

# COACH HOUSE BOOKS



FALL/WINTER  
2021-22

## COACH HOUSE BOOKS

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**Ring**  
a novel by André Alexis

From the Giller Prize–winning author of *Fifteen Dogs*, the final installment in the ambitious Quincunx Series, by one of Canada’s literary giants.

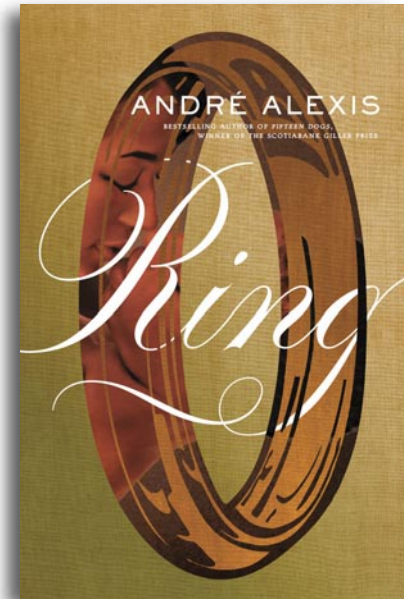
‘André Alexis’s work displays a mastery of literature’s history and a startling power of invention, balancing intellectual sophistication with a sense of humor, pathos, and beauty.’ –Windham Campbell Prize committee

From their very first meeting, it would seem that Gwen and Tancred were made for one another. Like all good romances, *Ring* will bring them together. There is, of course, a wrinkle.

Gwenhwyfar’s mother, Helen Odhiambo Lloyd, upon intuiting that her daughter is in love, gives her a ring. This ring has been passed down from endless generations of mothers to their daughters. And maybe the ring is magic. It grants the bearer the opportunity to change three things about her beloved. Like all blessings, this may also be a curse.

Complete with a long narrative poem about Aphrodite, *Ring* turns the literary romance upside down and shakes out its pockets. It’s a playful meditation on the past, on magic, on honour, on faith, and yes, on love.

Following on the heels of *Pastoral*, *Fifteen Dogs*, *The Hidden Keys*, and *Days by Moonlight*, *Ring* completes Alexis’s Quincunx, a group of five genre-bending, philosophically sophisticated, and utterly delightful novels.



ISBN 978 1 55245 430 5  
5.25 x 8.25 | 224 pp | pbk  
\$23.99 CAD | \$17.95 US  
FICo61000 FICTION / Magical Realism  
EPUB 978 1 77056 684 2

SEPTEMBER 2021



Credit: Jaime Hoggie

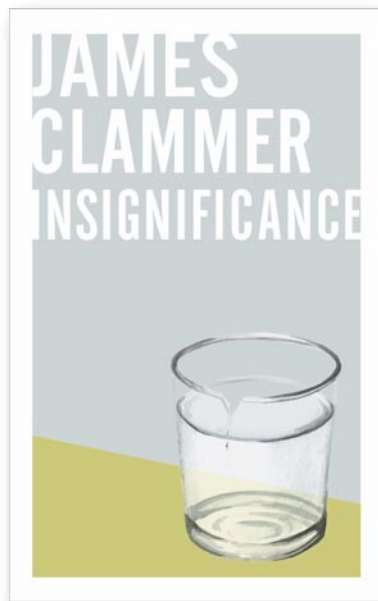
**ANDRÉ ALEXIS** was born in Trinidad and grew up in Canada. His most recent novel, *Days by Moonlight*, won the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize. *Fifteen Dogs* won the 2015 Scotiabank Giller Prize, CBC Canada Reads, and the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize. His other books include *Asylum*, *Pastoral*, *The Hidden Keys*, and *The Night Piece: Collected Stories*. He is the recipient of a Windham Campbell Prize.



# FALL

## Insignificance

a novel by James Clammer



ISBN 978 1 55245 434 3

5 x 8 | 160 pp | pbk

\$21.95 CDN | \$16.95 US

FIC025000 FICTION / Psychological

EPUB 978 1 77056 692 7

SEPTEMBER 2021



**JAMES CLAMMER** has worked at many kinds of jobs, including plumbing. He now lives in Sussex, where he writes in a shed at the bottom of a cliff. His first novel, *Why I Went Back* – a work of YA fiction compared with Susan Cooper and Alan Garner – was nominated for the Carnegie Medal and longlisted for the Branford Boase Award.

4 | FICTION

For fans of Ottessa Moshfegh's *Death in Her Hands* and Rivka Galchen's *Atmospheric Disturbances*, a plumber's *Mrs. Dalloway*.

'A brilliant look at family, mental health, and mid-life, *Insignificance* is a marvel. Tender, moving, and written with subtle humour, Clammer's novel takes the reader through a single day in the life of Joe Forbes, reluctant plumber and anguished father. A superb novel that hits all the right notes. I couldn't put it down.' – Mark Haber, bookseller at Brazos Bookstore and author of *Reinhardt's Garden*

'Written in a trenchantly modernist style, like Joyce or Woolf, with thought after thought rolling along comma after comma, it gives the inner reality of blue-collar life a respect and attention it rarely gets.' – *The Times of London*

'Clammer writes with languorous lyricism and wit ... [and] sounds depthless dread beneath the thin crust of suburbia.' – *The Spectator*

It's Joseph's first day back on the job after a long leave, and he's not sure he can make it through the day. It's not going as he'd hoped; his early morning optimism is wilting in the heat of the day, and the wrenches and pipes now seem foreign in his hands. He can't seem to push away the dark thoughts that kept him on leave for so long, thoughts of his son, who suffers from a condition that has him believe his mother is an imposter, and his now-distant wife, nearly killed by her own child.

Unfurling over the course of a single day, with gripping and emotional drama, *Insignificance* shows the uncertainty and awkwardness of a vulnerable working man and his relationship with the world.



# The Breaks

nonfiction by Julietta Singh

A profound meditation on race, inheritance, and queer mothering at the end of the world.

'Singh attends to the revolutionary prospects of "an act of breaking through, a transgression, a disruption." How will we live in the new space that we keep making, through refusal but also adjustment, the necessary accommodations to the "nowhere and nothing" that this space also is? *The Breaks* leads us through such moments, questions, and scenes, with tenderness. And deep care.'

– Bhanu Kapil

'This is a lens-shifting book, an immeasurable gift. With poignant, aching, beautiful, and deeply loving prose, Singh brings Brown girls into the sun, and makes you want to change the ways of the world for our young people and for us all.' – Imani Perry

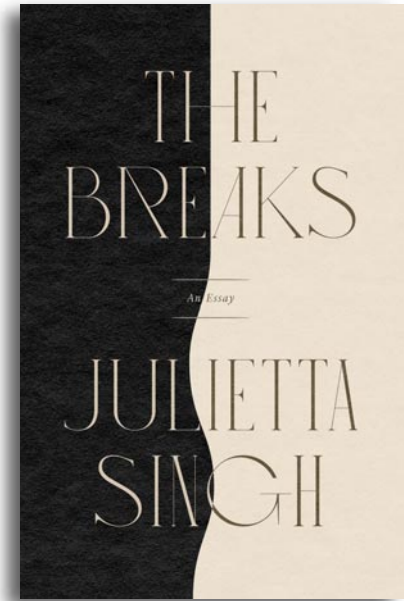
In a letter to her six-year-old daughter, Julietta Singh writes toward a tender vision of the world, offering children's radical embrace of possibility as a model for how we might live. In order to survive looming political and ecological disasters, Singh urges, we must break from the conventions we have inherited and begin to orient ourselves toward more equitable and revolutionary paths.

*The Breaks* celebrates queer family-making, communal living, and Brown girlhood, complicating the stark binaries that shape contemporary North American discourse, while looking back on Singh's upbringing in Winnipeg. With nuance and generosity, Singh reveals the connections among the crises humanity faces – climate catastrophe, extractive capitalism, and the violent legacies of racism, patriarchy, and colonialism. Drawing upon feminist theory and Black epistolary traditions, Singh invites us to move through the breaks toward a tenable future.



Credit: Chase Joynt

**JULIETTA SINGH** is a writer and academic whose work engages the enduring effects of colonization, current ecological crisis, and queer-feminist futures. She is the author of two previous books: *No Archive Will Restore You* (Punctum Books, 2018) and *Unthinking Mastery: Dehumanism and Decolonial Entanglements* (Duke University Press, 2018). She grew up in Winnipeg and currently lives in Richmond, Virginia, with her child and her best friend.



ISBN 978-1-55245-435-0

5 x 7.5 | 176 pp | pbk

\$20.95 CDN | \$16.95 US

BIO026000 BIOGRAPHY &  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Personal Memoirs

EPUB 978-1-77056-694-1

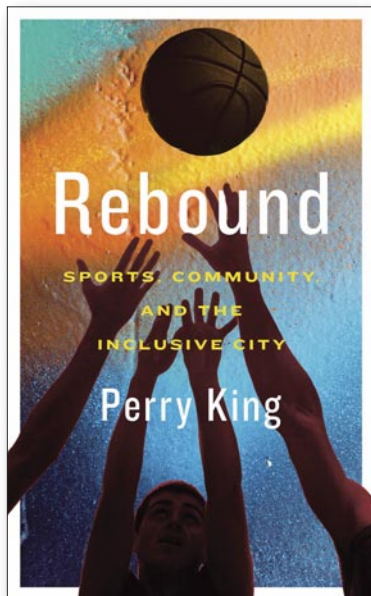
SEPTEMBER 2021



# FALL

## Rebound Sports, Community, and the Inclusive City

nonfiction by Perry King



ISBN 978 1 55245 425 1  
5.5 x 8.5 | 224 pp | pbk  
\$21.95 CDN | \$17.95 US  
SPOo66000 SPORTS & RECREATION /  
Sociology of Sports  
EPUB 978 1 77056 674 3

OCTOBER 2021

From basketball hoops to cricket bats, the role community sports play in our cities and how crucial they are to diversity and inclusion.

For every kid who makes it to the NBA, thousands more simply seek out the pleasure and camaraderie of playing pick-up basketball in their local community centre or on a court in the neighbourhood park. It's a story that plays out in sport after sport – team or individual, youth or adult, men's or women's. While the high-energy spectacle of professional basketball, soccer, or hockey may command our attention and fill our TV screens night after night, the world of grassroots, no- or low-stakes sports hums along in the background, a kind of connective tissue that brings city-dwellers together in ways that go well beyond the most obvious physical benefits.

Yet the 2020 pandemic and heightened concerns about racial exclusion have revealed just how important these pastimes are, and what happens when we either lose access to them or take for granted the public spaces where we play. In this closely reported exploration of the role of community sports in Toronto, journalist Perry King offers a compelling roadmap for reimagining neighbourhoods whose residents are active, healthy, and genuinely connected.



**PERRY KING** is a Toronto author and journalist. He has written for *Spacing Magazine*, the *Toronto Star*, *Globe and Mail*, and the BBC.



# Made-Up

## A True Story of Beauty Culture Under Late Capitalism

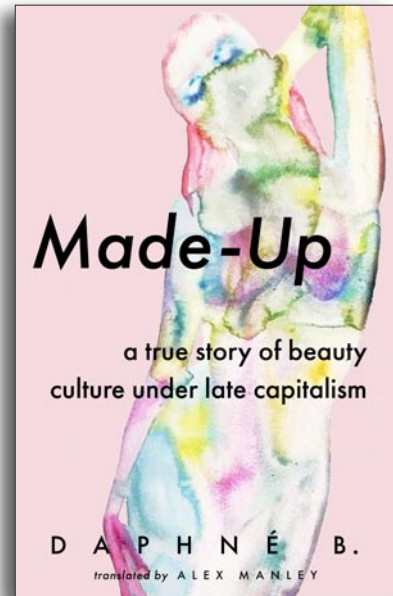
nonfiction by Daphné B., translated by Alex Manley

A nuanced, feminist, and deeply personal take on beauty culture and YouTube consumerism, in the tradition of Maggie Nelson’s *Bluets*.

In a looks-obsessed, selfie-covered present where influencers make the world go round, Daphné B. brings us a breath of fresh air: an anti-capitalist look at a supremely capitalist industry, an intersectional feminist look at a practice many consider misogynist. Blending together the confessional, the poetic, and the essayistic, *Made-Up* is a lyric meditation on an industry in full bloom.

*Made-Up* explores the complicated world of makeup, from how it’s made to how we wear it, talking about gender, identity, capitalism, and pop culture in the process. Makeup doesn’t get a lot of serious attention; it’s often derided as shallow. But Daphné proves that it’s worth looking at a little more in-depth.

The original French-language edition was a cult hit in Quebec. Translated from the French by Alex Manley – like Daphné, a Montreal poet and essayist – the text crackles with life, retaining the flair and verve of the original, and ensuring that a book on beauty is no less beautiful than its subject matter.



ISBN 978 1 55245 429 9

5 x 8 | 160 pp | pbk

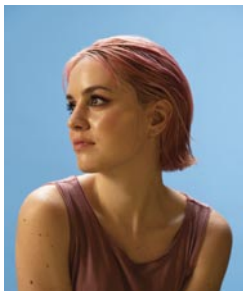
\$21.95 CDN | \$16.95 US

SOC022000 SOCIAL SCIENCE /

Popular Culture

EPUB 978 1 77056 682 8

SEPTEMBER 2021



Credit: JF Lemire

Poet and translator **DAPHNÉ B.** lives in Montreal. She is the author of *Bluetiful* and *Delete*, and her writing has appeared in *Nouveau Projet*, *Liberté*, *Vice*, *Spirale*, *Zinc*, and *Estuaire*.



Credit: Blair Elliot

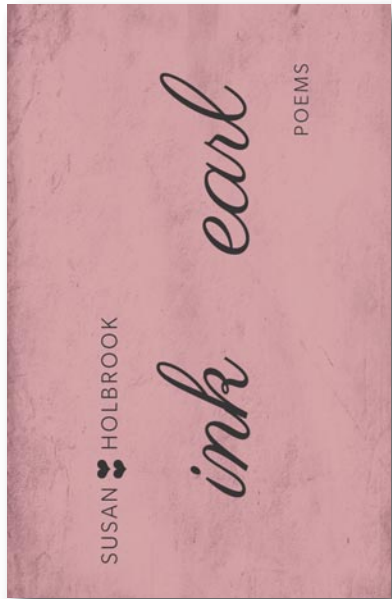
**ALEX MANLEY** is a Montreal-based writer. Their debut poetry collection, *We Are All Just Animals & Plants*, was published by Metatron Press in 2016.



# FALL

## ink earl

poetry by Susan Holbrook



ISBN 978 1 55245 427 5  
4 x 7 | 112 pp | pbk  
\$21.95 CDN | \$17.95 US  
POEo21000 POETRY / LGBT  
EPUB 978 1 77056 678 1

SEPTEMBER 2021

*ink earl* takes the popular subgenre of erasure poetry to its illogical conclusion.

'... There is much to like in this collection, and Holbrook's work is always worth reading.' – *Publishers Weekly* on *Throaty Wipes*

Starting with ad copy that extols the iconic Pink Pearl eraser, Holbrook erases and erases, revealing more and more. Rubbing out different words from this decidedly non-literary, noncanonical source text, she was left with the promise of '100 essays' and set about to find them. Among her discoveries are queer love poems, art projects, political commentary, lunch, songs, and entire extended families.

The absurdity of the constraint lends itself to plenty of fun and funny, while reminding us of truths assiduously erased by normative forces. *ink earl*'s variations are testament in micro to the act of poiesis as not so much a building as an intrepid series of effacements; we rub away at the walls of language we've lived within in order to release both what's been written over, and what we want to say now.



SUSAN HOLBROOK's poetry books are the Governor General's Award-nominated and Trillium Book Award-nominated *Throaty Wipes*, *Joy Is So Exhausting*, which was shortlisted for the Trillium Award for Poetry, and *mised*, which was shortlisted for the Pat Lowther Memorial Award and the Stephan G. Stephansson Award. She lives in Leamington.





## Masses on Radar

poetry by David O'Meara

Words like radio waves, bouncing off the specters of mortality, middle age, and the mundane.

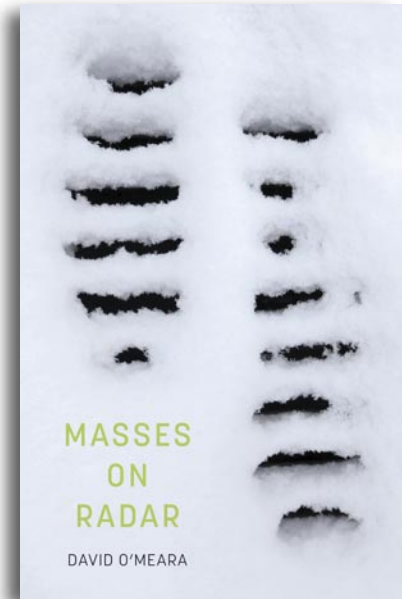
'I can't think of many other poets so prepared to engage and so equipped to succeed.' – Simon Armitage

'In this beautiful and poignant collection of poems, O'Meara gathers all he sees even as it falls behind, leaving us aching for more of his incandescent vision.' – Gregory Scofield, author of *Witness, I Am*

'A true poet must be able to include every aspect of humanity and the natural world into his poetry. In *Masses on Radar* we see such a poet at work. Intimacy and global issues become equally as touching in this masterful collection.'

– Gerður Kristný, author of *Reykjavik Requiem*

"I'm in the middle of this, whatever this is." O'Meara's *Masses on Radar* is fabulous – a memento mori, a journal "where the ordinary and marvellous blurred," a catalogue of human profligacy and idiocy – all fixed in gorgeous, thickened language, in imagery that ranges from the exact (a mouse in a mousetrap is "that poor change-purse of bones") – to the wildly fantastic (I "skate the remains / of the Keystone XL half-pipe"). O'Meara gnaws at "the excess of the capitalist carcass," but like all those who are deadly serious, he's also funny. "I'd like to improve my life. / I crave Doritos / and fall asleep." A ruthless scrutiny for himself and others pervades these poems which return again and again to the injury done to the natural world, to its animal inhabitants, including us – for whom "torment, not boredom, is the essence of love." Thank the gods of poetry for O'Meara, and his glances behind the curtain of "this pantomime of normal." – Nick Laird, author of *Feel Free*



ISBN 978 1 55245 426 8

5 x 8 | 112 pp | pbk

\$21.95 CDN | \$17.95 US

POE011000 POETRY / Canadian

EPUB 978 1 77056 676 7

SEPTEMBER 2021



Credit: Remi Theriault

DAVID O'MEARA is the Director of the Plan 99 Reading Series, and was the founding Artistic Director for VERSeFest. His most recent book is *A Pretty Sight*. He lives in Ottawa.



## The Agents

a novel by Grégoire Courtois, translated by Rhonda Mullins



ISBN 978 1 55245 432 9

5 x 8 | 224 pp | pbk

\$23.99 CDN | \$17.95 US

FIC055000 FICTION / Dystopian

EPUB 978 1 77056 688 0

### JANUARY 2022

**GRÉGOIRE COURTOIS** lives and works in Burgundy, France, where he runs the independent bookstore *Obliques*, which he bought in 2011. A novelist and playwright, he has published three novels: *Révolution* (2011), *Suréquipée* (2015), and *Les lois du ciel* (2016). In 2013 he founded *Caractères*, an international book festival in Auxerre, which he continues to run. *The Laws of the Skies* was published in English by Coach House in 2019.

**RHONDA MULLINS** is a writer and translator. She is a six-time finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Translation, winning the award in 2015 for her translation of Jocelyne Saucier's *Twenty-One Cardinals*. Novels she has translated were contenders for Canada Reads in 2015 and 2019, and *Suzanne* was a finalist for the 2018 Best Translated Book Award. Mullins was the inaugural literary translator in residence at Concordia University in 2018 and faculty member at the Banff International Literary Translation Centre in 2019.



*Nineteen Eighty-Four* meets *Tron*, via *The Office*, in this boldly dystopian novel

'Unflinching in its savagery, the nightmarish poetry of this modern *Lord of the Flies* is undeniable.'

– *Publishers Weekly* starred review for *The Laws of the Skies*

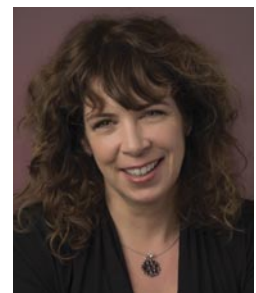
The agents don't know what they're agents of, but they're very busy, which means watching endless data feeds in their cubicles. Except, of course, when they're busy trying to assassinate the members of enemy guilds. Or defenestrating themselves.

Courtois's *The Laws of the Skies* was a master class in nihilistic literary horror; *The Agents* sees him turn his sharp pen to office culture.

'*The Laws of the Skies* is not an easy book to digest ... but I found it exhilarating to read a novel that's this unflinching, this nihilistic, and also this deeply profound.' – *Locus Magazine*



Credit: Justine Lalour



Credit: Quinn Egan

# The Bear Woman

a novel by Karolina Ramqvist, translated by Saskia Vogel

Feminist autofiction from one of Sweden's blazing talents.

'Ramqvist is a serious contender for the Swedish literary limelight.'

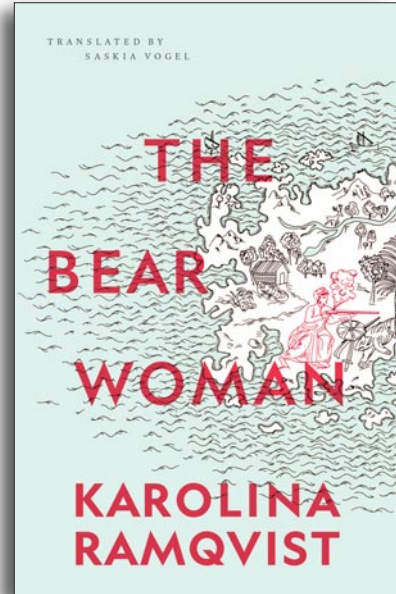
– *Shelf Awareness*

'The ghostly Scandinavian setting and [protagonist] Karin's closely narrated sense of impending doom ... make Swedish star Ramqvist's English-language debut an atmospheric and suspenseful read.' – *Booklist on The White City*

Blending autofiction and essay, *The Bear Woman* is a journey of feminism and literary detective work spanning centuries and continents. In the 1540s, a young French noblewoman, Marguerite de la Rocque, was abandoned on an island in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence with her maidservant and her lover. In present-day Stockholm, an author and mother becomes captivated by the image of Marguerite sheltered in a dark cave after her companions have died.

This image soon becomes an obsession. She must find out the real story of the woman she calls the Bear Woman. But so much in this history is written so as to gloss over male violence. And the maps and other sources she consults are at times undecipherable.

Karolina Ramqvist explores what it means to write history – and to live it.



ISBN 978 1 55245 431 2

5 x 8 | 224 pp | pbk

\$23.95 CDN | \$17.95 US

FIC076000 FICTION / Feminist

EPUB 978 1 77056 686 6

FEBRUARY 2022



Credit: Jasmine Storch

**KAROLINA RAMQVIST** is one of the most influential writers and feminists of her generation in Sweden. In 2015, Ramqvist was awarded the prestigious P. O. Enquist Literary Prize for her novel *The White City*.



Credit: Fette Sams

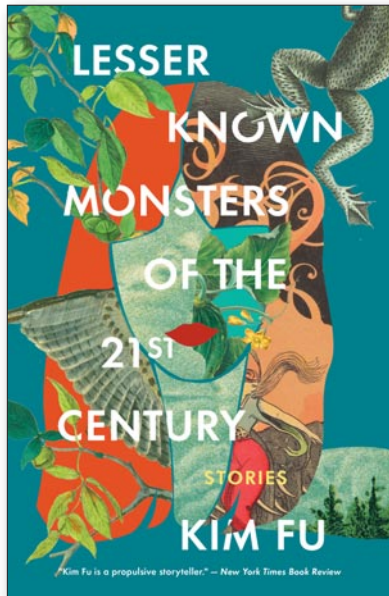
**SASKIA VOGEL** is a writer and translator. Her debut novel, *Permission*, was longlisted for the Believer Book Award. Her translation of Johannes Anyuru's *They Will Drown in Their Mothers' Tears* won the CLMP Firecracker Award for Fiction, and she was longlisted for the PEN Translation Award for Jessica Schiefauer's *Girls Lost*.



# WINTER

## Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century

short stories by Kim Fu



ISBN 978 1 55245 436 7

5 x 8 | 176 pp | pbk

\$21.95 CDN

FIC029000 FICTION / Short Stories

(single author)

EPUB 978 1 77056 702 3

FEBRUARY 2022

The debut collection from the PEN/Hemingway Award finalist and 'propulsive storyteller' (*NYT Book Review*), with stories that are by turns poignant and pulpy

'Fu is adept at creating scenes that ratchet up the intensity and drama as well as those that delight by means of quiet devastation or depictions of joy.'

— *Quill & Quire* on *The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore*

In the twelve unforgettable tales of *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, the strange is made familiar and the familiar strange, such that a girl growing wings on her legs feels like an ordinary rite of passage, while a bug-infested house becomes an impossible, Kafkaesque nightmare. Each story builds a new world all its own: a group of children steal a haunted doll; a runaway bride encounters a sea monster; a vendor sells toy boxes that seemingly control the passage of time; an insomniac is seduced by the Sandman. These visions of modern life wrestle with themes of death and technological consequence, guilt and sexuality, as they unmask the contradictions that exist within all of us.

Featuring stories previously published in *Kink*, edited by R.O. Kwon and Garth Greenwell (Simon & Schuster, February 2021), *Room* magazine (2018), and the 2018 Short Story Advent Calendar (Hingston & Olsen, 2018).

**KIM FU** is the author of two novels and a collection of poetry. Her first novel *For Today I Am a Boy* won the Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction and was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award, as well as a *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice. Her second novel, *The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore*, was a finalist for the Washington State Book Award and the OLA Evergreen Award. Fu's writing has appeared in *Granta*, the *Atlantic*, the *New York Times*, *Hazlitt*, and the *TLS*. She lives in Seattle.



L. D'Alessandro



## Rooms

### Women, Writing, Woolf

nonfiction by Sina Queyras

From LAMBDA Literary Award winner Sina Queyras, *Rooms* offers a peek into the defining spaces a young queer writer moved through as they found their way from a life of chaos to a life of the mind.

'Queyras is smart and insightful in her work to expand and challenge the nature of language and poetry ... Lend Queyras your ears, your minds, your hearts, your Time. They will reward you, repeatedly.' – *The Rumpus*

Thirty years ago, a professor threw a chair at Sina Queyras after they'd turned in an essay on Virginia Woolf.

Queyras returns to that contentious first encounter with Virginia Woolf to recover the body and thinking of that time.

Rooms, bodies, Beadles: using Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* as a touchstone, this book is both an homage to and provocation of the idea of a room of one's own at the centre of our idea of a literary life.

How central is the room? And what happens once we get one? Do we inhabit our rooms? Or do the rooms contain us? Blending memoir, prose, tweets, poetry, and criticism, *Rooms* offers a peek into the defining spaces a young queer writer moved through as they found their way from a life of chaos to a life of the mind, and from a very private life of the mind to a public life of the page, and from a life of the page into a life in the Academy, the Internet, and social medias.



ISBN 978 155245 433 6

5 x 8 | 160 pp | pbk

\$21.95 CDN | \$17.95 US

BIO026000 BIOGRAPHY &  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Personal Memoirs

EPUB 978 177056 690 3

FEBRUARY 2022



SINA QUEYRAS is a Montreal-based writer. They are the author of seven poetry collections, including *My Ariel*, *MxT*, *Lemon Hound*, and *Expressway*, a novel, and a book of essays.



# Spring 2021 Backlist Titles

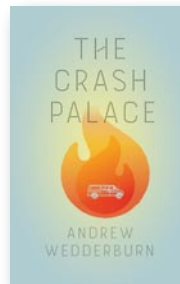
www.chbooks.com | @coachhousebooks

## FICTION



**AND MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP**  
Jocelyne Saucier, tr. Rhonda Mullins  
ISBN 978-1-55245-421-3  
June 2021 | \$21.95 CDN | \$17.95 US

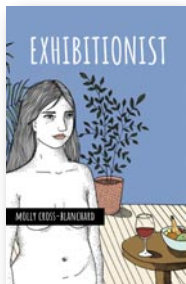
After *And The Birds Rained Down*, a stunning meditation on aging and freedom, Jocelyne Saucier is back with her unique outlook on self-determination in this unsettling story about a woman's disappearance.



**THE CRASH PALACE**  
Andrew Wedderburn  
ISBN 978-1-55245-405-3  
January 2021 | \$22.95 CDN | \$17.95 US

'Wedderburn's engaging tale will hot-wire readers' brains, making Audrey's wanderlust palpable and contagious.'  
— *Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review

## POETRY



**EXHIBITIONIST**  
Molly Cross-Blanchard  
ISBN 978-1-55245-422-0  
April 2021 | \$21.95 CDN | \$17.95 US

Painfully funny, brutally honest, and alarmingly perceptive, Molly Cross-Blanchard's poems use humour and pop culture as vehicles for empathy and sorry-not-sorry confessionalism.



**BECAUSE THE SUN**  
Sarah Burgoyne  
ISBN 978-1-55245-423-7  
April 2021 | \$21.95 CDN | \$17.95 US

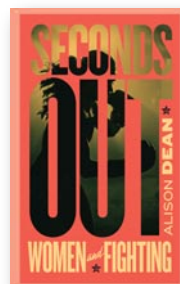
Camus's Meursault and Thelma and Louise meet up under the blazing sun.

## NONFICTION



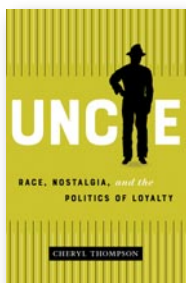
**DISINTEGRATION IN FOUR PARTS**  
Jean Marc Ah-Sen, Emily Anglin, Devon Code, and Lee Henderson  
ISBN 978-1-55245-424-4  
June 2021 | \$21.95 CDN | \$17.95 US

'All purity is created by resemblance and disavowal.' With this sentence as a starting point, four authors each write a novella considering the concept of purity, all from astonishingly different angles.



**SECONDS OUT**  
Alison Dean  
ISBN 978-1-55245-419-0  
May 2021 | \$21.95 CDN | \$17.95 US

'Kicking ass and taking notes – what it's like to be a woman in the ring.'



**UNCLE**  
Cheryl Thompson  
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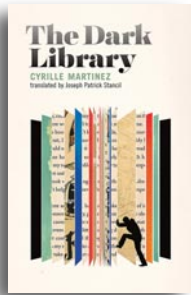
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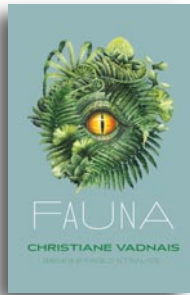
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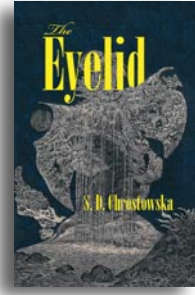
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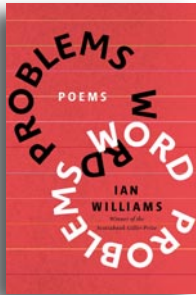


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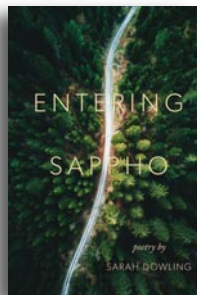


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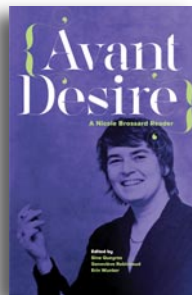
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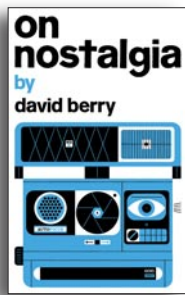


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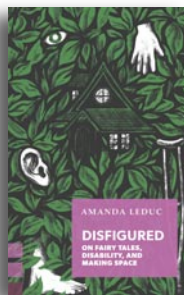
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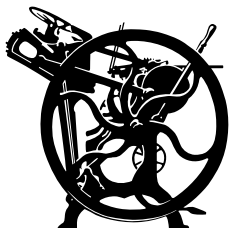
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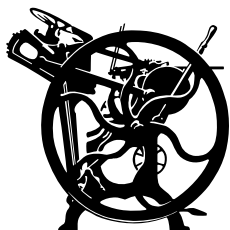
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