

2023

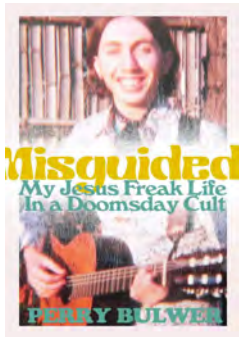
***NEW TITLES
& RECENT BACKLIST***

**NEW
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Table of Contents

- 2 **Misguided:** My Jesus Freak Life In a Doomsday Cult by Perry Bulwer
- 3 **Male Pregnancy in Reverse:** A Tragedy in 5 Acts by Tom Prime
- 4 **Duck Island** by Steve Weiner
- 5 **The Postmedia Effect:** How Vulture Capitalism is Wrecking Our News by Marc Edge
- 6 **Naked Defiance:** A Comedy of Menace by Patrik Sampler
- 7 **My Paddle's Keen and Bright:** Summer Camp Stories by Rika Ruebsaat
- 8 **The Sky and the Patio:** An Ecology of Home by Don Gayton
- 9 **Guilty of Everything:** 21st Anniversary Edition by John Armstrong
- 10 **After Villon** by Roger Farr
- 11 **Gongo Dodan** by Gustave Morin
- 12 **Miskwagoode** by Marie Annharte Baker
- 13 **Bird Arsonist** by Tom Prime, Gary Barwin



9781554202058

- English
- 6 x 9 x 0.84 in | 0.5 kg
- 320 pages

Subject

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Religious

Other formats

9781554202065 Trade paperback (US), EPUB, \$9.99

Distributor

UTP Distribution

Expected ship date: Aug 15, 2023

Carton Quantity: 32

Misguided

My Jesus Freak Life In a Doomsday Cult

By (author) Perry Bulwer

Sep 07, 2023 | Paperback, Trade | \$26.00 |

Misguided provides a detailed, heart-felt look inside the most notorious Christian sect to emerge from the spiritual counterculture of the 1970s. Perry Bulwer's memoir serves as damning indictment of the damage done when twisted prophesy meets blind faith.

Perry Bulwer has written a deeply personal and richly informative study that shows how a shy but smart (and rather religious) working class kid gets drawn into an emotionally and physically abusive cult, which was constructed around the often angry but always self-serving fantasies of a delusional but inspirational leader. He weaves stories about his own psycho-emotional development within the cultural context of generational disillusionment about traditional politics and religion, both of which the cult leader prophesized would extinguish in an apocalyptic return of Jesus in 1993. That prophetic failure, plus Perry's eyewitness account of severe physical and mental abuse of the leader's granddaughter, contributed to his decision to leave, but twenty years of his own experiences of coercion, manipulation, and control haunt him long after he has renounced and debunked the cult's doctrines. His struggles reveal that a toxic cult still can live in a person long after that person no longer lives in a malign cult. This highly readable account, however, is an impressive achievement that reveals a toxicity that Perry hopes all other spiritual seekers can avoid.

Perry Bulwer has given us a real treasure, especially given that so few cult memoirs are written from a male perspective. He takes us on a wild and conflicted journey as a member of the Children of God, starting at age 16, living here, there, and everywhere – from Canada to Japan, China, the Philippines, and more. Readers will gain a vivid picture of life in a cult with worldwide spread, led by a pedophilic narcissist. Definitely a book you will want to read!

A unique first-hand account of a life spent in the Children of God, a/k/a The Family, a millenarian doomsday sex cult under the sway of a charismatic leader, David Berg

In 1972, Perry Bulwer, a naive 16-year-old growing up in Port Alberni, a mill town on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, dropped out of high school to run away with the Children of God, one of a number of millennial Christian cults that sprang up in the 1960s and 1970s. Soon, Perry was preaching the cult's doomsday message on the streets of some of the largest cities in the world.

Bulwer takes the reader on an extraordinary trip through the world of biblical literalism, fundamentalist endtime fantasies, paranormal spirituality, evangelical extremism, ritual abuse, and liberally interpreted Biblical teachings that were used to justify licentious sexual doctrines, evangelical prostitution, and child sexual abuse.

Along the way, we learn about the inner workings of the CoG, a/k/a The Family, and the machinations of David Berg, a self-declared endtime prophet who claimed to be personally mentioned in the Bible, and that God spoke through him. Berg predicted the imminent destruction of America, the appearance of the Antichrist in 1985, and the Second Coming of Jesus in 1993. Berg died in 1994, before various law enforcement agencies around the world caught up with him.

Perry Bulwer escaped The Family in 1991, managing to escape the cult's tight control while living in Asia. Returning to Canada, he tried to pick up his life where he had left it off two decades earlier. Through education Bulwer lost his religion, turning from religious extremist to secular humanist lawyer, fighting for the rights of sex workers and drug users living on the streets of Vancouver. Haunted by his

Contributor Bio

Born in Port Alberni, BC, in 1955, Perry Bulwer joined the Children of God after dropping out of high school at age 16, and spent the next two decades living in CoG communes in Canada, the United States, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Malaysia, Macau, Hong Kong, and, undercover, in Beijing. In 1991, aged 36, he was able to escape the cult --- with no money or possessions, and little in the way of education or skills. He spent the next decade catching up on his studies, and in 2002, graduated from the University of British Columbia with a law degree.

After a 2004 diagnosis of PTSD and fibromyalgia, Bulwer retired from the practice of law (though he remains registered with the Law Society of BC). Back



Reviews

Perry Bulwer has given us a real treasure, especially given that so few cult memoirs are written from a male perspective. He takes us on a wild and conflicted journey as a member of the Children of God, starting at age 16, living here, there, and everywhere – from Canada to Japan, China, the Philippines, and more. Readers will gain a vivid picture of life in a cult with worldwide spread, led by a pedophilic narcissist. Definitely a book you will want to read!

- Janja Lalich, PhD, Author of Take Back Your Life: Recovering from Cults and Abusive Relationships

Misguided provides a detailed, heart-felt look inside the most notorious Christian sect to emerge from the spiritual counterculture of the 1970s. Perry Bulwer's memoir serves as damning indictment of the damage done when twisted prophesy meets blind faith. **- Don Lattin, the former religion writer at the San Francisco Chronicle and author of Jesus Freaks: A True Story of Murder and**



9781554202072

- English
- 5 x 8 x 0.15 in | 0.1 kg
- 64 pages

Subject

POETRY / Canadian

Distributor


UTP Distribution

Expected ship date: Sep 15, 2023

Carton Quantity: 50

Male Pregnancy in Reverse

A Tragedy in 5 Acts

By (author) Tom Prime 

Sep 30, 2023 | Paperback, Trade | \$18.00

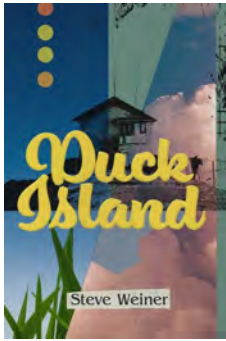
***Male Pregnancy in Reverse*, a long poem "in 5 Acts", transmutes a disturbing and sometimes horrifying experience --- albeit one which is only ever obliquely and allegorically described --- into a dazzling and heady literary puzzle.**

Wielding a rich and suggestive vocabulary largely drawn from Elizabethan literary texts, but working within a tradition that includes Rimbaud and Mallarme, Tom Prime revels in a lexicographic bubblebath that combines visual poetry, typographic moves, fragments of a play, speaking parts for a cast of characters that include Brayne-worme and the cuttlefish, and uneasy-laughter-inducing silliness.

Contributor Bio

Tom Prime lives in London, Ontario, where he is in the coils of a PhD program at Western University. He is the author of [Mouthful of Soap](#) and two collaborations with Gary Barwin: [A Cemetery for Helen](#) and [Bird America](#).





9781554202034

- English
- 5.5 x 8.5 x 0.25 in | 0.5 kg
- 176 pages

Subject

FICTION / Literary

Other formats

9781554202041 Trade paperback (US), EPUB, \$9.99

Distributor

UTP Distribution

Expected ship date: Jul 04, 2023

Carton Quantity: 32

Duck Island

By (author) Steve Weiner 

Jul 04, 2023 | Paperback, Trade | \$19.00 |

A young man returns to the town of his youth after a period spent on the road.

Unable to rekindle a high school flame, Cal Bedrick, who is Jewish, soon meets a very nice Catholic girl, Frannie Sinkiewicz, who falls hard for the troubled young man. Their courtship leads quickly to a marriage that fills their acquaintances with doubts.

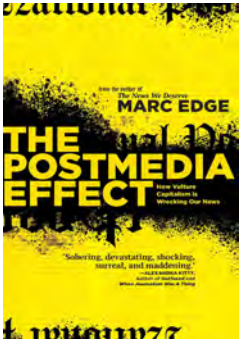
The young couple's story is set against the backdrop of a fictionalized Wausau, Wisconsin, when the Vietnam war is drawing to an end. Duck Island is peopled by a cast of small-town archetypes: Frannie's conservative family including her brother / patriarch, Joey, manager of the town's convenience store where Cal gets a job; Father Leszinski, the parish priest; Mr. Dula, who manages the men's shelter where Cal washes up; Frannie's best friend Wendy Gabriiska, and an assortment of war veterans, Indigenous people, immigrants, the town's merchants, and local low-lives who populate Wausau.

Like a David Lynch film, *Duck Island* vividly contrasts a society whose liberal surface conceals a troubled soul, which is revealed as the novel's events unfold.

Contributor Bio

Author Steve Weiner draws on his own mid-western roots in telling this tale of a deeply fractured, confused society. The author of *Sweet England* (2010), *The Yellow Sailor* (2001) and *The Museum of Love* (1993; finalist for the Giller Prize), Steve Weiner lives in London, UK.





9781554201976

- English
- 8.5 x 5.5 x 0.8 in | 0.48 kg
- 288 pages

Subject

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / Industries / Media & Communications

Other formats

9781554201983 Trade paperback (US), EPUB

9781554201990 Trade paperback (US), Kindle


Distributor

UTP Distribution

Carton Quantity: 36

The Postmedia Effect

How Vulture Capitalism is Wrecking Our News

By (author) Marc Edge 

Apr 07, 2023 | Paperback, Trade | \$25.00 |

Even as their readers move on-line and their advertisers look elsewhere, daily newspapers continue to be our main source of information, shaping citizens' understanding of the world, and their reactions to events. At the same time, continuing a long-term trend in media ownership, newsrooms have been gutted as new owners prioritize double-digit profit margins. Dwindling reporting staff is able to do less and less actual reporting, as they become more and more reliant on official releases and carefully tailored public relations handouts.

In *The Postmedia Effect*, Marc Edge takes Canada's dominant newspaper chain, Postmedia, as a case study laying bare the changes in news economics that over the past two generations have hollowed out the nation's newsrooms, undermining not just citizens' trust in what is reported to them, but the very foundations of a democracy steered by an informed electorate.

Contributor Bio

Marc Edge, a business journalist who worked for dailies in Vancouver and Calgary before completing a PhD in media economics, has been documenting the political-economic transformation of the news business from its mid-century concentration (*Pacific Press*, 2002), through "convergence" (*Asper Nation*, 2007), and now, in his new book, the dire effects of the financialization of the news business. His work has also appeared in *The News We Deserve* (2011) and *Red Line, Blue Line, Bottom Line* (2004). He lives in Nanaimo, BC.



Reviews

"The mainstream media has been dismantled in recent years. One reason is that it's been bought up by 'vulture' investment funds with no interest in journalism. Marc Edge's book *The Postmedia Effect* is a devastating account of what happened to Canada's largest newspaper chain when such funds got hold of it. It's a sobering read, especially if one is alarmed about the state of a free and diverse media." Bruce Livesey, author of *Thieves of Bay Street*

"Like the Murder on the Orient Express, there were so many perpetrators involved in the murder of our newspapers. Now that Edge has given such a clear explanation, we might have a chance to revive the corpse." Mark Bourrie, author of *Big Men Fear Me*



9781554202003

- English
- 5.5 x 8.25 x 0.25 in | 170 gr
- 184 pages

Subject

FICTION / Literary

Other formats

9781554201808 Trade paperback (US), EPUB, \$9.99

9781554201815 Trade paperback (US), Kindle, \$9.99


Distributor

UTP Distribution

Carton Quantity: 60

Naked Defiance

A Comedy of Menace

By (author) Patrik Sampler 

Apr 15, 2023 | Paperback, Trade | \$19.00 |

“The truest thing I can say about *Naked Defiance* is also the best compliment I could give to any novel: *Naked Defiance* is absolutely unlike anything else I have ever read. Patrik Sampler is astonishing in his originality and in his tough critique of common, complacent ways of living. Wickedly smart and disarmingly funny, Sampler is a writer to watch. His book comes as a welcome and necessary challenge to the miserable logic of capitalism.” -Angie Abdou, author of *In Case I Go* and *This One Wild Life*

***Naked Defiance* is the story of a turn-of-the-century radical art group and its charismatic leader, written by one of its members, Florian Moore (probably a pseudonym), and which lands on the desk of novelist / editor Patrik Sampler, tasked with preparing Moore's manuscript for publication.**

Unfolding as a report on an investigation into the death of the group's leader Ganbold Mirzoyan while in police custody, ***Naked Defiance*** is a mystery about a series of public performances staged by the eponymous group, and the increasingly disturbing disruptions that its own interventions become subjected to.

Contributor Bio

Compelling story telling laced with dark social comedy, ***Naked Defiance*** is Patrik Sampler's second novel. ***The Ocean Container***, a dystopian eco-fiction, was published in 2017. He lives in the Vancouver area.



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Reviews

“The truest thing I can say about *Naked Defiance* is also the best compliment I could give to any novel: *Naked Defiance* is absolutely unlike anything else I have ever read. Patrik Sampler is astonishing in his originality and in his tough critique of common, complacent ways of living. Wickedly smart and disarmingly funny, Sampler is a writer to watch. His book comes as a welcome and necessary challenge to the miserable logic of capitalism.” -Angie Abdou, author of *In Case I Go* and *This One Wild Life*



9781554201884

- English
- 5.5 x 8.5 x 0.25 in | 0.15 kg
- 336 pages

Subject

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Personal Memoirs

Distributor

UTP Distribution

Carton Quantity: 36

My Paddle's Keen and Bright

Summer Camp Stories

By (author) Rika Ruebsaat 

Feb 09, 2023 | Paperback, Trade | \$24.00 |

Parents began sending their kids off to summer camp more than a century ago, a tradition that continues strong in the face of transformative changes to society, and childhood. The history of summer camping, with its roots in Boy Scouts and other Victorian-era social movements, is beginning to be written. But until now, less has been said about the experiences of the generations of young men and women whose outlook has been shaped by their summer vacations.

In *My Paddle's Keen and Bright*, Rika Ruebsaat allows the camp veterans of all ages and backgrounds to reflect on their experiences, and the indelible lifelong impressions these have left on them.

Every facet of camp experience is described, from the bus or boat that takes you away from the familiar into a new world of strangers, to the bittersweet partings and memories lasting a lifetime. Campers describe the terror, and exhilaration, of learning about new people and different lives outside of their own families; the food, strange rituals, and exciting new adventures involving boats, or horses, or hikes, chores, even practical jokes. Here are the vivid recollections of passionate friendships made in the course of a few days; of crushes on counsellors; the campfires and songs; the first fumbling sexual explorations; the skinned knees and overcome fears; the lessons learned and carried for the rest of their lives.

Grown-ups from all social classes and outlooks established summer camps. The storytellers reflect on their experiences in the more traditional summer camps organized by Boy Scouts or Girl Guides; the camps organized by religious organizations or around political viewpoints. The differences --- and, more often, the continuities --- provide a fascinating and unique perspective into a world that continues to leave an indelible mark on society, even as the world of summer camp slips into history.

Contributor Bio

Rika Ruebsaat is the past president of the Princeton & District Museum & Archives, and has been a professional singer and, for most of her working life, a teacher. With Jon Bartlett she's released seven albums, mostly of traditional Canadian songs; and one book, a collection of vernacular verses from the pages of the local presses in the Similkameen valley. A resident of Princeton, BC, she attended Camp Galilee in the West Kootenays in the late 1950s and then Camp Artaban on Gambier Island in the early 1960s.





9781554201945

- English
- 5.5 x 8.5 x 0.56 in | 290 gr
- 160 pages

Subject

NATURE / Essays

Distributor

UTP Distribution

Carton Quantity: 48

The Sky and the Patio

An Ecology of Home

By (author) Don Gayton 

Nov 10, 2022 | Paperback, Trade | \$18.00 |

In 25 engaging essays, Summerland writer Don Gayton fuses the personal with the ecological to portray the geography and the natural and human history of his adopted Okanagan Valley homeland.

Draft resister and professional ecologist by training, Don Gayton registers the complexity and interconnectedness of every living thing in his environment, from the rivers and lakes, to the plants and animals, and the human settlements along the Okanagan, Similkameen, and Columbia watercourses shaping his backyard.

The Sky and the Patio describes the patterns made by iconic native species such as ponderosa pine, sagebrush and bunchgrass, the sockeye salmon and turtles, and the non-natives reshaping their world: the toadflax and knapweed, antelopebrush, horses and cattle --- and the grapevines, tomatoes and cannabis looking for a foothold today.

Gayton tells us what we can learn from tree rings besides the tree's age; some fine points about firewood; and a little bit about Chinook wawa, and his own library of nature writing.

Contributor Bio

The author of four previous books --- *The Wheatgrass Mechanism* (1990), *Landscapes of the Interior* (1996), *Kokanee: The Redfish and the Kootenay Bioregion* (2002) and *Interwoven Wild: An Ecologist Loose in the Garden* (2007) --- Gayton's career, spanning five decades, includes working for the BC Ministry of Forests and Range, the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, the BC Ministry of Environment, the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, as well as numerous local governments and community organizations. He lives in Summerland, BC.





9781554201914

- English
- 5.5 x 8.5 x 0.37 in | 190 gr
- 135 pages

Subject

MUSIC / Genres & Styles / Punk

Other formats

9781554201938 Trade paperback (US), Kindle

9781554201921 Trade paperback (US), EPUB


Distributor

UTP Distribution

Carton Quantity: 72

Guilty of Everything

21st Anniversary Edition

By (author) John Armstrong 

Nov 10, 2022 | Paperback, Trade | \$18.00 |

It's 1978 and a non-stop carnival of debauchery begins as the first shock of punk hits Vancouver. Now, in 2022, revisit John Armstrong's pivotal memoir in the 21st anniversary edition of *Guilty of Everything*.

As Buck Cherry – lead singer and guitarist of The Modernettes – Armstrong had himself a front row seat to the frenzy of the 70s and 80s alongside the likes of I Braineater, Joey Shithead, Dimwit, Chuck Biscuits, Mary Jo Kopechne, Art Bergmann and other figures of Vancouver's earliest punk days. From White Rock to Vancouver, the back rooms and alleys of the Smilin' Buddha to the Commodore Ballroom, *Guilty of Everything* recounts the drug-addled, booze-soaked days and nights of this anarchic era, brought to life once again by Armstrong's candid and compelling prose.

Contributor Bio

John Armstrong is an award-winning journalist, writer and musician. He is the author of three books, *Guilty of Everything* (shortlisted for the BC Book Prize), *Wages*, and *A Series of Dogs* (longlisted for the Leacock Medal for Humour). After his early days as frontman Buck Cherry of The Modernettes, Armstrong began a 15-year long career as a journalist with the *Vancouver Sun*. He now lives with his family and dogs in Chilliwack, BC.



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Reviews

Think Hunter S. Thompson meets Hemingway in Vancouver, and goes on a musical bender. Delicious.

– **Erica Leiren, *Discorder Magazine***

Armstrong is a natural storyteller and vividly places the reader at a variety of seminal scenes...an entertaining and essential historical document of Canadian punk.

– **Michael Barclay, *exclaim.ca***

Armstrong's sardonic and conversational writing style, studded with frequent one-liners, keeps the narrative energy high.

– **Derek Weiler, *Quill & Quire***

Quite possibly my favourite punk memoir/historical account...He told the story of some of the formative years of the Vancouver punk scene as he experienced it and created a thoroughly entertaining tale of a bygone era in the process.

– **Chris Eng, author of *Molotov Hearts***



9781554201877

- English
- 5 x 88 x 0.15 in | 0.1 kg
- 64 pages

Subject

POETRY / Canadian

Distributor

UTP Distribution

Carton Quantity: 93

After Villon

By (author) Roger Farr 

Apr 15, 2022 | Paperback, Trade | \$16.00 |

After Villon, the new book from Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize finalist Roger Farr, is a book of contemporary verse translations and "queer variations" based on the work of 15th century *poete maudit* Francois Villon.

Villon's poetry, written in medieval French and incorporating the argot of the Parisian criminal underworld, is notoriously bawdy, opaque, and resistant to "straightforward" translation. For this reason, Villon's work continues to be of considerable interest to poets, artists, and scholars working today.

After Villon is informed by previous ventures into Villon's work by Ezra Pound (who invented a new poetic form, the *villonaud*), Basil Bunting, William Carlos Williams, and, especially, Jack Spicer, who similarly "translated" Lorca in his influential *After Lorca* (1957) and Jean Calais (Stephen Rodefer), whose chauvinist / "beatnik" version of the poet stepped forward in *Villon* (1987).

Roger Farr's new re-workings capture the in-group opacity in Villon's work by mingling slangs from a variety of discourses and sites, everything from prison, theatre, culinary, military, to carnie slang. In his translations, Farr subverts sex and gender designations by shifting pronouns, changing names, and refusing heteronormative assumptions about the copious "gaps" in meaning of the original texts.

Contributor Bio

Described as "a poet of great heart and aesthetic/political commitment", Roger Farr is the author of five books of poetry: **Surplus** (2006), **Means** (2012), **IKMQ** (2012), a finalist for the BC Book Prize in Poetry in 2013, **I Am a City Still But Soon I Shan't Be** (2019), and most recently, **After Villon** (2022). *The Amorous Comrade*, a collection of essays on anarchism and sexual politics, is forthcoming in 2024.

A former member of the artist-run Kootenay School of Writing collective, his critical writing on avant-garde poetics and radical social movements has appeared in *Anarchist Studies*, *Armed Cell*, *Fifth Estate*, *Perspectives on Anarchist Theory*, *The Poetic Front*, *West Coast Line*, and *XCP: Cross Cultural Poetics*. He edited the three-volume anthology *Open Text: Canadian Poetry and Poetics in the 21st Century* (2008-2013), and was Critical Editor for Alice Becker-Ho's *The Essence of Jargon: Argot & the Language of the Dangerous*





9781554201860

- English
- 5.5 x 8.5 x 0.15 in | 0.1 kg
- 80 pages

Subject


POETRY / Canadian

Distributor

UTP Distribution

Carton Quantity: 116

Gongo Dodan

By (author) Gustave Morin 

Apr 14, 2022 | Paperback, Trade | \$16.00 |

Gustave Morin has spent a life carving out a bold and courageous body of work that questions and expands the definition of poetry.

The vision and the range of his work, including the books *Clean Sails* (2015), *The Etcetera Barbecue* (2008), and *A Penny Dreadful* (2003), show him as one of the more accomplished literary innovators in our age, committed as he is to the opposite of whatever the official culture endorses.

His new book *Gongo Dodan* is comprised of sixty-two unusual poems, of course. Gustave Morin's poems have never played by the rules, opting instead to playing for keeps, gleefully channelling those cosmic and eternal verities that have long been associated with both the written word and the colossal image.

Gongo Dodan is the result of a lifetime of absorbed aesthetic philosophy shot through many critical social commentaries, all of which serve to illustrate how an amalgamation of a knowledge of the arts, when applied to the art of writing artfully, can come to inhabit one word pushed beyond its own inevitable plasticity - poetry.

Contributor Bio

Gustave Morin's previous New Star title, *Clean Sails* (2015) is the world's largest volume of typewriter poetry. The *Etcetera Barbecue* was published in 2006 by BookFug. His 2003 title, *A Penny Dreadful*, one of the few collage novels ever to appear in Canada, is now scarce. Gustave Morin has also produced twelve short-run books and chapbooks. He lives with his gals, Jenny and Nova, in a small mid-western city on the edge of The Canada.



9 781554 201860



9781554201846

- English
- 6 x 9 x 0.15 in | 0.1 kg
- 80 pages

Subject

POETRY / Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island

Distributor

UTP Distribution

Carton Quantity: 104

Miskwagoode

By (author) Marie Annharte Baker 

Mar 17, 2022 | Paperback, Trade | \$16.00 |

Taken from the Anishinaabe for “woman wearing red,” *Miskwagoode* is an unsettling portrayal of unreconciled Indigenous experience under colonialism, past and present.

Miskwagoode, the woman in the red dress, is Annharte, and she is Annharte’s mother, who disappeared when the poet was a girl. *Miskwagoode* is Annharte’s new book about her mother loss, her “mothermiss”, about all the women “buried in common enough / cross-generational graves”.

Marked with her characteristic sharp eye and humour, and hard earned wisdom about the “ominous progress ahead”, Annharte’s fifth collection encompasses the poet’s experiences as an Anishinaabe Elder, “witness not survivor”, writing of the weight of a present and persisting colonialism.

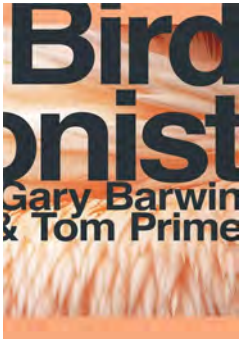
In her sly, cheeky riffs on life behind the “buckskin curtain” at the margins of settler society, Annharte tells us about granny circles, the horny old guys, and getting your hair done. But these poems about rez life and the community and belonging it offers are set against the background radiation of the poverty and the sicknesses, despair, violence, sexism, and sexual abuse, the legacies of unequal relations.

Miskwagoode concludes with “Wabang,” a suite of short poems comprising Annharte’s own thumbnail transcontinental Indigenous mythology.

Contributor Bio

Annharte (Marie Baker) is Anishinaabe (Little Saskatchewan First Nation, Manitoba). She is the author of four previous books of poetry: *Being On the Moon* (1990), *Columbus Coyote Cafe* (1995), *Exercises in Lip Pointing* (2003), and *Indigena Awry* (2013). Her book of essays, *a/k/a*, was published in 2012 by Capilano University Editions. She lives in Gypsumville, Manitoba.





9781554201853

- English
- 5 x 8 x 0.15 in | 0.1 kg
- 64 pages

Subject

POETRY / Canadian

Distributor

UTP Distribution

Carton Quantity: 111

Bird Arsonist

By (author) Tom Prime 🇨🇦, By (author) Gary Barwin 🇨🇦
Feb 02, 2022 | Paperback, Trade | \$16.00 |

Written with four hands, by Tom Prime and the Giller Prize and Governor General's Award shortlisted Gary Barwin, *Bird Arsonist* is avant-garde, tragicomic poetry at its most arresting.

They say the language of birds is the closest to that of the divine. They also say poetry is the unacknowledged legislator of the world. In *Bird Arsonist*, Tom Prime and Gary Barwin — like all good avant-gardists — flip these commonplaces on their heads, showing that poetry sets alight any transparent, easy, lawful language, or is precisely what language spits out as it turns to ash.

Compressed to the point of implosion, the poems that make up this volume are contorted descendants of Dadaism, Surrealism, and every other -ism. Prime and Barwin confront poetry's contemporary preference for confession and today's digitization of reality not only by — as they are two — using a doubled “I,” but also by letting language elide the human-all-too-human hand of authorship *tout court*. The author of *Bird Arsonist* is language itself, sonorous and fragmentary. Prime and Barwin have merely done the job of giving it the room to speak, of keeping it infected, of making visible the outline of its splinters and its cuts. Shake gently!

Contributor Bio

Tom Prime is a PhD candidate at Western University (specializing in 17th century female prophesy). His solo debut collection of poetry *Mouthfuls of Space* (Anvil) was shortlisted for the Gerald Lampert Memorial prize. He has published 2 collaboratively written collections of poetry with Gary Barwin (*Bird Arsonist* on New Star and *A Cemetery for Holes* on Gordon Hill Press). His forthcoming solo collection of poetry *Male Pregnancy in Reverse* will be released on New Star in September. He has been published in Lana Turner, Fjords Review, Typo, and many other journals, periodicals, anthologies, and chapbooks.

Gary Barwin is a writer, composer, musician, and multidisciplinary artist and has published 25 books of fiction, poetry, and numerous chapbooks. His latest books include *For It Is a Pleasure and a Surprise to Breathe*, ed. Alessandro Porco, and *Nothing the Same, Everything Haunted: The Ballad of Motl the Cowboy*. His national bestselling novel, *Yiddish for Pirates*, won the Stephen Leacock Award for Humour and the Canadian Jewish Literary Award and was also a finalist for both the Governor General's Award for Fiction and the Scotiabank Giller Prize. He lives



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