

**Book*hug Rights
Catalogue 2018**



BOOK*HUG

Book*hug (formerly BookThug) 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 partner with and 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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NEW FICTION

Coconut Dreams by Derek Mascarenhas

We All Need To Eat by Alex Leslie

Smells Like Stars by D. Nandi Odhiambo

Sludge Utopia by Catherine Fatima

Blood Fable by Oisín Curran

The Third Person by Emily Anglin

RECENT FICTION

Rich and Poor by Jacob Wren

Double Teenage by Joni Murphy

Involuntary Bliss by Devon Code

Pauls by Jess Taylor



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 shifts to the unique perspectives of two adolescents, Aiden and Ally Pinto. Both first generation Canadians, 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 community 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.

Forthcoming:

April 2019

Rights Available:

North America

UK

Europe

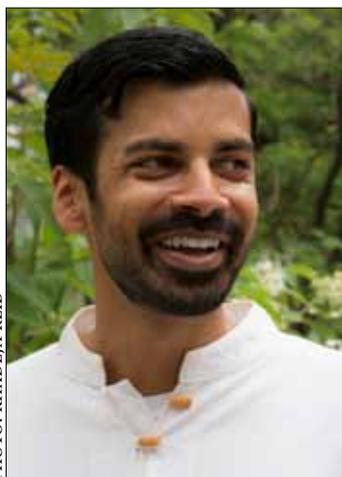
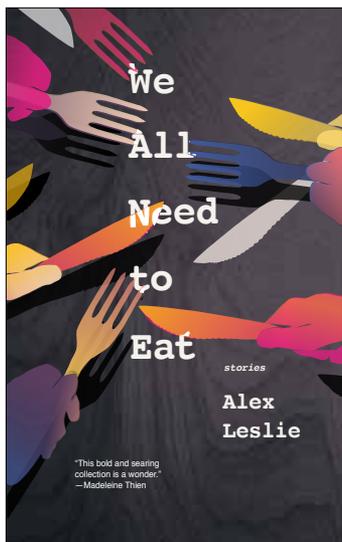


PHOTO: KHADEJA REID

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 Antigonish 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.



Fiction

We All Need To Eat

Alex Leslie

- 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. 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.

Published:

October 2018

Rights Available:

World

The stories slipstream through Soma's first three decades, surfacing at moments of knowing and intensity. 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."

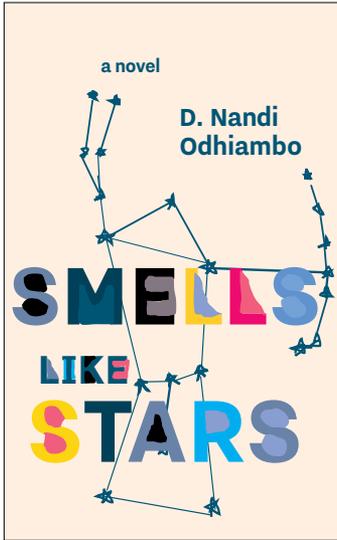
"This bold and searing collection is a wonder."

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



PHOTO: ALEX LESLIE

Alex Leslie was born and lives in Vancouver. She is the author of the short story collection *People Who Disappear* (2012) which was nominated for the 2013 Lambda Literary Award for Debut Fiction and a 2013 ReLit Award. Winner of the 2015 Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBT Emerging Writers, Alex's short fiction 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.



Fiction

Smells Like Stars

D. Nandi Odhiambo

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.

"An unforgettable portrait of what we lose through our craving to win, *Smells like Stars* is filled with heart and passion. The story grips to the very last page."

—Billie Livingston, author of *The Crooked Heart of Mercy* and the Giller Prize longlisted novel *One Good Hustle*

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.

Published:

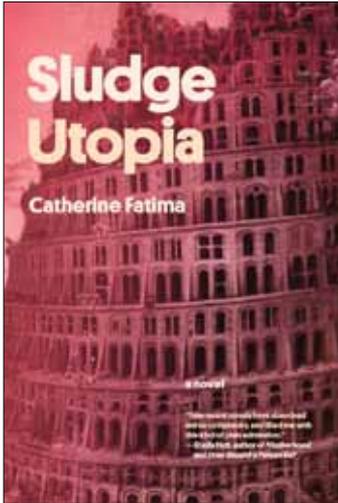
October 2018

Rights Available:

World (Excluding North America)



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.

"Few recent novels have absorbed me so completely, and filled me with this kind of plain admiration: here is a fresh mind, a captivating voice, and analytical acuity. It leaves me feeling as though I had discovered a female, 21st century Henry Miller for all its unfiltered engagement in the raw and the real." —Sheila Heti, author of *How Should a Person Be?* and *Motherhood*

Published:

June 2018

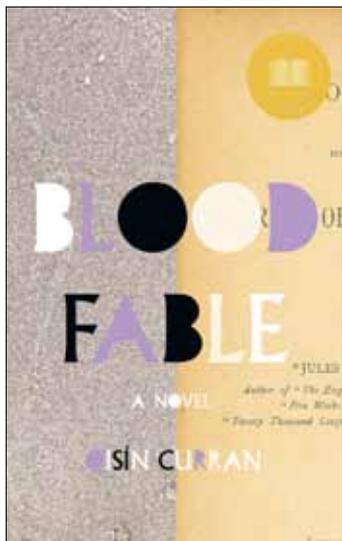
Rights Available:

World



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.



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*

“*Blood Fable* is a fascinating exploration of how imagination can sustain our lives.”

—Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award Jury Citation

Published:

October 2017

Rights Available:

World



PHOTO: SARAH EABER

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

The Third Person

Emily Anglin

Two's company, three's a crowd—and sometimes it's more than that.

In *The Third Person*, a collection of uncanny short stories by Emily Anglin, a sequence of tense professional and personal negotiations between two people is complicated when a third person arrives. Within these triangulated microworlds, disorienting gaps open up between words and reality: employees dissolve from job titles, neighbours overstep comfortable boundaries, voices distanced by space or time make their presence felt. Uneasiness builds among these separate but entangled lives.

Published:

November 2017

Rights Available:

World (excluding North America)

Anglin's darkly humorous stories contemplate situations in which characters refashion themselves to fit a new competitive milieu. *The Third Person* reveals how people can become complicit in these milieus, even desire them, often while being led into the loneliness they can instill.

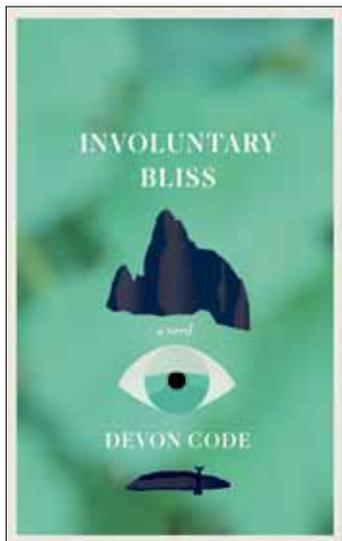
“Prepare yourself for “spontaneous empathy,” and for specters, knowledge brokers, and an oddball cast of characters who feel, at once, both familiar and strange. Reading Emily Anglin's *The Third Person* is like watching the opening sequence of Hitchcock's *Rear Window*.

—Johanna Skibsrud, Scotiabank Giller Prize winning author of *The Sentimentalists* and *Quartet for the End of Time*



PHOTO: MATT STROHACK

Writer and freelance editor **Emily Anglin** grew up in Waterloo, Ontario, and now lives in Toronto. Emily Anglin's creative work has appeared in *The New Quarterly*, the *Whitewall Review*, and in the chapbook *The Mysteries of Jupiter*. She holds an MA in Creative Writing from Concordia University and a PhD in English Literature from Queen's University, and also completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the University of Michigan's English Department. Prior to her graduate studies, she studied English at the University of Waterloo. *The Third Person* is her debut book.



Fiction

Involuntary Bliss **Devon Code**

- **Writers' Trust of Canada Journey Prize Winner**

Over one hazy weekend in late August, an unnamed narrator visits his troubled friend James in Montreal following a gap of many months. The two young men are set adrift in the city by way of James's memories, which flow out of him as lush set pieces—an affair, a stint volunteering at a children's hospital, a striptease show—assembling a picture of James's haunted life in the wake of their friend's death.

Published:

October 2016

Rights Available:

World

By turns comic, erotic, tender and harrowing, this freewheeling narrative sees bohemians and biker gangs entwine with psychotropic shamanic practices in the mountains of Peru, in a tale of friendship and mortality as unpredictable as it is true to life.

"*Involuntary Bliss* is a marvel."

—Alissa York, author of *The Naturalist*

"Devilishly clever."

—*Quill & Quire*

PHOTO: MIRIAM LOPEZ



Devon Code is the award-winning author of fiction, short stories, and critical reviews. *In a Mist*, Code's first collection of short stories, was longlisted for the 2008 ReLit Award and was included on *The Globe and Mail's* "Best Books" list. In 2010, Code was the recipient of the Journey Prize for his story "Uncle Oscar." His reviews of literary fiction have appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, *Quill & Quire*, and *Canadian Notes & Queries*. Originally from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Code lives in Peterborough, Ontario. *Involuntary Bliss* is Code's first novel.



Fiction

Rich and Poor **Jacob Wren**

- Finalist for the 2016 Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction
- Globe and Mail Best Book of 2016

Who hasn't, at one time or another, considered killing a billionaire?

Rich and Poor is a novel of a man who washes dishes for a living and decides to kill a billionaire as a political act. It is literature as political theory and theory as pure literary pleasure—a spiralling, fast-paced parable of joyous, overly self-aware, mischievous class warfare.

Published:

April 2016

Rights Sold:

World French: Le Quartanier
Film/TV/Stage: Charlotte
Street Films

As his plan proceeds and becomes more feasible, the story cuts back and forth between his and the billionaire's perspectives, gradually revealing how easily the poisons of ambition, wealth and revolutionary violence can become entangled. A fable of not knowing how to change the world and perhaps learning how to do so in the process.

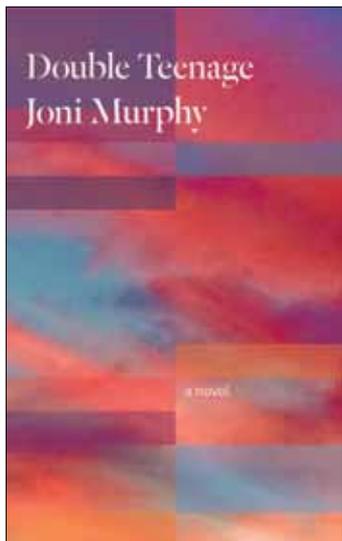
"Rich and Poor is art in resistance, a work that dares to remind us of our capacity for revolutionary love despite the prevailing economic system's structural violence."

—*The Globe and Mail*



PHOTO: JACOB WREN

Jacob Wren makes literature, performances and exhibitions. His books include: *Unrehearsed Beauty*, *Families Are Formed Through Copulation*, *Revenge Fantasies of the Politically Dispossessed* and *Polyamorous Love Song* (a finalist for the 2013 Fence Modern Prize in Prose and one of the *Globe and Mail's* 100 best books of 2014). He is the co-artistic director of Montréal-based interdisciplinary group PME-ART. He travels internationally with alarming frequency and frequently writes about contemporary art.



Fiction

Double Teenage **Joni Murphy**

- **Globe and Mail Best Book of 2016**

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

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 the definitive book of The Young Girl. It’s also a definitive book about NAFTA, the Ciudad Juárez femicides, spectacular serial killings, culture and class, and the comforting media-lull of repetition. 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*

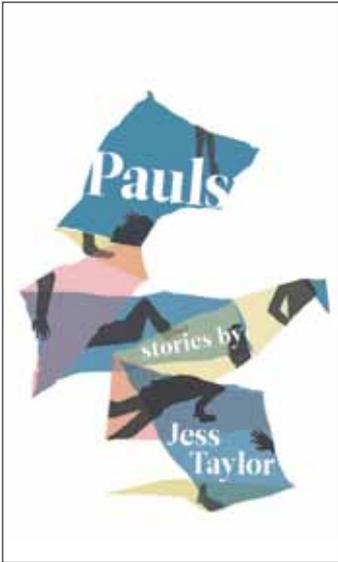
“Brilliant and necessary.”

—*The Globe and Mail*

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.



PHOTO: STEPHANIE ACOSTA



Fiction

Pauls

Jess Taylor

- Finalist for the 2016 ReLit Award for Short Fiction
- National Post Best Book of 2015
- Amazon.ca Best Book of 2015
- Kobo Best Book of 2015

Pauls, the debut short-story collection by the exciting young writer Jess Taylor, is about people: the things that remain unseen to them; how they cope with their unforgettable pasts; the different roles they take in each other's lives; how they hurt each other; how they try to heal each other; the things they want to learn; and the things they'll never discover. At the same time, *Pauls* is a portrayal of the world as these people see it—they all exist in a universe that is strange and indifferent to those within it. Coincidences, relationships, conversations, and friendships all pose more questions than answers.

“Taylor’s debut collection is a cycle of bristlingly good stories that all feature at least one character named Paul. It’s an exciting thing to behold; one gets the sense of discovering in her authentic, compelling voice a master-in-waiting, like a young Alice Munro.”
—*National Post*

Published:

October 2015

Rights Available:

World



PHOTO: ANGELA LEWIS

Jess Taylor is a writer and poet based in Toronto, Ontario. She is the fiction editor of *Little Brother Magazine*. Her work has been published in a variety of journals, magazines, and newspapers, including *Little Fiction*, *Little Brother*, *This Magazine*, *The National Post*, *Emerge Literary Journal*, *Great Lakes Review*, *Zouch Magazine*, and *offSIDE Zine*. Recently, she was named “one of the best alt- lit reads coming out of Canada” by *Dazed and Confused Magazine*. She also received the Gold 2013 National Magazine Award in Fiction for her short story, “Paul.” Her second book, *Just Pervs*, is forthcoming from Book*hug.

NONFICTION

Disquieting: Essays on Silence by Cynthia Cruz

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

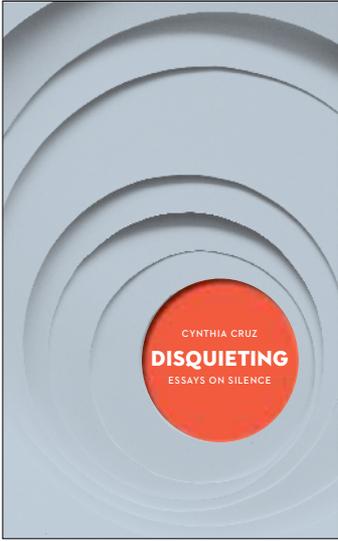
Blank: Essays and Interviews by M. NourbeSe Philip

Nilling by Lisa Robertson

Authenticity is a Feeling: My Life in PME-ART by Jacob Wren

Nonfiction

Disquieting: Essays on Silence
Cynthia Cruz



Disquieting: Essays on Silence by Cynthia Cruz is a book of silence and turning away. In these essays, Cruz asks how can we live lives of resistance to the desires and ideologies of contemporary Neoliberal culture. Tarrying with those who turn away, she inhabits connections between mental illness, refusal, silence and Neoliberalism. She 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.

Forthcoming:

March 2019
Essays Series No. 6

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

Rights Available:

World

Cultural Studies
Social Sciences



PHOTO: STEVEN PAGE

Cynthia Cruz was born in Germany and grew up in Northern California. She is the author of four collection of poems. Her fifth collection, *Dregs*, has just been published by Four Way Books. The editor of a new anthology of contemporary Latina poetry, *Other Musics*, forthcoming in 2019, Cruz is the recipient of fellowships from Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony, and a Hodder fellowship from Princeton University. She currently lives in Brooklyn.



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*

Published:

October 2017

Essais Series No. 4

Rights Available:

World

Indigenous Studies

Cultural Studies

Women's Studies

Feminism & Feminist Theory

Lee Maracle North Vancouver-born Lee Maracle is the author of numerous critically acclaimed literary works. A member of the Sto: Loh nation, Maracle is a recipient of the Order of Canada, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, the JT Stewart Award, and the Ontario Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts for 2014. Maracle is currently an instructor in the Aboriginal Studies Program at the University of Toronto, where she teaches Oral Tradition. She is also the Traditional Teacher for First Nations House and an instructor with the Centre for Indigenous Theatre. Maracle has served as Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the University of Toronto, the University of Waterloo, and the University of Western Washington, and received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from St. Thomas University in 2009. Lee Maracle lives in Toronto.



PHOTO: COLUMPA BOBB



Nonfiction

Dear Current Occupant: A Memoir Chelene Knight

Finalist for the 2018 City of Vancouver Book Award

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.

Published:

March 2018
Essais Series No. 5

Rights Available:

World

Memoir
Cultural Studies
Women's Studies
Feminism & Feminist Theory

“This memoir is built from shards of pure resilience, expertly pieced together into a compelling—and at times devastating—chronicle of youth, family, and sense of place.”

—Carleigh Baker, author of *Bad Endings*, finalist for the 2018 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize

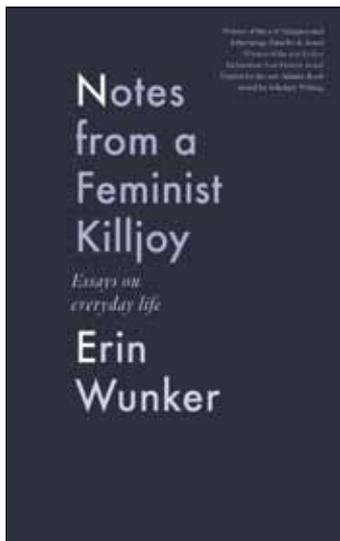
“Knight is one of the storytellers we need most right now.”

—*Toronto Star*



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 *Junie*, a historical novel set in the 1930s and 40s in Vancouver's Hogan's Alley, forthcoming from Book*hug Press.



Nonfiction

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

Winner of the Atlantic Book Awards 2017
Margaret and John Savage First Book Award

Winner of the East Coast Literary Awards 2017
Evelyn Richardson Nonfiction Award

Finalist for the 2017 Atlantic Book Award for
Scholarly Writing

Bitch Media Book of the Year

Published:
November 2016
Essais Series No. 2

Rights Sold:
World French: Vigilantes/
Les Presses de l'Université de
Montréal
Turkish: Cumartesi Kitaplığı
Spanish (Argentina): Equipo
Editorial Chirimbote

Feminism & Feminist Theory,
Women's Studies, Gender
Studies, Cultural Studies



PHOTO: ZACH FAYE

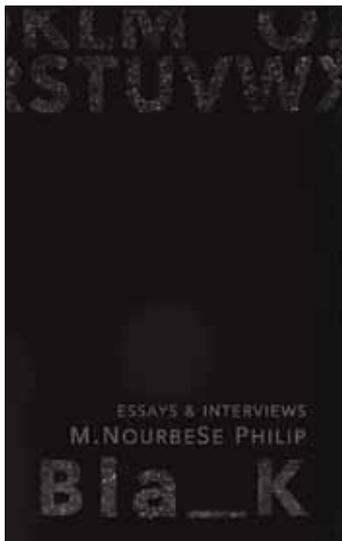
Erin Wunker is a feminist killjoy, and she thinks you should be one, too.

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 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.



Nonfiction

Blank: Essays and Interviews

M. NourbeSe Philip

Blank is a collection of previously out-of-print essays and new works by one of Canada's most important contemporary writers and thinkers.

In heretical writings that work to make the disappeared perceptible, *Blank* explores questions of race, the body politic, timeliness, recurrence, ongoingness, art, and the so-called multicultural nation. Through these considerations, Philip creates a linguistic form that registers the presence of what has seemingly dissolved, a form that also imprints the loss and the silence surrounding those disappearances in its very presence.

Published:

October 2017
Essais Series No. 3

Rights Available:

World

Cultural Studies
Social Sciences
Women's Studies
Gender Studies
Feminism & Feminist Theory

"*Blank* is an essential remedy."

—*The Globe and Mail*

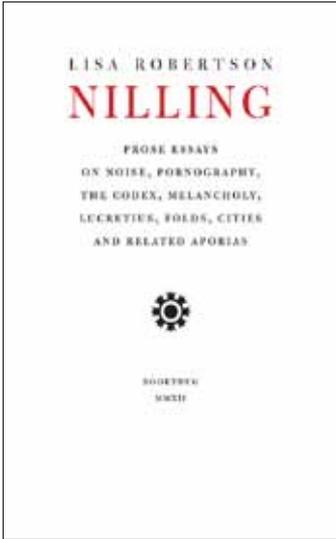
"The essays in *Blank* show not just how prescient Philip is as a commentator, but how much our culture has lost by the marginalization and erasure of voices like hers (hence the book's title)."

—*Quill and Quire*



PHOTO: GAIL NYOKA

M. NourbeSe Philip is a poet, essayist, novelist, playwright, and former lawyer who lives in Toronto. She is a Fellow of the Guggenheim and Rockefeller (Bellagio) Foundations, and the MacDowell Colony. She is the recipient of many awards, including the Casa de las Americas prize (Cuba). Among her best-known works are: *She Tries Her Tongue*, *Her Silence Softly Breaks*, *Looking for Livingstone: An Odyssey of Silence*, and *Zong!*, a genre-breaking poem that engages with ideas of the law and memory as they relate to the transatlantic slave trade.



Nonfiction

Nilling: Prose Essays
Lisa Robertson

Nilling is a sequence of six loosely linked prose essays about noise, pornography, the codex, melancholy, Lucretius, folds, cities and related aporias: in short, these are essays on reading. Lisa Robertson applies an acute eye to the subject of reading and writing—two elemental forces that, she suggests, cannot be separated.

For Robertson, a book is an intimacy, and with keen and insightful language, *Nilling's* essays build into a lively yet close conversation with Robertson's "masters": past writers, philosophers, and idealists who have guided her reading (and writing) practice to this point.

'Robertson proves hard to explain but easy to enjoy ... Dauntlessly and resourcefully intellectual, Robertson can also be playful or blunt ... She wields language expertly, even beautifully.'
—*The New York Times*

Published:

March 2012

Rights Sold:

German: Verlag Turia + Kant

Literary Criticism



Lisa Robertson has just published her 9th book of poetry, *3 Summers*. She lives in a village in the Vienne region of France, and works as a freelance teacher, lecturer and art-writer. She's taught in a visiting capacity in many institutions across Europe, Canada and the USA. Her critical essays on art, architecture, literature and philosophy have been published by BookThug (*Nilling*, 2012) and Coach House Books (*Occasional Works and Seven Walks from the Office for Soft Architecture*, 2003).



Nonfiction

**Authenticity is a Feeling:
My Life in PME-ART**
Jacob Wren

Authenticity is a Feeling: My Life in PME-ART is a compelling hybrid of history, memoir, and performance theory. It tells the story of the interdisciplinary performance group PME-ART and their ongoing endeavour to make a new kind of highly collaborative theatre dedicated to the fragile but essential act of “being yourself in a performance situation.” Written, among other things, to celebrate PME-ART’s twentieth anniversary, the book begins when Jacob Wren meets Sylvie Lachance and Richard Ducharme, moves from Toronto to Montreal to make just one project, but instead ends up spending the next twenty years creating an eccentric, often bilingual, art. It is a book about being unable to learn French yet nonetheless remaining co-artistic director of a French-speaking performance group, about the Spinal Tap-like adventures of being continuously on tour, about the rewards and difficulties of intensive collaborations, about making performances that break the mold and confronting the repercussions of doing so. A book that aims to change the rules for how interdisciplinary performance can be written about today.

Published:

March 2018

Rights Sold:

World French: Group Nota
Bene

Art

Performance Art

Interdisciplinary Art

Art Collectives



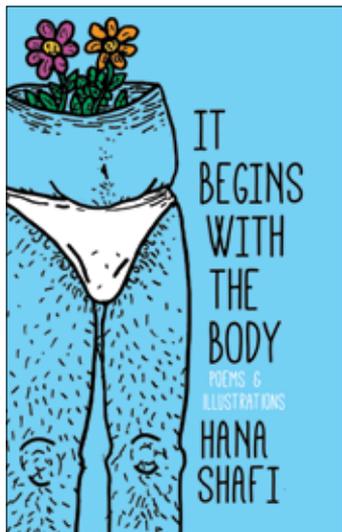
PHOTO: JACOB WREN

Jacob Wren makes literature, performances and exhibitions. His books include: *Unrehearsed Beauty*, *Families Are Formed Through Copulation*, *Revenge Fantasies of the Politically Dispossessed*, *Polyamorous Love Song* (a finalist for the 2013 Fence Modern Prize in Prose and one of the *Globe and Mail's* 100 best books of 2014) and *Rich and Poor*. He is the co-artistic director of Montréal-based interdisciplinary group PME-ART. He travels internationally with alarming frequency and frequently writes about contemporary art.

POETRY

It Begins with the Body by Hana Shafi

Holy Wild by Gwen Benaway



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.

Published:

September 2018

Rights Available:

World

Poetry / Art

Instagram Art

Interdisciplinary Art

"This book is the anthem of my youth."

—Alysha Brilla, Juno Award nominated musician and songwriter

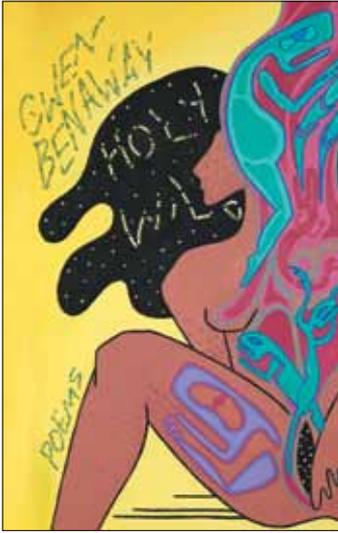
"A brilliant and incisive book, full of rage and love in all the places where you need it to be."

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



PHOTO: DYLAN VAN 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.



Poetry

Holy Wild **Gwen Benaway**

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.

Published:

September 2018

Rights Available:

World

Poetry

Gender Studies

Indigenous Studies

“This book is many things, and we are grateful.”

—Katherena Vermette, author of the award-winning novel *The Break*

“This is a heart wrenching, thought provoking, honest, and graceful walkthrough of trans realities both on the homeland and in urban settings.”

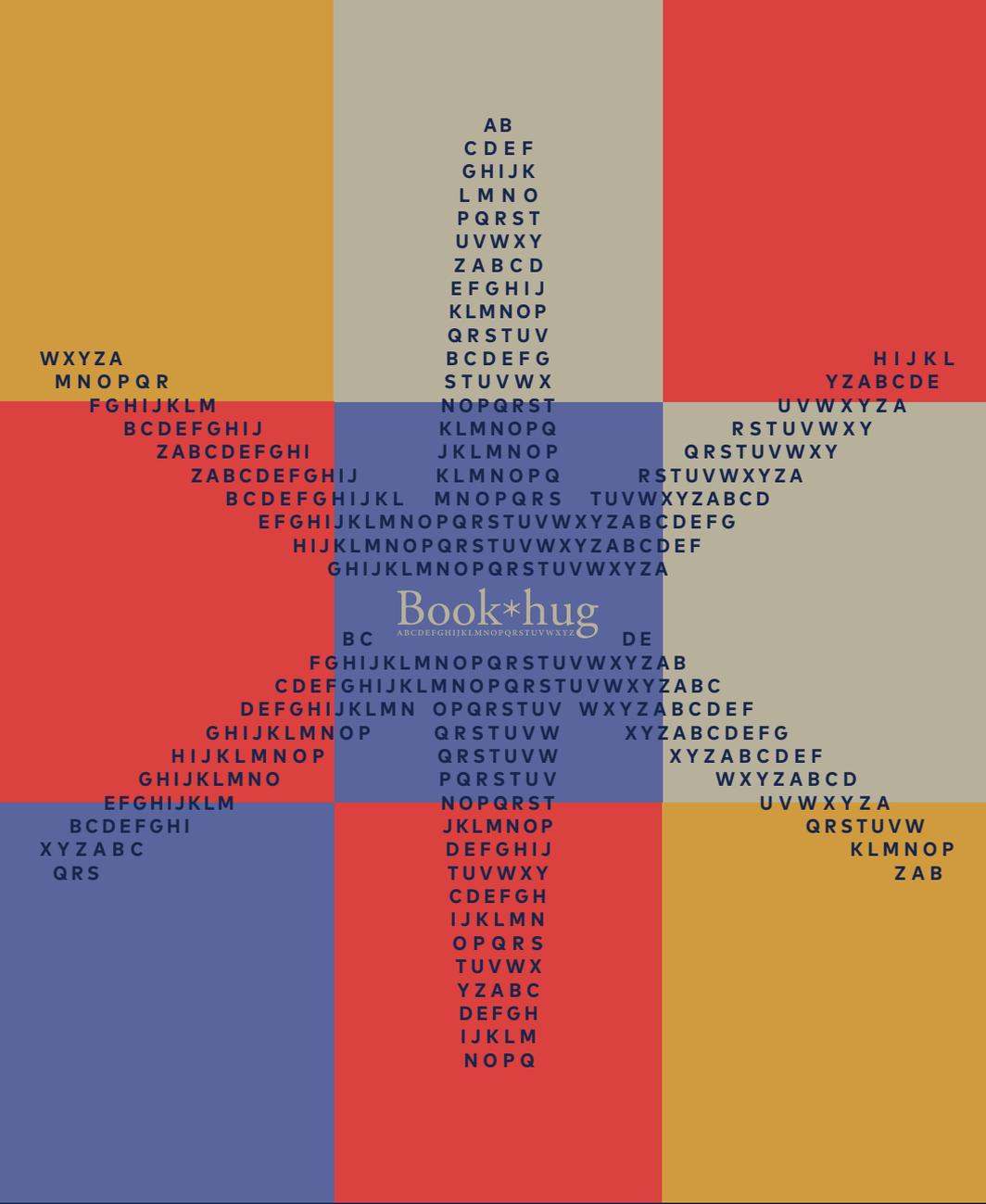
—Joshua Whitehead, author of *Jonny Appleseed*, longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and shortlisted for the 2018 Governor General’s Literary Awards

Gwen Benaway is of Anishinaabe and Métis descent. She has published two collections of poetry, *Ceremonies for the Dead* and *Passage*. A Two-Spirited Trans poet, she has been described as the spiritual love child of Tomson Highway and Anne Sexton. She has received many distinctions and awards, including the Dayne Ogilvie Honour of Distinction for Emerging Queer Authors from the Writers’ Trust of Canada. Her poetry and essays have been published in national publications and anthologies, including *The Globe and Mail*, *Maclean’s Magazine*, *CBC Arts*, and many others. She was born in Wingham, Ontario and currently resides in Toronto, Ontario.



PHOTO: JON ELLIOT

NOTES



Book*hug

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*Adventures in literary publishing since 2004