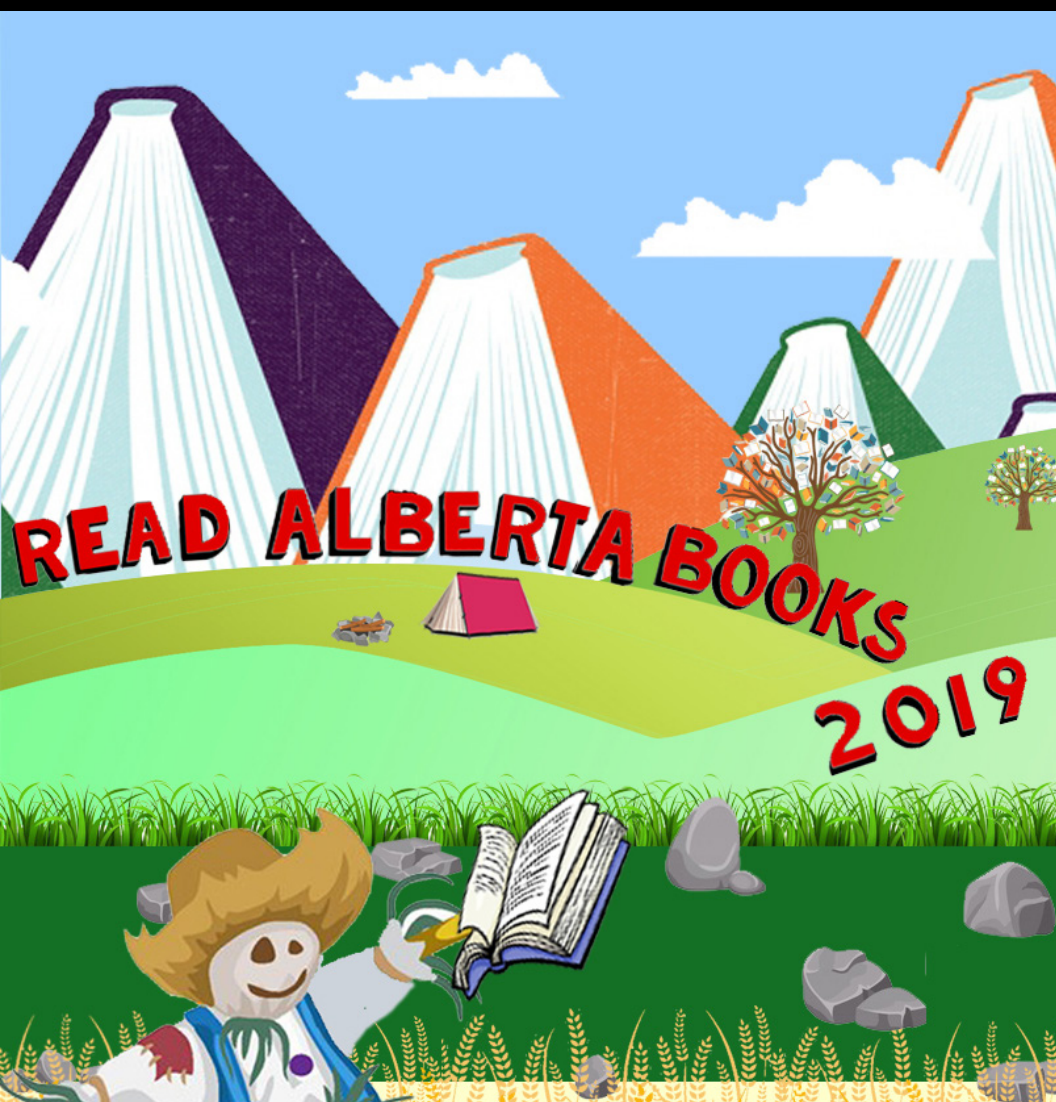


See what Alberta authors and publishers have to offer!



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*of Alberta*

# WHY READ ALBERTA BOOKS?



These six categories showcase a dynamic collection of literature and our authors offer stories that reflect not only Alberta's culture, art, and landscape, but also dynamically situate us within the global writers' community.

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

## Experience Alberta Literature at its Finest

## In this Catalogue

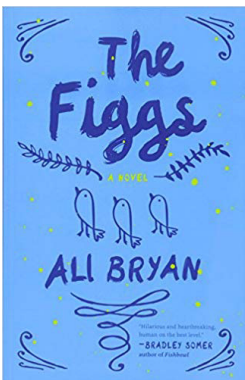
The 2019 Read Alberta Books catalogue features shortlisted and award winning literature from Alberta authors and publishers. The shortlists are created for the Alberta Literary Awards (established by the Writers' Guild of Alberta) and the Alberta Book Publishing Awards (established by the Book Publishers Association of Alberta). To order, please contact the book publishers. We hope that you will enjoy reading these excellent works from Alberta's authors and publishing houses!

The featured books span six categories:

Fiction	4
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Children's and Young Adult	9
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Scholarly and Academic	15
Poetry	17

# Fiction

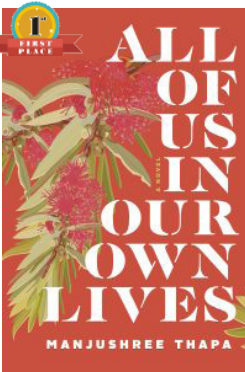
# Fiction



## Ali Bryan | *The Figgs*

Meet the Figgs. June, the family's matriarch, looks forward to a quiet retirement - if only she can get her three adult children to finally, finally, move out of the house. But her dreams are shattered when her son Derek unexpectedly becomes a single father. Now there's a newborn baby at home, and Derek's older siblings are showing no sign of going anywhere either. In the midst of the chaos, June's husband, Randy, has a shocking revelation. With family life flying fast and furious around her, June finds herself thinking about her parents—adoptive and biological. Where did she come from? Will her new grandson be traumatized without his mother? And why in the world are all the kids still at home, anyway?

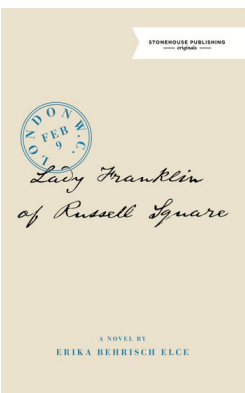
Freehand Books, 304 pages, 9781988298252, \$21.95



## Manjushree Thapa | *All of Us in Our Own Lives*

Ava Beriden, a Canadian lawyer, quits her corporate job in Toronto to move to Nepal, from where she was adopted as a baby. There she struggles to adapt to her new career in international aid and forge a connection with the country of her birth. Ava's work brings her into contact with Indira Sharma, who has ambitions of becoming the first Nepali woman director of an NGO; Sapana Karki, a bright young teenager living in a small village; and Gyanu, Sapana's brother, who has returned home from Dubai to settle his sister's future after their father's death. Their journeys collide in unexpected ways. *All of Us in Our Own Lives* is a stunning, keenly observant novel about human interconnectedness, about privilege, and about the ethics of international aid (the earnestness and idealism and yet its cynical, moneyed nature).

Freehand Books, 320 pages, 978988298344, \$21.95



## Erika Behrisch Elce | *Lady Franklin of Russell Square*

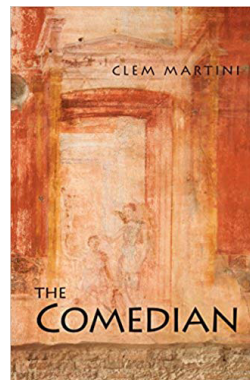
"Spring, 1847, and Lady Franklin is back in London expecting to greet her hero husband, polar explorer Sir John Franklin, upon his triumphant return from the Northwest Passage. But as weeks turn to months, she reluctantly grows into her public role as Franklin's steadfast wife, the "Penelope of England." In this novel that imagines a rich interior life of one of Victorian England's most intriguing women, the boundaries of friendship, propriety, and love are bound to collide.

Stonehouse Publishing, 264 pages, 9781988754079, \$19.95

Manjushree Thapa | *All of Us in Our Own Lives*

Freehand Books

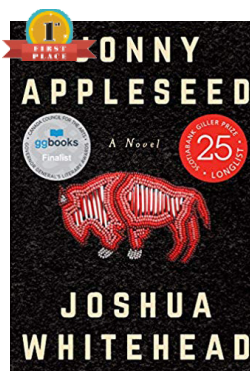
BPA Award for Book Cover



## Clem Martini | *The Comedian*

Titus Maccius Plautus' career is on the decline. Once renowned for bringing Greek comedies to the Roman world, now he struggles to stage a single play. Unlucky with money and unlucky in love, Plautus faces the world with wry dignity. This could be the performance that brings back fame and fortune, or the one that ends it all. Engaging, thoughtful, and funny, *The Comedian* dives into the rough and tumble world of arts in its infancy. Clem Martini draws on his talent and experience to bring to life the signs and sounds of a world where playwrights suffered and succeeded - but mostly suffered.

University of Calgary Press, 374 pages, 9781552389775, \$24.99



## Joshua Whitehead | *Jonny Appleseed*

"You're gonna need a rock and a whole lotta medicine" is a mantra that Jonny Appleseed, a young Two-Spirit/Indigiqueer, repeats to himself in this vivid and utterly compelling debut novel by poet Joshua Whitehead. Off the reserve and trying to find ways to live and love in the big city, Jonny becomes a cybersex worker who fetishizes himself in order to make a living. Self-ordained as an NDN glitter princess, Jonny has one week before he must return to the "rez"--and his former life--to attend the funeral of his stepfather. The seven days that follow are like a fevered dream: stories of love, trauma, sex, kinship, ambition, and the heartbreaking recollection of his beloved kokum (grandmother). Jonny's life is a series of breakages, appendages, and linkages--and as he goes through the motions of preparing to return home, he learns how to put together the pieces of his life.

*Jonny Appleseed* is a unique, shattering vision of First Nations life, full of grit, glitter, and dreams.

Arsenal Pulp Press, 224 pages, 9781551527253, \$17.95



## Fran Kimmel | *No Good Asking*

Ellie and Eric Nyland have moved their two sons back to Eric's childhood farmhouse, hoping for a fresh start. But there's no denying it, their family is falling apart, each one of them isolated by private sorrows, stresses, and missed signals. With every passing day, Ellie's hopes are buried deeper in the harsh winter snows. When Eric finds Hannah Finch, the girl across the road, wandering alone in the bitter cold, his rusty police instincts kick in, and he soon discovers there are bad things happening in the girl's house. With nowhere else to send her, the Nylands reluctantly agree to let Hannah stay with them until she can find a new home after the Christmas holidays. But Hannah proves to be more balm than burden, and the Nylands discover that the only thing harder than taking Hannah in may be letting her go.

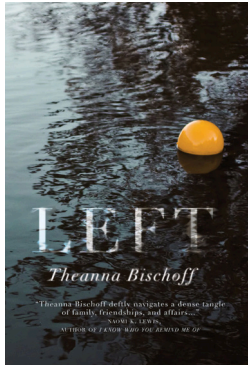
ECW Press, 288 pages, 9781770414389, \$19.00

Joshua Whitehead | *Jonny Appleseed*

Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction

Sponsored by The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

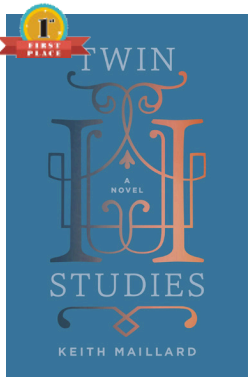
# Fiction



## Theanna Bischoff | *Left*

Twenty-nine-year-old Natasha Bell went for an evening jog, just like any other night - except now no one knows where she is. Not her sister, Abby—eighteen, eight months pregnant, and without a game plan. Not her childhood sweetheart, now ex-boyfriend, Greg, an introverted academic who could never bring himself to commit. Not her best friend Josie, a newlywed, born-again Christian, with whom Natasha recently had a falling out. And not detective Reuben Blake, who thought this case would be open 'n shut—a quick way to prove himself and move up the ranks. Missing person's statistics suggest Natasha's ex is the primary suspect, but what about the possibility of a stranger abduction? Or the possibility that Natasha left voluntarily or took her own life? What about Natasha's mother, who took off eighteen years before her daughter's disappearance? As days stretch into months and months stretch into years, the evidence that emerges seems only to complicate the picture more. What secrets might Natasha have been keeping?

**NeWest Press, 328 pages, 9781988732435, \$19.95**



## Keith Maillard | *Twin Studies*

Dr. Erica Bauer—an identical twin—studies twins at the university in Vancouver. Through the course of her research, she meets a set of preteen twins who are evidently fraternal, but who insist emphatically that they are identical. Their mother, Karen Oxley, is a West Van single mum whose life is on the wrong road—and who discovers an urgent need to put it back on the right one. As Erica sets out to help the twins, their lives become increasingly intertwined in unexpected ways. *Twin Studies* is a masterful novel that explores the complicated bonds between twins and siblings, friends and lovers; the role of class and money; and the nature of gender and sexuality. It's a novel with characters who are real, their relationships a rich world that readers will thoroughly lose themselves in. No other contemporary novel so deftly explores the intersection between our inner lives and our public lives - that "we're not what people see."

**Freehand Books, 576 pages, 9781988298313, \$24.95**



Keith Maillard | *Twin Studies*  
Freehand Books  
BPAA Award for  
Trade Fiction

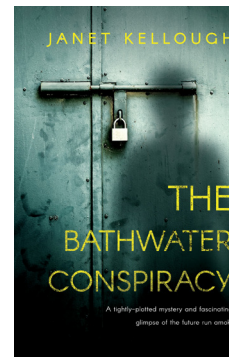
# Speculative Fiction



## Larissa Lai | *The Tiger Flu*

In this visionary novel by Larissa Lai—her first in sixteen years—a community of parthenogenic women, sent into exile by patriarchal and corporate Salt Water City, go to war against disease, technology, and an economic system that threatens them with extinction. Kirilow is a doctor apprentice whose lover, Peristrophe, is a "starfish," a woman who can regenerate her own limbs and organs, which she uses to help her clone sisters whose organs are failing. When a denizen from Salt Water City suffering from a mysterious flu comes into their midst, Peristrophe becomes infected and dies, prompting Kirilow to travel to the city, where the flu is now a pandemic, to find a new starfish who will help save her sisters. There, Kirilow meets Kora, a girl-woman desperate to save her family from the epidemic. Kora has everything Kirilow is looking for, except the will to abandon her own family. But before Kirilow can convince her, both are kidnapped by a mysterious group of men to serve as test subjects for a new technology that can cure the mind of the body. Bold, beautiful, and wildly imaginative, *The Tiger Flu* is at once a saga of two women heroes, a cyberpunk thriller, and a convention-breaking cautionary tale—a striking metaphor for our complicated times.

**Arsenal Pulp Press, 334 pages, 9781551527314, \$19.95**



## Janet Kellough | *The Bathwater Conspiracy*

Detective Carson "Mac" MacHenry can't figure out why the Darnes are so interested in this one dead girl or why the secretive federal police have rushed the autopsy or why, a few days later, the records of the dead girl's murder have been erased from all official government channels. Even stranger to the detective is the manner of death—injuries consistent with a violent beating and sexual assault. Crimes rarely seen in current society. Crimes eradicated decades earlier. Janet Kellough's latest novel offers a tightly-plotted mystery and a fascinating glimpse at genetic engineering run amok in a near-future world. Touching on issues of bioethics, gender, religion, and more, *The Bathwater Conspiracy* will appeal to fans of science fiction, post-apocalyptic fiction, and police procedurals alike.

**Hades Publications, 248 pages, 9781770531642, \$19.95**

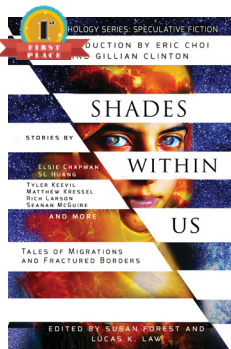


## Rhonda Parrish | *Fire: Demons, Dragons, and Djinn*

The ability for people to control (to some extent at least) fire has long been held as one of the major events that contributed to human evolution, but when fire eludes or escapes our control it is also one of the most destructive forces on earth. Associated with passion, power, transformation and purification, fire is a ferocious element with an unquenchable appetite. Discover the power of Fire and the creatures that thrive on it in these twenty-one stories, including: the true inspiration behind Jim Morrison's songs; a special weapon used in World War II; the secret in the depths of a mortuary furnace; a fantastical card game; and a necromancer out on what may be his last job.

**Tyche Books Ltd., 260 pages, 9781928025917, \$17.95**

# Speculative Fiction



Susan Forest and Lucas K. Law | *Shades Within Us: Tales of Migrations and Fractured Borders*  
An American father shields his son from Irish discrimination. A Chinese foreign student wrestles to safeguard her family at the expense of her soul. A college graduate is displaced by technology. A Nigerian high school student chooses between revenge and redemption. A bureaucrat parses the mystery of Taiwanese time travellers. A defeated alien struggles to assimilate into human culture. A Czechoslovakian actress confronts the German WWII invasion. A child crosses an invisible border wall. And many more.  
Stories that transcend borders, generations, and cultures. Each is a glimpse into our human need in face of change: to hold fast to home, to tradition, to family; and yet to reach out, to strive for a better life.

Laksa Media Groups Inc., 408 pages, 9781988140056, \$19.95



Spencer Estabrooks | *Sharkasaurus*  
Faith and facts collide on a Creationist themed golf course when the daughter of a widowed creationist falls for the adopted son of a gay paleontologist. Unbeknownst to the lovers a prehistoric dino-shark has emerged from hibernation leaving a trail of death and destruction. Will the creationist and paleontologist settle their ideological differences or will Sharkasaurus devour them all?

Renegade Arts Entertainment, 96 pages, 9781988903323, \$19.99



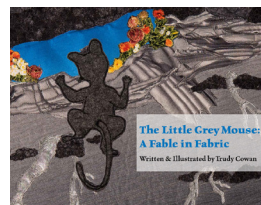
Susan Forest and Lucas K. Law | *Shades Within Us: Tales of Migrations and Fractured Borders*  
Laksa Media Groups Inc.  
BPAA Award for  
Speculative Fiction

# Children's and Young Adult



Gwen Molnar and Barbara Hartmann | *Bygumbo*  
When the king of the beasts catches the flu, Bygumbo, the panda, is asked to lead the Royal Parade. His only requests are lunch and a spectacular hat. But food is forgotten as the search for the hat takes longer and longer. After he gobbles up one of the samples, the hat maker creates the perfect solution!

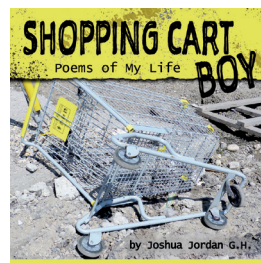
Dempster + Craig Books, 9780994833051, \$12.00



Trudy Cowan | *The Little Grey Mouse: A Fable in Fabric*

A sad little grey mouse searches for the one thing that will make her happy and she learns an important lesson in the process. All illustrations are photographed quilts created by the author. The book includes a small pattern and instructions to create your own little grey mouse.

Frontenac House, 32 pages, 9781927823897, \$14.95



Joshua Jordan G.H. | *Shopping Cart Boy*

Joshua's voice matters. He speaks for so many who are not able to express their thoughts, their sorrows, their hopes. Sixteen-year-old Joshua tells his life story in this poignant poetry collection.

He reflects on a childhood spent helping his mom search for bottles and cans from the confines of his shopping cart prison. Then, he pours out his grief at finding his mother dead one morning when he was twelve years old.

Join Joshua's heart-breaking journey through several years of foster care and street life, and share his expressed hope that he has found a place to belong -- in a new loving family with another mother. We all need to hear his story.

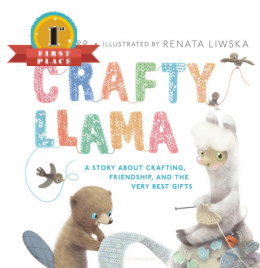
Siretona Creative, 46 pages, 9781988983035, \$14.99



Gwen Molnar and Barbara Hartmann | *Bygumbo*  
Dempster + Craig Books  
BPAA Award for  
Children and Young Adult

# Children's and Young Adult

# Nonfiction



Mike Kerr and Renata Liwska | *Crafty Llama*  
Llama loves to make things. It doesn't matter what, really—something special, something lovely. Beaver loves to make things, too. But he likes things to be useful. On this lovely day, Llama is inspired. She is having fun making things, like gifts for her friends. And soon many of her friends are inspired right along with her. But Beaver needs to think about what Llama and the other animals are making. What useful thing can he do with this day? With lots of craftiness and fun, this is a delightful story about how something lovely can be useful, too, and how the best gifts are the ones that bring us together.

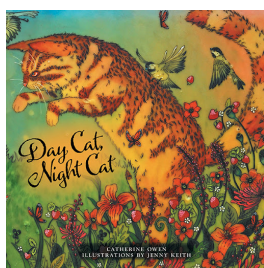
**Bloomsbury Children's Books, 32 pages, 9781681191218, \$22.99**



Nhung Tran-Davies and Josée Bisaillon | *Ten Cents a Pound*

A young girl is torn by her desire to stay home with her family and the familiarity of their village, and her desire to go to school and discover the world beyond the mountains that surround them. Every time the girl insists that she will stay, her mother repeats that she must go—that there is more to life than labor in the coffee fields. Their loving exchange reveals the struggles and sacrifices that they will both have to make for the sake of the young girl's future. The sweet, simple text captures a mother's love and her wish for a life of opportunity for her daughter.

**Second Story Press, 24 pages, 9781772600568, \$18.95**



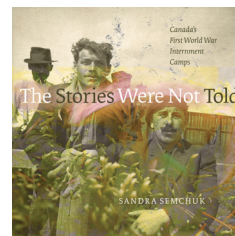
Jenny Keith and Catherine Owen | *Day Cat, Night Cat*  
*Day Cat, Night Cat* is the engaging "tail" of a young boy called Hayden who lives with a single mother on the edge of the city. He has two fantastical companions. When the sun is up, the day cat visits him and they play wild games together. Then, when he grows tired, the day cat vanishes and the night cat mysteriously appears. First, before Hayden falls asleep, then while he dreams, the night cat provides him with comfort, adventures and protection. Until the sun rises, and the cats magically change shifts again.

**Friesen Press, 44 pages, 978152553474, \$18.49**



Mike Kerr | *The Crafty Llama*  
R. Ross Annett Award for Children's  
Literature

Supported by the Under the Arch Foundation at The Calgary Foundation



Sandra Semchuk | *The Stories Were Not Told: Canada's First World War Internment Camps*

From 1914 to 1920, thousands of men who had immigrated to Canada from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Germany, and the Ottoman Empire were unjustly imprisoned as "enemy aliens," some with their families. Many communities in Canada where internees originated do not know these stories of Ukrainians, Germans, Bulgarians, Croats, Czechs, Hungarians, Italians, Jews, Alevi Kurds, Armenians, Ottoman Turks, Poles, Romanians, Russians, Serbians, Slovaks, and Slovenes, amongst others. While most internees were Ukrainians, almost all were civilians. *The Stories Were Not Told* presents this largely unrecognized event through photography, cultural theory, and personal testimony, including stories told at last by internees and their descendants. Semchuk describes how lives and society have been shaped by acts of legislated discrimination and how to move toward greater reconciliation, remembrance, and healing. This is necessary reading for anyone seeking to understand the cross-cultural and intergenerational consequences of Canada's first national internment operations.

**University of Alberta Press, 312 pages, 9781772123784, \$34.99**

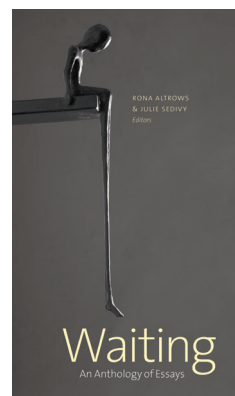


Carissa Halton | *Little Yellow House: Finding Community in a Changing Neighbourhood*

"Ma'am, you sound like a very reasonable person. Can I advise you to just move?"

Carissa Halton and her young family move into a neighbourhood with a tough reputation. As they make their home in one of the oldest parts of the city, she reflects on the revitalization that is slowly changing the view from her little yellow house. While others worry about the area's bad reputation, she heads out to meet her neighbours, and through them discovers the innate beauty of her community. Halton introduces us to a cast of diverse characters in her Alberta Avenue neighbourhood—including cat rescuers, tragic teens, art evangelists, and crime fighters—and invites us to consider the social and economic forces that shape and reshape our cities.

**University of Alberta Press, 176 pages, 9781772123753, \$24.99**

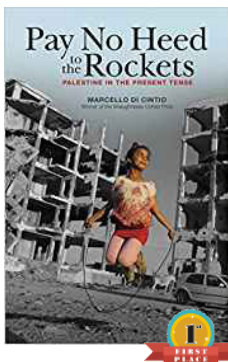


Rona Altrows and Julie Sedivy | *Waiting: An Anthology of Essays*

The verb *esperar* means to wait. It also means to hope.—"The Past Was a Small Notebook, Much Scribbled-Upon", Cora Siré  
Waiting, that most human of experiences, saturates all of our lives. We spend part of each day waiting—for birth, death, appointments, acceptance, forgiveness, redemption. This collection of thirty-two personal essays is as much about hope as it is about waiting. Featuring literary voices from the renowned to the emerging, this anthology of contemporary creative nonfiction will resonate with anyone who has ever had to wait.

**University of Alberta Press, 296 pages, 978772123838, \$24.99**

# Nonfiction

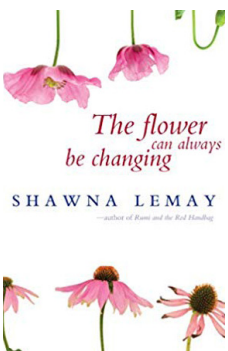


## Marcello Di Cintio | *Pay No Heed to the Rockets: Palestine in the Present Tense*

In *Pay No Heed to the Rockets*, Marcello Di Cintio reveals a more complex story, the Palestinian experience as seen through the lens of authors, books, and literature. Using the form of a political-literary travelogue, he explores what literature means to modern Palestinians and how Palestinians make sense of the conflict between a rich imaginative life and the daily tedium and violence of survival.

In the company of literary giants like Mahmoud Darwish and Ghassan Kanafani, and the contemporary authors whom they continue to inspire, Di Cintio travels through the rich cultural and literary heritage of Palestine. It's there that he uncovers a humanity, and a beauty, often unnoticed by news media. At the seventieth anniversary of the Arab-Israeli War, *Pay No Heed to the Rockets* tells a fresh story about Palestine, one that begins with art rather than war.

Goose Lane Editions, 264 pages, 9780864928986, \$22.95

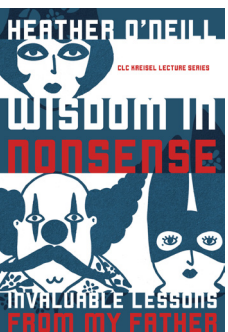


## Shawna Lemay | *The Flower Can Always Be Changing*

"A lamp and a flower pot in the center. The flower can always be changing."  
—Virginia Woolf.

From the bestselling author of *Rumi* and *the Red Handbag* comes a new collection of brief essays about the intersection of poetry, painting, photography and beauty. Inspired by the words of Virginia Woolf, Lemay welcomes you into her home, her art and her life as a poet and photographer of the every day. Lemay shares visits to the museum with her daughter, the beauty in an average workday at the library, and encourages writers and readers to make an appointment with flowers, with life.

Palimpsest Press, 110 pages, 9781926794693, \$15.95



## Heather O'Neill | *Wisdom in Nonsense: Invaluable Lessons from My Father*

"I broke all the rules that my dad gave me.

It was he who had given me, in part, the confidence to think of my life as being worthy to mix with those of the geniuses."—Heather O'Neill  
With generosity and wry humour, novelist Heather O'Neill recalls several key lessons she learned in childhood from her father: memories and stories about how crime does pay, why one should never keep a diary, and that it is good to beware of clowns, among other things. Her father and his eccentric friends—ex-bank robbers and homeless men—taught her that everything she did was important, a belief that she has carried through her life.

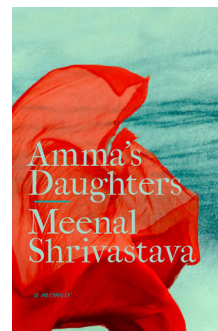
University of Alberta Press, 64 pages, 9781772123777, \$11.95



Marcello Di Cintio | *Pay No Heed to the Rockets: Palestine in the Present Tense*

City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize

# Nonfiction



## Meena Shrivastava | *Amma's Daughters: A Memoir*

As a precocious young girl, Surekha knew very little about the details of her mother Amma's unusual past and that of Babu, her mysterious and sometimes absent father. The tense, uncertain family life created by her parents' distant and fractious marriage and their separate ambitions informs her every action and emotion. Then one evening, in a moment of uncharacteristic transparency and vulnerability, Amma tells Surekha and her older sister Didi of the family tragedy that changed the course of her life. Finally, the daughters begin to understand the source of their mother's deep commitment to the Indian nationalist movement and her seemingly unending willingness to sacrifice in the name of that pursuit.

In this re-memory based on the published and unpublished work of Amma and Surekha, Meenal Shrivastava, Surekha's daughter, uncovers the history of the female foot soldiers of Gandhi's national movement in the early twentieth century. As Meenal weaves these written accounts together with archival research and family history, she gives voice and honour to the hundreds of thousands of largely forgotten or unacknowledged women who, threatened with imprisonment for treason and sedition, relentlessly and selflessly gave toward the revolution.

Athabasca University Press, 340 pages, 9781771991957, \$29.95



## Winnie Yeung and Abu Bakr al Rabeeah | *Homes: A Refugee Story*

Finalist for the 2018 Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction

In 2010, the al Rabeeah family left their home in Iraq in hope of a safer life. They moved to Homs, in Syria—just before the Syrian civil war broke out.

Abu Bakr, one of eight children, was ten years old when the violence began on the streets around him: car bombings, attacks on his mosque and school, firebombs late at night. *Homes* tells of the strange juxtapositions of growing up in a war zone: horrific, unimaginable events punctuated by normalcy—soccer, cousins, video games, friends.

*Homes* is the remarkable true story of how a young boy emerged from a war zone—and found safety in Canada—with a passion for sharing his story and telling the world what is truly happening in Syria. As told to her by Abu Bakr al Rabeeah, writer Winnie Yeung has crafted a heartbreaking, hopeful, and urgently necessary book that provides a window into understanding Syria.

Freehand Books, 224 pages, 9781988298283, \$19.95



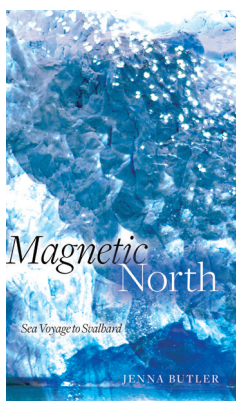
Winnie Yeung and Abu Bakr al Rabeeah | *Homes: A Refugee Story*  
Freehand Books

Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction

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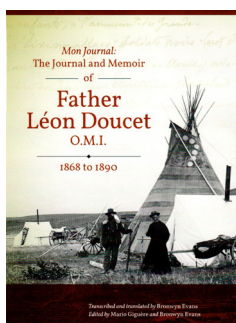
BPA Award for  
Trade Non-Fiction

# Nonfiction



**Jenna Butler | *Magnetic North: Sea Voyage to Svalbard***  
From the endangered Canadian boreal forest to the environmentally threatened Svalbard archipelago off the coast of Norway, Jenna Butler takes us on a sea voyage that connects continents and traces the impacts of climate change on northern lands. With a conservationist, female gaze, she questions explorer narratives and the mythic draw of the polar North. As a woman who cannot have children, she writes out the internal friction of travelling in Svalbard during the fertile height of the Arctic summer. Blending travelogue and poetic meditation on place, Jenna Butler draws readers to the beauty and power of threatened landscapes, asking why some stories in recorded history are privileged while others speak only from beneath the surface.

**University of Alberta Press, 120 pages, 9781772123821, \$19.99**



**Léon Doucet | *Mon Journal: The Journal and Memoir of Father Léon Doucet O.M.I. 1868-1890***

In the latter half of the nineteenth century, the Canadian Prairies experienced dramatic changes brought about by the spread of devastating disease epidemics, the decline of bison populations, the end of the fur trade economy, the establishment of Canadian sovereignty over the region, the signing of treaties, the creation of First Nations reserves, and the transformation of the landscape into an agricultural West. The journal of Father Léon Doucet presents a rare account of these developments as they occurred in what is now Alberta and Saskatchewan between 1868 and 1890. As a Roman Catholic missionary and member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Doucet travelled frequently between permanent missions, while also conducting la mission ambulante, or itinerant bison-hunting missions, with Indigenous Plains bands. Doucet eventually resided on First Nations reserves in southern Alberta and administered to the religious needs of burgeoning settler communities. Doucet's journal offers a very personal description of this period's western Canadian history. He named more than 150 individuals whose stories range from tragic to comedic. A keen observer, Doucet recorded significant ethnographic, geographic, genealogical, faunal, floral, and meteorological details. Ultimately, his journal offers the reader a tantalizing glimpse of life in pre-provincehood Alberta and Saskatchewan.

**Historical Society of Alberta, 454 pages, 9780929123219, \$49.95**

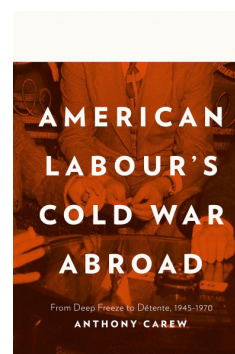
# Scholarly & Academic



**Dani Spinoso | *Anarchists in the Academy: Machines and Free Readers in Experimental Poetry***

Dani Spinoso takes up anarchism's power as a cultural and artistic ideology, rather than as a political philosophy, with a persistent emphasis on the common. She demonstrates how postanarchism offers a useful theoretical context for poetry that is not explicitly political—specifically for the contemporary experimental poem with its characteristic challenges to subjectivity, representation, authorial power, and conventional constructions of the reader-text relationship. Her case studies of sixteen texts make a bold move toward politicizing readers and imbuing literary theory with an activist praxis—a sharp hope. This is a provocative volume for those interested in contemporary poetics, experimental literatures, and the digital humanities.

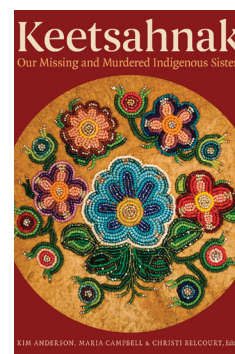
**University of Alberta Press, 296 pages, 9781772123760, \$24.95**



**Anthony Carew | *American Labour's Cold War Abroad: From Deep Freeze to Détente, 1945-1970***

During the Cold War, American labour organizations were at the centre of the battle for the hearts and minds of working people. At a time when trade unions were a substantial force in both American and European politics, the fiercely anti-communist American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL–CIO), set a strong example for labour organizations overseas. The AFL–CIO cooperated closely with the US government on foreign policy and enjoyed an intimate, if sometimes strained, relationship with the CIA. The activities of its international staff, and especially the often secretive work of Jay Lovestone and Irving Brown—whose biographies read like characters plucked from a Le Carré novel—exerted a major influence on relationships in Europe and beyond. *American Labour's Cold War Abroad* reveals how the Cold War compelled trade unionists to reflect on the role of unions in a free society. Yet there was to be no meeting of minds on this, and at the end of the 1960s the AFL–CIO broke with the mainstream of the international labour movement to pursue its own crusade against communism.

**Athabasca University Press, 504 pages, 9781771992114, \$49.99**



**Kim Anderson, Maria Campbell, & Christi Belcourt | *Keetsahnak / Our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Sisters***

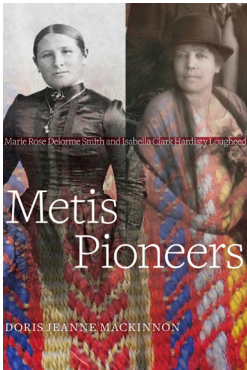
In *Keetsahnak / Our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Sisters*, the tension between personal, political, and public action is brought home starkly as the contributors look at the roots of violence and how it diminishes life for all. Together, they create a model for anti-violence work from an Indigenous perspective. They acknowledge the destruction wrought by colonial violence, and also look at controversial topics such as lateral violence, challenges in working with "tradition," and problematic notions involved in "helping." Through stories of resilience, resistance, and activism, the editors give voice to powerful personal testimony and allow for the creation of knowledge.

**University of Alberta Press, 400 pages, 9781772123678, \$29.95**



# Scholarly & Academic

# Poetry



Doris Jeanne MacKinnon | *Metis Pioneers: Marie Rose Delorme Smith and Isabella Clark Hardisty Lougheed*  
In *Metis Pioneers*, Doris Jeanne MacKinnon compares the survival strategies of two Metis women born during the fur trade—one from the French-speaking free trade tradition and one from the English-speaking Hudson's Bay Company tradition—who settled in southern Alberta as the Canadian West transitioned to a sedentary agricultural and industrial economy. MacKinnon provides rare insight into their lives, demonstrating the contributions Metis women made to the building of the Prairie West. This is a compelling tale of two women's acts of quiet resistance in the final days of the British Empire.

University of Alberta Press, 584 pages, 9781772122718, \$45.00



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Kelly Shepherd | *Insomnia Bird*

The poems in Kelly Shepherd's *Insomnia Bird* are a cartography and a geography of Edmonton. The poems which shift between short, individual lyric pieces and found text emulate a black-billed magpie's nest with the subject-matter and also physically, with the words and lines. The poems generate the theme of home (the bird's nest, the city), and not feeling at home; sleeping, and the inability to sleep. The magpie (the insomnia bird) is the protagonist and the muse, the thread that connects everything to everything else in this work.

As such, Shepherd's poems move across the surface at speed, like Edmonton's NAIT train, and dive like magpies after the occasional tasty image or crumb of detail. The city as it spreads out across the Prairies, can do nothing to prevent urban sprawl, and grows taller with each new highrise building and office tower and sinks deeper into the ground, which is memory!

Thistledown Press, 96 pages, 9781771871693, \$20.00

Kayla Geitzler | *That Light Feeling Under Your Feet*

*That Light Feeling Under Your Feet* plunges headfirst into the surreal and slogging world of cruise ship workers. These masterfully crafted poems challenge perpetuating colonial and class relations, as well as the hedonistic lifestyle attributed to the employees of these floating resorts. Kayla Geitzler's debut collection interprets isolation, alienation, racism, and assimilation into the margins as inevitable consequences for the seafaring workforce of the most profitable sector of the tourism industry. Exploring the liminal space between labour and leisure, the poems in *That Light Feeling Under Your Feet* are at once buoyant and weighty, with language that cuts like a keel through the sea.

NeWest Press, 98 pages, 9781988732213, \$19.95

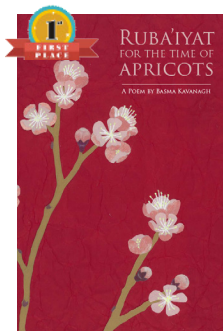
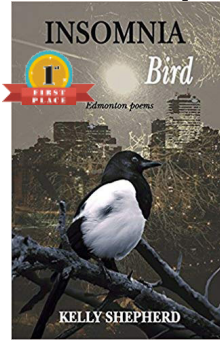
Basma Kavanagh | *Ruba'iyat for the Time of Apricots*

This book length poem comprises three major interwoven threads: *Ahli*, an auto/biographical thread about my Lebanese heritage; *Astura*, a grim tale linking climate change and the oppression of women, and *Ana*, a reflection on identity, language, and writing. To tell a story of my mother, her sisters, and their mother; a story of traditions, gesture, ritual, transformation, and self, is to persist against the erasure of the nuanced and tenacious feminine histories that co-exist with our troubled present and its bland stereotypes. Like a seed, a family story houses its ancestors, and the diversity—genetic and experiential—that equips us to thrive in a multitude of possible futures. Written in quatrains, called ruba'iyat in Arabic, from the word for "four", each stanza of this poem is self-contained, yet converses with adjacent stanzas to build a narrative. The repetition of phrases across stanzas, and the studding of the text with Arabic words, combine to create a layered, incantatory quality evoking the complexity of Arabic oral poetry.

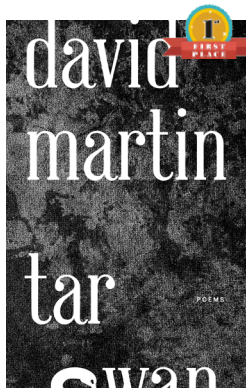
Frontenac House, 64 pages, 978192782811, \$19.95



Kelly Shepherd | *Insomnia Bird:*  
*Edmonton Poems*  
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Book Prize



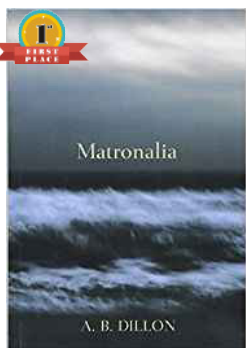
Basma Kavanagh | *Ruba'iyat for the Time of Apricots*  
Frontenac House  
BPAA Robert Kroetsch Award for  
Poetry



## David Martin | *Tar Swan*

*Tar Swan* is a multi-voiced reckoning that surveys the mythos of the Alberta oil sands with an approach that is both lyrical and experimental. The poems feature four voices: an oil sands developer, his plant mechanic, an archaeologist excavating the remains of the operation in the present day, and a mythical swan. David Martin's debut collection is comprised of expansive and richly written poems, built on a lore-laden language, which explore the human and environmental cost of drawing too much from the land. As the three humans come into contact with the otherworldly swan, the voices bubble and churn together, and what is distilled is a psychological breakdown paralleling the toll taken on the earth.

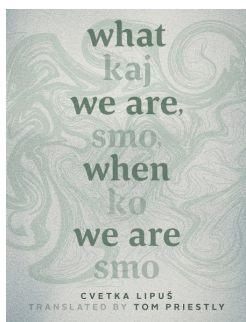
**NeWest Press, 96 pages, 9781988732183, \$19.95**



## A.B. Dillon | *Matronalia*

A mother reveals a festering secret to her daughter after years of trying to conceal it. Since her daughter's birth, she has been suffering from a disease that causes bizarre symptoms: sudden calcification, the growth and disintegration of extra ribs, coral splinters in the heart, unrelenting depression. As the mother examines the pathology of her disease, she offers her daughter fierce and harrowing advice on everything from sex to survival to love. Part ode, part prayer, and part manifesto, *Matronalia* interlaces ancestral legacies and personal tribulations to reveal what often remains unsaid from mother to daughter. The energy, intelligence and grace of the language and imagination is itself antidote to the dilemmas and shame they explore. *Matronalia* is, in essence, a confession that evolves into a love poem.

**Thistledown Press, 144 pages, 9781771871532, \$20.00**



## Cvetka Lipus, translated by Tom Priestly | *What We Are When We Are*

Working within a postmodern style, this rhythmic and melodious collection of poems originally written in Slovenian by Cvetka Lipus and translated here by Tom Priestly, blends the real with the surreal, dull urban lives with dreams. Lipus, known for the lexical beauty of her work, dwells on topics of time and space which she handles in an almost revolving, irreverent manner. Priestly captures the maze-like characteristic of her verse and carefully reconstructs the sonoric beauty of the work in its original language.

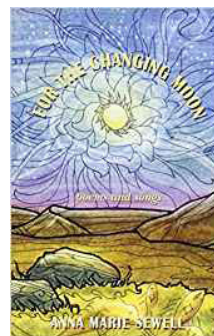
**Athabasca University Press, 108 pages, 9781771992497, \$19.99**



## Alice Major | *Welcome to the Anthropocene*

Alice Major observes the comedy and the tragedy of this human-dominated moment on Earth. Major's most persistent question—"Where do we fit in the universe?"—is made more urgent by the ecological calamity of human-driven climate change. Her poetry leads us to question human hierarchies, loyalties, and consciousness, and challenges us to find some humility in our overblown sense of our cosmic significance.

**University of Alberta Press, 136 pages, 9781772123685, \$19.95**



## Anna Marie Sewell | *For the Changing Moon*

At a time of cultural change for Indigenous people that feels relentlessly tidal and epochal, *For the Changing Moon: Poems and Songs* records the ebb and flow of what it is to live here and now in Canada, as a woman, an indigenous woman, a culturally mixed woman, a daughter, a mother, a peace-seeker and a warrior.

The book includes work visually designed for the page, and work composed to be chanted, sung, and spoken amongst ourselves. We are asked to experience it as a record of the shifting times, and understand how the mood of the world can strike change in an individual, sometimes, like a rogue wave; and other times, slowly and methodically like a lunar tidal pull. Anna Marie Sewell's poems court performance as they incorporate the energy of slam and employ the beat structures of chant. They encourage us to enter their spells and incantations always built with an ear for sound and with an eye for images of dream and wonder. Her invite and challenge is clear: "Come lovers of language, seekers of change, moon-mad prophets, come. Read and share these poems and songs, and answer them back with your own."

From this specific place, Canada, during a moment of global sea change, these poems and songs reach for the moon-mad natural soul in all of us, that part of all of us that lives to follow the Great Song.

**Thistledown Press, 88 pages, 9781771871686, \$20.00**

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## 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.



## Who Are We?

The Book Publishers Association of Alberta (BPAA) was founded in 1975 to support the development of a thriving provincial publishing industry, away from Canada's traditional book publishing centres.

Today one of the strongest communities of regional publishers in North America, the BPAA counts over 30 member companies, many of which are owned and operated in Alberta. Our members publish books by local, national and international authors and provide significant cultural and economic benefits to this province. They work with writers, printers, artists and other creative people to produce high quality books that are sold in Alberta and throughout the world.

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