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Catalogue 2023

Book*^{hug}
Press

BOOK*HUG PRESS

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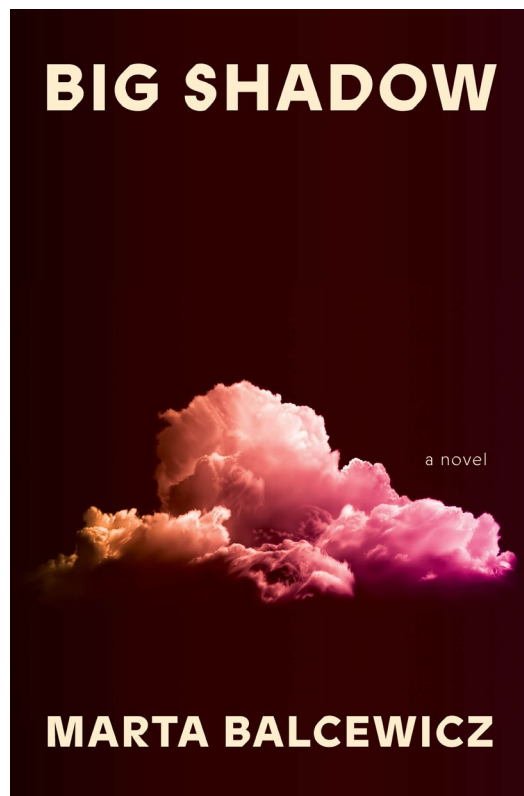
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Big Shadow | Marta Balcewicz



Release date: May 16, 2023

Literary Fiction | Coming of Age Fiction

5.25 x 8 inches | 300 pages

Trade paperback | ISBN 9781771668316

CDN \$23 | US \$20

Author hometown: Toronto, ON

In an unnamed town in the summer of 1998, Judy is an isolated and inexperienced teenager on the cusp of adulthood struggling to craft an identity for herself—especially as the artist she wants to be.

There is little help around her. Her only friends are increasingly obsessed with a cultish belief in a coming “Big Shadow.” Her mother is afraid of life and finds solace in TV shows. At her lowest point, Judy meets Maurice Blunt, a visiting summer poetry class professor who is a “has-been” fixture of the 1970s NYC punk music scene. Judy believes Maurice—a man more than twice her age desperately seeking lost adoration—is the ticket out of her current life. Soon, she begins taking secret weekend trips to visit him.

Judy’s visits to his apartment in New York bring hopes of belonging to the city’s cultural world and making a living as a video artist. With each trip and frustrated promise, however, she feels the creeping realization that there is a price to pay for her golden ticket entry into this insular and moribund scene. Judy must navigate the shifting power dynamics with her aging gatekeeper and the possibility of building an early adult identity alone.

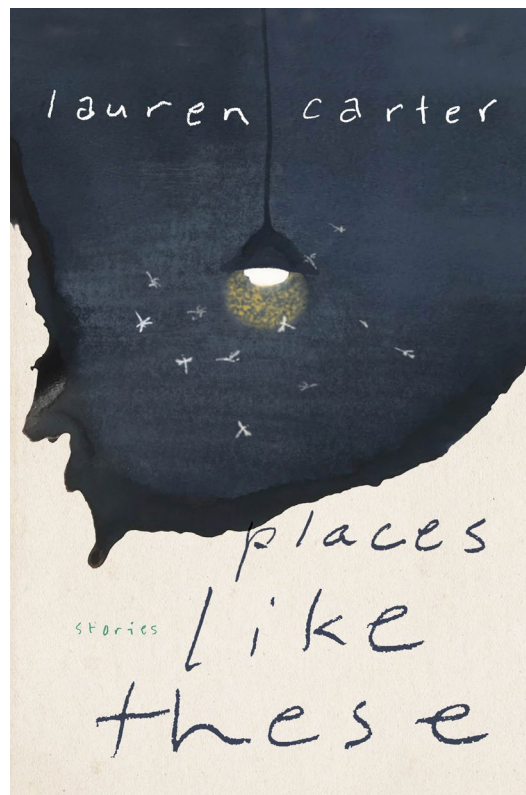
An affecting novel of psychological nuance and dark humour, *Big Shadow* explores the costs of self-deceit, fandom, and tenuous ambitions, exposing the lies we’ll tell ourselves and the promises we’ll make to edge closer to what we want... or what we think we want.



PHOTO: ANGELA LEWIS

Marta Balcewicz’s fiction has appeared in publications such as *Catapult*, *Tin House Online*, *Washington Square Review*, and *Tiny Crimes* (Catapult, 2018). Her poetry is published in journals including *AGNI*, *Malahat Review*, and *PRISM International*. She was a 2022 Tin House Scholar. From 2018 to 2022, she served as the fiction editor of *Minola Review*. She spent her early childhood in Soviet Bloc Pomerania and in Madrid. She lives in Toronto.

Places Like These | Lauren Carter



Release date: April 18, 2023

Literary Fiction | Short Stories

5.25 x 8 inches | 196 pages

Trade paperback | ISBN 9781771668057

CDN \$23 | US \$20

Author hometown: Winnipeg, MB

A widow visits a spiritualist community to attempt to contact her late husband. A grieving teenager confronts the unfairness of his small-town world and the oncoming ecological disaster. A sexual assault survivor navigates her boyfriend's tricky family and her own confusing desires. A mother examines unresolved guilt while seeking her missing daughter in a city slum. A lover exploits his girlfriend's secrets for his own purposes. Whether in Ecuador or San Francisco, small-town Ontario or northern Manitoba, the landscape in each of Carter's poignant short stories reflects each character's journey.

Psychologically complex and astute, *Places Like These* plumbs the vast range of human reactions to those things which make us human—love, grief, friendship, betrayal, and the intertwined yet contrasting longing for connection and independence.

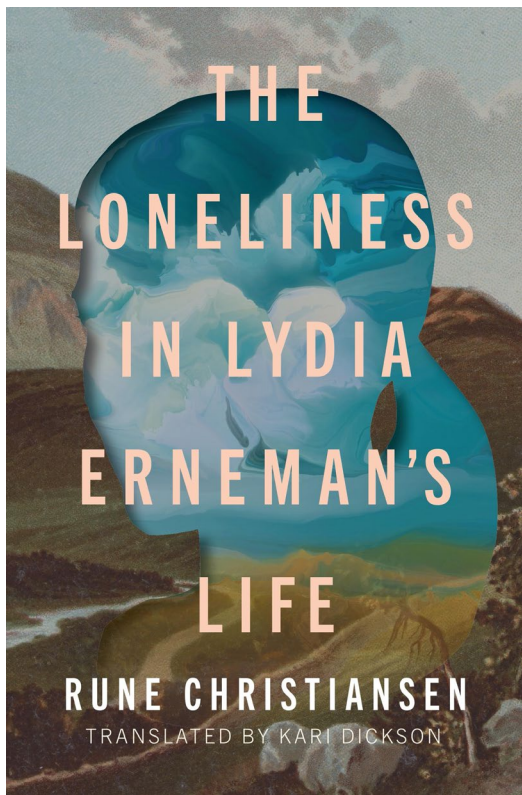


PHOTO: HEATHER RUTH

Lauren Carter is the author of four previous books of fiction and poetry, including *This Has Nothing to Do with You*, winner of the 2020 Margaret Laurence Award for Fiction. She has also received the John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer. Her debut novel, *Swarm*, was longlisted for CBC's Canada Reads. Carter's stories and poems have been published widely in journals and longlisted multiple times for the CBC Literary Prizes. Her short story "Rhubarb" won the Prairie Fire Fiction Award and was subsequently included in *Best Canadian Stories* in 2015. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph. An Ontarian transplanted to Manitoba, Carter lives just outside of Winnipeg.

The Loneliness in Lydia Erneman's Life

Rune Christiansen | Translated by Kari Dickson



Release date: June 6, 2023

Literature in Translation Series
Literary Fiction

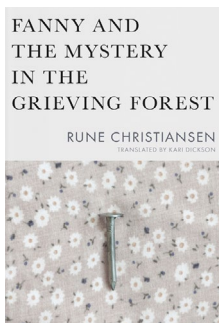
5.25 x 8 inches | 250 pages

Trade paperback | ISBN 9781771668347

CDN \$23 | US \$20

Author hometown: Oslo, Norway

Translator hometown: Edinburgh, Scotland



Also by
Rune Christiansen

*Fanny and the Mystery
in the Grieving Forest*
2019

ISBN 9781771665186

Winner of the Brage Prize, the most prestigious award in Norwegian Literature, *The Loneliness in Lydia Erneman's Life* is a quiet, beautiful exploration of solitude and how we relate to other beings.

Having grown up as an only child in Northern Sweden, Lydia is used to isolation and being on her own. She fills her days with her love of animals, nature, and hard work. She eventually settles into a career as a vet in rural Norway and embraces the rhythms of rural life. Despite an increasing need for closer human contact that begins to encroach on her contented solitude, ultimately it is Lydia's satisfaction with her inner life that speaks of an elegance and hope often lost in these clamoring times.

Written in concise prose, the gravity and tranquility of this novel make it a gift—a soothing, contemplative offering about the depths of our inner worlds.



PHOTO: RUNE CHRISTIANSEN

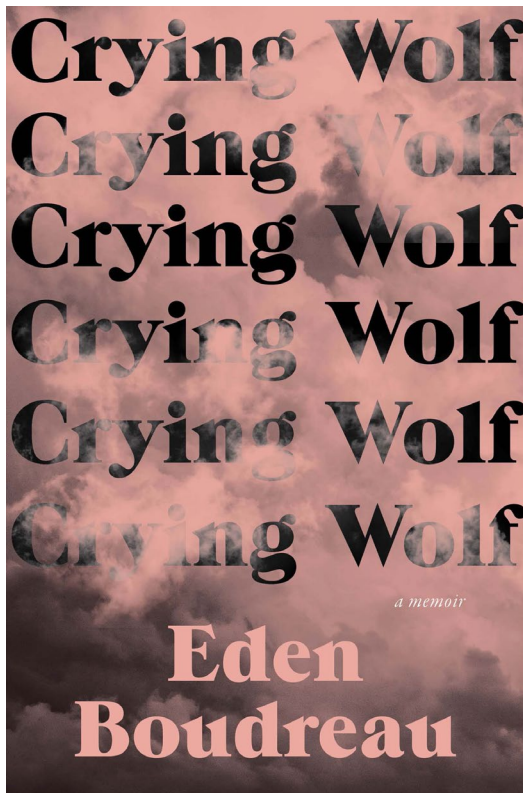
Rune Christiansen is a Norwegian author of more than 20 books of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. He won the 2014 Brage Prize for his bestselling novel, *The Loneliness in Lydia Erneman's Life*, and *Fanny and the Mystery in the Grieving Forest* was shortlisted for the same prize and published in English by Book*hug Press in 2019. Christiansen lives just outside of Oslo, Norway.



PHOTO: ANDY CATLIN

Kari Dickson is a literary translator of Norwegian, and her work includes literary fiction, children's books, theatre, and nonfiction. In 2019, Book*hug Press published her translation of Rune Christiansen's *Fanny and the Mystery in Grieving Forest*, and, in 2021, her co-translation of Mona Høvrings's *Because Venus Crossed an Alpine Violet The Day I Was Born*. Dickson lives in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Crying Wolf | Eden Boudreau



Release date: March 22, 2023

Narrative Nonfiction | Memoir

5.25 x 8 inches | 230 pages

Trade paperback | ISBN 9781771668088

CDN \$25 | US \$22

Author hometown: Georgina, ON

“In her stunning and eloquent debut, Boudreau takes readers on a harrowing journey through some of her darkest days, while holding a mirror to a society that perpetuates the shaming of those who live in the margins.”

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

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

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

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

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



PHOTO: EDEN BOUDREAU

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

Lent | Kate Cayley



Release date: November 10, 2022

Poetry | LGBTQ Poetry

5.25 x 8.75 inches | 96 pages

Trade paperback | ISBN 9781771668118

CDN \$20 | US \$18

Author hometown: Toronto, ON

In these peculiar times, we are thrust back into ourselves in a kind of suspension: one in which only private life exists yet threatens to become trivial through a sense of mutual, overarching dread.

Lent from award-winning writer Kate Cayley is built from this tension, exploring domestic and artistic life amidst the environmental crisis, and the surprising ways that every philosophical quandary—large and small—converges in the home, in small objects, conversations, moments.

The grotesque and the tedious, the baroque and the banal intertwine in the first three sections. Meticulous depictions of spectacle run into the repetition of daily domestic life: trying to explain time to children, day trips to the planetarium, and strangers' warnings; these are interspersed with depictions such as Mary Shelley recalling the monster, the inner life of a 17th-century portrait sitter, and Ted Hughes' second wife telling her story to the dead Sylvia Plath. The final, title section explores religious faith; how belief is itself a repetition, a slow accumulation over time, just like love or forgiveness.

Lent is an exquisite work of our era, asking us to contemplate what it means to live in a broken world—and why we still find it beautiful.

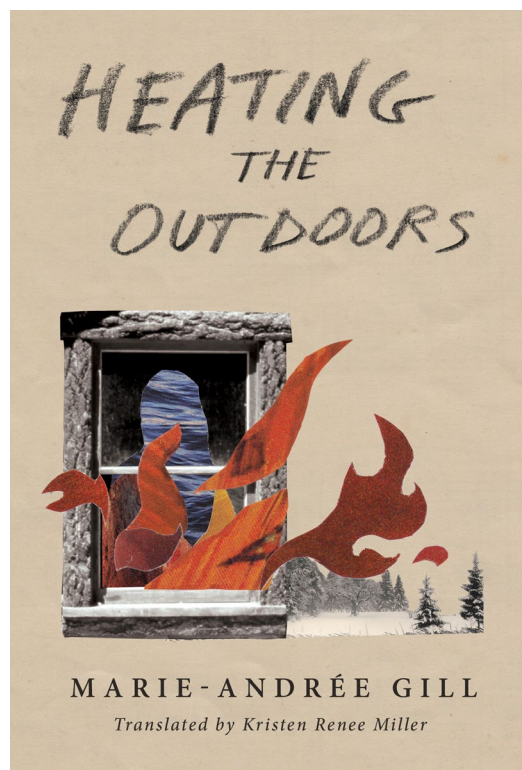


PHOTO: LIVIA AMBROS

Kate Cayley is the author of two poetry collections, a young adult novel, several plays, and two short story collections, including *How You Were Born*, winner of the Trillium Book Award and shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction. A 10th-anniversary edition of *How You Were Born* is forthcoming from Book*hug Press in 2024. In 2021, she won the Mitchell Prize for Faith and Poetry for the title poem in *Lent*. Cayley lives in Toronto with her wife and their three children.

Heating the Outdoors | Marie-Andrée Gill

Translated by Kristen Renee Miller



Release date: March 7, 2023

Poetry

5.25 x 7.75 inches | 88 pages

Trade paperback | ISBN 9781771668149

CDN \$20 | US \$18

Author hometown:
Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean

Translator hometown: Louisville, KY, USA

“*Heating the Outdoors* is a stunning collection exploring heartbreak, and the awkward dance between exes from the positionality of an Illnu and Quebecoise woman whose poetic ‘gasoline-soaked heart’ yearns deeply for love.”

—Shannon Webb-Campbell, author of *Lunar Tides* and *I Am a Body of Land*

Irreverent and transcendent, lyrical and slang, *Heating the Outdoors* is an endlessly surprising new work from award-winning poet Marie-Andrée Gill.

In these micropoems, writing and love are acts of decolonial resilience. Rooted in Nitassinan, the territory and ancestral home of the Ilnu Nation, they echo the Ilnu oral tradition in Gill’s interrogation and reclamation of the language, land, and interpersonal intimacies distorted by imperialism. They navigate her interior landscape—of heartbreak, humor, and, ultimately, unrelenting light—amidst the boreal geography.

Heating the Outdoors describes the yearnings for love, the domestic monotony of post-breakup malaise, and the awkward meeting of exes.



PHOTO: SOPHIE GAGNON BERGERON

Marie-Andrée Gill is the acclaimed author of three French-language poetry collections from *La Peuplade*. Two of her books have been translated into English, including *Spawn* (2020) and *Heating the Outdoors*. A doctoral student in literature, Gill’s research and creative work focus on the decolonial project of writing the intimate. She has been nominated for the Governor General’s Literary Award for Poetry, and is a three-time recipient of the Salon du Livre Prize in Poetry. In 2020, Gill was named Artist of the Year by the Quebec Council of Arts and Letters.



PHOTO: AMBER ESTES THIENEMAN

Kristen Renee Miller is a poet and translator, 2020 winner of the Gulf Coast Prize in Translation, and the translator of two books from the French by poet Marie-Andrée Gill: *Spawn* (2020) and *Heating the Outdoors*. Her work can be found widely, including in *POETRY Magazine*, *The Kenyon Review*, *DIAGRAM*, *jubilat*, and *Best New Poets*. Miller is the incoming executive director and editor-in-chief of Sarabande Books. She lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

archipelago | Laila Malik



ARCHIPELAGO

Laila Malik

Release date: April 6, 2023

Poetry | Lyrical Poetry

5.75 x 8.75 inches | 96 pages

Trade paperback | ISBN 9781771668170

CDN \$20 | US \$18

Author hometown: Etobicoke, ON

The islands of an archipelago are isolated above sea level but attached underwater; connected yet separate. *archipelago*, the debut poetry collection from Laila Malik, traces fragments of family, becoming and unbecoming against the shifting shorelines of loss, multigenerational migration, and (un)belonging.

Malik's lyrical poems intertwine histories of exile and ecological devastation. Beginning with a coming of age in the 80s and 90s between Canada, the Arabian Gulf, East Africa and Kashmir, they subvert conventions of lineage, instead drawing on the truths of inter-ethnic histories amidst sparse landscapes of deserts, oceans, and mountains. They question why the only certainties of "home" are urgency and impossibility.

At its core, *archipelago* is a letter to the daughters who come before and after, a quiet disclosure of barbed ancestral legacies that only come into focus through poetry.



PHOTO: MEERA

Laila Malik is a desisporic settler and writer living in Adobigok (Etobicoke), traditional land of Indigenous communities that include the Anishinaabe, Seneca, Mohawk Haudenosaunee, and Wendat. Her work has been widely published in literary magazines and journals, including *Contemporary Verse 2*, *Canthius*, *The New Quarterly*, *Ricepaper*, *Qwerty*, *Room*, *Sukoon*, *The Bangalore Review*, and *Archetype*. Malik's essays have been longlisted for four different creative nonfiction contests and she was a fellow at the Banff Centre for Creative Arts in 2021 for her novel in progress.

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