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Press

\*Fall/Winter Catalogue

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**BOOK\*HUG PRESS**

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Fiction Editor: Malcolm Sutton

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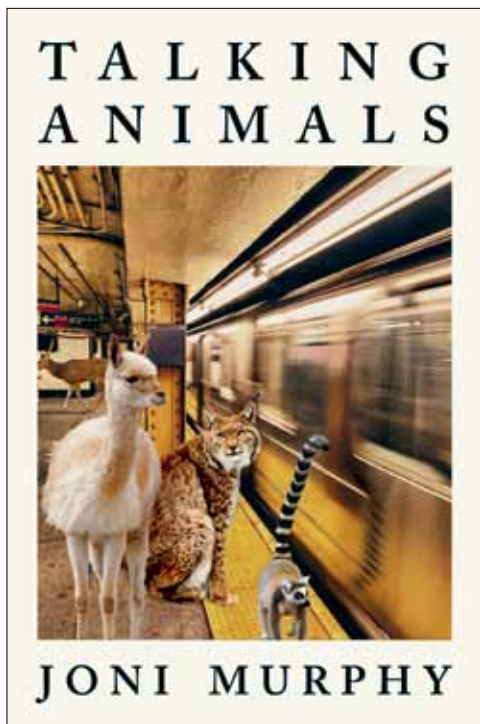
Catalogue cover by Gareth Lind / Lind Design

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Book\*hug Press acknowledges that the land on which we operate is the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples. We recognize the enduring presence of many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and are grateful for the opportunity to meet and work on this territory.

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## FRONTLIST FICTION



September 15, 2020 | Fiction  
 8x5.25 inches | 304 pages  
 Trade Paper: 9781771666053 | \$23.00  
 Author Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

## TALKING ANIMALS

Joni Murphy

*A fable for our times, Joni Murphy's Talking Animals takes place in an all-animal world where creatures rather like us are forced to deal with an all-too-familiar landscape of soul-crushing jobs, polluted oceans, and a creeping sense of doom.*

It's New York City, nowish. Lemurs brew espresso. Birds tend bar. There are bears on Wall Street, and a billionaire racehorse is mayor. Sea creatures are viewed with fear and disgust and there's chatter about building a wall to keep them out.

Alfonzo is a moody alpaca. His friend Mitchell is a sociable llama. They both work at City Hall, but their true passions are noise music and underground politics. Partly to meet girls, partly because the world might be ending, these lowly bureaucrats embark on an unlikely mission to expose the corrupt system that's destroying the city from within. Their project takes them from the city's bowels to its extremities, where they encounter the Sea Equality Revolutionary Front, who are either a group of dangerous radicals or an inspiring liberation movement.

In this novel, at last, nature kvetches and grieves, while talking animals offer us a kind of solace in the guise of dumb jokes. This is mass extinction as told by BoJack Horseman. This is *The Fantastic Mr. Fox* journeying through Kafka's *Amerika*. This is dogs and cats, living together. *Talking Animals* is an urgent allegory about friendship, art, and the elemental struggle to change one's life under the low ceiling of capitalism.

### Praise for Talking Animals:

"Joni Murphy's inventive and beautiful allegory depicts a city enmeshed in climate collapse, blinded to the signs of its imminent destruction by petty hatreds and monstrous greed: that is, the world we are living in now. *Talking Animals* is an Orwellian tale of totalitarianism in action, but the animals on this farm are much cuter, and they make better puns."

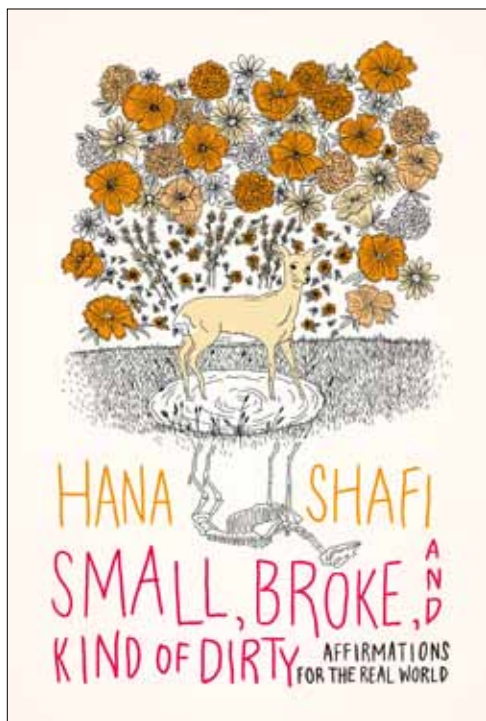
—Chris Kraus, author of *I Love Dick* and *After Kathy Acker*



PHOTO: ERIN DOWDING

Joni Murphy is a writer from New Mexico who lives in New York. Her debut novel *Double Teenage* was published by Book\*hug Press in 2016. It was named one of *The Globe and Mail's* 100 Best Books of the Year.

## FRONTLIST NONFICTION



## SMALL, BROKE, AND KIND OF DIRTY: AFFIRMATIONS FOR THE REAL WORLD

### Hana Shafi

Let's get one thing straight: *Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty: Affirmations for the Real World* is not a book of advice. You're not going to find a step-by-step guide to meditation here, or even reminders to drink lots of water and get enough sleep. Those things are all good for you, but that's not what Hana Shafi wants to talk about.

Instead, *Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty*—built around art from Shafi's popular online affirmation series—focuses on our common and never-ending journey of self-discovery. It explores the ways in which the world can all too often wear us down, and reminds us to remember our worth, even when it's hard to do so. Drawing on her experience as a millennial woman of colour, and writing with humour and a healthy dose of irreverence, Shafi delves into body politics and pop culture, racism and feminism, friendship and allyship. Through it all, she remains positive without being saccharine, and hopeful without being naive.

So no, this is not an advice book: it's a call to action, one that asks us to remember that we are valid as we are—flaws and all—and to not let the bastards grind us down.

### Praise for *Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty*:

"Hana revisits her wildly popular and comforting affirmations, stretching them out into tender coming-of-age stories and pointed social reflections. With her brash wit and honesty on display, this is the book that Frizz Kid/Hana Shafi fans (and new fans) have been waiting for."

—Vivek Shraya, author of *I'm Afraid of Men* and *The Subtweet*



PHOTO: DYLAN VAN DEN BERGE

Hana Shafi (a.k.a. Frizz Kid) is a writer and artist. Her visual art and writing frequently explores themes such as feminism, body politics, racism, and pop culture. Her first book, *It Begins with the Body*, was listed by CBC as one of the Best Poetry Books of 2018. A graduate of Ryerson University's Journalism Program, she has published articles in *The Walrus*, *Hazlitt*, *THIS Magazine*, and *Torontoist*, and has been featured on Buzzfeed, CBC, and in *Flare*, *Shameless*, and *The New York Times*. Known on Instagram for her weekly affirmation series, Shafi is the recipient of the 2017 Women Who Inspire Award, from the Canadian Council for Muslim Women. Born in Dubai, Shafi immigrated with her family to Mississauga, Ontario, in 1996. She lives and works in Toronto.



## FRONTLIST POETRY



## THE BONES ARE THERE

### Kate Sutherland

Zigzagging across the globe, Kate Sutherland's fourth book is poetry by way of collage: pieced-together excerpts from travellers' journals, ships' logs, textbooks and manuals, individual testimony, even fairy and folk tales that tell stories of extinction—of various species, and of our own understanding of, and culpability within, its process. Across its three sections, Sutherland draws identifiable connections between various animal extinctions and human legacies of imperialism, colonialism, capitalism, and misogyny, charting the ways in which they juxtapose one another while impacting the natural order of things.

As much as it is a critique of humanity's disastrous effects on this world, *The Bones Are There* is also a celebration of such incredible creatures, all sadly lost to us. It honours their memory by demanding accountability and encouraging resistance, so that we might stave off future irrevocable loss and preserve what wonders that remain.

October 13, 2020 | Poetry  
8.75x5.75 inches | 112 pages  
Trade Paper: 9781771666251 | \$18.00  
Author Hometown: Toronto, ON

#### Praise for *How to Draw a Rhinoceros*:

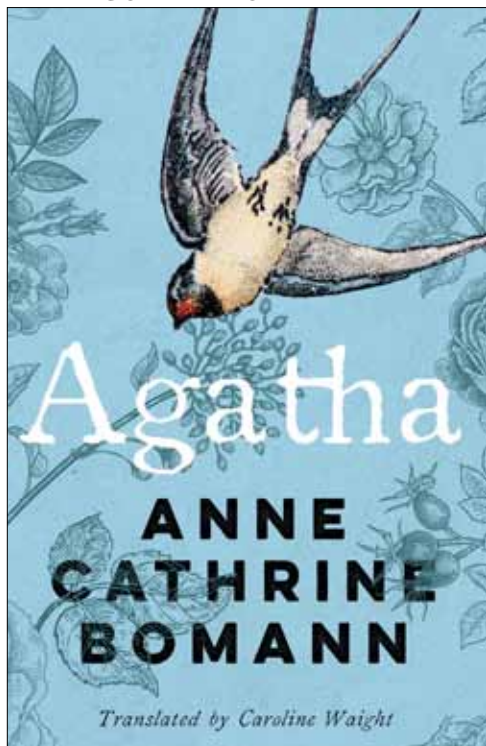
"Sutherland takes bits and pieces of the journals, diaries, etc. of various travellers, naturalists, menagerists, and zoo keepers of the time to create something akin to found poems with a distinctly modern political bent." —Saskatoon StarPhoenix



PHOTO: ERIC BRIDENBAKER

Kate Sutherland was born in Scotland, immigrated to Canada as a child, and grew up in Saskatoon. She studied first at the University of Saskatchewan, then at Harvard Law School. She is the author of two collections of short stories, *Summer Reading* (winner, Saskatchewan Book Award for Best First Book) and *All in Together Girls*, and the poetry collection, *How to Draw a Rhinoceros* (shortlisted for a Creative Writing Book Award by the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment). Her stories and poems have appeared in various magazines and anthologies including *Best Canadian Poetry* and *Best American Experimental Writing*. She has done residencies at Hawthornden Castle in Scotland and at the Leighton Artist Studios in Banff. She lives in Toronto where she is a professor and conducts research in the fields of Tort Law, Feminist Legal Theory, and Law and Literature at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University.

COVER NOT FINAL



Literature in Translation Series  
September 29, 2020 | Fiction  
8x5.25 inches | 154 pages  
Trade Paper: 9781771666459 | \$23.00  
Author Hometown: Copenhagen, DK  
Translator Hometown: London, UK



PHOTO: DIANA JUNCHER

## AGATHA

Anne Cathrine Bomann

Translated by Caroline Waight

**THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER**

A psychiatrist is counting down toward his upcoming retirement. He lives alone in his childhood home and has neither friends nor family.

Often, he resorts to drawing bird caricatures of his patients instead of taking notes. His social life consists of brief conversations with his meticulous secretary, Madame Surrugue, who has reigned over the clinic for more than thirty years. The two of them have no relationship outside the office, where everything runs smoothly and uneventfully.

Until one day, that is, when a young German woman called Agatha arrives and demands to see the doctor, and he soon realizes that underneath her fragile exterior is a strong and fascinating woman. The doctor and Agatha embark upon a course of therapy together, a process that forces the doctor to confront his fear of true intimacy outside the clinic. But is it too late to reconsider your existence as a seventy-one-year-old?

### Praise for *Agatha*:

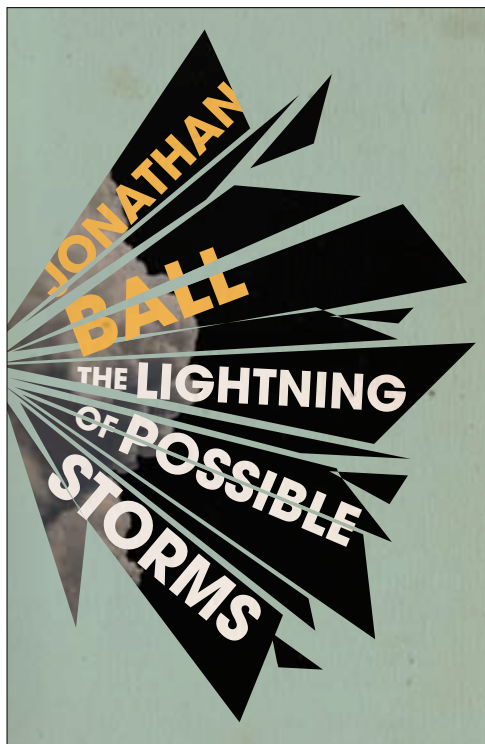
“Charming, funny and packed with insight.”  
—*Irish Times*

“This short, uplifting book brings us a more fully-realised character than most authors could manage with three times the room, and some painfully hard-won moments of genuine human contact in an arid life.” —*The National*

Anne Cathrine Bomann lives in Copenhagen, where she divides her time between writing and working as a psychologist. She also played table tennis for Denmark and won the national championship twelve times. *Agatha* is her debut novel, following two poetry collections. First published in Denmark, it became a word-of-mouth success and has now been translated into twenty-three languages.

Caroline Waight is an award-winning literary translator working from Danish and German. Recent publications include *The Invention of Ana*, *The Chestnut Man*, and *The Gravediggers*, forthcoming from Profile in 2020.

## FICTION



### THE LIGHTNING OF POSSIBLE STORMS Jonathan Ball

Aleya's world starts to unravel after a café customer leaves behind a collection of short stories. Surprised and disturbed to discover that it has been dedicated to her, Aleya delves into the strange book...

A mad scientist seeks to steal his son's dreams. A struggling writer, skilled only at destruction, finds himself courted by Hollywood. A woman seeks to escape her body and live inside her dreams. Citizens panic when a new city block manifests out of nowhere. The personification of capitalism strives to impress his cutthroat boss.

The more Aleya reads, the deeper she sinks into the mysterious writer's work, and the less real the world around her seems. Soon, she's overwhelmed as a new, more terrifying existence takes hold.

Jonathan Ball's first collection of short fiction blends humour and horror, doom and daylight, offering myriad possible storms.

#### Praise for Jonathan Ball:

"Ball is not only a virtuoso of language and form, but a virtuoso of our present moment, exploring how we are entwined in words and history and how we find ourselves here and now, surrounded by ourselves and our words."

—Gary Barwin, Scotiabank Giller Prize-shortlisted author of *Yiddish for Pirates*



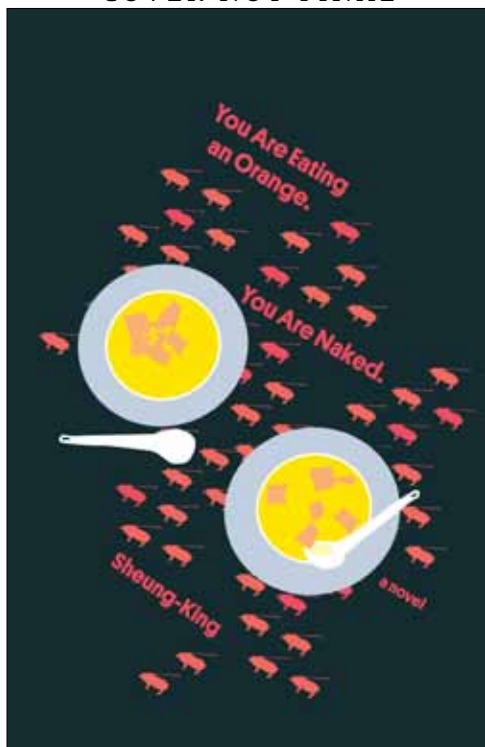
PHOTO: MICHAEL SANDERS

Jonathan Ball is the author of eight books, including *Ex Machina*, *Clockfire*, and *The National Gallery*. He lives in Winnipeg and has won many awards, including a Manitoba Book Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer. He hosts *Writing the Wrong Way*, the podcast for writers who strive to be bold and readers who crave something new. Visit him at [www.jonathanball.com](http://www.jonathanball.com).



## FICTION

COVER NOT FINAL



## YOU ARE EATING AN ORANGE. YOU ARE NAKED.

**Sheung-King**

A young translator living in Toronto frequently travels abroad—to Hong Kong, Macau, Prague, Tokyo—often with his unnamed lover. In restaurants and hotel rooms, the couple begin telling folk tales to each other, perhaps as a way to fill the undefined space between them. Theirs is a comic and enigmatic relationship in which emotions are often muted and sometimes masked by verbal play and philosophical questions, and further complicated by the woman's frequent unexplained disappearances.

*You Are Eating an Orange. You Are Naked.* is an intimate novel of memory and longing that challenges Western tropes and Orientalism. Embracing the playful surrealism of Haruki Murakami and the atmospheric narratives of filmmaker Wong Kar-wai, Sheung-King's debut is at once lyrical and punctuated, and wholly unique, and marks the arrival of a bold new voice in Asian-Canadian literature.

### **Praise for *You Are Eating an Orange. You Are Naked.*:**

"Sheung-King has written a wonderfully unexpected and maverick love story but also a novel of ideas that hopscotches between Toronto, Macau, Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Prague. It is enchanting, funny, and a joy to read."

—Kyo Maclear, author of *Birds Art Life*

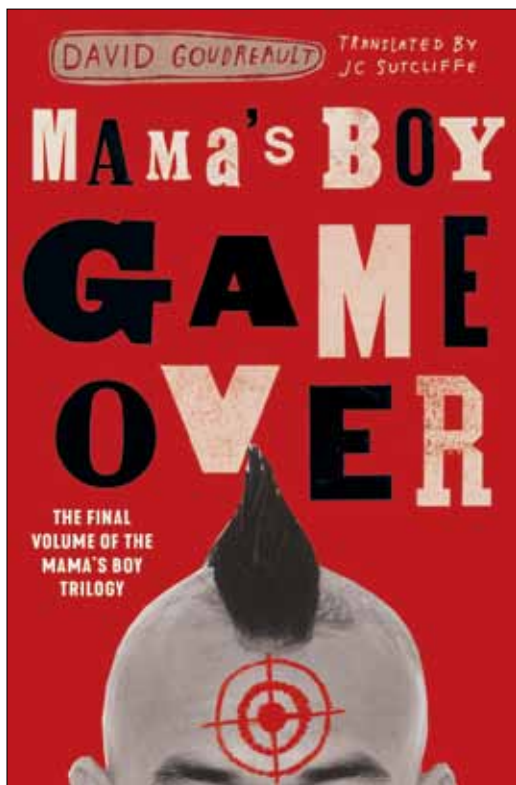
October 27, 2020 | Fiction  
8x5.25 inches | 240 pages  
Trade Paper: 9781771666411 | \$20.00  
Author Hometown: Toronto, ON



PHOTO: MAARI SUGAWARA

Sheung-King is a writer and educator. His work has appeared in *PRISM International*, *The Shanghai Literary Review*, and *The Humber Literary Review*, among others. He is currently a lecturer at the University of Guelph and Sheridan College. *You Are Eating an Orange. You Are Naked.* is Sheung-King's debut book. Originally from Hong Kong, he lives in Toronto.





## MAMA'S BOY: GAME OVER

David Goudreault

Translated by JC Sutcliffe

*At the end of this story I'm going to kill myself. And then die. That's the way it is. All good things must come to an end, including me.*

*Mama's Boy: Game Over* is the third and final book in David Goudreault's bleakly comic bestselling *Mama's Boy* trilogy. *Mama's Boy* has been transferred from prison to a psychiatric hospital. He manages to escape, and goes on the run in Montreal, hiding in plain sight.

In his short but eventful life, *Mama's Boy* has already managed to achieve most of his ambitions: fame, fatherhood, and friendship, at least in his own rather skewed perspective. But one goal remains: tracking down and reuniting with his estranged mother. By turns poignant and deeply uncomfortable, *Mama's Boy's* final journey is a wild, desperate bid for freedom, love, and family.

### Praise for *Mama's Boy*:

"David Goudreault will captivate you from the first line!"  
—Kim Thuy, author of *Vi* and *Ru*

Literature in Translation Series  
November 10, 2020 | Fiction  
8x5.25 inches | 280 pages  
Trade Paper: 9781771666176 | \$20.00  
Author Hometown: Sherbrooke, QC  
Translator Hometown: Peterborough, ON



PHOTO: JOCELYN REINDEAU

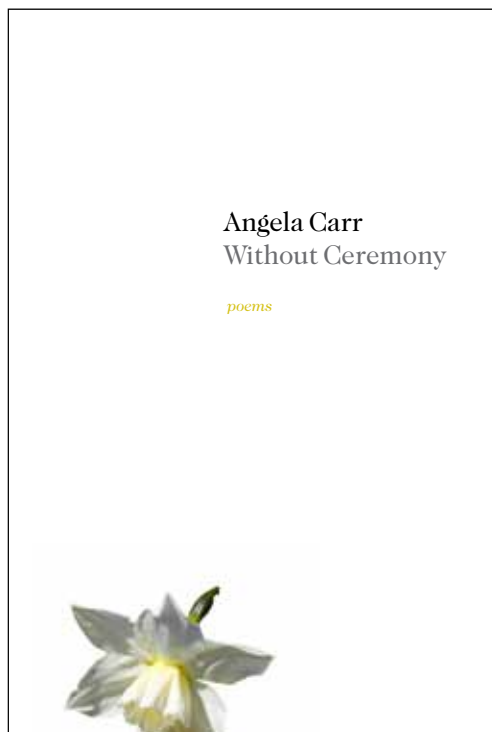
David Goudreault is a Québécois novelist, poet, columnist, and social worker. He is the author of the bestselling *La Bête* trilogy, which includes *La Bête à sa mère* (*Mama's Boy*, Book\*hug, 2018), *La Bête et sa cage* (*Mama's Boy Behind Bars*, Book\*hug, 2019), and *Abattre la bête* (*Mama's Boy: Game Over*, Book\*hug, 2020). He has also published three poetry collections. His latest novel is *Ta mort à moi*. He was the first person from Quebec to win the Poetry World Cup in Paris (2011), and he has also received many other awards, including the Médaille de l'Assemblée Nationale (2012), the Prix des Nouvelles Voix de la Littérature (2016), the Prix de la ville de Sherbrooke (2016), the Grand Prix Littéraire Archambault (2016), and the Prix Lèvres Urbaines (2017). His work has been published internationally in France and Mexico. Goudreault lives in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

JC Sutcliffe is a writer, translator, and editor who has lived in England, France, and Canada. She has reviewed books for the *Times Literary Supplement*, *The Globe and Mail*, and the *National Post*, among others. Her recent translations include *Mama's Boy* and *Mama's Boy Behind Bars* by David Goudreault, *Document 1* by François Blais, and *Worst Case, We Get Married* by Sophie Bienvenu.

## POETRY

## WITHOUT CEREMONY

### Angela Carr



Centred on the everyday, and crafted without preamble or pretension, the poems in *Without Ceremony* are a literary pastiche—a thematic mosaic not unlike tracks on an album. Amidst a timeless cast of characters from Lucretius and Eva Hesse to Joan Mitchell and St. Augustine, Carr illuminates what it means to truly know something and questions how certain knowledge becomes valued over others. *Without Ceremony* spotlights the gendered division of ideas and the inherent strength of language to harm and oppress, as well as elevate. Within these pages, passing encounters become rare spectacles, and the ordinary, without ambitions of grandeur or ceremony, is celebrated, making Carr's new collection a clarifying elixir for our time.

#### Praise for Angela Carr:

"Carr achieves an exquisite balance of sensual fleshiness, confession, and conceptual abstraction."

—*The Globe and Mail*

"Carr makes texts, bodies, and buildings pliable."

—*Canadian Literature*

October 15, 2020 | Poetry  
8.75x5.75 inches | 96 pages  
Trade Paper: 9781771666299 | \$18.00  
Author Hometown: New York, NY



PHOTO: JIYANG CHEN

Angela Carr is the author of three previous poetry collections, including *Here in There* (shortlisted for the A. M. Klein Prize for Poetry), *The Rose Concordance*, and *Ropewalk* (shortlisted for the McAuslan First Book Prize). Angela has also translated poetry books by Nicole Brossard (*Ardour*) and Chantal Neveu (*Coït*). She studied Creative Writing and Literature at Concordia University in Montreal, and later earned a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Montreal. She currently resides in New York City, where she teaches Literary Studies at the New School University.

## POETRY

## PROPOSITIONS AND PRAYERS

Lise Downe



*Propositions and Prayers*, Lise Downe's first book of poetry in nine years, is a collection in two parts: "Propositions" is a series of short poems-as-possibilities, structured by the compression of images and voices to convey an urgency through degrees of incoherence; "Prayers" explores living and language as acts of devotion.

These poems blur the boundaries between inner and outer experiences of the self, often subverting expectations and habit in their deconstruction of structure and style. It beautifully portrays humanity's myriad complexities: our various moods and observations, the unpredictable trajectories of our lives—uncertainty, wonder, and surprise, all.

**Praise for Lise Downe:**

"In these tiny elevators, Lise Downe's tangents tighten. Context awash. Devious decorum. Quick music in cameo. Or sentences that roll down through stanzas, as we take the stairs, blind, but reassured by a careful delight in the oddities of talk. Grand."

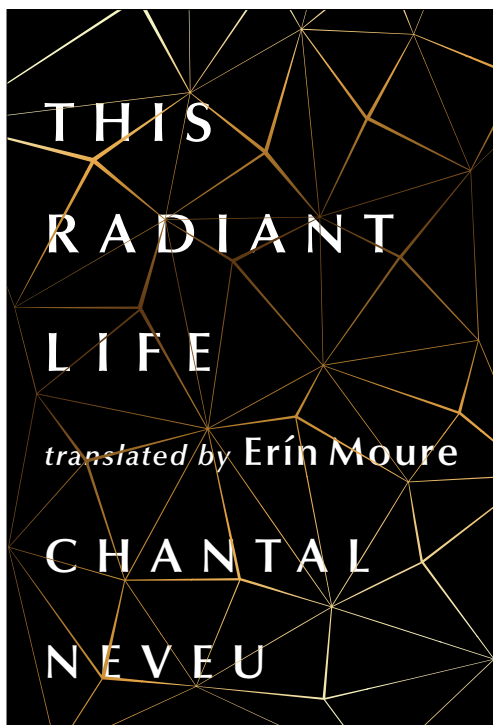
—Phil Hall

November 17, 2020 | Poetry  
8.75x5.75 inches | 112 pages  
Trade Paper: 9781771666374 | \$18.00  
Author Hometown: Toronto, ON



PHOTO: TRISTAN DOWNE-DEWDNEY

Lise Downe is the author of four previous collections of poetry: *A Velvet Increase of Curiosity* (1993), *The Soft Signature* (1997), *Disturbances of Progress* (2002), and *This Way* (2011). Lise also studied painting, printmaking, and jewellery design for many years. Originally from London, Ontario, Lise lives and works in Toronto.



## THIS RADIANT LIFE

Chantal Neveu

Translated by Erin Moure

In this stunning long poem, Chantal Neveu draws from the lexicons of science, art, revolution, and corporeal movement to forge intense and extended rhythms that invoke the elements and spaces making up our world. This is poetry capable of holding life and death, solidarity and love. Renewal. Breathing.

In its brevity and persistence, *This Radiant Life* is a material call for action: it asks us to let go, even just a little bit, of our individuality in favour of mutuality, to arrive separately yet in unison at a radiance in which all living beings can thrive.

### Praise for *This Radiant Life*:

"In this trans-collaboration, words reciprocate the speed and spaces on the perimeter of public sensibility. Each turn of the page carries an echo of isolate light, the answer to what happens next." —Fred Wah

"Powerfully embodied and chiselled by Chantal Neveu and deftly and intricately translated by Erin Moure, *This Radiant Life* is urgent, alive, and absolutely present." —Oana Avasilichioaei

Chantal Neveu is the author of five books of poetry, including *La vie radieuse*; *coït* (Coït, Book\*hug); *mentale*, *Une spectaculaire influence* (A Spectacular Influence, Book\*hug), and *èdres* (É=É). She has created numerous interdisciplinary literary works, presented in Canada and abroad. Her work has appeared in many magazines and anthologies: *Cyclages/Grupmuv*, *Espaces de savoir*, *Laboratoire parcellaire*. She has held residencies at Maison de la poésie de Nantes (France), Passa Porta and Villa Hellebosch (Belgium), and Villa Waldberta (Germany). Neveu lives in Montreal.

Erin Moure has published over forty books, including poetry, essays, memoir, and translations/co-translations from French, Spanish, Galician, Portuguese, Portuguese, and Ukrainian. Recent translations: *In Leaf* by Rosalía de Castro, *The Uplands: Book of the Courel* by Uxío Novoneyra, and *Sleepless Nights Under Capitalism* by Juan Gelman. Moure holds two honorary doctorates from universities in Canada and Spain, was a 2017 Creative Fellow at Harvard's Woodberry Poetry Room, and the 2019 International Translator in Residence at Queen's College, Oxford. Moure lives in Montreal.

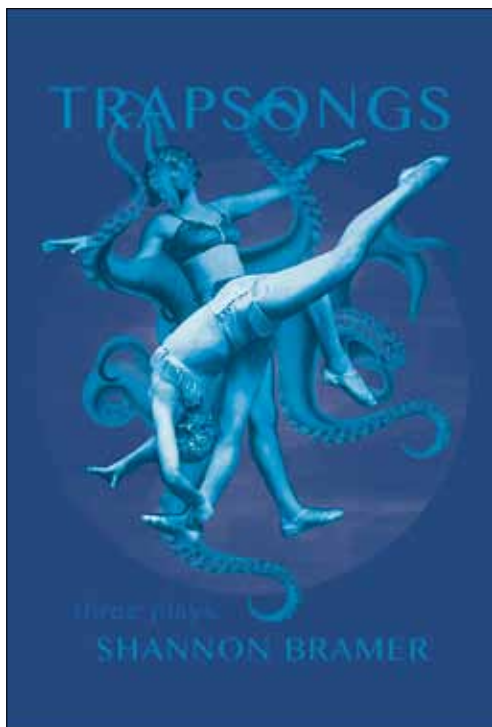
November 19, 2020 | Poetry  
7.75x5.25 inches | 210 pages  
Trade Paper: 9781771666336 | \$20.00  
Author Hometown: Montreal, QC  
Translator Hometown: Montreal, QC



PHOTO: MARC-OLIVIER BÉCOTTE



## D R A M A



## TRAPSONGS: THREE PLAYS

### Shannon Bramer

From playwright and poet Shannon Bramer comes *Trapsongs*, a collection of three dark comedies that navigate the realm of the surreal and absurd.

In *Monarita*, an intimate friendship between Mona, a frazzled new mother, and Rita, her beloved, estranged friend, is explored. Their interaction is a dance—part ballet, part mud fight. In *The Collectors*, Hanna Parson is harassed by three ghastly collection agents who force her to confront her debt and isolation as she struggles to create meaningful art in her dishevelled apartment. And in the tragicomedy *The Hungriest Woman in the World*, Aimee, a former artist, invites her preoccupied, workaholic husband, Robert, to the theatre to see a play about a sad octopus. His refusal sends her on a dark and playful journey into the topsy-turvy world of theatre itself.

*Trapsongs* is by turns comedic, grotesque, and profane, but is all the while a tender exploration of the human condition in all its hilarious and humbling glory. Although each of these plays is a discrete creation, they contain and hold each other like a matryoshka doll; all of the main characters are trapped within the song of their own lives.

#### Praise for Shannon Bramer:

“Bramer’s writing for the stage is magical. It slips the bounds of the real while being so real. What happens to the characters happens to us; we become them.”

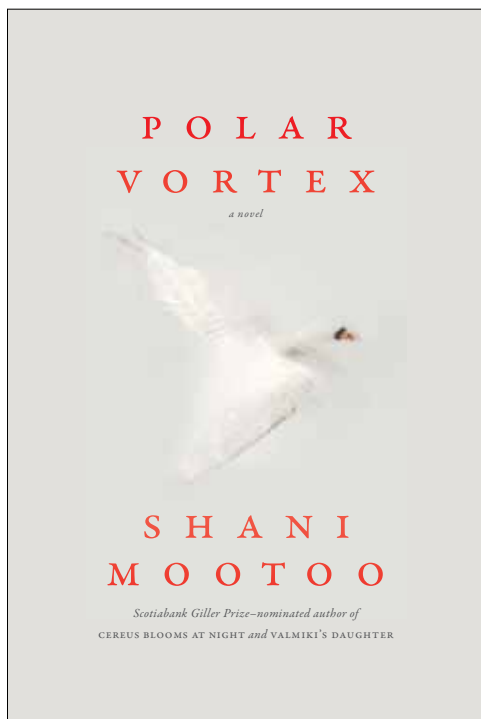
—Karen Connelly



PHOTO: LINDA MARIE STELLA

Shannon Bramer was born in Hamilton, Ontario, and now lives in Toronto. She is a playwright and poet who writes books for human beings of all ages. She is the author of *suitcases and other poems* (winner, Hamilton and Region Best Book Award), *scarf*, *The Refrigerator Memory*, *Precious Energy*, and *Climbing Shadows: Poems for Children*, illustrated by Cindy Derby. Shannon also conducts poetry workshops in schools and is the editor of *Think City: The Poems of Gracefield Public School*. Her plays (*Monarita*, *The Collectors*, and *The Hungriest Woman in the World*) have appeared in juried festivals across the country, among them: New Ideas (Toronto), the Women’s Work Festival (St. John’s), and Sarasvati FemFest (Winnipeg). Shannon’s plays have all been developed in St. John’s, Newfoundland, thanks to the Women’s Work Festival, where she has returned with a new script-in-progress five times since 2009.

## RECENTLY RELEASED FICTION



March 3, 2020 | Fiction  
 8x5.25 inches | 286 pages  
 Paperback: 9781771665643 \$23.00  
 Author Hometown: Prince Edward  
 County, ON

## POLAR VORTEX

### Shani Mootoo

*Some secrets never die...*

Priya and Alexandra have moved from the city to a picturesque countryside town. What Alex doesn't know is that in moving, Priya is running from her past—from a fraught relationship with an old friend, Prakash, who pursued her for many years, both online and off. Time has passed, however, and Priya, confident that her ties to Prakash have been successfully severed, decides it's once more safe to establish an online presence. In no time, Prakash discovers Priya online and contacts her. Impulsively, inexplicably, Priya invites him to visit her and Alex in the country, without ever having come clean with Alex about their relationship—or its tumultuous end. Prakash's sudden arrival at their home reveals cracks in Priya and Alex's relationship and brings into question Priya's true intentions.

Seductive and tension-filled, *Polar Vortex* is a story of secrets, deceptions, and revenge. It asks readers: Are we ever free from our pasts? Do we deserve to be?

#### Praise for *Polar Vortex*:

"A powerfully unsettling work from a brilliant artist."  
 —Madeleine Thien, Scotiabank Giller Prize-winning author of *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*

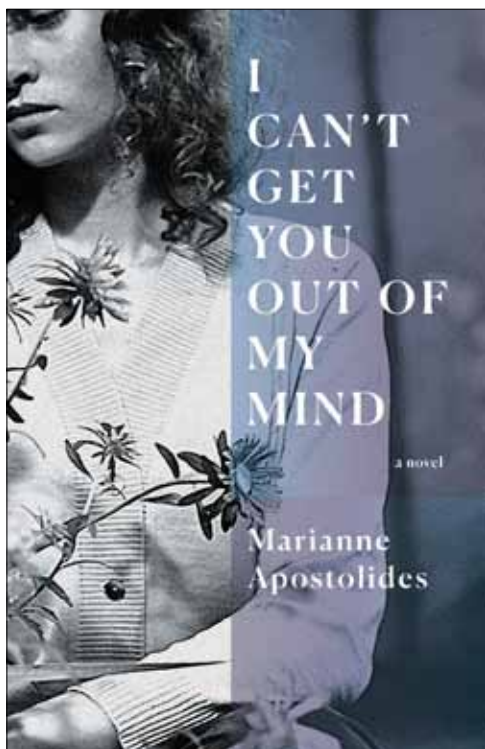
"*Polar Vortex* is an honest, but also moving, exploration of true intimacy."  
 —Amitava Kumar, author of *Immigrant, Montana*



PHOTO: RAMESH POORAN

Shani Mootoo was born in Ireland, grew up in Trinidad, and lives in Canada. She holds an MA in English from the University of Guelph, writes fiction and poetry, and is a visual artist whose work has been exhibited locally and internationally. Mootoo's critically acclaimed novels include *Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab*, *Valmiki's Daughter*, *He Drown She in the Sea*, and *Cereus Blooms at Night*. She is a recipient of the K. M. Hunter Artist Award, a Chalmers Arts Fellowship, and the James Duggins Mid-Career Novelist Award from the Lambda Literary Awards. Her work has been longlisted and shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the International DUBLIN Literary Award, and the Booker Prize. She lives in Prince Edward County, Ontario.

## RECENTLY RELEASED FICTION



## I CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF MY MIND

Marianne Apostolides

*What does it mean to say "I love you"?*

Ariadne is a single, fortysomething writer and mother embroiled in an affair with a married man. At the core of her current manuscript, a book about the declaration of love, is the need to understand why: why her lover has returned to his wife, why their relationship still lingers in her mind, why she's unable to conquer her longing. To make ends meet while writing, she joins a research study in which she's paid to live with an AI device called Dirk.

But the study quickly enters uncharted territory. Capable of mapping Ariadne's brain—and, to some extent, reading her mind—Dirk calls into question issues of both privacy and consciousness: how we communicate our thoughts to others, what it means to embody our desires, and whether we ought to act on them.

### **Praise for *I Can't Get You Out of My Head*:**

"A provocative, stimulating novel."  
—*Quill and Quire*

"Apostolides has established herself as a writer who takes on the most intimate, perverse, and complicated elements of human desire fearlessly and intellectually. She has a slightly terrifying ability to ride the most emotionally charged idea to its devastating conclusion."

—*Canadian Notes & Queries*



Marianne Apostolides is the author of seven books, three of which have been translated. She's a two-time recipient of a Chalmers Arts Fellowship and winner of the 2017 K. M. Hunter Award for Literature. Born in suburban New York, Marianne lives in Toronto. Find her online at [marianne-apostolides.com](http://marianne-apostolides.com) and on Instagram @ [marianne\\_apostolides](https://www.instagram.com/marianne_apostolides).

PHOTO: JORJAS PHOTOGRAPHY



## RECENTLY RELEASED NONFICTION



### WHERE THINGS TOUCH: A MEDITATION ON BEAUTY Bahar Orang

*To devote oneself to the study of beauty is to offer footnotes to the universe for all the places and all the moments that one observes beauty. I can no longer grab beauty by her wrists and demand articulation or meaning. I can only take account of where things touch.*

Part lyric essay, part prose poetry, *Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty* grapples with the manifold meanings and possibilities of beauty. Drawing on her experiences as a physician-in-training, Orang considers clinical encounters and how they relate to the concept of beauty. Such considerations lead her to questions about intimacy, queerness, home, memory, love, and other aspects of human experience. Eloquent and meditative in its approach, this book conceives of beauty as a thing to recover.

*Where Things Touch* is an exploration of an essential human pleasure, a necessary freedom by which to challenge what we know of ourselves and the world we inhabit.

ESSAIS SERIES NO. 10

#### NEW RELEASE DATE:

August 11, 2020 | Nonfiction

7.75x4.75 inches | 96 pages

Trade Paper: 9781771665698 \$20.00

Author Hometown: Toronto, ON

#### Praise for *Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty*:

"These explorations are insightful, incisive and beautiful—and yes, touching."

—Gary Barwin, Scotiabank Giller Prize-shortlisted author of *Yiddish for Pirates*

"Orang guides us with heart-centred intelligence in this beautiful and wise book."

—Shazia Hafiz Ramji, author of the award-winning *Port of Being*

"Variably paced, with a vibrant feminist subjectivity, Orang's debut is worthy of its subject, devising 'new shapes for intimacy, new words for care.' An incredible work."

—Shane Neilson, author of *Complete Physical* and *New Brunswick*



PHOTO: MEL MIKHAIL

Bahar Orang is a writer and physician-in-training living in Toronto. She has a BSc from McMaster University and an MA in Comparative Literature from the University of Toronto. She completed her MD at McMaster University, and is now completing specialty training in psychiatry in Toronto. Her poetry and essays have been published in such places as *GUTS*, *Hamilton Arts & Letters*, *CMAJ*, and *Ars Medica*. *Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty* is her first book. Follow Bahar on Twitter @baharoh.



## RECENTLY RELEASED FICTION

**THE NEPTUNE ROOM****Bertrand Laverdure****Translated by Oana Avasilichioaei**

Sandrine's parents are dead—or they're about to be. Her father, certainly; her mother, not quite yet. Alone and suffering from an incurable disease, the eleven-year-old girl finds companionship in her doctor, Tiresias, who morphologically changes sex in unpredictable ways and seemingly without anyone noticing.

*The Neptune Room*, a melancholic tale about the mysteries of identity and the power dynamics associated with it, opens a door onto a universe of agonies: the long agony of an entire civilization and, microscopically, the spectrum of pain experienced by a young girl and those around her. Voicing anguish and perpetual mourning, *The Neptune Room* is a poetic novel, at once artful and compassionate, kaleidoscopic in its chronology, and resoundingly sombre. It is about change, great and small, and all the little deaths along the way—both public and private.

**Praise for *Readopolis*, winner of the 2017 Governor General's Literary Award for Translation:**

"*Readopolis* is a stylistically ebullient interrogation of the effect that literature has on the readers who consume it."

—Quill and Quire

## LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION SERIES

**NEW RELEASE DATE:**

August 18, 2020 | Fiction

8x5.25 inches | 280 pages

Trade Paper: 9781771665810 \$20.00

Author Hometown: Montreal, QC

Translator Hometown: Montreal, QC



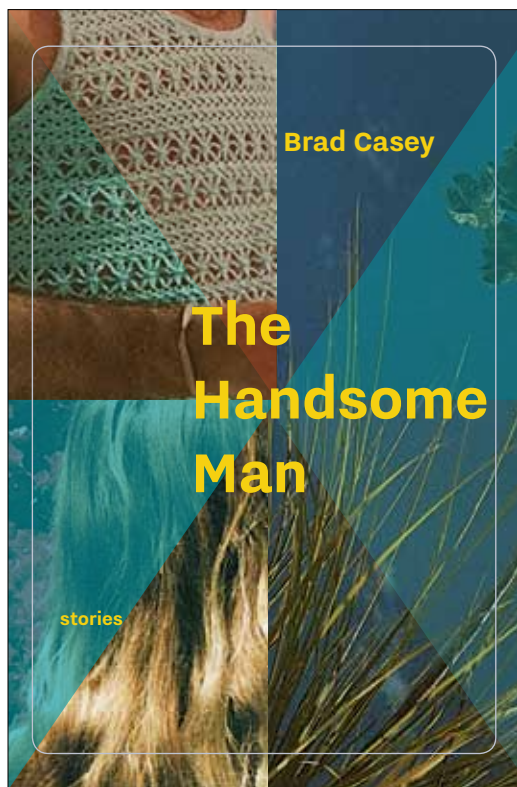
PHOTO: PASCAL LYSAUGHT

PHOTO: PAM DICK

Montreal-based Bertrand Laverdure is a poet, novelist, and literary performer. He has published six novels, including *Universal Bureau of Copyrights* (2014) and *Readopolis* (2017, winner, Governor General's Literary Award for Translation), both translated by Oana Avasilichioaei. His many poetry publications include *Cascadeuse* (2013) and *Sept et demi* (2007). He was awarded the Joseph S. Stauffer Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts (1999) and the Rina Lasnier Prize for Poetry (2003) for *Les forêts* (2000). He was a literary chronicler on MATv and CIBL Radio, and Poet Laureate of Montreal from 2015 to 2017.

Montreal-based poet, translator, and artist Oana Avasilichioaei has published six poetry collections, including *Eight Track* (2019), *Liminal* (2015), and *We, Beasts* (2012, winner, A. M. Klein Prize for Poetry). She has translated eight books of poetry and prose, including Catherine Lalonde's *The Faerie Devouring* (2018, winner, Cole Foundation Prize for Translation), Bertrand Laverdure's *Readopolis* (2017, winner, Governor General's Literary Award for Translation), and Daniel Canty's *Wigrum* (2013). For more on Oana, visit [www.oanalab.com](http://www.oanalab.com).

## RECENTLY RELEASED FICTION



## THE HANDSOME MAN

Brad Casey

When life is upended, what do you do? Do you remain as you were, trapped in a form of stasis? Or do you accept your losses and move forward? These questions and more are at the heart of *The Handsome Man*.

These linked stories follow several years in the life of a young man as he is drawn around the world: from Toronto to Montreal, New York, Ohio, New Mexico, British Columbia, Berlin, Rome, and Northern Ontario, along the way meeting hippies, healers, drinkers, movie stars, old friends, and welcoming strangers. He isn't travelling, however; he's running away. But as far and fast as he runs, the world won't let him disappear, and each new encounter and every lost soul he meets along this journey brings him closer and closer to certain truths he'd locked away: how to trust, how to live in this world, and, most of all, how to love again.

### Praise for *The Handsome Man*:

"I admire the emotional openness, tenderness, and deeply uncynical tone of *The Handsome Man*, a novel-in-stories that feels unlike anything else I've read recently. Brad Casey's fiction debut is a gem that celebrates little blips of happiness and small, elusive moments of genuine human connection."

—Guillaume Morissette, author of *New Tab* and *The Original Face*

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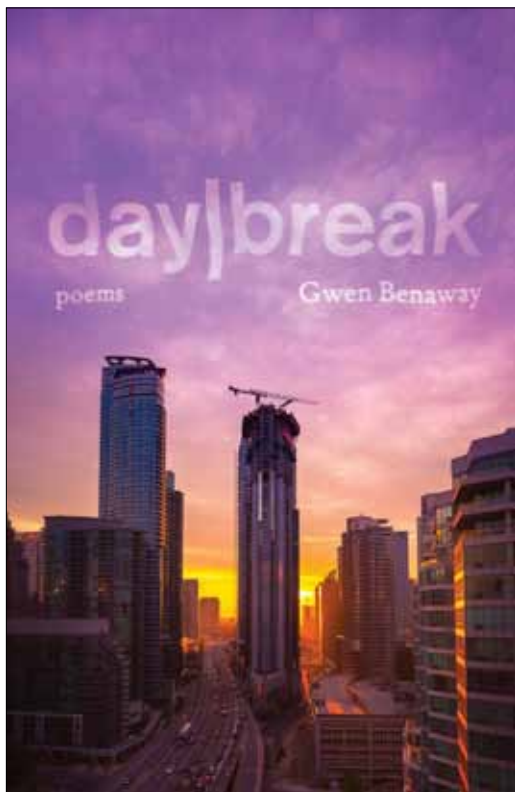
—bill bissett



PHOTO: ARDEN WRAY

Brad Casey is a Toronto-based writer and photographer. His debut book of poetry, *The Idiot on Fire*, was published in 2016. He is a former staff writer for VICE, and has had numerous articles published internationally and in dozens of languages. In 2014 he founded and was editor in chief of the limited-run literary journal *The 4 Poets*. His writing has appeared in *Hobart*, *Peach Mag*, *The Puritan*, *BAD NUDES*, *GlitterMOB*, and more. He has organized reading events and performed his work in Toronto, Montreal, New York, Los Angeles, Berlin, and Gothenburg. *The Handsome Man* is his first work of fiction. Find Brad online at [bradcasey.com](http://bradcasey.com), on Instagram @bradcaseyforever, and on Twitter @bradcasey4evr.

## RECENTLY RELEASED POETRY



### **day/break**

by Gwen Benaway

*day/break*, poet Gwen Benaway's fourth collection of work, explores the everyday poetics of the trans feminine body. Through intimate experiences and conceptualizations of trans life, *day/break* asks what it means to be a trans woman, both within the text and out in the physical world.

Shifting between theory and poetry, Benaway questions how gender, sexuality, and love intersect with the violence and transmisogyny of the nation state and established literary institutions. In beautiful lyric verse, *day/break* reveals the often-unseen other worlds of trans life, where body, self, and sex are transformed, becoming more than fixed binary locations.

"How lucky are we to be reading in the time of Gwen Benaway!"

—Billy-Ray Belcourt, award-winning author of *NDN Coping Mechanisms*

**April 2, 2020 | Poetry**

**8.75x5.75 inches | 104pp**

**Paperback: ISBN 9781771665735 \$20.00**

**Author Hometown: Toronto, ON**



### **Nought**

by Julie Joosten

*Nought*, a new collection of poetry from Governor General's Literary Award finalist Julie Joosten, explores the intersections of body, identity, and love in poems that grapple with mysteries of neurology and metaphysics. Here the materiality of the body and experience have transformed into a language, a thought that resides in and between bodies. Throughout, Joosten masterfully engages with form and rhythm, crafting work that is intimate and perceptive, pulsing with life.

"Joosten composes a phenomenology of care, brings me to the sill of an attentive stillness where I am free to not be myself. It's a little frightening and a little exhilarating. But in these poems I am welcomed and supported by the shared minutiae of perceiving."

—Lisa Robertson, author of *The Baudelaire Fractal*

**April 14, 2020 | Poetry**

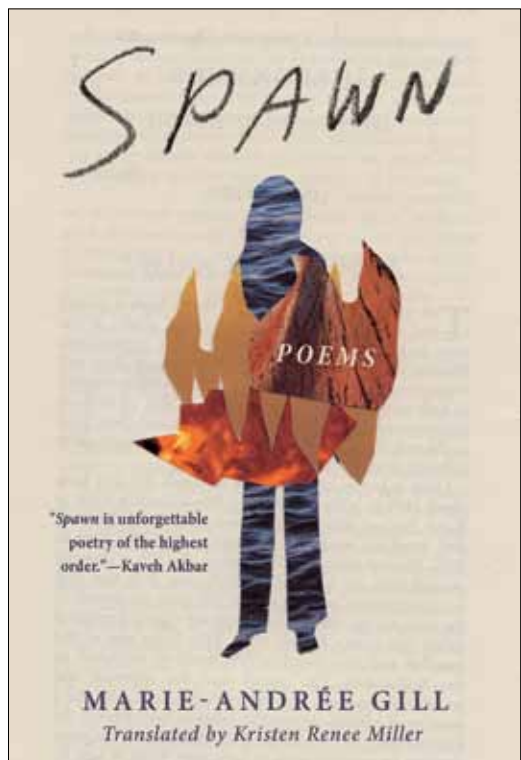
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**Paperback: ISBN 9781771665896 \$20.00**

**Author Hometown: Toronto, ON**



## RECENTLY RELEASED POETRY



### **Spawn**

by Marie-Andrée Gill

Translated by Kristen Renee Miller

*Spawn* is a braided collection of brief, untitled poems, a coming-of-age lyric set in the Mashteuiatsh Reserve on the shores of Lake Piekukami (Saint-Jean) in Quebec. Undeniably political, Marie-Andrée Gill's poems ask how one can reclaim a narrative that has been confiscated and distorted by colonizers.

"Here, poems can summon a spawn of wonder-working dreams."

—Joshua Whitehead, author of *Jonny Appleseed*, winner of the Lambda Literary Award

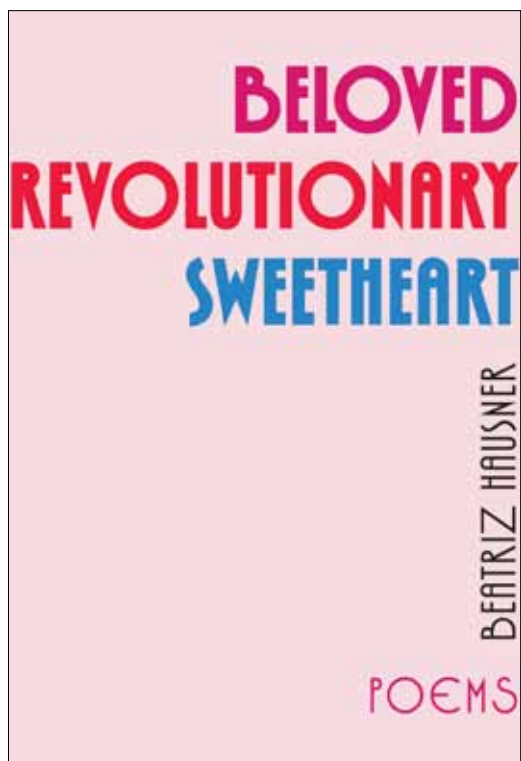
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**7.75x5.25 inches | 88pp**

**Paperback: ISBN 9781771665971 \$18.00**

**Author Hometown: L'Anse-Saint-Jean, QC**

**Translator Hometown: Louisville, KY**



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From wistful romance to explicit sex, *Beloved Revolutionary Sweetheart* reaches back through the millennia to create an unexpected, unconventional, and contemporary exploration of one of humanity's oldest pleasures.

"Elegant, thirsty, and visionary poems, echoing with song."

—Tamara Faith Berger

**April 16, 2020 | Poetry**

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**Paperback: ISBN 9781771665933 \$18.00**

**Author Hometown: Toronto**



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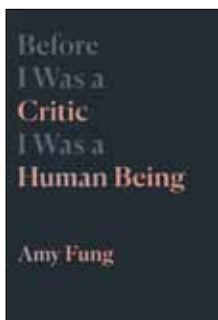
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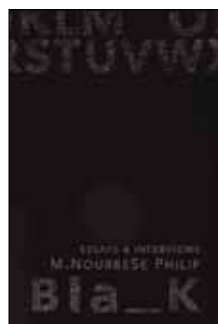
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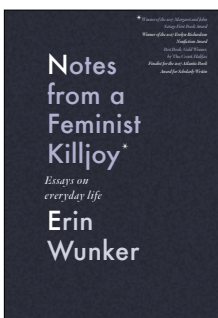
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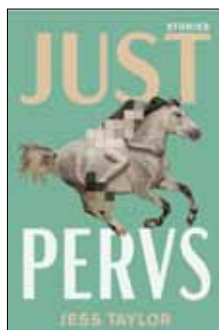
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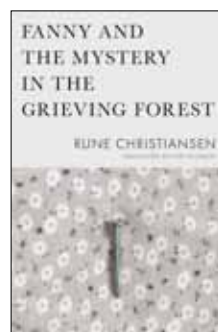
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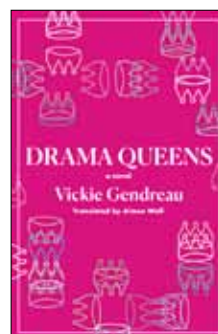
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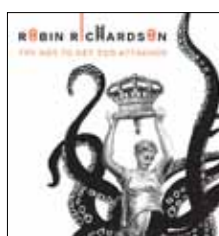


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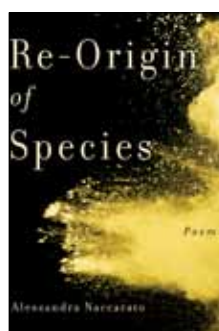
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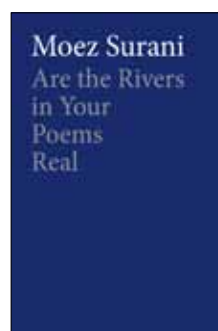
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