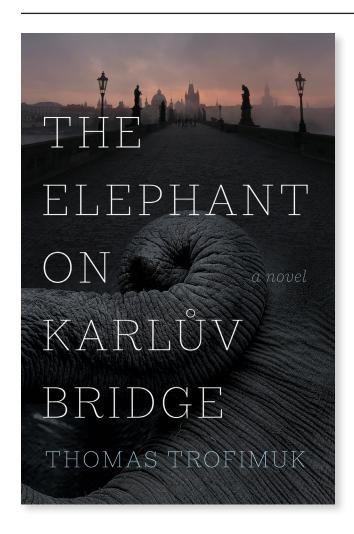
Thistledown Press

FALL 2022 Welcome to Thistledown's Fall 2022 season! We are eager to present three great new titles by Western Canadian writers who carry on the TDP tradition of fine writing while also breaking new ground in fiction, memoir, and YA. Silencing Rebecca by UBC grad Nikki Vogel deftly combines realism and the supernatural in its exploration of the smothering weight of tradition on a teenage girl's life. In I Never Met a Rattlesnake I Didn't Like, much-loved Saskatchewan author David Carpenter shares wisdom, insight, and wit in this memoir of his encounters with wild animals. Our heavyweight title this Fall is a wondrously inventive and utterly delightful novel by Edmonton's Thomas Trofimuk. Once you've met the elephant on Karlův bridge, I guarantee you will never forget her.

JoAnn McCaig Publisher

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.





Publication: August 15, 2022 \$24.95 paperback | 6 x 9 | 352 pages ISBN 9781771872256 FICTION/Literary Distributor: UTP Distribution

Distributor: UTP Distribution Expected ship date: July 30, 2022

About the Author

Thomas Trofimuk's first novel, *The 52nd Poem*, won the George Bugnet Novel of the Year Award and the City of Edmonton Book Prize at the 2003 Alberta Book Awards. His second novel, *Doubting Yourself to the Bone*, was named as one of the *Globe and Mail*'s top 100 must-read books for 2006. *Waiting for Columbus* was published in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Serbia, Poland, Brazil, China, and Quebec (in translation). *Waiting for Columbus* won the City of Edmonton Book Prize, was a nominee for the 2011 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, was a Richard and Judy Book Club pick for fall 2010, and was one of Richard and Judy's 100 Books. A fourth novel, *This is All a Lie*, was released in fall 2017. He lives in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The Elephant on Karlův Bridge by Thomas Trofimuk *

Set in Prague and narrated with great panache by the 600-year-old Charles Bridge, this novel begins with an elephant named Sál escaping the Prague Zoo. As the elephant moves through the beautiful Czech city, the lives of the men and women she meets are altered by the encounter. Each character is at a crossroads, and desperately seeking the wisdom they need to wrestle with profound questions—how to live, how to love, who to love, how to heal. And the elephant herself is haunted, as memories of her long-ago capture in Africa resurface.

Sál carries the narrative from one point of view to another: Vasha, a writer and night watchman at the zoo, and his wife Marta, a psychotherapist, confront the question of whether to have a child; Šárka, Marta's patient and a dancer at the end of her career, is visited by a charming and often abrasive manifestation of the long-dead ballerina Anna Pavlova; Joseph, a clown and bouffon, performs on the Karlův Bridge itself, and he is about to be struck down (literally and figuratively) by a new love...

Through it all, Sál steals the show, wandering the streets in search of water and food, bearing her own share of sadness and painful memories as she struggles to find her way out of her bewildering predicament. Though she, like the humans she encounters, is free now to make her own choices, she is also displaced and lost.

Thomas Trofimuk's novel masterfully convinces us to accept all the wonders contained in it: that a bridge can tell a story, that art is integral to our survival, that an elephant can scatter sudden flashes of insight in her wake, that there is no separation between the grief of elephants and the grief of humans.

Praise for Past Work:

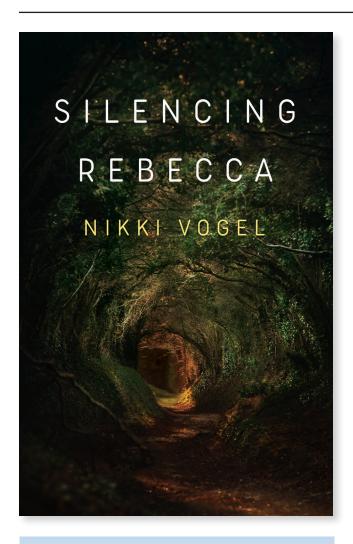
- "...he begins his novel with a poet's compressed precision, succeeding where other budding prose lyricists fail. Where some write with a fluid (or florid) lilt, and sentiments to match, Trofimuk offers a spare grace of expression and a narrative playfulness..."
- -Globe & Mail
- "...almost every word he records resonates with beauty, truth and tenderness..."
- -Winnipeg Free Press
- "...a story of sorrow and loss that packs a huge emotional punch."
- —The Times

"Told with gorgeous, often quirky detail... daring and remarkable... Grace notes of longing, of yearning, are frequent, and lovely. So are the questions that compel them..."

-Charles Foran, in The Literary Review of Canada

A "powerful, dazzling accomplishment."

– Quill & Quire



Publication: August 31, 2022 \$18.95 paperback | 5.5 x 8.5 | 240 pages ISBN 9781771872263 YOUNG ADULT FICTION/Literary/Magical/ Religious/Jewish

Distributor: UTP Distribution Expected ship date: August 15, 2022

About the Author

Nikki Vogel has had poetry published in Room Magazine, filling Station, and The Istanbul Review. Her short stories have appeared in Luna Station Quarterly, Infective Ink, Empty Sink Publications, and in One Throne Magazine. She has had a few stories anthologized, including in You Can't Kill Me, I'm Already Dead and Behind the Yellow Wallpaper: New Tales of Madness. She was a runner up in the 2012 Little Bird Writing Contest and in 2015 had a story listed as Notable Science Fiction in The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy. Silencing Rebecca is her first book publication. She lives in Edmonton.

Silencing Rebecca by Nikki Vogel *

In this genre-bending debut YA novel combining elements of horror, magic realism, and realistic fiction, Rebecca Waldmann's sheltered life as an Orthodox Jewish teen in Toronto is shattered when her father moves them to Edmonton, where she is plunged into the worldly life of a public high school.

Ordinary teenage angst is complicated by Rebecca's lack of experience with a culture of wearing cool clothes, swearing, talking back to teachers, and other aspects of secular teen life. Things take a darker turn when Rebecca encounters antisemitism and discovers a secret about the long-ago death of her mother that her father has been hiding from her.

Rebecca doesn't just defy the strictures of her ultraorthodox religion by wearing tight jeans and flirting with a non-Jewish boy. She discovers to her horror that she has undergone a change that makes puberty look easy—she's been transformed into a golem! When this mythical clay creature from Jewish folklore takes her over, body and soul, she's helpless to resist—or almost. Is it because she's so furious with her father, is that why she is sometimes a girl with a cute boyfriend, and sometimes a very earthy, ugly monster?

In this new and very disturbing back-and-forth existence, Rebecca fights off the attention of a predatory schoolmate and her father's determination to force her into an arranged marriage. She struggles to name her own desires and speak her own truths, and still be true to her own beliefs. But it's hard to know your own beliefs when you are in a battle for your existence as a human...

An excerpt from Silencing Rebecca:

Rebecca moves through the woods. Her father's words return to her. My own good. She doesn't understand the way she feels about him. It's bewildering, like everything else.

He gives up. She hears the sounds he makes as he moves away.

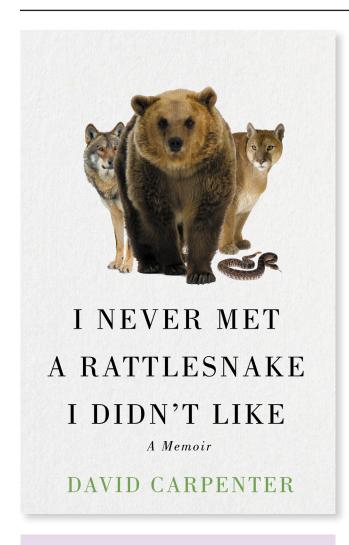
Eventually, she leaves the trail and works her way into an area where the brush is dense enough to conceal her from view. She sits down and carefully leans her back against a wonderfully solid tree. The way she has been altered, it wouldn't have surprised her to fall right through the tree like a ghost.

I am a walking, non-talking monster made of clay and confusion.

Praise for Silencing Rebecca:

"A stunning novel that demonstrates the true and terrifying cost of being a 'good girl."

-Michelle Barker, award-winning author of The Long List of Impossible Things



Publication: August 31, 2022 \$24.95 paperback | 6 x 9 | 230 pages ISBN 9781771872270 NATURE/Essays/Personal Memoir Distributor: UTP Distribution

Distributor: UTP Distribution Expected ship date: August 15, 2022

About the Author

David Carpenter is the author of more than a dozen books, including nonfiction, several novels (most recently *The Gold*), short story collections, a collection of novellas (most recently *Welcome to Canada*), and one volume of poetry. He has also worked as an editor, most notably as the editor of *The Literary History of Saskatchewan*. He was shortlisted for the 2015 Tom Fairley Award for Editorial Excellence for his work on *The Education of Augie Merasty*. He has received several Saskatchewan Book Awards, including Book of the Year for the essay collection *Courting Saskatchewan*, as well as National and Western Magazine Awards for his magazine writing. David taught for many years at the University of Saskatchewan. He is an avid fly fisherman and nature-obsessed hiker and conservationist. He lives in Saskatoon.

I Never Met a Rattlesnake I Didn't Like: a Memoir by David Carpenter *

David Carpenter's collection of essays explores a city boy's love of the wild, a passion that has enriched his life from boyhood. At 80, this irrepressible Saskatchewan raconteur examines his intense fascination with predators large and small, and his awe in the face of the variety of creatures that may be out to get us—or who are out to get one another. How does this combination of fear and wonder affect our relationship with the natural world? And why has Carpenter personally been both drawn to, and repelled by, so many wild animals, including alligators, wolves, cougars, spiders, black bears, grizzlies, weasels, and of course, snakes, and particularly deadly rattlesnakes?

The stories that fuel the essays in this entertaining memoir are as diverse as the animals—and insects!—at the heart of Carpenter's inquiry. As a young man, Carpenter is working in Jasper National Park, and he's lugging his banjo—hustling on his way to a paid gig—when he takes a short cut through the woods, makes a wrong turn and ends up at the dump. He looks across at some large animals. Horses? No, five, count 'em, five grizzlies. Luckily a ranger on an actual horse leads him out of danger. He's fishing for brook trout in the mountains with a friend, cooling their catch in a convenient snow bank. But the fish keep disappearing. He finds them cached under a nearby rock, and when he tries to pull one out, he's in a tug-of-war with some hidden creature, small but fierce—is it a mink?

Encounters like these drive the author into philosophical conjecture, into reading everything he can get his hands on about these and other creatures as he contemplates our place in the wild, and the value of the wild in our lives. These essays are essential reading for those of us who share David Carpenter's fascination with the predators that so fundamentally shape our understanding of wilderness and the necessity to preserve it.

Praise for Past Work:

"To enter David Carpenter's world is to travel in the company of a man who has learned to love, and to express that love in friendship and small deeds....Carpenter writes about fishing with more passion, poetry and philosophy than anyone I've read since Izaak Walton."

-Erna Paris, Globe & Mail

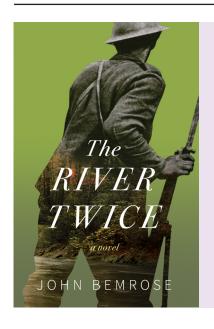
"Reading David Carpenter's Courting Saskatchewan is like having a conversation with a great, wise and somewhat eccentric friend you've been aching long months to see again. These are lucid, firm-footed, truly bright, sometimes extremely funny essays— that are smart about everything they touch upon... Carpenter would seem to have the real goods, here, since underlying all in his writing is the sweet heart's song of life going on, wherein lies the truth."

- Richard Ford

"This book is about a life well-lived. The prose is as clear as the rivers Carp fishes, and just as full of energy and beauty."

Paul Ouarrington





The River Twice by John Bemrose

Publication: May 30, 2022 \$24.95 paperback | 5.5 x 8.5 | 354 pages ISBN 9781771872201 FICTION / Historical / Literary

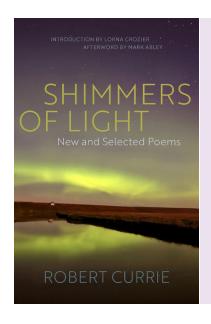
The River Twice, by the Giller-nominated author of the bestselling The Island Walkers, is a gripping new World War I novel set in the Southern Ontario factory town familiar to his many readers, where residents are reeling as the wounded return and the list of local young men who have been killed continues to grow.

Setting Fire to Water by Phoebe Tsang

Publication: May 30, 2022 \$24.95 paperback | 5.5 x 8.5 | 234 pages ISBN 9781771872195 FICTION / Short Stories

Shifting restlessly from dark to light and back again, written in lithe, precise prose, the stories in Phoebe Tsang's debut collection illuminate the lives of those who exist inside otherness. The seventeen stories in Setting Fire to Water unfold outside the Canadian mainstream, where longing—for home, for love, for artistic achievement, for spiritual fulfillment—is a given, and acceptance—of self, of the knowability of others, of the limits to knowing—is always in question.





Shimmers of Light: New and Selected Poems by Robert Currie

Publication: March 18, 2022 \$24.95 paperback | 5.5 x 8.5 | 312 pages ISBN 9781771872188 POETRY / Canadian

Robert Currie's Shimmers of Light: New and Selected Poems uses the vernacular of ordinary working people to tell stories and sing songs of small-town prairie life. Like Alden Nowlan, or more recently, Billy Collins, this poet constructs poems from the unvarnished wood of common language—there's no veneer, no glossing over here.





The Beautiful Place by Lee Gowan

Publication: Sep 30, 2021 \$24.95 paperback | 5.5 x 8.5 | 352 pages ISBN 9781771872089 FICTION / Literary

Lee Gowan's new novel, an audacious sequel to Sinclair Ross' prairie classic, As for Me and My House, is about a man who is in trouble in love and work—a darkly funny cautionary tale for our times.

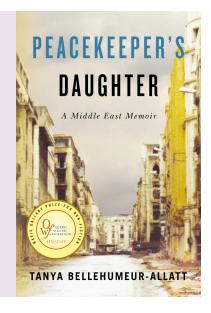
"A preposterous, pan-Canadian tale, straight-faced, that evolves into a quest for a dead man's frozen head. Subtly hilarious, beautifully crafted and with lots of moving parts, this novel is fresh, original, and compelling." —Ken McGoogan, award-winning author

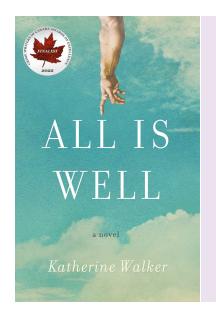
Peacekeeper's Daughter

A Middle East Memoir by Tanya Bellehumeur-Allatt

Publication: Sep 30, 2021 \$24.95 paperback | 5.5 x 8.5 | 330 pages ISBN 9781771872164 BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Personal Memoirs

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* was nominated for the Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction.





All Is Well by Katherine Walker

Publication: Sep 30, 2021 \$24.95 paperback | 5.5 x 8.5 | 192 pages ISBN 9781771872157 FICTION / Literary

Christine Wright is having a bad day. She's an ex-special forces soldier and a 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?





Girl running by Diana Hope Tegenkamp

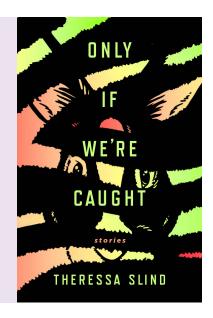
Publication: Sep 30, 2021 \$24.95 paperback | 5.5 x 8.5 | 120 pages ISBN 9781771872140 POETRY / Canadian / General

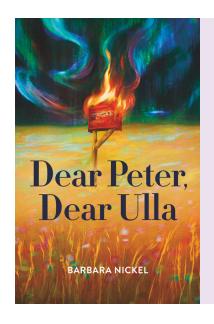
This stellar debut collection by Métis poet Diana Hope Tegenkamp takes us through many worlds and wonders. In *Girl running*, find solace and outrage, grief and tenderness, bewilderment and beauty, all "entangled in hope and dreaming." The poet's love of the natural world is both earthy and adamantine, and her passion for literature and art is just as rich a source for her questioning eye.

Only If We're Caught by Theressa Slind

Publication: Sep 30, 2021 \$24.95 paperback | 5.5 x 8.5 | 132 pages ISBN 9781771872119 FICTION / Short Stories

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?





Dear Peter, Dear Ulla by Barbara Nickel

Publication: Oct. 15, 2021 \$16.95 paperback | 5.5 x 8.5 | 349 pages ISBN 9781771872171 JUVENILE FICTION / Family / Historical

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.



Fall 2022 UTP Specials

Frontlist Special: 50+ frontlist titles Discount: 45% Code: FRN5

<u>Conditions:</u> One order per code. Ends August 31st, 2022. Combinable across all Ampersand's participating UTP publishers.

<u>Backlist Special:</u> 50+ backlist titles <u>Discount:</u> 47% <u>Code:</u> BAC5

<u>Conditions</u>: One order per code. Ends December 31st, 2022. Combinable across all Ampersand's participating UTP publishers.

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