



C O A C H  
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## GOOD ON PAPER SINCE 1965

Coach House Books, established in 1965, is an independent Canadian press that publishes high-quality editions of literary fiction, poetry, drama, and select nonfiction. We share our offices with our sister company, Coach House Printing, which prints all our books on their Heidelberg offset press.



*Our Heidelberg offset press*



*Our Coach House*

Over the past fifty-nine years, we've published books by such literary luminaries as bpNichol, Nicole Brossard, André Alexis, Michael Redhill, Suzette Mayr, and Tamara Faith Berger, and our books have been nominated for and received the Giller Prize, Governor General's Awards, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, the Griffin Poetry Prize, Trillium Awards, Writers' Trust Prizes, the Global Cities Book Award, and the Believer Book Award.

We are driven by our history of boundary-breaking literature, our investment in bright new writers and belief in returning authors, our love of holding our books, still warm, after they have been printed, bound, and hand-cut in the print shop and bindery downstairs from our offices. We hope you'll find a book to love with us, too.

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# THE SLEEPING CAR PORTER

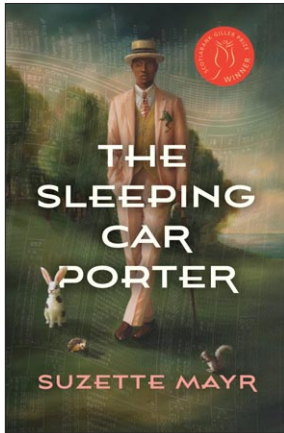
SUZETTE MAYR

WINNER OF THE SCOTIABANK GILLER PRIZE 2022

WINNER OF THE 2023 GEORGE BUGNET AWARD FOR FICTION

SHORTLISTED FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CONSCIOUSNESS PRIZE AND THE CAROL SHIELDS PRIZE FOR FICTION

SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2024 DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD



When a mudslide strands a train, Baxter, a queer Black sleeping car porter, must contend with the perils of white passengers, ghosts, and his secret love affair.

It's 1929, and Baxter has a job as a sleeping car porter on a train that crisscrosses the country. What he really wants is to go to dentistry school, but he'll have to save up a lot of nickel and dime tips to get there. When the train stalls for two days, the passengers become unruly; their secrets start to leak out and blur with Baxter's sleep-deprivation hallucinations. When he finds a naughty postcard of two queer men, Baxter's memories and longings are reawakened, and he keeps it even though it puts his job in peril.

*The Sleeping Car Porter* brings to life a long-neglected part of Black and queer histories through the spellbinding, magical story of the singular – and unforgettable – Baxter.

ISBN 978 1 55245 458 9  
5.25 x 8.2.5, 244 pp.  
September 2022

RIGHTS HELD: World

RIGHTS SOLD:  
UK/Commonwealth  
(Dialogue Books),  
Germany (Wagenbach),  
French (Éditions XYZ)

'Suzette Mayr brings to life – believably, achingly, thrillingly – a whole world contained in a passenger train moving across the Canadian vastness, nearly one hundred years ago. As only occurs in the finest historical novels, every page in *The Sleeping Car Porter* feels alive and immediate – and eerily contemporary.' – Giller Prize jury citation

SUZETTE MAYR is the author of six novels. Her books have won the Giller Award, the Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction, the City of Calgary Book Prize, and the ReLit Award, and have been shortlisted for the Carol Shields Prize, the Republic of Consciousness Prize, the Commonwealth Prize, the Writers' Guild of Alberta's Awards, and the Ferro-Grumley Award for LGBT Fiction.

**BORN**

HEATHER BIRRELL



ISBN 978 1 55245 500 5  
5 x 8, 224 pp  
June 2025

RIGHTS HELD: World

**What happens when an English teacher goes into labour during a high school lockdown?**

High school English teacher Elise loves teaching Shakespeare. She is also very pregnant. She's trapped in a classroom with her Grade 12 students during a lockdown. Anthony, the cause of the lockdown, is roaming the halls with a knife in search of some solace, consumed by thoughts of his best friend Samantha, who is in peril. Maria, the guidance counselor, is second-guessing her decision to turn him in.

As the lockdown drags on, Elise can no longer deny that she's going into labour. And she'll have to rely on the students to get her through: Shai-Anna and Faduma end up acting as midwives, and the others do what they can.

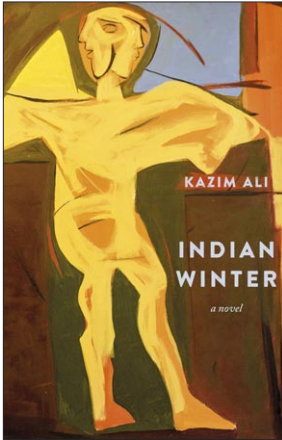
In the same way the self shatters and sharpens when one is doing the hard work of giving birth, so does the narrative of the novel, with various people in the school picking up the threads of the story.

With infinite empathy for all involved, *Born* explores the myriad pitfalls and utopian possibilities of the school system, motherhood, and caregiving, and the sometimes fraught, sometimes transcendent nature of the student-teacher relationship.

HEATHER BIRRELL is the author of the Gerald Lampert Award-winning poetry collection *Float and Scurry* and two story collections, *Mad Hope* (a *Globe and Mail* top fiction pick for 2012) and *I know you are but what am I?*. Heather's work has been honoured with the Journey Prize for short fiction, the Edna Staebler Award for creative nonfiction, and *ARC Magazine's* Reader's Choice Award. She has been shortlisted for the KM Hunter Award and both National and Western Magazine Awards (Canada). Heather teaches at a small alternative high school in Toronto.

# INDIAN WINTER

KAZIM ALI



ISBN 978 1 55245 465 7  
5 x 8, 176 pp  
May 2024

RIGHTS HELD: World

A queer writer travelling through India can't escape the regrets of his past nor the impending ruin of his present.

'I am leaving for the winter – I have to get away from this small town and all its dangers – to write, read, think, all the most important things in the world but which are thought the least important, the most expendable.'

Thus begins the Indian winter of our narrator, a queer writer and translator much like the author, a winter that includes a meandering journey through India, trying to write about a long-ago lover whose death he has just learned of. While on this journey into memory, he flees his current faltering relationship in search of new friendships and intimacies. Inspired by Antonio Tabucchi's *Indian Nocturne*, and by the writings of Anaïs Nin, Rachel Cusk, and Carole Maso, among others, *Indian Winter* finds itself where the travel diary, the *künstlerroman*, poetry, and autofiction meet. But the heartbreak brought on by his unravelling relationship and his family's inability to accept his queerness cannot be outrun; as he traverses India, our narrator can't help but repeatedly encounter himself and the range of love and alienation he has within.

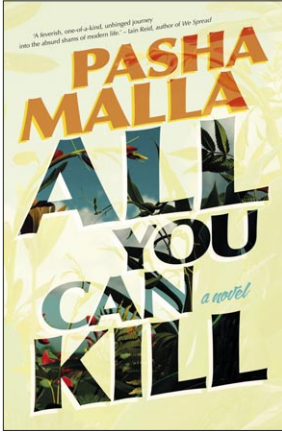
'This book represents for me the possibilities of worldly belonging: belonging to others and belonging to one's own wild self.'

– Rajiv Mohabir, author of *Whale Aria*

KAZIM ALI was born in the United Kingdom and has lived transnationally in the United States, Canada, India, France, and the Middle East. He is the author of 25 books of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and translations. In 2004, he co-founded the small press Nightboat Books and served as its first publisher, and he continues to edit books with the press.

# ALL YOU CAN KILL

PASHA MALLA



ISBN 978 1 55245 4862  
5.5 x 8.5, 220 pp.  
October 2024

RIGHTS HELD: World

*White Lotus* meets *Shaun of the Dead* in this absurdist take on the wellness retreat.

Our narrator and his accidental companion, K. Sohail, find themselves on an island wellness retreat impersonating the Dhaliwals, who have probably been killed in a helicopter crash. After being welcomed by Jerome the robot, the intrepid imposters eagerly partake of the all-you-stomach buffet, the motivational speechifying of self-help guru Brad Beard, and Professor Sayer's uncomfortably erotic couples counselling.

But things quickly take an ominous turn when an excursion to a nearby deserted village reveals a guillotine and a haunted chapel. And then one of the retreaters is murdered and the real Dhaliwals show up. Accusations, counter-accusations, and counter-counter-accusations are made, until the whole retreat is caught up in a bizarre trial.

In *All You Can Kill*, Pasha Malla, with his inimitable absurdist style, collides horror and humour into an utterly unforgettable satire.

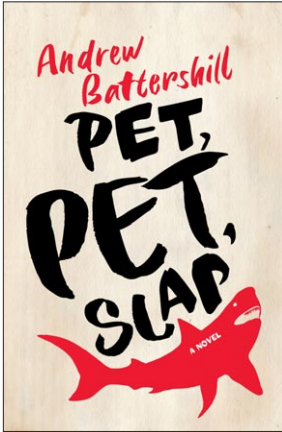
‘Smart, hilarious, original, *All You Can Kill* is a feverish, one-of-a-kind, unhinged journey into the absurd shams of modern life. No one writes satire, or anything else, like Pasha Malla.’

– Iain Reid, author of *We Spread*

PASHA MALLA is the author of seven books. His writing has won or been listed for the Giller Prize, the Commonwealth Prize, the Dublin IMPAC, the Trillium Book Award, an Arthur Ellis Award, the Journey Prize, the Hamilton Book Award, and several National Magazine Awards. Pasha teaches in the creative writing program at York University and lives in Hamilton, Ontario.

## PET, PET, SLAP

ANDREW BATTERSHILL



ISBN 978 1 55245 476 3  
5.5 x 8.5, 224 pp.  
June 2024

RIGHTS HELD: World

*Rocky* meets *Elmore Leonard* meets *Miranda July* as *Pillow Wilson*, a past-his-prime boxer, trains for his last title shot. Shenanigans ensue.

Having recently undergone an ethical awakening, *Pillow* has converted to veganism and is in the middle of trying to re-home his menagerie of exotic pets (including *Jersey Joe* the sloth and *Rigoberto* the shark) in humane animal shelters. His roommate, *Sherlock Holmes*, has recently faked his own death by waterfall and gone incognito and is *Pillow's* in-house doping expert.

The thing is, *Pillow* doesn't feel all that motivated to train for his next big fight, and he's further distracted from his training when his car and pet shark mysteriously disappear. Luckily, *Sherlock* is a master of deduction. What follows is part underdog sports story, part work of Neozoological Surrealism, and part existential mystery novel.

'Reckless, desperate, and achingly human, *Battershill* remains funnier than anyone else on your shelf.'

– Andrew F. Sullivan, author of *The Marigold*

'*Pillow*, *Battershill's* charming anti-hero, remains the heart and soul of *Pet, Pet, Slap*. Impulsive, supremely unfiltered, and surprisingly gentle, he keeps your eye on the page.'

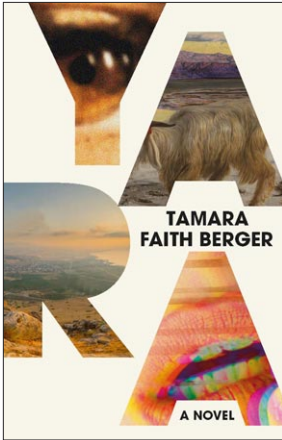
– Brett Josef Grubisic, *the Vancouver Sun*

ANDREW BATTERSHILL is the husband of the writer Suzannah Showler and the father of Djuna. He is the author of two previous novels. His work has been longlisted for the Giller Prize, shortlisted for the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize, and he was the winner of the 2019 ReLit Award in the Novel category. He works as a public librarian on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

**YARA**

TAMARA FAITH BERGER

A PUBLISHERS WEEKLY INDIE BOOK PICK FOR FALL 2023



Set in the sex-tape-panicked early 2000s, *Yara* is a reverse cautionary tale about what the body can teach us.

Distraught that her teenage daughter is in love with a woman a decade older, Yara's mother sends Yara away from their home in Brazil to Israel, on a Birthright trip for Jewish youth. Freed from her increasingly controlling and jealous girlfriend, Yara is determined to forge her own path and follow her desires.

But Birthright takes a debauchorous turn, and Yara flees Israel for Toronto, and then California. As she wanders, Yara is forced to reframe her relationship and her ideas around consent.

ISBN 978 1 55245 467 1  
8 x 5, 208 pp  
October 2023

RIGHTS HELD: World

'This provocative coming-of-age story from Berger raises questions about sexuality, power, and the intersection of the personal and the political.'

— *Publishers Weekly*

'Tamara Faith Berger is one of our best writers of the body, capturing in sharp, red-hot prose its raw animal urges, its often confused and contradictory desires, and the way our search for pleasure can be both liberatory and self-annihilating.'

— Jordan Tannahill, author of *The Listeners*

TAMARA FAITH BERGER writes fiction, nonfiction, and screenplays. She is the author of *Lie With Me* and *The Way of the Whore* (which were collected by Coach House Books as *Little Cat*), *Maidenhead*, and *Kuntalini*. *Maidenhead* won the 2012 Believer Book Award. Her fifth book, *Queen Solomon*, was nominated for a Trillium Book Award. She lives and works in Toronto.

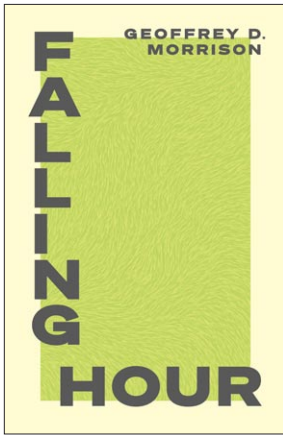


# FALLING HOUR

GEOFFREY D. MORRISON

LONGLISTED FOR THE 2024 DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD

SHORTLISTED FOR THE ETHEL WILSON FICTION PRIZE



ISBN 978 1 55245 446 6

5.5 x 8, 224 pp.

February 2023

RIGHTS HELD: World

*The Mezzanine* meets *Ducks*, *Newburyport* in this meandering and captivating debut.

It's a hot summer night, and Hugh Dalgarno, a 31-year-old clerical worker, thinks his brain is broken. Over the course of a day in a public park, waiting to meet someone who never shows, he will traverse the baroque landscape of his own thoughts: the theology of nosiness, the pathos of Gene Hackman, the theory of quantum immortality, Louis Riel's letter to an Irish newspaper, the sanctity of baseball, the baleful influence of Calvinism on the Scottish working class, the sea, the CIA, and, ultimately, thinking itself and how it may be represented in writing. The result is a strange, meandering sojourn, as if the history-haunted landscapes of W. G. Sebald's *The Rings of Saturn* were shrunk down to a mere 85 acres.

These digressions are anchored by the letters of Keats, by snatches of lyrics from Irish rebel songs and Scottish folk ballads, and, above all else, by the world-shattering call of the red-winged blackbird.

*'Falling Hour* is a profound incantatory exhalation – a quiet triumph; to read it is to engage in a smart, humane and at times very funny conversation that you will never want to end.'

– Simon Okotie, author of *After Absalon*

'It is rare to come across a debut novel that feels so unapologetically intellectual and, at the same time, so alive to what is beautiful and terrible in human life.'

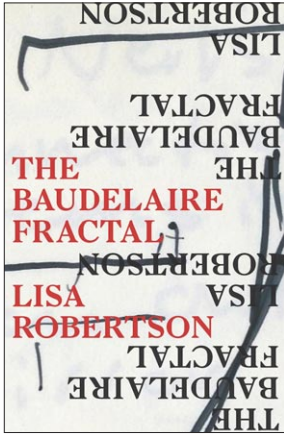
– André Forget, *Literary Review of Canada*

GEOFFREY D. MORRISON was a finalist in both the poetry and fiction categories of the 2020 Malahat Review Open Season Awards and a nominee for the 2020 Journey Prize. He lives on unceded Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh territory (Vancouver).

# THE BAUDELAIRE FRACTAL

LISA ROBERTSON

SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2020 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD



ISBN 978 1 55245 390 2  
4.75 x 7.5, 160 pp.  
January 2020

RIGHTS HELD: World  
RIGHTS SOLD: Turkish  
(Kirmizi Kedi), Swedish  
(OEI), French (Le Quar-  
tanier), Norway (Lord Jim  
Publishing), Arabic (Altur-  
jman), UK (Peninsula  
Press), German  
(Diaphanes)

The debut novel by acclaimed poet Lisa Robertson, in which a poet realizes she's written the works of Baudelaire.

One morning, the poet Hazel Brown wakes up in a strange hotel room to find that she's written the complete works of Charles Baudelaire. Surprising as this may be, it's no more surprising to Brown than the impossible journey she's taken to become the writer that she is. Animated by the spirit of the poète maudit, she shuttles between London, Vancouver, Paris, and the French countryside, moving fluidly between the early 1980s and the present, from rented room to rented room, all the while considering such Baudelairean obsessions as modernity, poverty, and the perfect jacket.

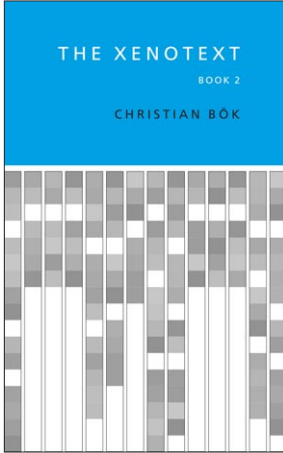
Part memoir, part magical realism, part hilarious trash-talking take on contemporary art and the poet's life, *The Baudelaire Fractal* is the long-awaited debut novel by the inimitable Lisa Robertson.

'Robertson, with feminist wit, a dash of kink, and a generous brain, has written an urtext that tenders there can be, in fact, or in fiction, no such thing. Hers is a boon for readers and writers, now and in the future.' — Jennifer Krasinski, *Bookforum*

LISA ROBERTSON has held residencies at the California College of the Arts, Cambridge University; University of California, Berkeley; UC San Diego; and American University of Paris. In 2017 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Letters by Emily Carr University of Art and Design, and in 2018, the Foundation for the Contemporary Arts in New York awarded her the inaugural C. D. Wright Award in Poetry. She currently lives in France.

## THE XENOTEXT: BOOK 2

CHRISTIAN BÖK



ISBN 978 1 55245 498 5  
5 x 8, 112 pp.  
June 2025

RIGHTS HELD: World

**The Xenotext: a poem as a strand of DNA embedded in an eternal bacterium.**

In *The Xenotext Book 1*, Christian Bök outlined his plan to insert his poem, written as DNA, into a deathless bacterium, thereby writing a text able to outlive every apocalypse, enduring till the Sun itself expires. Now that the experiment has finally succeeded, Book 2 of *The Xenotext* situates that poem within the deep time of the cosmos.

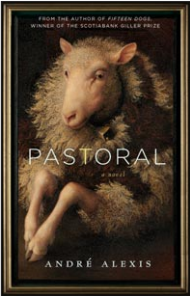
Our civilization has only very limited methods for preserving its cultural heritage against a potential planetary disaster (be it thermonuclear warfare or astrophysical barrage); however, this experiment rehearses some of the techniques likely to be used in the future to preserve our archives against such annihilation.

Writing in his signature poetics, Bök speculates that, buried within the biochemistry of Life itself, there really does exist an innate beauty, if not a hidden poetry – a literal message that we might read, if we deign to seek it.

CHRISTIAN BÖK is the author of *Eunoia* (Coach House Books, 2001), a bestselling work of experimental literature, which has gone on to win the Griffin Prize for Poetic Excellence (2002). *Crystallography* (Coach House Press, 1994), his first book of poetry, was nominated for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award (1995). *Nature* has interviewed Bök about his work on *The Xenotext* (making him the first poet ever to appear in this famous journal of science). Bök has also exhibited artworks derived from *The Xenotext* at galleries around the world; moreover, his poem from this project has hitched a ride, as a digital payload, aboard a number of probes exploring the Solar System (including the InSight lander, now at Elysium Planitia on the surface of Mars). Bök is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and he teaches at Leeds School of Arts in the U.K.

## QUINCUNX SERIES

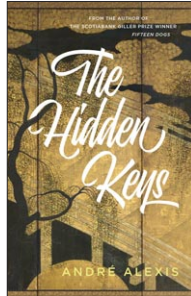
André Alexis's Quincunx series links five novels with a slanted take on a literary genre (pastoral, allegory, romance, noir, and quest) and a modern gaze at spirituality. Visit [www.chbooks.com/A-Quincunx](http://www.chbooks.com/A-Quincunx) for more information.



### PASTORAL

André Alexis brings a modern sensibility and a new liveliness to an age-old genre, the pastoral.

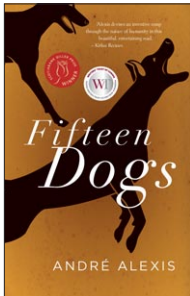
9781 55245 286 8  
5.25 x 8.25, 224pp. 2014  
RIGHTS HELD: North America  
RIGHTS SOLD: Audio, Macedonia (Tabahon)



### THE HIDDEN KEYS

Tancred Palmieri, a thief with elegant and erudite tastes, meets Willow Azarian, an aging heroin addict.

9781 55245 325 4  
5.25 x 8.25, 232 pp. 2016  
RIGHTS HELD: World  
RIGHTS SOLD: UK (Serpent's Tail), Audio, Film, Macedonia



### FIFTEEN DOGS

A bet between the gods Hermes and Apollo leads them to grant human consciousness and language to a group of dogs at a Toronto veterinary clinic.

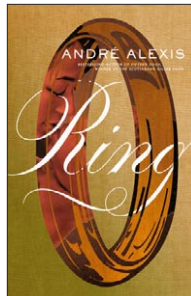
9781 55245 305 6  
5.25 x 8.25, 176pp. 2015  
RIGHTS HELD: World  
RIGHTS SOLD: French-Canada, China, France, Germany, Macedonia, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, UK/Commonwealth, South Korea, Japan, Slovenia, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Russia, Egypt



### DAYS BY MOONLIGHT

*Gulliver's Travels* meets *The Underground Railroad*: a road trip through the countryside – and the psyche

9781 55245 379 7  
5.25 x 8.25, 222pp. 2019  
RIGHTS HELD: World  
RIGHTS SOLD: Audio



### RING

*Ring* is a mash-up of romance novel conventions and a sunny meditation on the past, on language, on poetry, and yes, on love.

9781 55245 4305  
5.25 x 8.25, 224pp. 2021  
RIGHTS HELD: North America  
RIGHTS SOLD: Audio

ANDRÉ ALEXIS was born in Trinidad and grew up in Canada. In 2017, he received the Windham-Campbell Prize and in 2015 he won the Giller Prize.

## HYPOCHONDRIA

WILL REES



ISBN 978 1 55245 484 8  
5 x 8, 240 pp.  
February 2025

RIGHTS HELD: World

*The Empathy Exams* of health anxiety: a personal, literary, and cultural examination of hypochondria from Kafka to *Seinfeld*.

A free-wheeling philosophical essay, *Hypochondria* combines incisive contemporary cultural critique, colourful literary history, and the author's own experience of chronic health anxiety to ask what we might learn from the hypochondriac's discomfiting experience of their body.

*Hypochondria* is unashamedly capacious in its range of references, from the writings of hypochondriacs such as Franz Kafka and Charlotte Brontë to novel yet accessible readings of theorists such as Lauren Berlant and Maurice Blanchot. Whether he is discussing *Seinfeld*, John Donne, Robert Burton, Susan Sontag, FitBits, sleep 'hygiene,' or the so-called narcissism epidemic, Rees treats his topic with a mixture of humour and seriousness while revealing himself to be an astute reader of all sorts of texts – not sparing even himself with his own astute and irreverent takes on this popular ailment.

An exercise in what Freud calls 'evenly suspended attention,' *Hypochondria* demonstrates the rewards – and perils – of reading (too) closely the common but typically overlooked aspects of our lives.

'Extraordinary and utterly compelling.'

– Adam Phillips

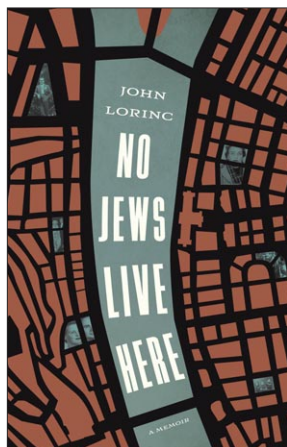
'In *Hypochondria*, Will Rees pulls off an almost impossible balancing act.'

– Merve Emre

WILL REES is a writer and editor living in London. He is a director of Peninsula Press, which he co-founded in 2018. His writing has been published in the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Guardian*, *Granta*, *Aeon*, *3:AM* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

## NO JEWS LIVE HERE

JOHN LORINC



ISBN 978 1 55245 4923  
5.25 x 8.25, 248 pp  
October 2024

RIGHTS HELD: World

A stolen sign, ‘No Jews Live Here,’ kept John Lorinc’s Hungarian Jewish family alive during the Holocaust.

From pre-war Budapest to post-war Toronto, journalist John Lorinc unspools four generations of his Hungarian Jewish family’s journey through the Holocaust, the 1956 Revolution, and finally exodus from a country that can’t rid itself of its antisemitic demons.

This braided saga centres on the writer’s eccentric and defiant grandmother, a consummate survivor with her love of flashy jewelry and her vicious tongue. Lorinc also traces the stories of both his grandfathers and his father, all of whom fell victim, in different ways, to the Nazis’ genocidal campaign to rid Europe of Jews.

This is a thoroughly reported but profoundly human telling of a vile part of history, told through Lorinc’s distinctively astute and compassionate consideration of how cities and cultures work. Set against the complicated and poorly understood background of Hungary’s Jewish community, *No Jews Live Here* is about family stories, and how the narratives of our lives are shaped by our times and historical forces over which we have no control.

‘John Lorinc weaves Hungarian history with the equally fascinating history of his own family to tell a deeply researched story with universal resonance: how events, enormous and seemingly tiny (a genocidal war, foggy skies), conspire to create outcomes with life-and-death implications through generations.’

— Marsha Lederman, author of  
*Kiss the Red Stairs: The Holocaust, Once Removed*

## DREAM STATES

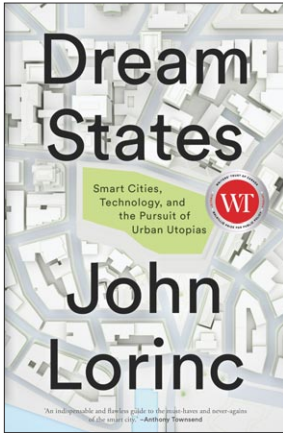
### SMART CITIES, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE PURSUIT OF URBAN UTOPIAS

JOHN LORINC

WINNER OF THE WRITERS' TRUST BALSILLIE PRIZE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

WINNER OF THE PATTIS FAMILY FOUNDATION GLOBAL CITIES BOOK AWARD

SHORTLISTED FOR THE DONNER PRIZE FOR PUBLIC POLICY



ISBN 978 1 55245 428 2

5.5 x 8.5, 176 pp.

August 2022

RIGHTS HELD: World

RIGHTS SOLD: Ukraine

**A look at 21st-century city-building. Is the utopian 'smart city' within our grasp?**

The promise of the so-called smart city has been at the forefront of urban planning and development since the early 2010s. But the ideas and approaches underpinning smart city tech raise tough and important questions about the future of urban communities, surveillance, automation, and public participation. The smart city era, moreover, belongs firmly in a longer historical narrative about cities — one defined by utopian ideologies, architectural visions, and technological fantasies. With examples from all over the world, *Dream States* unpacks the world of smart city tech, but also situates this new shift in city-building within the broader story of why we still dream about perfect places.

'John Lorinc provides us an indispensable and flawless guide to the must-haves and never-agains of the smart city.'

– Anthony Townsend, Cornell Tech

'This book covers pressing, timely geopolitical issues affecting every city around the world.'

– Global Cities Book Award jury

JOHN LORINC is a journalist and editor. He reports on urban affairs, politics, business, technology, and local history for a range of media, including the *Globe and Mail*, *The Toronto Star*, *Walrus*, *Maclean's*, and *Spacing*, where he is a senior editor. John is the author of three books, including *The New City* (Penguin, 2006), and has coedited six anthologies for Coach House Books. John was the recipient of the 2019/2020 Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy. He lives in Toronto.

## ENCAMPMENT

### RESISTANCE, GRACE, AND AN UNHOUSED COMMUNITY

MAGGIE HELWIG



ISBN 978 1 55245 504 3  
5 x7.5, 176 pp  
JMay 2025

RIGHTS HELD: World

An activist priest provides sanctuary for an encampment of unhoused people in her churchyard.

*We think, maybe, that homelessness is some kind of stable state, like being housed except without housing. Without really considering it, most people do imagine that people who are homeless live in, if not one place, at least in one condition, that their days are in some way predictable. But homelessness is, more than anything else, a life of constant displacement.*

The housing crisis plaguing major urban centers has sent countless people into the streets. In spring 2022, some of them found their way to the yard beside the Anglican church where Maggie Helwig is the priest. They pitched tents, formed an encampment, and settled in. Known as an outspoken social justice activist, Helwig has spent the last three years getting to know the residents and fighting tooth and nail to allow them to stay, battling various authorities that want to clear the yard, preferring to keep the results of the housing crisis out of sight and out of mind.

*Encampment* tells the story of Helwig's life-long activism as preparation for her fight to keep her churchyard open to people needing a home. More importantly, it introduces us to the Artist, to Jeff, and to Robin: their lives, their challenges, their humanity. It confronts our society's callousness in allowing so many to go unhoused and demands, by bringing their stories to the fore, that we begin to respond with compassion and grace.

MAGGIE HELWIG (she/they) is a white settler in Tkaronto/Toronto, and is the author of fifteen books and chapbooks, most recently *Girls Fall Down* (Coach House, 2008), which was shortlisted for the Toronto Book Award, and was chosen as the One Book Toronto in 2012. Helwig is a long-time social justice activist, and also an Anglican priest, and has been the rector of the Church of St Stephen-in-the-Fields since 2012.



## MESSY CITIES

EDITED BY DYLAN REID, ZAHRA EBRAHIM, LESLIE WOO,  
AND JOHN LORINC



Crowded streets, sidewalk vendors, jumbled architecture, constant clamor, graffitied walls, parks gone wild: are these signs of a poorly managed city or indicators of urban vitality?

*Messy Cities* argues that messiness is not a liability but an essential element in all thriving cities. Forty essays by a range of writers from around the world illuminate the role of messy urbanism in enabling creativity, enterprise, and grassroots initiatives to flourish within dense modern cities.

With pieces on guerrilla gardening, façadism, queer ecology, and decolonizing public engagement, *Messy Cities* makes the case for embracing disorder while not shying away from confronting its challenges.

ISBN 978 1 55245 503 6  
5.5 x 8.5, 300 pp.  
June 2025

RIGHTS HELD: World

ZAHRA EBRAHIM is an urbanist, educator, and strategist. She is an Adjunct Professor at the Daniels School of Architecture and Urbanist-in-Residence at the University of Toronto's School of Cities.

JOHN LORINC is a Toronto-based journalist and editor. He writes about cities, climate, and cleantech for a range of publications, including *Spacing*, where he is senior editor. John is also the Toronto nonfiction editor for Coach House Books, and the author of five books, including *Dream States* and *No Jews Live Here*.

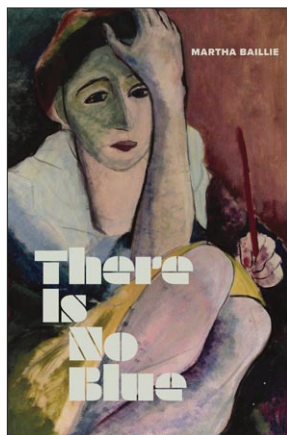
DYLAN REID is a co-founder and executive editor of *Spacing* magazine, an award-winning print quarterly about Toronto urbanism and public space that recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. He is the author of the *Toronto Public Etiquette Guide* and co-editor of other books about Toronto.

LESLIE WOO is a dynamic tri-sector athlete known for her expertise in uniting public, private, and not-for-profit leaders to co-create urban policy solutions. A Senior Fellow at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, Leslie champions women city builders on her blog [shebuildscities.org](http://shebuildscities.org).

# THERE IS NO BLUE

MARTHA BAILLIE

NOMINATED FOR THE 2024 WRITERS' TRUST PRIZE FOR NONFICTION



ISBN 978 1 55245 474 9  
5 x 8, 160 pp.  
October 2023

RIGHTS HELD: World  
RIGHTS SOLD:  
UK/Commonwealth  
(Granta)

In this close observation of a family, few absolutes hold, as experiences of reality diverge. A memoir of cascading grief and survival from the author of *The Incident Report*.

Three essays, three deaths. The first is the death of the author's mother, a protracted disappearance, leaving space for thoughtfulness and ritual: the washing of her body, the making of a death mask. The second considers Baillie's father, his remoteness, his charm, a lacuna at the centre of the family even before his death, earlier than her mother's. And then, third, shockingly, the author's sister, a visual artist and writer living with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, who writes three reasons to die on her bedroom wall and then takes her life, just before the book the sisters co-authored is due to come out.

'I am grateful for this profound meditation on family and loss.'  
– Charlie Kaufman, filmmaker

'This triptych of essays is a meditation on the mystery and wonder of grief and art making and home and memory itself.'

– Maud Casey, author of *Incurable Women*

'[Baillie] knows she'll never find out why a shared childhood should have had such different outcomes; the only truth she arrives at will be variable and of her own making. Still, the "disobedient tale" she tells is tough, tender and compelling.'

– Blake Morrison, the *Guardian*

MARTHA BAILLIE lives and works in Toronto. Her novel *The Incident Report* was longlisted for the Giller Prize and was released as a feature film in 2024. *The Search for Heinrich Schlägel* was an Oprah editors' pick. *Sister Language*, co-written with her late sister, Christina Baillie, was a 2020 Trillium Award finalist.

## BIG MALL

KATE BLACK



ISBN 978 1 55245 472 5  
5 x 8, 208 pp.  
February 2024

RIGHTS HELD: World

A phenomenology of the mall: If the mall makes us feel bad, why do we keep going back? In a world poisoned by capitalism, is shopping what makes life worth living?

Kate Black grew up in West Edmonton Mall – a mall on steroids, notorious for its indoor waterpark, deadly roller coaster, and controversial dolphin shows. But everyone has a favourite mall, or a mall that is their own personal memory palace. It's a place people love to hate and hate to love – a site of pleasure and pain, of death and violence, of (sub)urban legend.

Blending a history of shopping with a story of coming of age in North America's largest and strangest mall, *Big Mall* investigates how these structures have become the ultimate symbol of late-capitalist dread – and, surprisingly, a subversive site of hope.

'[A] keen appraisal of malls' social import.

– *Publishers Weekly*

'Kate Black's *Big Mall* is a smart, sentimental, and perspective-shifting look at the outsized role that big malls play in modern life. Love 'em or hate 'em, one thing's for sure: after reading this book, you'll never look at a mall in the same way again.'

– Ziya Tong, author of *The Reality Bubble*

KATE BLACK's essays have been published in the *Globe and Mail*, *The Walrus*, and *Maisonneuve*. In 2020, she was selected as one of Canada's top emerging voices in nonfiction by the RBC Taylor Prize and the National Magazine Awards. She grew up in Alberta and lives in Vancouver.

## STEAMY: A MENOPAUSE SYMPTOMOLOGY

SUSAN HOLBROOK



Hot (flash) takes, symptom by symptom, of *The Change*: *Steamy* is a raucous menopause memoir.

*Steamy* explores the cascading list of symptoms people can face when going through *The Change* (including 2. HOT FLASHES, 21. ANXIETY, and 45. FEWER SHITS). In this comic memoir, Holbrook opens up an experience still constrained by cultural silences and myths. *Steamy* is honest, vulnerable, gross, and might just be the funniest book you've ever read about menopause, or anything else (see 37. BLOATING).

With bonus tear-out fan!

ISBN 978 1 55245 502 9

5 x 7, 120 pp

April 2025

RIGHTS HELD: World

SUSAN HOLBROOK's poetry books are *ink earl*, *Throaty Wipes*, *Joy Is So Exhausting*, and *misled*. Her most recent publication is *Canon*, a chapbook featuring great works of literature translated through a calculator. She has also written a textbook, *How to Read (and Write About) Poetry*, and edited *Intertidal: Daphne Marlatt—The Collected Earlier Poems* and *The Letters of Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thomson: Composition as Conversation*. Her work has been nominated for numerous awards, including the Governor General's Award, the Trillium Book Award, the Trillium Award for Poetry, and the Pat Lowther Award. She teaches Literature and Creative Writing.

# DISFIGURED

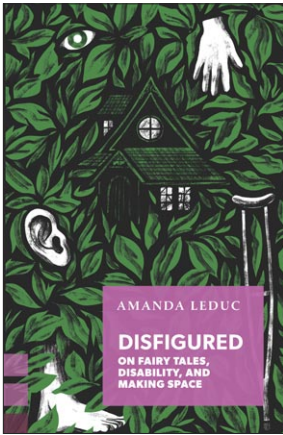
## ON FAIRY TALES, DISABILITY, AND MAKING SPACE

AMANDA LEDUC

SHORTLISTED FOR 2020 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD

A COACH HOUSE BOOKS BESTSELLER

A NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK OF THE DAY



ISBN 978 1 55245 395 7  
4.75 x 7.5, 250 pp.  
February 2020

RIGHTS HELD: World

RIGHTS SOLD: Germany  
(Nautilus), South Korea  
(Eulyoo), China (Shanghai  
Bookstore)

Fairy tales shape how we see the world, so what happens when you identify more with the Beast than Beauty? If every disabled character is mocked and mistreated, how does the Beast ever imagine a happily-ever-after?

Amanda Leduc looks at fairy tales from the Brothers Grimm to Disney, showing us how they influence our expectations and behaviour and linking the quest for disability rights to new kinds of stories that celebrate difference.

'Read this smart, tenacious book.'

– *The Washington Post*

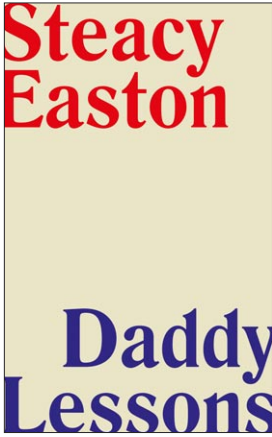
'Leduc persuasively illustrates the power of stories to affect reality in this painstakingly researched and provocative study that invites us to consider our favourite folktales from another angle.'

– Sara Shreve, *Library Journal*

AMANDA LEDUC is the author of the novels *The Miracles of Ordinary Men* and *The Centaur's Wife*. She has cerebral palsy and lives in Hamilton, Ontario.

## DADDY LESSONS

STEACY EASTON



ISBN 978 1 55245 473 2  
5 x 8, 160 pp.  
October 2023

RIGHTS HELD: World

Cowboy erotica meets Kathy Acker in this smart, raunchy look at a queer sexual awakening.

Steacy Easton grew up Mormon, queer, and Autistic in the West. This book traces the people and spaces that made them who they are: the Mormon church, an Anglican boys' boarding school where they were sent to be 'reformed' and where they were abused by a teacher, and then, later on, rodeos and bathhouses and mall bathrooms. The world Easton describes is one in which desire is complicated, where men – 'daddies' – can be loving and they can be abusive, and there isn't always a clear distinction.

Easton explores the essential texts of their sexuality, from Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick to Neil LaBute, Kip Moore to Lorelei James, and delves into their own encounters as they came of age. These daddy lessons are blunt about the pleasures of disobedience, slippery and difficult, revelling in the funk of memory and desire.

'Steacy writes about the queer pleasure-seeking body in ways both fresh and eminently familiar.'

– Jordan Tannahill, author of *The Listeners*

'Easton is refreshingly unafraid of their own complicated desires ... this is a moving and largely accessible dive into the thicket of human sexuality.'

– *Publishers Weekly*

STEACY EASTON is a writer and visual artist, originally from Edmonton, who has lived in Hamilton for more than seven years. They have written on gender, sexuality, and country music for publications including *Slate*, *NPR*, and the *Atlantic Online*. Recent and upcoming books include *Why Tammy Wynette Matters* for University of Texas and a 33 ½ Volume for Bloomsbury. They were the 2022 Martha Street Artist Residence in Winnipeg.

## HORSEFLY

MIREILLE GAGNÉ, TRANS. PABLO STRAUSS



ISBN 978 1 55245 499 2  
5 x 8, 192 pp  
May 2025

RIGHTS HELD: World  
English

**A terrifying tale about the ways in which we try to dominate nature, and how nature will, inevitably, wreak retribution upon us.**

In 1942, a young entomologist, Thomas, is sent to a remote island to work on biological weapons for the Allied military. The scientists live like prisoners while they look for the perfect carrier for anthrax among the island's many insects.

In 2024, in the same region of Quebec, a heat wave unleashes swarms of horseflies while humans fall prey to strange flights of rage. Theodore is living a simple life, working double shifts and drinking to forget, when a horsefly bite stirs him from his apathy and he impulsively kidnaps from the nursing home his grandfather Emeril, whose dementia has him living in the past during the Grosse Ile biological weapons experiments.

The horseflies, meanwhile, know a few secrets...

MIREILLE GAGNÉ was born in Isle-aux-Grues and lives in Quebec City. Since 2010, she has published books of poetry, short stories, and the remarkable novel *Le lièvre d'Amérique* (2020), which 'possesses a universal wisdom, the kind that is passed down from generation to generation and from which we too often lose our way.'

PABLO STRAUSS is the translator of twelve works of fiction, several graphic novels, and the screenplay of one feature film, *White Dog* (2022). He is a three-time finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for translation, most recently for *The Country Will Bring Us No Peace* (Coach House Books, 2020). *The Dishwasher*, his translation of Stéphane Larue's *Le plongeur*, won the 2020 Amazon Canada First Novel Award.

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Coach House acknowledges the financial support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund, and the Government of Ontario through Ontario Creates for our publishing activities.