

Coach House Books | Fall 2011

# Coach House Books: impossible to pigeonhole!

Welcome to the Fall 2011 Coach House catalogue, you lucky ducks! So far, 2011 has given us much to crow about. Jen Currin's *The Inquisition Yours* was shortlisted for three prestigious poetry awards (including a BC Book Prize, a Lambda Award and a Publishing Triangle Award), Jonathan Ball's *Clockfire* was named a finalist for the Lansdowne Poetry Prize and Jon Paul Fiorentino's *Indexical Elegies* was the very first winner of the CBC Bookie in the poetry category! We're prouder than a peacock!

Our spring titles have nested nicely onto bookshelves. Sean Dixon's *The Many Revenges of Kip Flynn*, a tale of vengeance, gentrification and 'fowl' play, has readers intrigued, and Suzette Mayr's *Monoceros* has booklovers flocking to their closest retail outlets. Gabe Foreman's *A Complete Encyclopedia of Different Types of People* is making people as happy as larks, while Helen Guri has spread her poetic wings in her debut, *Match*. Readers are taking to Jones's *The Brave Never Write Poetry* as ducks take to water. In August, Coach House will publish with Maytree Canada, *Five Good Ideas*, a nonfiction anthology that shows non-profit organizations how to improve their businesses: how to catch the early worms, how to kill several birds with one stone – things like that.

But let's talk turkey: we've put all our ducks in a row for the fall, and what a round robin of titles it is! Keep your eagle eyes peeled for acclaimed poet Sina Queyras's very first novel, Autobiography of Childhood, and Rob Benvie's brilliant sophomore fiction, Maintenance. Tristan Hughes's novel Eye Lake (originally published by Picador in the uk) promises to be a feather in our cap. And while the verse in David McGimpsey's Li'l Bastard, Leigh Kotsilidis's Hypotheticals and Jenny Samprisi's Croak may not be birdsong, poetry fans will be in a flap over their publication.

Closer to fifty than forty, Coach House is no spring chicken, but the work we publish is so new and fresh it can still ruffle a few feathers. Give our books a tern; you won't find them hor-wren-dous!

### Coach House Books

Publisher: Stan Bevington Editorial Director: Alana Wilcox

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Cover illustration [Pigeons, 2010, 11 x 14 in.] by Ethan Rilly.

# **Autobiography of Childhood**

a novel by Sina Queyras

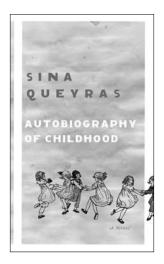
Five siblings, all haunted by the death of a brother in their youth. Twenty-four hours of the day when another of them will die.

Guddy is struggling to get to her sister before she dies. Jerry worries about his son, who may have embroiled himself in some dangerous real estate dealings in Vancouver. Annie looks after the family's matriarch. Bjarne is living in the north after six years on Skid Row in Vancouver, unable to separate the realities of childhood and the present. Their father, who finds himself on the seawall. And then there's Therese, trying to forgive them all before her body finally betrays her.

Autobiography of Childhood takes place over one day, moving through one sibling at a time. As each character is forced to react (or not react) to the news (or lack of news) of Therese's terminal illness, their actions create a nuanced portrait of the individual characters and the pressures of their present lives.

What if thinking is what we have at the end of the day? The first novel from acclaimed poet and critic Sina Queyras tells the story of childhood by recreating the mind at work grappling with it: noticing, reaching, loving and flailing.

'A family saga with the sweep of Ann-Marie MacDonald, the poetic depth of Anne Michaels and the tragedy and resilience of Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones.*' – Marilyn Bowering



ISBN 978 1 55245 252 3 \$20.95 CDN | \$18.95 US 5 X 8 PB, 280 PAGES FICTION FICOOOOOO WORLD RIGHTS OCTOBER 2011

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- author appearances: Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, Winnipeg, Vancouver
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SINA QUEYRAS's last collection of poetry, Expressway, was nominated for a Governor General's Award and won Gold at the National Magazine Awards. Her previous collection Lemon Hound won a Lambda Award and the Pat Lowther Award. She has taught creative writing at Rutgers, Haverford and Concordia University in Montreal where she now resides.



# **Eye Lake**

# a novel by Tristan Hughes

Welcome to Crooked River, Ontario. Population 2,851 and falling.

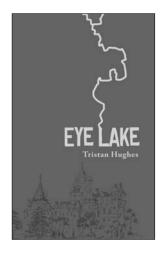
Eli has lived in Crooked River his whole life, and he knows better than anyone about that sinking number. His father, uncle and grandmother are dead; he didn't know his mother, and his grandfather Clarence, an eccentric builder of hotels and a now-underwater castle, walked to the river one day and never returned. Eli's childhood friend, George, also went missing, back when they were kids, and was never seen again.

Eli has spent years wondering about both Clarence and George. Now the river, its course diverted years earlier to make way for a mine, is reclaiming its original path, and the lake is receding day by day. As the waters retreat, secrets come to light, and it seems as though Eli might finally learn what happened to his grandfather and best friend. Then a young boy disappears, pulling Eli's past into the present.

Told in taut, spare prose, *Eye Lake* is the haunting story of three families, three generations and three disappearances.

### Praise for Tristan Hughes's Revenant:

'A provocative exploration of the difficulty of leaving childhood behind, and about how being treated like an outsider all your life will leave you with a tragic sense of entitlement.' – *The Walrus* 



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TRISTAN HUGHES was born in Atikokan, Ontario, and brought up around Llangoed, Ynys Mon, where he currently lives. Hughes is the author of three previous books, *The Tower, Send My Cold Bones Home* and, most recently, *Revenant*. He was the winner of the 2002 Rhys Davies Short Story Award. *Eye Lake*, published by Picador in the uk, is his fourth novel.



### Maintenance

# a novel by Rob Benvie

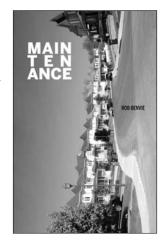
It is the summer of 1999, and the Sweltham family is leading an ordinary suburban existence. Former childhood volleyball champ Parker crisscrosses the continent as a sales rep for DynaFlex Sporting Goods, while his wife Trixie serves as the managing editor of *Record of Truth*, an unsuccessful genocide studies journal. Their son Owen has just returned from juvenile prison to the vast horrors of high school. Heath, Parker's brother, has vowed to cut down on weed and fried chicken for a regimen of self-improvement, obeying his AbDestroyer routine and crafting a screenplay that will dismantle the universe. All appears normal.

Yet in this summer's swelter, grim truths are revealed. Trixie is rocked from her routine by the discovery of an undiagnosable cerebral defect, rendering the trials of her lottery-winning mother sadly trivial. Cataloguing crunches and ignoring his Gulf War vet ex-girlfriend, Heath fights to reconcile confusions of the past with hopes of a meaningful future. Owen's religious fixations stir anew his Robitussin binges and fantasies of self-destruction. And while peddling his wares at the annual Empowerment Expo, Parker forges an uneasy friendship with Adam, an African political refugee harbouring his own violent aspirations. Nothing changes, but everything has changed.

Sprawling yet scalpel-sharp, *Maintenance*, like some twenty-first-century *White Noise*, takes the suburbs to a geography you won't recognize.

Praise for Rob Benvie's Safety of War:

'Seppuku. Post-it notes. The Devil incarnate. Cartoon voiceovers. Chaos. Wintry ducks ... Wonderfully detailed and ingenious madness.' – Exclaim!



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ROB BENVIE is from Halifax, Nova Scotia, and currently lives in Montreal. He has recorded and performed with many musical endeavours, including the rock bands Thrush Hermit, Camouflage Nights and The Dears. He is the author of Safety of War (p. 20).



### Li'l Bastard

# poetry by David McGimpsey

Chicagoland hot-dog stands are open late.
'What the fuck you want?' one cashier asks me.
What the fuck did I want? Hope? A car? To write?
Jesus, I knew – just give me a Pepsi.

David McGimpsey's fifth collection of poems takes to new levels the melding of the deeply personal and the culturally popular that drove his acclaimed book *Sitcom* (nominated for the A. M. Klein Prize for Poetry). This is confessional poetry as written by a chronic trickster and a committed liar.

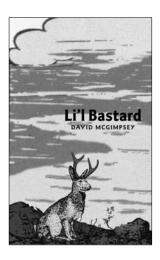
Written in part as an homage to the poetic idols of McGimpsey's youth, John Berryman and Robert Lowell, Li'l Bastard is a collection of 'chubby sonnets' – sixteen-line poems organized into eight longer sequences – that explore the poet's obsessions and engagements with America and Canada, popular culture, love and death, aging, baseball and beer and Barnaby Jones. Adopting a wild array of tones and artistic strategies, from picaresque to fantasy, to observational humour and the simple song lyric, these poems map the poet's midlife crisis on a wild flight that touches down in Montreal, Chicago, Nashville, Texas and L.A.

Poignant and often achingly funny, *Li'l Bastard* will no doubt cement McGimpsey's status as a beloved and ever-surprising original.

### Praise for David McGimpsey:

'[David McGimpsey] finds the humanity hiding in the hilarity. This guy is as funny as David Sedaris, and more inventive.' – Ottawa Citizen

DAVID MCGIMPSEY was born and raised in Montreal. He is the author of four acclaimed collections of poetry, including *Lardcake* and *Sitcom* (now in its second printing), which was a finalist for both the A.M. Klein Prize and the ReLit Award. David is also the author of the award-winning study *Imagining Baseball: America's Pastime and Popular Culture*. McGimpsey writes a regular humour column for Montreal's *Matrix Magazine* and the 'Sandwich of the Month' column as a contributing editor for *EnRoute*. David lives in the Mile-End district of Montreal and teaches creative writing and literature at Concordia University.



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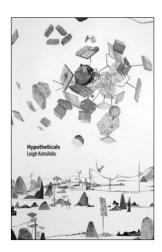
# **Hypotheticals** poetry by Leigh Kotsilidis

At the heart of all matter is the single immutable point Listen, climb in, I'll show you what I mean by rock.

In many respects, people look to science to explain their world. But while science has proven itself a useful metaphor, it has just as often been exposed as being as fallible as the flawed humans who lean on it. Newcomer Leigh Kotsilidis's lively, thoughtful and refreshingly speculative first collection engages and questions the linguistic roots of 'the hypothetical,' both as they apply to the scientific method and its faith in certainty, and to the word's alternate meaning, as something that is merely 'supposed to be true,' and often, over time, is proved false.

Under the poet's wide-angled, open-hearted, openminded gaze, scientific method slowly begins to mirror the dark art of poetry, reinforcing what we believe about ourselves and the world one minute, then abruptly throwing everything into question.

'Hypotheticals proffers a set of semi-serious proposals. Using facts gleaned from scientific experiment or just experiment, Kotsilidis is on a mission to "polish the cerebral corvette," and she's a born racer ... these poems are a paean to transformation, a Darwinian ambush on the world we've accepted so far. "There are birds, then there are better birds." These are some of the best.' – Linda Besner, author of *The Id Kid* 



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LEIGH KOTSILIDIS grew up in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Her poems have appeared in several literary journals including *The Fiddlehead*, *Prism international* and *Prairie Fire*; and have been anthologized in publications *I.V. Lounge Nights, This Grace* and *The Hoodoo You Do So Well*. In 2009 and 2010 she was selected as a finalist for the CBC Literary Awards. She is also co-founder of littlefishcart-press. She currently lives in Montreal where she works as a freelance graphic designer while completing her MFA in Studio Arts.



### Croak

# poetry by Jenny Sampirisi

This is odd. (Pause. Huff.) There are too many limbs. Why limbs? Why toes on limbs? Why limbs at all? Why fear of limbs? This isn't deformity. Where are legs? Two legs. Where are elbows? Why nose? Why this instead of houses? Why boxes? Why not explain? Why mention? Why invite invent intent a cause for all these effects?

Croak is a frog-and-girl opera in three parts, played out like a YouTube mashup of mid-century cartoons, all set to a contemporary pop song. It parades, mutilates and reacquaints Kermit the Frog with Girl 00010111, Michigan J. with Aristophanes, and biblical plagues with caged canaries in a vaudevillian play of time, culture, gender and narrative. Combining vivisection and classical literature, empirical observation and philosophical speculation, Sampirisi's grotesque characters splash and sparkle before moving toward their inevitable narrative end.

In conversation with Samuel Beckett's Words & Music, Croak presents a negotiation between the doom and gloom of a species in crisis and the many empirical markers we attach to them. Sampirisi reminds us that we are all porous in the mud of language.

Praise for Jenny Sampirisi's novel is/was:

'is/was explores loss in its immensity, but it rivets us, always, to its world of details. To the micro-rituals of conduct during periods of duress. To the concreteness of words on the page and the capillary routes of the sentence. Jenny Sampirisi is at once a marvellously fearless and disciplined writer.'

- David Chariandy, author of Soucouyant



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JENNY SAMPIRISI is the author of the novel is/was from Insomniac Press. She is the Managing Editor of BookThug where she also edits the Department of Narrative Studies imprint, which focuses on innovative prose. She is co-director of the Toronto New School of Writing, a series of reading and writing workshops designed and facilitated by working writers. She teaches English Literature and Composition at Ryerson University. Croak is her first poetry collection.



# Five Good Ideas: Practical Strategies for Non-Profit Success edited by Alan Broadbent and Ratna Omidvar

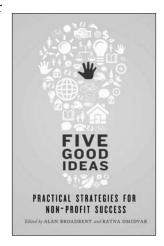
Non-profits are big business. According to a recent Johns Hopkins report, third-sector institutions in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Japan, the U.S. and Canada have been growing at an average rate that is twice the growth rate of their GDPs. Canada is home to the second largest non-profit workforce in the world, employing 2 million paid staff and contributing \$112 billion to our economy each year. We are also recognized worldwide as an important generator of ideas and agent of social change.

Maytree, a Canadian foundation established in 1982, has long been immersed in the dialogue surrounding the growth of the non-profit sector. From its extensive network of non-profit, government and corporate-sector leaders, Alan Broadbent and Ratna Omidvar have amassed a collection of practical ideas for running non-profits.

As the sector expands to embrace new issues, there is increased pressure for accountability, relevancy and efficiency. Practitioners are expected to be experts in a variety of fields. Five Good Ideas offers information, strategies for action and management solutions that are easy to implement and will improve how organizations function. It is a testament to what can happen when people from a variety of backgrounds get together to share their skills and knowledge.

Alan Broadbent is the chair and CEO of Avana Capital Corporation and the chair of Maytree. He also serves as the chair of the Tides Canada Foundation and Happy Planet Foods and is a member of the Governors' Council of the Toronto Public Library, a senior fellow at Massey College, a member of the Order of Canada and a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal. Alan is the author of the book *Urban Nation*.

Ratna Omidvar is the president of Maytree. She also serves as a director of the Toronto City Summit Alliance and is the chair of the board of the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council. Ratna was appointed to the Order of Ontario in 2006, and in 2010 was named the *Globe and Mail's* Nation Builder of the Decade for Citizenship.



ISBN 978 1 55245 246 2 \$23.95 CDN | \$21.95 US 5 X 8 PB, 250 PAGES BUSINESS / MANAGEMENT BUS074000 SOC033000 WORLD RIGHTS SEPTEMBER 2011

- book to be launched at event in September
- excerpts pitched to the Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, Financial Post
- pursuing promotional opportunities with nonprofit organizations and associations
- print ads:
   The NonProfit Times,
   This Magazine,
   New Internationalist

# Local Motion: The Art of Civic Engagement in Toronto

edited by Dave Meslin, Christina Palassio and Alana Wilcox

Local Motion presents an in-depth analysis of civic engagement in Canada's largest city. How do we influence municipal decisions? What motivates ordinary citizens to take action and improve their community? How do neighbours organize together? Does City Hall facilitate engagement, or stand in the way?

Fourteen essays and profiles by in-the-trenches journalists explore electoral reform, civic organizations, zoning, the press gallery and grassroots activism.

'This original and inspiring book arms us with the practical tools we need to change our communities for the better, regard-

less of which politicians are in power. Read it and find out where the action is.

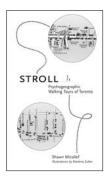
– Naomi Klein

URBAN STUDIES • 224 PGS • NOV 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 238 7 • \$22.95 CDN \$20.95 US

# Stroll: Psychogeographic Walking Tours of Toronto

by Shawn Micallef, with illustrations by Marlena Zuber Shawn Micallef has been examining Toronto's streetscapes for a decade. His psychogeographic reportages situate Toronto's buildings and streets in living, breathing detail, and tell us about the people who use them; the ways, intended or otherwise, that they are being used; and how they are evolving.

Stroll celebrates Toronto's details at the speed of walking, taking us from well-known spots like the cn tower and Pearson Airport to the overlooked corners of Scarborough and all the way to the end of the Leslie Street Spit. Stroll features thirty-two walks, a flâneur manifesto, dozens of hand-drawn maps and illustrations by Marlena Zuber and a full-colour fold-out map.



LOCAL MOTION

'A smart and intimate guide to the city that makes you feel like an insider from start to finish.' – Douglas Coupland

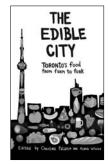
URBAN STUDIES • 312 PGS • MAY 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 226 4 • \$24.95 CDN \$22.95 US

# The Edible City: Toronto's Food from Farm to Fork

edited by Christina Palassio and Alana Wilcox

Victory gardens. Bread wars. The architecture of restaurants. Migrant workers. Cocktails and craft beer. Food miles. Community gardens. Trussing. How does Toronto feed itself?

With a cornucopia of essays on comestibles, *The Edible City* considers how one city eats. It includes dishes on peaches and poverty, on processing plants and public gardens, on rats and bees and bad restaurant service, on schnitzel and school lunches. There are incisive studies of food-security policy, of feeding the needy, and of waste, and a very happy tale about a hardy fig tree.



'Fascinating looks at the history of beer, bread and just about

every other foodstuff you can imagine ... empowering readers is exactly what *The Edible City* is sure to do,' says the *Quill e' Quire* 

URBAN STUDIES • 312 PGS • NOV 2009 • ISBN 978 1 55245 219 6 • \$24.95 CDN \$22.95 US

# The Shimmering Beast

# by Steve Reinke

Reinke tells us, in 'Kitchener-Berlin,' his appreciation of Philip Hoffman's film of the same title, that experimental video is centred around voice – a decidedly peculiar and literary notion. It makes good sense, then, that this experimental video artist is also an accomplished prose writer.

Collected herein are Reinke's best recent prose pieces. Hybrids of criticism, fiction and personal essay, these pieces all engage – by pillaging, by honouring, by scrutinizing, by cannibalizing – an other's work: the films of Frank Cole, the videos of Emily Vey Duke and Cooper Battersby, the photos of



Doug Ischar, the writings of Dr. Paul Brouardel and the psychoanalysis of Melanie Klein, to name just a few. Funny, absurd and tartly poignant, these texts document the process and reach of an artistic mind at the height of its powers.

ART ESSAYS • 180 PGS • APR 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 247 9 • \$19.95 CDN (NO US RIGHTS)

# Occasional Works and Seven Walks from the Office of Soft Architecture: New Edition

# by Lisa Robertson

This delectable book collects the rococo prose of Lisa Robertson, the ambulatory Office for Soft Architecture. There are essays – many originally published as catalogue texts by art galleries – on the syntax of the suburban home, Vancouver fountains, Value Village, the joy of synthetics, scaffolding and the persistence of the Himalayan blackberry. There are also seven Walks, tours of Vancouver sites – poetic dioramas, really, and more material than cement can ever be.

'We say, on almost every page and with utmost reverence, Holy shit. ... Ever since, we have wanted to think like Robertson, write like her, maybe even be her,' raves the Village Voice.

URBAN STUDIES • 230 PGS • NOV 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 232 5 • \$19.95 CDN \$17.95 US

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### Saudade: The Possibilities of Place

# by Anik See

WINNER OF A 2009 ALCUIN AWARD FOR BOOK DESIGN

In its simplest sense, the Portuguese word *saudade* describes a feeling of longing for something that is now gone, that in all likelihood can never be recaptured. In *Saudade*, traveller Anik See traces her attempts to reclaim this loss in a series of informal essays that take us from the salt plains of Wood Buffalo National Park to the fishing ports of Sri Lanka and the rough roads of Tbilisi, Georgia.

Whether at a fishfry in the Northwest Territories, at the post-9/11 Canada-U.S. border, on the ultimate road trip through

Australia or at a summer carnival in Santiago de Cuba, See is on a continual quest for simplicity.

'Impeccably written, carefully observed and vividly detailed ... A mesmerizing read,' says *Outpost* magazine.





### **Monoceros**

# a novel by Suzette Mayr

A seventeen-year-old boy, bullied and heartbroken, hangs himself. And although he felt alone in the world, his suicide profoundly affects even casual acquaintances.

His parents are devastated. His secret boyfriend's girlfriend is relieved. His unicorn- and virginity-obsessed classmate, Faraday, is shattered. His English teacher, mid-divorce and mid-menopause, wishes she could care more about her students than her ex's new girlfriend. Who happens to be her cousin. Max, the principal, is worried about how it will reflect on the very Catholic school. And Walter, the school guidance



counsellor, who's been secretly in a relationship with Max for years, thinks that's callous. Then Max meets a drag queen named Crêpe Suzette. And everything changes.

'To call a story about suicide funny might seem off-putting, but Mayr balances tenderness and humour to make this novel a poignant must-read,' says *Avenue Calgary*. FICTION • 288 PGS • APR 2011 • ISBN 978 1 55245 241 7 • \$20.95 CDN \$18.95 US

# The Many Revenges of Kip Flynn

# a novel by Sean Dixon

Sean Dixon's second novel begins with Kip Flynn standing beside her dead boyfriend and agreeing to take a large sum of money from the young man's father to keep quiet. And so a rising-stakes vendetta develops between a young rose seller and a building developer, spiralling outward to envelop family, lovers, friends, landlords, wormpickers, window cleaners, Vietnamese gangsters, stand-up bass players and tour-bus guides, involving subway accidents, arson, drainpipes, buried rivers, backhoe wars, stretch limos, ultrasound technicians, poorly fitted windows and an aubergine Saab. The novel concludes in the subterranean



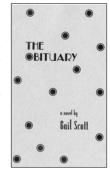
heart of Toronto itself, which, like Kip, is torn between vengefulness and growth. FICTION • 240 PGS • APR 2011 • ISBN 978 1 55245 242 4 • \$20.95 CDN \$18.95 US

# The Obituary

### a novel by Gail Scott

Rosine is surrounded by ghosts: of her family, past lovers, an old Montreal and its politics. She's haunted by the shale pit workers who, in the 1880s, frequented the Crystal Palace grounds upon whose site her Mile-End triplex sits, as well as by an ancient Parisian gendarme lurking in her stairwell and by her dead maternal family, restless from a lifetime of denial of their Indigenous ancestry. It's possible that Rosine herself is a ghost.

But *The Obituary* is no whodunnit. As Rosine's narration splinters into three – a prurient fly buzzing over the action, a politically correct historian and a woman on a bus or lying in bed – the central question becomes who speaks for us when we speak.



'A beautiful, challenging poetic novel that is absolutely stunning in terms of image, sound and rhythm,' says *Vallum Magazine*.

FICTION • 168 PGS • OCT 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 233 2 • \$19.95 CDN (NO US RIGHTS)

# When Fenelon Falls

# a novel by Dorothy Ellen Palmer

It's the summer of 1969, and as mankind takes its giant leap, Jordan May March, disabled bastard and genius, age fourteen, limps and schemes her way towards adulthood. Trapped at the family cottage, she spends her days memorizing Top 30 hits, avoiding her cousins and plotting to save the bullied, buttertart-eating bear caged at the top of March Road. In her diary, reworking the scant facts of her adoption, Jordan imagines a hundred different scenarios for her conception on that night in 1954 when Hurricane Hazel tore Toronto to shreds.



But when bear-baiting cousin Derwood finds the diary, the target of his torture shifts to his adopted cousin. When Fenelon Falls will take you to a time and place that was never as idyllic as it seemed.

Publishers Weekly says it 'deftly captures the unraveling of a young girl's fragile psyche, arriving at a late-book reveal that will send readers running back to page one.' FICTION • 320 PGS • OCT 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 239 4 • \$21.95 CDN \$19.95 US

### The Drifts

# a novel by Thom Vernon

As a blizzard buries the ground, it uncovers the resentments, hopes and aches of a small town in northeastern Arkansas.

Julie finds herself, at forty-six, unexpectedly expectant. She can't stand the thought of being a mother again. Her husband, Charlie, won't talk about it. He's ended his affair with his friend, Wilson, but he's found a new and unusual kind of intimacy – with a calf. Wilson works in the Singer factory and loves Dol, a transsexual and divorced father of two. Their four stories – and voices – converge into one violently exquisite chord, as cold and harrowing as the snow.



The *Globe and Mail* calls it 'poignant, forceful, compelling ... a distinct contribution to CanLit and a great contemporary twist on the Southern Gothic tradition.'

FICTION • 250 PGS • APR 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 228 8 • \$19.95 CDN \$17.95 US

### Isobel and Emile

a novel by Alan Reed

This is the story of Isobel and Emile.

They wake up beside each other one morning and they slowly get out of bed. It is the last time that they will sleep together. They do not want it to be the last time but they know that it is. They get out of bed and they go to a train station. Emile gets onto a train. Isobel does not.

Told in a minimalist voice that is both stark and hypnotic, *Isobel and Emile* is the story of two lovers without each other.

'The novel is stark and simplistic, but in form only. The short sentences are bursting with pain. The repetition of mundane life is heavy with emotion,' says *See Magazine*.



FICTION • 160 PGS • APR 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 227 1 • \$18.95 CDN \$16.95 US

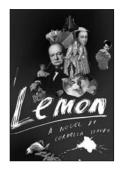
# Lemon

# a novel by Cordelia Strube

SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2010 TRILLIUM BOOK AWARD LONGLISTED FOR THE 2010 SCOTIABANK GILLER PRIZE

The numbers are against Lemon: three mothers, one deadbeat dad, one cancer-riddled protégé, two friends, one tree-hugging stepbrother and a 60 percent average.

So she just can't be bothered trying to fit in. She doesn't care about fashion or television or the mall – she'd rather read Dickens, Tolstoy, the Brontës and even Jane Austen, though she's a wimp. Meanwhile, the adults in her life are all mired in self-centredness, and the other kids are getting high and trying



to outsex one another. High school is misery, a trial run for an unhappy adulthood, and nothing guidance counsellor Blecher can say will convince Lemon otherwise.

'[Strube is] Canada's best best to succeed Alice Munro ... Read *Lemon*. Then leave it lying about for your sullen teen to "discover," instructs the *Toronto Star*.

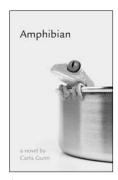
FICTION • 260 PGS • OCT 2009 • ISBN 978 1 55245 220 2 • \$19.95 CDN \$17.95 US

# **Amphibian**

# a novel by Carla Gunn

SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2010 COMMONWEALTH WRITERS' PRIZE FOR BEST FIRST BOOK (CANADA AND CARIBBEAN REGION)
Nine-year-old Phineas William Walsh has an encyclopedic knowledge of the natural world. But what he can't understand is why his grandfather died, or why waste-of-flesh Lyle always picks on him. Or why his parents can't live together.

To make it to-infinity worse, he's worried sick about what humans are doing to the planet, and his mother is worried sick about him. But shouldn't everyone be losing sleep since a quarter of all earth's mammals are on the Red List of



Threatened Species? So, when a White's tree frog ends up in his classroom aquarium, Phin and his best friend, Bird, are spurred to action.

'Phin's voice is irresistible ... enraged yet brimming with love. Gunn's story, cutting despair with healing mirth, is his perfect vehicle,' says the *Globe and Mail*.

FICTION • 216 PGS • APR 2009 • ISBN 978 1 55245 214 1 • \$19.95 CDN \$17.95 US

### **Fences In Breathing**

a novel by Nicole Brossard;

# translated by Susanne de Lotbinière-Harwood

SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2009 WRITERS' TRUST FICTION PRIZE Invited to a quiet Swiss château by the enigmatic Tatiana Beaujeu Lehmann, Anne begins to slowly write a novel in a language that is not hers, a language that makes meaning foreign and keeps her alert to the world and its fiery horizon. Fences in Breathing, first published and critically lauded in French as La capture du sombre, is a disquieting, dexterous and defiant missive, another triumph by one of North America's foremost practitioners of innovative writing.



'[Brossard] writes with a poetic intensity that burns select lines and sometimes entire paragraphs into the reader's mind,' says the *Montreal Gazette*.

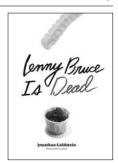
FICTION • 120 PGS • APR 2009 • ISBN 978 1 55245 213 4 • \$18.95 CDN \$16.95 US

### Lenny Bruce Is Dead: The New Edition

a novel by Jonathan Goldstein

'Jonathan Goldstein is one of the funniest and most original writers I can think of. Anything by him is better than anything by just about anyone else,' says David Sedaris.

FICTION • 144 PGS • OCT 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 240 0 \$18.95 CDN (NO US RIGHTS)



### Stunt

a novel by Claudia Dey

ONE OF THE GLOBE AND MAIL'S 100 BEST BOOKS OF 2008 SHORTLISTED FOR THE AMAZON.CA FIRST NOVEL AWARD 'A surrealist coming-of-age novel – a shot of Catcher in the Rye with a One Hundred Years of Solitude chaser ... It's as if poet Anne Carson and satirist Mordecai Richler accidentally collided at a drunken PEN fundraiser to produce a mischievous, magical and observant girl-child,' praises the Toronto Star.

FICTION • 248 PGS • APR 2008 • ISBN 978 1 55245 195 3 \$19.95 CDN \$17.95 US



# Girls Fall Down

a novel by Maggie Helwig
SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2009 TORONTO BOOK AWARD
'All hail Helwig ... Girls Fall Down riffs on themes of terrorism and disease in the city, and the result is soulful, disturbing and exhilarating at the same time,' exclaims NOW Magazine.
FICTION • 300 PGS • APR 2008 • ISBN 978 1 55245 196 0



# All My Friends are Superheroes

a novel by Andrew Kaufman

\$20.95 CDN \$18.95 US

RIGHTS SOLD IN FRANCE, GERMANY, TTALY, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SOUTH KOREA, SPAIN, TURKEY AND THE UK.

'I expect this story will replace boxes of chocolates and flowers in courting rituals to come,' says Sheila Heti.

FICTION • 112 PGS • OCT 2003 • ISBN 978 1 55245 130 4 \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US



### **Twenty Miles**

a novel by Cara Hedley

SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2008 MARGARET LAURENCE AWARD 'Hedley writes like a dream. This kind of language never gets applied to sport ... Twenty Miles scores a literary hat trick,' praises NOW Magazine.

FICTION • 208 PGS • OCT 2007 • ISBN 978 1 55245 186 1 \$19.95 CDN \$16.95 US

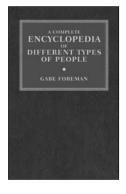


# A Complete Encyclopedia of Different Types of People

# poetry by Gabe Foreman

People who rely on stereotypes are often vilified. But really, is there a better way to classify people? Gabe Foreman's A Complete Encyclopedia of Different Types of People is not your average reference book. It turns a series of sociological case studies into a functional encyclopedia that doubles as a unique, achingly funny, always engaging collection of poems. 'Bridesmaids,' 'Day Traders,' 'Entomologists' and 'Number Crunchers' are all dutifully catalogued in a series of luminously strange, compellingly original lyric and prose poems.

The resulting field guide to our disparate humanity is often absurd, sometimes sad and frequently a mixture of both, as each entry unravels according to its own spidery logic.



POETRY • 96 PGS • APR 2011 • ISBN 978 1 55245 244 8 • \$17.95 CDN \$15.95 US

### Match

# poetry by Helen Guri

Robert Brand has given up on real women. Relationships just haven't ever worked out well for him. He has, however, found a (somewhat problematic) solution, a new feminine ideal: the 110-pound sex doll he ordered over the internet.

Showing an uncanny access to the voice of the rejected, unimpressive, emotionally challenged modern male, Helen Guri's debut explores Robert's transition from lost and lonely to loved, if only by the increasingly acrobatic voices in his mind.

*Match*'s touching, whip-smart poems chart the limits of the mind/body relationship in decidedly virtual times. Does our hero's lovesick, wry, self-searching and often self-annihilating



gaze signal some catastrophic aversion to depth or a feverish (if unsettling) reassertion of the romantic impulse? Can anything good really happen when the object of one's affection is, literally, an object?

POETRY • 88 PGS • APR 2011 • ISBN 978 1 55245 243 1 • \$17.95 CDN \$15.95 US

### The Brave Never Write Poetry

# poetry by Jones

First published in 1985, when Daniel Jones was just twenty-six, *The Brave Never Write Poetry*, the poet/critic/novelist's lone collection of poems, was a cult hit, turning 'poetry' on its head before its author (then known simply as 'Jones') swore off verse entirely. Written in a direct, plainspoken, autobiographical and at times confessional style in the tradition of Charles Bukowski and Al Purdy, these confrontational poems about sex and boredom, drugs and suicide, document Jones's depressive, alcoholic years as an enfant terrible.

'There is much smoking, drinking, eating and vomiting – so much of the last that Jones makes a fair bid to become the poet laureate of puking,' says the *Globe and Mail*.



# The Porcupinity of the Stars

# poetry by Gary Barwin

Poet and musician Gary Barwin both continues and extends the alchemical collision of language, imaginative flight and quiet beauty that have made him unique among contemporary poets. *The Porcupinity of the Stars* sees the always bemused and wistful poet reaching into new and deeper territory, addressing the joys and vagaries of perception in poems touching on family, loss, wonder and the shifting, often perplexing nature of consciousness. His Heisenbergian sensibility honed to a fine edge, the poems in this bright, bold and acutely visual book add a surreptitious intensity and wry maturity to Barwin's trademark gifts for subtle humour, compassion and invention.



The Winnipeg Free Press proclaims, 'This is a collection for both the heart and the head. Highly recommended.'

POETRY • 96 PGS • OCT 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 235 6 • \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US

### Clockfire

# poetry by Jonathan Ball

Jonathan Ball's *Clockfire* is a suite of poetic blueprints for imaginary plays that would be impossible to produce – plays in which, for example, the director burns out the sun, actors murder their audience or the laws of physics are defiled. The poems are predicated on the idea that modern theatre lacks both 'clocks' and 'fire' and thus fails to offer its audiences immediate, violent engagement. Ball's 'plays' break free of the constraints of reality and artistic category to revel in their own dazzling, magnificent horror.



'Darkly comic, mysterious, horrifying, shocking and so postmodernly provocative you can't read them quick enough. The limits of Ball's imagination are unimaginable,' pronounces the *Telegraph Journal*.

POETRY • 104 PGS • OCT 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 236 3 • \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US

# **Indexical Elegies**

# poetry by Jon Paul Fiorentino

Set in his two home cities of Winnipeg and Montreal, Jon Paul Fiorentino's *Indexical Elegies* archives losses of people, places and past lives. The title sequence is a moving elegy for his friend and mentor, the late Robert Allen. Fiorentino spins philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce's notion of the index out in intriguing lexical threads, breaking down and rebuilding elegy and language, parsing how the beloved and newly lost can in some ways feel more present in their absence.

Fig. Transmitting, Jon Phail.

Fig. 1. Internal, Examples
1250.

Fig. 2. Treated, Out. Occurs House
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From 1. Treated out.

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'[Fiorentino's] combination of feeling and thought gives this book remarkable power,' says the *Montreal Review of Books*.

POETRY • 80 PGS • OCT 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 234 9 • \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US

# **Neighbour Procedure**

# poetry by Rachel Zolf

Rachel Zolf's powerful follow-up to the Trillium Award—winning *Human Resources* is a virtuoso polyvocal correspondence with the daily news, ancient scripture and contemporary theory that puts the ongoing conflict in Israel/Palestine firmly in the crosshairs. Plucked from a minefield of competing knowledges, media and public texts, *Neighbour Procedure* sees Zolf assemble an arsenal of poetic procedures and words borrowed from a cast of unlikely neighbours, including Mark Twain, Dadaist Marcel Janco, blogger-poet Ron Silliman and two women at the gym. The result is a dynamic constellation where humour and horror sit poised at the threshold of ethics and politics.



'This is courageous and moving work that feels like the struggle of a lifetime condensed into potent lines.' – Judith Butler

POETRY • 96 PGS • APRIL 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 229 5 • \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US

# The Inquisition Yours

# poetry by Jen Currin

SHORTLISTED FOR THE DOROTHY LIVESAY PRIZE,

A LAMBDA LITERARY AWARD AND THE AUDRE LORDE AWARD In her ambitious follow-up to *Hagiography*, Jen Currin continues her unique exploration of the surrealist lyric. In voices alternately vulnerable, defiant, resigned and hopeful, *The Inquisition Yours* speaks to the atrocities of our time – war, environmental destruction, erosion of personal rights – fashioning a tenuous bridge between the political and the personal. Trying to make sense of a world where even language is 'a dan-



ger,' Currin's poems reject the dominant storylines in favour of a vigilant awareness.

\*Prairie Fire Review of Books says, 'It leaves us dazed and amazed at the jumble of words

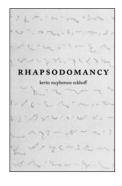
upon the page that fall together like confetti in a celebratory parade of language.'
POETRY • 112 PGS • APRIL 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 230 1 • \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US

# Rhapsodomancy

# poetry by kevin mcpherson eckhoff

Reading is slow, and writing slower. Words are so old-fashioned. Sir Isaac Pitman thought so, even in 1837, which is why he devised Shorthand. In the 1950s, John Malone went one further with Unifon, a forty-character phonetic alphabet.

In *Rhapsodomancy*, kevin mcpherson eckhoff uses these two largely forgotten phonic alphabets as image, teasing out the relationship between voice and words and visual poetry. Can pictures represent voice? Can unutterable writing express thought? *Rhapsodomancy* answers such questions via empty suits reciting onomatopoeia, unreal alphabets and phonemes scattered to foretell the future.



'I showed this to a friend and he said "Gorgeous!" I alternated between "Cool!" and "What the hell?" We both looked at it as a source for tattoo ideas.' – Broken Pencil POETRY • 88 PGS • APRIL 2010 • ISBN 978 1 55245 231 8 • \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US

# Lisa Robertson's Magenta Soul Whip

poetry by Lisa Robertson

ONE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES 100 NOTABLE BOOKS OF 2010 Longlisted for the warwick prize for writing

'Few poets are as precise, sharp, profound ... open and suggestive rather than preachy or didactic, modest but also far-reaching and unreserved,' states *Rain Taxi*.

POETRY • 104 PGS • MARCH 2009 • ISBN 978 1 55245 215 8 \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US



### Crabwise to the Hounds

poetry by Jeramy Dodds

SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2009 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE
WINNER OF THE 2009 TRILLIUM PRIZE FOR POETRY

'Crabwise to the Hounds is akin to having your room lit up by sheet lightning,' raves the Toronto Star. 'What a sensational show it is.'

POETRY • 80 PGS • OCT 2008 • ISBN 978 1 55245 205 9 \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US



# **Eunoia: The Upgraded Edition**

poetry by Christian Bök

WINNER OF THE 2002 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

'Bök's dazzling word games are the literary sensation of the year,' announces *The Times* (U.K.). While *Publishers Weekly* raves, 'Jawdroppingly powerful, a mythology of sound.'

POETRY • 120 PGS • SEPT 2009 • ISBN 978 1 55245 225 7 \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US



### **Expressway**

poetry by Sina Queyras

SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2009 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD AND THE PAT LOWTHER AWARD

'Expressway is a cry of outrage, one that is cunning and savvy ... Queyras conveys righteous anger with flair,' praises Quill & Quire.

POETRY • 104 PGS • MARCH 2009 • ISBN 978 1 55245 216 5

\$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US



# The Certainty Dream

poetry by Kate Hall

WINNER OF THE A. M. KLEIN POETRY PRIZE SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2010 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE AND THE GERALD LAMPERT AWARD

'Her means include lots of philosophers' names and sparkly bits of their thought, but these are not decoratively invoked, they are woven into the sense that she makes and the mood in which she makes it,' marvelled the Griffin jury.

POETRY • 96 PGS • OCTOBER 2009 • ISBN 978 1 55245 223 3 \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US



# **Minor Complications**

# two plays by Brendan Gall

In a world where hilarity and heartbreak are next-door neighbours, minor complications inevitably arise. In this first collection of plays by Brendan Gall, including *Wide Awake Hearts* and *A Quiet Place*, these *Minor Complications* become groundbreakingly major. Hannah Moscovitch says, 'Brendan Gall deals with the complicated relationship between fiction and truth and, as always, he offers up razor-sharp insights.'



DRAMA • 152 PAGES • NOV 2010 • ISBN 1 55245 237 0 • \$18.95 CDN \$16.95 US

# Eternal Hydra

# a play by Anton Piatigorsky

When a young scholar finds *Eternal Hydra*, a long-lost, legendary and encyclopedic novel by an obscure Irish writer, she brings the manuscript to an esteemed publisher. But Vivian's obsession with the dead author, who has materialized in her life, is challenged by the work of a contemporary historical novelist, and she's forced to face confounding questions about authorship, racism and ethical behaviour. Weaving between contemporary New York, 1930s Paris



and New Orleans in the years following the Civil War, *Eternal Hydra* is a postmodern look at the making of a modernist masterpiece.

DRAMA • 112 PGS • MAY 2009 • ISBN 978 1 55245 201 1 • \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US

# [boxhead]

# a play by Darren O'Donnell

Dr. Thoughtless Actions, a young geneticist, awakes one morning to find a cardboard box secured to his head. Unable to wrench it off, he attempts suicide, inadvertently cloning himself, creating Dr. Wishful Thinking. The two losers fall madly in love, fall in science and fail to make a baby. Through a series of rapid exchanges, verbal games and musical numbers, they discover that all their thoughts come from God, all their words come from



the devil and their desire for love is a habit acquired from the cinema.

DRAMA • 96 PGS • OCT 2008 • ISBN 978 1 55245 210 3 • \$16.95 CDN \$14.95 US

# Age of Arousal

# a play by Linda Griffiths

It's a time of passion and confusion. Virtue is barely holding down its petticoats. The year is 1885, and the typewriter and the suffrage movement are sending things topsy-turvy. Miss Mary Barfoot runs a school for secretaries with her young lover, Miss Rhoda Nunn. But when the Misses Madden – spinsters Virginia and Alice and beautiful young Monica – arrive, along with the attractive Dr. Everard Barfoot, things can never be the same. *Age of Arousal* is a



lavish, sexy, frenetic ensemble piece about the forbidden and gloriously liberated self – genre-busting, rule-bending and ambitiously original.

DRAMA • 176 PGS • NOV 2007 • ISBN 978 1 55245 190 8 • \$17.95 CDN \$13.95 US

# My Winnipeg

# by Guy Maddin

SHORTLISTED FOR THE CAROL SHIELDS WINNIPEG BOOK AWARD The Winnipeg of filmmaker Guy Maddin is not the Winnipeg you'll find in tourist brochures. When the iconoclastic auteur of *The Saddest Music in the World* and *Brand upon the Brain!* decided to tackle the subject of his hometown, it could only have become a 'docufantasia,' a melange of personal history, civic tragedy and mystical hypothesizing.

The book companion invites readers to venture deeper into the mind of Maddin with the text of his narration, wantonly



annotated with an avalanche of marginal digressions, stills, outtakes, family photos, emails, essays, deoculations, animations, notebook pages and collages. There's even an X-ray of Spanky the pug and an in-depth interview with Michael Ondaatje.

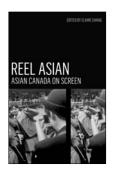
FILM • 192 PGS • APRIL 2009 • ISBN 978 1 55245 211 0 • \$27.95 CDN / US

### Reel Asian: Asian Canada on Screen

# edited by Elaine Chang

From artist-run centres, theories of hyphenation, distribution networks and gay and lesbian cinema to F-words, new media technologies and sweet-'n'-sour controversies, *Reel Asian: Asian Canada on Screen* presents a multi-faceted picture of independent Asian film in Canada.

Reel Asian brings together creators of award-winning features and acclaimed experimental shorts; critics, curators, artists and activists; enemy aliens, impersonators, ex-pats and 'Food Jammers' to explore how history and culture have played out onscreen. Whether calling geopolitical and generic categories



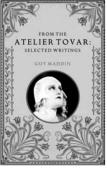
into question or finding new ways of unleashing the magic of the cinematic image, the anthology showcases the ways in which Asian Canadians are making their distinctive mark on screens in Canada and beyond.

FILM STUDIES • 352 PGS • NOV 2007 • ISBN 978 1 55245 192 2 • \$29.95 CDN \$24.95 US

### From the Atelier Tovar

# by Guy Maddin

Guy Maddin, one of Canada's most celebrated and original filmmakers, is just as gifted a writer, and his resolutely purple prose, as eccentric and enchanting as his film work, is a true delight. From the Atelier Tovar gathers, in one volume, the best of Maddin's writing: his journalism (originally published in the Village Voice, Cinema Scope, Film Comment and points beyond), unpublished short stories and film treatments (including the riotous Child Without Qualities), and selections, both lurid and illuminating, from the filmmaker's personal journals. Here are Maddin's feverish musings on hockey, the Osmonds, divas of



the Italian silent cinema, Bollywood, his own twisted biography and much, much more. What emerges finally is both a fragrant potpourri and a treasure trove, a singular portrait of this very unique artist.

FILM STUDIES • 200 PGS • SEPT 2003 • ISBN 978 1 55245 131 1 • \$24.95 CDN \$19.95 US

# TITLES IN PRINT

Fiction				CDN	us
	All My Friends Are Superheroes	Andrew Kaufman	2003	\$16.95	\$14.95
978 1 55245 214 1	Amphibian Animal Sciences, The	Carla Gunn Ron Hotz	2009 2003	\$19.95 \$18.95	\$17.95 \$15.95
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978 1 55245 213 4 9781 55245 196 0	Fences in Breathing	Nicole Brossard Maggie Helwig	2009 2008	\$18.95 \$20.95	\$16.95 \$18.95
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978 1 55245 186 1	Twenty Miles	Cara Hedley	2007	\$19.95	\$16.95
	When Fenelon Falls	Dorothy Palmer	2010	\$21.95	\$19.95
978 1 55245 129 8 978 1 896356 25 9	Winter Gardeners, The Wish Book	Dennis Denisoff Derek McCormack	2003 2006	\$19.95 \$15.95	\$16.95
	Yesterday, at the Hotel Clarendon (нс)	Nicole Brossard	2005	\$27.95	\$22.95
	Yesterday, at the Hotel Clarendon (PB)	Nicole Brossard	2006	\$19.95	\$14.95
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YA Fiction					
	Mitochondrial Curiosities of	Jocelyn Brown	2009	\$13.95	\$13.95
<b>.</b>					
Poetry	Alphabet Game: A bpNichol Reader	bpNichol	2007	\$21.95	\$18.95
	American Standard/Canada Dry	Stephen Cain	2007 2005	\$21.95 \$15.95	\$10.95 \$12.95
	Articles of Faith	Douglas Clark	1990	\$19.95	\$19.95
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978 1 55245 022 2 978 1 55245 079 6		Clint Burnham Shaw, Strang	2001 2001	\$16.95 \$17.95	\$16.95 \$16.95
	Candy From Strangers	Diana Hartog	1986	\$17.95 \$12.95	\$10.95
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978 1 55245 236 3		Jonathan Ball	2010	\$16.95	\$14.95
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978 1 55245 027 7			1998	\$22.95	\$22.95
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