



NIMBUS PUBLISHING

— NIMBUS.CA —

ADULT CATALOGUE 2019

Nimbus Publishing is the largest Canadian book publisher east of Toronto. Our office is in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

We produce approximately 50 new titles a year on a range of topics, including: children's picture books and fiction, memoir and literary non-fiction, social and cultural history, nature photography, politics, and biography. In 2005, we introduced our successful fiction imprint, **Vagrant Press**. Several novels have since been optioned for film.

In 2012, Nimbus Publishing was awarded the Retail Council of Canada Small Press Publisher of the Year Award.

In 2017, *Publishers Weekly* named Nimbus Publishing one of North America's five fastest-growing independent publishers.

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Cover art from *The Lost Sister*

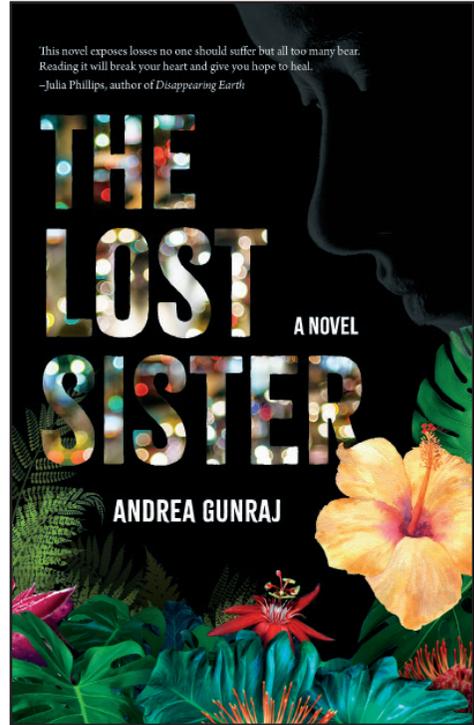
*On the Globe & Mail's list of
"Seven New Mystery Novels
to Keep You On Edge"
(October 2019)*

*On CBC's list of "34 Works of
Canadian Fiction to Watch
for this Fall" (August 2019)*

Published: Fall 2019

Pages: 320

Rights available: French Canadian



Alisha and Diana are young sisters living in Jane and Finch, a Toronto suburb full of immigrants trying to build new lives in North America. Diana, the eldest, is the light of the little family, the one Alisha longs to emulate more than anyone else. But when Diana doesn't come home one night and her body is discovered in the woods, Alisha becomes haunted. She thinks she knows who did it, but can't tell anyone about it.

Unable to handle the loss of their daughter and unaware of Alisha's secret guilt, the family unravels. It's only through an unusual friendship with Paula, an older woman who volunteers at her school, that Alisha finds reprieve. Once an orphan in the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children and estranged from her own sister, Paula helps Alisha understand that the chance for redemption and peace only comes with facing difficult truths.



"Deftly told through diverse and interwoven stories, Crocuses Hatch From Snow is a heartfelt investigation into what a space can mean to those who live and love within it."

—Tiffany Morris,

Mi'kmaw sensitivity reader
and author

Published: Spring 2019

Pages: 288

Rights available: World

When Ada falls for a body piercer named Pan, Ada's cheeky grandmother, Mattie, says Ada looks like a caught trout with all those hooks in her mouth. But Ada soon discovers Mattie is also caught. It isn't just Alzheimer's, or the vibrator Ada's mother, Joan, is convinced Mattie has stashed in her room—Mattie is having a passionate affair...with a ghost.

When Joan buys a house the three generations of women move in next door to Ken, the man who was at the reins of the machine who tore down their old one. Ken and his family aren't thrilled about their new white neighbours, who are driving up the rent and helping history repeat itself.

While Ada's obsession with Pan is written on her body, Mattie's love for Edith, a Mi'kmaw survivor of the residential school system, also unfurls.

A story of luminous love, the frustrations of family, violence mapped onto land and skin, and slender stems that grow thick enough to hatch from snow.

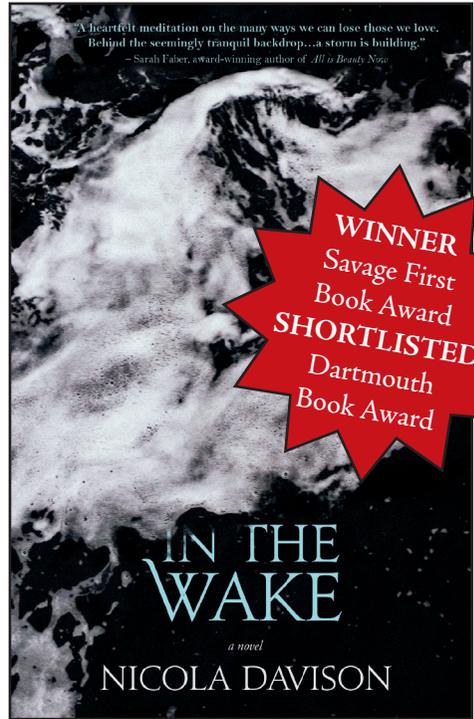
“In the Wake gathers like a storm wave, throwing the characters forward. Nicola’s writing is a lighthouse, catching moments of sorrow and joy. Here, mental health is not a hashtag, but broken glass under wounded feet.” —Jon Tattrie

“Davison sensitively explores how grief and mental illness reverberate through families and across generations.” —Sarah Faber

Published: Fall 2018

Pages: 280

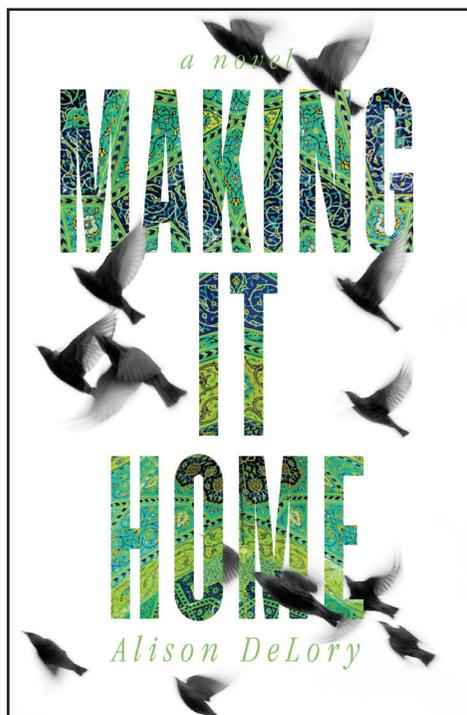
Rights available: World



When Emily and her family move, it is to return to the coastal landscape that already haunts her—and the waters where her father died. She meets her neighbour Linda, a gruff but loving widow, and Linda’s grown son, Tom, who struggles to stay on an even keel due to his schizophrenia.

As they settle in, Emily and her husband learn more about the turbulent history of the house they’ve just bought. With him away for work, Emily becomes caught up in the lives of her neighbours, relying on Linda’s friendship and growing closer to Tom despite his unsettling knack for appearing when Emily least expects him. As tension in each family builds, both women must confront long-unanswered questions.

With its nuanced depictions of marriage, parenting, grief, and mental illness, and with humorous, understated dialogue, this novel is at once a suspenseful thriller and subtle literary examination of our inner lives.



“Presenting the Syrian refugee through fiction is a challenging task, but DeLory writes [her] Syrian characters with an understanding of Syrian culture, minted with love and empathy towards the refugee experience. DeLory is a wonderful storyteller, as well as a hardworking researcher.”
 —Ahmad Danny Ramadan,
 award-winning author of
 The Clothesline Swing

Published: Spring 2019

Pages: 320

Rights available: World

Tinker Gordon doesn't want anything to change. He thinks that if he holds on tightly enough, his family, his tiny community, his very world will stay exactly the way it has always been. But explosions large and small—in the Middle East, in western Canada, and in his own home in Falkirk Cove—threaten to turn everything Tinker has ever known upside down.

Set variously in the heart of rural Cape Breton, on the war-torn streets of Aleppo and in a Turkish refugee camp, in the new wild west frontier of the Alberta oil patch, and in a tiny apartment in downtown Toronto, Tinker's family, friends, and neighbours new and old must find a way to make it home.

In her adult fiction debut, Alison DeLory ponders a question as relevant in Atlantic Canada as anywhere in the world: where and how do we belong, and what does it take to make it home?

*“At times lyrical, biblical, and otherworldly, *The Honey Farm* is a suspenseful and well-crafted story.”*
—Booklist

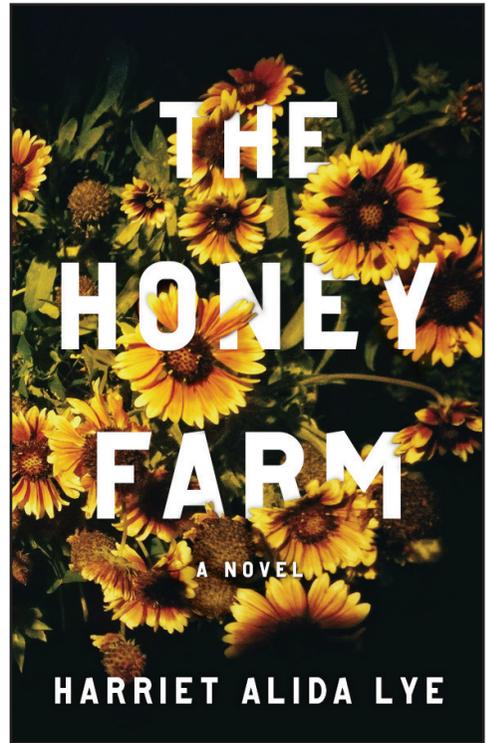
“An aura of mystery, faintly tinged with menace, permeates [this] sensuous debut novel.”
—Publishers Weekly

“As the book races to its close, the secrets beneath the surface begin to buzz as loudly as a bee’s nest.”
—Kirkus Reviews

Published: Spring 2018

Pages: 320

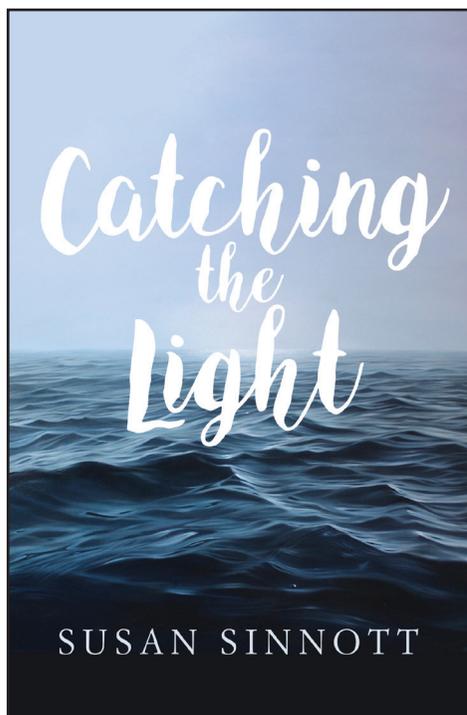
Rights available: French Canadian



The drought has discontented the bees. Soil dries into sand; honeycomb stiffens into wax. But Cynthia knows how to breathe life back into her farm: offer it as an artists’ colony with free room, board, and “life experience” in exchange for backbreaking labour. Silvia, a wide-eyed graduate and would-be poet, and Ibrahim, a painter distracted by constant inspiration, are drawn to Cynthia’s offer, and soon, to each other.

But something lies beneath the surface. The edenic farm is plagued by events that strike Silvia as ominous: taps run red, scalps itch with lice, frogs swarm the pond. One by one, the other residents leave. As summer tenses into autumn, Cynthia’s shadowed past is revealed and Silvia becomes increasingly paralyzed by doubt.

Building to a shocking conclusion, *The Honey Farm* offers a thrilling portrait of creation and possession in the natural world.



“There is a special quality to this novel...a poetic feel.”
—About a Book Blog

Published: Spring 2018

Pages: 288

Rights available: World

The kids call her Lighthouse: no lights on up there. In a small town, everyone knows when you can't read. But Cathy is just distracted by the light and lines and artistry of everyday life. She is a talented painter but yearns for social acceptance. She dreams of enrolling in art school, but getting there will be a struggle in more ways than just academic.

Hutch Parsons is everything Cathy is not: charismatic, popular, smart. Overflowing with energy, he is confident in his future: he's going to work on a fishing boat like all the men in his family. But one icy evening his world is up-ended and those plans are swept away. Now he must face a different life and his own struggle. Ever independent, he must learn to lean on others for support.

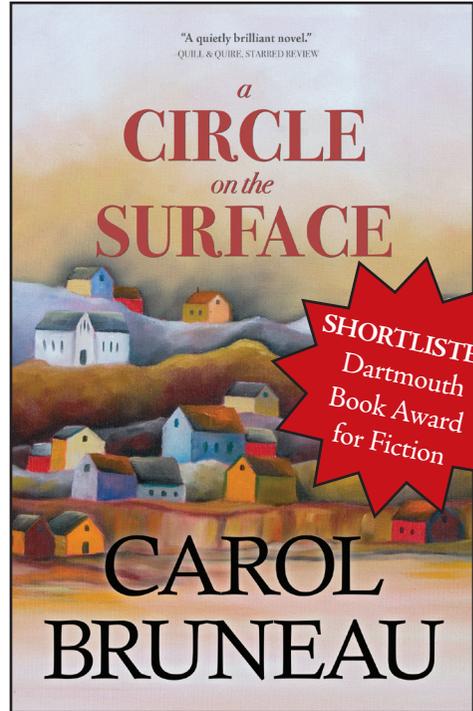
Dancing between points of view and imbued with the language of art and nature, *Catching the Light* explores the slow-burn romance and ordinary lives of two extraordinary people.

“Reminiscent of Kate Chopin’s *The Awakening* in both style and approach, Carol Bruneau’s *A Circle On the Surface* captures the complexities, right up to its tragic, memorable ending, of a woman’s role in the 1940s.”

—Donna Morrissey

“A quietly brilliant novel.”
—Quill & Quire, starred review

Published: Fall 2018
Pages: 280
Rights available: World



It’s 1943. Enman and Una Greene are newly married. Each is haunted by their respective pasts, and each harbours secrets. They have hopes of a happy life together—though they have little idea how to create such a life.

Enman brings Una to his childhood home, a rural coastal town, where he hopes they will stay. Una is restless and feeling increasingly trapped, and longs for the city life she once had. Una happens upon a mysterious man on the beach one day, and then a body washes up on shore. There are rumours of German sailors roaming the dunes. When the Greens receive the news they have been waiting for, Una begins to unravel in ways neither she nor Enman is prepared for. Tension and paranoia are threaded throughout this achingly honest portrayal of marriage in a time of war.



Carol Bruneau is the acclaimed author of three short story collections, including *A Bird on Every Tree*, published by Vagrant Press in 2017, and five novels. Her first novel, *Purple for Sky*, won the 2001 Raddall Fiction Award and the Dartmouth Book Award. Her 2007 novel, *Glass Voices*, was a *Globe and Mail* Best Book. Her reviews, stories, and essays have appeared Canada-wide in newspapers, journals, and anthologies.



"Funny, unsettling and observant." —CBC Books

"These narratives draw readers in, making them emotionally complicit in the events and their responses to them. It's a unique and often devastating approach."
—Quill & Quire starred review

Published: Spring 2019

Pages: 288

Rights available: French Canadian

A woman becomes obsessed with a story about her family from 1890—when a naked, mute girl stumbled onto their property—and whether or not it really happened. A self-help guru and his chief strategist take their most affluent and unstable clients on a harrowing nature hike that destroys their company. A young convict in a prison creative writing class chronicles the rise and fall of his cellblock's resident peacemaker. A rural neighbourhood is mesmerized by the coming of a strange and powerful new homeowner who is in the middle of reinventing herself.

The stories of *Use Your Imagination!* are about the way we define and give shape to ourselves through all kinds of narratives, true or not. In seven long stories, Kris Bertin examines the complex labyrinth of lies, delusions, compromise, and fabrication that makes up our personal history and mythology.

Sometimes funny, strange, or even frightening, these stories are Bertin's follow-up to his critically acclaimed, award-winning debut, *Bad Things Happen*.

NEW!

“It’s a rich, shadowed, mind-tweaking puzzle of a book: a shrewd gathering of evidence that entrusts judgment and verdict to the reader.”

–The Globe & Mail

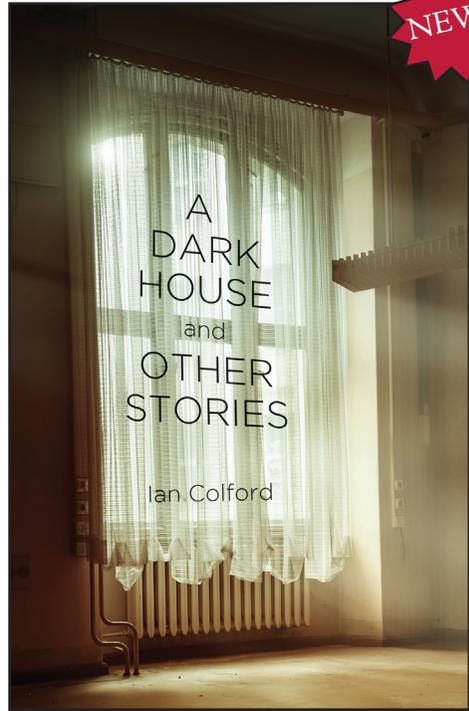
“This is an unassuming work of significant artistic and, dare I say, philosophic merit.”

–The Antigonish Review

Published: Fall 2019

Pages: 200

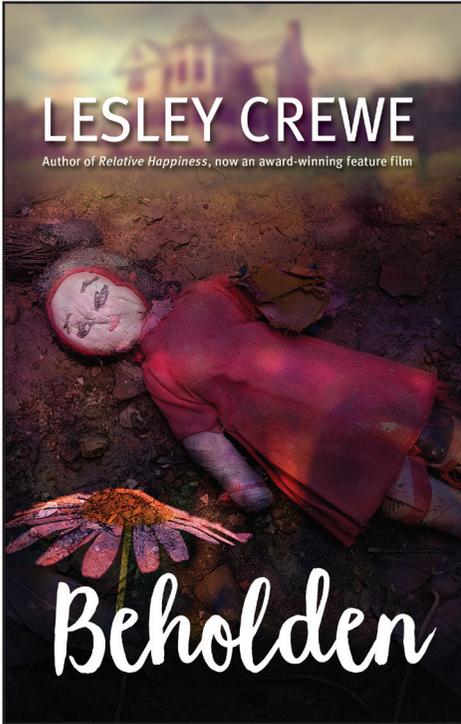
Rights available: World



Snap decisions, risky alliances, and comical wrong-headedness bring the stories in award-winning author Ian Colford’s latest collection alive. His characters get themselves and those they love into situations awkward and sometimes dangerous, doing what they think is best for all.

A man kidnaps his young son from his ex-wife and the road trip west quickly spirals out of control. A destitute mother makes a risky alliance with a neighbour. An almost comically wrong-headed older brother has a detective follow his sister. A retired shop-owner reflects on his life before making a snap decision to change the course of his sunset years.

Colford weaves wit and nuance into portrayals of characters facing questions of fortune, fate and self-preservation. Awkward and dangerous situations arise as Colford, dryly yet empathetically, illustrates what happens when people do what they believe is best.



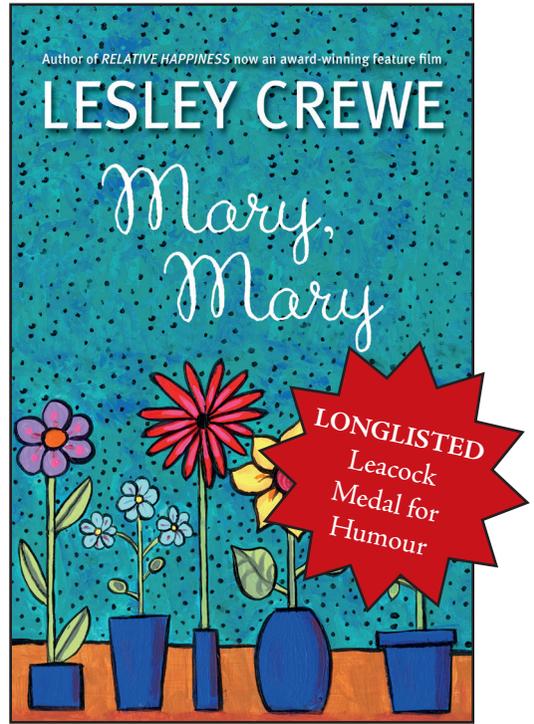
Published: Fall 2018

Pages: 352

Rights available: World, excl. film

Nell, the “spinster on the hill,” is scarred by her own childhood; she swears she could never love a child, and that she will never marry, denying herself a life with the man she loves.

She’s proven wrong when a baby is born just down the road. Her love of little Jane propels us forward through generations of women trying to untangle their own traumas and secrets. Eventually, we meet Bridie—joyful, kind, capable Bridie—and see her struggling through the echoing pain of those who came before her.



Published: Fall 2016

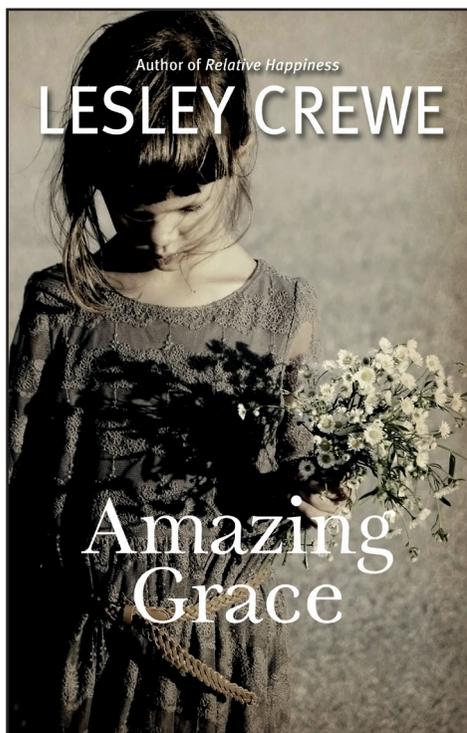
Pages: 264

Rights available: World, excl. film

In a family of black sheep, Mary is as pure as snow. She is patient and kind with her alcoholic grandmother, loyal and attentive to her spoiled cousin, and pleasant all day at her job.

When a young couple moves into the apartment upstairs, it sparks a series of changes that lead to major family revelations. Mary learns that sometimes, doing the wrong thing is exactly the right thing to do.

Maybe Mary is more like her family than she would care to admit....



Published: Fall 2015

Pages: 288

Rights available: World, excl. film

Grace leads a quiet life with a lovely man who's not her husband, in a cozy trailer overlooking a beautiful lake. Her blissful life is interrupted when her estranged son calls from New York, worried about his teenage daughter.

Before she knows it, Grace finds herself the temporary guardian of her self-absorbed granddaughter. Trapped between a past she's been struggling to resolve and a present that keeps her on her toes, Grace decides to finally tell her story. Either the truth will absolve her and set her free, or ruin everything.



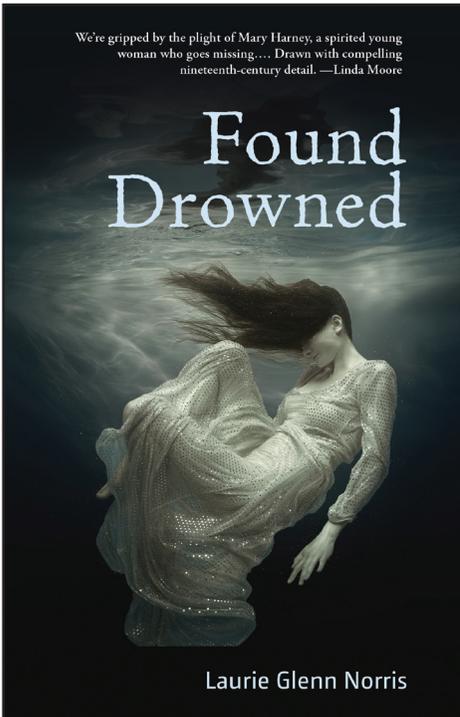
Published: Movie tie-in: 2014

Pages: 384

Rights available: World, excl. film

Lexie loves her little bed & breakfast, the endless sea that surrounds her, and her big family. But at thirty, she's starting to feel like something is missing in her tranquil life.

Enter Adrian, a charming backpacker who took a wrong turn at the US border and ends up at her B&B; and Joss, a hunky handyman who is replacing her windows. With her sister's wedding approaching and Lexie getting called on to warm cold feet, suddenly her peaceful life is much more complicated than she could have ever imagined.



“We know Mary is going to die, but which awful event in her life will kill her? The plot works because Norris builds a believable world for [a] 19th-century small town and the people in it.”
—The Globe & Mail

“...an engaging read full of wit and intelligence.”
—Linda Little

Published: Spring 2019

Pages: 256

Rights available: World

Based on a true unsolved crime from 1877, Laurie Glenn Norris’s debut novel tells the story of two small towns linked by the disappearance of a teenage girl. Mary Harney is a dreamy teenager whose ambitions are stifled by her tyrannical grandmother and alcoholic father. When Mary’s mother becomes ill, an already fragile domestic situation quickly begins to unravel until the September evening when the girl goes missing.

Across the water on an island we meet Gilbert Bell, whose son finds a body washed up on the beach below the family farm. As the community is visited first by the local coroner and then by investigators, Glenn Norris paints a fascinating and darkly comic picture of judicial and forensic procedures of the time.

At once tightly plotted and pensive, the novel travels back to the circumstances that led to Mary’s disappearance and then back further to the circumstances of her parents’ marriage, all the while building toward a raucous courtroom finale.

“Disposable Souls is well-told and skilfully plotted...it’s the first Canadian crime novel I’ve read in a long time that has really made me sit up and take notice.”

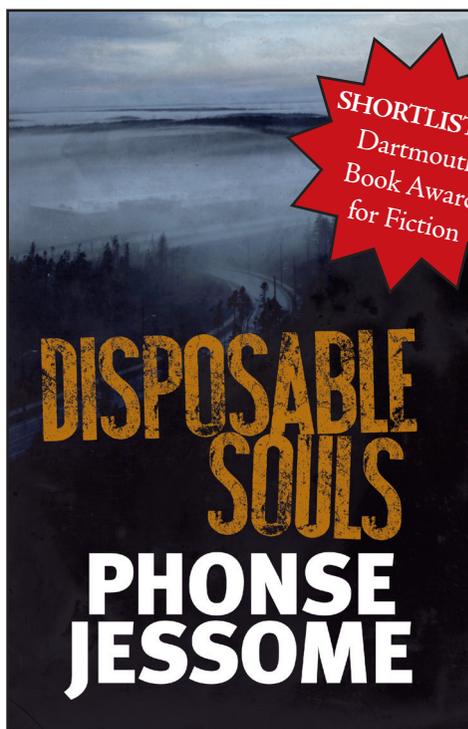
—Rohan Maitzen

“Only a writer who has been inside the yellow tape knows the scene well enough to tell a story like this. Gritty and authentic writing.” —Matt Johnson

Published: Fall 2016

Pages: 344

Rights available: World



The body of Pastor Sandy Gardner, a popular TV preacher with a global following, turns up at a container pier. The mysterious case lands with Cam Neville, a city cop with a dead wife and severe PTSD from his haunting past.

In search of the truth, Cam and his partner, Blair Christmas, enter a perilous world of strippers, child pornography, and corruption that threatens to destroy them both. Meanwhile, Cam is torn between loyalties to his two brothers: one active in the Satan’s Stallion bike gang founded by their father, and the other a priest who wants to save everyone...including Cam.

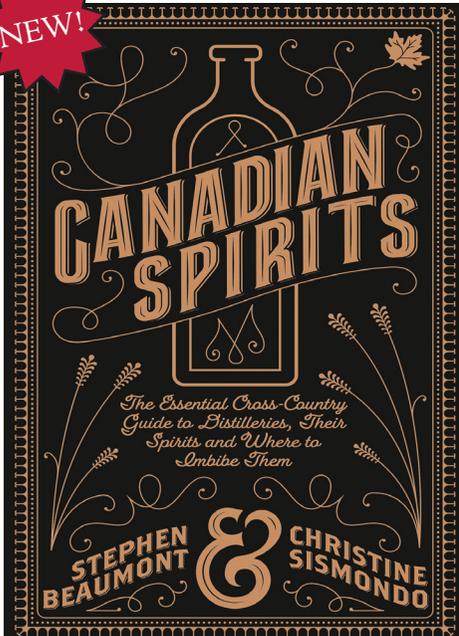
In *Disposable Souls*, Phonse Jessome has created a complex and compelling protagonist and placed him in a gritty underbelly of bikers, cops, and killers, masterfully blurring the lines between good and evil, sinners and saints.

Phonse Jessome is an award-winning journalist and bestselling author. He has covered some of the biggest stories in Canada and abroad. His book *Murder at McDonald’s* was lauded as one of Canada’s best true-crime titles.



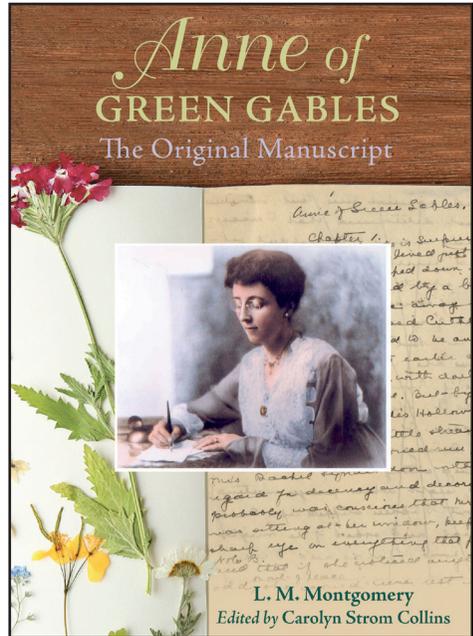
CANADA as
Guest of Honour
at the 2020
Frankfurt Book Fair

Non-fiction that is uniquely Canadian



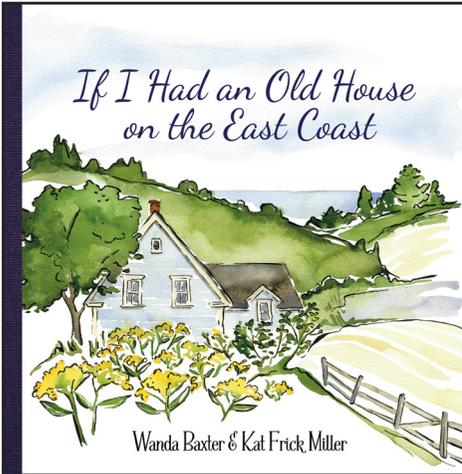
Published: Fall 2019
Pages: 280
Rights available: World

Bestselling author Stephen Beaumont (*The World Atlas of Beer*) and National Magazine Award-winning author Christine Sismondo (*America Walks into a Bar*) crisscross the country in search of the best whiskies, gins, vodkas, rums, and other assorted and sometimes oddball spirits produced by large- and small-scale distillers. Featuring over 75 colour photos.

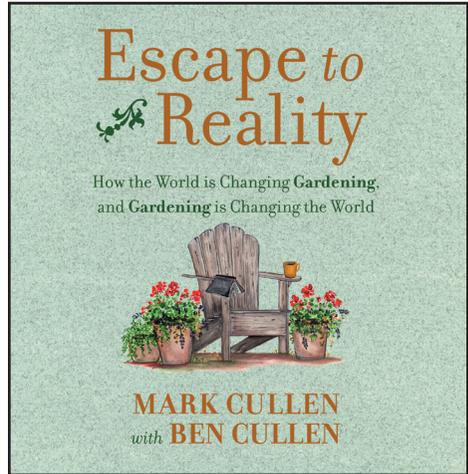


Published: Spring 2019
Pages: 384
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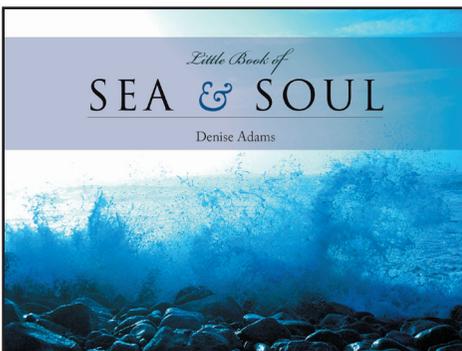
This fascinating book presents the original text of Montgomery's most famous manuscript, including where the author scribbled notes, made additions, changes, or deletions, and other editorial details. L. M. Montgomery scholar Carolyn Strom Collins offers a rare look into Montgomery's creative process, providing a never-before-published version of the worldwide phenomenon.



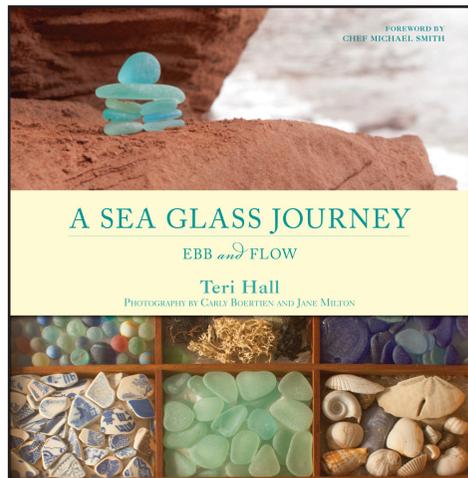
Exploring everything from an old house's foundation to its layers of antique wallpaper to its decades-old gardens bursting with wildflowers, this book is a love letter to a vanishing way of life. (World, excl. Chinese.)



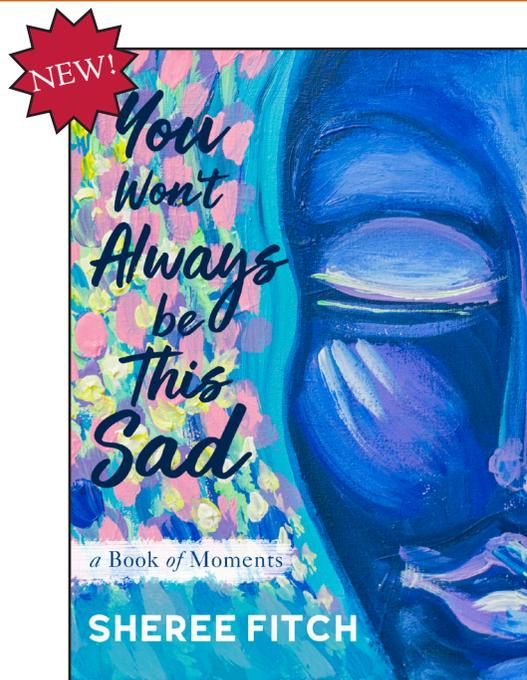
Escape to Reality goes beyond the hows that are the focus of most gardening books and explores the whys. In short, narrative essays, topics range from nature as therapy to who we are as gardeners. (World.)



Musings on coastal life include both tender and humorous observations that will appeal to seadogs and landlubbers alike. Highlighted by Adams's stunning seascape photographs, *The Little Book of Sea and Soul* invites quiet contemplation. (World.) Also available: *The Little Book of Wildflower Whispers*. (World.)



Formed from broken bottles smoothed and shaped by ocean waves, sea glass is coveted by beachcombers the world over. This stunning book includes DIY projects, origins of colours, and tips for finding the best pieces. (World.)



“Each word, in its way, is a foot-step into the new and unbearable territory of onward without a beloved... This book is a place of refuge and it can serve as a map with its title acting as its true north: you won’t always be this sad.”

—Sue Goyette,
Griffin Prize–nominated poet

Published: Fall 2019

Pages: 136

Rights available: World

“You won’t always be this sad,” her mother, who also lost a son, reassures her, while a close friend encourages her to pick up the pen and write it all down. Capturing her own struggles as she emerges from shock in the wake of her son’s unexpected death at age thirty-seven, author and storyteller Sheree Fitch writes lyrically and unabashedly, with deep sorrow, unexpected rage, and boundless love.

She discovers that she “dwells in a thin place now,” that she has crossed a threshold only to find herself in “the quicksand that is grief.” The result is a memoir in verse of immense power and pain. A collection of moments. A journey of resilience.

Divided into three parts, like the memorial labyrinth Fitch walks every day, *You Won’t Always Be This Sad* offers words that will stir the heart, inviting readers on a raw and personal odyssey through excruciating loss, astonishing gratitude, and a return to a different world with new insights, rituals, faith, and hope. Readers, bearing witness to the immeasurable depths of a mother’s love, will be forever changed.

The bestselling author of Beholden and Mary, Mary brings her sharp wit to her first collection of essays, celebrating the little things.

Special content also available:

- an author–editor Q&A
- bonus essay
- signed bookplate

Published: Fall 2019

Pages: 264

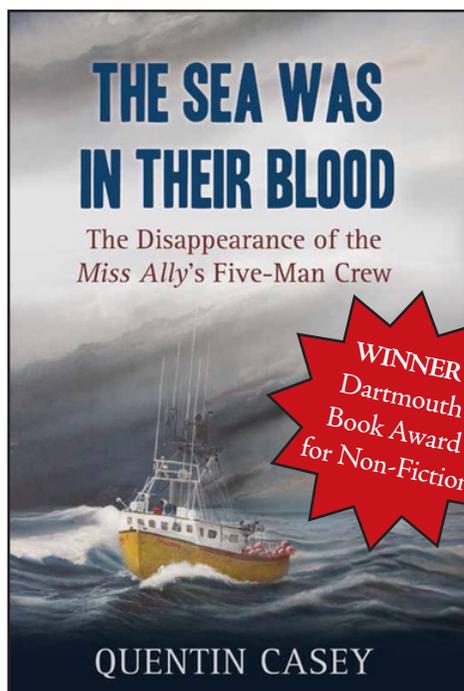
Rights available: World



Not merely razor sharp, Crewe's wit is also ocean wide, taking in everything from the humiliations of breast pumping to the indignities of aging, from the frantic excess of holiday preparations to the homey irritations of being in a long marriage.

As precise in her observations as Jane Austen and as fractious on occasion as Oscar the Grouch, Crewe also has a sweet, tender centre, taking us from a hearty laugh to a good cry in a single paragraph.

Readers will relate to Crewe's ache at missing her mom, her nostalgia for her childhood, her frustrations at raising teenagers, and her impatience for terrible parking lot etiquette in equal measure. All served with a healthy side of sass and humour, these essays are as fun to read as they are thought-provoking.



*A national bestseller, this gripping account is reminiscent of *The Perfect Storm*. The breathless pacing and never-before-reported details make this a read you won't soon forget.*

Published: Spring 2017

Pages: 256

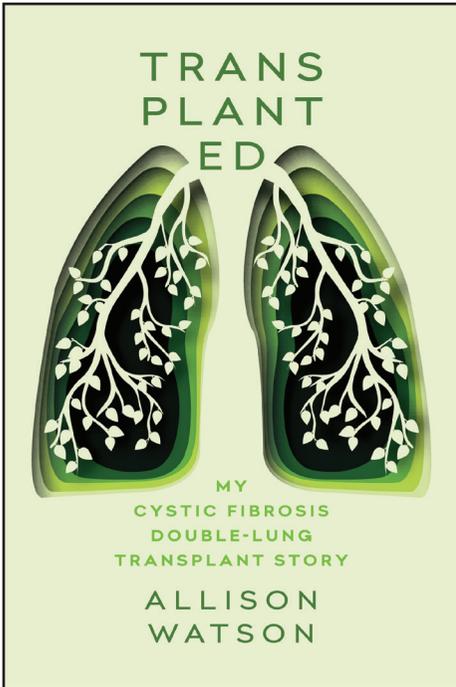
Rights available: World

It was a frigid night in February 2013 when the five young fishermen vanished. The crew of the *Miss Ally* was fishing for halibut far off the coast when their boat's spotlight malfunctioned.

A vicious winter storm was approaching, and all other boats at the fishing grounds were steaming for shore. Unable to locate his buoys and traps, the *Miss Ally's* 21-year-old captain decided to stay an extra day to retrieve the gear and, hopefully, a big catch.

Their retreat delayed, the *Miss Ally* crew ended up pounded by hurricane-force winds and waves well over 10 metres high. Late on February 17, the boat foundered. The five young men aboard were never found.

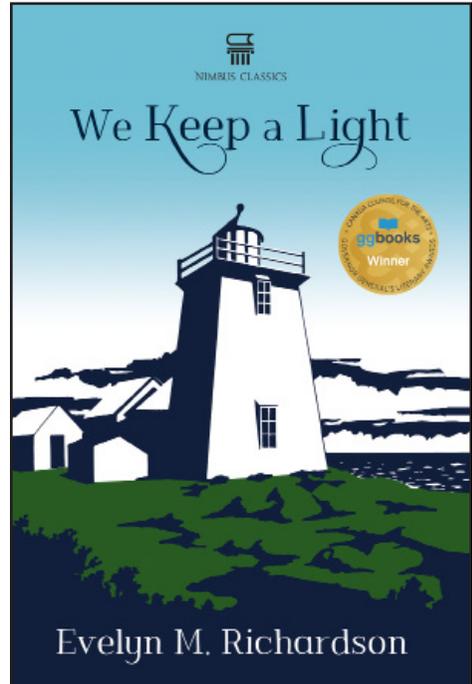
In *The Sea Was in Their Blood* award-winning journalist Quentin Casey explores two key questions: who were the men aboard the *Miss Ally*, and why were they battered and sunk by a storm forecasted days in advance?



Published: Spring 2019
Pages: 232
Rights available: World

When Allison Watson awoke that day, she knew she was in a hospital bed. That's all. She had no idea how much time had passed since she had seen her family. Hours later, when Watson was finally able to communicate, she asked a nurse if the news was good or bad. "It's good news," the nurse replied. "You had your lung transplant four days ago."

In this candid memoir, Watson describes living with the disease and her life-altering surgery in 2014.



Published: Spring 2019 [new ed.]
Pages: 228
Rights available: World

An exquisitely written, engrossing record of family life set against a glowing lighthouse on an isolated point of land. Renowned writer Evelyn Richardson recounts how she and her family hauled water and firewood, and found delight in the variety of being "keepers of the light."

Winner of the Governor General's Award for non-fiction and never out of print since its original publication in 1946, *We Keep a Light* remains a classic example of Atlantic literature.

16–20 October 2019



FRANKFURTER BUCHMESSE

Terrilee and Emily will be in

HALL 6.0

STAND C72

Email emackinnon@nimbus.ca for an appointment.