

# Coach House Books



Spring 2014

# Not Baaaaad: Ewe'll love these new books from Coach House!

Open up the barn doors, friends. We're here to shepherd in our new season of books!

This spring, we've got some b-ewe-tiful books in store (or silo). You'll so be udderly impressed with this new crop of authors and books, you're likely to ram them right onto your bookshelves. CanLit gem André Alexis has a new novel with plenty of agricultural content: *Pastoral*. Harry Karlinsky's fact-meets-fiction *The Stonehenge Letters* promises to pull the wool from your eyes on this mysterious phenomenon. And Élise Turcotte's *Guyana*, translated by Rhonda Mullins, is definitely no lamb dressed up as mutton. As if that's not enough, ruminant on this: artist Margaux Williamson will publish a ton of her paintings (three bags full!), writings and more in the much-anticipated *I Could See Everything*.

Then graze through some of our poetry stock: we're publishing *MxT* from the Lemon Hound herself, Sina Queyras; Jen Currin's new collection, *School*; and a debut collection from the talented Brecken Hancock, *Broom Broom*. Sean Dixon will also publish a blue-ribbon play if ever there was one, *A God in Need of Help*. And with most of these titles with a retail price of \$17.95, you can be sure Coach House isn't out to fleece you!

So flock to your local bookstore and revel in the shear elegance of our Spring 2014 titles.

## COACH HOUSE BOOKS

Publisher: Stan Bevington  
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Publishing Assistant: Heidi Waechtler  
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Cover illustration: *A Lady Sheep*, by Lindee Climo, courtesy of the artist and the Mira Godard Gallery.  
From the collection of the Dufferin County Museum and Archives, as photographed by Pete Paterson.

# I Could See Everything

## The Paintings of Margaux Williamson

### by Margaux Williamson

Margaux Williamson is a painter, filmmaker and social artist, creator of the conceptual movie review blog *Movie is My Favourite Word* and co-author of the cultural criticism website *Back to the World*. In this, her first book, she conceives of a gallery that never existed, called The Road at the Top of the World Museum, and populates it with her most recent work.

This book is a catalogue for an art show that never was, filled with her most accomplished paintings yet, along with essays by Chris Kraus, Leanne Shapton, David Balzer, Mark Greif and the museum's curator, Ann Marie Peña.

From the artist the *Toronto Star* called 'one of the best artists of her generation,' and whose 2010 film *Teenager Hamlet* was praised by the likes of James Franco and Shakespeare scholar Stephen Greenblatt, comes a breakthrough work for a world where the image of a painting on one's screen is as real as the painting hanging in a gallery. *I Could See Everything* transcends the boundary between the authentic and the imaginary, and collapses the distinction between art show, museum catalogue and document of something astonishing that also never was.

'Like all my favourite art, these paintings bring out that covetous feeling – I want to wear them, dance to them, show them off as an example of how life feels to me: dirty, dumb, terrifying, spiritual and so funny.' – Miranda July

'In a time of ironic detachment, Margaux Williamson is a painter of extreme candor, but the violence of her vision is cut with wonder and love ... Seeing as she sees feels like waking up.'

– Ben Lerner (author of *Leaving the Atocha Station*)



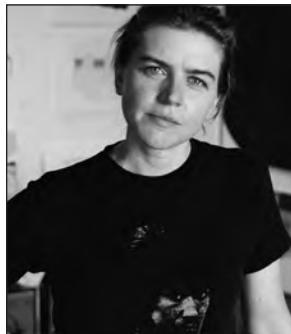
ISBN 978 1 55245 293 6  
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80 COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS  
\$29.95 CDN/US

8 X 10 PB, 160 PAGES

ART

ART016010 | ART016020 | ART016000

MARCH 2014



**Margaux Williamson** has had solo painting exhibitions in Toronto, Los Angeles and New York, and her work has been covered by the *New York Times*, *L.A. Times*, *The Paris Review* and *Bomb*. Her first movie, *Teenager Hamlet*, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. Williamson has been the artist-in-residence at the Art Gallery of Ontario and in the Yukon Territory. She lives in Toronto, where she collaborates with the band Tomboyfriend, the lecture series Trampoline Hall and the writer Sheila Heti on various art projects.



# Pastoral

a novel by André Alexis



ISBN 978 1 55245 286 8  
EISBN 978 1 77056 371 1  
\$17.95 CDN/US  
5 X 8 PB, 160 PAGES  
FICTION  
FIC019000 | FIC039000 | FIC000000  
MARCH 2014

*There were plans for an official welcome. It was to take place the following Sunday. But those who came to the rectory on Father Pennant's second day were the ones who could not resist seeing him sooner. Here was the man to whom they would confess the darkest things. It was important to feel him out. Mrs. Young, for instance, after she had watched him eat a piece of her macaroni pie, quietly asked what he thought of adultery.*

André Alexis brings a modern sensibility and a new liveliness to an age-old genre, the pastoral.

For his very first parish, Father Christopher Pennant is sent to the sleepy town of Barrow. With more sheep than people, it is sleepily bucolic – too much Barrow Brew on Barrow Day is the rowdiest it gets. But things aren't so idyllic for Liz Denny, whose fiancé doesn't want to choose between Liz and his more worldly lover Jane, or for Father Pennant himself, whose faith is profoundly shaken by the miracles he witnesses – a mayor walking on water, intelligent gypsy moths and a talking sheep.

Praise for André Alexis's previous books:

'Astonishing . . . an irresistible, one-of-a-kind work.'  
– *Quill & Quire* (on *Childhood*)

'Alexis [has an] astute understanding of the madly shimmering, beautifully weaving patterns created by what we have agreed to call memory.' – *Ottawa Citizen* (on *Childhood*)

André Alexis was born in Trinidad and grew up in Canada. His debut novel, *Childhood*, won the *Books in Canada* First Novel Award, the Trillium Book Award, and was shortlisted for the Giller Prize and the Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. His previous books include *Asylum*, *Beauty and Sadness* and *Ingrid and the Wolf*.



# The Stonehenge Letters

a novel by Harry Karlinsky

While digging through the Nobel Archives in Stockholm, trying to figure out why his hero, Sigmund Freud, never received a Nobel Prize, a psychiatrist makes an unusual discovery. Among the unsolicited self-nominations in the museum's 'Crackpot' file, there are six letters addressed to Mr. Ragnar Sohlman, executor of Alfred Nobel's will. Remarkably, all but one is crafted by a different Nobel laureate – including Rudyard Kipling, Ivan Pavlov, Teddy Roosevelt and Marie Curie – and each is an explanation of why and how Stonehenge was constructed. Diligent research eventually uncovers that Alfred Nobel, intrigued by a young woman's obsession with the mysterious landmark, added a secret codicil to his will: 'a prize – reserved exclusively for Nobel laureates – was to be awarded to the person who solves the mystery of Stonehenge.'

But is this fact or is this fiction? Weaving together a wealth of primary documents – photos, letters, wills – *The Stonehenge Letters* acts as a wryly documented archive of a fascinating secret competition, complete with strange but illuminating submissions and a contentious prize-awarding process.

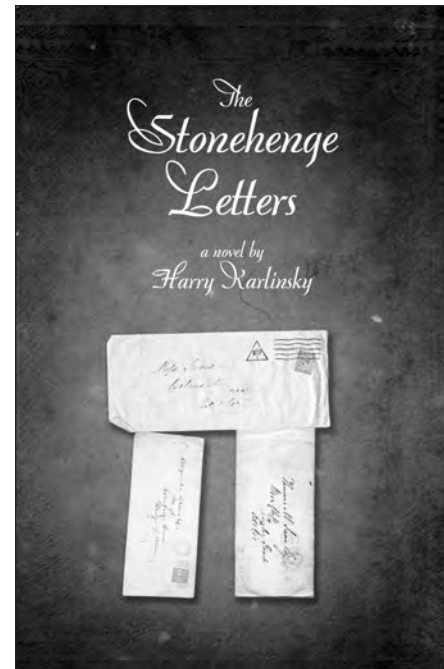
Praise for Harry Karlinsky's previous book:

'Just when you think there's nothing new to be done with the novel, along comes a book that pushes the form in a fresh direction.' – John Harding, author of *Florence and Giles*

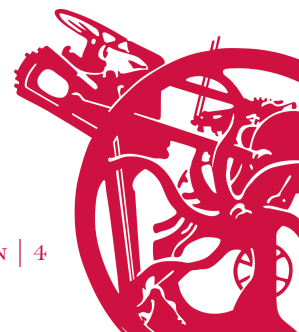
'[Karlinsky] weaves together the actual and the imaginary with consummate skill. Knowing that it is a fiction makes me want it even more to be true.'

– *The Scotsman* (on *The Evolution of Inanimate Objects*)

**Harry Karlinsky** is a clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of British Columbia. His first novel, *The Evolution of Inanimate Objects* (HarperCollins U.K.), was longlisted for the Wellcome Trust Book Prize.

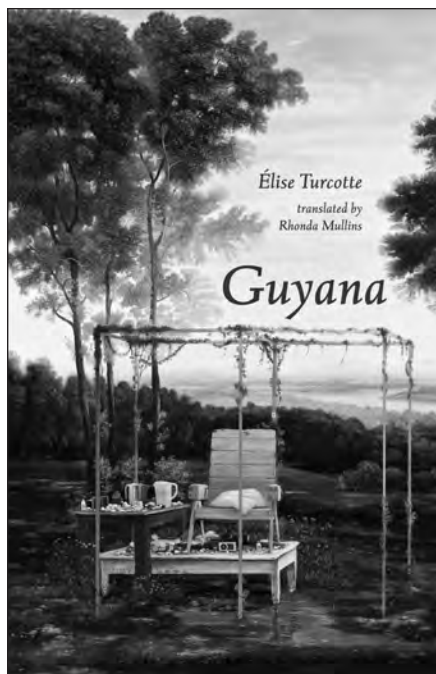


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43 B&W PHOTOGRAPHS  
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FICTION  
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APRIL 2014



# Guyana

a novel by **Élise Turcotte**  
translated from the French by **Rhonda Mullins**



ISBN 978 1 55245 292 9  
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\$17.95 CDN/US  
5 X 8 PB, 176 PAGES  
FICTION  
FIC019000 | FIC000000  
MAY 2014

*All sorts of things can happen, no matter what road you take, and I never forget that. Death in particular can never be forgotten. Since Rudi's death, I have tried to anticipate and dodge obstacles like an Olympic skier. My agile imagination glides between the little red flags with ease. Philippe's imagination is both infinite and inflexible. It's a dangerous combination. He stays planted on the ground while looking down over reality. Between us, we do a good job of filling the realm of the possible.*

*I figured I shouldn't tell him the news: your hairdresser hanged herself in her salon.*

Ana and her son, Philippe, are grieving the loss of Philippe's father when Philippe's hairstylist, Kimi, dies in an apparent suicide. Driven by a force she doesn't understand, Ana starts digging into Kimi's past in Guyana in 1978, which leads to nested tales of north and south, past and present, and to the Jonestown Massacre. A stunning translation of a masterpiece by one of Quebec's most important novelists.

Praise for *Guyana*:

'*Guyana* reads like a poetic mystery novel, from its claustrophobic beginning and building to the finale, which is frankly so astonishing that I don't dare give anything away.' – *La Presse*

**Élise Turcotte** is a novelist and award-winning poet who has twice received the *Prix Émile-Nelligan*. Her novel *The Alien House* was winner of the 2003 Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction (French). *Guyana* won the Grand Prix du livre de Montréal. Turcotte lives in Montreal, where she teaches at the CEGEP de Vieux-Montreal.

**Rhonda Mullins** translated Jocelyne Saucier's *Jeanne's Road* and *And the Birds Rained Down*, for which she was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for Translation, her second such nomination.



# MxT

poetry by Sina Queyras

*All the gods know is destinations. I have raised  
A glass, my eye, your hook. Let's face it, the world  
Is a shrinking place and hungry: too much grief  
To feed. I float away from you on hard*

*Covers. I step out on the stacked hours. Words  
If they were soil how I would throw them back into the  
Compost pile and wait for spring. Those 'this is how  
It is,' speeches appear and later diamonds soft as bullets.*

*I went to the library looking to scaffold my thoughts.  
Sure, now you say Lucretius. Intelligence is so often  
Hindsight. Outside Holly Golightly's townhouse  
There are taxis. The end of me, or you, is of no concern.*

*Frederick Seidel anoints me with the head of his penis.  
It is soft as a chamois and spreads like egg across my scalp.*

*MxT*, or 'Memory x Time,' is one of the formulas acclaimed poet Sina Queyras posits as a way to measure grief. These poems mourn the dead by turning memories over and over like an old coin, by invoking other poets, by appropriating the language of technology, of instruction, of diagram, of electrical engineering, and of elegy itself. Devastating, cheeky, allusive, hallucinatory: this is Queyras at her most powerful.

Praise for Sina Queyras's previous books:

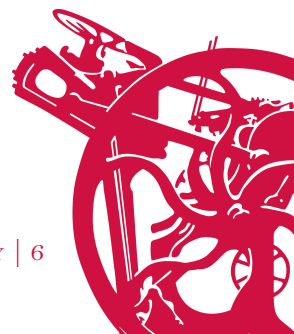
'Sina Queyras is a poet to read and reckon with.'  
— *Lambda Literary Review* (on *Expressway*)



Sina Queyras is the author of the Lambda Award-winning *Lemon Hound*, *Expressway* (shortlisted for the Governor General's Award), and the novel *Autobiography of Childhood* (shortlisted for the Amazon First Novel Award). She often writes for the Poetry Foundation and runs the online journal *Lemon Hound* ([Lemonhound.com](http://Lemonhound.com)).



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5 X 8 PB, 96 PAGES  
POETRY  
POE011000 | POE023010 | POE000000  
MARCH 2014



# Broom Broom

poetry by Brecken Hancock



*Come dream, snow,  
Bear in the cavern,  
Rat in the cistern.  
Every little chit in its hole.*

*Make us kid-glove clean again,  
Intestines fresh from the fast.  
Lay out your skin to swaddle feet,  
Snow Madonnas maquillaged in ash.*

Nothing slips by Brecken Hancock's deft ear as she seductively plumbs the depths of the evolution of bathing, doppelgängers, the Kraken and the minutiae of family with all its tragic misgivings. The poems in *Broom Broom* pervert the rational, safe parts of the world to extoll and absorb the sweep of human history.

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5.5 X 8.5 PB, 80 PAGES

POETRY

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MARCH 2014

Brecken Hancock's poetry, essays, interviews and reviews have appeared in *Event*, *CV2*, *Grain*, *The Fiddlehead* and *Studies in Canadian Literature*. She is Reviews Editor for *Arc Poetry Magazine* and Interviews Editor for the Canadian Women in the Literary Arts website. She lives in Ottawa.





# School poetry by Jen Currin

*It's disrespectful to expect too little of us.*

*To shield us from new experiences.*

*Someone had to smash the glass & pick the ripe apples.*

*We see a couch with a 'free' – not a 'broken' – sign, & sit down.*

*A music is beginning, just under my ribs.*

*My friend thinks she can face the sound.*

*With the blackberries before us.*

At times a call to action and at others an intimate conversation between friends, Jen Currin's sensual and surreal poems speak to the political upheavals and environmental catastrophes of our time. *School* is an instruction manual for igniting transformation through a collective effort of love and community.

Praise for Jen Currin's previous books:

'Her poetry is a subversion of the dominant paradigms in this country . . . one ride that will leave you gripping both sides of the canoe.' – *Lambda Literary Review* (on *The Inquisition Yours*)



ISBN 978 1 55245 289 9

ISBN 978 1 77056 377 3

\$17.95 CDN/US

5.5 x 8.5 PB, 120 PAGES

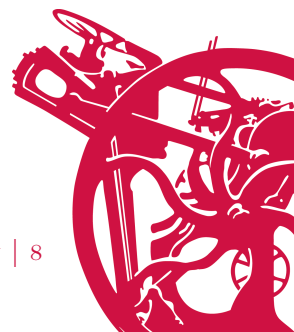
POETRY

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MARCH 2014



**Jen Currin** has published three previous collections of poetry, *The Sleep of Four Cities* (Anvil Press, 2005), *Hagiography* (Coach House, 2008) and *The Inquisition Yours* (Coach House, 2010), which was a finalist for the Relit Award, the Dorothy Livesay Award and a Lambda, and won the 2011 Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry. She currently lives in Vancouver, where she teaches creative writing at Kwantlen University and English at Vancouver Community College.



# A God in Need of Help

a play by Sean Dixon



ISBN 978 1 55245 291 2  
EISBN 978 1 77056 381 0  
\$17.95 CDN/US  
5 x 8 PB, 160 PAGES  
DRAMA  
DRA013000 | DRA000000  
MAY 2014

It's 1606 and Europe is at war over God. Venice's four strongest men are charged with transporting a holy painting across the Alps to Prague. On their way, they are set upon by Protestant zealots – their escape is attributed to a miracle. Through this mystery, Sean Dixon challenges the role of faith at the dawn of the Age of Reason.

Also included is Dixon's short play *The Painting*, first performed as part of Toronto's Summerworks Festival. A woman steals a painting of St. Sebastian from a museum and brings it home to her husband, bringing about the relationship's demise. Her inexplicable attraction to the painting's subject leads her to a man who is cursed with a permanent erection. *The Painting* turns its gaze on the space between desire and shame.

Praise for Sean Dixon's previous works:

'*Aerwacol* is a masterpiece of the commonplace, the desperate and the impossible ... It probably doesn't matter that I can't explain the end of Dixon's script ... yet, it's both reasonable and astonishing.' – *Talkin Broadway* (on *Aerwacol*)

'One of Dixon's great strengths is his ability to tease out evocative characters from the streets and alleys. He is able to pump up fleeting players until they float like balloons through the streetscape.' – *National Post* (on *The Many Revenges of Kip Flynn*)

Sean Dixon is a playwright, novelist and actor. He co-founded the influential Winnipeg theatre collective PRIMUS, providing the narratives for their performances *Dog Day*, *Alkoremme* and *The Night Room*. Three of his plays were collected in *AWOL: Three Plays for Theatre SKAM* (2002). Sean's first novel, *The Girls Who Saw Everything*, was named one of the Best Books of 2007 by *Quill & Quire*. With his second novel, *The Many Revenges of Kip Flynn* (2011), he has been called 'the true inheritor of [Gwendolyn] MacEwen's mythopoeic legacy.' He is also the author of two books for young readers, *The Feathered Cloak* and *The Winter Drey*. He lives in Toronto with his wife, documentary filmmaker Katerina Cizek.



# Selected Backlist Exploded Views

Exploded Views is a series of probing, provocative essays that offer surprising perspectives on the most intriguing cultural issues and figures of our day. Longer than a typical magazine article but shorter than a full-length book, these are punchy salvos written by some of North America's most lyrical journalists and critics. Spanning a variety of forms and genres – history, biography, polemic, commentary – and published simultaneously in all digital formats and handsome, collectable print editions, this is literary reportage that at once investigates, illuminates and intervenes.

Exploded Views is curated and edited by Toronto-based editor and writer Jason McBride. McBride is a regular contributor to *Hazlitt*, *Toronto Life*, *Maclean's*, the *Globe and Mail* and *Cinema Scope*, among other publications. He is a co-founding editor of the *uTOpia* series at Coach House Books.

Praise for Exploded Views titles:

'Heer's detailed biography fills a glaring omission in histories of graphic narrative ... This lively portrait of an editor and publisher par excellence will enlighten researchers, cartooning cognoscentia and casual fans. Essential for serious art, graphic novels, and women's studies collections.'

– *Library Journal* (on *In Love with Art*)

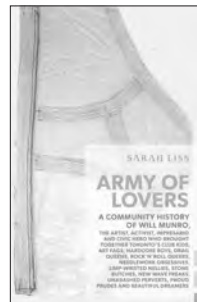
'*Army of Lovers* is so fascinating it's already earned a place on the mandatory reading lists of high school and university queer-studies courses, in my opinion. Its pages should be torn out of the book and wheatpasted on every weirdo kid's locker in every high school in every suburban hellhole.'

– *Xtra!* (on *Army of Lovers*)



## In Love with Art: Françoise Mouly's Adventures in Comics with Art Spiegelman

by Jeet Heer  
136 PGS • SEPT 2013  
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\$12.95 CDN | US



## Army of Lovers: A Community History of Will Munro ...

by Sarah Liss  
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\$12.95 CDN | US



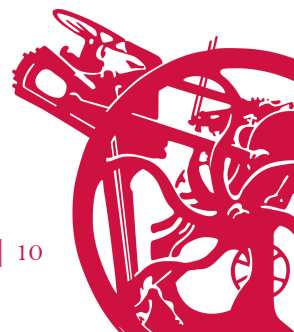
## Gods of the Hammer: The Teenage Head Story

by Geoff Pevere  
140 PGS • FEB 2014  
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\$12.95 CDN | US



## The Trouble with Brunch: Class, Fashion and the Pursuit of Leisure

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120 PGS • FEB 2014  
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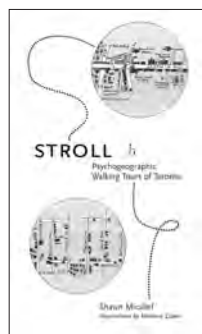
## Nonfiction & Drama



**Some Great Idea:**  
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**Crazy Politics and the**  
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 shortlisted for the Ontario Speaker's  
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 176 PGS • JAN 2013  
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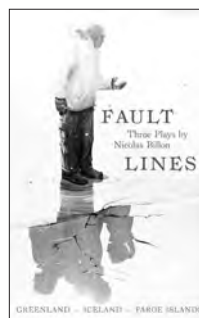
**Full Frontal T.O.:**  
**Exploring Toronto's**  
**Architectural Vernacular**  
 photos by Patrick Cummins  
 text by Shawn Micallef  
 winner of the 2013 Heritage  
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 156 PGS • MAY 2012  
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 illustrations by Marlena Zuber  
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 and Ratna Omidvar  
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**Fault Lines: Greenland –**  
**Iceland – Faroe Islands**  
 three plays by Nicolas Billon  
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 96 PGS • MAR 2013  
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**The Shimmering Beast**  
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**Drama: Pilot Episode**  
 a play by Karen Hines  
 shortlisted for the Governor  
 General's Award for Drama  
 112 PGS • FEB 2012  
 ISBN 978 1 55245 256 1  
 EISBN 978 1 77056 309 4  
 \$17.95 CDN | \$15.95 US



**My Winnipeg**  
 by Guy Maddin  
 shortlisted for the Carol Shields  
 Winnipeg Book Award  
 192 PGS • APRIL 2009  
 ISBN 978 1 55245 211 0  
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# Selected Backlist Fiction

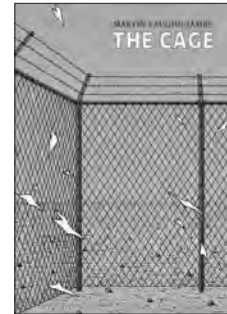
## The City Still Breathing

a novel by Matthew Heiti  
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EISBN 978 1 77056 355 1  
\$18.95 CDN | \$16.95 US



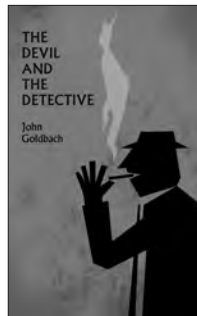
## The Cage

a graphic novel  
by Martin Vaughn-James  
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\$24.95 CDN | \$22.95 US



## The Devil and the Detective

a novel by John Goldbach  
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EISBN 978 1 77056 335 3  
\$18.95 CDN | \$16.95 US



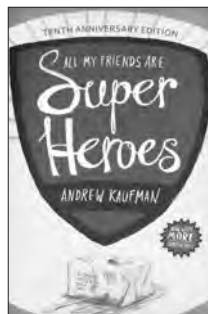
## Little Cat

two novels by Tamara Faith Berger  
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short fiction by Spencer Gordon  
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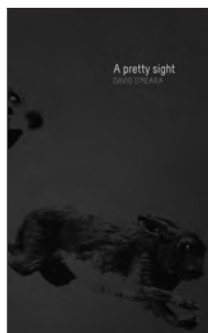


## And the Birds Rained Down

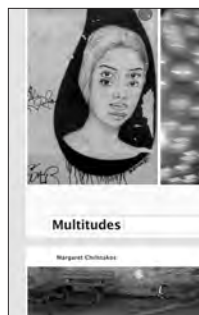
a novel by Jocelyne Saucier  
translated by Rhonda Mullins  
**finalist for the Governor  
General's Award for Translation**  
160 PGS • OCT 2012  
ISBN 978 1 55245 268 4  
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# Selected Backlist Poetry



**A Pretty Sight**  
poetry by David O'Meara  
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EISBN 978 1 77056 361 2  
\$17.95 CDN | \$15.95 US



**Needs Improvement**  
poetry by Jon Paul Fiorentino  
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**Decomp**  
poetry by Stephen Collis  
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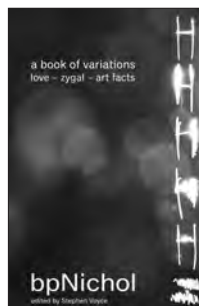
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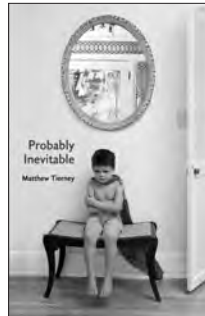


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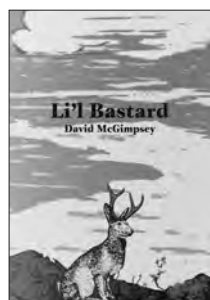
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