

The background of the entire image is a textured, painterly depiction of clouds. The top half features darker, more saturated teal and blue-green clouds, while the bottom half transitions into lighter, cream-colored clouds. The overall effect is soft and atmospheric.

# THISTLEDOWN PRESS

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FALL 2021



**Thistledown Press** was established in 1975, and in Fall 2020 began a new life with a new owner, author and businesswoman JoAnn McCaig, new managing editor Caroline Walker, and Elizabeth Philips as our new acquisitions editor. We are an independent literary publisher with high editorial standards, producing beautifully designed books — fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry — for a diverse audience.

In our debut season we are delighted to introduce six new titles, featuring emerging and seasoned writers from across Canada. We have *The Beautiful Place*, a brilliant sequel to Sinclair Ross' *As for Me and My House*, from novelist Lee Gowan; a darkly humorous novel about an ex-military-alcoholic-in-recovery turned Anglican priest, *All Is Well*, by Katherine Walker; a remarkable memoir about a year in a Middle East war zone, *Peacekeeper's Daughter*, by Tanya Bellehumeur-Allatt; a richly textured poetry collection, *Girl running*, by Diana Hope Tegenkamp; funny and sharp short fiction, *Only if We're Caught*, by Theresa Slind; and a lyrically written historical novel for middle-grade readers set in Canada and Germany, *Dear Peter, Dear Ulla*, by Barbara Nickel.

Onward to the next 45 years of great writing and reading!

Thistledown Press gratefully acknowledges the financial support of The Canada Council for the Arts, SK Arts, and the government of Canada for its publishing program.



Canada Council    Conseil des arts  
for the Arts      du Canada



Canada



# Thistledown Press

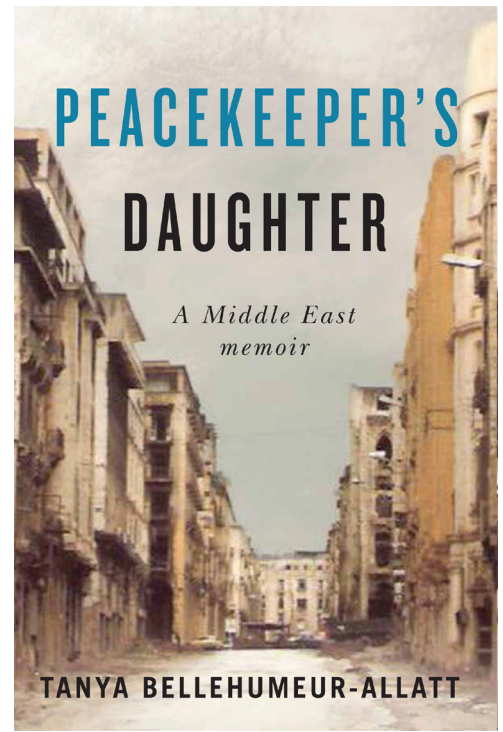
**The astonishing story of a French-Canadian military family stationed in Israel and Lebanon in 1982-1983, told from the perspective of a twelve-year-old girl.**

*Peacekeeper's Daughter* parachutes the reader into the Lebanese Civil War, the Palestinian crisis, and the wave of terrorism—including the bombing of the American Embassy—that ravaged Beirut at the height of the siege. This novelistic memoir moves from Jerusalem to Tiberius, from the disputed No-Man's Land of the Golan Heights to Damascus, and on to Beirut by way of Tripoli, crossing borders that remain closed to this day. It's June, 1982. Twelve-year-old Tanya and her family are preparing to leave their home in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to move to Israel and Lebanon, where her father will serve a one-year posting with the United Nations. While they're packing up, Israel invades Lebanon. The President-elect of Lebanon is assassinated. Thousands of Palestinian men, women, and children are murdered at the Sabra-Shatila refugee camps in southern Beirut. The Middle East's relative peace explodes into waves of violence. It is in the midst of this maelstrom that the family arrives in Israel and settles into an apartment. The simple act of walking down the street is fraught with peril. Violence may come at them from any direction at any time. *Peacekeeper's Daughter* is a coming-of-age story, as well as an exploration of family dynamics, the shattering effects of violence and war—and the power of memory itself to reconcile us to our past selves, to the extraordinary places we have been and sights we have seen.

\* \* \*



Tanya Bellehumeur-Allatt's fiction, essays and poems have appeared in *Best Canadian Essays 2019* and *Best Canadian Essays 2015*, *The New Quarterly*, *Grain*, *EVENT*, *Prairie Fire*, *Malahat Review*, *subTerrain*, *carte blanche*, *Antigonish Review*, *Queens Quarterly* and *Room*, among other publications. Tanya has been nominated for a National Magazine Award as well as a Western Magazine Award. She holds an MA from McGill and an MFA in Creative Writing from UBC. She lives in Quebec's Eastern Townships with her husband and four children. Tanya is the author of *Chaos Theories of Goodness* (Shoreline, 2021) and *Peacekeeper's Daughter: A Middle East Memoir* (Thistledown, 2021). Read more about Tanya and her writing at [tanyaallattbellehumeur.com](http://tanyaallattbellehumeur.com)



## Peacekeeper's Daughter

**A Middle East Memoir**

Autobiography | paperback

\$24.95 | 5.5 x 8.5 | 360 pages

ISBN 9781771872164

PUBLICATION DATE:

September 30, 2021

For more information, or to schedule an interview with the author, please contact [publicity@thistledownpress.com](mailto:publicity@thistledownpress.com) or [www.thistledownpress.com](http://www.thistledownpress.com)

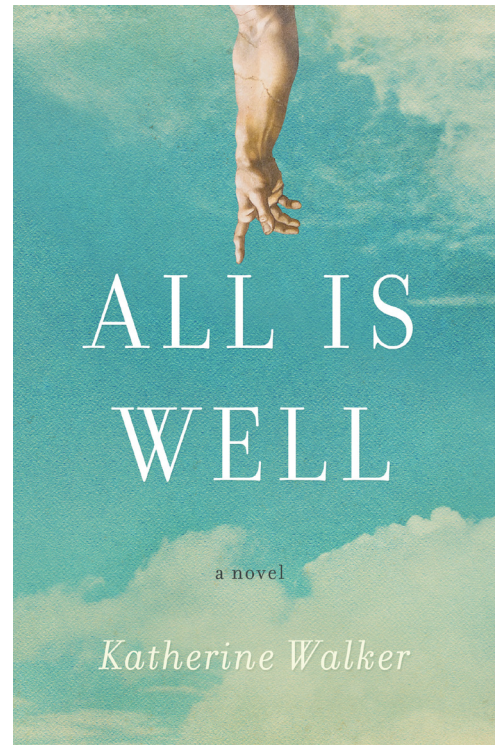
Read what we sow.



# Thistledown Press

Christine Wright is having a bad day. She's an ex-special forces soldier and recovering alcoholic, and now her new career as a church minister has started off with the worst kind of bang. Could it be her reflexes are a little too twitchy for this job?

From the opening page, this fast-paced tale is all about a cover up: the burying of a body, while fending off an angry widow, and a very suspicious parishioner appalled by the loss of a precious church artifact. And then there's the vengeful, terminally ill military-cop-turned-stalker who plans to get Christine locked up if it's the last thing he does. Among the many revelations and surprises we experience is the fact that we're instantly on the side of the unfailingly flawed and irreverent Christine—who cannot imitate a perfectly pious priest even though her life so clearly depends on it. Mystic Julian Norwich, she of the famous “all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well,” is the patron saint of this wickedly funny novel.



## All Is Well

**Katherine Walker**

fiction | paperback | \$24.95

5.5 x 8.5 | 232 pages

ISBN 9781771872157

PUBLICATION DATE:

September 30, 2021

For more information, or to schedule an interview with the author, please contact

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[www.thistledownpress.com](http://www.thistledownpress.com)

\* \* \*



KATHERINE WALKER was born and raised in Calgary, located in the Treaty 7 region on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, and the Métis Nation (Region 3). She studied fine arts and design and after working as a graphic designer up north, Katherine joined the

Royal Canadian Navy, which took her to the west and east coasts and out to sea. Her recent graduate studies in divinity, along with her artistic and military background, enhance her journey through life. You can talk with Katherine about divine guidance, dismantling underwater mines, or the connection between beauty and truth. Katherine is grateful for the tradition of story, the wilderness, and every breath in this amazing life. *All Is Well* is her first novel.

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**Dear Peter, Dear Ulla** is an imaginative and beautifully crafted historical middle-grade novel about two cousins who have never met but have become fast friends through an exchange of letters—until the outbreak of World War Two interrupts their conversation.

Ulla lives in Danzig, a city that has just been occupied by the Nazis, and Peter lives on a farm in a Mennonite community in Saskatchewan. What had been an easy and entertaining connection between Peter, a talented pianist, and Ulla, who is gifted at drawing, becomes fraught with unthinkable questions. Are they supposed to consider each other enemies now that Canada and Germany are at war?

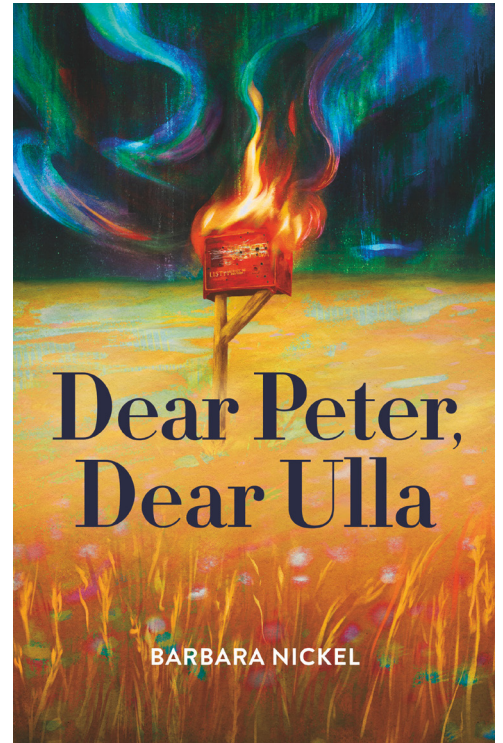
While Peter deals with Bruno, a bullying neighbour boy, Ulla is secretly aiding Erwina, a Polish friend severely burned after her home in the Polish Post Office was attacked by the Nazis in one of the first battles of World War Two. Unfolding in alternating chapters, the story will have young readers in thrall to the entwined lives of these two fiercely intelligent cousins who must confront issues of bullying, prejudice, and racial violence—some of the most challenging issues of their time, and ours.

\* \* \*



Barbara Nickel grew up in Saskatchewan and has taught Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia. She has published acclaimed books for both adults and young people. Her children's titles include *Hannah Waters and the Daughter of Johann Sebastian Bach*, which won a B.C. Book

Prize and was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award, as well as a picture book, *A Boy Asked the Wind*, which was a finalist for the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award. Barbara lives in Yarrow, British Columbia, with her husband and two sons.



## Dear Peter, Dear Ulla

Barbara Nickel

Juvenile fiction

paperback | \$16.95 | 5.5 x 8.5

368 pages ISBN 9781771872171

PUBLICATION DATE:

September 30, 2021

For more information, or to schedule an interview with the author, please contact [publicity@thistledownpress.com](mailto:publicity@thistledownpress.com) or [www.thistledownpress.com](http://www.thistledownpress.com)

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"A stellar collection of stories—funny, poignant, wide-ranging, and wise. *Only If We're Caught* will catch your heart."

~ Yann Martel,  
author of *Life of Pi* and *The High Mountains of Portugal*

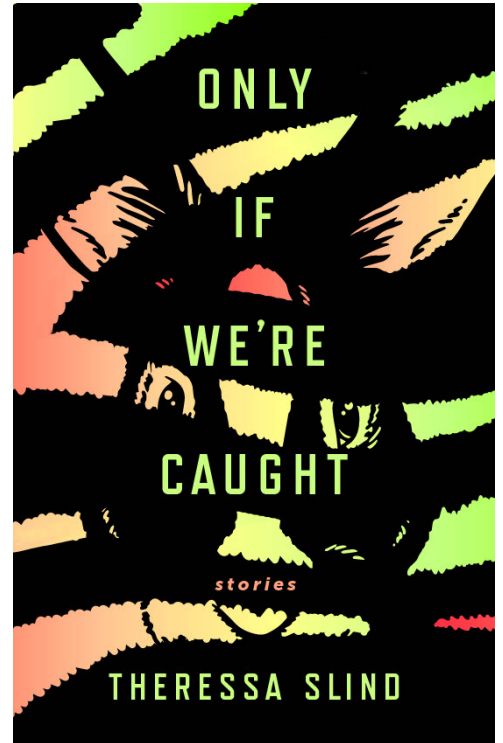
This sensational debut collection of short stories takes readers on a tour of the astonishment inside the ordinary, the quotidian. Meet the happy wunderkind inside the sad elderly lover, the vulnerable teenager inside the high-powered lawyer, the loving father inside the vampire. Vampire?

In these stories, no narrator is too far-fetched, because every voice is in some way our own. We unravel a mystery with a mortician troubled by the ghosts of his clients, stumble along a gravel road with a too-young pregnant woman searching for a lost girl, watch a feminist falling in love with the office Romeo, are charmed by a robotic humanoid with a penchant for merlot and sedition... Whether the subject is betrayal, disappointment, grief, love or longing, these stories will entertain you with zippy word-craft and sly humour, and seduce you with tenderness. Theresa Slind takes us on an exhilarating ride through the many chambers of the complicated, messed up, resilient human heart.

\* \* \*



Theresa Slind is a librarian at Saskatoon Public Library. Her writing has appeared in *Prairie Fire*, *PRISM international*, *The Malahat Review*, *The New Quarterly*, *Grain*, and elsewhere. She grew up on a grain farm in north-east Saskatchewan and lives in Saskatoon with her husband and daughter. *Only If We're Caught* is her first book.



## Only If We're Caught Theresa Slind

Fiction / Short Stories  
paperback | \$24.95 | 5.5 x 8.5  
224 pages ISBN 9781771872119

PUBLICATION DATE:  
September 30, 2021

For more information, or to  
schedule an interview with the  
author, please contact  
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# Thistledown Press

In *Girl running*, find solace and outrage, grief and tenderness, bewilderment and beauty, all “entangled in hope and dreaming.” The poet’s love of the natural world is both earthy and adamant, and her passion for literature and art is just as rich a source for her questioning eye.

On the edge of Saskatoon, a woman opens a car door and flees. A child runs away from residential school after a beating. A Métis man’s ghost gallops on a ghost horse across the prairies. Henry James’ 19th-century heroine, Isabel Archer, runs across a wintry yard. Lana Tisdel drives away from Falls City, Nebraska, after the murder of her transgender boyfriend. After many losses—of a mother known and loved, of a Métis father unknown and imagined—the ‘girl’ of this collection is running towards and away from mortality. In these poems, disappearances, perpetual flights, river walks, shadowy descents and miraculous returns connect daily living and mortality, current social realities and ancient histories, the surface and the subterranean depths of our complicated lives. Lovers of contemporary Canadian poetry will find that this textured collection rewards reading and rereading.

\* \* \*



Diana Hope Tegenkamp is a Métis writer who lives and creates on Treaty 6 Territory, Homeland of the Métis. Her writing has appeared in numerous literary journals across Canada, including *CV2*, *Grain*, and *Matrix*, to name a few. In 2020, she was awarded second prize in the Banff Centre Bliss

Carmen Poetry Contest and was longlisted for the CBC Poetry Prize. Diana works across mediums, including film, photography, visual art, performance art, sound and music. Her video performance piece, UNMUTE, was selected for SLANT’s 2021 Writing Bodies festival, and more of her multi-disciplinary work, including film poems for *Girl running*, can be found on her website, [www.dianahopetegenkamp.com](http://www.dianahopetegenkamp.com).



## Girl running Diana Hope Tegenkamp

poetry  
paperback | \$24.95 | 5.5 x 8.5  
128 pages ISBN 9781771872140

PUBLICATION DATE:  
September 30, 2021

For more information,  
or to schedule an interview with  
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[publicity@thistledownpress.com](mailto:publicity@thistledownpress.com)  
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**“A preposterous, pan-Canadian tale, straight-faced, that evolves into a quest for a dead man’s frozen head. Subtly hilarious, beautifully crafted and with lots of moving parts, this novel is fresh, original, and compelling.”**

~ Ken McGoogan

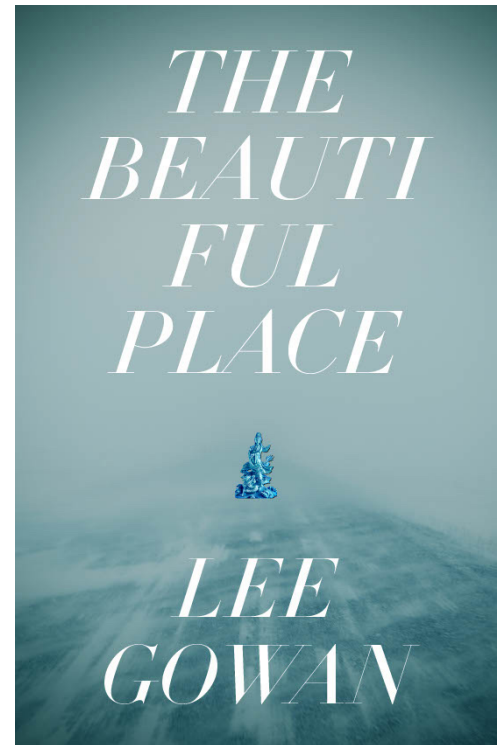
The man we know only as Bentley is facing a triple threat—in other words, his life is a hot mess every way he looks. Like anyone who feels that he’s on the brink of annihilation, Bentley thinks back to his misspent youth, in particular the year he met his famous grandfather, the painter Philip Bentley, for the first time. To make matters worse, he has inherited his grandfather’s tendency to self-doubt, as well as that cranky artist’s old service pistol. Our hero is confused about so much. How did he end up as a cryonics salesman—a huckster for a dubious afterlife—when he wanted to be a writer? And who is the mysterious Mary Abraham, and why is she the thread unravelling his unhappy present? What will be left when all the strands come undone? Lee Gowan’s *The Beautiful Place* is the best kind of journey: both psychological and real, with a lot of quick-on-the-draw conversations and stunning scenery along the way—and only one gun, which may or may not be loaded.

\*\*\*



Lee Gowan grew up on a farm near Swift Current, Saskatchewan, and studied at the University of British Columbia, where he earned an MFA in creative writing. He is the author of three previous novels: *Confession*, *The Last Cowboy*, and *Make Believe Love*, which was shortlisted

for the Trillium Award for Best Book in Ontario. He is also an award-winning screenwriter, and was nominated for a Gemini Award for his screenplay *Paris or Somewhere*. He is currently Program Director, Creative Writing and Business Communications, at the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies.



## The Beautiful Place

Lee Gowan

fiction / novel

paperback | \$24.95 | 5.5 x 8.5  
352 pages ISBN 9781771872089

PUBLICATION DATE:

September 30, 2021

For more information, or to schedule an interview with the author, please contact  
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