



K2 Literary
Fall 2024

nonfiction

Gary Barwin

Imagining Imagining: Essays on Language, Identity and Infinity

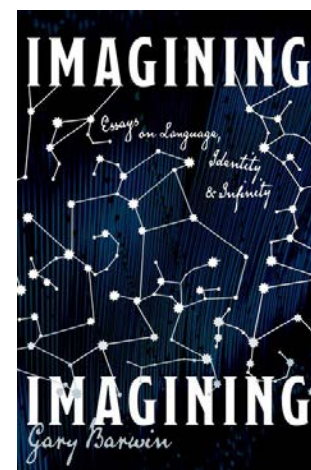
"Reading Gary Barwin is like zipping from one awe-inspiring corner of the galaxy to the next and being privy to the intricate, inner connections of everything you see along the way. From life with beloved dogs through to ampersands, first kisses and the invisible, entangled bonds of diaspora, this book plays witness to the interconnected moments of our lives in all of their splendour and surprise. Barwin is a master at detailing the invisible—and sometimes unexpected—threads that illuminate and bind a life together, and reading this book will make you come away from it that much more appreciative of the threads that illuminate your own."

—Amanda Leduc, author of *The Centaur's Wife* and *Disfigured: On Fairy Tales, Disability, and Making Space*

"It makes sense that a Canadian writer born in Northern Ireland to South African Jewish parents of Lithuanian descent might ask 'Where is home?' and might write from and towards this question. But one soon discovers in Gary Barwin's Imagining Imagining that he not only finds his home in language but invites us into it with warmth, humour and a roving curiosity, sharing his own journeys in relation to words, to writing, to publishing. There is a Yiddish saying—'the tongue is not in exile'—and Imagining Imagining, a generous work of home seeking and home building, invites us to speak the world into being together." —David Naimon, Between the Covers podcast

Award-winning author Gary Barwin has written poems, novels and books for children. He's composed music, created multimedia art and performed around the world. Now he has turned his talented pen to essays.

In *Imagining Imagining: Essays on Language, Identity and Infinity*, Barwin thinks deeply about big ideas: story and identity; art and death; how we communicate and why we dream. From his childhood home in Ireland to his long-time home in Hamilton, Barwin shares the thoughts that keep him up at night (literally) and the ideas that keep him creating. Filled with witty asides, wise stories and a generosity of spirit that is unmistakable, these are essays that readers will turn to again and again.



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Rights Sold:

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Photo credit: George Qua-Enoo

GARY BARWIN Gary Barwin is a writer, composer and multidisciplinary artist and the author of twenty-six books including *Nothing the Same*, *Everything Haunted: The Ballad of Motl the Cowboy*, which won the Canadian Jewish Literary Award. His national bestselling novel *Yiddish for Pirates* won the Leacock Medal for Humour and the Canadian Jewish Literary Award, was a finalist for the Governor General's Award for Fiction and the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and was long-listed for *Canada Reads*.

Barwin has been writer-in-residence at University of Toronto (Scarborough), Laurier, Western University, McMaster University and the Hamilton Public Library, Hillfield Strathallan College, Sheridan College and Young Voices E-Writer-in-Residence at the Toronto Public Library. He has taught creative writing at a number of colleges and universities, to at-risk youth in Hamilton through the ArtForms program and currently mentors through the Vancouver Manuscript Intensive. His writing has been published in hundreds of magazines and journals internationally and his writing, music, media works and visuals have been presented and broadcast internationally. Though born in Northern Ireland to South African parents of Ashkenazi descent, Barwin lives in Hamilton, Ontario, and at garybarwin.com.

Eden Boudreau

Crying Wolf

"Boudreau's early passion for writing and reading turned out to be key to her recovery. On the advice of her therapist, she took up her pen and joined a writing retreat with a literary idol. In the end, she weighed the potential shame of going public with a trial against taking charge of her own story and how it would be told. Crying Wolf is the result of that choice: a battle cry for women who have survived assault." –Suzanne Kamata, Foreword Reviews

"Eden Boudreau's debut memoir is a searing and unflinching record of the assault and aftermath of sexual violence. Admirers of Alice Sebold and Sarah Polley should make room on their shelf for this evocative account of rape by a third partner within a polyamorous marriage—and the internal and systemic wounds which occur as a result. With her incisive wit, heartbreaking insight, and riveting storytelling, Boudreau has earned my admiration as both a talented writer and a steadfast survivor." –Amber Cowie, author of *Last One Alive*

"Crying Wolf is a phoenix rising from the ash of Boudreau's pain. In her stunning and eloquent debut, Boudreau takes readers on a harrowing journey through some of her darkest days, while holding a mirror to a society that perpetuates the shaming of those who live in the margins. Readers will close Crying Wolf with a sense of having been changed by the story of healing and returning to oneself, but most of all, will find themselves hopeful for the future."

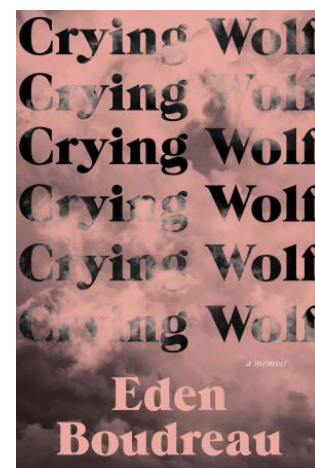
–Kelly S. Thompson, bestselling author of *Girls Need Not Apply* and *Still, I Cannot Save You*

It's a tale as old as time. Girl meets boy. Boy wants girl. Girl says no. Boy takes what he wants anyway. After a violent sexual assault, Eden Boudreau was faced with a choice: call the police and explain that a man who wasn't her husband, who she had agreed to go on a date with, had just raped her. Or go home and pray that, in the morning, it would be only a nightmare.

In the years that followed, Eden was met with disbelief by strangers, friends, and the authorities, often as a result of stigma towards her non-monogamy, sex positivity, and bisexuality. Societal conditioning of acceptable female sexuality silenced her to a point of despair, leading to addiction and even attempted suicide. It was through the act of writing that she began to heal.

Crying Wolf is a gripping memoir that shares the raw path to recovery after violence and spotlights the ways survivors are too often demonized or ignored when they belong to marginalized communities.

Boudreau heralds a new era for others who were dismissed for "crying wolf." After all, women prevailing to change society for others is a tale as old as time, too.



Publication: March 2023

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Photo credit: Eden Boudreau

EDEN BOUDREAU was born and raised in a small rural area just outside Halifax. In 2016, she relocated to Ontario with her husband and three sons. As a bisexual, polyamorous woman who has survived her fair share of adversity, Eden's work draws on her life experiences to inspire vulnerable and relatable stories. Her essays have been featured in *Flare*, *Today's Parent*, and *Runner's World*, amongst others. She is the host and creator of The Lonely Writers Podcast, aimed at destigmatizing mental health struggles during the writing process. Boudreau lives in Georgina, Ontario. *Crying Wolf* is her first book.

Del Cowie

This is a Throwdown: A Toronto Hip-Hop History

Drake is one of the most popular and influential artists in hip-hop, the most listened to genre of music in the world, according to streaming giant Spotify. Yet, despite Drake's overwhelming influence beyond popular culture and his fervent championing of Toronto in his lyrics, music and album covers, very little is known or documented of Toronto's rich hip-hop history

This is A Throwdown: A Toronto Hip-Hop History seeks to change this reality. Spanning 30 years of music history in one of the world's most diverse and unique cities, *This Is A Throwdown* traces Toronto's early, overshadowed contributions to the global phenomenon of hip-hop culture and contextualizes its present-day position as a nexus point for creatives where Drake and other Toronto hip-hop acts articulate the musical present and hint at the world's sonic future.

Cover
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Agent: Kelvin Kong

Publication: Spring 2025

Publisher: ECW Press

Rights Sold:
-ECW Press (World)



DEL COWIE is an Toronto-based music journalist and editor who has worked as an associate producer for CBC Music and the Peabody and International Emmy Award-winning Netflix series *Hip Hop Evolution*. He has appeared on CBC Radio's *q*, *Here and Now*, and *Big City Small World*

Cowie was assistant editor and writer for Canadian national music publication *Exclaim!* for over a decade and has contributed to *NOW*, *NOISEY*, *XXL* and the *National Post*, among other publications. Since 2015, he produced and presented *Before the 6ix*, an ongoing panel discussion focusing on Toronto hip-hop history in association with the Toronto Public Library.

Cowie has been a member of the Polaris Music Prize jury since its 2006 inception.

Adrienne Gruber

Monsters, Martyrs, and Marionettes

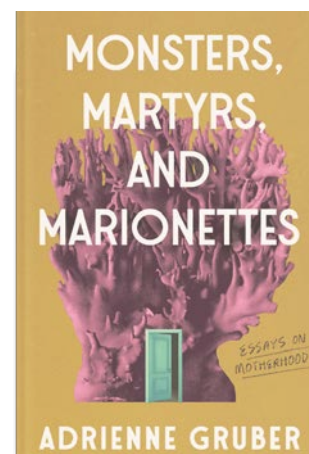
"In this stunning and deeply personal collection of essays, Adrienne Gruber explores modern motherhood in all its beautiful, terrifying, confusing, grotesque, joyful, sometimes mundane, sometimes ridiculous glory, in a way that is both intimate and yet wholly universal. With a poet's ear for language—unsentimental, startling, sharp as a razor—and a memoirist's knack for finding meaning in the chaotic churn of everyday life, Gruber cracks open her own heart to show you the truth in your own. Honest, tender, and firmly rooted in the body and its connection to the natural world, Monsters, Martyrs, and Marionettes is a deep, anguished howl in the dark, a love letter to a complex family, and a careful catalogue of the things we pass on, and the things we must carry on our own." —Amy Jones, author of *Pebble & Dove*

"The essays in this book, like Gruber's articulation of the chimera, reveal a matrilineal narrative of split flesh, eyeballs, sour milk, creepy puppets, blood, illnesses, and grief that leave the nerves exposed. Gruber writes with the precision of a scalpel, revealing with great dexterity, care, and fierceness a beast that lives across lives and stories." —Liz Ross, author of *After Birth*

Monsters, Martyrs, and Marionettes is a revelatory hybrid collection that subverts the stereotypes and transcends the platitudes of family life to examine motherhood with blistering insight.

Documenting the birth and early life of her three daughters, Adrienne Gruber shares what it really means to use one's body to bring another life into the world and the lasting ramifications of that act on both parent and child. Each piece peers into the seemingly mundane to show us the mortal and emotional consequences of maternal bonds, placing experiences of "being a mom" within broader contexts—historical, literary, biological, and psychological—to speak to the ugly realities of parenthood often omitted from mainstream conversations.

Ultimately, this deeply moving, graceful collection forces us to consider how close we are to death, even in the most average of moments, and how beauty is a necessary celebration amidst the chaos of being alive.



Publication: May 2024

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ADRIENNE GRUBER is an award-winning poet and essayist originally from Saskatoon. She is the author of five chapbooks and three collections of poetry, including *Buoyancy Control* and *Q&A*, both from Book*hug Press. She lives with her partner and their three daughters on Nexwéléxm (Bowen Island), B.C., the traditional territory of the Squamish peoples.

Renée Sylvestre-Williams

The Singles Tax

The Singles Tax looks at the historical decisions that explain why single people can't seem to get a break: whether that's taxes, housing, retirement or something as simple as a hotel room on a group tour. There's nothing more irritating than trying to go on a vacation and having to pay extra for the hotel room because there's an extra bed that you're not going to use but you still have to pay for it because you're travelling solo.

So you either grit your teeth and pay the single supplement or spend more time searching for an adventure that caters to solo travellers or at least won't ding your wallet.

Personal finance is used to talking to couples, whether it's about pooling finances to buy a home, spousal retirement plans where one spouse can contribute to their partner's plan or income-splitting for taxes. Couples are considered an economic household but bffs living together aren't.

Money can be a tricky subject, especially when you're single. As a solo dweller, you're responsible for all of your expenses, and it can be challenging to manage your finances efficiently. This book aims to be the ultimate intersectional guide for single people who want to take control of their financial lives and build a secure financial future.

Each chapter provides thought-provoking insights such as why can't two people just live together and be considered an economic unit? Can people get married to take advantage of the few tax benefits for couples? Will that lead to romcom shenanigans? This book delivers serviceable, battle-tested advice, all in a friendly and relatable tone.

The Singles Tax is equal parts a personal finance book, a historical document and a political manifesto, urging people to take action with our money and our politics.

Cover
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come

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Photo credit: Kristin Eff



RENÉE SYLVESTRE-WILLIAMS is a Toronto-based writer and journalist and yes, she is happily single. She has spent the last 15 years writing about finance, business and investing. Renée has been published in some of North America's top publications including *The Globe and Mail*, the *Toronto Star*, *Forbes*, *Canadian Business* magazine, *MoneySense*, *WealthSimple*, and *Canadian Family Offices*.

Felix Wong

Shall We Talk

On May 26, 1991, Lauda Air Flight 004 broke apart mid-flight shortly after a routine layover in Bangkok, raining cargo, metal, jet fuel, and bodies over the mountains of Suphan Buri province in what remains Thailand's deadliest aviation incident to date.

When Felix Wong turns twenty-five, he chances upon a family secret: among the victims of Flight 004 was an aunt he never met, along with her newly-wed husband.

Why didn't his family tell him sooner? And why are they still refusing to speak to him about it now, three decades later?

To untangle the past, Felix decides to trace the trajectory of his aunt's life, from the crash site in Suphan Buri, where fragments of the plane can still be seen today, to his birthplace of Hong Kong, a city caught in the crossfire of the 2019 anti-extradition bill protests and on the cusp of a global pandemic. What he expects to be a straightforward trip, however, grows unexpectedly personal. As he balances the competing demands of his Chinese heritage and Canadian upbringing, he finds himself trapped in a web of family deceptions and personal secrets that challenge the very core of his identity. When an encounter with a mysterious girl threatens to evolve into romance, he must ultimately ask himself, where does he truly consider home?

Interweaving personal experience with interviews of family members whose lives have been irreversibly altered by Lauda Air Flight 004, *Shall We Talk* is a coming-of-age memoir about Felix Wong's quest to piece together a fractured family history and figure out his place in the world.

Cover
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come

Agent: Kelvin Kong

Proposal and manuscript available



FELIX WONG is a Chinese-Canadian writer. He has lived half his life in Vancouver and half in Hong Kong. His stories, often revolving around identity and Chinese traditions, can be found in *The Tyee*, *The Ex-Puritan*, *PRISM International*, and *Ricepaper Magazine*.

In 2019, his journey to the Lauda Air Flight 004 crash site became a feature story in *South China Morning Post*. In 2020, he was awarded a grant by the Canada Arts Council for the research and creation of *Shall We Talk*.

Felix holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph. He is currently an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Hong Kong's MA in Creative Communications and MFA in Creative Writing programs.

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