



**WINTER 2025**  
**FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL**

**CORMORANT BOOKS**  
**DCB**



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# THE WORLD SO WIDE

a novel by **ZILLA JONES**

**From Journey Prize winner, RBC/Writers' Trust Bronwen Wallace Award finalist, and CBC literary awards finalist, comes a story of politics, revolution, and the redemptive power of music.**

Felicity Alexander is supposed to be charming audiences at New York's Metropolitan Opera, not placed under house arrest in Grenada in October 1983 when the Americans invade.

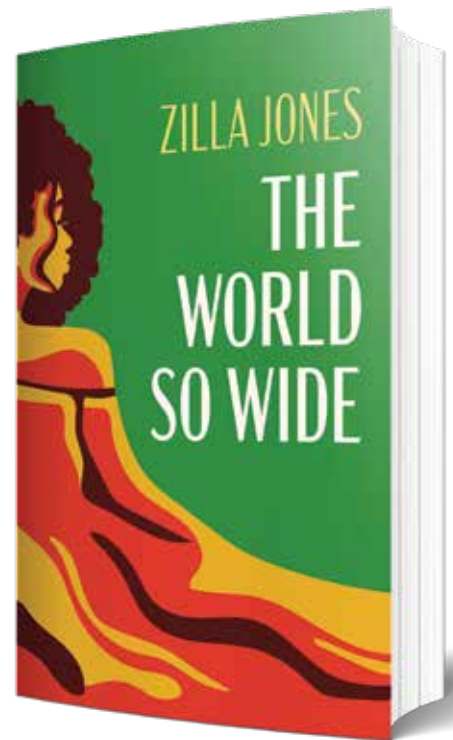
Born and raised in Winnipeg, the daughter of a Grenadian woman and an absent white father, she is blessed with enviable beauty and an extraordinary singing voice. Arriving in London to study opera in 1965, she finds early success and joy on stage, and a sense of belonging in Claude Buckingham's arms. Members of the West Indian Students Association, Claude and his friends are law students and activists. They plan to return home to Grenada and overthrow the corrupt dictator, "Uncle" Percy Tibbs.

Felicity and Claude's intense affair cannot survive their competing destinies. Claude brings revolution to Grenada and becomes a Minister in the new Black Pearls of Freedom government; Felicity devotes herself to music, conquering the racism and sexism of the opera world to rise to international stardom. The brighter she shines, the more she struggles to find her place and purpose in life.

Her career in ascendance, Felicity accepts an invitation to perform in Grenada. The red sky of revolution calls to her almost as much as the hope of Claude's embrace. But their reunion is interrupted by a coup. Surrounded by soldiers and guns, Felicity's voice is born anew. She has found her cause.



**Zilla Jones** is an African-Canadian anti-racist educator, lawyer, mother, and singer of Caribbean, Chinese, and European heritage, writing on Treaty 1 territory (Winnipeg). She was born in the UK and now lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She is a winner of the Journey Prize, a finalist for The Writers' Trust Bronwen Wallace Emerging Writers Award, and a finalist for the CBC Short Story Prize. Her writing has appeared in many literary journals including *The Fiddlehead*, *Prairie Fire*, *The Malahat Review*, and *Bayou Magazine*.



ISBN 978-1-77086-775-8

\$24.95

TP w/ flaps • 5.5" x 8.5" • 400 pp

In-warehouse Date: February 10

Publication Date: March 2025

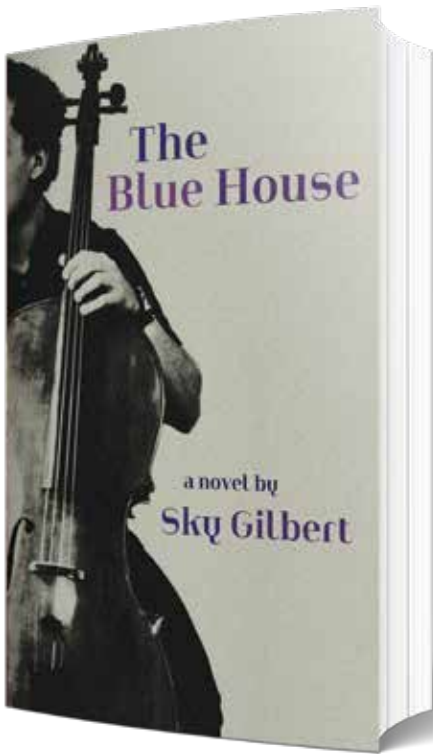
**FIC049040 FICTION / African American & Black / Historical**

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**FIC133030 FICTION / Performing Arts / Music**

Author hometown: Winnipeg, MB

Available rights: graphic novel



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FIC043000 FICTION / Coming of Age

Author hometown: Hamilton, ON

Available rights: audio; dramatic translation;  
graphic novel

# THE BLUE HOUSE

a novel by **SKY GILBERT**

Praise for previous work, *An English Gentleman*:

“... a marvelous satire that tells two stories of inter-generational male love in different periods and settings ...”

— *The Globe and Mail*

“This book belongs in that school of fictionalized biography inhabited by the likes of Michael Cunningham’s *The Hours* ... As gay literature, *An English Gentleman* reaches out to a wider audience ...”

— *The Montreal Gazette*

What is the cause and drive of the impulse to create art? What happens to an individual gifted with talent, but finds himself thwarted? Does that creative spark become some kind of death wish? These are the questions Sky Gilbert explores in *The Blue House*.

Taking the form of a memoir, the novel relates the story of Rupert Goldmann, a cello virtuoso by the age of twelve, who becomes a composer, and whose life collapses into depression and possible madness when no orchestra will perform his symphonies. Rupert’s musical life includes years of lessons from the great pianist Vladimir Horowitz, who flirts awkwardly and ineffectually with Rupert, and a full-fledged romance with the celebrity composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein.

But as his life narrows, Rupert finds himself immersed in dreams and fantasies, which are interrupted by a superficial and talentless gay rights activist and theatre director, and Simon Reycraft, an early explorer of artificial intelligence, who offers the suicidal Goldmann a legacy of computer-generated music — posing a significant question for our times: can art be created by a machine, technology without a soul?



**Sky Gilbert** is a writer, director, and drag queen extraordinaire. He studied at York University and the University of Toronto before co-founding Buddies in Bad Times, a Toronto theatre dedicated to 2SLGBTQ+ drama. Author of eight previous novels, more than thirty plays, three volumes of poetry, and three works of non-fiction, he has been awarded the Margo Bindhardt Award, three Dora Mavor Moore Awards, the Pauline McGibbon Award, the Silver Ticket Award, and the ReLit Award (for his fourth novel, *An English Gentleman* (Cormorant Books)).

# THE CASTOR'S CHOICE

a novel by **JEFF WILSON**

**“Jeff Wilson has written a compelling and funny story about an ambitious historian trying to find his place in the academic firmament, not to mention in his own family, while falling head-over-heels in love at the same time. By turns heartfelt and humorous, thoughtful and fascinating, Wilson knows of what he writes, and he writes very well.”**

— **Terry Fallis, two-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour**

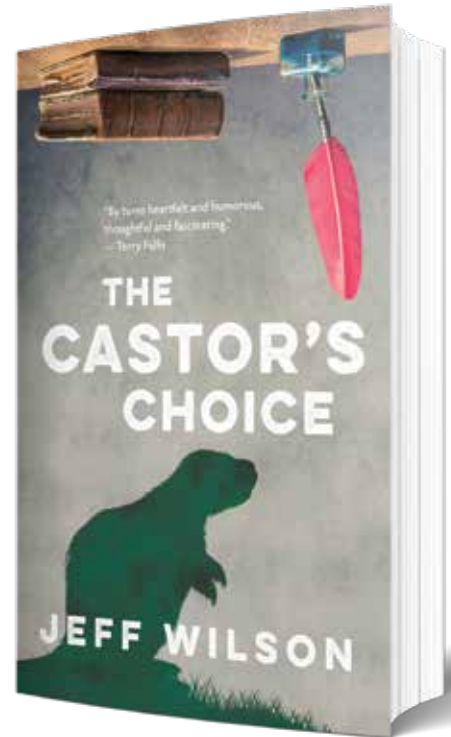
John E. McDonald believes himself to be very lucky indeed: a tenure track professor who's been given the office space once occupied by Lester B. Pearson. Admired for his take on Canadian history, which investigates the role played by the Indigenous peoples and the women who made possible the exploits of the supposed “great men of history,” McDonald's take is unorthodox, fresh, and challenging; it's more compassionate and inclusive. He's motivated in no small part to escape the long shadow of his bombastically conservative father.

Quickly, though, McDonald's world begins to unravel. He loses his office to another professor, his beloved older brother is beset with a health issue, and he begins a romance with an opera singer. Determined to make a new start, he leaves his tenure-track position at a large urban university to be a sessional instructor in a smaller institution. He's asked to participate in a competition, the prize for which is a sixteen-million dollar endowment for a chair in Canadian history.

With deft comic turns and strikingly touching moments, Jeff Wilson's *The Castor's Choice* is as readable and enjoyable as the best of Terry Fallis.



**Jeff Wilson** is a writer and a technology executive. His wife, children, and employers believe he is an eight-year-old trapped in a grown man's body, shameless in his pursuit of humour. Even when writing about important stuff — Canadian identity, culture and history, love, loss, and the importance of music — there is always a cupped hand under his armpit. *The Castor's Choice* is his debut novel. He resides in Toronto, Ontario.



ISBN 978-1-77086-781-9

\$24.95

TP w/ flaps • 5.5" x 8.5" • 300 pp

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Author hometown: Toronto, ON

Available rights: World English outside of Canada and the US; audio; dramatic; translation; graphic novel



ISBN 978-1-77086-783-3  
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FIC022060 FICTION / Mystery & Detective  
/ Historical  
FIC022040 FICTION / Mystery & Detective  
/ Women Sleuths

Author hometown: Burlington, ON

Available rights: translation; graphic novel;  
audio

# THE SILENT FILM STAR MURDERS

The Merry Widow Murders #2

a mystery by **MELODIE CAMPBELL**

Praise for *The Merry Widow Murders*:

“Just like a good Agatha Christie, this novel offers all the elements of crime, deception, intrigue and greed, along with a breathtakingly lovely setting.”

— Lisa de Nikolits, *The Minerva Reader*

“‘Delightful’ is one of the first words that come to mind. The 1920s shipboard setting is beautifully observed; the plot will keep you guessing, and the heroine is ... well ... delightful. Not to be missed.”

— Maureen Jennings, author of the Murdoch Mysteries and the Paradise Café series

Lady Lucy Revelstoke and her pickpocket-turned-maid, Elf, are once again embarking on a transatlantic crossing. Also on board are Renata Harwood, star of the silver screen, and her bitter rival, Stella Burke. Roy Armitage may be Renata’s husband, but he used to be Stella’s man.

Everyone expects these leading ladies to serve up delicious drama at dinner, but things take a tragic turn when Renata’s little sister goes missing. Has she been seduced by a cad and hiding out in second-class, as Renata fears, or has the poor girl thrown herself overboard?

Then Elf’s friend, stewardess to the Harwoods, is found brutally murdered while wearing Renata’s evening gown. From the back, it’d be hard to tell them apart, so was Renata the intended victim?

Lucy’s determined to investigate, proving once again that sometimes it takes a savvy woman to unravel the intricate relationships that lead to murder.



Called the “Queen of Comedy” by the *Toronto Sun* and “Canadian literary heir to Donald Westlake” by *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, **Melodie Campbell** has over one hundred comedy credits, eighteen novels, and sixty short stories to her name, including *The Merry Widow Murders* cozy mystery series and *The Goddaughter* mob caper series. She is the winner of ten awards, including The Derringer (US) and the Crime Writers of Canada Award of Excellence. Campbell lives in Burlington, Ontario.

# WHO BY WATER

Dame Polara Mysteries #2

a mystery by **GREG RHYNO**

**Praise for *Who by Fire*:**

“Defying genre conventions, Rhyno delivers a wholly intriguing mystery unlike any other ... easily equal to the great twists of the grand masters of the mystery and thriller genres.”

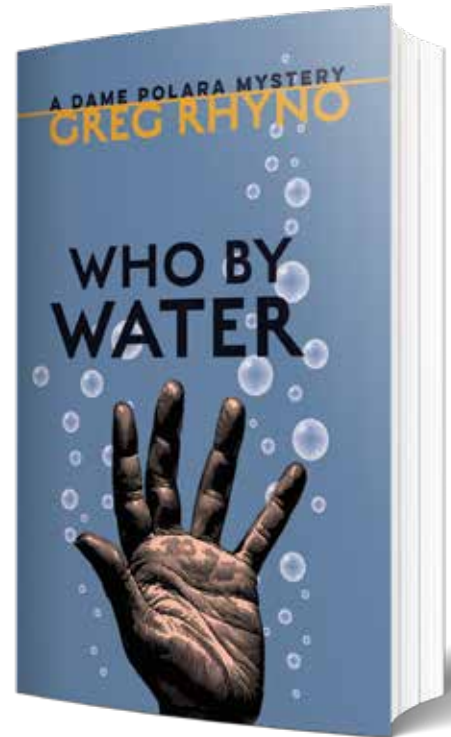
— Jeff Dupuis, *The Miramichi Reader*

“Rhyno’s descriptive style and jazz-like prose allow him to make a seamless transition into crime fiction with this crackling whodunnit. Dame Polara is a memorable, complex, and clever sleuth who is here to stay.”

— A.J. Devlin, Arthur Ellis Award–winning author of *Cobra Clutch*

After barely surviving her last case, Dame Polara has traded in the life of a part-time private eye for one of a single working mom. But when the police name her a suspect in her ex-husband’s mysterious drowning, Dame has no choice but to investigate his death herself and work alongside Rachel Suarez, the former friend who ruined her marriage.

Dame’s sleuthing brings her to the city’s dive bars, industrial ports, and eventually, to Toronto Island, where she encounters a community of secretive artists and reclusive musicians. Soon, Dame uncovers sinister evidence that an old enemy has resurfaced, and she realizes that before she can discover what happened to the man she once loved, she’ll have to confront the woman who once tried to destroy her.



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\$24.95

TP w/ flaps • 5.5” x 8.5” • 280 pp

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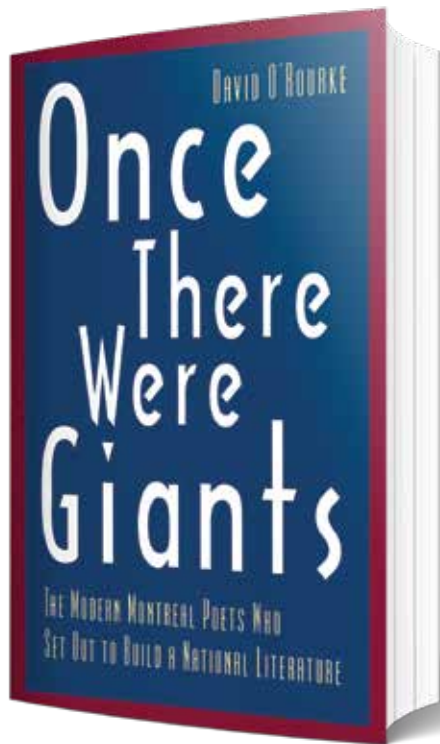
**FIC022000 FICTION / Mystery & Detective / General**  
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 / Women Sleuths  
**FIC022090 FICTION / Mystery & Detective**  
 / Private Investigators

Author hometown: Guelph, ON

Available rights: French translation



**Greg Rhyno** is the author of *Who by Fire*, first of the Dame Polara Mysteries, and *To Me You Seem Giant*, which was nominated for a ReLit Award and an Alberta Book Publishing Award. His writing has appeared in a number of journals, including *Hobart*, *Riddle Fence*, *The Quarantine Review*, and *PRISM International*. He completed an MFA at the University of Guelph and lives with his family in Guelph, Ontario.



ISBN 978-1-77086-469-6  
\$36.95

TP • 6" x 9" • 392 pp

In-warehouse Date: January 10  
Publication Date: February 2025

LCO006000 LITERARY COLLECTIONS / Canadian  
LCO000000 LITERARY COLLECTIONS  
POE011000 POETRY / Canadian

Author hometown: Port Hope, ON

Available rights: World English outside of  
Canada and the US; audio

## ONCE THERE WERE GIANTS

The Modern Montréal Poets Who Set Out to Build a National Literature

non-fiction by **DAVID O'ROURKE**

When Patrick Anderson, P.K. Page, F.R. Scott, and others set up *Preview Magazine*, they were doing more than creating a vehicle to publish their high modernist poetry, which they were having difficulties publishing elsewhere. They were taking the first steps toward consciously building a Canadian literature. When John Sutherland established *First Statement*, he was taking the next step — publishing Louis Dudek and Irving Layton, poets from Montréal's working class. Between the establishment of the first magazine and the decline of the second, many of Canada's greatest poets found early homes for their work and laid down the foundation for our literary culture.

In a series of interviews conducted in the 1980s with F.R. Scott, P.K. Page, Betty Layton, Irving Layton, Audrey Sutherland, and Louis Dudek, David O'Rourke creates a vivid oral history of the times, places, and people deeply involved in *Preview* and *First Statement*. A story evolves that is akin to a novel — complete with literary rivalries, cold garrets, love affairs, and great poetry. Samples of the poetry of these giants complete the book — and include work by A.M. Klein, A.J.M. Smith, Miriam Waddington, and Raymond Souster.



**David O'Rourke** has taught at Centennial College and the University of Toronto. He studied under Irving Layton and was co-author with Layton of *Waiting for the Messiah*. He lives in Port Hope, Ontario.



# PLAYING HARD

A Life and Death in Games, Sports, and Play

essays by **PETER UNWIN**

**Praise for previous work, *When We Were Old*:**

**“Unwin’s considerable narrative skills come to the fore in this work ... an easy read, a glimpse into personal experiences that are so universal they deserve a moment of their own.”**

— *The Malahat Review*

**Praise for previous work, *Written in Stone*:**

**“Unwin constructs a meaningful, lived-in portrait of long-term love in all its failings and rugged fortitude.”**

— *Quill & Quire*

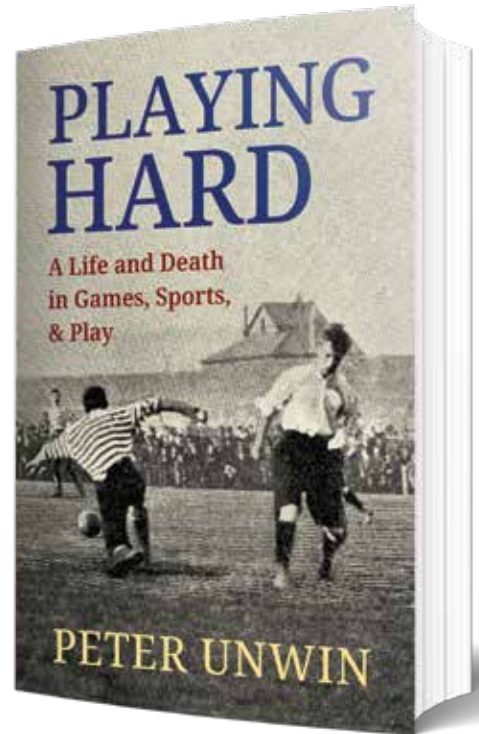
*Playing Hard* is a tribute to the power of play in all its forms — a searching personal account of how play, games, and sports sanctify life and give it meaning. In this moving and wide-ranging examination, Peter Unwin reflects on life and relationships through countless acts of play and the many unexpected places it is found.

Through a shared love of games, the author reconnects with his terminally ill father and is exposed to the complexities of his father’s past, of his experience of war and violence, and of a different but equally powerful commitment to a life of play.

From Snakes-n-Ladders to shooting pool, from an improbable soccer game in the Sahara, to first memories of playing baseball under catalpa trees — Peter Unwin examines the irresistible urge to have fun, reminding us that to live is to play, and to play hard is to live well.



**Peter Unwin** is the author of ten books, as well as essays, short stories, and poems. He has been thrice shortlisted for the ReLit Award and his short story collection *Life Without Death* was shortlisted for the 2014 Trillium Book Award. His articles, essays, and poems have appeared in numerous journals and magazines. Peter recently completed a PhD in the Humanities at York University.



ISBN 978-1-77086-777-2

\$24.95

TP • 6" x 9" • 240 pp

In-warehouse Date: January 10

Publication Date: February 2025

**BIO026000 BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY**  
/ Memoirs

**SPO000000 SPORTS & RECREATION / General**  
**FAM014000 FAMILY & RELATIONSHIPS / Death,**  
Grief, Bereavement

Author hometown: Toronto, ON

Available rights: translation; graphic novel; audio;  
dramatic



ISBN 978-1-77086-779-6

\$16.95

TP • 5.375" x 8" • 240 pp

Ages 15+ • Grades 10–12

In-warehouse Date: February 7

Publication Date: March 2025

YAF046010 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Indigenous  
/ General

YAF058050 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Social Themes  
/ Death, Grief, Bereavement

YAF016000 YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Epistolary  
(Letters & Diaries)

Author hometown: Sioux Lookout, ON

Available rights: translation; graphic novel;  
audio; dramatic

# THE FRAGMENTS THAT REMAIN

a young adult novel by **MACKENZIE ANGECONEB**

**Andy and Ally are honorary twins; once a reflection of each other, now only one remains to pick up the fragments of a shared life.**

First-year college student Andy can't afford to slow down. Study, volunteer, work, make new friends, fall in love — whatever it takes to keep her from obsessing over her brother Ally's death, which was ruled suicide by overdose. Navigating a new life chapter without her "honorary twin," Andy writes letters to him as she strives to embrace her bisexuality and her Indigenous identity. Once she discovers Ally's hidden poems, Andy pours over them to make sense of her brother's life — and his death.

Back in senior year, Ally dreamed of being a poet. His parents encouraged him to write as a hobby, but they always expected him to inherit the family-owned bookshop with his sister. Ally wrote to cope with his emptiness, until he turned to drugs to fill the void.

Reaching for her brother through unanswered words, Andy must reckon with living a once-shared life alone.



**Mackenzie Angeconeb** (Aan-ji-qui-ni-ai'ib) (she/they) is an Anishinaabekwe author and educator from Lac Seul First Nation. She began writing while attending university, incorporating themes from the common pains of Indigenous youths and families, as well as her own coming-of-age. In their spare time, they like to paint with watercolours and acrylics, bead earrings, read second-hand books, or learn Anishinaabemowin when their schedule permits. *The Fragments that Remain* is her debut novel. Angeconeb lives in Sioux Lookout, ON.

# IN THE FORESTS OF THE NIGHT

a middle grade novel by **ALISON HUGHES**

**In a world without trees, Ellis's new friend Pip just might be Mother Nature's secret weapon.**

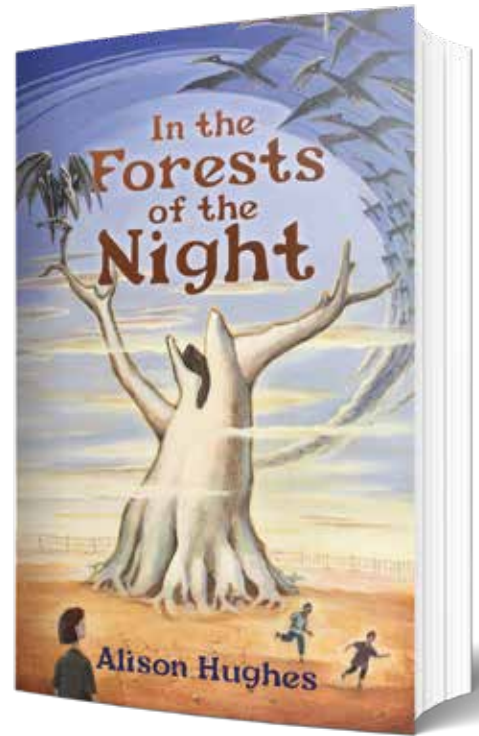
A year after her best friend Lora mysteriously disappears from Clearwood Home, twelve-year-old Ellis is put in charge of the orphanage's new arrival: Pip.

Small, silent, and strange, Pip is inexplicably drawn to the eerie Ghost Tree, a fossilized relic of the Blight that killed every forest in the world. But Pip's connection to nature makes her, Ellis, and their friend Jasper targets of Mother Dear, a sinister, scientific mastermind determined to destroy the natural world and replace it with her robot-hybrid one.

Kidnapped by their teacher, kidnapped *again* by Mother Dear's robotic pterodactyl-like creatures, and then held captive at her work camp, Ellis, Pip, and Jasper must work together to make their daring escape, learn the truth of Lora's fate, and uncover the key to nature's regeneration.



**Alison Hughes** is the award-winning author of more than twenty books for children and young adults. Her YA novel *Hit the Ground Running* was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Awards. Hughes' works have also won the R. Ross Annett Award and the Writers' Union of Canada Writing for Children Award, and have been nominated for numerous provincial children's choice awards. Hughes is a university writing advisor and gives workshops and presentations at schools, libraries, conferences, and festivals. She lives in Edmonton, Alberta.



ISBN 978-1-77086-785-7

\$14.95

TP • 5.375" x 8" • 200 pp

Ages 9–12 • Grades 3–7

In-warehouse Date: March 7

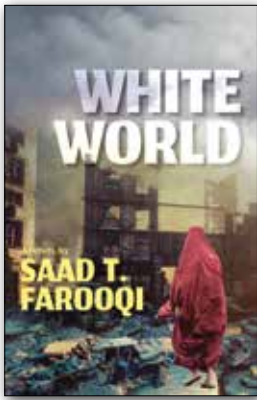
Publication Date: April 2025

JUV037000 JUVENILE FICTION / Fantasy & Magic  
JUV013050 JUVENILE FICTION / Family / Orphans &  
Foster Homes

JUV039140 JUVENILE FICTION / Social Themes  
/ Self-Esteem & Self-Reliance

Author hometown: Edmonton, AB

Available rights: translation; graphic novel

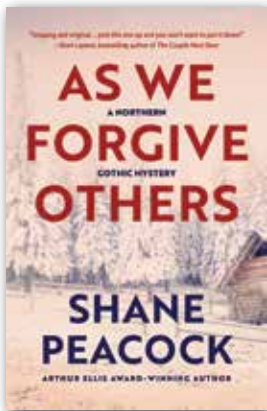


### WHITE WORLD • Saad T. Farooqi

ISBN 978-1-77086-745-1 • \$24.95 • TP w/ flaps • 5.5" x 8.5" • 354 pp

[FIC055000](#) / FICTION / [Dystopian](#)

Zealots have implemented martial law in Pakistan, 2083 A.D. A rebel group promises civil war and a militia boss wants him dead. To Aavaan, what matters is that his lover, once thought dead, is alive. But the only path to her is through the army, the rebels, and the mob. This dystopia is written with the political acumen of Salman Rushie and the dynamic prose style of a young Rawi Hage.



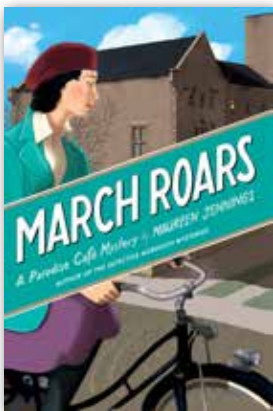
### AS WE FORGIVE OTHERS • Shane Peacock

ISBN 978-1-77086-762-8 • \$24.95 • TP w/ flaps • 5.5" x 8.5" • 312 pp

[FIC022020](#) / FICTION / [Mystery & Detective](#) / [Police Procedural](#)

A woman vanishes from a café in a northern town and all the witnesses have different accounts. Local police officer Alice Morrow and former New York homicide detective Hugh Mercer, troubled by their own need for forgiveness and justice, uncover a bizarre crime.

“Gripping and original ... pick this one up and you won’t want to put it down!”  
— Shari Lapena, bestselling author of *What Have You Done?*



### MARCH ROARS • Maureen Jennings

ISBN 978-1-77086-724-6 • \$24.95 • TP w/ flaps • 5.5" x 8.5" • 318 pp

[FIC022040](#) FICTION / [Mystery & Detective](#) / [Women Sleuths](#)

*March Roars* is the fourth installment in the Paradise Café Mysteries featuring Private Investigator Charlotte Frayne, set in Toronto during the Depression-era.

“If you’re a mystery lover, you really should consider checking out this entire series. If you’re not fully sold on the genre, this may be an excellent starting point.” — Justine Kraemer, *Fangirl-ish*



### FELT • Mark Blagrove

ISBN 978-1-77086-756-7 • \$24.95 • TP w/ flaps • 5.5" x 8.5" • 336 pp

[FIC008000](#) FICTION / [Family Sagas](#)

In this story of a son, his mother, and her Alzheimer’s disease, a small Maritime town transforms into the loom on which the shared and contested memories of three generations are woven, unravelled, and rewoven.

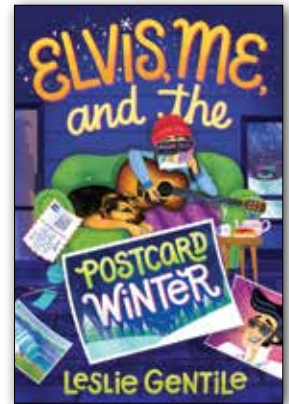
“This is a beautiful book, moving, thought-provoking, sometimes funny and curiously reassuring about the inevitable, inescapable, always messy course of life.”  
— Heather McBriarty, *The Miramichi Reader*

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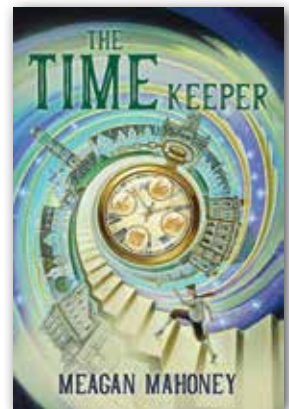
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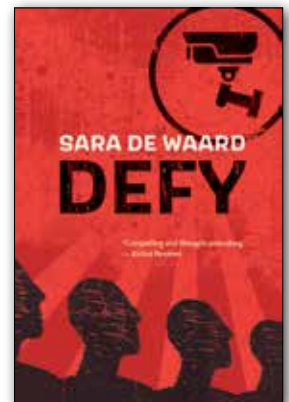
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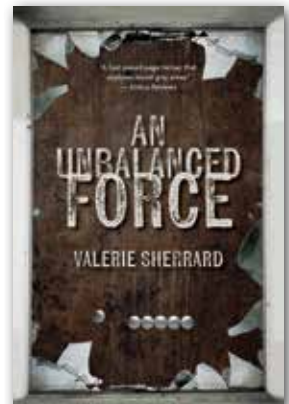
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				9781770866287	TP	Valley of the Rats (Narsimhan)	\$13.95
9781897151334	HC	M is for Moose (Pachter)	\$20.00	9781770866515	TP	ValHamster (Misri)	\$13.95
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We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.



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