

\* is for bold, brave, and big-hearted  
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Canadian independent publisher.  
This is our **spring 2020 rights catalogue**.  
We hope you're as blown away by these  
books as we are.



## Book\*hug Press

Book\*hug Press is a radically optimistic Canadian independent literary publisher working at the forefront of contemporary book culture. We 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 publishes 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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# FICTION

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

*The Handsome Man* by Brad Casey

*You Are Eating An Orange. You Are Naked.* by Aaron Tang

*Symphony No. 3* by Chris Eaton

*Coconut Dreams* by Derek Mascarenhas

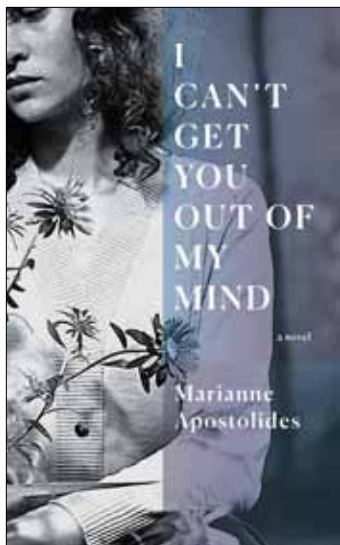
*We All Need To Eat* by Alex Leslie

*Smells Like Stars* by D. Nandi Odhiambo

*Blood Fable* by Oisín Curran

*Sludge Utopia* by Catherine Fatima

*Double Teenage* by Joni Murphy



## Forthcoming:

April 2020

## Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

## Fiction

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

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 what it means to say 'I love you,' 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.

"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*



PHOTO: JORIAS PHOTOGRAPHY

**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.



## Fiction

### The Handsome Man Brad Casey

These linked stories follow several years of 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.

#### Forthcoming:

April 2020

#### Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

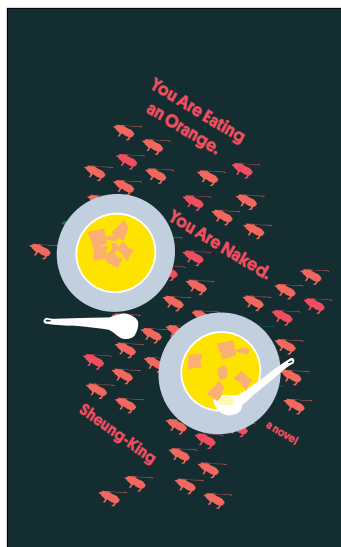
"From couches in Rome, to frozen rivers in the Canadian countryside, the top of the Berliner Dom and graveyards in Memphis, Casey takes you on an unforgettable journey through life's wilderness."

—Sofia Banzhaf, author of *Pony Castle*, director of *I Am In the World as Free and Slender as a Deer On a Plain*



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.



## Fiction

### **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 folktales to each other, perhaps as a way to fill the undefined space between them. Theirs is a comic and enigmatic relationship in which their emotions are often muted and sometimes masked by verbal play, philosophical questions, and further complicated by the woman's frequent unexplained disappearances.

#### **Forthcoming:**

October 2020

#### **Rights Available:**

World (excluding North America)

*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.



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. Originally from Hong Kong, Sheung-King now lives in Toronto where he is a lecturer at the University of Guelph and Sheridan College. *You Are Eating an Orange. You Are Naked* is his first novel. He lives in Toronto.



## 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.



## 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.

#### Published:

April 2019

#### Rights Sold:

French Canada: L'Interligne

"*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 Antigone 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



## Fiction

### We All Need To Eat Alex Leslie

- Finalist for the 2020 Kobzar Book Award
- 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."

### Published:

October 2018

### Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

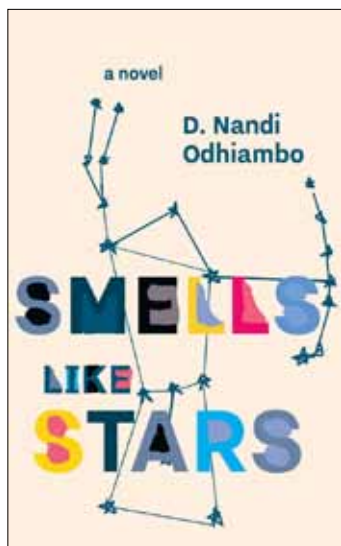
"This bold and searing collection is a wonder."

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



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 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.

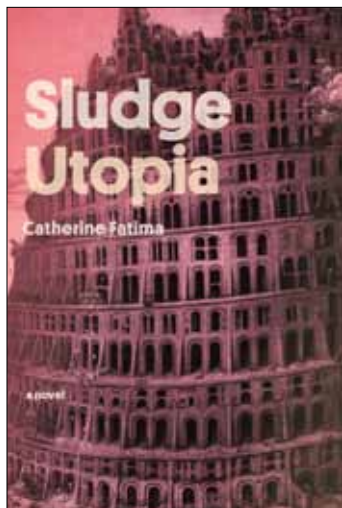
Ultimately, *Smells Like Stars* draws attention to what is hidden in plain sight, what cruelties life presents, and what struggles we face in our search for meaning.

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

**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: CARMEN NOLTE-ODHIAMBO



## 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*

### Published:

June 2018

### Rights Sold:

World French: Hélotrope

World Audio: ECW Press



PHOTO: CATHERINE FATIMA

**Catherine Fatima** is a 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 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.



## 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.



## NONFICTION

*Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty: Affirmations for the Real World* by Hana Shafi

*Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty* by Bahar Orang

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

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

*Disquieting: Essays on Silence* by Cynthia Cruz

*Florine Stettheimer: New Directions in Multimodal Modernism*, Edited by

Irene Gammel and Suzanne Zelazo

*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



## 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.

#### Forthcoming:

September 2020  
Salon Series No. 3

#### Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Affirmations / Self-help  
Cultural Studies  
Social Sciences  
Gender Studies  
Feminism

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.



PHOTO: DYLAN CAN DEN BERGE

**Hana Shafi** (AKA 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's family immigrated to Mississauga, Ontario, in 1996. She lives and works in Toronto.



## Forthcoming:

May 2020

Essais Series No. 10

## Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Cultural Studies

Social Sciences

Gender Studies

Feminism

## 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.

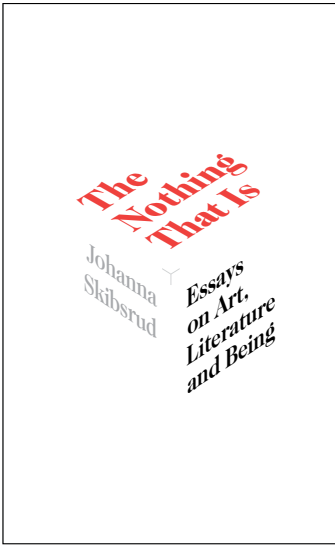
Drawing on her experiences as a physician-in-training, Orang considers clinical encounters and how they relate to the concept and very idea of beauty. Such considerations lead her to questions about intimacy, queerness, home, memory, love, and other aspects of human experience. Throughout, beauty is 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.



PHOTO: PADINA BONDAR

**Bahar Orang** is a writer and physician-in-training living in Toronto. She has a BASc 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.



## 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

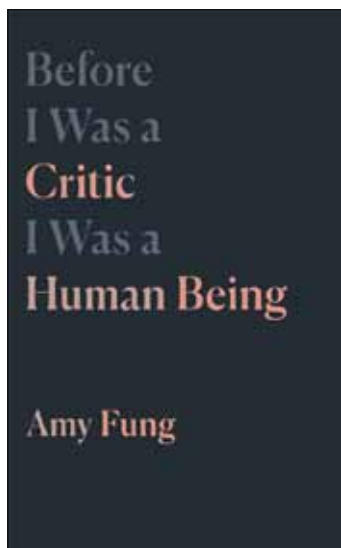
Cultural Studies

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.



## Nonfiction

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

•Longlisted for the 2020 Believer Book Award for Nonfiction

*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."

—Eileen Myles

**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. Fung currently lives in Ottawa.



PHOTO: RHAYNE VERMETTE

## 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?*

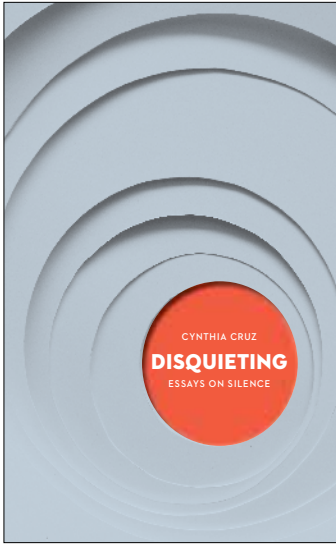
In *Disquieting*, Cynthia Cruz tarries with others who have provided examples of how to “turn away,” or reject the ideologies of contemporary neoliberal culture. These essays inhabit connections between silence, refusal, anorexia, mental illness, and neoliberalism. Cruz also explores the experience of 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.

“Cruz writes with crystalline clarity and poetic nuance, in an art-making that is a kind of metabolic mystery. When the binaries break down, when doubling turns into erasure, we get a third thing, a fissure that is both no-thing and the seed of creation itself. Cruz’s book inhabits this gap with generosity, rigor, and urgency.”

—*LA Review of Books*

**Cynthia Cruz** is the author of five poetry collections and the editor of an anthology of contemporary Latinx 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.



#### **Published:**

March 2019

Essais Series No. 8

#### **Rights Available:**

World (excluding North America)

Memoir

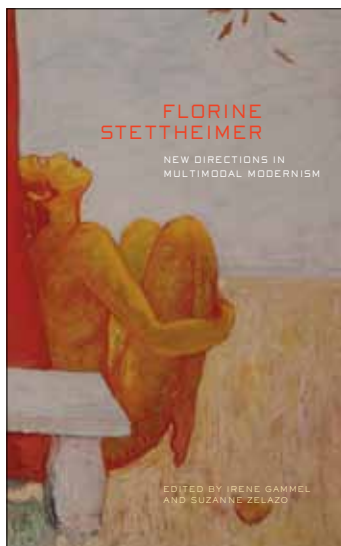
Cultural Studies

Social Sciences

Gender Studies



PHOTO: STEVEN PAGE



## 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 Uhlyarick, 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.

#### Published:

October 2019  
Salon Series No. 1

#### Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Art History  
Modernism  
Gender Studies  
Feminism

**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.





## Nonfiction

### Dear Current Occupant: A Memoir Chelene Knight

- Winner of the City of Vancouver Book Award
- Finalist for the 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*

### Published:

March 2018

Essais Series No. 5

### Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Memoir

Cultural Studies

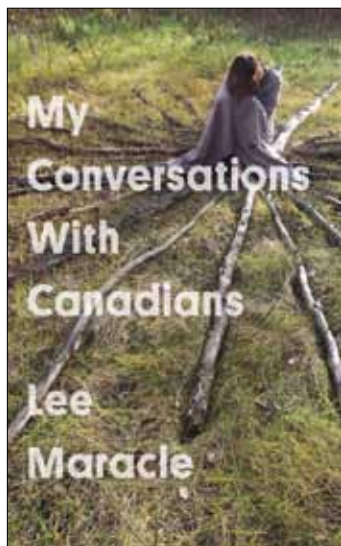
Social Sciences

Gender Studies



PHOTO: CHELENE KNIGHT

**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.



## Nonfiction

### **My Conversations With Canadians** **Lee Maracle**

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

#### **Published:**

October 2017  
Essais Series No. 4

#### **Rights Sold:**

World French: Groupe Nota Bene

Indigenous Studies  
Cultural Studies  
Gender Studies  
Feminism

"*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*

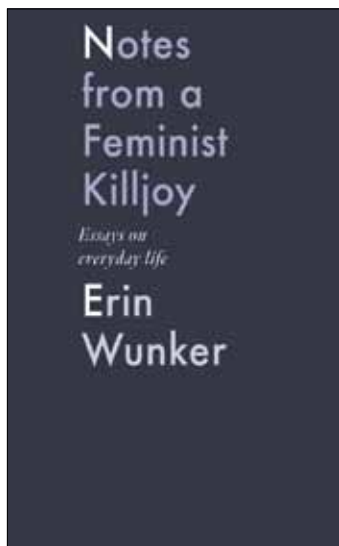
"Maracle sets the record straight on a few of our beloved myths, including Canada's current narrative as a model multicultural society."

—*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.



## 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 Margaret and John Savage First Book Award
- Winner of the Evelyn Richardson Nonfiction Award
- Finalist for the 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](http://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.

# POETRY

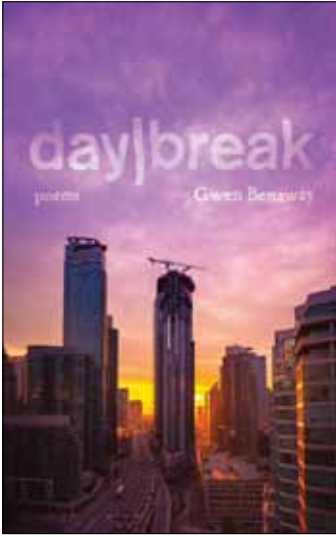
*day/break* by Gwen Benaway

*Holy Wild* by Gwen Benaway

*It Begins with the Body* by Hana Shafi

*Hope Matters* by Lee Maracle, Columpa Bobb & Tania Carter

*War / Torn* by Hasan Namir



## Poetry

### day/break 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.

### Forthcoming:

April 2020

### Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Poetry

LGBTQ2S+ Studies

Gender Studies

Indigenous Studies

From Benaway's *day/break* (her best book yet), we might learn how to democratize love's liberatory possibilities. How lucky are we to be reading in the time of Gwen Benaway!"

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



PHOTO: GWEN BENAWAY

**Gwen Benaway** is a trans girl of Anishinaabe and Métis descent. She is the author of three previous collections of poetry—*Ceremonies for the Dead*, *Passage*, and the award-winning *Holy Wild*. She is 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. She is also currently writing a book of creative nonfiction, *trans girl in love*. *day/break* is her fourth book of poetry. She lives in Toronto, Ontario, and is a Ph.D. student at the University of Toronto in the Women and Gender Studies Institute.



## Poetry

### Holy Wild Gwen Benaway

- Winner of 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 is the author of three previous collections of poetry—*Ceremonies for the Dead*, *Passage*, and the award-winning *Holy Wild*. She is 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. She is also currently writing a book of creative nonfiction, *trans girl in love*. *day/break* is her fourth book of poetry. She lives in Toronto, Ontario, and is a Ph.D. student at the University of Toronto in the Women and Gender Studies Institute.

### Published:

September 2018

### Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Poetry

LGBTQ2S+ Studies

Gender Studies

Indigenous Studies



PHOTO: GWEN BENAWAY



## Published:

September 2018

## Rights Available:

World

Poetry / Art

Affirmation Art

Interdisciplinary Art

Feminism

## Poetry

### It Begins With The Body

Hana Shafi

•CBC Poetry Book of the Year

*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.

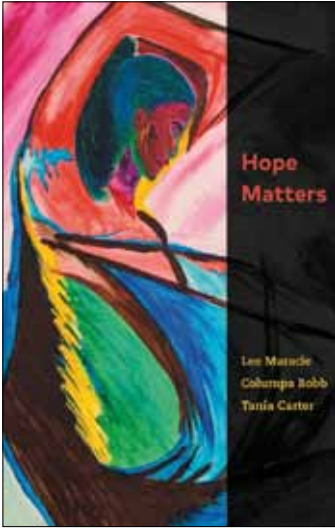
"A brilliant and incisive book, full of rage and love in all the places where you need it to be."

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

**Hana Shafi** (AKA 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's family immigrated to Mississauga, Ontario, in 1996. She lives and works in Toronto. Her second book, *Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty: Affirmations for the Real World* is forthcoming from Book\*hug Press in 2020.



PHOTO: DYLAN CAN DEN BERGE



## 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





## Poetry

### War / Torn Hasan Namir

•2020 Stonewall Book Awards: Barbara Gittings Literature Award Honour Book

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.

### Published:

April 2019

### Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Poetry

LGBTQ2S+ Studies

Cultural Studies

Gender Studies

“*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*

“*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 and son. His next book, *Umbilical Cord*, is forthcoming from Book\*hug Press in 2022.



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literary publishing  
since 1994

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