



# Backlist

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*fiction*

# Marianne Apostolides

## I Can't Get You Out of My Mind

—Finalist, 2020 Foreword INDIES, Science Fiction Category—

“Apostolides has established herself as a writer who takes on the most intimate, perverse, and complicated elements of human desire fearlessly and intellectually. She has a slightly terrifying ability to ride the most emotionally charged idea to its devastating conclusion.”

—*Canadian Notes & Queries*

“Marianne Apostolides’ latest book, *I Can’t Get You Out of My Mind*, interlaces an intellectually-engaging discourse on attachment and desire with an intimate picture of the primary character, Ariadne ... The narrative is both agonizing and darkly humorous.”

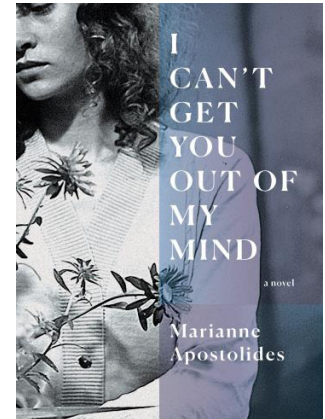
—*Canadian Literature*

“What *I Can’t Get You Out of My Mind* does masterfully is examine love through the lens of Ariadne, poetically weaving in the philosophy and literary writings that inform her understanding of the world ... the book is captivating, inquisitive, and provocative.” —*Room Magazine*

*What does it mean to say “I love you”?*

Ariadne is a single, fortysomething writer and mother embroiled in an affair with a married man. At the core of her current manuscript, a book about the declaration of love, is the need to understand why: why her lover has returned to his wife, why their relationship still lingers in her mind, why she’s unable to conquer her longing. To make ends meet while writing, she joins a research study in which she’s paid to live with an AI device called Dirk.

But the study quickly enters uncharted territory. Capable of mapping Ariadne’s brain—and, to some extent, reading her mind—Dirk calls into question issues of both privacy and consciousness: how we communicate our thoughts to others, what it means to embody our desires, and whether we ought to act on them.



**Publication:** April 2020

**Publisher:** Book\*hug  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**  
-Martina (Macedonia)  
-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



Photo credit: Jorjas Photography

**MARIANNE APOSTOLIDES** is the author of seven books, three of which have been translated. She is a two-time recipient of a Chalmers Arts Fellowship, and winner of the 2017 K.M. Hunter Award for Literature. Born in suburban New York, Marianne now lives in Toronto.

# Matt Cahill

## The Society of Experience

—Nominated for the 2016 Sunburst Awards—

“*The Society of Experience* is a psychological journey through the abandoned corridors of the human spirit.” —*Harper's Bazaar*, 15 Best Books of Fall 2015

“A swirling confident debut, supported by crisp prose without misstep, and containing many more original ideas than books three times its slender size. Sly and slippery fun—I thought of Ben Marcus and J. G. Ballard ... writers who say don't worry I know what I'm doing as they break from the pack.”

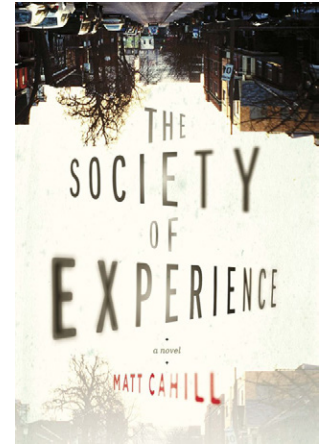
—Tony Burgess, author of *Pontypool Changes Everything* and *The n-Body Problem*

“Matt Cahill's debut novel, *The Society of Experience*, explores the dangers of magical thinking in a most entertaining way. Both thoughtful and humorous, twisty and fun, this is transporting storytelling (in more ways than one).”

—Andrew Pyper, author of *The Demonologist* and *The Damned*

When his father—a distinguished writer—unexpectedly passes away, Derrick van der Lem's insulated world implodes, leaving a much stranger and crueler place than the one he knew. In the midst of his downward spiral, the mysterious Society of Experience asks him to take part in a baffling science experiment involving time travel, with the possibility of changing his life and pulling him out of his rut. When the experiment begins to untangle, Derrick finds himself out of his depth and in the middle of a nightmare, with only the company of a beautiful stranger to steer him from chaos to heartbreak. Meanwhile, who are the Society, and what are their true intentions for Derrick? Is time travel real, or is it yet another contrivance the Society has invented?

Part Philip K. Dick, part mystery, *The Society of Experience* is an inventive, fast-paced story of a man's journey through streets, alleyways, and deserted buildings, for a better future.



**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publication:** October 2015

**Publisher:**

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books

**Rights Sold:**

-Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider  
(North America)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



Photo credit: Katia Taylor Photography

**MATT CAHILL** is a Toronto-based author and psychotherapist who worked for twenty years behind the scenes of the film and television industry. He holds an honorary Production Certificate from the 1999-2000 Emmy® Awards (Outstanding Achievement in Single Camera Editing) and had the pleasure of working alongside some of the most accomplished professionals in Canada, the United States, and Europe. He has contributed essays to *Ryeberry* and *BlogTO*. Matt lives in Kensington Market with his wife and a small black cat.

# Nancy Jo Cullen

## The Western Alienation Merit Badge

“A queer prairie novel of my dreams—electric, funny, hot, heartbreaking, scathing, like a mix of Sarah Schulman and Chandra Mayor. *The Western Alienation Merit Badge* flashes effortlessly back and forth between four decades of sisterhood, poverty, estrangement, grief, queerness and, well, alienation. And the ache, the ache of queer people and family. I love this book just as much as I loved *Canary*, Cullen’s book of short stories, and I hope it’s not her last.”

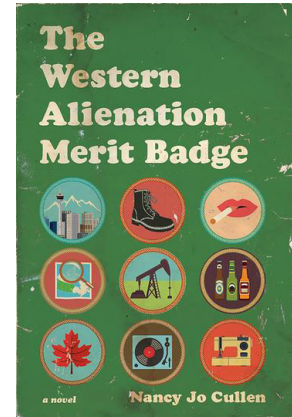
–Casey Plett, author of *Little Fish* and *A Safe Girl to Love*

“I loved many things about this book. The timeframe, the setting, the characters—all of which felt authentic and layered and painfully honest. But I loved Nancy’s writing most of all. She has a gift of capturing the smallest moments of our lives and turning them into brilliant gems.”

–Brian Francis, author of *Natural Order*

Set in Calgary in 1982, during the recession that arrived on the heels of Canada’s National Energy Program, *The Western Alienation Merit Badge* follows the Murray family as they struggle with grief and find themselves on the brink of financial ruin. After the death of her stepmother, Frances “Frankie” Murray returns to Calgary to help her father, Jimmy, and her sister, Bernadette, pay the mortgage on the family home. When Robyn, a long-lost friend, becomes their house guest old tensions are reignited and Jimmy, Bernadette and Frances find themselves increasingly alienated from one another.

Part family drama, part queer coming-of-age story, *The Western Alienation Merit Badge* explores the complex dynamics of a small family falling apart.



**Publication:** May 2019

**Publisher:**

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



Photo credit: Karen Ritchie

**NANCY JO CULLEN** is the fourth recipient of the Writers’ Trust Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBT Emerging Writers. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph-Humber and her short story collection, *Canary*, was the winner of the 2012 Metcalf-Rooke Award. Her poetry has been shortlisted for the Gerald Lampert Award, the Writers’ Guild of Alberta’s Stephan G. Stephansson Award and the City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize. She lived in Calgary for over two decades and still returns regularly to connect with family and friends. She now lives in Kingston, Canada.

# Dina Del Bucchia

## Don't Tell Me What to Do

"A confident collection of 15 witty, tightly crafted tales of theft, artisanal doghouses, and funeral crashing ... This is an exhilarating fiction debut." –*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"A large part of the success of this book comes from Del Bucchia's willness to realize the full potential—however outlandish—of her often-quirky premises ... Del Bucchia holds real situations and emotions up to a funhouse mirror, and the world is shown to be both sillier and sadder than we expected." –*Quill and Quire* (starred review)

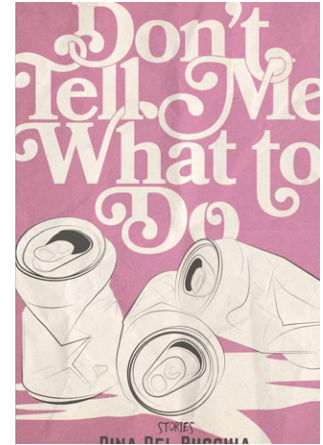
"These are evocative, memorable characters. Captivating stories, with tight, polished writing. All told in a shockingly unique voice." –*Toronto Star*

"Dina Del Bucchia writes into and out of a very Vancouver tradition, following the line of writers like DM Fraser, while paludifying her own perky collision of community, class, and bra clasps."  
–Anakana Schofield, author of *Martin John*

An offbeat story collection about strange, imperfect people doing strange, imperfect things.

In poet Dina Del Bucchia's debut story collection, an older woman becomes obsessed with the state of her lawn, a pet architect jeopardizes her relationship with her wife over a wild bird, a cement mixer helps a woman fulfill her dreams, a former model becomes a cult leader through social media, a teenaged girl is preoccupied with making shopping-haul videos, and a young woman goes on a crime spree thanks to a basement containing \$35,000 in coins.

These funny and strange stories are populated by weirdos and misfits trying out new ways of being in the world; sometimes they succeed and sometimes they fail, and sometimes they end up in a slapstick sex scene that culminates with broken furniture. Disarming and bittersweet, *Don't Tell Me What to Do* isn't scared to tell the truth about those of us who are emotional, who care too much about things that might seem ridiculous, and who are beautifully, perfectly flawed.



**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publication:** September 2017

**Publisher:** Arsenal Pulp Press

**Rights Sold:**  
–Arsenal Pulp Press (World)



**DINA DEL BUCCHIA** Dina Del Bucchia is a writer, podcaster, literary event host, editor, creative writing instructor and otter and dress enthusiast living in Vancouver on the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh people. She is the author of the short story collection, *Don't Tell Me What to Do*, and four collections of poetry: *Coping with Emotions and Otters*, *Blind Items*, *Rom Com*, written with Daniel Zomparelli, and, *It's a Big Deal!* She is the Artistic Director of the Real Vancouver Writers' Series, hosts the podcast, *Can't Lit*, with Jen Sookfong Lee and is on the editorial board of *fine.press*. Her chapbook, *Douche Process*, is available online at [ryanfitzpatrick.ca/modelpress/](http://ryanfitzpatrick.ca/modelpress/). You can check out her website at [dinadelbucchia.com](http://dinadelbucchia.com)



# Chris Eaton

## Symphony No. 3

“Symphony No. 3 is not only a vibrant dramatization of the life of Camille Saint-Saëns, but also a profound meditation on the place of music in culture, and of the tension between art and life. Eaton’s language is orchestral in range, and there are wise epigrams worthy of Wilde (“people who believe too much know nothing; people who know too much believe nothing”). The novel is rich in period detail, along with some imaginative departures from the historical record. Like the organ work for which it is named, Symphony No. 3 is a sumptuous achievement.”

–Steven Moore, author of *The Novel: An Alternative History*

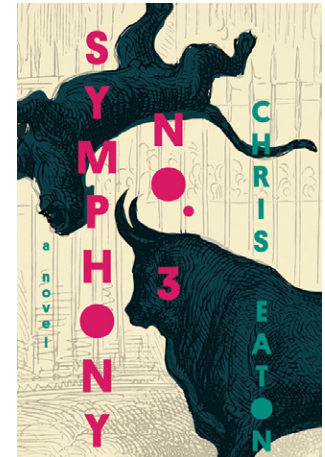
“These sentences! That cover! This book! What a marvelous reading experience!”

–David Gutowski, Largeheartedboy.com

*Symphony No. 3* follows the life of renowned French composer Camille Saint-Saëns as he ascends from child prodigy to worldwide fame. As his acclaim grows in Paris, the musical world around him clamours with competitors, dilettantes, turncoats and revenge seekers. At the height of his success, Camille leaves everything behind to embark on a Dantean quest for his dead lover, Henri. At the end of this adventure, still haunted by the holes in his past, he takes up an invitation to journey by ocean-liner to the New World.

Finely crafted in its own unique rhythmic language, *Symphony No. 3* is cast in four sections to mirror Saint-Saëns’s famous work, popularly known as the Organ Symphony. Written and performed in London, England in the infamous late 1880s, this was the composition he hoped would finally destroy Beethoven’s stranglehold on the industry and reinvent the form.

Though set in the decades surrounding the fin de siècle, *Symphony No. 3* speaks directly to our present moment and the rise of political violence.



**Publication:** October 2019

**Publisher:** Book\*hug  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**  
–Éditions Pierce-Neige  
(French, World)  
–Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



**CHRIS EATON** is the author of three previous novels, including *Chris Eaton, a Biography* (Book\*hug, 2013), selected as one of the Books of the Year by *Quill and Quire* and the *Toronto Star*. He spent many years making music in the band Rock Plaza Central. He currently lives in Sackville, New Brunswick, with his partner and two children.

# Catherine Fatima

## Sludge Utopia

"Few recent novels have absorbed me so completely, and filled me with this kind of plain admiration: here is a fresh mind, a captivating voice, and analytical acuity. It leaves me feeling as though I had discovered a female, 21st century Henry Miller (if Henry Miller had been even smarter!) for all its unfiltered engagement in the raw and the real."

–Sheila Heti, author of *How Should a Person Be?*

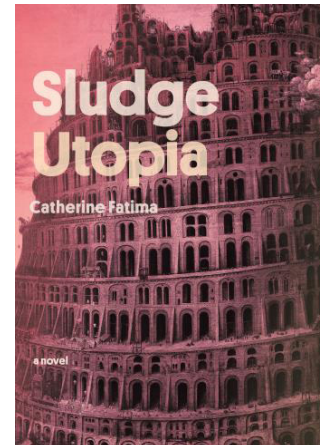
"In *Sludge Utopia*, Catherine Fatima captivates readers with an auto-fictional take of a woman's journey discovering her place within the world's definition of love and desire." –*This Magazine*

"Catherine Fatima is an incredibly intelligent writer with an ability to blend the academic and theoretical with the highly emotional." –49th Shelf

In a kind of Catherine Millet meets Roland Barthes baring of life, with hints of the work of Chris Kraus, *Sludge Utopia* by is an auto-fictional novel about sex, depression, family, shaky ethics, ideal forms of life, girlhood, and coaching oneself into adulthood under capitalism.

Using her compulsive reading as a lens through which to bring coherence to her life, twenty-five-year-old Catherine engages in a series of sexual relationships, thinking that desire is the key to a meaningful life. Yet, with each encounter, it becomes more and more clear: desire has no explanation; desire bears no significance.

From an intellectual relationship with a professor, a casual sexual relationship, to a serious love affair, to a string of relationships that takes Catherine from Toronto to France and Portugal and back again, *Sludge Utopia* presents, in highly examined, raw detail, the perspective of a young woman's supremely wounded sexuality and profound internalized misogyny, which causes her to bring all of life's events under sexuality's prism.



**Publication:** June 2018

**Publisher:** Book\*hug  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**  
-Éditions Hélotrope  
(French Canada)



**CATHERINE FATIMA** is a writer who was born, raised and currently lives in Toronto. *Sludge Utopia* is her first book.

# Peggy Herring

## Anna, Like Thunder

“Herring makes it clear that issues of what we know, how we know it, and what our minds can be open to, are all key, not just to this story and the era of contact, but to ongoing relationship-building between peoples.” –Amy Reiswig, *Focus Magazine*

An intimate engagement with a little-known ghost of North American history and memory.”  
–Jaspreet Singh, author of *Helium* and *November*

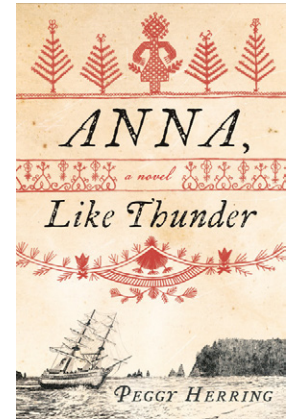
“Beautifully rendered....Peggy Herring writes so seamlessly that I felt like I was Russian Anna Bulygina, learning to dry salmon, following a wolf to safety, or confronting the tragic consequences of my colonial heritage on the people who’ve kept me alive and befriended me.”  
–Ann Eriksson, author of *The Performance*

In 1808, the Russian trading ship St. Nikolai runs aground off the western shores of Washington state’s Olympic Peninsula.

Forced off the ship and onto land, eighteen-year-old Anna Petrovna Bulygina follows her husband, the ship’s commander, and the crew as they take refuge in Quileute territory. A week later she is led away from a battle—captured, terrified, and set to be traded among three First Nations communities.

As she comes to know her captors, Anna is surprised to discover that being their prisoner is not what she anticipated. She experiences a way of life she never could have imagined and begins to question Russian imperialist aspirations, the conduct of the crew after arrival, and even her own beliefs and values. Will she be rescued? Does she even want to be?

Based on historical events first reported by a Russian fur trader and a Quileute elder, *Anna, Like Thunder* blends fact and fiction to explore the early days of contact between Indigenous peoples and Europeans along the west coast of North America.



**Publication:** April 2018

**Publisher:** Brindle & Glass  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
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client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**

-Text (Russia)  
-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
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Photo credit: Annick Violetta

Born in Toronto and raised on a farm near Tottenham, Ontario, **PEGGY HERRING** felt the first taps of love for the written word as a young girl when her grandfather gifted her with her first typewriter. This love led her to study journalism at Carleton University in Ottawa, and after graduation she embarked on a career with the CBC, which took her from the east coast of Canada to the west. After working in Nepal, London, Dhaka, and New Delhi, Peggy and her family returned to Canada, and currently reside in Victoria, BC. She is the author of *This Innocent Corner* (Oolichan Books, 2010), and her short fiction has been featured in a variety of publications, including *The Antigianish Review*, *The New Quarterly*, and *Prism International*. Visit her at [peggyherring.ca](http://peggyherring.ca).

# Alex Leslie

## We All Need to Eat

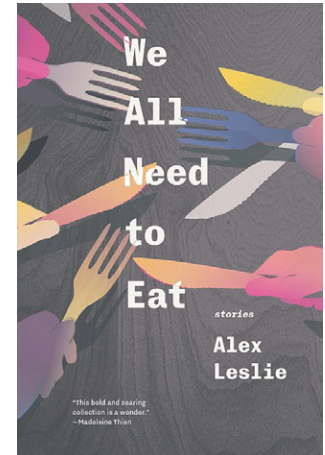
*"We All Need to Eat is a stunning inquiry into the sharpness of the world as it collides with the fragility – the ambiguities and possibilities – of the self. Alex Leslie a tremendously gifted and compassionate writer. This bold and searing collection is a wonder."*

–Madeleine Thien, Scotiabank Giller Prize-winning author of *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*

*"A magnetic collection that must be read over and over."* –*Kirkus Reviews*

*We All Need to Eat* is a collection of linked stories from award-winning author Alex Leslie that revolves around Soma, a young Queer woman in Vancouver. Through thoughtful and probing narratives, each story chronicles a sea change in Soma's life. Lyrical, gritty, and atmospheric, Soma's stories refuse to shy away from the contradictions inherent to human experience, exploring one young person's journey through mourning, escapism, and the search for nourishment.

The stories slipstream through Soma's first three decades, surfacing at moments of knowing and intensity. The far-reaching impact and lasting reverberations of Soma's family's experience of the Holocaust scrapes up against the rise of Alt-Right media. While going through a break-up in her thirties, Soma becomes addicted to weightlifting and navigates public mourning on Facebook. As a child, Soma struggles to cope with her mother's sorrow by becoming fixated on buying her a lamp for seasonal affective disorder. A friend's suicide prompts a drinking game that takes mortality as its premise. But alongside the loss in Soma's life is a pursuit of intimacy, resounding in the final story's closing words: "Look me in the eye."



**Publication:** October 2018

**Publisher:** Book\*hug  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**  
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available



**ALEX LESLIE** was born and lives in Vancouver. She is the author of the short story collection *People Who Disappear* (2012) which was nominated for the 2013 Lambda Literary Award for Debut Fiction and a 2013 ReLit Award, as well as a collection of prose poems, *The things I heard about you* (2014), which was shortlisted for the 2014 Robert Kroestch Award for Innovative Poetry. Winner of the 2015 Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBTQ Emerging Writers, Alex's short fiction has been included in the *Journey Prize Anthology*, *The Best of Canadian Poetry in English*, and in a special issue of *Granta* spotlighting Canadian writing, co-edited by Madeleine Thien and Catherine Leroux.



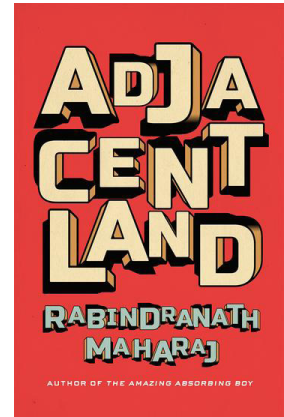
# Rabindranath Maharaj

## Adjacentland

“In this scary futuristic landscape where imagination has been rendered obsolete by artificial intelligence, readers will enjoy the challenging questions Maharaj poses about the soul and human mind.” –*This Magazine*

“[Rabindranath Maharaj] is a talented and at times poetic writer whose referential style is rooted in psychological realism but gleefully borrows from a range of forms. [...] His gift for creating sharp, poignant portraits is a useful counterpoint to the emotional pall that hangs over the characters.” –*Quill and Quire*

In this disquieting new work from award-winning novelist Rabindranath Maharaj, a man awakens in a strange institution called the Compound with no memory of his past. Struggling to make sense of his surroundings, he is skeptical of the administrators who try to convince him he is mad and dangerous, and suspects he has been the subject of recurring experiments, which have caused episodes of amnesia. In dreamlike prose Maharaj weaves a story of fragments, where our narrator comes to believe that he was once a comic book writer who warned that the reliance on artificial intelligence would make the imagination obsolete and subversive. As the narrator searches for clues he may have left for himself before his memory loss, both he and the reader learn of *Adjacentland*, a primitive land of misfits and outsiders. It is only in *Adjacentland* that the imagination has survived. With a motley group of inmates from the Compound, the narrator decides to make his way there, but during the journey he discovers a terrible secret about himself and his companions.



**Publication:** June 2018

**Publisher:**

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
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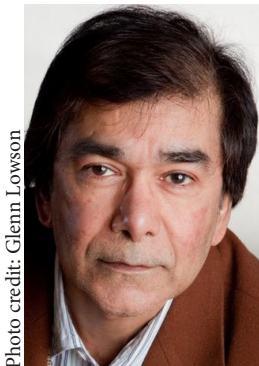


Photo credit: Glenn Lowson

**RABINDRANATH MAHARAJ** is the award-winning author of three short story collections and five novels, including *The Amazing Absorbing Boy*, which won the 2010 Trillium Book Award and the 2011 Toronto Book Award, and was voted a CBC Canada Reads Top 10 for Ontario.

In 2012, Maharaj received a Lifetime Literary Award, administered by the National Library and Information System Authority as part of the commemoration of Trinidad's fiftieth independence anniversary. In 2013, he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, which honours significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

# Derek Mascarenhas

## Coconut Dreams

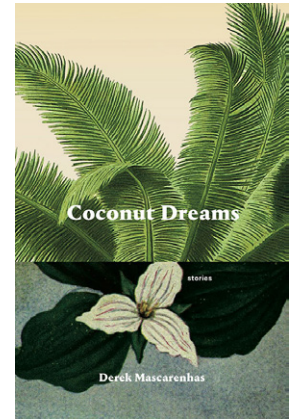
“This charming collection of stories resides between a suburban childhood in Canada and inherited, often mythic, tales from Goa that belong to the elders. Characters decide on love with rings lost at sea and soothe babies with stories of elephants in mountains. The voices in these stories are from people who seem far away and yet are inside us. Prepare to be delighted.”

–Kim Echlin, author of *Under the Visible Life*

“The stories in Derek Mascarenhas’s *Coconut Dreams* remind one of the high stakes in a child’s world, the way that danger looms just fractionally outside safety. Like all proper enchantments, these vignettes are dark, light, strange, and vivid such that they delight and charm in equal portions.” –Kathryn Kuitenbrouwer, author of *All the Broken Things*

“In this evocative collection, Derek Mascarenhas takes up the fictional Pinto family and turns it gently in his hands, revealing new truths—and new questions—with every shift in point of view. A moving, multifaceted debut.” –Alissa York, author of *The Naturalist*

*Coconut Dreams* explores the lives of the Pinto family through seventeen linked short stories. Starting with a ghost story set in Goa, India in the 1950s, the collection shifts to the unique perspectives of two adolescents, Aiden and Ally Pinto. Both first generation Canadians, these siblings tackle their adventures in a predominantly white suburb with innocence, intelligence and a timid foot in two distinct cultures. Derek Mascarenhas takes a fresh look at the world of the new immigrant and the South Asian experience in Canada. In these stories, a daughter questions her father’s love at an Ikea grand opening; an aunt remembers a safari-gone-wrong in Kenya; an uncle’s unrequited love is confronted at a Hamilton Goan Association picnic; a boy tests his faith amidst a school-yard brawl; and a childhood love letter is exchanged during the building of a backyard deck. Singularly and collectively, these stories will move the reader with their engaging narratives and authentic voices.



**Publication:** April 2019

**Publisher:**

Book\*hug  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**

–Les Éditions l'Interligne  
(French Canada)  
–Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



Photo credit: Khadeja Reid

**DEREK MASCARENHAS** is a graduate of the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies Creative Writing Program, a finalist and runner-up for the Penguin Random House of Canada Student Award for Fiction, and a nominee for the Marina Nemat Award. His fiction has been published in places such as *Joyland*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *Switchback*, *Maple Tree Literary Supplement*, *Cosmonauts Avenue*, and *The Antigonish Review*. Derek is one of four children born to parents who emigrated from Goa, India, and settled in Burlington, Ontario. A backpacker who has traveled across six continents, Derek currently resides in Toronto. *Coconut Dreams* is his first book.

# Susan Perly

## Death Valley

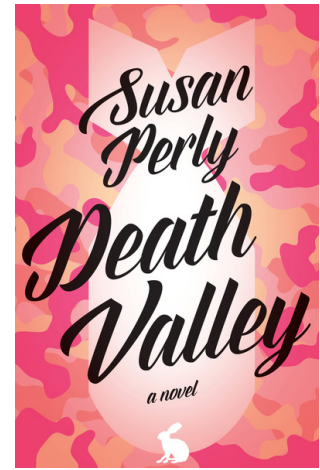
—Nominated for the 2016 Scotiabank Giller Prize—

“The novel defies genre, mashing up generous helpings of pulp fiction and spaghetti westerns with an abridged history lesson on America’s nuclear heritage.... Hypnotic in its weirdness, *Death Valley* laments a world that has played host to the Cold War, the atomic bomb, and war—big and small from Vietnam to Iraq.” —Toronto Star

“Reading *Death Valley* is like going on a road trip into the hallucinatory landscape of the CIA’s repressed memories. Hypnotic and startling, with a cast of troubled artists and agents, this sensual novel is a lush fever dream of power, politics, betrayal and revenge. With scenes so vivid and unflinching and downright bizarre, this novel gets under your skin like the desert sand at its core.” —Jennifer LoveGrove, author of *Watch How We Walk*

“Equal parts *Twin Peaks* and *Alice in Wonderland*, Susan Perly’s *Death Valley* is a film-noir-spy-western—hallucinogenic, thought-provoking and bizarre enough to satisfy anyone who thinks about art, nuclear fallout, classic films, conspiracies or love. It’s wild enough to be fiction, and real enough to blow your mind.” —Michelle Berry, author of *Interference* and *Blind Crescent*

Legendary war photographer Vivienne Pink has five days to photograph servicemen about to deploy for active combat. Racing to meet her deadline she heads to Las Vegas where she’ll capture images of men who may die the next day—and where she’ll confront an abuser from her past to force a reckoning. Accompanied by her husband, a celebrated novelist, and her best friend, a former CIA spook, Vivienne heads out into the Nevada desert in search of adrenaline, vengeance and the perfect shot. Told in a vivid, hallucinogenic realism, *Death Valley* is a sexy, fast-paced tale that’s part Pynchon, part Tarantino and so radioactive you’ll need a Geiger counter.



**Publication:** May 2016

**Publisher:**

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



Photo credit: Dennis Lee

**SUSAN PERLY** has worked as a journalist, war correspondent and radio producer for the CBC. In the early '80s her Letters from Latin America for Peter Gzowski's Morningside reported from locales such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Chiapas. During the Iran–Iraq war she broadcast Letters from Baghdad, and she produced many documentaries for the weekly program Sunday Morning. Perly is the author of the jazz novel *Love Street*, and her short stories have appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies. She lives in Toronto with her husband, the poet Dennis Lee.

# Susan Perly

## Stella Atlantis

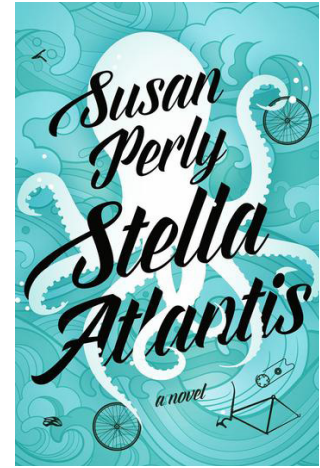
“Perly whirls a flaming sword to ignite a high-voltage world that feels unknown yet familiar: that half-forgotten, beloved place where we were supposed to be born. Elemental genius.”

–Kathleen Winter, author of *Annabel* and *Lost in September*

With the dead you can go anywhere.

When novelist Johnny Coma's daughter comes back from the dead as a talking octopus, will he be finally be able to write her story? Will his estranged wife, renowned war photographer Vivienne Pink, even believe him? In *Stella Atlantis*, the stunning follow-up to her visionary desert novel *Death Valley*, Susan Perly returns to the lives of these troubled artists, haunted by the death of their young daughter, Stella, killed on the sidewalk outside their home, as they search for healing in separate cities and with new lovers.

Moving in and out of Toronto, Amsterdam and Barcelona, across the Mediterranean to Ibiza and out to the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean, Perly's prose enacts grieving itself in the twinned stories of Johnny and Vivienne. Playfully dark and filled with beautiful flights of imagery, this is a story of fathers and daughters, of love lost and love reborn, of the redemptive power of art, the transformative power of the sea and how we can dare to reach for radiance and redemption.



**Publication:** November 2020

**Publisher:**

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



# Sheung-King

## You are Eating an Orange. You are Naked.

—Finalist, 2021 Governor General's Literary Award—  
 —Finalist, 2021 Amazon Canada First Novel Award—  
 —Nominated for *Canada Reads* 2021—  
 —A *Globe and Mail* Best Book Debut of 2020 —

"Sheung-King has written a wonderfully unexpected and maverick love story but also a novel of ideas that hopscotches between Toronto, Macau, Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Prague. It is enchanting, funny, and a joy to read." —Kyo Maclear, author of *Birds Art Life*

"A tale of two rich and rootless people that oozes the horror and confusion of love, while staying somehow still desperately romantic, and so gloriously sad. This novel is also about something else: it gives the cold shoulder to the dominant gaze and its demands to control the Asian body, carving out a thrilling space beyond whiteness. I didn't want it to end."

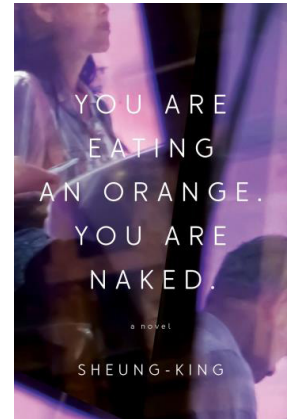
—Thea Lim, author of *An Ocean of Minutes*, a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize

"*You Are Eating an Orange. You Are Naked.* is like Sally Rooney's *Normal People* but for transnational millennials always on the move, at home nowhere and everywhere at once. A refreshing, innovative debut that isn't afraid to challenge every trope we know—about life and fiction itself."

—Shazia Hafiz Ramji, *The Humber Literary Review*

A young translator living in Toronto frequently travels abroad—to Hong Kong, Macau, Prague, Tokyo—often with his unnamed lover. In restaurants and hotel rooms, the couple begin telling folk tales to each other, perhaps as a way to fill the undefined space between them. Theirs is a comic and enigmatic relationship in which emotions are often muted and sometimes masked by verbal play and philosophical questions, and further complicated by the woman's frequent unexplained disappearances.

*You Are Eating an Orange. You Are Naked.* is an intimate novel of memory and longing that challenges Western tropes and Orientalism. Embracing the playful surrealism of Haruki Murakami and the atmospheric narratives of filmmaker Wong Kar-wai, Sheung-King's debut is at once lyrical and punctuated, and wholly unique, and marks the arrival of a bold new voice in Canadian literature.



**Publication:** October 2020

**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publisher:**

Book\*hug

(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/translation rights on behalf of client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**

-Fluent Films (Film, option)

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights available



**SHEUNG-KING's** debut novel, *You are Eating an Orange. You are Naked*, was a finalist for the 2021 Governor General's Award and Amazon Canada First Novel Award, longlisted for Canada Reads 2021 and named one of the best book debuts by the *Globe and Mail*. Sheung-King taught creative writing at the University of Guelph and is now the creative writing coach at Avenues: The World School, Shenzhen. He holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Guelph.

# Anne Stone

## Girl Minus X

“Stone’s brilliant, breathless novel will put readers in mind of Emily St. John Mandel and Margaret Atwood.” –*Publishers Weekly*

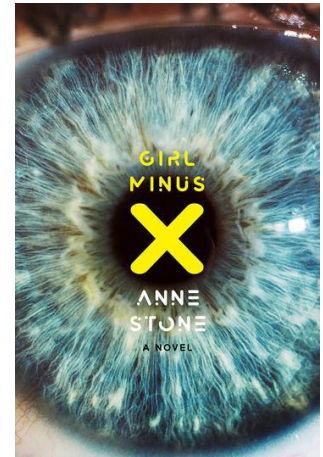
“*Girl Minus X* is what happens when great writing meets a mesmerizing, page-turning plot. The best speculative fiction captures what we dimly imagine but intimately feel; and this book wins in its gripping tale of intense social crises, complicated family members, dismal pressures from school and a young woman awakening to her own uncanny power. Anne Stone will captivate both teens and adults alike.” –David Chariandy, author of *Soucouyant* and *Brother*

“What if you could let go of your trauma? Now, what if that process was forced on you by a virus that robbed you of all memories? *Girl Minus X* explores the bonds between humans surviving mid-apocalypse. Nobody writes like Anne Stone. Get prepared for the unthinkable.”

–Emily Pohl-Weary, author of *Not Your Ordinary Wolf Girl* and *Ghost Sick*

As the world around them collapses under the weight of a slow, creeping virus that erodes memory, fifteen-year-old Dany and her five-year-old sister are on the edge of their own personal apocalypse—fearing separation at the hands of child services. When a dangerous new strain of the virus emerges, Dany careens headlong into crisis, determined to save her sister. Together with her best friend and reluctant history teacher, they must flee the city. Along the way, Dany faces a series of devastating choices: Can she make the dangerous attempt to break her aunt out of the prison-hospice? And just how much is Dany willing to sacrifice to ensure her sister and her friends survive?

*Girl Minus X* is a meditation on the gift that is memory and its hidden costs, pitting a fear of forgetting against a desire to erase the past.



**Publication:** October 2020

**Publisher:**

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**

–OrangeSky Audio/Findaway  
(Audio, World English)  
–Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



Photo credit: Hiromi Goto

**ANNE STONE** is the author of three novels, *Delible* (2007), *Hush* (1999) and *jacks: a gothic gospel* (1998). She is currently at work on a collection of short fiction. She spent her childhood in Toronto, lived in Montreal, and now makes her home in Vancouver, where she teaches Creative Writing and Literature at Capilano University.

# Andrew Wilmot

## The Death Scene Artist

“From the jaw-dropping opening pages when we meet a protagonist perusing their remarkable inventory of ‘outfits,’ up to the very last page, this novel kept me riveted. This is a wonderful book, surreal, disturbing and liberating in the very best way.”

–Suzette Mayr, author of *Monoceros*

“Wilmot brings a sensually complete sense of reality to the unreal worlds of on- and off-screen Hollywood. Wilmot’s serious play with language and with form makes *The Death Scene Artist* a hypnotic, surprising novel that doesn’t sacrifice emotion for irony.”

–Nathan Ripley, author of *Find You in the Dark*

M\_\_\_\_\_ is dying of cancer. Only thirty-two, an extra with a meagre list of credits to their name and afraid of being forgotten, M\_\_\_\_\_ starts recounting the strange, fantastic and ultimately tragic path of their love affair with the world’s greatest living “redshirt”—a man who has died or appeared dead in nearly eight hundred film and television roles.

In a compelling narrative of blog entries interspersed with film script excerpts, *The Death Scene Artist* immerses readers in a three-act surrealist exploration of the obsessive fault-finding of body dysmorphia and the dangerous desires of a man who has lived several hundred half-minute lives without having ever experienced his own.

Written in a semi-epistolary format mimicking that of a blog, *The Death Scene Artist* is a three-act surrealist exploration of film industry supplementals, the Cinderella complex, sexual denial, fear of commitment, and the dangerous predilections of a man who has lived several hundred half-minute lives without having ever experienced his own.



**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publication:** October 2018

**Publisher:**

Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books

**Rights Sold:**

–Wolsak & Wynn/Buckrider Books  
(North America)

Photo credit: Hidden Exposure Photography



**ANDREW WILMOT** is a writer and editor based out of Toronto, Ontario. They have won awards for screenwriting and short fiction, with credits including myriad online and in-print publications and anthologies. Andrew is also co-publisher and co-EIC alongside editors Michael Matheson and Chinelo Onwualu, of the online magazine *Anathema: Spec from the Margins*, and is on the editorial advisory board for Poplar Press, the speculative fiction imprint of Wolsak & Wynn. Books they’ve worked on have taken home multiple awards from the Sunburst Awards, the Eisner Awards and the Shirley Jackson Awards. *The Death Scene Artist*, their debut novel, came out with Wolsak and Wynn’s Buckrider Books imprint in 2018.

*nonfiction*

# Cynthia Cruz

## Disquieting: Essays on Silence

“Cruz showcases her trademark spare palette and haptic focus in a brief, satisfying fifth collection that hews close to the anxious, delirious mood of its predecessor.”

–*Publishers Weekly*

When Cynthia Cruz was eleven years old, she suffered a life-altering trauma that changed the way she saw the world, and the way she saw herself in the world. In *Disquieting: Essays on Silence*, Cruz returns to that trauma in an attempt to understand her response to it—what she’s come to understand as a rejection of and resistance to the desires and ideologies of contemporary Neoliberal culture.

Tarrying with others who have provided examples of how to “turn away,” these essays inhabit the connections between mental illness, anorexia, refusal, silence and Neoliberalism. How do our bodies speak for us when words don’t suffice? How can we make ourselves understood when what we have to say is inarticulable? Cruz also explores the experience of being working-class and poor in contemporary culture, and how those who are silenced often turn to forms of disquietude that value open-endedness, complexity, and difficulty.



**Subjects:** Essays, current issues

**Publication:** April 2019

**Publisher:** Book\*hug  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**  
-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



Photo credit: Steven Page

**CYNTHIA CRUZ** was born in Germany and grew up in Northern California. She is the author of four previous collections of poems. Her fifth collection is *Dregs* (Four Way Books, 2018). The editor of a new anthology of contemporary Latina poetry, *Other Musics* (forthcoming in 2019), Cruz is the recipient of fellowships from Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony, and a Hodder fellowship from Princeton University. She lives in Brooklyn.

# Emily Lycopulus

## The Olive Oil and Vinegar Lover's Cookbook

"The most beautiful cookbook I've seen this year ... a great resource for people who adore fancy olive oils and vinegars and want to know how they can cook with them at home."

–*Saskatoon StarPhoenix*

"The Olive Oil and Vinegar Lover's Cookbook satisfies the cravings of olive oil enthusiasts. The author draws on her decades of experience to impart the uses of great oil. It is a terrific cookbook — Lycopulus passionately wants everyone to know the difference a high quality extra-virgin olive oil can make to any dish. Emily Lycopulus is the rare expert we need. No other food writer brings more love to the subject." –*Washington Book Review*

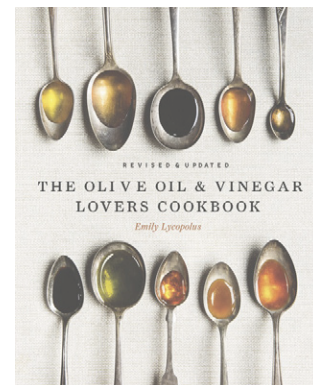
A brand-new updated edition of *The Olive Oil and Vinegar Lover's Cookbook*, which has sold more than 13,000 copies to date.

Inspiring recipes for the olive oil and vinegar aficionado in a gorgeously photographed book—these are the absolute best ways to elevate the flavour of your fare using fresh flavoured olive oils and white and dark balsamic vinegars.

Have you recently become enamoured with fresh and flavoured extra-virgin olive oil, infused olive oil, and flavoured balsamic vinegars, only to take them home and wonder: what exactly do I do with them?

These are simple but gratifying recipes that use 50 of the most popular and widely available olive oil and vinegar products to amplify the flavour in all kinds of dishes including appetizers, salads, soups, main dishes, baked goods, and desserts. You'll also find inspiration to expand your repertoire once you learn the basics of flavour pairing. With sections on ways to experiment with marinades, salad dressings, brines, and even cocktails, you'll never run out of ways to use your favourite products. Every recipe is guaranteed to take your dish from ordinary to exceptional.

*The Olive Oil and Vinegar Lover's Cookbook* provides you with possibilities that are truly endless.



**Subjects:** Cookbook

**Publication:** April 2019

**Publisher:** TouchWood Editions  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ rights on behalf of client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**  
-TouchWood Editions  
(World English)



**EMILY LYCOPULUS** is owner of Olive the Senses ([olivethesenses.com](http://olivethesenses.com)), a luxury olive oil and vinegar tasting room and shop and the founder of This Table Collective ([ThisTable.com](http://ThisTable.com)). She lives in Victoria with her husband, Steve, and their pug, Cedrik.



# Erika Nielsen

## Sound Mind: From Chaos to Composure

—Winner, 2019 Nautilus Book Awards—

—Winner, Canada Book Awards—

—Finalist, 2020 Next Generation Indie Book Awards—

“Erika Nielsen has done what few others have achieved in the ever-widening bipolar disorder literature: combine a first-person account with an instructional guide for self-care. She tells the story of how she discovered her bipolar disorder and learned to live with it, continued to make use of her musical talents, and learned to achieve her goals within the limits the disorder imposes. Readers will appreciate her insightful recommendations for managing the disorder on a day-to-day basis. This book will be especially helpful to those who learn by example.”

—David J. Miklowitz, Director Integrative Study Center in Mood Disorders, UCLA Semel Institute and author of *The Bipolar Disorder Survival Guide*

Erika Nielsen, a young cellist, believed the extreme euphoric highs and crushing lows she experienced were a normal part of being a musician—that they made her more creative, productive, and in demand. When she became the musician she always dreamed of being Principal Cellist of an orchestra, she embarked on gruelling red-eye commutes, an impossible workload, and experienced alarming symptoms had her—and others—question her choices. Meanwhile, Erika suspected that she had something more than just “normal ‘ups and downs’”. That all ended when, in a frenzy of hypomania, Erika consulted a psychiatrist, who gave her a shocking diagnosis: bipolar disorder, type I. Now faced with treating a major mental illness, Erika was forced to turn her frenetic life around.

*Sound Mind: From Chaos to Composure* chronicles Erika’s journey through accepting her diagnosis, learning about her condition, and through one habit at a time, taking the necessary steps towards a new normal in learning to live with a mental illness. Erika covers everything from finding the right medication to nutrition to developing a support team, and offers useful tips and insights that will help readers of all ages take charge of their own lives and their own mental health.

Both a practical guide for those living with bipolar disorder and other mental health conditions, and an inspiring story about Erika’s journey to cope with it, *Sound Mind* is a valuable resource for anyone struggling with mental health issues, as well as their friends and family. With actionable steps and a positive message, *Sound Mind* is dedicated to offering hope and ending the stigma towards mental illness.



**Subjects:** Memoir/self-help, mental health

**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publication:** March 2019

**Publisher:** Trigger Publishing

**Rights Sold:**

-Trigger Publishing (World English)

-Translation rights available



Photo credit: Trish Lindström

**ERIKA NIELSEN** is a multi-genre Canadian cellist who defies the odds of mental illness in her first book, *Sound Mind: From Chaos to Composure*. Erika has a multi-faceted career as a chamber musician, collaborative artist, orchestral player and educator, with a musicianship that spans Baroque and Classical traditions to Contemporary and Popular genres. She has had the privilege of performing with artists such as Grammy-winning Kanye West for both MTV Canada and *Live at the Concert Hall* series, and with Juno-winning Johnny Reid for *Canada’s Walk of Fame*. Based in Toronto, she performs as a chamber musician, as well as rock albums with *Classic Albums Live*, with 25-piece Toronto Motown band The Big Sound, and throughout Canada and the USA with ELO tribute Strange Magic. As a writer, Erika is a blog contributor to *BPHope*, a magazine for people with bipolar disorder, and is the author of wellness and mental health blog, *Sound Mind*. A passionate educator, Erika maintains a busy private studio and recently joined the faculty of National Music Camp of Canada. Also a visual artist, her collection of paintings, *Chromaticism*, has been showcased in both Toronto and Sudbury.

Visit Erika’s website at [www.celloerika.com](http://www.celloerika.com). You can also find her on [www.soundmindbook.com](http://www.soundmindbook.com).

# Bahar Orang

## Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty

“A strikingly lyric thoughtful new voice, Orang writes with the knowledge that feeling is intelligence and thought is sensory. ‘What happens to beauty when it’s removed from its own dirt?’ Beauty is tangled with language, with a lover, with medicine, flowers, ocean, care, and compassion. These explorations are insightful, incisive, and beautiful—and yes, touching.”

—Gary Barwin, Scotiabank Giller Prize-shortlisted author of *Yiddish for Pirates*

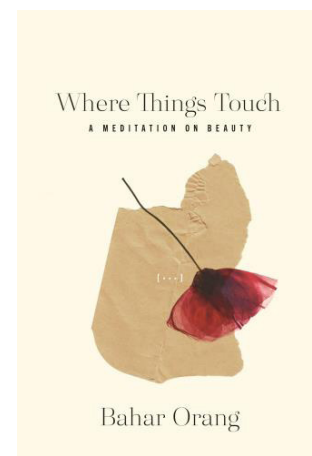
“*Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty* is an erotic conversation with the manifold relations of beauty. Refracted through the lens of caregiving and caretaking, Bahar Orang’s lyric voice roams through poetry, Persian myth, and hospitals to enchant the everyday, returning us to an intimacy beyond the page—back to the body. Orang guides us with heart-centred intelligence in this beautiful and wise book.” —Shazia Hafiz Ramji, author of *Port of Being*

*To devote oneself to the study of beauty is to offer footnotes to the universe for all the places and all the moments that one observes beauty. I can no longer grab beauty by her wrists and demand articulation or meaning. I can only take account of where things touch.*

Part lyric essay, part prose poetry, *Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty* grapples with the manifold meanings and possibilities of beauty.

Drawing on her experiences as a physician-in-training, Orang considers clinical encounters and how they relate to the concept and very idea of beauty. Such considerations lead her to questions about intimacy, queerness, home, memory, love, and other aspects of human experience. Throughout, beauty is ultimately imagined as something inextricably tied to care: the care of lovers, on patients, of art and literature and the various non-human worlds that surround us.

Eloquent and meditative in its approach, beauty, here, beyond base expectations of frivolity and superficiality, is conceived of as a thing to recover. *Where Things Touch* is an exploration of an essential human pleasure, a necessary freedom by which to challenge what we know of ourselves and the world we inhabit.



**Subjects:** Essays, aesthetics

**Publication:** May 2020

**Publisher:** Book\*hug  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**  
-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



Photo credit: Mel Mikhail

**BAHAR ORANG** is a writer and physician-in-training living in Toronto. She has a BASc from McMaster University and an MA in Comparative Literature, from the University of Toronto. She completed her MD at McMaster University, and is now completing specialty training in psychiatry in Toronto. Her poetry and essays have been published in such places as *GUTS*, *Hamilton Arts & Letters*, *CMAJ*, and *Ars Medica*. *Where Things Touch: A Meditation on Beauty* is her first book.



# Amanda Orlando

## Everyone's Welcome: The Art of Living and Eating Allergen Free

"Amanda Orlando hasn't let her food allergies stop her from making food a treasured part of her life." –*The New Family Podcast*

"If you or someone you love has severe food allergies and dietary restrictions, Amanda Orlando's new cookbook is for you ... *Everyone's Welcome* is definitely a book for kitchen novices as well as more experienced cooks with dietary conditions to consider. But Orlando's offerings transcend the book's allergen-free focus, underlined by the subtitle: *The Art of Living and Eating Allergen Free* with an emphasis on the art of living and eating ... a delight." –*EAT*

Based on her experiences with anaphylaxis and living in a family with multiple food allergies, author Amanda Orlando grew up with few resources about coping with anaphylaxis both in her own kitchen and in other's. Through years of self-education, Amanda collected recipes, found substitutions, and food brands to suit her requirements. Having previously published another cookbook for allergen-free desserts, and a popular online platform through her blog and writing projects, Amanda is eager to further share her knowledge and experiences. It's resources like these that she wished she had while growing up.

The recipes in *Everyone's Welcome* dispel the myth that allergen-free foods are also flavour-free and fun-free. The allergens that each recipe is free from are clearly listed. Ranging from breakfast to dinner, and quick snacks, there is something for everyone. The simplicity of the recipes will suit readers who are on the go, such as students, busy parents, professionals, and those with little time to cook. Recipes will be accompanied by Amanda's stunning photography.

Recent statistics show that in the United States, 8% of children have food allergies, and among that number, almost 40% have a history of severe allergic reactions to food and 30% have multiple food allergies. In Canada, food allergies are present in 10% of children in urban areas, and 6% who are in rural areas. Food allergies are on the rise, and this book will be increasingly useful not just to immediate sufferers, but to their family, their friends, coworkers, teachers, and camp counsellors; it's a book for all ages.



**Subjects:** Cooking, lifestyle

**Agent:** Kelvin Kong

**Publication:** April 2019

**Publisher:** TouchWood Editions  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights)

**Rights Sold:**  
-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



**AMANDA ORLANDO** is the author and photographer of *Allergen-Free Desserts*, and is the co-founder of EverydayAllergenFree.com, a site for teens and young adults living with food allergies. In her spare time she loves to cook and bake, and can be found in the kitchen for hours on end. Her photography is inspired by bright, fresh ingredients and her family's Italian recipes. Her focus is inclusivity for people with allergies or other dietary restrictions; in her kitchen, everyone's welcome. Amanda currently lives in Toronto.

# Hana Shafi

## Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty: Affirmations for the Real World

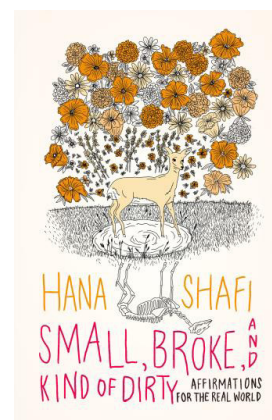
“With her brash wit and honesty on display, this is the book that Frizz Kid / Hana Shafi fans (and new fans) have been waiting for.” —Vivek Shraya, author of *The Subtweet*

“Reading this book not only makes us feel more hopeful, it might just make us smarter, too.” —Bif Naked, Singer and songwriter

Let’s get one thing straight: *Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty: Affirmations for the Real World* is not a book of advice. You’re not going to find a step-by-step guide to meditation here, or even reminders to drink lots of water and get enough sleep. Those things are all good for you, but that’s not what Hana Shafi wants to talk about.

Instead, *Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty*—built around art from Shafi’s popular online affirmation series—focuses on our common and never-ending journey of self-discovery. It explores the ways in which the world can all too often wear us down, and reminds us to remember our worth, even when it’s hard to do so. Drawing on her experience as a millennial woman of colour, and writing with humour and a healthy dose of irreverence, Shafi delves into body politics and pop culture, racism and feminism, friendship, and allyship. Through it all, she remains positive without being saccharine, and hopeful without being naive.

So no, this is not an advice book: it’s a call to action, one that asks us to remember that we are valid as we are—flaws and all—and to not let the bastards grind us down.



**Publication:** September 2020

**Publisher:**

Book\*hug  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**

-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



**HANA SHAFI** (a.k.a. Frizz Kid) is a writer and artist. Her visual art and writing frequently explores themes such as feminism, body politics, racism, and pop culture. Her first book, *It Begins with the Body*, was listed by CBC as one of the Best Poetry Books of 2018. A graduate of Ryerson University’s Journalism Program, she has published articles in *The Walrus*, *Hazlitt*, *THIS Magazine*, and *Torontoist*, and has been featured on BuzzFeed, CBC, and in *Flare*, *Shameless*, and *The New York Times*. Known on

Instagram for her weekly affirmation series, Shafi is the recipient of the 2017 Women Who Inspire Award, from the Canadian Council for Muslim Women. Born in Dubai, Shafi immigrated with her family to Mississauga, in 1996. She lives and works in Toronto.

# Johanna Skibsrud

## The Nothing That Is: Essays on Art, Literature and Being

“Skibsrud adds brilliantly to what we can know of poetry. By entering into the words of Woolf, Oppen, Stephens, Rukeyser, Carson and others, and thinking in our presence, she gives us the experience of touch and beauty and the poem. A friend to Burke’s sublime and to Pato’s at the limit, this book urges us to receive poetry’s “nothing,” for here an abundance lives. Put *The Nothing That Is* into the hands of whoever is puzzled by or afraid of poetry, into the hands of whoever teaches it!” –Erín Moure

“Why do I find Skibsrud’s consideration of Nothing essentially hopeful? Because her approach to the possibilities of thinking Nothing arise out of, and include, the despair of Celan’s babble – which is to say the incomprehensible, a place where all known structures, including language, have fallen away. Skibsrud invites us to participate in the very human process of re-seeing and remaking the world; she challenges us to venture with her into the unknown, where experience and language empty themselves, then create themselves anew.”

–Sam Ace, author of *Our Weather Our Sea*

Written over a period of more than a decade, *The Nothing That Is* is a collection about the very concept of “nothing,” approached from a variety of angles and in a variety of ways.

Addressing a broad range of topics and works by contemporary writers and artists, these essays seek to decentre our relationship to both the “givenness” of history and to a predictive or probable model of the future. They do so by drawing attention to the ways that poetic language activates the multiple, and as yet undesignated, possibilities replete within our every moment, and within every encounter between a speaking “I” and what exceeds subjectivity—a listening “Other,” be it community or the objective world.



**Subjects:** Essays, art, literature

**Publication:** October 2019

**Publisher:** Book\*hug  
(K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
translation rights on behalf of  
client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**  
-Translation/UK/ANZ rights  
available



Photo credit: Christine Whelan-Hachey

**JOHANNA SKIBSRUD** is a novelist, poet and Assistant Professor of English at the University of Arizona. Her debut novel, *The Sentimentalists*, was awarded the 2010 Scotiabank Giller Prize, making her the youngest writer to win Canada’s most prestigious literary prize. The book was subsequently shortlisted for the Commonwealth Book Award and is currently translated into five languages. *The New York Times Book Review* describes her most recent novel, *Quartet for the End of Time* (2014) as a “haunting” exploration of “the complexity of human relationships and the myriad ways in which identity can be malleable.” Johanna is also the author of two collections of short fiction: *This Will Be Difficult to Explain* (2011; shortlisted for the Danuta Gleed Award) and *Tiger, Tiger* (2018), a children’s book, and three books of poetry. Her latest poetry collection, *The Description of the World* (2016), was the recipient of the 2017 Canadian Author’s Association for Poetry and the 2017 Fred Cogswell Award. Johanna’s poems and stories have been published in *Zoetrope*, *Ecotone*, and *Glimmertrain*, among numerous other journals. A novel, *Island*, will also be published by Hamish Hamilton in fall 2019.

# Erin Wunker

## Notes from a Feminist Killjoy: Essays on Everyday Life

—Winner, 2017 Evelyn Richardson Non-fiction Award —  
 —Winner, 2017 Margaret and John Savage First Book Award —  
 —Finalist for the 2017 Atlantic Book Award for Scholarly Writing—  
 —*Quill and Quire* 2016 Book of the Year Selection—  
 —Best Book of 2017, *The Coast* Halifax—

“This book offers a powerful plea for a feminism that is willing to kill any joy that derives from inequality and injustice. All feminist killjoys will want this book on their shelves!”

—Sara Ahmed, former director of the Centre for Feminist Research and professor of Race and Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths (London), and author of *Living a Feminist Life*

“Wunker renders the label “feminist killjoy” one that readers can be proud to wear.”

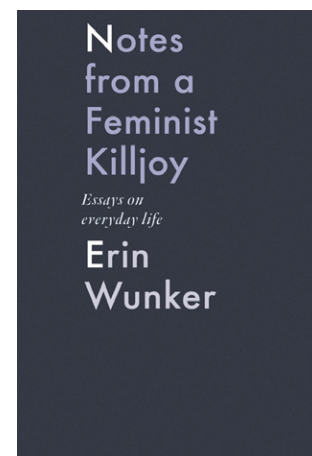
—Becky Robertson, *Quill and Quire* (starred review)

“*Notes from a Feminist Killjoy* is an answer to what is needed now—a self-consciously contingent rejoinder to the question of “who needs feminism?”—Christina Turner, *rabble.ca*

Erin Wunker is a feminist killjoy, and she thinks you should be one, too.

Following in the tradition of Sara Ahmed (the originator of the concept “feminist killjoy”), Wunker brings memoir, theory, literary criticism, pop culture, and feminist thinking together in this collection of essays that take up Ahmed’s project as a multi-faceted lens through which to read the world from a feminist point of view.

Neither totemic nor complete, the non-fiction essays that make up *Notes from a Feminist Killjoy: Essays on Everyday Life* attempt to think publicly about why we need feminism, and especially why we need the figure of the feminist killjoy, now. From the complicated practices of being a mother and a feminist, to building friendship amongst women as a community-building and -sustaining project, to writing that addresses rape culture from the Canadian context and beyond, *Notes from a Feminist Killjoy: Essays on Everyday Life* invites the reader into a conversation about gender, feminism, and living in our inequitable world.



**Subjects:** Essays, feminism

**Publication:** November 2016

**Publisher:** Book\*hug  
 (K2 Literary selling UK/ANZ/  
 translation rights on behalf of  
 client publisher)

**Rights Sold:**

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**ERIN WUNKER** is Chair of the Board of the national non-profit organization Canadian Women in the Literary Arts ([www.cwila.com](http://www.cwila.com)) and co-founder, writer, and managing editor of the feminist academic blog *Hook & Eye: Fast Feminism, Slow Academe*. She teaches courses in Canadian literature and cultural production with a special focus on cultural production by women. She lives in Halifax with her partner, their daughter, and Marley the dog. *Notes from a Feminist Killjoy* is Wunker’s first book.

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