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by these books as we are.



Book*hug Press is a radically optimistic Canadian independent literary press working at the forefront of contemporary book culture. Our mandate is to publish innovative and contemporary books of literary fiction, literary nonfiction, poetry, literature in translation and drama. Celebrating adventures in literary publishing since 2004, Book*hug's mission is to publish emerging and established literary writers whose work meaningfully contributes to and reflects contemporary culture and society. We seek to acquire books that are bold, innovative and take risks; work that feels necessary and urgent. We believe in writing that challenges and pushes at the boundaries of cultural expectations.

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Canadian Distributor:

UTP Distribution Services
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Toronto, Ontario
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U.S. Distributor:

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FICTION

I Can't Get You Out of My Mind by Marianne Apostolides

Symphony No. 3 by Chris Eaton

Coconut Dreams by Derek Mascarenhas

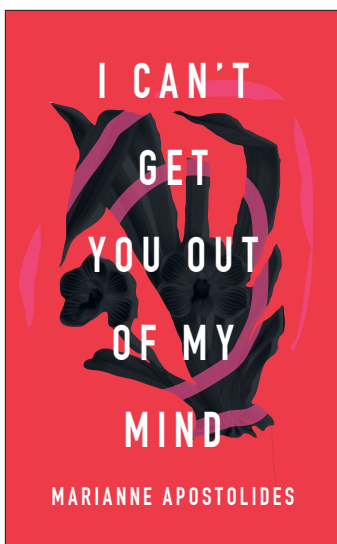
We All Need To Eat by Alex Leslie

Smells Like Stars by D. Nandi Odhiambo

Blood Fable by Oisín Curran

Sludge Utopia by Catherine Fatima

Double Teenage by Joni Murphy



Forthcoming:

April 2019

Rights Available:

World

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, forty-something writer and mother embroiled in an affair with a married man. At the core of her current work, a manuscript 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. Lacking answers and struggling financially, 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—the AI 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.

I Can't Get You Out of My Mind asks what it means to be human—to be physical creatures endowed with a conscious mind, aware of our finitude—and to love.

"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 & Querie*

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 now lives in Toronto.



PHOTO: MELANIE GORDON

PHOTO: JOHN HANEY



Fiction

Symphony No. 3 Chris Eaton

Symphony No. 3 follows the life of renowned French composer Camille Saint-Saëns as he ascends from child prodigy to worldwide fame. As his acclaim grows in Paris, the musical world around him clamours with competitors, dilettantes, turncoats, and revenge seekers. At the height of his success, Camille leaves everything behind to embark on a Dantean quest to discover the truth about his dead lover, Henri. At the end of this adventure, still haunted by the holes in his past, he takes up an invitation to journey by ocean-liner to the New World.

Published:

October 2019

Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Finely crafted in its own unique rhythmic language, *Symphony No. 3* is cast in four sections to mirror Saint-Saëns's famous work, popularly known as the *Organ Symphony*, and is told through the perspective of his devoted twin brother who may or may not be imaginary.

Though set in the decades surrounding the fin de siècle, *Symphony No. 3* speaks directly to our present moment and the rise of political violence.

"*Symphony No. 3* is not only a vibrant dramatization of the life of Camille Saint-Saëns, but also a profound meditation on the place of music in culture, and of the tension between art and life. Like the organ work for which it is named, *Symphony No. 3* is a sumptuous achievement."

—Steven Moore, author of *The Novel: An Alternative History*



PHOTO: JOHN HANEY

Chris Eaton is the author of three previous novels, including *Chris Eaton, a Biography* (2013), selected as one of the Books of the Year by *Quill and Quire* and the *Toronto Star*. He spent many years making music in the band Rock Plaza Central. He currently lives in Sackville, New Brunswick, with his partner and two children.



Published:

April 2019

Rights Available:

UK/ANZ

Europe

Fiction

Coconut Dreams Derek Mascarenhas

Coconut Dreams explores the lives of the Pinto family through seventeen linked short stories. Starting with a ghost story set in Goa, India in the 1950s, the collection weaves through various timelines and perspectives to focus on two children, Aiden and Ally Pinto. These siblings tackle their adventures in a predominantly white suburb with innocence, intelligence and a timid foot in two distinct cultures. Derek Mascarenhas takes a fresh look at the world of the new immigrant and the South Asian experience. In these stories, a daughter questions her father's love at an IKEA grand opening; an aunt remembers a safari-gone-wrong in Kenya; an uncle's unrequited love is confronted at a Goan Association picnic; a boy tests his faith amidst a school-yard brawl; and a childhood love letter is exchanged during the building of a backyard deck. Singularly and collectively, these stories will move the reader with their engaging narratives and authentic voices.

"*Coconut Dreams* signals the arrival of a new Canadian voice that is singular, necessary, and hard to forget." —*Humber Literary Review*

"What is most fascinating about these stories is their accuracy at depicting ways in which children come to understand painful truths: often accidentally, sometimes the hard way." —*Quill and Quire*

Derek Mascarenhas is a graduate of the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies Creative Writing Program, a finalist and runner up for the Penguin Random House of Canada Student Award for Fiction, and a nominee for the Marina Nemat Award. His fiction has been published in places such as *Joyland*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *Switchback*, *Maple Tree Literary Supplement*, *Cosmonauts Avenue*, and *The Antigoniish Review*. Derek is one of four children born to parents who emigrated from Goa, India, and settled in Burlington, Ontario. A backpacker who has traveled across six continents, Derek currently resides in Toronto. *Coconut Dreams* is his first book.



PHOTO: KHADEJA REID

PHOTO: ALEX LESLIE



Fiction

We All Need To Eat **Alex Leslie**

- Finalist for the 2019 Ethel Wilson Award for Fiction
- Lambda Literary Award Winning Author
- Writers' Trust of Canada Dayne Ogilvie Prize Winner

We All Need to Eat is a collection of linked stories from award-winning author Alex Leslie that revolves around Soma, a young Queer woman in Vancouver. Through thoughtful and probing narratives, each story chronicles a sea change in Soma's life. Lyrical, gritty, and atmospheric, Soma's stories refuse to shy away from the contradictions inherent to human experience, exploring one young person's journey through mourning, escapism, and the search for nourishment. The far-reaching impact and lasting reverberations of Soma's family's experience of the Holocaust scrapes up against the rise of Alt Right media. While going through a break-up in her thirties, Soma becomes addicted to weightlifting and navigates public mourning on Facebook. A friend's suicide prompts a drinking game that takes mortality as its premise. But alongside the loss in Soma's life is a pursuit of intimacy, resounding in the final story's closing words: "Look me in the eye."

"This bold and searing collection is a wonder."

—Madeline Thien, Scotiabank Giller Prize winning author of *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*

Published:

October 2018

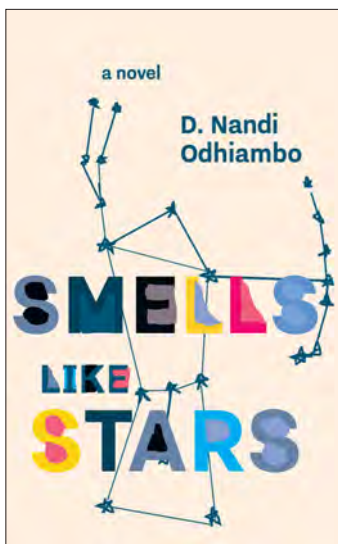
Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)



PHOTO: ALEX LESLIE

Alex Leslie was born and lives in Vancouver. She is the author of two short story collections, *We All Need to Eat*, a finalist for the 2019 Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, and *People Who Disappear*, which was shortlisted for the 2013 Lambda Literary Award for Debut Fiction and a 2013 ReLit Award. Alex's writing has been included in the *Journey Prize Anthology*, *The Best of Canadian Poetry in English*, and in a special issue of *Granta* spotlighting Canadian writing, co-edited by Madeleine Thien and Catherine Leroux. She has received a CBC Literary Award, a Gold National Magazine Award, and the 2015 Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBTQ Emerging Writers.



Published:

October 2018

Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Fiction

Smells Like Stars D. Nandi Odhiambo

•Winner of the 2018 Elliot Cades Award for Literature for an Established Writer

Journalist Kerstin Ostheim and freelance photographer P.J. Banner have been together six months after meeting on a dating website. As their wedding fast approaches, they question their compatibility while investigating mysterious horse killings taking place in Ogweyo's Cove, the Pacific tourist haven where they live.

In the meantime, Schuld Ostheim, Kerstin's transgender daughter from her first marriage, is preparing for an art exhibit after being hospitalized for a physical assault while her boyfriend, Woloff, an Olympic medalist in the 1500m, comes to terms with a career-ending knee injury. As Kerstin and P.J. get closer to the truth about the dead horses, they also begin to more clearly see each other. Simultaneously, Schuld's and Woloff's pasts come back to haunt them, jeopardizing their sense of a possible future.

Ultimately, *Smells Like Stars* draws attention to what is hidden in plain sight, what cruelties life presents, and what struggles we face in our search for meaning.

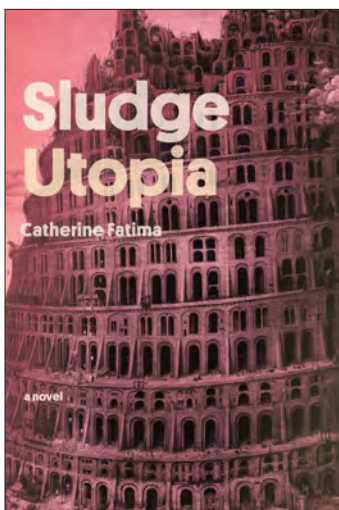
"*Smells Like Stars* is a timeless story of those who must fight for their love beyond all understanding, including their own." — *World Literature Today*



PHOTO: CARMEN NOLTE-ODHIAMBO

D. Nandi Odhiambo is the author of three novels: *diss/ed banded nations* (1998), *Kipligat's Chance* (2003) and *The Reverend's Apprentice* (2008). Originally from Nairobi Kenya, Nandi moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba in the 1970s. He has an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a PhD in English from the University of Hawai'i, Manoa. Currently Nandi lives in O'ahu, Hawai'i, with his wife Carmen and two dogs, where he works as an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu.

PHOTO: CATHERINE FATIMA



Published:

June 2018

Rights Sold:

World French: Hélotrope

World Audio: ECW Press



PHOTO: CATHERINE FATIMA

Fiction

Sludge Utopia Catherine Fatima

In a kind of Catherine Millet meets Roland Barthes baring of life, with hints of the work of Chris Kraus, *Sludge Utopia* by Catherine Fatima is an auto-fictional novel about sex, depression, family, shaky ethics, ideal forms of life, girlhood, and coaching oneself into adulthood under capitalism.

Using her compulsive reading as a lens through which to bring coherence to her life, twenty-five-year-old Catherine engages in a series of sexual relationships, thinking that desire is the key to a meaningful life. Yet, with each encounter, it becomes more and more clear: desire has no explanation; desire bears no significance. From an intellectual relationship with a professor, a casual sexual relationship, to a serious love affair, to a string of relationships that takes Catherine from Toronto to France and Portugal and back again, *Sludge Utopia* presents, in highly examined, raw detail, the perspective of a young woman's supremely wounded sexuality and profound internalized misogyny, which causes her to bring all of life's events under sexuality's prism.

"In *Sludge Utopia*, Catherine Fatima captivates readers with an auto-fictional take of a woman's journey discovering her place within the world's definition of love and desire."

—*THIS Magazine*

Catherine Fatima is an writer based in Toronto. She has been active as a programmer, editor, speaker, performer, musician, union organizer and library worker. *Sludge Utopia* is her first novel.



Published:

October 2017

Rights Sold:

Macedonia: Feniks Publishing

Germany: Luftschacht Verlag

Fiction

Blood Fable

Oisín Curran

- Winner of the 2018 Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award

Maine, 1980. A utopian community is on the verge of collapse. The charismatic leader's authority teeters as his followers come to realize they've been exploited for too long. To make matters worse, the eleven-year-old son of one adherent learns that his mother has cancer.

Taking refuge in his imagination, the boy begins to speak of another time and place. His parents believe he is remembering his own life before birth. This memory, a story within the story of *Blood Fable*, is an epic tale about the search for a lost city refracted through the lens of the adventures the boy loves to read. But strangely, as the world around them falls apart, he and his parents find that his story seems to foretell the events unfolding in their present lives.

"Curran's vision of boyhood is perfect in details and sublimely moving."

—Eugene Lim, author of *Dear Cyborgs*



PHOTO: SARAH FABER

Oisín Curran grew up in rural Maine. He received a BA in Classics and an MFA in Creative Writing from Brown University (where he was the recipient of a national scholarship and a writing fellowship), and a diploma in Translation (French to English) from Concordia University. He is the author of *Mopus* (2008) and was named a "Writer to Watch" by CBC: Canada Writes. Curran lives in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, with his wife and two children.

PHOTO: STEPHANIE ACOSTA

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Fiction

Double Teenage Joni Murphy

•Globe and Mail Best Book

This unrelenting novel shines a spotlight on paradoxes of Western culture. It asks impossible questions about the media's obsession with sexual violence as it twins with a social unwillingness to look at real pain. It asks what it feels like to be a girl, simultaneously a being and a thing, feeling in a marketplace. Wherever they are—whether in a dance club in El Paso or an art lecture in Vancouver—these characters brush against maddening contradiction and concealed brutality.

Published:

March 2016

Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Part bildungsroman, part performance, part passionate essay, part magic spell, what *Double Teenage* ultimately offers is a way to see through violence into an emotionally alive place beyond the myriad traps of girlhood.

"*Double Teenage* is a stunning first novel, moving with stealth and intelligence against the North American landscape."

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

"Brilliant and necessary."

—*The Globe and Mail*



PHOTO: STEPHANIE ACOSTA

Joni Murphy is a writer and artist living in New York City. Originally from Las Cruces, New Mexico, she has shown and published work in the US, Canada, the UK, Switzerland, Serbia, and Greece. Her creative output takes the form of poetry, criticism, curatorial projects, audio, and performance. She has an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and was an artist in residence with Sound Development City's 2016 expedition to Belgrade and Athens. *Double Teenage* is her debut novel. Her second novel, *Talking Animals* will appear in 2020.

II

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NONFICTION

Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty by Bahar Orang

The Nothing That Is: Essays on Art, Literature and Being by Johanna Skibsrud

Florine Stettheimer: New Directions in Multimodal Modernism, Edited by

Irene Gammel and Suzanne Zelazo

Disquieting: Essays on Silence by Cynthia Cruz

Before I Was a Critic I Was a Human Being by Amy Fung

Dear Current Occupant by Chelene Knight

My Conversations With Canadians by Lee Maracle

Notes From a Feminist Killjoy: Essays on Everyday Life by Erin Wunker



Forthcoming:

May 2020

Essais Series No. 10

Rights Available:

World

Cultural Studies

Social Sciences

Gender Studies

Feminism



PHOTO: MEL MIKHAIL

Nonfiction

Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty Bahar Orang

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* 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 and very idea of beauty. Such considerations lead her to questions about intimacy, queerness, home, memory, love, and other aspects of human experience. Throughout, beauty is ultimately imagined as something inextricably tied to care: the care of lovers, of patients, of art and literature and the various non-human worlds that surround us.

Eloquent and meditative in its approach, beauty, here, beyond base expectations of frivolity and superficiality, is conceived of 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.

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.

PHOTO: MEL MIKHAIL



Nonfiction

The Nothing That Is: Essays on Art, Literature and Being Johanna Skibsrud

Rather than making “something” out of “nothing,” what follows is an endeavour to express the potential of language and thought to encounter what is infinitely beyond both yet to be imagined.

In *The Nothing That Is*, Johanna Skibsrud gathers essays about the very concept of “nothing.” Addressing a broad range of topics—including false atrocity tales, so-called fake news, high-wire acts, and telepathy, as well as responses to works by John Ashbery, Virginia Woolf, Anne Carson, and more—these essays seek to decentre our relationship to both the “givenness” of history and to a predictive or probable model of the future.

The Nothing That Is explores ways in which poetic language can activate the possibilities replete within our every moment. Skibsrud reveals that within every encounter between a speaking “I” and what exceeds subjectivity, there is a listening “Other,” be it community or the objective world.

“Skibsrud’s work considers ideas as large as time and death. Plenty of writers swimming among such big concepts have been lost at sea, but Skibsrud sails through with confidence.” —*BOMB Magazine*

Published:

September 2019
Essais Series No. 9

Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Art

Literature

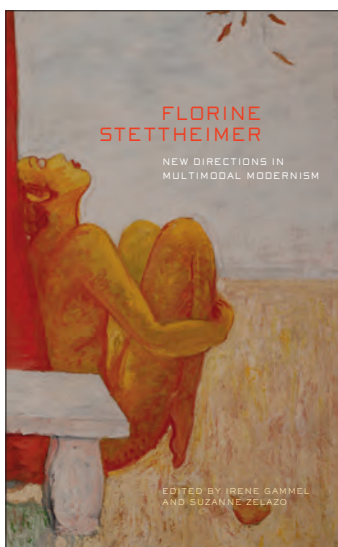
Cultural Studies

Social Science



PHOTO: MEL MIKHAIL

Johanna Skibsrud is a novelist, poet and Assistant Professor of English at the University of Arizona. Her debut novel, *The Sentimentalists*, was awarded the 2010 Scotiabank Giller Prize, making her the youngest writer to win Canada’s most prestigious literary prize. The book was subsequently shortlisted for the Commonwealth Book Award and is currently translated into five languages. *The New York Times Book Review* describes her second novel, *Quartet for the End of Time* (2014), as a “haunting exploration of the complexity of human relationships and the myriad ways in which identity can be malleable.” Johanna is also the author of a third novel, *Island* (2019), two collections of short fiction, a children’s book, and three books of poetry.



Published:

October 2019
Salon Series No. 1

Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Art History
Modernism
Gender Studies
Feminism

Nonfiction

Florine Stettheimer: New Directions in Multimodal Modernism

"Florine Stettheimer is my favourite artist."
—Andy Warhol

Florine Stettheimer (1871-1944) was Modernism's great "outlier"—a highly original artist with a boldly interdisciplinary aesthetic that attracted such luminaries as Marcel Duchamp, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Andy Warhol. They understood, admired, and were inspired by Stettheimer.

This collection of essays by a wide range of contemporary writers and thinkers explores the multimodality of Stettheimer's creative output and the salon culture by her and her sisters Carrie and Ettie in New York from 1915 to 1935. *Florine Stettheimer: New Directions in Multimodal Modernism* theorizes, engages and situates Stettheimer's innovative contributions to art history and illustrates the aesthetic genealogy of her vision and its influence through to the contemporary moment.

With contributions by Barbara Bloemink, Georgiana Uhlyarik, Chelsea Olsen, Zach McCann-Armitage, Patricia Allmer, Lesley Higgins, Aaron Tucker, Melba Cuddy-Keane, Jason Wang, Cinti Cristia, David Dorenbaum, Irene Gammel and Suzanne Zelazo.



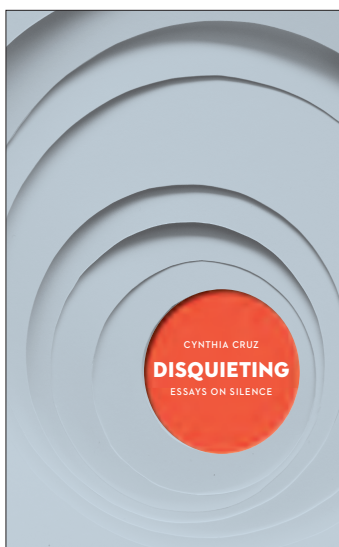
PHOTO: IRENE GAMMEL

PHOTO: KRISTEN EFF

Irene Gammel holds a Canada Research Chair in Modern Literature and Culture at Ryerson University in Toronto, where she is also the Director of the Modern Literature and Culture Research Center dedicated to the study of modern women writers.

Suzanne Zelazo Suzanne Zelazo is a writer, editor, educator, and former professional triathlete who continues to coach cycling, running and triathlon. She holds a PhD in English with a specialty in female modernism and avant-garde poetry and performance.

PHOTO: STEVEN PAGE



Nonfiction

Disquieting: Essays on Silence Cynthia Cruz

How do our bodies speak for us when words don't suffice? How can we make ourselves understood when what we have to say is inarticulable?

In *Disquieting*, Cynthia Cruz tarries with others who have provided examples of how to “turn away,” or reject the ideologies of contemporary neoliberal culture. These essays inhabit connections between silence, refusal, anorexia, mental illness, and neoliberalism. Cruz also explores the experience of being working-class and poor in contemporary culture, and how those who are silenced often turn to forms of disquietude that value open-endedness, complexity, and difficulty.

Disquieting: Essays on Silence draws on philosophy, theory, art, film, and literature to offer alternative ways of being in this world and possibilities for building a new one.

“Weaving together personal narrative, theory, philosophy and art, *Disquieting* features eight fiercely vulnerable and profoundly relatable essays.”
—*Broken Pencil Magazine*

Published:

March 2019

Essais Series No. 8

Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Memoir

Cultural Studies

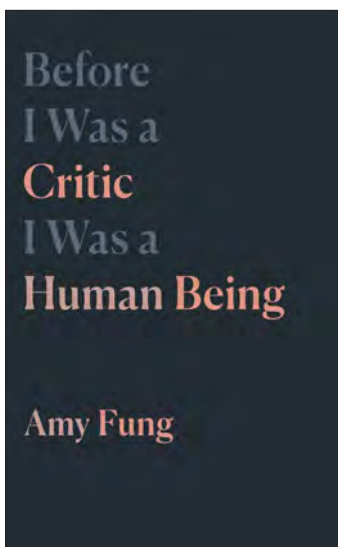
Social Sciences

Gender Studies

PHOTO: STEVEN PAGE



Cynthia Cruz is the author of five poetry collections and the editor of a new anthology of contemporary Latina poetry, *Other Musics*. Cruz is the recipient of fellowships from Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony, and a Hodder fellowship from Princeton University. She currently lives in Brooklyn.



Nonfiction

Before I Was a Critic I Was a Human Being Amy Fung

In that moment, I felt closer to whiteness than not. I was completely complicit and didn't think twice about entering a space that could cover their walls with images of contemporary Indigenous perspectives, but exclude their physical bodies from entering and experiencing. In that moment, I felt like a real Canadian.

Before I Was a Critic I Was a Human Being is the debut collection of essays by Amy Fung. In it, Fung takes a closer examination at Canada's mythologies of multiculturalism, settler colonialism, and identity through the lens of a national art critic.

Published:

May 2019

Essais Series No. 7

Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Memoir

LGBTQ2s+ Studies

Cultural Studies

Social Sciences

Gender Studies

Following the tangents of a foreign-born perspective and the complexities and complicities in participating in ongoing acts of colonial violence, the book as a whole takes the form of a very long land acknowledgement. Taken individually, each piece roots itself in the learning and unlearning process of a first generation settler immigrant as she unfurls each region's sense of place and identity.

"The hours I've spent with this knowing and moving book about place and placelessness [are] among the most valuable of my reading life. Wow, thank, Amy."
—Eileen Myles



PHOTO: RHAYNE VERMETTE

Amy Fung is a writer, researcher and curator born in Kowloon, Hong Kong, and spent her formative years in and around Edmonton on Treaty 6 Territory. Her writing has been published and commissioned by national and international publications, galleries, museums, festivals, and journals since 2007. Her multifarious curatorial projects have spanned exhibitions, cinematic and live presentations, as well as discursive events across Canada and abroad. *Before I Was a Critic I Was a Human Being* is her first book.

PHOTO: CHELENE KNIGHT



Published:

March 2018

Essais Series No. 5

Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Memoir

Cultural Studies

Social Sciences

Gender Studies



PHOTO: CHELENE KNIGHT

Nonfiction

Dear Current Occupant: A Memoir Chelene Knight

- Winner of the 2018 City of Vancouver Book Award
- Finalist for the 2019 George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature

Dear Current Occupant is a creative nonfiction memoir about home and belonging set in the 80s and 90s of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Using a variety of forms including letters and essays, Knight reflects on her childhood through a series of letters addressed to all of the current occupants now living in the twenty different houses she moved in and out of with her mother and brother. From blurry and fragmented non-chronological memories of trying to fit in with her own family as the only mixed East Indian/Black child, to crystal clear recollections of parental drug use, Knight draws a vivid portrait of memory that still longs for a place and a home.

"Knight is one of the storytellers we need most right now."

—*Toronto Star*

"Using poetry, essay, flash nonfiction, and photography, Knight weaves what she refers to as a 'patchwork' story of her life, told through the lens of different places she's called 'home' throughout her life. The effect is absolutely dazzling."

—*This Magazine*

Chelene Knight was born in Vancouver, and is currently the Managing Editor of *Room Magazine*. A graduate of The Writers' Studio at SFU, Chelene has been published in various Canadian and American literary magazines. Her debut book, *Braided Skin*, was published in 2015. *Dear Current Occupant* is her second book. Chelene is also working on a historical novel set in the 1930s and 40s in Vancouver's Hogan's Alley, forthcoming from Book*hug Press.



Published:

October 2017

Essais Series No. 4

Rights Sold:

World French: Groupe Nota Bene

Indigenous Studies

Cultural Studies

Gender Studies

Feminism

Nonfiction

My Conversations With Canadians Lee Maracle

- Recipient of the 2018 First Peoples Literary Prize
- Finalist for the 2018 First Nation Communities Read and Aboriginal Literature Award
- Finalist for the 2018 Toronto Book Awards
- Winner of the 2018 Harbourfront Festival Prize

In prose essays that are both conversational and direct, *My Conversations With Canadians* touches upon subjects such as citizenship, segregation, labour, law, prejudice and reconciliation (to name a few). With this collection, Lee Maracle presents a tour de force exploration into the writer's own history as a First Nations leader, a woman, a mother and grandmother.

"*My Conversations With Canadians* offers strength and solidarity to Indigenous readers, and a generous guide to allyship for non-Indigenous readers."

—*The Globe and Mail*

"Maracle sets the record straight on a few of our beloved myths, including Canada's current narrative as a model multicultural society."

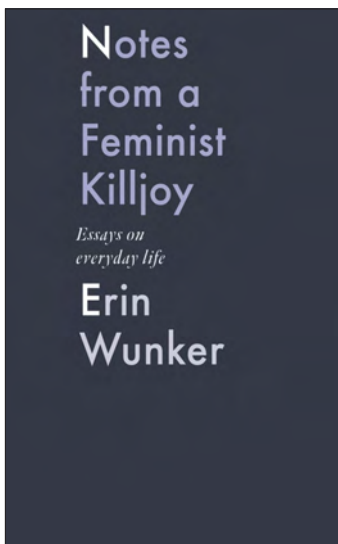
—*Quill and Quire*



PHOTO: COLUMPA BOBB

Lee Maracle is the author of a number of critically acclaimed works including *Celia's Song* (long-listed for CBC Canada Reads and a finalist for the ReLit Award), and *My Conversations with Canadians*, which was a finalist for the 2018 Toronto Book Award and the First Nation Communities READ 2018-19 Award. Maracle has received many awards, including the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts, the Blue Metropolis Festival First Peoples Prize, the Harbourfront Festival Prize, and the Anne Green Award. Maracle is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and is an Officer of the Order of Canada. In July 2019, she was announced as a finalist of the prestigious Neustadt Prize. A member of the Sto:lo Nation, Maracle currently lives in Toronto and teaches at the University of Toronto.

PHOTO: ZACH FAYE



Published:

November 2017

Essais Series No. 2

Rights Sold:

World French: Vigilantes/Les

Presses de l'Université de

Montréal

Turkish: Cumartesi Kitaplığı

Spanish (Argentina): Equipo

Editorial Chirimbote

South Korea: Sinsabooks

Cultural Studies

Feminism



PHOTO: ZACH FAYE

Nonfiction

Notes From a Feminist Killjoy: Essays on Everyday Life Erin Wunker

- Winner of the 2017 Margaret and John Savage First Book Award
- Winner of the 2017 Evelyn Richardson Non-fiction Award
- Finalist for the 2017 Atlantic Book Award for Scholarly Writing
- Bitch Media Book of the Year

Erin Wunker is a feminist killjoy, and she thinks you should be one, too.

Following in the tradition of Sara Ahmed (the originator of the concept “feminist killjoy”), Wunker brings memoir, theory, literary criticism, pop culture, and feminist thinking together in this collection of essays that take up Ahmed’s project as a multi-faceted lens through which to read the world from a feminist point of view.

“This book offers a powerful plea for a feminism that is willing to kill any joy that derives from inequality and injustice. All feminist killjoys will want this book on their shelves!”

—Sara Ahmed, former director of the Centre for Feminist Research and professor of Race and Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths (London), and author of *Living a Feminist Life*

Erin Wunker is the former Chair of the Board of the national non-profit organization Canadian Women in the Literary Arts (www.cwila.com) and co-founder, writer, and managing editor of the feminist academic blog *Hook & Eye: Fast Feminism, Slow Academe*. She teaches courses in Canadian literature and cultural production with a special focus on cultural production by women. She lives in Halifax with her partner, their daughter, and Marley the dog. *Notes from a Feminist Killjoy* is Wunker’s first book.

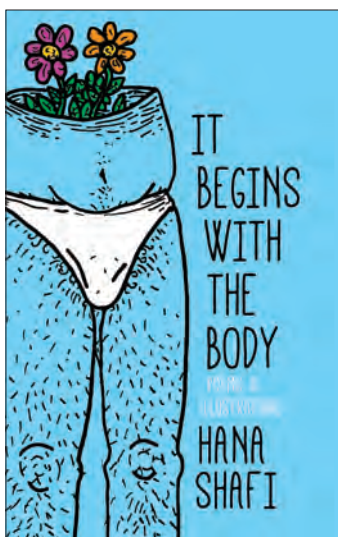
POETRY

It Begins with the Body by Hana Shafi

Holy Wild by Gwen Benaway

Hope Matters by Lee Maracle, Columpa Bobb & Tania Carter

War / Torn by Hasan Namir



Published:

September 2018

Rights Available:

World

Poetry / Art

Affirmation Art

Interdisciplinary Art

Feminism

Poetry

It Begins With The Body

Hana Shafi

It Begins With The Body by Hana Shafi explores the milestones and hurdles of a brown girl coming into her own. Shafi's poems display a raw and frank intimacy and address anxiety, unemployment, heartbreak, relationships, identity, and faith.

Accompanied by Shafi's candid illustrations that share the same delightful mixture of grotesque and humour found in her poems, *It Begins With The Body* navigates the highs and lows of youth. It is about feeling like an outsider, and reconciling with pain and awkwardness. It's about arguing with your mum about wanting to wax off your unibrow to the first time you threw up in a bar in your twenties, and everything in between. Funny and raw, personal and honest, Shafi's exciting debut is about finding the right words you wished you had found when you needed them the most.

"A brilliant and incisive book, full of rage and love in all the places where you need it to be."

—Lauren McKeon, author of *F-Bomb, Dispatches from the War on Feminism*



PHOTO: IDYLAN CAN DEN BERGE

Hana Shafi is a writer and artist who illustrates under the name Frizz Kid. Both her visual art and writing frequently explore themes such as feminism, body politics, racism, and pop culture with an affinity to horror. She has published articles in publications such as *The Walrus*, *Hazlitt*, *This Magazine*, *Torontoist*, *Huffington Post*, and has been featured on *Buzzfeed India*, *Buzzfeed Canada*, *CBC*, *Flare Magazine*, *Mashable*, and *Shameless*. Known on Instagram for her weekly affirmation series, she is also the recipient of the Women Who Inspire Award, from the Canadian Council for Muslim Women. Born in Dubai, Shafi's family immigrated to Mississauga, Ontario in 1996, and she currently lives and works in Toronto. *It Begins With The Body* is her first book. Her second book which focuses on her affirmation art is forthcoming from Book*hug Press in 2020.

PHOTO: JON ELLIOTT



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Poetry

LGBTQ2S+ Studies

Gender Studies

Indigenous Studies

PHOTO: JON ELLIOTT



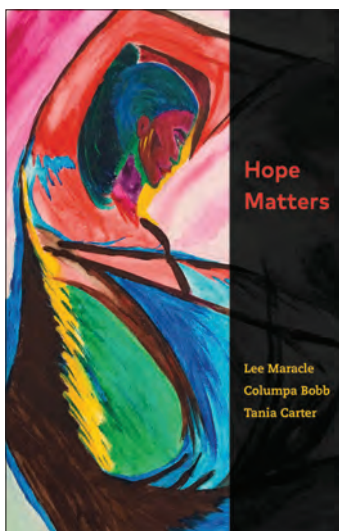
Poetry

Holy Wild Gwen Benaway

- Finalist for the 2019 Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry
- Finalist for the 2019 Trillium Book Award for Poetry
- Finalist for the 2019 Lambda Literary Awards – Transgender Poetry Category
- Finalist for the 2019 Publishing Triangle Awards – Trans and Gender-Variant Literature Category
- Longlisted for the 2019 Pat Lowther Memorial Award

In her third collection of poetry, *Holy Wild*, Gwen Benaway explores the complexities of being an Indigenous trans woman in expansive lyric poems. She holds up the Indigenous trans body as a site of struggle, liberation, and beauty. A confessional poet, Benaway narrates her sexual and romantic intimacies with partners as well as her work to navigate the daily burden of transphobia and violence. She examines the intersections of Indigenous and trans experience through autobiographical poems and continues to speak to the legacy of abuse, violence, and colonial erasure that defines Canada. Her sparse lines, interwoven with English and Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), illustrate the wonder and power of Indigenous trans womanhood in motion. *Holy Wild* is not an easy book, as Benaway refuses to give any simple answers, but it is a profoundly vibrant and beautiful work filled with a transcendent grace.

Gwen Benaway is a trans girl of Anishinaabe and Métis descent. She has published three collections of poetry—*Ceremonies for the Dead*, *Passage*, and *Holy Wild*. She is also the editor of an anthology of fantasy short stories titled *Maiden Mother and Crone: Fantastical Trans Femmes*. She has been a finalist for the Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBTQ writers from the Writers' Trust of Canada, and her personal essay, "A Body Like A Home," was the Gold Prize winner for the National Magazine Awards in Personal Journalism. Her fourth collection of poetry *day/break* is forthcoming from Book*hug Press in 2020. She lives in Toronto.



Poetry

Hope Matters Lee Maracle, Columpa Bobb and Tania Carter

Throughout their youth, Columpa Bobb and Tania Carter wrote poetry with their mother, award-winning author Lee Maracle. The three always dreamed that one day they would write a book together. This book is the result of that dream.

The wide-ranging poems in *Hope Matters* focus on the journey of Indigenous peoples from colonial beginnings to reconciliation. But they also document a very personal journey—that of a mother and her two daughters.

Published:

April 2019

Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Poetry

Indigenous Studies

Gender Studies

Feminism

Written collaboratively, *Hope Matters* offers a blend of three distinct and exciting voices that come together in a shared song of hope and reconciliation.

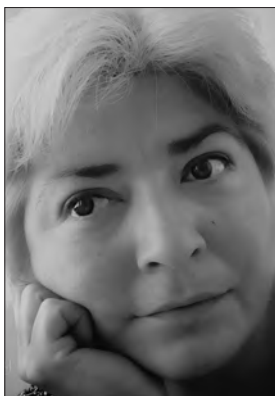
“You need to read this book. You’ll laugh, you’ll cry and you’ll swear out loud, but mostly you’ll be proud of these ladies.”

—Senator Murray Sinclair

“Daughters and mother poetry dances around each other, weaves rhythm and breathes love. The ancestors sing, babies laugh and hope always wins.”

—Katherena Vermette, author of *The Break* and *River Woman*

PHOTOS: COLUMPA BOBB



PHOTOS: TARN KHARE



Poetry

War / Torn Hasan Namir

Lambda Literary Award-winner Hasan Namir's debut collection of poetry, *War / Torn*, is a brazen and lyrical interrogation of religion and masculinity—the performance and sense of belonging they delineate and draw together. Namir summons prayer, violence, and the sensuality of love, revisiting tenets of Islam and dictates of war to break the barriers between the profane and the sacred.

“War / Torn reminds us of how dexterous and wholly embracing poetry can be. In the hands of Hasan Namir, poetry spans from origin stories to the afterlife; it holds blessings and erotic provocations, fear and forgiveness, and tangled tangled love.”

—Amber Dawn, author of *Sodom Road Exit*

Published:

April 2019

Rights Available:

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Poetry

LGBTQ2S+ Studies

Cultural Studies

Gender Studies

“War / Torn is a collection of poems that asks how do we reconcile all the parts of our identities and histories, with the sincerity and caring touch only Hasan can bring to it.”

—Daniel Zomparelli, Founder of *Poetry Is Dead*

PHOTOS: TARN KHARE



Iraqi-Canadian author **Hasan Namir** graduated from Simon Fraser University with a BA in English and received the Ying Chen Creative Writing Student Award. He is the author of *God in Pink* (2015), which won the Lambda Literary Award for Best Gay Fiction and was chosen as one of the Top 100 Books of 2015 by *The Globe and Mail*. His work has also been featured on *Huffington Post*, *Shaw TV*, *Airbnb*, and in the film *God in Pink: A Documentary*. He was recently named a writer to watch by CBC books. Hasan lives in Vancouver with his husband.

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