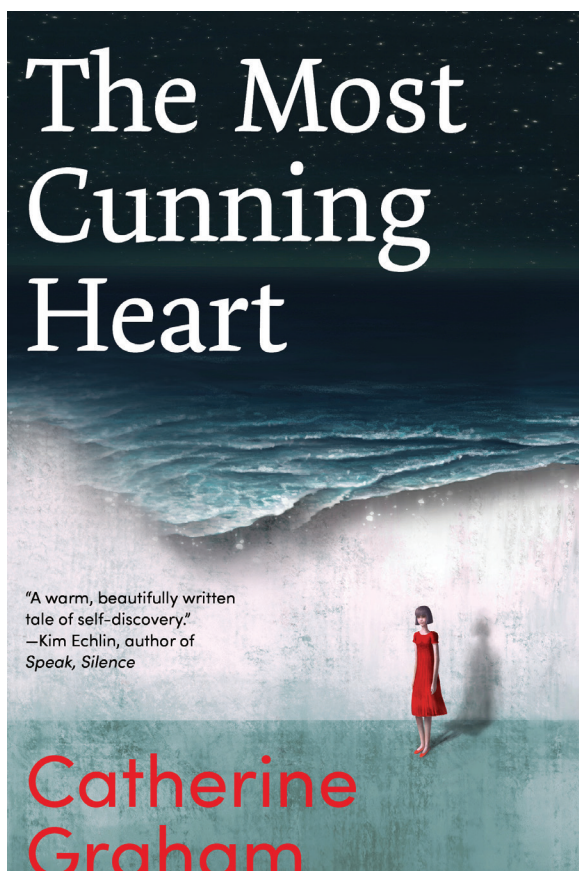


Palimpsest Press

Spring 2022



Featured Release



The Most Cunning Heart

Catherine Graham

\$18.95 CAD / **ISBN** 9781990293122

Fiction

Keep up to date with Catherine Graham's tour and literary life by following Palimpsest Press on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @PalimpsestPress

The Most Cunning Heart

Catherine Graham

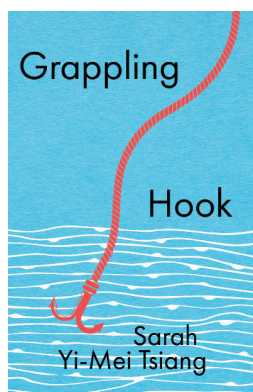
In the early 1990's, Caitlin Maharg, grieving the loss of her parents, leaves everything she knows in Canada for Northern Ireland to pursue her love of poetry while living in a cottage by the Irish Sea. Feeling like a child again in a distant land still affected by the Troubles, she is haunted by the secrets her parents' deaths unearthed. In her longing for emotional closeness, she befriends Andy Evans, a well-known poet with a roguish charm. Their attraction soon leads to a love affair. Flouting the paisley headscarf of respectability, she plunges into a relationship that gives her an entry to the literary world, but at a price. Filled with insights into grief, longing and creativity, *The Most Cunning Heart* is a novel about how a quiet heroine learns to navigate deception, love and loss.

Praise for *The Most Cunning Heart*

Sometimes a quest begins in loss and grief. In Catherine Graham's *The Most Cunning Heart*, a woman searches for inner freedom by understanding her mother's story and learning to defy abusive forces. She rediscovers the lost mother who taught her that the tripod begins with a firm base, and fights to recognize the "quarried heart." A warm, beautifully written tale of self-discovery.

Kim Echlin, author of *Speak, Silence*

SPRING 2022 TITLES



Grappling Hook

Sarah Yi-Mei Tsiang

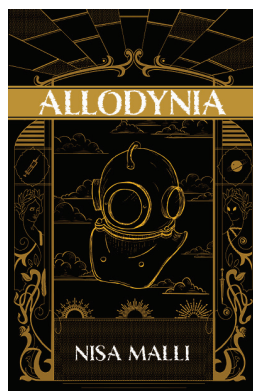
\$19.95 CAD / ISBN 9781990293030

Poetry

Taking its title from Tomas Tranströmer, Sarah Yi-Mei Tsiang's Grappling Hook sifts the debris of the twenty-first century for insights into identity, desire, and the everyday struggles inherent to motherhood. In doing so, she presents vivid portraits of the joys and perils of marriage, the evolving fight for social justice in a world divided by inequity, and the uncertain future that's left for children of the digital age. Grappling Hook is an impressive display of Sarah Yi-Mei Tsiang's considerable poetic gifts, and a love letter to those who are making meaningful change in

unprecedented times.

Sarah Yi-Mei Tsiang is the author of the poetry books *Status Update* (2013), which was nominated for the Pat Lowther Award, and the Gerald Lampert award winning *Sweet Devilry* (2011). Her work has been longlisted (2018) and shortlisted (2019) for the CBC Poetry Prize, as well as the UK's Forward Award (2020), and has appeared in anthologies such as *Best of the Best Canadian Poetry*. She currently works as the Poetry Editor for *Arc Poetry Magazine* and the Creative Director for *Poetry In Voice*.



Allodynia

Nisa Malli

\$19.95 CAD / ISBN 9781990293061

Poetry

Rooted in the indescribability and disembodiment of pain, Nisa Malli's Allodynia looks outward to space and the future of humankind, as well as inward to the body. In "Pain Log", a suite of body-horror poems, she explores illness as a haunting or possession: "At home, my stitches / undid themselves, fevers pet me // like a dog, my eyes opened / backwards. Sleep ghosted me // more than usual." In "Ship's Log," a near-future speculative suite of poems, Malli turns to themes of alienness, artificial intelligence, and

the impossibility of translation; danger, intimacy, and war; as well as the worlds we choose to build together. Allodynia is a highly anticipated poetic debut that more than fulfills the promise of its author's bpNichol award winning chapbook Remitting.

Nisa Malli is a writer and a researcher, born in Winnipeg and currently living in Toronto. She holds a BFA in Creative Writing from the University of Victoria and has completed residencies at the Banff Centre and Artscape Gibraltar Point. Her first chapbook, *Remitting* (Baseline Press), won the bpNichol Prize and her work has

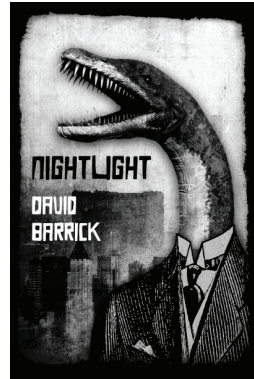
Nightlight

David Barrick

\$19.95 CAD / ISBN 9781990293092

Poetry

Patterned on a series of dream states, David Barrick's Nightlight delves into the surreal nature of the human imagination, even at its most unconscious. Whether Barrick's poems explore the sensory world of a classic horror film, an Alex Colville painting, or an after hours jazz gig, his inquisitiveness leads to invention, and invention to discovery. Where else could an amateur fossil hunt become a primeval experience, or a lawnmower, a cow, and newlyweds float together midair? Nightlight taps into the emotional undercurrents of these moments, unfolding like a "long elastic maze of song."



David Barrick is the author of the chapbooks *Incubation Chamber* (Anstruther Press, 2019) and *Two Dreams: Stratford and The Copyist* (The Alfred Gustav Press, 2022). His poetry has been published in *The Fiddlehead*, *The Malahat Review*, *Prairie Fire*, *EVENT*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *The Antigonish Review*, and other literary journals. David was first runner up in *Pulp Literature's* 2021 Magpie Award for Poetry. He lives in London Township (Treaty 6) territory, where he teaches writing at Western University and is Managing Director of the Poetry London reading series.

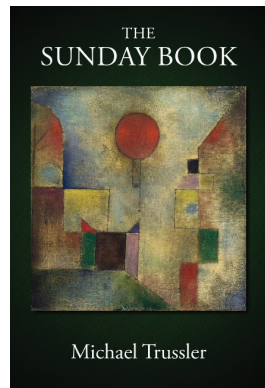
The Sunday Book

Michael Trussler

\$19.95 CAD / ISBN 9781990293153

Non-Fiction

In The Sunday Book, Michael Trussler uses memoir to excavate and explore a range of inner lives, all lived at different speeds. With essays touching on the meaning of the Holocaust in the twenty-first century to confronting the complexities of being a parent in the Anthropocene, Trussler's interconnected essays are united by his lived experience with a rare learning disability. The Sunday Book freshly engages with fundamental existential problems such as free will and contingency, all the while providing an original take on our contemporary moment.



Michael Trussler writes poetry, short stories, and creative non-fiction. He's published various books, and his prize-winning work has appeared in domestic and international anthologies and journals. His collection of short stories, *Encounters*, won the Book of the Year and City of Regina Awards from the Saskatchewan Book Awards in 2006. *Accidental Animals*, a poetry collection, was short-listed for the same awards in 2007. He teaches English at the University of Regina.

Danger Flower

Jaclyn Desforges

\$19.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287835

Poetry

*A baby transforms into a reverse mermaid in a baptism gone wrong. After being stepped on, a snail exacts revenge. In **Danger Flower**, Jaclyn Desforges leads enlightened witnesses through a wild garden where archetypal tales are treated with tongue-in-cheek irreverence. Amidst nesting dolls and opossums, poison oak and Tamagotchis, the poet navigates gender roles, sexual indiscretions, episodic depression, and mothering, forming essential survival strategies for a changing world. **Danger Flower** is a necessary debut.*



*Jaclyn Desforges is the author of a picture book, **Why Are You So Quiet?** (Annick Press, 2020). She's the winner of the 2018 RBC/PEN Canada New Voices Award, two 2019 Short Works Prizes, and the 2020 Hamilton Emerging Artist Award for Writing. Jaclyn's work has been featured in Room Magazine, THIS Magazine, The Fiddlehead, The Puritan, Contemporary Verse and others. Currently, she works on the editorial board of the Hamilton Review of Books as Poetry Reviews Editor. She lives in Hamilton, Ontario with her partner and daughter.*

Postscripts from a City Burning

Sam Cheuk

\$19.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287811

Poetry

*How does one write a preemptive eulogy for their hometown, a transient metropolis arriving at its last stop? Composed over a span of three months, **Postscripts from a City Burning** reassembles the embers left behind by the 2019 Hong Kong protests (and ultimately failed coup), weaving nostalgia, loss, and possible redemption into a time capsule of diaristic verse, photographs, dramatic monologues, and historical testimony. At once angry, despondent and unflinching, Sam Cheuk's second full-length collection offers up a microcosmic prelude of a city's smouldering ruin among many in a world marching to the heartbeat of increasingly authoritarian impulses.*



*Sam Cheuk is the author of **Love Figures** (Insomniac Press, 2011) and **Deus et Machina** (Baseline Press, 2017). He holds an MFA in creative writing from New York University and BA in English literature from University of Toronto. He is currently working on the second half of the diptych, tentatively titled **Marginalia**, which examines the function, execution, and generative potential behind censorship.*



The Winter-Blooming Tree

Barbara Langhorst

\$18.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287859

Fiction

The Winter-Blooming Tree draws us into the lives of Ursula Koehl-Niederhauser, a school teacher suffering from lapses of memory who is convinced that she has dementia; Andreas, her charming, well-intentioned but somewhat self-absorbed husband; and their grown daughter, Mia.

Barbara Langhorst's restless white fields won book awards for poetry in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Her first novel, WANT, was shortlisted for the Regina Public Library's Book of the Year Award. She is a writing instructor and mentor, and has just moved back to Edmonton after nearly twenty years in Saskatchewan.



Everything Affects Everyone

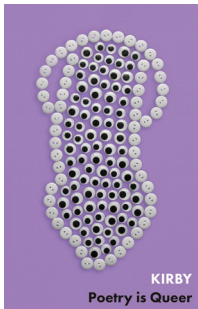
Shawna Lemay

\$18.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287842

Fiction

When Xaviere is tasked with transcribing taped interviews her deceased friend Daphne left to her in her will, she begins to piece together the story of the photographer Irene Guernsey, a moderately well known but elusive photographer Daphne was interviewing.

Shawna Lemay is the author of The Flower Can Always Be Changing (shortlisted for the 2019 Wilfred Eggleston Award for Non-Fiction) and the novel, Rumi and the Red Handbag, which made Harper's Bazaar's #THELIST. . She lives in Edmonton.



Poetry is Queer

Kirby

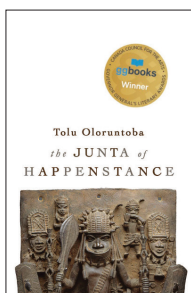
\$19.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287866

Non-Fiction

Poetry is Queer is a kaleidoscope of sexual outlaws, gay icons, Sapphic poets, and great lovers—real and imagined—conjured like gateway drugs to a queer world.

Kirby's work includes What Do You Want To Be Called? (Anstruther Press, 2020), This Is Where I Get Off (Permanent Sleep Press, 2019) and She's Having a Doris Day (Knife Fork Book, 2017). They are the publisher / book fairy at knife | fork | book [Toronto]. jeffkirby.ca

AWARD WINNERS AND NOMINEES/FEATURED BACKLIST



The Junta of Happenstance

Tolu Oloruntoba

\$19.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287729

Poetry

Winner 2021 Governor General Literary Award

for Poetry Personal, primordial, and pulsing with syncopated language, Tolu Oloruntoba's poetic debut, *The Junta of Happenstance*, is a compendium of dis-ease.



Home Waltz

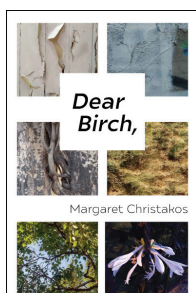
G.A. Grisenthwaite

\$18.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287644

Fiction

Finalist 2021 Governor General Literary Award

for Fiction A coming of age story like no other, *Home Waltz* speaks to one Indigenous teenager's experience of growing up in a world that doesn't want or trust him.



Dear Birch

Margaret Christakos

\$19.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287682

Poetry

An intimate poem cycle that improvises within the permutability of grief, wind, reading, refusal and desire, listening for an ethos of ongoingness.



Thimbles

Vanessa Shields

\$19.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287767

Poetry

In this heart-wrenching collection, Vanessa Shields chronicles the life of her Nonna, Maria, from her origins as a seamstress in Italy to her eventual death from dementia.

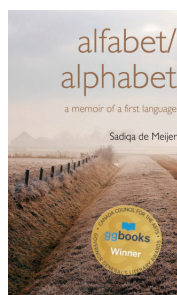
alfabet/alphabet

Sadiqa de Meijer

\$15.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287606

Non-Fiction

Winner 2021 Governor General Literary Award for Non-Fiction Exploring questions of identity, landscape, family, and translation, the essays navigate shifting cultural currents of language by using an eclectic approach to storytelling.



Hell Light Flesh

Klara du Plessis

\$18.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287521

Poetry

Finalist A.M.Klein Prize for Poetry Hell Light Flesh is mandatory reading for devotees of the long poem and du Plessis' thrilling brand of essayistic poetry alike.



Honorarium

Nathaniel G. Moore

\$19.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287804

Non-Fiction

Honorarium is both a time capsule and a survey course into the ever-changing, mysterious world of Canadian publishing.



Humanimus

David Huebert

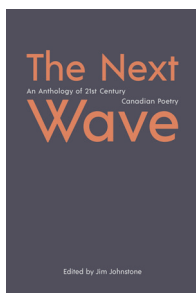
\$18.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287569

Poetry

Revelling in corporeal excess and industrial abjection, Humanimus fans the ash of the human experiment to see what strange beauty might wilt and whimper there.



FEATURED BACKLIST



The Next Wave: An Anthology of 21st Century Poetry

Jim Johnstone, ed.

\$24.95 CAD / ISBN 9781926794709

Poetry

Mercurial and modern, The Next Wave is an anthology of 21st century Canadian poetry, featuring a diverse range of 40 early-to-mid-career Canadian writers.

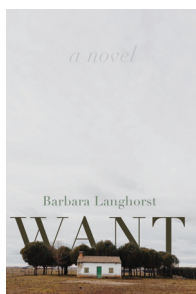
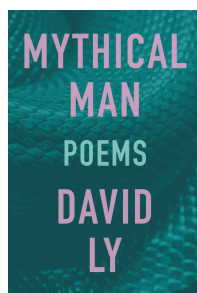
Mythical Man

David Ly

\$18.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287354

Poetry

In Mythical Man, David Ly builds and then tears down, an army of men in a quest to explore personhood in the 21st century. Mythical Man is an authentic and accomplished debut.



Want

Barbara Langhorst

\$18.95 CAD / ISBN 9781926794969

Fiction

Sometimes it feels as if the world has to end before you get that new kitchen.

Shortlisted for the Saskatchewan Book of the Year

The Flower Can Always Be Changing

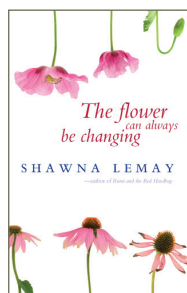
Shawna Lemay

\$14.95 CAD / ISBN 9781926794693

Non-Fiction

Inspired by the words of Virginia Woolf and Gertrude Stein and the art of Irving Penn and Georgia O'Keeffe, Lemay welcomes you into her home, her art, and her life as a poet.

Shortlisted for the Alberta Book Award



Ekke

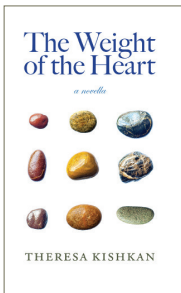
Klara du Plessis

\$18.95 CAD / ISBN 9781926794716

Poetry

Multilingually inflected, Klara du Plessis' first collection of poetry explores the multiplicity of self through language.

Winner of the 2019 Pat Lowther Award



The Weight of the Heart

Theresa Kishkan

\$14.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287477

Fiction

When her brother dies in the turbulent water of B.C.'s Thompson River, Isabel sets out to find traces of him in the places he loved.

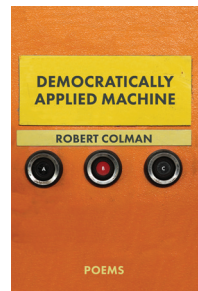
Democratically Applied Machine

Robert Colman

\$18.95 CAD / ISBN 9781989287439

Poetry

These are poems with working parts; poems of lineage and legacy; poems that engage the mechanical world while retaining nature's imprint.



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