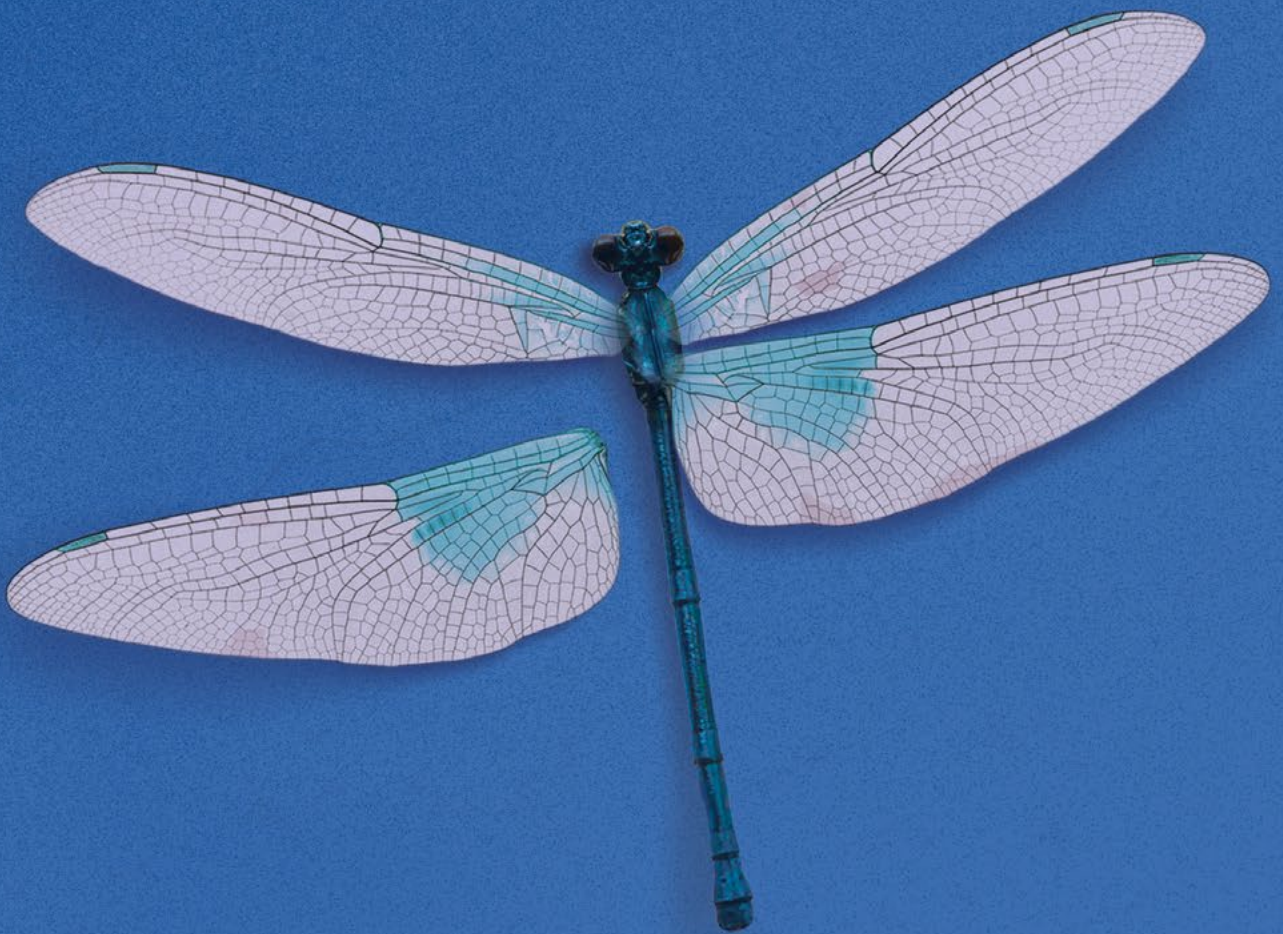




**GREAT PLAINS
PRESS**

Fall 2024



Stories that bind us

About

At Great Plains Press, we publish stories that are unique and reflect our region, and Canada, to the rest of the world. We publish new writers alongside literary veterans, and seek out exciting, distinct and challenging stories.

Staff

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Great Plains Press is located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Ojibwe-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. Our water is sourced from the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.

FUNDERS

Great Plains Press gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided for its publishing program by the Government of Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, as well as the Government of Manitoba and the Manitoba Arts Council.

Canada



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

Manitoba



MANITOBA
ARTS COUNCIL



CONSEIL DES ARTS
DU MANITOBA

We are excited to share our Fall 2024 season!

As we began to finalize this list, a clear theme of discovery arose with each of the titles across our imprints.

Matthew Fox will take you on a journey about discovering family secrets in *This Is It*. This novel in stories from one of Canada's hot young writing talents is sure to capture the attention of readers.

In non-fiction, we are thrilled to present a follow-up to 2020's *The Lesser Known* from Darren Bernhardt. *Prairie Oddities: Punkinhead, Peculiar Gravity and More Lesser Known Histories* brings to light the odd-ball stories that have shaped Manitoba.

Through Robert Hawkins' exhaustively researched biography *She Won The Vote for Women* readers will meet journalist, playwright, and suffragette Lillian Beyon Thomas. While Nellie McClung has received much of the attention for women's suffrage, Dr. Hawkins uncovers the woman who worked passionately and diligently behind the scenes to organize the movement that secured the right for women to cast their vote.

Our Yellow Dog imprint has two exciting novels for young readers who love a quest. *Ghosts of Gastown* is a ghost story for kids wrapped in a historical mystery. Parents and teachers who had a shelf full of *Goosebumps* novels will love reading along!

Finally, *Cave-In* is an exciting thrill ride following two friends seeking to discover a long-lost underground cave. When disaster strikes, they must find their inner heroes to save their friends and family.

We hope you love uncovering these stories as much as we love bringing them to you!

ISBN 978-1-77337-122-1



9 781773 371221

978-1-77337-122-1
\$36.95 CAD | \$31.95 USD
7 X 9 | 336 PAGES

CANADA October 1, 2024
US November 26, 2024
RIGHTS World

GENERAL NONFICTION / History /
Local Interest / Manitoba History

MARKETING PLANS National
review mailing, online and print
marketing, author participation in
interviews, visits to historic sites
mentioned in the book, presence
at local markets/fairs

ALSO OF INTEREST



On the Road to
Abandoned Manitoba
Taking the scenic route through
historic places

GORDON GOLDSBOROUGH
978-1-77337-107-8
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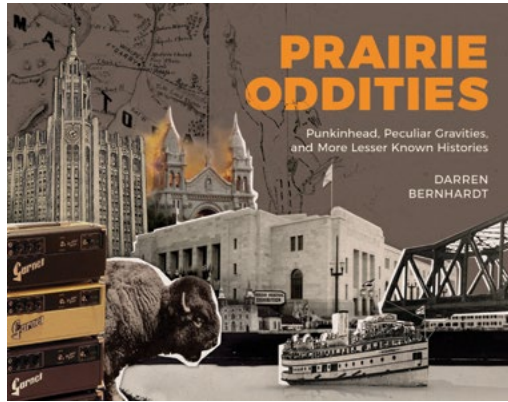
Stuck in the Middle 2
Defining Views of Manitoba

BRYAN SCOTT & BARTLEY KIVES
978-1-927855-80-5
\$35.00 CAD | \$27.95 USD



A Daytripper's
Guide to Manitoba
Exploring Canada's
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BARTLEY KIVES
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\$31.95 CAD | \$27.95 USD



Prairie Oddities

Punkinhead, Peculiar Gravity and More Lesser Known Histories

DARREN BERNHARDT

In *Prairie Oddities: Punkinhead, Peculiar Gravity and More Lesser Known Histories* Darren Bernhardt recounts historical anecdotes from middle-Canada's past that were never given top billing, the ones that faded away in time but left their marks behind. Laden with archival images, Bernhardt's stories restore focus on the gunslinging fugitive who became a folk hero, the curious and chaotic battle for Kenora, the flower-bearing American spy, the ghost trail of the Bergen Cutoff, the lost bells of St. Boniface, how the bison were saved from extinction, Hudson Bay's missing gravity, and the many firsts accomplished in the Northwest.

The stories of what was — and what could have been — arouse imagination and kindle interest in a complicated and colourful past.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, **Darren Bernhardt** was seven years old when he began scribbling stories in Hilroy notebooks, recounting family outings and adventures with friends. As a journalist, he still scribbles stories, but now specializes in local history and the offbeat.

He is the co-author of the 2005 Jack Pine Press chapbook, *To Kerouac and Back* and co-author of the play, *Alison's Leather Couch*, and author of the best-selling *The Lesser Known: A History of Oddities from the Heart of the Continent*.

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR



The Lesser Known
A History of Oddities from
the Heart of the Continent

DARREN BERNHARDT
978-1-77337-048-4
\$29.95 CAD | \$25.95 USD

EXCERPT
Prairie Oddities

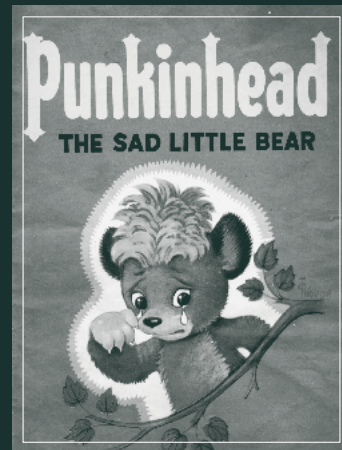
PUNKINHEAD MANITOBA-MADE RIVAL TO RUDOLPH

Rudolph has ruled Christmas since 1939 as the most beloved sidekick, but there was a time that a mop-topped bear born in Winnipeg gave the red-nosed reindeer a run for the title.

Punkinhead was dreamt up on a drawing board in a West End Winnipeg rooming house and became the most successful advertising character in Canadian retail history.

It all started in 1947 when executives at Eaton's department store headquarters in Toronto, ON decided to flat-out copy the hugely successful game plan of the US-based retailer Montgomery Ward but to wrap it up differently.

Coke is responsible for the image North Americans associate with old Saint Nick. The jolly, portly grandfatherly figure in a white beard, red outfit cuffed in white fur, black boots and black belt, and carrying a sack of toys first appeared in 1931. The character was drawn up by illustrator Haddon Sundblom, commissioned to design the character for Coca-Cola's Christmas adverts.



PUNKINHEAD 7



8 PRAIRIE ODDITIES

Montgomery Ward latched onto Santa's popularity by devising Rudolph eight years later as a Christmas helper with a hard-luck backstory.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was introduced to the world through colouring books given out each Christmas to attract shoppers to its stores. The flying misfit reindeer became a wildly successful marketing mascot—the same way Santa Claus was for the Coca-Cola corporation. And just eight years after that, Eaton's did the same thing, substituting the reindeer with a teddy bear named Punkinhead.

Both Rudolph and Punkinhead sported a physical trait that made them targets of ridicule by their so-called friends, causing them to be ostracized. But it was that uniqueness, in both cases, that helped save Santa in his greatest time of need. Rudolph's glowing honker lit a path through the foggy night so Santa could fly his sleigh and deliver presents. For Punkinhead, his tangle of hair enabled a party hat to fit just right and save a parade.

Punkinhead lived in Bear Land where his unwieldy, ginger-blond tuft of fuzz made him stand out from the other bears...



overindulged and was stricken with a rip-roaring bellyache. Santa turned to the bears for a last-minute replacement. Many tried to fill the role but couldn't complete the clown costume because the hair kept sliding off their sleek domes.

Santa was about to give up when the bears remembered Punkinhead and ran off to get him. When Punkinhead tried on the hat, his woolly hair kept it in place. He became an important part of the parade and Santa's favourite little helper. Take that, Rudolph.

Punkinhead lived in Bear Land where his unwieldy, ginger-blond tuft of fuzz made him stand out from the other bears and their velvety smooth heads. Feeling rejected, the jilted bear went off to be alone.

Just before Christmas, Santa and his crew of fairies, gnomes, clowns and elves were on their way from the North Pole to Toyland to put on a big parade. They made a pit stop for honey soda drinks in Bear Land where one of the clowns

Eaton's executives handed the story idea to Winnipeg illustrator Charles Thomson to make it come alive. The company already had a long history with Thomson, who from 1914 until 1934 was chief illustrator of the Eaton's catalogue—a time when all images were hand-drawn.



Charles Thomson

PUNKINHEAD 9

ISBN 978-1-77337-128-3



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GENERAL NONFICTION / History /
Local Interest / Manitoba History

MARKETING PLANS National
review mailing, online and print
marketing, author participation
in interviews, multi-city launch
events, visits/signings at locations
of historical significance in the text

ALSO OF INTEREST



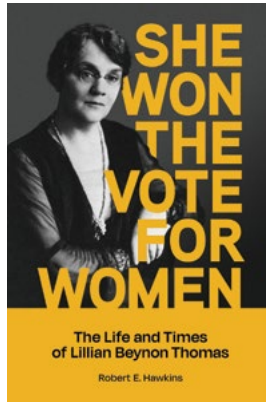
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My Responsibility
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\$24.95 CAD | \$20.95 USD



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How Nature and the
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Overcome
Stories of Women Who Grew Up
in the Child Welfare System
ANNE MAHON, FOREWORD
BY BEATRICE MOSIONIER
978-1-77337-083-5
\$25.95 CAD | \$21.95 USD



She Won The Vote For Women

The life and times of Lillian Beynon Thomas

ROBERT E. HAWKINS

Lillian Beynon Thomas' suffragist campaign succeeded where all others had failed. This full-length biography fills an important gap in the history of the 'votes for women' movement, a campaign which saw Manitoba become the earliest federal or provincial Canadian jurisdiction to grant some women the franchise.

Law professor and historian Robert E. Hawkins describes how Lillian used her work as a journalist, playwright, and activist to lobby for the rights of women.

By connecting with women across Saskatchewan and Manitoba, Beynon Thomas was able to develop a broad-based movement that stood in contrast to the traditional tools of backroom, partisan politics. Her grassroots approach was a forerunner to modern political campaign techniques.

This is the story of how a young girl came with her settler family to a desolate part of the hardscrabble prairie and who, despite these humble origins, succeeded in engineering a fundamental Canadian democratic reform and championing the emerging Canadian cultural nationalism.

Robert E. Hawkins is the past President & Vice-Chancellor of the University of Regina and, until 2023, he was a law professor in its Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. Bob grew up in Western Manitoba and is a graduate of St. John's College, University of Manitoba, which has awarded him an Honorary Doctorate. For the past twelve years, Bob has served on Regina City Council. Bob has published extensively in leading Canadian law journals on constitutional and administrative law, and on the legal history of the Prairie region, including Lillian Beynon Thomas' role in the suffrage movement.

EXCERPT

She Won The Vote For Women

CHAPTER 5 A GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

As an organizer, Beynon Thomas brought a wealth of experience to the suffrage campaign. Through the Home Loving Hearts page in the *Prairie Farmer*, she had already united a group of far-flung rural women into a “band,” the term that she used to describe her readers, in support of the dower cause. To champion that cause she had coordinated a letter-writing campaign to bring the pressure of public opinion to bear directly on local members of the Legislature. She had organized delegations to meet with MLAs and the premier on three different occasions. She had spent summers travelling the rail lines to fairs in rural Saskatchewan communities, organizing farm women into homemakers’ clubs to combat loneliness and to share self-help ideas. Through her newspaper columns in the fall of 1910, she had authored what amounted to a detailed manual on how to start a homemakers’ club, how to put together an agenda for a meeting, and how to run a meeting in a procedurally correct manner. She was to repeat a very similar set of instructions in February 1914, this time in connection with organizing suffrage societies: call a meeting in your home, appoint officers, decide what you are going to do and a plan for doing it, obtain literature, call another meeting to “talk about what has been done... point out the great need for the sake of the children, that women should help form the laws,” and visit every woman in the community to get her to join the society.



GENERAL NONFICTION



Haunted Winnipeg

Ghost Stories from the Heart of the Continent

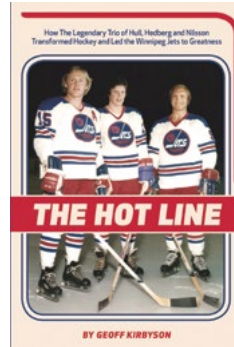
MATTHEW KOMUS
978-1-927855-058
\$19.95 CAD | 16.95 USD



Haunted Manitoba

Ghost Stories from the Prairies

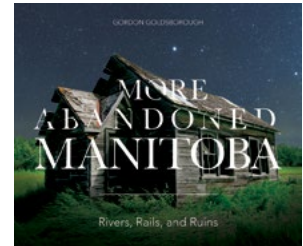
MATTHEW KOMUS
978-1-77337-028-6
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The Hot Line

How The Legendary Trio of Hull, Hedberg and Nilsson Transformed Hockey and Led the Winnipeg Jets to Greatness

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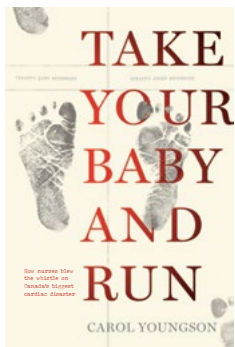
More Abandoned Manitoba

Rivers, Rails, and Ruins

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HIGHLIGHTED TITLES

MEMOIRS/BIO



Take Your Baby and Run

How nurses blew the whistle on Canada's biggest cardiac disaster

CAROL YOUNGSON
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Saving

A Doctor's Struggle to Help His Children

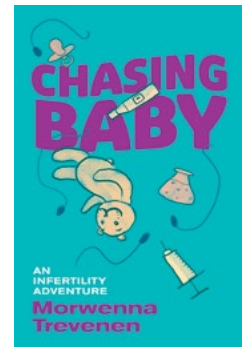
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My Story

ERROL RANVILLE
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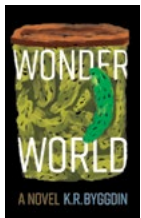
978-1-77337-120-7
\$27.95 CAD | \$23.95 USD
8.5 X 5.5 | 312 PAGES

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US November 26, 2024
RIGHTS Canada, US

FICTION

MARKETING PLANS National review mailing, author participation in interviews, readings, podcast appearances, speaking or virtual visits with creative writing workshops and university programs, visit to Canada for PRIDE events, awards submissions, Spotify playlist.

ALSO OF INTEREST



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Children of Tomorrow
J.R. BURGMANN
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Homebodies
AMY LEBLANC
978-1-77337-101-6
\$22.95 CAD |
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ENFIELD
& WIZENTY

This Is It

MATTHEW FOX

Giovanni Zappacosta-O’Hara suspects that there’s more to his family’s legacy than he’s been told. His parents recount the history in devastating, scandalous and rollicking stories, while Gio and his boyfriend joke that there must be lies woven into the details. When his boyfriend is struck with cancer, the laughter stops. Gio can’t bear watching the disease eat away his partner’s life, sanity and the person he loves. Full of shame, he flees to New York, using his family history as a feeble excuse—he’s going to get to the bottom of it. What happens next forces Gio to confront his cowardice and find a different motivation for his book: redemption. As he retells the stories, he discovers family secrets that make him question his identity. The hilarious and heartfelt characters he finds along the way give him surprising chances to get over himself—but will he take them?

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR THIS IS IT

“Matthew Fox’s *This Is It*—about the stories and secrets that bind families and lovers—is nothing less than a modern masterpiece. Gut-wrenching, sharply observed, and deeply funny, the novel excavates generations of Zappacosta family lore to take the reader on an emotional journey unlike any other. Each sentence is a gift, wrapped in Matthew’s gorgeously dry wit. A tour de force that will leave you breathless!”—Carley Fortune, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Meet Me at the Lake* and *This Summer Will Be Different*

Matthew Fox is the author of the story collection *Cities of Weather*. He grew up in Ontario, before moving to Montreal, London and New York, where he received his MFA in Creative Writing from The New School. His work has appeared in *Grain*, *The New Quarterly*, *Big Fiction*, *Toronto Life* and *Maisonnewve*. He currently lives in Berlin.



I

Is This It? (Part One)

“Well?” Great Aunt Maeve said, pumping her La-Z-Boy.

She’d always had a La-Z-Boy. I remembered this emerald velour version from her previous home, back in Fiona, the Ontario town that had produced us both. The tall radio, too, had been moved down here to Brooklyn from Fiona. It sat in the middle of the room, dominating it, a hulking wooden creature from the ’40s. It had city names on the dial instead of numbers. Roma, Wien, Köln, Gdańsk. Its bottom half was a bar crammed with whisky bottles gleaming under an incandescent light bulb. The radio’s cord snaked across the carpet to an outlet, a tripping hazard tolerated for some non-obvious reason.

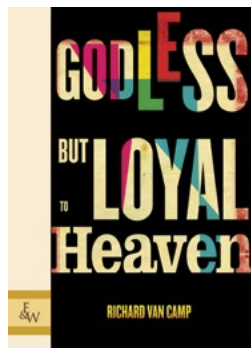
Maeve’s living room also contained two couches—two too many, considering they lived alongside piles of banker’s boxes, a huddle of ashtray-stands, a credenza rammed with LPs and a sideboard with stacks of unmatching china. Clashing lamps sat on end tables. The TV predated my birth, and I was 24 years old then.

Aunt Maeve must have been 82. She’d shrunk since I’d last seen her. She’d always been small, but when I think of her in Fiona, I remember a stout, powerful, unstoppable Irish woman with authoritative gestures and a grouchy laugh. Now she was shrivelled and droopy-skinned. Her navy sweatsuit was bunchy, two sizes too big. Her red hair had gone silver and dull. Puff and pinkness were taking over her face. The motion of the La-Z-Boy was the only thing that kept her from camouflaging into the room’s clutter.

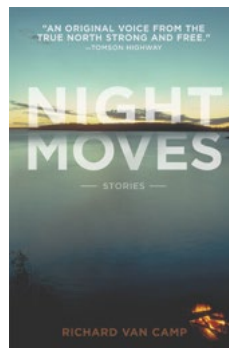
AWARD WINNERS



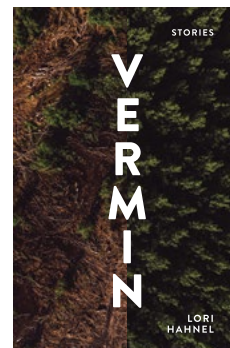
Madder Carmine
 TYLER ENFIELD
 978-1-927855-30-0
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Godless but Loyal to Heaven
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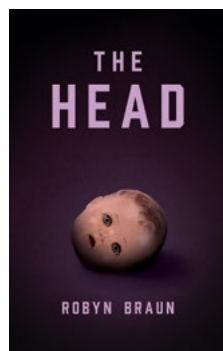


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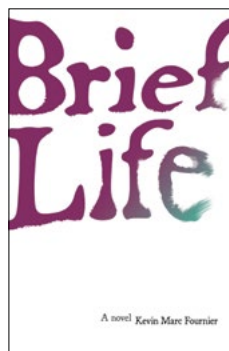
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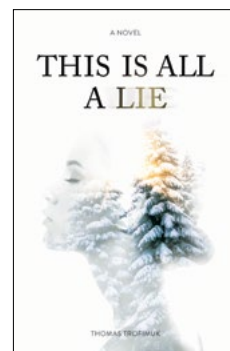
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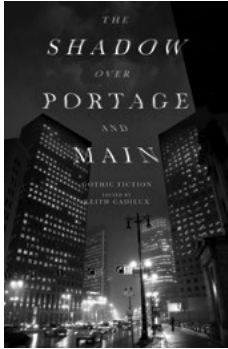


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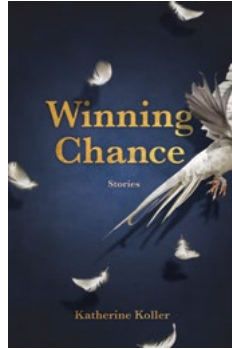
HIGHLIGHTED TITLES

SHORT STORIES

HIGHLIGHTED TITLES



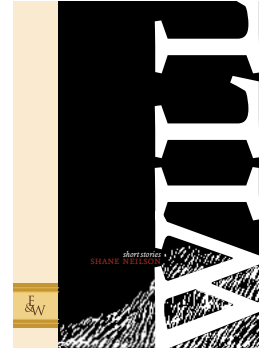
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 AND DUSTIN GEERAERT
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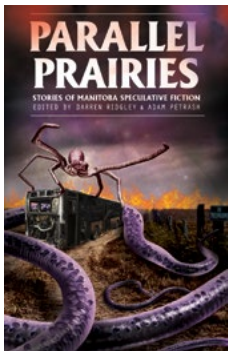
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 KATHERINE KOLLER
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 LEE KVERN
 978-1-926531-85-4
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 SHANE NELSON
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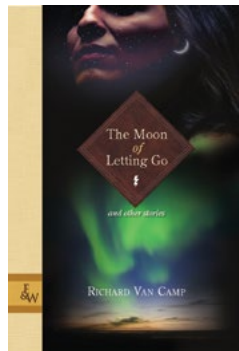
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 AND ADAM PETRASH
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Alternate Plains
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The View from the Lane
 DEBORAH-ANNE TUNNEY
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The Moon of Letting Go
 RICHARD VAN CAMP
 978-1-926531-00-7
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RIGHTS World
Age: 8-12 Grade: 3-5

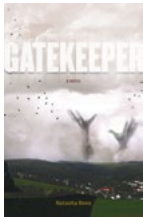
JUVENILE FICTION / Ghosts / Mystery
/ Juvenile Horror

MARKETING PLANS Marketing Plans: National review mailing, online and print advertisements, author participation in interviews, readings, and school and library visits, awards submissions, Halloween events coinciding with launch date

ALSO OF INTEREST



Guardian
NATASHA DEEN
978-1-927855-09-6
\$14.95 CAD |
11.95 USD



Gatekeeper
NATASHA DEEN
978-1-927855-09-6
\$14.95 CAD |
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Family of Spies
JODI CARMICHAEL
978-1-927855-94-2
\$14.95 CAD |
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Ghosts of Gastown

JESSICA RENWICK

Twelve-year-old Hope Graves can see the dead. But nobody believes her. Not even her best friend. When Hope and her mom move to the Gastown area of Vancouver, their new home isn't exactly as she imagined. The ancient apartment sits over a weird crystal shop, she misses her dad, and ghosts lurk around every corner. The worst part? Oliver, the strange boy whose parents own the shop, can see ghosts too, and he won't stop bugging her about it.

Hope tries to avoid Oliver, but when a ghost appears in her bedroom with a haunting plea, he's the only person she can turn to for help. Trying to banish the spirit only leads them down a twisted path far more dangerous than any ghost. Something is hunting the souls of Gastown, and it's closing in on its next victim.

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR GHOSTS OF GASTOWN

"A riveting paranormal novel about ghosts, grief, and the power of family and friends to pull us out of the darkest of places. I couldn't get enough!"—Jonathan Pongratz, author of the *Reaper* series

Jessica Renwick dove into the world of writing fiction as a preteen and never looked back. Naturally, this led to a career as a library assistant, and her first middle-grade book, *The Book of Chaos*, was published in 2018. She lives with her husband, two dogs, and a flock of backyard chickens in Red Deer, Alberta. You can find her online at jessicarenwickauthor.com



Chapter 1

All buildings have stories. The older, the draftier, the better. That's what my dad used to say. And by the looks of this place, it must have one whopper of a tale. With its faded red bricks, crumbling steps up to the side door, and the worn-thin letters on the shop window below the apartment, it seems like nobody could actually live here.

I move closer to my mom, who's clutching her vintage typewriter case in one hand and a bubble-gum pink travelling bag in the other. The sticker on the typewriter case displays her name in slanted letters—Emma Graves, USA Today Bestselling Author. Our Uber from the airport just pulled away, leaving us to our bleak new existence. In the distance, sirens ring out, sounding the alarm for what's probably a car accident a few blocks away on Main Street.

“Are we really moving in here?” I ask, shifting my backpack against my sweaty back. My choppy blond bangs stick to my forehead, but I'm grateful my hair is cropped in a short pixie cut, allowing the occasional breeze to brush my neck. The August sun bears down on us like we're in a desert, but the squalling of seagulls reminds me we're in the coastal city of Vancouver, Canada. Even if the Victorian-style buildings are blocking the view of the harbour, according to my mom, it's only a few blocks away.

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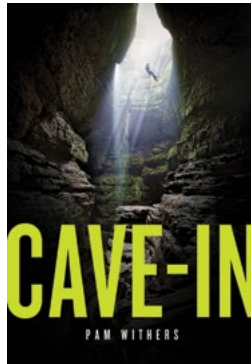
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Pam Withers is an award-winning speaker and author of 23 bestselling young-adult adventure novels. A sports-loving former journalist and outdoor guide, she's also a two-time Silver Nautilus Book Awards winner, three-time Ontario Library Association Red Maple Award nominee and founder of YAdudebooks.ca. She lives with her husband and cat in Vancouver and can be found at pamwithers.com.



CHAPTER 1

It's dark as tar ahead, and my hands and knees are throbbing from a long crawl through a short entrance tunnel. As the cave ceiling lowers, I drop to the ground and wriggle onward, gloved hands thrust forward like a swimmer doing the breaststroke. Jagged rocks scrape my elbows as my headlamp searches the inky blackness. The sound of huffing behind me reassures me that my friend Jett is keeping up.

"Hudson?" comes Jett's muffled voice.

"Yeah?"

"I'm frickin' stuck. Like, stuck solid." There's a waver of panic in his tone.

Directing a calm voice under my lifted armpit, I say, "No, you're not. You're temporarily detained."

"Seriously, I can't move forward. Need to try and back out."

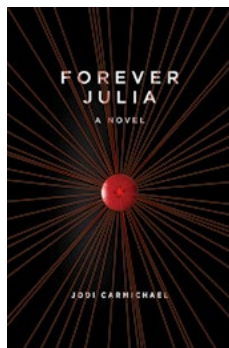
"Shouldn't've eaten that chocolate bar. Just hold still and do deep breaths." Given that panicked newbies can get an adrenaline surge that temporarily swells their body, I figure Jett just needs to calm himself.

"Huds! I'm telling you, I can't move."

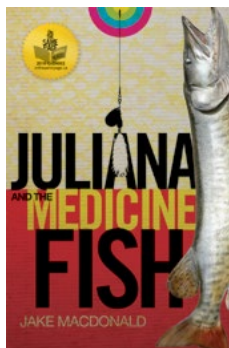
"Chill, Jett. Want me to squirt you with dish soap and pull?" An actual technique, but used only in serious rescues.



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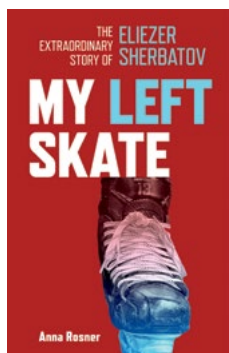
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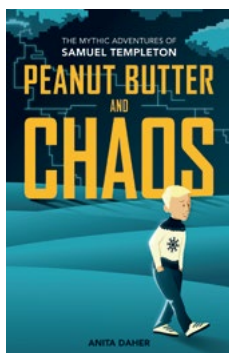
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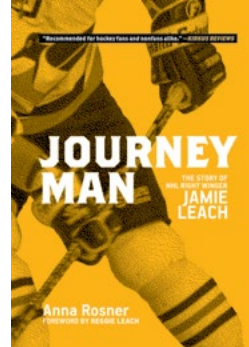
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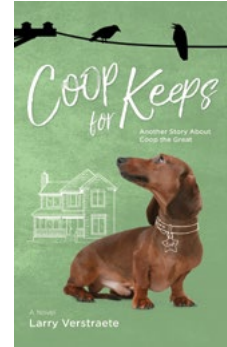
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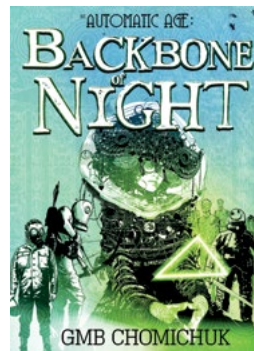
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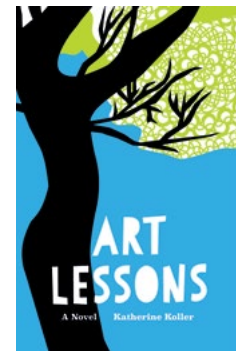
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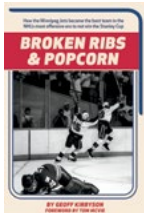
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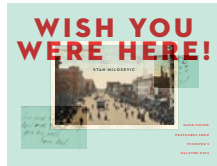
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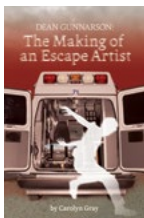
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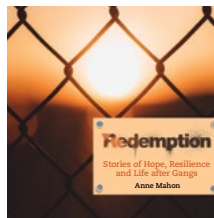
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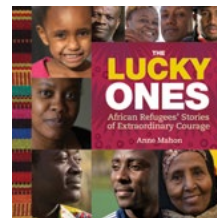
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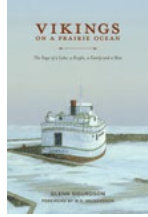
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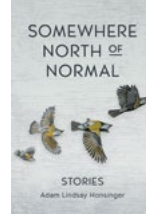
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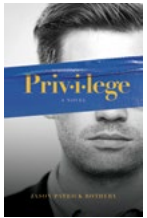


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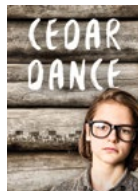
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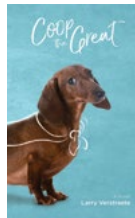
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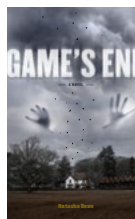
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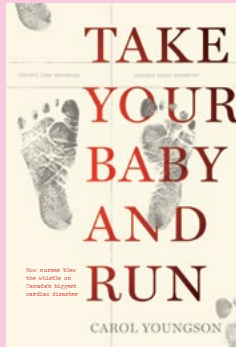
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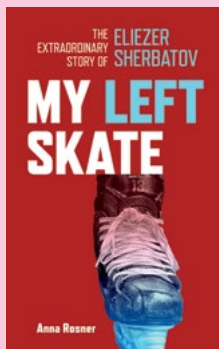
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