girlfriend, her missing friend Coral, her backstabbing fellow professors, a cutthroat new dean – and the fact that the sentient and malevolent Crawley Hall has decided it wants them all out, and the hall and its hellish hares will stop at nothing to get rid



Coach House, 224 pages, 9781552453490, \$17.95

Kimmy Beach | Nuala: A Fable

"Shh, my Nuala. I am with you. Today I shall teach you the newness of you." As the Engine breathes life into Nuala, her gaze falls on Teacher-Servant, the chosen one. He alone will be able to hear her thoughts and interpret her emotions. But soon Teacher-Servant starts to worry that Nuala will be able to give away her thoughts freely. Set in an atypical dystopian world, *Nuala* is startlingly original and inventive, echoing the work of Margaret Atwood, José Saramago, and Kazuo Ishiguro. Beach's dark, fearless imagination has created a time and space that are at once remote and strange, but absorbing and deeply credible. *Nuala* leaves the reader with much to consider about the nature of love, possessiveness, jealousy, envy, and autonomy.



University of Alberta Press, 160 pages, 9781772122961, \$19.95

WINNER: Deborah Willis | The Dark and Other Love Stories

Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction

Sponsored by the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

NONFICTION

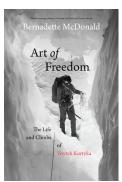


Stephen Bown | Island of the Blue Foxes

The Great Northern Expedition was the most ambitious and well-financed scientific expedition in history. Lasting nearly ten years and spanning three continents, its geographical, cartographical and natural history accomplishments are on par with James Cook's famous voyages, the scientific circumnavigations of Alessandro Malaspina and Louis Antoine de Bougainville, and Lewis and Clark's cross-continental trek. The voyage was plagued by ill fortune — a supply ship failed to arrive, officers quarrelled and the ships were separated in a storm. While St. Paul reached Alaska and reported back to Russia, Bering's ship, St. Peter, was wrecked on a desolate island in the Aleutian Chain inhabited by feral foxes. *Island of the Blue Foxes* is an incredible true-life adventure story, a story of personal and cultural animosities, unimaginable Gothic horrors and ingenuity in the face of adversity.

······

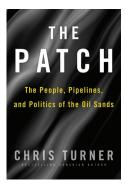
Douglas & McIntyre, 336 pages, 9781771621618, \$28.00



Bernadette McDonald | Art of Freedom

Voytek Kurtyka remains one of the greatest alpinists of all time. Born in 1947, he was one of the leading lights of the Polish golden age of Himalayan climbing. His visionary approach to climbing resulted in many renowned ascents, such as the complete Broad Peak traverse, the "night naked" speed climbs of Cho Oyu and Shishapangma and, above all, the alpine-style ascent of the West Face of Gasherbrum IV. Dubbed the "climb of the century," his route on G IV, as of 2016, has yet to be repeated. His most frequent climbing partners were alpine legends of their time: Polish Himalayan climber Jerzy Kukuczka, Swiss mountain guide Erhard Loretan and British alpinist Alex MacIntyre.

Rocky Mountain Books, 328 pages, 9781771602129, \$32.00



Chris Turner | The Patch

The Patch is a narrative-driven account of the ongoing conflict in Fort McMurray, between industrial triumph and environmental stewardship. It follows a select group of key characters whose experiences in and with the oil sands overlap in concentric narrative arcs. Through this insightful combination of global perspective and onthe-ground action, The Patch shows how the reach of the oil sands extends to all of us. From Fort Mac to the Bakken shale country of North Dakota, from Houston to London, from Saudi Arabia to the shores of Brazil, the whole world is connected in this enterprise. And it demands that we ask the question: In order to both fuel the world and to save it, what do we do about the Patch?

Simon & Schuster, 368 pages, 9781501115097, \$26.99

WINNER: Stephen Bown | *Island of the Blue Foxes* Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction

Sponsored by the WGA Board of Directors

Poetry

Benjamin Hertwig | Slow War

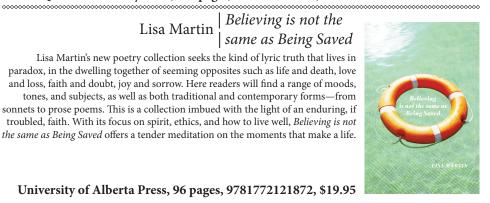
A century after the First World War, Hertwig presents both the personal cost of war in poems such as "Somewhere in Flanders/Afghanistan" and "Food Habits of Coyotes, as Determined by Examination of Stomach Contents," and the potential for healing in unlikely places in "A Poem Is Not Guantánamo Bay." This collection provides no easy answers — Hertwig looks at the war in Afghanistan with the unflinching gaze of a soldier and the sustained attention of a poet. In his accounting of warfare and its difficult aftermath on the homefront, the personal becomes political. While these poems inhabit both experimental and traditional forms, the breakdown of language channels a descent into violence and an ascent into a future that no longer feels certain, where history and trauma are forever intertwined. Hertwig reminds us that remembering war is a political act and that writing about war is a way we remember.



McGill-Queen's University Press, 134 pages, 9780773551428, \$16.95

Lisa Martin | Believing is not the | same as Being Saved

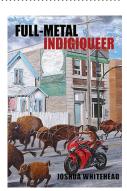
Lisa Martin's new poetry collection seeks the kind of lyric truth that lives in paradox, in the dwelling together of seeming opposites such as life and death, love and loss, faith and doubt, joy and sorrow. Here readers will find a range of moods, tones, and subjects, as well as both traditional and contemporary forms-from sonnets to prose poems. This is a collection imbued with the light of an enduring, if troubled, faith. With its focus on spirit, ethics, and how to live well, Believing is not the same as Being Saved offers a tender meditation on the moments that make a life.



University of Alberta Press, 96 pages, 9781772121872, \$19.95

Joshua Whitehead | full-metal indigiqueer

This poetry collection focuses on a hybridized Indigiqueer Trickster character named Zoa who brings together the organic (the protozoan) and technologic (the binaric) in order to re-beautify and re-member queer Indigeneity. This Trickster is a Two-Spirit / Indigiqueer invention that resurges in the apocalypse to haunt, atrophy, and to reclaim. Following oral tradition (à la Iktomi, Nanaboozho, Wovoka), Zoa infects, invades, and becomes a virus to canonical and popular works in order to re-centre Two-Spirit livelihoods. They dazzlingly and fiercely take on the likes of Edmund Spenser, Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, and John Milton while also not forgetting contemporary pop culture figures such as Lana Del Rey, Grindr, and Peter Pan.



Talonbooks, 136 pages, 9781772011876, \$18.95

WINNER: Benjamin Hertwig | Slow War Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry

Sponsored by Stephan V. Benediktson

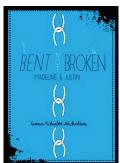
CHILDREN'S



Sarah Everett | Everyone We've Been

Addison Sullivan has been in an accident. In its aftermath, she has memory lapses and starts talking to a boy who keeps disappearing. She's afraid she's going crazy, and the worried looks on her family's and friends' faces aren't helping. Addie takes drastic measures to fill in the blanks and visits the Overton Clinic. But there she unwittingly discovers it is not her first visit. And when she presses, she finds out that she had certain memories erased. Flooded with questions about the past, Addison confronts the choices she can't even remember and wonders if you can possibly know the person you're becoming if you don't know the person you've been.

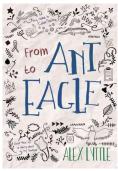
Knopf/Penguin Random House, 400 pages, 9780553538441, \$17.99



Lorna Schultz Nicholson | Bent not Broken

Meet Madeline and Justin. Before Madeline's bike accident left her with a traumatic brain injury, she and her twin sister were inseparable. So were her parents. But now, Madeline's parents are divorced and Becky has become rebellious, angry, and sneaky. Even worse, she doesn't seem to want Madeline around anymore. At least Madeline knows she can always rely on the miniature therapy horses she visits every week. Justin is a senior and the president of his school's Best Buddies club. Before his sister with autism died, he used to take her to the barn to visit her beloved therapy horses. Now, with Madeline, he goes there to escape the gloom of his mother's grief at home and the pressures of his final year in high school. Together, Justin and Madeline help each other to reconnect with the important people in their lives - and with the lives that they thought they'd lost.

Clockwise Press, 224 pages, 9781988347035, \$12.95



Alex Lyttle | From Ant to Eagle

It's the summer before grade six and Calvin Sinclair is bored to tears. He's recently moved from a big city to a small town and there's nothing to do. It's hot, he has no friends and the only kid around is his six-year-old brother, Sammy, who can barely throw a basketball as high as the hoop. Cal occupies his time by getting his brother to do almost anything: from collecting ants to doing Calvin's chores. And Sammy is all too eager — as long as it means getting a "Level" and moving one step closer to his brother's Eagle status. When Calvin meets Aleta Alvarado, a new girl who shares his love for Goosebumps books and adventure, Sammy is pushed aside. Cal feels guilty but not enough to change. At least not until a diagnosis causes things at home to fall apart and he's left wondering whether Sammy will ever complete his own journey... From Ant to Eagle.

Central Avenue Publishing, 256 pages, 9781771681117, \$9.95

WINNER: Sarah Everett | Everyone We've Been R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature

Supported by the Under the Arch Youth Foundation at The Calgary Foundation



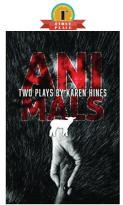
Karen Hines | Crawlspace (from Animals)

Crawlspace is a comic, Kafkaesque monologue about the darker side of home ownership that moves past cautionary as it snakes through the brutal battleground of Toronto real estate, decorative twig orbs, and the state of the human soul.

"Karen Hines's macabre monologue about a real-estate nightmare — and a dead animal stuck in a crawlspace — was all the more terrifying for being true. This was

Hines at her most horrifyingly hilarious."

- The Globe and Mail



Coach House, 96 pages, 9781552453421, \$17.95

Geoffrey Simon Brown | The Circle

It's a high-school garage party. Amanda is a genius. Ily is a drug dealer. Kit is a runaway. Mutt is a mess. Will is a shit disturber. Daniel doesn't know what he's doing there. Everyone's a bit too drunk and a bit too stoned and a bit uncomfortable in their own skin. It's an explosive combination, but it's better than being alone on a Friday night in suburbia. Youth is a dangerous time. Everyone's just looking for a place to belong. How far will things stretch without breaking? This remarkable debut by Calgary playwright Geoffrey Simon Brown is an explosive SOS from an orphaned generation desperately looking for a place to belong.



Scirocco Drama, 96 pages, 9781927922347, \$15.95

Nicole Moeller | The Preacher, The | Princess and a Crow

Jasper is a man under siege. But is he the prisoner or the jailer? Nicole's disturbing new solo play imagines a man who is both. And, in Murray Utas's Azimuth Theatre premiere, Steve Pirot's scarily intense and kinetic performance imagines the phrase "pursued by demons" made flesh. The usual religious and social mantras have failed him: faith, hope, humility, perseverance. "Why is the man not saved?" he wonders, in the frantic, murky third-person stream of consciousness that's Moeller's poetry of damnation. "Having no soul means the man is neither living nor dead." With Moeller's plays, empathy isn't something soft, it's something hard — and hard-won. Watching Pirot's Jasper attempt self-exorcism is like watching a man take out his own liver. Without anesthetic. Gruesome and riveting. - Liz Nicholls, 12thnight.ca



WINNER: Karen Hines | Crawlspace Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama

Sponsored by Alberta Views

CITY OF CALGARY

Taylor Lambert | Darwin's Moving

Darwin's Moving introduces readers to the colourful characters who populate the furniture moving trade, a male-dominated world of labour with relatively high pay and no need for education of any sort. Movers have a unique window into the private spaces of the city as they perform their difficult and delicate job inside all manner of homes, from government-subsidized housing developments to multimillion dollar McMansions. Taylor Lambert intriguingly explores class and work in a city that would rather focus on the wealth and prosperity brought to it by the oil and gas industry. *Darwin's Moving* shows us the "other" Calgary, a world populated by transient men and women struggling to survive in a boomtown's shadow.



NeWest Press, 152 pages, 9781988732039, \$19.95

Clem & Olivier Martini | The Unravelling

Olivier Martini and his mother, Catherine, have lived together since he was diagnosed with schizophrenia thirty-six years ago. It hasn't always been a perfect living situation, but it's worked — Catherine has been able to help Olivier through the ups and downs of living with a mental illness, and Olivier has been able to care for his aging mother as her mobility becomes limited, and Olivier's brothers Clem and Nic have been able to provide support to both as well. But then Olivier experiences a health crisis at the exact same time that his mother starts slipping into dementia. With anger, dry humour, and hope, *The Unravelling* tells the story of one family's journey with mental illness, dementia, and caregiving, through a poignant graphic narrative from Olivier accompanied by text from his brother, award-winning playwright and novelist Clem Martini.



Freehand Books, 264 pages, 9781988298153, \$23.95

Deborah Willis | The Dark and Other Love Stories

The characters in these thirteen masterful and engaging stories exist on the edge of danger, where landscapes melt into dreamscapes and every house is haunted. A drug dealer's girlfriend signs up for the first manned mission to Mars. A girl falls in love with a man who wants to turn her into a bird. A teenage girl and her best friend test their relationship by breaking into suburban houses. Full of longing and strange humour, these subtle, complex stories show how love ties us to one another and to the world. The Dark and Other Love Stories announces the emergence of a wonderfully gifted storyteller whose stories enlarge our perceptions about the human capacity to love.



Hamish Hamilton, 256 pages, 9780670069576, \$24.95

WINNER: Clem & Olivier Martini | The Unravelling The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize

Sponsored by The City of Calgary

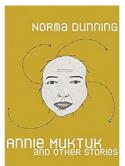
CITY OF EDMONTON



Billy-Ray Belcourt | This Wound is a World

Part manifesto, part memoir, *This Wound is a World* is an invitation to "cut a hole in the sky to world inside." Billy-Ray Belcourt issues a call to turn to love and sex to understand how Indigenous peoples shoulder sadness and pain like theirs without giving up on the future. His poems upset genre and play with form, scavenging for a decolonial kind of heaven where "everyone is at least a little gay." Billy-Ray Belcourt is the first Indigenous person in Canada to receive a Rhodes Scholarship, and has been named one of six Indigenous writers to watch by CBC Books. He is from the Driftpile Cree Nation and is a Ph.D. student in the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta.

Frontenac House, 64 pages, 9781927823644, \$19.95



Norma Dunning | Annie Muktuk and Other Stories

When Sedna feels the urge, she reaches out from the Land of the Dead to where Kakoot waits in hospital to depart from the Land of the Living. What ensues is a struggle for life and death and identity. In "Kakoot" and throughout this audacious collection of short stories, Norma Dunning makes the interplay between contemporary realities and experiences and Inuit cosmology seem deceptively easy. The stories are raucous and funny and resonate with raw honesty. Each eye-opening narrative twist in *Annie Muktuk and Other Stories* challenges readers' perceptions of who Inuit people are.

University of Alberta Press, 198 pages, 9781772122978, \$19.75



Lisa Martin | Believing is not the | same as Being Saved

Lisa Martin's new poetry collection seeks the kind of lyric truth that lives in paradox, in the dwelling together of seeming opposites such as life and death, love and loss, faith and doubt, joy and sorrow. Here readers will find a range of moods, tones, and subjects, as well as both traditional and contemporary forms—from sonnets to prose poems. This is a collection imbued with the light of an enduring, if troubled, faith. With its focus on spirit, ethics, and how to live well, *Believing is not the same as Being Saved* offers a tender meditation on the moments that make a life.

University of Alberta Press, 96 pages, 9781772121872, \$19.95

WINNER: Billy-Ray Belcourt | *This Wound is a World*The Robert Kroestch City of Edmonton Book Prize

Sponsored by Audreys Books and the Edmonton Arts Council

$\mathsf{A}\mathsf{CKNOWLEDGEMENTS}$

<u>Funding & Support</u>









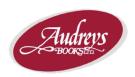






for the Arts

Canada Council Conseil des arts du Canada



Alberta Literary Award Sponsors & Donors

Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction Sponsored by The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

> Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction Supported by the WGA Board of Directors

Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry Sponsored by Stephan V. Benediktson

R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature Supported by the Under the Arch Foundation at The Calgary Foundation

> Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama Sponsored by Alberta Views





Who Are We?

The Writers' Guild of Alberta is a provincial arts service organization that represents both professional and emerging writers in Alberta.

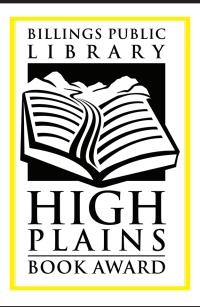
What's our Vision?

An Alberta where past, present, and future contributions of writers are supported, acknowledged, and valued.

What's our Mission?

The Writers' Guild of Alberta's mission is to inspire, connect, support, encourage and promote writers and writing, to safeguard the freedom to write and to read, and to advocate for the well-being of writers.

You picked this up at:



To learn more about the Writers' Guild of Alberta, please visit our website at:

writersguild.ca

Writers' Guild of Alberta

Percy Page Centre

11759 Groat Road NW

Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6

T: 1.800.665.5354