

Coach House Books



Fall 2016

Sink your teeth into our fall list.

At Coach House, we like our books gutsy. While our little coach house may appear unassuming, we embrace a sense of boldness and adventure when it comes to literature, and we hope, dear reader, that you feel the same way. In that spirit, we'd like to welcome you to a season that's definitely not for the faint of heart.

We know you'll be excited to venture into our daring fall fiction, starting with André Alexis's *The Hidden Keys*, a beautiful and beguiling maze of a story inspired by *Treasure Island*. Jesse Ruddock's dauntless debut novel, *Shot-Blue*, will stop you in your tracks with its fierce and beautiful prose depicting first love, first loss, and second love. And you're sure to get lost in our two novels in translation: *The Island of Books* will take you to a little island off the coast of Normandy with a library the size of a city, and *Baloney* follows an unrelenting quest that takes a poet from Quebec's Boreal forests to South America.

When in search of adventure, always look to the poets. Lisa Robertson's *3 Summers* is a journey through time and form, told from the heart of three summers spent in rural France. The latest from Jordan Scott, *Night & Ox*, will take readers from the basement of words to astral heights, and Laura Broadbent lends an ear to the dead in *In on the Great Joke*.

And in nonfiction, Darren O'Donnell plots a bold course for a new social contract with kids in the status quo—defying *Haircuts by Children*, offering practical arguments that considering the unique perspective of children could help to change the world for the better.

Have courage: these books will all be available at a bookstore near you!

COACH HOUSE BOOKS

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Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
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an Ontario government agency
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The Hidden Keys

by André Alexis

Giller Prize winner André Alexis's contemporary take on the quest narrative is an instant classic.

Parkdale's Green Dolphin is a bar of ill repute, and it is there that Tancred Palmieri, a thief with elegant and erudite tastes, meets Willow Azarian, an aging heroin addict. She reveals to Tancred that her very wealthy father has recently passed away, leaving each of his five children a mysterious object that provides one clue to the whereabouts of a large inheritance. Willow enlists Tancred to steal these objects from her siblings and help her solve the puzzle.

A Japanese screen, a painting that plays music, a bottle of aquavit, a framed poem and a model of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater: Tancred is lured in to this beguiling quest, and even though Willow dies before the puzzle is solved, he presses on.

As he tracks down the treasure, he must enlist the help of Alexander von Wurfel, conceptual artist and taxidermist to the wealthy, and fend off Willow's heroin dealers, a young albino named 'Nigger' Colby and his sidekick, Sigismund 'Freud' Luxemburg, a clubfooted psychopath, both of whom are eager to get their hands on this supposed pot of gold. And he must mislead Detective Daniel Mandelshtam, his most adored friend.

Inspired by a reading of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, *The Hidden Keys* questions what it means to be honorable, what it means to be faithful and what it means to sin.

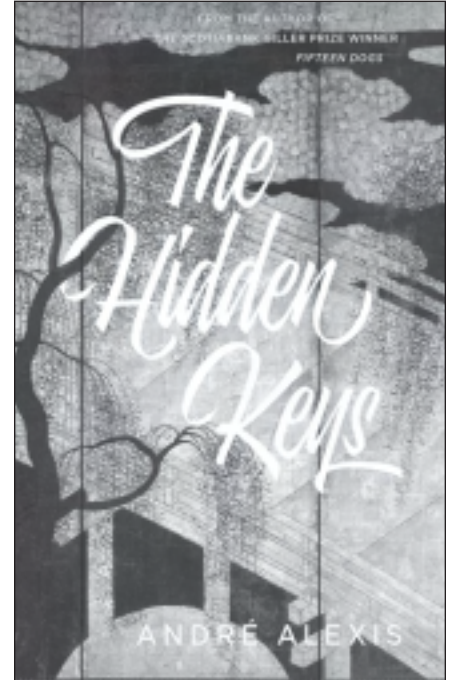
Praise for *Fifteen Dogs*:

'[Alexis] devises an inventive romp through the nature of humanity in this beautiful, entertaining read . . . A clever exploration of our essence, communication, and how our societies are organized.'

– *Kirkus Reviews*



ANDRÉ ALEXIS was born in Trinidad and grew up in Canada. His most recent novel, *Fifteen Dogs*, won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the Scotiabank Giller Prize.



ISBN 978 1 55245 325 4

5.25 x 8.25, 200 pages, paperback

\$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US

FICTION / Literary – FICo19000

EPUB 978 1 77056 465 7

SEPTEMBER 2016

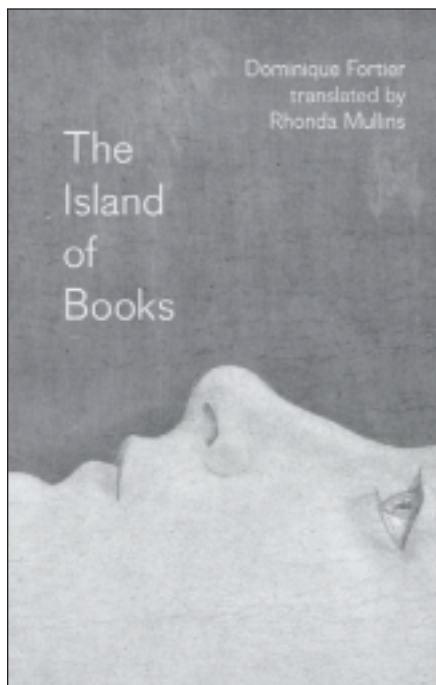
ALSO BY ANDRÉ ALEXIS:

Fifteen Dogs (978 1 55245 305 6)

Pastoral (978 1 55245 286 8)

The Island of Books

by Dominique Fortier, translated by Rhonda Mullins



ISBN 978 1 55245 338 4
5 x 8, 176 pages, paperback
\$19.95 CDN / \$15.95 US
FICTION / Literary – FICo19000
EPUB 978 1 77056 471 8

NOVEMBER 2016

A rich portrait of the beauty of words – painted by a 15th-century illiterate scribe.

A 15th-century portrait painter, grieving the sudden death of his lover, takes refuge at the monastery at Mont Saint-Michel, an island off the coast of France. He haunts the halls until a monk assigns him the task of copying a manuscript – though he is illiterate. His work slowly heals him and continues the tradition that had, centuries earlier, grown the monastery's library into a beautiful city of books, all under the shadow of the invention of the printing press.

'Dominique Fortier has a gift for making insightful connections between seemingly distant ideas, creating patterns that, at the end of the novel, leave you with the impression that everything is connected, both logically and supernaturally.

'Set in an improbable fortress in the middle of the sea, her fourth novel explores the to and fro of love and creation. With writing that is both graceful and honed, *The Island of Books* gives love, maternity and particularly books the mystery that is their due.'

– Jean-Marc Vallée

'Throughout these emotional rescues in the high seas, Dominique Fortier's writing is carried on a rich, beautiful and evocative language. The recurrent use of words from old French adds a patina that is appropriate for this journey filled with touching, illuminating moments ... Dominique Fortier plunges into the depths of human paradox and emerges with a love of books that she shares with grace and generosity.'

– *La Presse* (translated from the French)

'Dominique Fortier's writing is at once sensitive and interesting, moving and spare. It reveals a man blinded by pain who tells us his story of love, his distress and the light of the smile of a young woman. A book written in quiet emotion that makes for good reading as the wind makes the autumn leaves rustle.'

– *Au fil des pages* (translated from the French)

DOMINIQUE FORTIER is a writer and translator living in Montreal. She is the author of five books, including *On the Proper Use of Stars*, nominated for a Governor General's Award, and *Wonder*.

RHONDA MULLINS is an award-winning translator and writer living in Montreal. She received the 2015 Governor General's Literary Award for *Twenty-One Cardinals*, her translation of Jocelyne Saucier's *Les héritiers de la mine*.



Shot-Blue

by Jesse Ruddock

Prose with rules of its own captures the joy of friends in harmony, and the special hell of their discord.

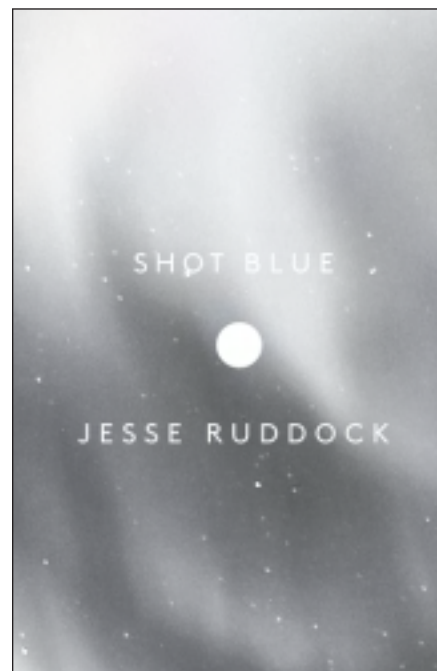
The road was like a portage: an opening that lets you in but makes no promise to bring you out on another side. Maybe the road narrowed to a dead end or was blocked by a swamp raised by a beaver dam. Maybe it led to a place they weren't welcome. She walked through the cut slowly and stopped, her dark hair falling across her shoulders heavily, and Tristan imagined that she meant to let her hair sweep the ground as it did. Most boys would have run out to meet their mothers. But he knew he couldn't understand. She was always telling him, you can't understand everything.

Rachel is a young single mother living with her son, Tristan, on a lake that borders the unchanneled north – remote, nearly inhospitable. She does what she has to do to keep them alive. But soon and unexpectedly, Tristan will have to live alone, his youth unprotected and rough, even brutal, mirroring the wild open place that is his only home, and that will be overrun by strangers – strangers inhabiting the lodge that has replaced his home, strangers that make him fight, or talk, or even love, when he doesn't want to.

A resonant book of first love, first loss, then second love, *Shot-Blue* brings to life the dance of consciousness, how in mind and heart we do not exist alone on our own terms.

'Stunning and just so gracefully told. Ruddock's landscape and characters are known by heart, and her fierce and beautiful language makes you feel it.'

– Naja Marie Aidt



ISBN 978 1 55245 340 7

5 x 8, 240 pages, paperback

\$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US

FICTION / Literary – FICo19000

EPUB 978 1 77056 474 9

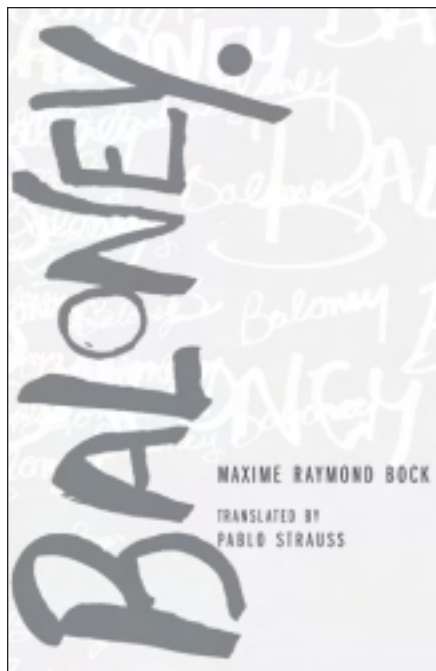
MARCH 2017



Born in Guelph and based in New York, **JESSE RUDDOCK** first left Canada on a hockey scholarship to Harvard. Her writing and photographs have appeared in the NewYorker.com, BOMB, Music & Literature and Vice. *Shot-Blue* is her first novel.

Baloney

by Maxime Raymond Bock, translated by Pablo Strauss



ISBN 978 1 55245 339 1
5 x 8, 144 pages, paperback
\$19.95 CDN / \$15.95 US
FICTION / Literary – FIC019000
EPUB 978 1 77056 468 8

OCTOBER 2016

A *Tristram Shandy*–esque novella about failing memory and failed writing, from one of French Canada’s most exciting new voices.

A young, floundering author meets Robert ‘Baloney’ Lacerte, an older, marginal poet who seems to own nothing beyond his unwavering certainty. Over the course of several evenings, Lacerte recounts his unrelenting quest for poetry, which has taken him from Quebec’s Boreal forests to South America to East Montreal, where he seems poised to disappear without a trace. But as the blocked writer discovers, Lacerte might just be full of it.

[Bock’s] deeply original writing always seeks out the mot juste, then sculpts them into sentences that describe the slightest variations of human emotions in spectacular complexity, harnessing the power of form, rhythm, and sound.’

– Mario Cloutier, *La Presse* (translated from the French)

‘Books are dangerous. They call into question the order of things, turn the world upside down to get a better sense of it and shake the dust off the lenses we look through. [...] No one can say where this book by Maxime Raymond Bock will take us. It’s an incandescent plea for the latent powers of literature, something like a necessity.’

– Jérémy Laniel, *Spirale* (translated from the French)

Praise for *Atavisms*:

‘Crackles with the energy of a Québécois folk song, impassioned and celebratory but also melancholy and cheekily ironic ... As in Bolaño’s work, narrative itself is often the subject; stories are folded within other stories and narrators are constantly asserting their presence ... Like Bolaño, Bock alternates between rage, sorrow, protest, and dark comedy, and the two writers share a sense of urgency – of writing against time as much as about it.’

– Pasha Malla, *The New Yorker*

MAXIME RAYMOND BOCK lives in Montreal, Quebec. *Atavisms*, his first book, won the Prix Adrienne-Choquette for the year’s outstanding fiction collection. **PABLO STRAUSS**, who translated *Atavisms*, lives in Quebec City.

Haircuts by Children

And Other Evidence for a New Social Contract

nonfiction by Darren O'Donnell

A cultural planner's immodest proposal: change how we think about children and we just might change the world.

We live in an 'adultitarian' state, where the rules are based on very adult priorities and understandings of reality. Young people are disenfranchised and powerless; they understand they're subject to an authoritarian regime, whether they buy into it or not. But their unique perspectives also offer incredible potential for social, cultural and economic innovation.

Cultural planner and performance director Darren O'Donnell has been collaborating with children for years through his company, Mammalian Diving Reflex; their most well-known piece, *Haircuts by Children* (exactly what it sounds like) has been performed internationally. O'Donnell suggests that working with children in the cultural industries in a manner that maintains a large space for their participation can be understood as a pilot for a vision of a very different role for young people in the world – one that the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child considers a 'new social contract.'

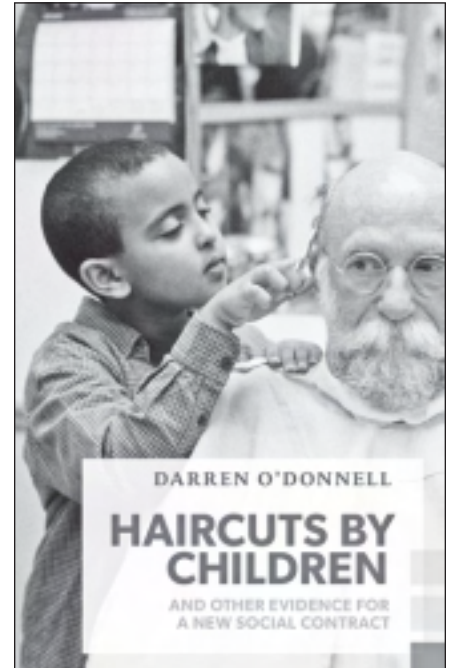
Haircuts by Children is a practical proposal for the inclusion of children in as many realms as possible, not only as an expression of their rights, but as a way to intervene in the world and to disrupt the stark economic inequalities perpetuated by the status quo. Deeply practical and wildly whimsical, *Haircuts by Children* might actually make total sense.

No other playwright working in Toronto right now has O'Donnell's talent for synthesizing psychosocial, artistic and political random thoughts and reflections into compelling analyses ... The world (not to mention the theatre world) could use more of this, if only to get us talking and debating.'

– *The Globe and Mail*



DARREN O'DONNELL is an urban cultural planner, novelist, essayist, playwright, director, designer, performer and and the Artistic and Research Director of performance company Mammalian Diving Reflex. He holds a BFA in theatre and a MSc in urban planning. O'Donnell currently resides in Hemsbach, Germany, where he is working with refugees.



ISBN 978 1 55245 337 7

4.75 x 7.5, 140 pages, paperback

\$14.95 CDN / \$13.95 US

SOCIAL SCIENCE / Children's Studies –
SOC047000

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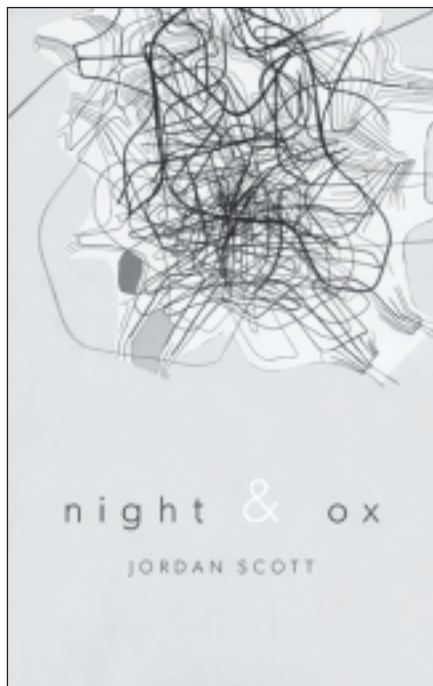
ALSO BY DARREN O'DONNELL:

[boxhead] (978 1 55245 210 3)

Social Acupuncture (978 1 55245 1 700)

Night & Ox

poetry by Jordan Scott



ISBN 978 1 55245 329 2

4.75 x 7.75, 80 pages, paperback

\$18.95 CDN / \$17.95 US

POETRY / Canadian – POEo11000

EPUB 978 1 77056 483 1

OCTOBER 2016

ALSO BY JORDAN SCOTT:

Decomp (978 1 55245 282 0)

Blert (978 1 55245 199 1)

A poem timed to our internal clocks, a poem in perpetual remove, in pummelling love.

*I think of nondescript trees and plural stains
in a field, travertine. I think of gaieties, of
marmots when you somehow enlarge the
spaceplane. I think of next August
and all things we'll get up to. Like lakeshores and
fires on a spit; fire-damp antiparticles when morning.*

Night & Ox is a long poem working its interruptions to a degree where it's broken by the will to live. A poem that invokes expansive loneliness, where the poet's emotional response is to endure. A crushed line of astral forms and anatomy in perpetual remove; it is a poem that nurtures vulnerability: some soft-footed embryo sounds against fatherhood and language's viscera. *Night & Ox* possesses a feral minimalism for those too tired and too frantic with joy to cope with narrative.

'A fierce, ladderlike cri de cœur – at times a cri de cur – *Night & Ox* pulses with sawblade nocturnes that gnaw through the very rungs on which they're wrung. One part Jabberwocky-talkie, one part fatherhood ode, the poem seeks a threshold, where the "mondayescent" gives way to ardour, splendour, even love. Scott is a cosmoglot of the throat's ravine, and this is his manic, pandemonic article of faith.'

– Andrew Zawacki

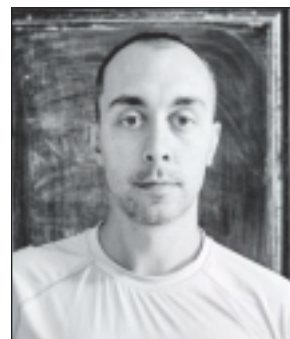
Praise for *Blert*:

'Scott takes us down to the basement of words, where sound and rhythm rule, and poets learn their craft. *Blert* is a strange and gorgeous work of linguistic materialism.'

– Dennis Lee



JORDAN SCOTT is the author of *Silt* (2005), *Blert* (2008) and, with Stephen Collis, *Decomp* (2013). Scott is the 2015/16 Writer-in-Residence at Simon Fraser University. He lives in Vancouver.



3 Summers

poetry by Lisa Robertson

Inspired by Gustave Flaubert's *Three Tales* and Gertrude Stein's *Three Lives*, a grappling with time, form and embodiment.

Go now. Recite your poem to your aunt.
I threw myself to the ground.
Where were you in the night?
In a school among the pines.
What was the meaning of the dream?

Organs, hormones, toxins, lesions: what is a body? In *3 Summers*, Lisa Robertson takes up her earlier concerns with form and literary precedent, and turns toward the timeliness of embodiment. What is form's time? Here the form of life called a poem speaks with the body's mortality, its thickness, its play. The ten poem-sequences in *3 Summers* inflect a history of textual voices – Lucretius, Marx, Aby Warburg, Deleuze, the Sogdian Sutras – in a lyricism that insists on analysis and revolt, as well as the pleasures of description. The poet explores the mysterious oddness of the body, its languor and persistence, to test how it shapes the materiality of thinking, which includes rivers and forests. But in these poems' landscapes, the time of nature is inherently political. Now only time is wild, and only time – embodied here in Lisa Robertson's forceful cadences – can tell.

'Robertson proves hard to explain but easy to enjoy . . . Dauntlessly and resourcefully intellectual, Robertson can also be playful or blunt . . . She wields language expertly, even beautifully.'

– *The New York Times*

'Robertson makes intellect seductive; only her poetry could turn swooning into a critical gesture.'

– *The Village Voice*



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POETRY / Canadian – POE011000

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OCTOBER 2016

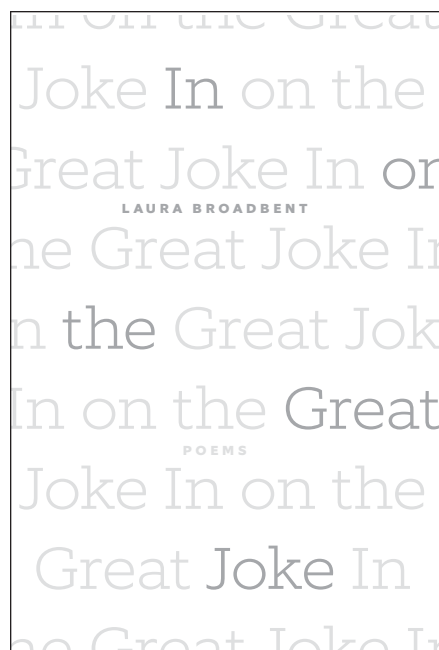


LISA ROBERTSON's books include *Cinema of the Present*, *Debbie: An Epic*, *The Men*, *The Weather*, *R's Boat* and *Occasional Works and Seven Walks from the Office for Soft Architecture*. Lisa Robertson's *Magenta Soul Whip* was named one of *The New York Times*' 100 Notable Books. She lives in France.



In on the Great Joke

poetry by Laura Broadbent



In a blend of essayistic poetics, Broadbent wields alchemy, translation and necromancy to bring readers *In on the Great Joke*.

*Let's just take a moment
to honour the Great Joke.
Absolutely nothing makes sense.
Except laughter, evil laughter and Borges.*

What do you get when you cross Lao Tzu and an application for a university teaching application? What do you get when you give W. G. Sebald and Clarice Lispector the ability to speak from the afterlife? What happens if a girl is stopped at a red light for an entire year? *In on the Great Joke* is a palace of hybridity, where film structure informs poetry, poetry alters the essay, and the essay recalibrates the joke. Broadbent has lent her ear to the dead, the living, the voiceless, to give us the punchline of what it means to be intellectually alive.

'Then there's Laura Broadbent. She is, as are her poems, full of sultry verve and invective. Watch out. Her lines are dizzying and always on point.'

— Michael Nardone, *Hobo Magazine*

ISBN 978 1 55245 336 0
5 x 8, 64 pages, paperback
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POETRY / Canadian POE011000
EPUB 978 1 77056 486 2

Praise for *Oh There You Are I Can't See You Is It Raining?*:

'*Oh There You Are...* succeeds because it is accessible. Intellectually rigorous and evasive, it also makes itself emotionally available.'

— Justin F. Ridgeway, *Broken Pencil*

OCTOBER 2016

LAURA BROADBENT is the author of *Oh There You Are I Can't See You Is It Raining?*, which won the 2012 Robert Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry. She lives in Montreal, where she is working on her PhD in Literature.

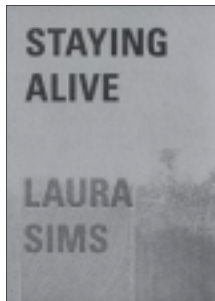


New from Ugly Duckling Presse

Coach House is the Canadian distributor for Ugly Duckling Presse, a nonprofit publisher based in Brooklyn that focuses on new poetry, experimental prose, translation, lost works and artists' books. Below is a sampling of their latest titles on offer. Find out more at uglyducklingpresse.org or follow them on Twitter at @udpbooks.

STAYING ALIVE

by Laura Sims

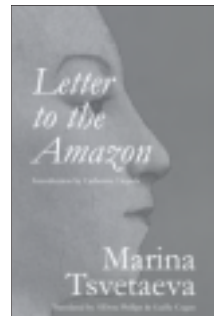


80 pp, 5.5 x 7.75
978 1 93702 762 9
September 2016
\$14 CDN

In her fourth poetry collection, *Staying Alive*, Laura Sims envisions the state of the world and of human existence before, during and after the forever-imminent apocalypse. In channeling and sampling works of apocalyptic fiction and non-fiction – *The War of the Worlds*, *The World Without Us*, *How to Stay Alive in the Woods*, and *The Road*, to name a few – the poems explore multiple world-endings and their possible outcomes, and pose answers to the questions: will we, how do we and should we stay alive?

LETTER TO THE AMAZON

by Marina Tsvetaeva, with a new introduction by Catherine Ciepiela,
translated by A'Dora Phillips, Gaëlle Cogan



48 pp, 5 x 8
978 1 93702 769 8
September 2016
\$12 CDN

Like many of Marina Tsvetaeva's essays and poems, *Letter to the Amazon* is addressed to another writer, in this case Natalie Clifford Barney, a wealthy American expatriate in Paris. Though written in 1932, Tsvetaeva's letter was in response to what Barney said about lesbian relationships and motherhood in her 1920 *Pensées d'une Amazone* (*Thoughts of an Amazon*). Tsvetaeva uses her essay to emphasize what is to her mind a general truth of lesbian relationships (that they cannot endure because of a woman's innate desire for a child) and to explore her seemingly agonized feelings about Sophia Parnok, the Russian poet with whom she fell in love in 1914, when Tsvetaeva was twenty-two and Parnok twenty-nine.

HIT PARADE: THE ORBITA GROUP

by Kevin Platt, Artur Punte, Vladimir Svetlov, Sergej Timofejev
and Semyon Khanin



272 pp, 5.25 x 8.25
978 1 93702 756 8
September 2016
\$18 CDN

Hit Parade is a bilingual Russian-English collection of poems by the four leading authors of the Orbita creative collective, based in Riga, Latvia: Semyon Khanin, Artur Punte, Vladimir Svetlov and Sergej Timofejev. Though their work is primarily written in Russian, the Orbita poets draw on European, Latvian and Russian traditions and contemporary scenes.

AIM AT THE CENTAUR STEALING YOUR WIFE

by Jennifer Nelson



88 pp, 4.5 x 7.5
978 1 93702 751 3
September 2016
\$14 CDN

In the United States and Europe in the early twenty-first century, a person of mixed ethnicity finds herself questing inside old European art and ideas. Terrible as these things often are, she enjoys recalibrating them, and she is optimistic. *Aim at the Centaur Stealing Your Wife* is Jennifer Nelson's first full-length book of poems.



Recent backlist

Nonfiction

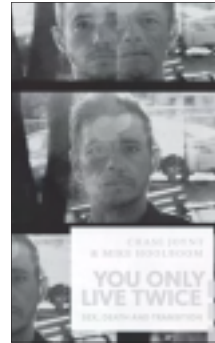


CLOSER

Notes from the Frontier of the
Female Orgasm
by Sarah Barmak

A provocative look at why our current understanding of female sexuality isn't getting us off.

152 pp, June 2016
ISBN 978 1 55245 323 0
\$14.95 CDN / \$13.95 US



YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE

Sex, Death and Transition
by Chase Joynt and Mike Hoolboom

An exploration of two artists' lives before and after transitions: from female to male, and from near-dead to alive.

152 pp, April 2016
ISBN 978 1 55245 331 5
\$14.95 CDN / \$13.95 US



MEN OF ACTION

by Howard Akler

An essay on consciousness, patrimony, old crime films and the desire to write.

128 pp, November 2015
ISBN 978 1 55245 317 9
\$14.95 CDN / \$13.95 US



BRIGHT EYED

Insomnia and Its Cultures
by RM Vaughan

An examination of how we've created a culture of insomnia by shutting out shut-eye in favour of productivity.

136 pp, June 2015
ISBN 978 1 55245 312 4
\$14.95 CDN / \$13.95 US

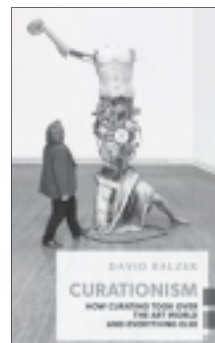


THEATRE OF THE UNIMPRESSED

In Search of Vital Drama
by Jordan Tannahill

A consideration of how mediocre plays are killing theatre, and what we can do about it.

160 pp, May 2015
ISBN 978 1 55245 313 1
\$14.95 CDN / \$13.95 US



CURATIONISM

How Curating Took Over the Art
World and Everything Else
by David Balzer

ICA Bookshop Best Book of the Year 2015

An incisive study of the role of the connoisseur in contemporary culture now that we 'curate' even lunch.

144 pp, September 2014
ISBN 978 1 55245 299 8
\$13.95 CDN / US

Recent Backlist

Nonfiction

THE INSPECTION HOUSE

An Impertinent Field Guide to Modern Surveillance

by Emily Horne and Tim Maly

The Inspection House revisits Foucault's *Discipline and Punish* to explore the panopticon-like surveillance that defines modern life.

160 pp, September 2014

ISBN 978 1 55245 301 8

\$13.95 CDN / US



THE TROUBLE WITH BRUNCH

Work, Class and the Pursuit of Leisure

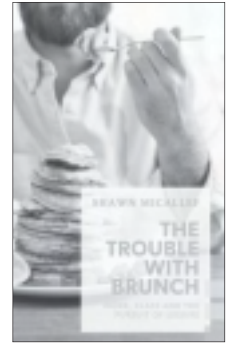
by Shawn Micallef

A provocative analysis of foodie obsession and status anxiety, and a call to reset our class consciousness.

112 pp, July 2014

ISBN 978 1 55245 285 1

\$13.95 CDN / US



GODS OF THE HAMMER

The Teenage Head Story

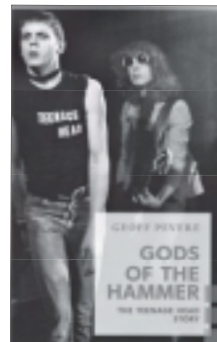
by Geoff Pevere

The story of Teenage Head, a Canadian punk band that almost became world famous. Almost.

136 pp, April 2014

ISBN 978 1 55245 284 4

\$13.95 CDN / US



ARMY OF LOVERS

A Community History of Will Munro

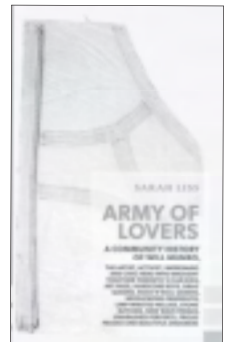
by Sarah Liss

A history of Will Munro, a legendary Toronto artist, DJ, activist and impresario, as renowned for his transgressive art as for reinventing Toronto's nightlife culture.

160 pp, September 2013

ISBN 978 1 55245 277 6

\$13.95 CDN / US



THE WARD

The Life and Loss of Toronto's First Immigrant Neighbourhood

edited by John Lorinc, Michael McClelland, Ellen Scheinberg and Tatum Taylor

The story of the growth and destruction of Toronto's first 'priority neighbourhood.'

320 pp, June 2015

ISBN 978 1 55245 311 7

\$25.95 CDN / US



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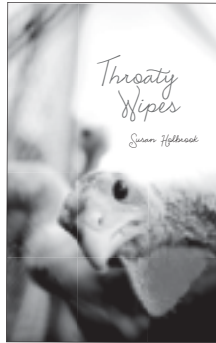
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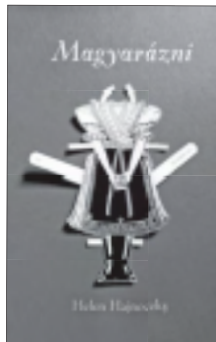
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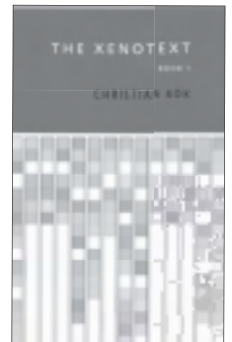
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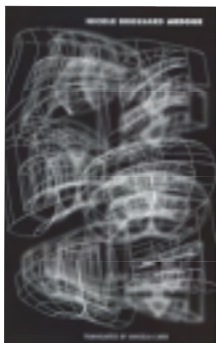
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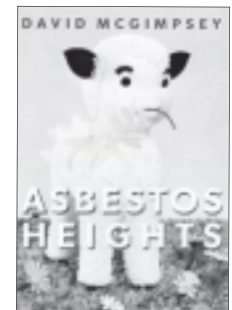
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