

A woman with short, light-colored hair is shown in profile, looking upwards with her eyes closed. She is wearing a dark grey long-sleeved shirt. She stands in a vast field of bright yellow wildflowers. The background is a sky filled with soft, grey clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Thistledown Press

Spring
2023

A Message from the Publisher:

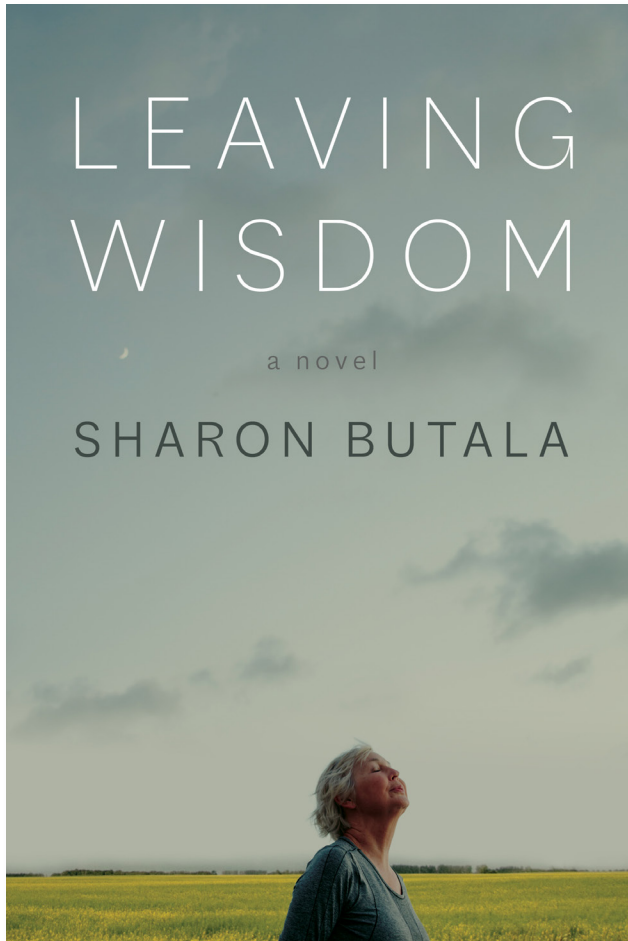
In 1975, Thistledown Press put down roots in the earth and the culture of the Prairies. Our Spring 2023 season reflects that heritage, with three very different books all inspired by and infused with the essence of Saskatchewan: a novel, *Leaving Wisdom*, by Sharon Butala, about the long shadow cast by family secrets and World War Two; a poetry collection, *a beautiful rebellion*, by Rita Bouvier, celebrating the strength of the Métis community; and a children's picture book, *Gordie's Skate*, featuring hockey legend Gordie Howe as a little boy learning to skate, by Bill Waiser. World history, Indigenous history, and sports history. Three authors with deep roots in our home province. Thistledown is delighted to present three new books that will enlighten and entertain readers in Canada and beyond.

Enjoy!

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: May 30, 2023
\$24.95 paperback | 6 x 9 | 282 Pages
ISBN 9781771872362
FICTION / Literary
Distributor: UTP Distribution

About the Author

Sharon Butala is the author of twenty-one books of fiction and nonfiction, numerous essays and articles, some poetry and five produced plays. She published her first novel in 1984, *Country of the Heart*, which was nominated for the Books in Canada First Novel Award, followed closely by a collection of short stories, *Queen of the Headaches* (shortlisted for the Governor General's Award). Sharon's books have been on the Canadian bestseller lists, including her memoir *The Perfection of the Morning*, which reached #1 in July 1994. Her work has been nominated for, and received, numerous awards. Most recently, her story collection *Season of Fury and Wonder* was nominated for the Rogers Trust Fiction Prize and won the City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize for 2020. Sharon is an Officer of the Order of Canada. She lives in Calgary.

Leaving Wisdom

by Sharon Butala



Sharon Butala's new novel begins with the wrong kind of bang when retiring social worker Judith falls on the ice on the way to her retirement party. The debilitating concussion that follows seems to shake loose a confusing whirl of memories.

Judith is a mother of four, and her relationships with her daughters are complicated. They all seem to have men trouble, except for the wild daughter who has settled down, inexplicably to Judith, in Jerusalem. With her ears still ringing and her strength compromised by a shaky recovery, Judith leaves Calgary and, to everyone's bewilderment, moves back to the town near the family farm. In Wisdom, Saskatchewan, she confronts many unanswered questions: Why was her father, a World War Two vet, so troubled? What are her brother and sister hiding from her? As she pursues answers to unsolved mysteries in her own life, more complicated and wider ranging questions arise.

Living in a small town is a shock after the anonymity of a big city. Judith finds herself exposed to watchful neighbours, and she is watchful in turn, seeing things that are mystifying at first—and then alarming. Small town bigotry and what looks like a serious crime unfolding in the house next door make her return even more difficult—what is she doing here? Does she have enough wisdom to unravel her past? Does she have a future in a place where she is not exactly welcome?

This thought-provoking and very readable tale shows not only the suffering that comes from family secrets, but also unfolds one woman's late life awakening to the complex shadows cast by World War Two and the Holocaust.

Praise for Past Work:

"... one of this country's true visionaries."
—*Toronto Star*

"... Sharon Butala has established herself as a pre-eminent literary voice of the Canadian Prairie experience. ... her own deep observations and compelling characters challenge narratives of western development that are all too often male-dominated and anglo-centric."
—*Prairie Messenger*

"... poetic, flawless, and unflinching."
—2019 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize Jury



a beautiful rebellion

poems

rita bouvier



Publication: April 10, 2023
\$19.95 paperback | 6 x 9 | 72 pages
ISBN 9781771872348
POETRY / Canadian / Indigenous
Distributor: UTP Distribution

About the Author

Rita Bouvier is a Métis writer and educator from Saskatchewan. Her third book of poetry, *nakamowin'sa for the seasons* (Thistledown Press, 2015) was the 2016 Saskatchewan Book Awards winner of the Rasmussen, Rasmussen & Charowsky Aboriginal Peoples' Writing Award. Rita's poetry has appeared in literary anthologies, print and online journals, musicals, and television productions, and has been translated into Spanish, German and the Cree-Michif of her home community of sakitawak, Île-à-la-Crosse, situated on the historic trading and meeting grounds of Cree and Dene people.

a beautiful rebellion

by Rita Bouvier



This evocative new poetry collection speaks with a fierce tenderness of many aspects of the poet's life: a childhood spent on the banks of the Churchill River, the death of a beloved one, the struggle to try to find forgiveness for wrongs done and the weariness of trying to redress those wrongs. And, most poignantly, a beautiful rebellion reaches one hand back to Louis Riel and one hand forward to future Métis generations.

The poems navigate losses that we all suffer when the world of our childhoods has altered irrevocably; they reveal the pain caused by residential schools and share despair at the lack of progress in social justice and self-determination. Rita Bouvier's work is intimate and insightful, written in inviting, open-hearted language that includes many Cree and Michif phrases and their translation.

A quiet power—riverine, deep, unstoppable—flows through these poems.

Praise for *a beautiful rebellion*:

"... joyful, exclamatory, uncynical poems that don't shy from the imperative to really look, to commune, to tend toward love. The poems are a generous, multilingual response to art, family, community, Land and politics that rely on crystal clear images to advance the notion that 'as long as we have more to enjoy / than another we have responsibility / to lift each other.'"

—The Saskatchewan Writer's Guild's John V. Hicks Prize Jury

Praise for Rita Bouvier's previous collection, *nakamowin'sa for the seasons*:

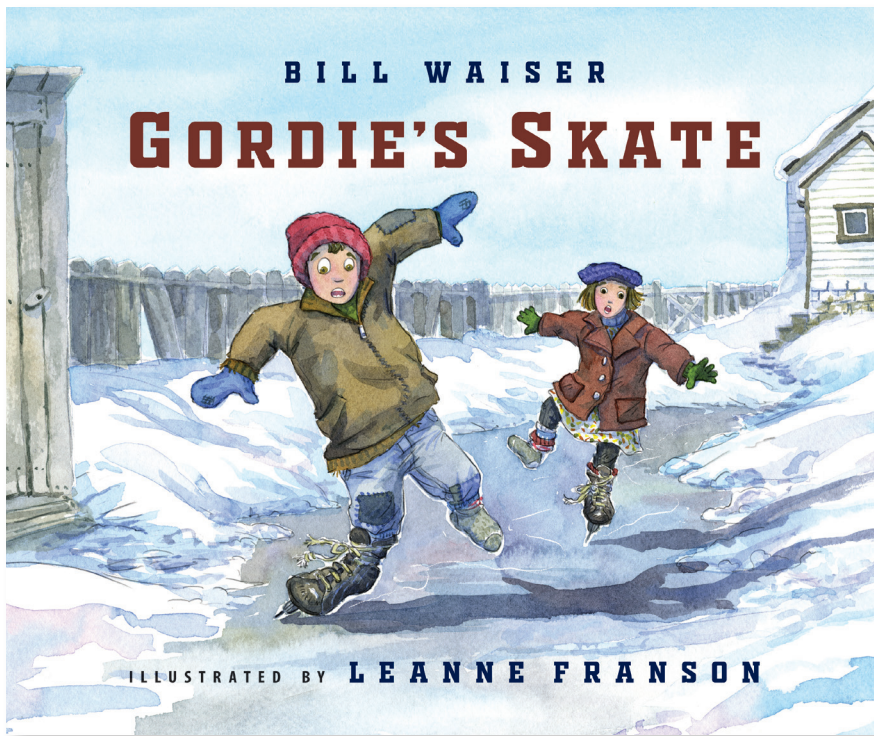
"The transitions of the seasons, as sung by Rita Bouvier, are as graceful as the movement of shorebirds. Within these luminescent poems she creates an environment for us to portage our history and desire. She gives us songs to hold our hearts. And in so doing she brings us together in ceremony, in wahkotowin; she connects us as family."

—Gregory Scofield, Poet and author of *Kipocikhân: Poems New and Selected*, *Louis: The Heretic Poems*, and *Witness, I Am*.



Gordie's Skate

by Bill Waiser; illustrated by Leanne Franson



Set in Saskatchewan during the Great Depression, this is the story of hockey legend Gordie Howe and his first experience with skating. The book is charmingly illustrated in full colour by Leanne Franson. Bill Waiser is a popular historian and Governor-General's Award-winning author.

Times were hard for five-year-old Gordie and his family in the 1930s. One day, a neighbour, desperate for some money, sold Mrs. Howe a bag of meager possessions. Inside was something wonderful: an old pair of men's hockey skates. Even though they were several sizes too large, Gordie and his sister pounced on them. At first, she and Gordie tried skating on just one foot . . . then holding hands to keep their balance. Eventually, his sister abandoned her skate, and Gordie grabbed it. He never looked back!

Gordie's Skate is an ode to the love of hockey and a tale about hard times, where a family makes do with what little they have, even eating oatmeal for lunch and supper. It's also a story about kids creating their own fun, with determination—Gordie and his friends played for hours with little or no equipment.

This inspirational picture book shows how people came to depend on one another to endure the Great Depression. Gordie Howe's long and celebrated NHL career owed much to his mother's willingness to help a neighbour.

Lively illustrations capture life in Saskatoon in the 1930s, and show how a pair of old skates helped Gordie build skill and confidence and achieve his dreams.

About the Author

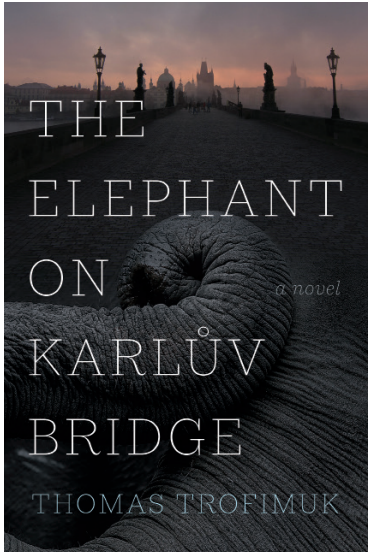
Bill Waiser is one of Canada's foremost historians. For more than three decades, he was a history professor at the University of Saskatchewan. He is now a full-time writer and public speaker. Bill has published nineteen books, in addition to plying his trade in radio, television, and print media. He's known for an engaging, popular style that draws on the power of stories. His most recent book, *In Search of Almighty Voice: Resistance and Reconciliation*, was launched at the One Arrow First Nation's community powwow at the request of the Elders.

About the Illustrator

Leanne Franson spent her childhood winters in Regina and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, building snow forts while her dad watched hockey games on TV. She was a really bad skater—but she could draw really well! In 1991, after she finished her BFA in Montreal, she started illustrating books. Leanne is fluently bilingual and has worked on books in English and French, illustrating in total over 100 picture books, chapter books, and textbooks. In 2012, she and her teenage son Benn returned to Saskatchewan, where she draws and makes ceramics in her acreage studio.

Publication: April 15, 2023
\$14.95 paperback | 10.25 x 8.5 | 24 pages
ISBN 9781771872355
\$21.95 hardcover | 10.25 x 8.5 | 24 pages
ISBN 9781771872393
JUVENILE NONFICTION / Biography & Autobiography /
Sports & Recreation
Ages 4-8, Grades PK-3
Distributor: UTP Distribution





The Elephant on Karlův Bridge by Thomas Trofimuk

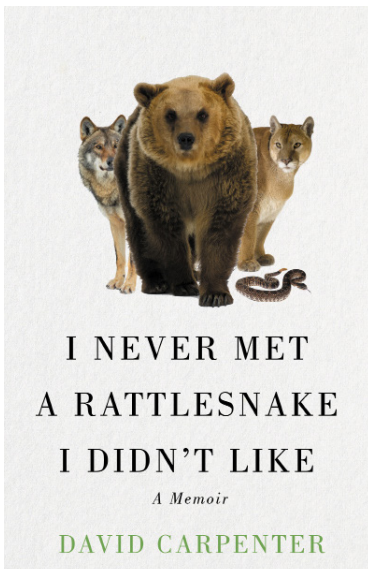
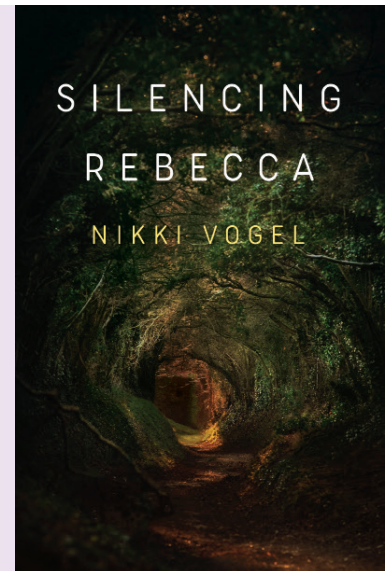
Publication: August 15, 2022
\$24.95 paperback | 6 x 9 | 352 pages
ISBN 9781771872256
FICTION / Literary

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.

Silencing Rebecca by Nikki Vogel

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

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. 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!

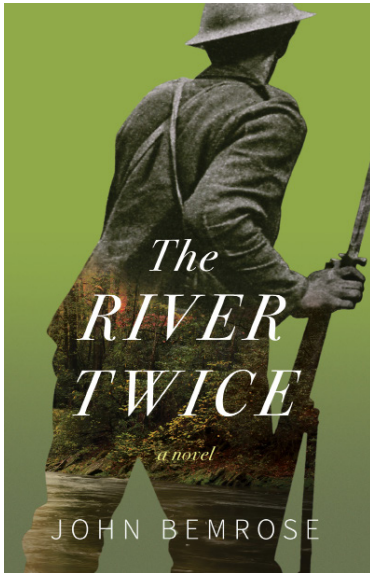


I Never Met a Rattlesnake I Didn't Like: a Memoir David Carpenter

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

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.





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

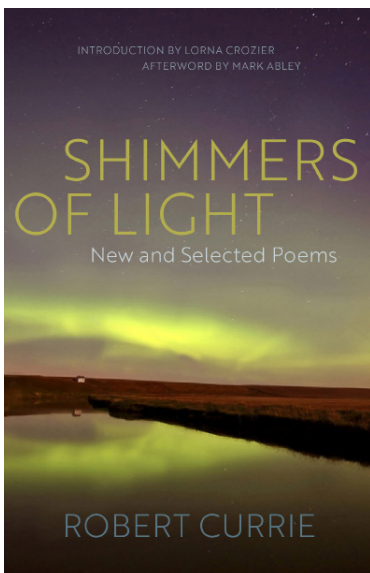
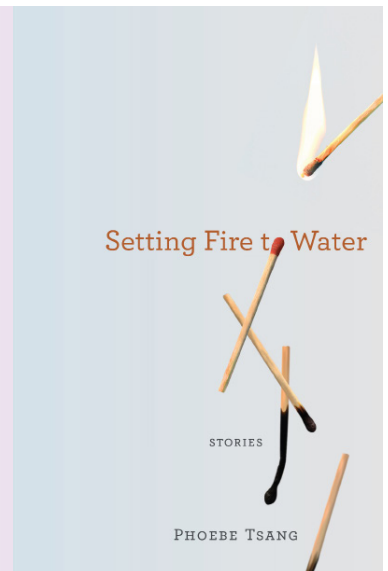
Publication: May 30, 2022

\$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

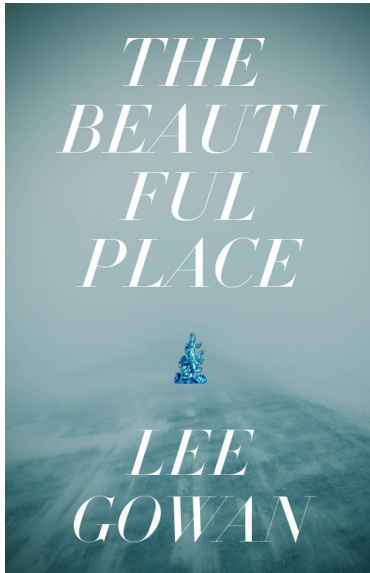
\$24.95 paperback | 5.5 x 8.5 | 312 pages

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.

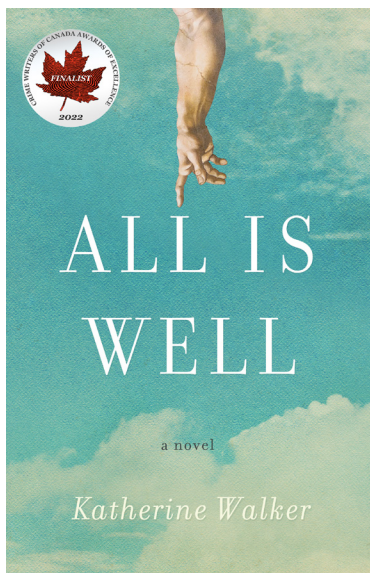
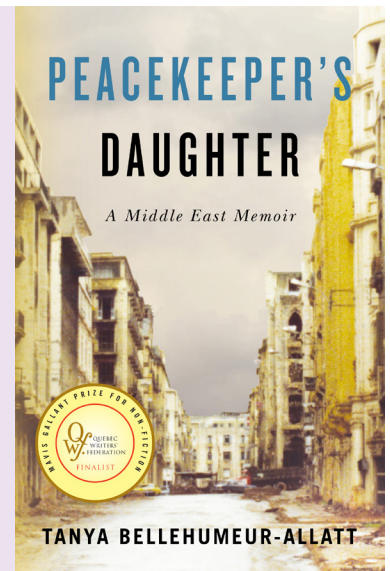
"A preposterous, pan-Canadian tale, straight-faced, that evolves into a quest for a dead man's frozen head. Subtly hilarious, beautifully crafted and with lots of moving parts, this novel is fresh, original, and compelling." —Ken McGoogan, award-winning author

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

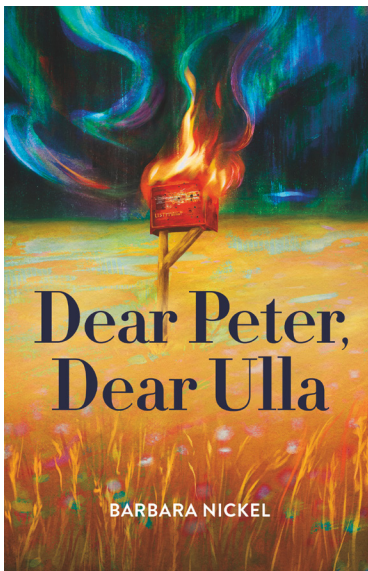
Publication: Sep 30, 2021
\$24.95 paperback | 5.5 x 8.5 | 120 pages
ISBN 9781771872140
POETRY / Canadian / Indigenous

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 adamant, and her passion for literature and art is just as rich a source for her questioning eye.

Only If We’re Caught by Theresa Slind

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

Winner of the First Book Award at the Saskatchewan Book Awards, 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

Winner of the High Plains Book Award for best children’s book, *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.



Spring 2023 UTP Specials

Frontlist Special: 50+ frontlist titles

Discount: 45% Code: FRN7

Conditions: One order per code. Ends March 30th, 2023. Combinable across all Ampersand's participating UTP publishers.

Backlist Special: 50+ backlist titles

Discount: 47% Code: BAC5

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

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Conditions: One order per code. Starts January 1st, 2023. Ends December 31st, 2023. Combinable across all Ampersand's participating UTP publishers.

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