



VÉHICULE PRESS  
Fall 2018

45th Anniversary



# Véhicule Press

## PUBLISHERS' NOTE

We've been ruminating on the number 45 for good reason lately—it's our 45th anniversary. But a more significant number is 494, the number of books of we've published since 1973. Great poetry, challenging fiction, and essential non-fiction from writers across Canada, with a focus on the literature of Quebec. We couldn't have achieved this without writers, readers, booksellers, and the folks that make the whole publishing process work.

Thank you!

NANCY MARRELLI

SIMON DARDICK

Cover art by J.W. Stewart

Véhicule Press acknowledges the support of the Canada Book Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles du Québec (SODEC).

PRINTED IN CANADA

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Government  
of Canada

Canada



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada

SODEC  
Québec



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# Mayonnaise

A Novel

**ÉRIC PLAMONDON**

Translated from the French by DIMITRI NASRALLAH

Writer Richard Brautigan was a counter-cultural icon of the 1960s. In *Mayonnaise*, the second novel of Éric Plamondon's 1984 *Trilogy*, narrator Gabriel Rivages pieces together Brautigan's life starting in Oregon, where he was born, to San Francisco, where he became a poet and satirical novelist, and on to the Bolinas, California, where he committed suicide in 1984. Sifting through the ruins of Sixties idealism, Plamondon recasts the American western frontier into a surreal, timeless place of industrial invention, Hollywood glamour and acid-washed hedonism. Originally published in French, *Mayonnaise* was a finalist for the Grand Prix du livre de Montreal.

A leading voice of new Quebec fiction, Plamondon's 1984 *Trilogy* follows the promise of the American Dream through the destinies of actor Johnny Weissmuller (*Hungary-Hollywood Express*, 2016), writer Richard Brautigan (*Mayonnaise*), and tech guru Steve Jobs (*Apple S*, 2019). Éric Plamondon was born in Quebec in 1969 and lives near Bordeaux, France.

## MARKETING

Advance reading copies  
Review copy mailing  
Print & web advertising  
Online promotions

## AUTHOR TOUR

Montreal  
Ottawa  
Kingston  
Toronto

**“When I read this book for the first time, I thought, Wow!  
Every time I reread it, I have the same response.”**

**—Chantal Guy, *La Presse***



A leading voice of new Quebec fiction, ÉRIC PLAMONDON'S 1984 *Trilogy* follows the promise of the American Dream through the destinies of actor Johnny Weissmuller (*Hungary-Hollywood Express*, 2016), writer Richard Brautigan (*Mayonnaise*), and tech guru Steve Jobs (*Apple S*, 2019). Eric Plamondon was born in Quebec in 1969 and lives near Bordeaux, France.

NOVEL

SEPTEMBER

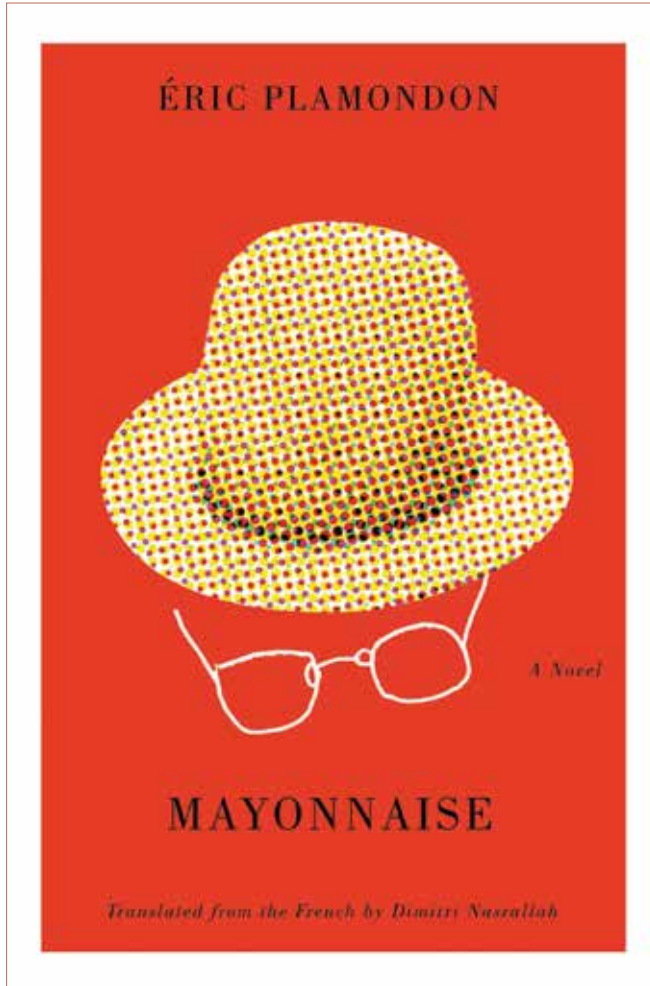
ISBN: 978-1-55065-510-0

EPUB: 978-1-55065-515-5

\$19.95 CDN | Trade paper  
w/ French Flaps

5 × 7½ | 240 PP

Recasting the ruins of 1960s idealism.



DIMITRI NASRALLAH translated Éric Plamondon's *Hungary-Hollywood Express*, the first volume in the 1984 *Trilogy*. His translation of *Apple S*, the third, will appear in 2019. Nasrallah's latest novel is *The Bleeds*. He lives in Montreal.



Exacting craftsmanship.

# Afterwords

GEOFFREY COOK

The belief in translation as an act of self-portraiture drives *Afterwords*, Geoffrey Cook's ambitious reimagining of German poems by Goethe, Heine, Rilke and Brecht. Cook's versions not only transform these foreign texts into English poems in their own right, but enrich and expand his uniquely prismatic voice. Cook brings a contemporary and Canadian tone to his adaptations, which also showcase the exacting craftsmanship for which his first collection, *Postscript*, was praised. *Afterwords* is a book that daringly celebrates authorship as a shared project. "Do you / not feel," writes Goethe, "that, in my songs, / I am one and the other, too?"

**"Geoffrey Cook has given us, quite simply,  
a new, sometimes astonishing, quite  
wonderful poetic voice."  
—David Adams Richards**



GEOFFREY COOK's poetry and translations have been widely published and anthologized. His first book, *Postscript* (Signal, 2004) was shortlisted for the Alfred G. Bailey and Gerald Lampert Memorial awards. He lives in Sainte-Adèle, Quebec

## MARKETING

Advance reading copies  
Review copy mailing  
Print & web advertising  
Online promotions  
Excerpts

## EVENTS

Montreal  
St. John  
Fredericton  
Toronto

## POETRY

## SEPTEMBER

ISBN: 978-1-55065-508-7  
EPUB: 978-1-55065-513-1  
\$17.95 CDN | \$14.95 US  
Trade paper  
5 × 7½ | 72 PP

“Herein lives urgent cadence and eternal excellence.”  
—George Elliott Clarke



**Postscript**  
ISBN: 978-1-55065-190-4  
\$14.95 CDN | \$11.95 US  
Trade paper  
5½ x 8½ | 68 PP



An award-winning author and translator.

# The Hardness of Matter and Water

**PIERRE NEPVEU**

Translated from the French by DONALD WINKLER

*The Hardness of Matter and Water* fulfills a poetic odyssey Québécois poet Pierre Nepveu began over four decades ago. Through a sequence of four prose poems, his anonymous protagonist walks from the heart of present-day Montreal into its southwestern margins, where the metropolis began centuries ago and which now “lays out its memories on the young grass.” Questioning his sense of belonging, social unease and mortality as he walks, and following “a shadowy voice that neither sings nor speaks,” Nepveu transports readers across wide spans of history, geography, metaphysics and speculation.

A 2016 finalist for the Governor General’s Literary Award for Poetry in French, rendered in English by award-winning translator Donald Winkler, *The Hardness of Matter and Water* is poetry at its meditative, insightful best.

## MARKETING

Advance reading copies

Review copy mailing

Print & web advertising

Online promotions

## EVENTS

Montreal

Toronto

Kingston



**PIERRE NEPVEU** is one of Canada’s most celebrated writers. A five-time winner of the Governor General’s Literary Awards in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, Nepveu became a member of the Order of Canada in 2012.

## POETRY

### SEPTEMBER

ISBN: 978-1-55065-509-4

EPUB: 978-1-55065-514-8

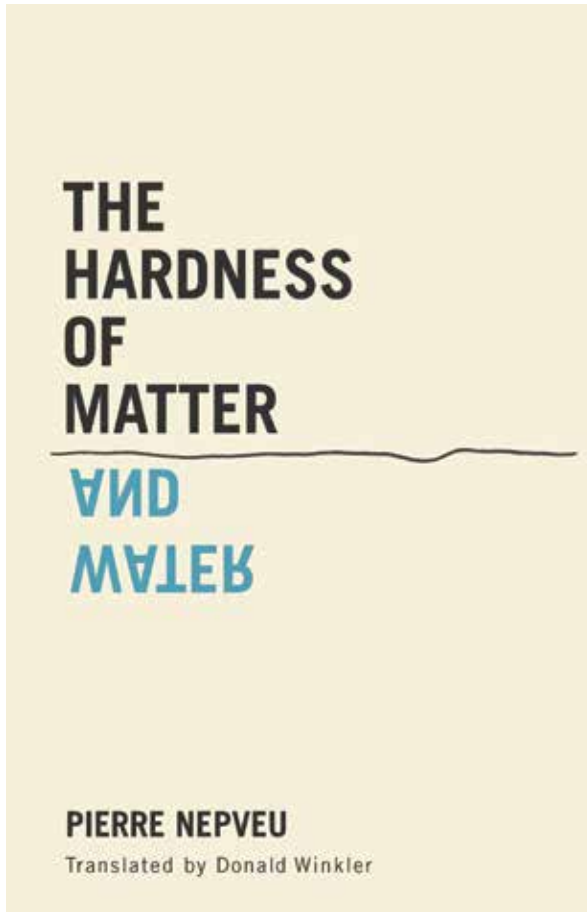
\$17.95 CDN | \$14.95 US

Trade paper

5½ × 8½ | 104 PP



“One of the most significant Québécois poets now writing.”  
–Carmine Starnino



Donald Winkler is a three-time winner of the Governor General’s Literary Award for Translation. His translation of Pierre Nepveu’s *The Major Verbs* (Signal Editions) won in 2013. He lives in Montreal.



Canada's most beguiling city.

# No Place More Suitable

Four Centuries of Montreal Stories

**JOHN KALBFLEISCH**

For centuries Montreal reigned as Canada's most beguiling city. Inspired by the pages of the *Gazette*, Canada's oldest daily newspaper (founded in 1778), here are seventy-five true tales to inspire, amuse, horrify and captivate. Stories include humourist Stephen Leacock's flinty bitterness at being forced into academic retirement; a boat race through downtown Montreal in the dead of winter; a duel sparked by a society ball; and city-wide celebrations marking the end of World War II. In *No Place More Suitable*, author John Kalbfleisch brings into colourful focus the full range of human endeavor, genius, hilarity, poignancy and sadness from over 350 years of life on the banks of the St. Lawrence.

## MARKETING

Advance reading copies

Review copy mailing

Print & Web advertising

Online Promotions

## AUTHOR TOUR

Montreal

Ottawa

Toronto



For more than 40 years, John Kalbfleisch was variously a reporter, columnist and editor at the *Montreal Gazette*. He is the author of *This Island in Time: Remarkable Tales from Montreal's Past*. He lives in Perth, Ontario.

## ESSAYS

### OCTOBER

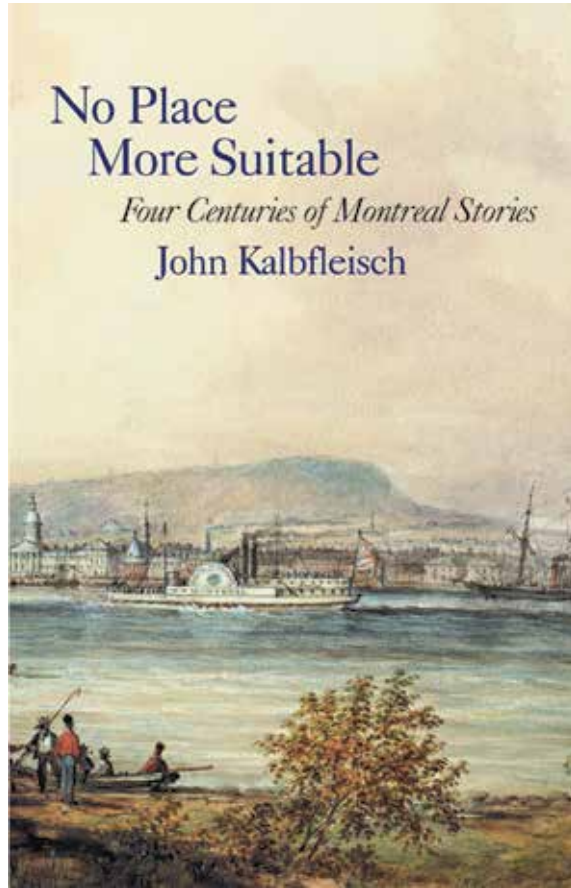
ISBN: 978-1-55065-512-4

EPUB: 978-1-55065-517-9

\$19.95 CDN | \$16.95 US

Trade paper

5½ × 8½ | 192 PP



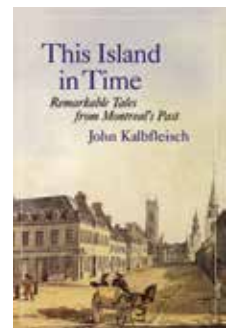
## This Island in Time

ISBN: 978-1-55065-241-3

\$17.95 CDN | \$15.95 US

Trade paper

5½ x 8½ | 190 pp



A 12-year-old boy's brush with the underworld.

# Four Days

A Novel

**JOHN BUELL**

Introduction by TREVOR FERGUSON

An orphaned boy watches as his older brother and idol graduates from petty thievery into big-league crime. A bank heist goes awry, leaving loose threads and dangerous links back to the brothers. Following instructions, the boy leaves the city with the stolen money and travels to a rendezvous point in a mountain vacation resort. What he doesn't know is that he is on his own, his brother will not show up—and the underworld is after him.

John Buell's gripping second novel, *Four Days*, was first published in 1962 by Farrar, Straus & Cudahy in the United States and Macmillan in the UK. John Buell wrote five novels—*The Pyx* (1959), *Four Days* (1962), *The Shrewsdale Exit* (1972), *Playground* (1976) and *A Lot to Make Up For* (1990)—three of which were made into feature films. This Ricochet Books edition of *Four Days* marks the reintroduction of the work of a neglected master of suspense.

Ricochet Books is a series of vintage noir mysteries, edited by Brian Busby. He is the author of *The Dusty Bookcase: A Journey Through Canada's Forgotten, Neglected and Suppressed Writing*.

**JOHN BUELL** (1927-2013) was a lifelong resident of Montreal. He taught English and Communication Studies at Concordia University.

**TREVOR FERGUSON** is the author of seven novels under his own name and six under the name John Farrow. His most recent title is *Perish the Day*.

## MARKETING

Advance reading copies  
Review copy mailing  
Print & web advertising  
Online promotions

## CRIME FICTION JUNE

**ISBN:** 978-1-55065-511-7  
**EPUB:** 978-1-55065-516-2  
\$14.95 CDN | \$11.95 US  
Trade paper  
4¼ × 7 | 162 PP

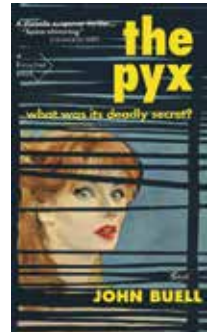


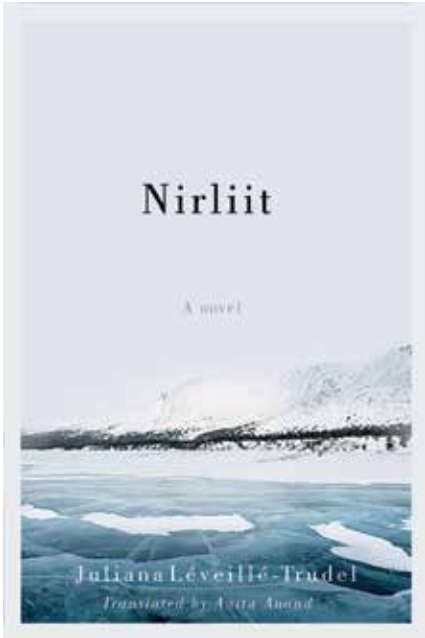
## The Pyx

ISBN: 978-1-55065-465-3 | EPUB: 978-1-55065-472-1

\$14.95 CDN | \$11.95 US | trade paper

4¼ × 7 | 132 PP





## Nirliit

JULIANA LÉVEILLÉ-TRUDEL

Translated from the French by  
ANITA ANAND

NOVEL | ESPLANADE BOOKS

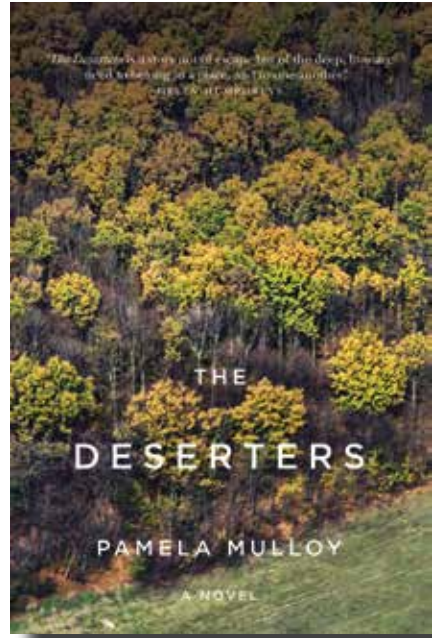
ISBN: 978-1-55065-494-3

EPUB: 978-1-55065-501-8

Trade paper w/ French flaps 5 × 7½  
200 PP | \$19.95 CDN

“I’m about to reread this book because  
its powerful beauty haunts me.”

–Dorothee Berryman, *La Presse*



## The Deserters

PAMELA MULLOY

NOVEL | ESPLANADE BOOKS

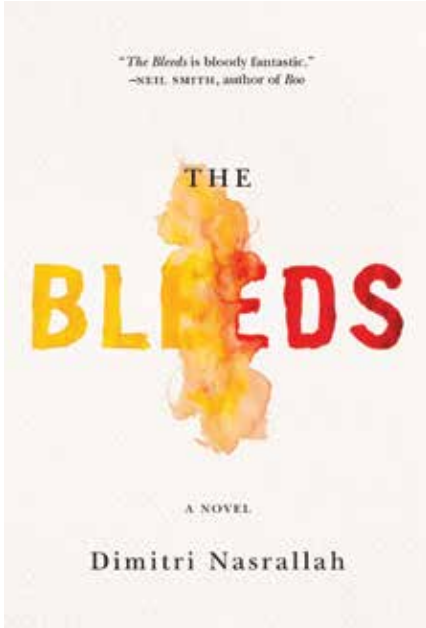
ISBN: 978-1-55065-495-0

EPUB: 978-1-55065-502-5

Trade paper w/ French flaps 5 × 7½  
202 PP | \$19.95 CDN | \$16.95 US

“Sparely and beautifully written, *The  
Deserters* is a story not of escape but of  
the deep, human need to belong to a  
place, and to one another.”

–Helen Humphreys



## The Bleeds

DIMITRI NASRALLAH

NOVEL | ESPLANADE BOOKS

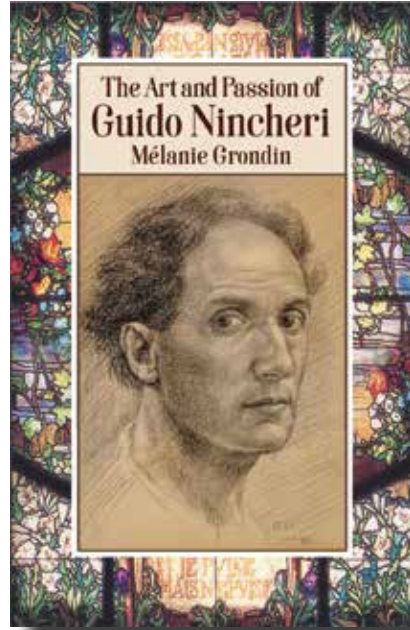
ISBN: 978-1-55065-480-6

EPUB: 978-1-55065-488-2

Trade paper w/ French flaps 5 × 7½  
200 PP | \$19.95 CDN

“Nasrallah invites readers to imagine themselves embedded in power structures—not for the purpose of humanizing dictators, but as a means of jarring us out of our polarized ideologies.”

—Shenaz Kermalli, *Quill & Quire*



## The Art and Passion of Guido Nincheri

MÉLANIE GRONDIN

NOVEL | ESPLANADE BOOKS

ISBN: 978-1-55065-485-1

EPUB: 978-1-55065-493-6

Trade paper w/ French flaps 5½ × 7½  
236 PP + 32 PP colour portfolio  
\$24.95 CDN | \$19.95 US

“Grondin’s book is exceptional not only because it is the first full-length book dealing with the man and his works, but it excels at explaining the various styles and media Nincheri worked with.”

—*Miramichi Reader*





## East and West

LAURA RITLAND

POETRY | SIGNAL EDITIONS

ISBN: 978-1-55065-496-7

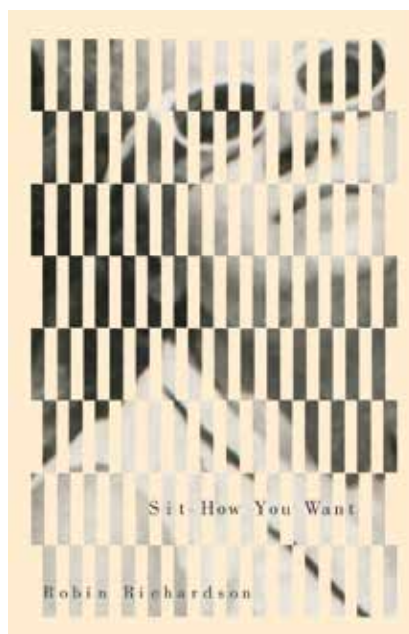
EPUB: 978-1-55065-503-2

Trade paper 5 ½ × 8 ½ | 96 PP

\$17.95 CDN | \$14.95 US

“What I love most in these poems is their insistence on being of two minds. There is such tension here between past and present, contact and isolation, heart and head, the resignation of our species to this current moment and its stubborn hopes for a future. What a smart, moving first book!”

—Julie Bruck



## Sit How You Want

ROBIN RICHARDSON

POETRY | SIGNAL EDITIONS

ISBN: 978-1-55065-497-4

EPUB: 978-1-55065-504-9

Trade paper 5 ½ × 8 ½ | 76 PP

\$17.95 CDN | \$14.95 US

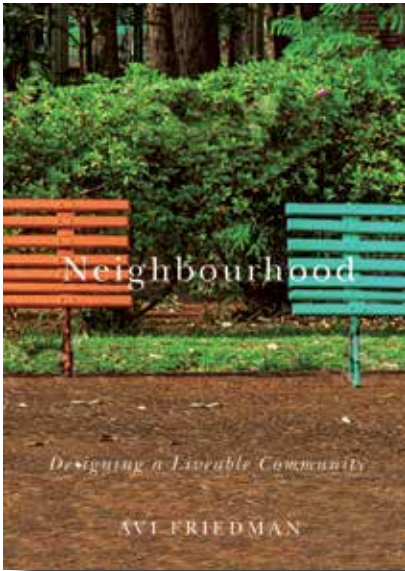
“Robin Richardson’s poems take no prisoners, have a strange and authentic music all their own.”

—Thomas Lux

“Her ear is closely attuned to the intricacies of what words sound like, and that attention pays off.”

—Bruce Whiteman, *Quill & Quire*





## Neighbourhood

Designing a Liveable  
Community

AVI FRIEDMAN

URBAN STUDIES

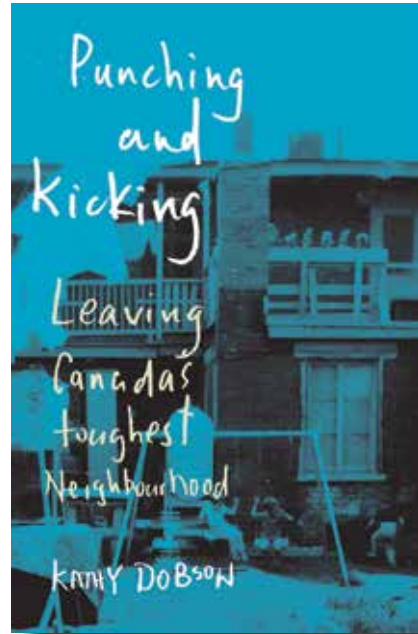
ISBN: 978-1-55065-498-1

EPUB: 978-1-55065-505-6

Trade paper 5 × 7

274 PP | \$25.00 CDN

In his quest to build a new kind of neighbourhood, Friedman explores how good and bad design affect our homes and civic life.



## Punching and Kicking

Leaving Canada's Toughest  
Neighbourhood

KATHY DOBSON

MEMOIR | SOCIAL HISTORY

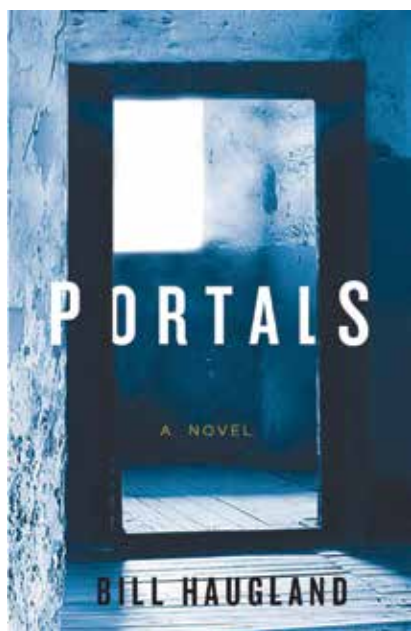
ISBN: 978-1-55065-500-1

EPUB: 978-1-55065-507-0

Trade paper 5 ½ × 8 ½ | 240 PP

\$19.95 CDN | \$19.95 US

In this sequel to the highly praised *With a Closed Fist*, Dobson shares her journey of trying to escape from childhood poverty.



## Portals

BILL HAUGLAND

NOVEL | FANTASY/HORROR

ISBN: 978-1-55065-499-8

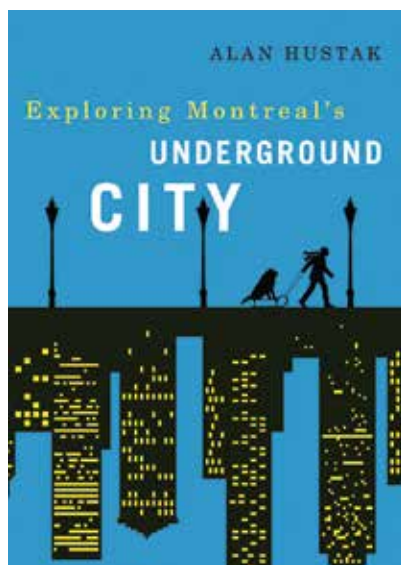
EPUB: 978-1-55065-506-3

Trade paper 5 ½ × 8 ½ | 212 PP

\$19.95 CDN | \$16.95 US

“*Portals* is what might happen if Stephen King met *Lord of the Flies* ... you might never want to drive alone down a country road again.”

—Mutsumi Takahashi, CTV



## Exploring Montreal's Underground City

ALAN HUSTAK

CITY GUIDE

ISBN: 978-1-55065-479-0

EPUB: 978-1-55065-487-5

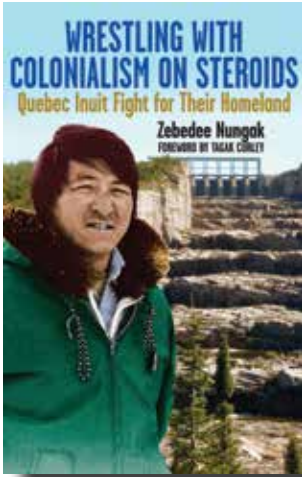
Trade paper 5 ½ × 8 ½ | 80 PP

Full colour with maps

\$17.95 CDN | \$14.95 US

The indispensable guide to Montreal's parallel metropolis—an amazing 40 km labyrinth linking 85 downtown skyscrapers, 10 hotels, apartment blocks, shopping malls, restaurants, 68 Métro stations, and even an indoor skating rink.

**NOW AVAILABLE**



## Wrestling with Colonialism on Steroids

Quebec Inuit Fight for Their Homeland

ZEBEDEE NUNGAK

HISTORY | DOSSIER QUÉBEC

ISBN: 978-1-55065-468-4

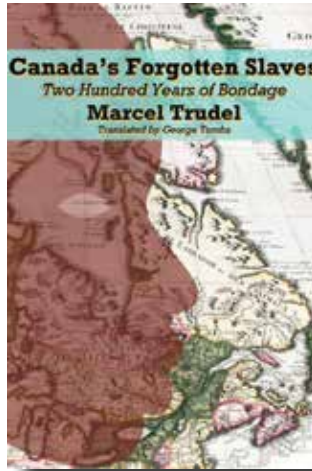
ISBN: 978-1-55065-476-9

Trade paper w/ French flaps  
5 x 7½ | 130 PP | \$15.95 CDN  
\$11.95 US

In this lively memoir, Zebedee Nungak relates the inside story of how the young Inuit and Cree took action when Quebec began construction on the giant James Bay hydro project.

“Nungak vividly captures the tensions between the parties concerned, the short-lived triumph of an injunction, and the frustrations of hammering out an agreement in the face of severe time constraints and government intransigence.”

—Louise Abbott, *Montreal Review of Books*



## Canada's Forgotten Slaves

Two Centuries of Bondage

MARCEL TRUDEL

Translated from the French by  
GEORGE TOMBS

Shortlisted for the 2013 GG  
Literary Award for Translation

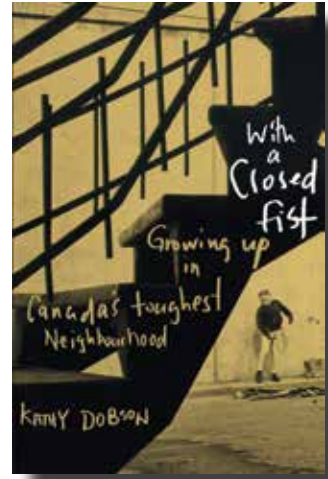
HISTORY

ISBN: 978-1-55065-327-4

Trade paper | 6 x 9 | 382 PP  
\$27.95 CDN | \$27.95

“Mr. Trudel, who died in 2011, shreds our national myth about slavery by naming hundreds of eminent and ordinary Quebecers who were eager to get slaves and proud to flaunt them before their neighbours.”

—Robert Everett-Green,  
*The Globe and Mail*



## With a Closed Fist

Growing Up in Canada's Toughest Neighbourhood

KATHY DOBSON

BIOGRAPHY

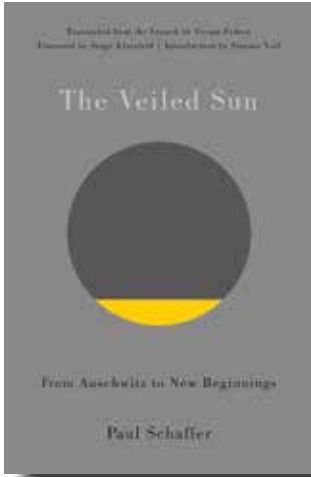
ISBN: 978-1-55065-323-6

EPUB: 978-1-55065-344-1

Trade paper | 5½ x 8½ | 224 PP  
\$19.95 CDN | \$19.95 US

“Dobson has enormous talent, and we all must be thankful that she did beat the odds and find her way through the maze of deprivation and violence to speak her truths in such a creative and telling book.”

—Pat Capponi,  
*The Globe and Mail*



**The Veiled Sun**  
From Auschwitz to New  
Beginnings

PAUL SCHAFFER

Translated from the French by  
VIVIAN FELSEN

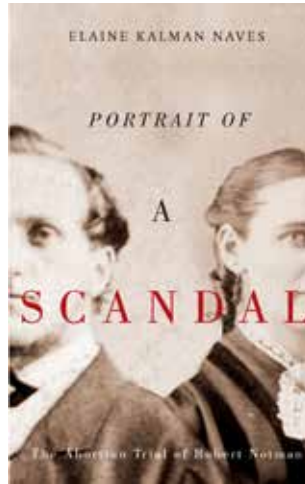
Foreword by  
SERGE KLARSFELD  
Introduction by SIMONE VEIL

**MEMOIR | HISTORY**  
ISBN: 978-1-55065-404-2  
EPUB: 978-1-55065-413-4

Trade paper w/ 30 b&w photo-  
graphs + colour | 5½ × 8½  
212 PP | \$20.00 CDN | \$19.99 US

“The restraint and authenticity of  
Paul Schaffer’s account make the  
message he conveys all the more  
valuable.”

–Simone Veil



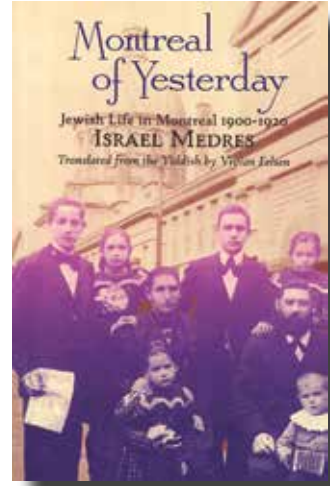
**Portrait of a Scandal**  
The Abortion Trial of  
Robert Notman

ELAINE KALMAN NAVES

**HISTORY**  
ISBN: 978-1-55065-357-1  
EPUB: 978-1-55065-382-3

Trade paper w/ 24-page port-  
folio of photographs by  
William Notman | 5½ × 8½  
214 PP | \$18.00 CDN

The trial of Robert Notman be-  
came a *cause-célèbre* in the newly  
minted Dominion of Canada in  
1868. *Portrait of a Scandal* depicts  
a society that distanced itself  
from sexual misconduct, while  
lapping up every salacious detail.



**Montreal of Yesterday**  
Jewish Life in Montreal  
1900-1920

ISRAEL MEDRES

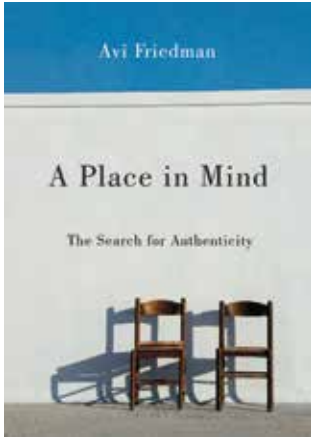
Translated from the Yiddish by  
VIVIAN FELSEN

**HISTORY | DOSSIER QUÉBEC**  
ISBN: 978-1-55065-133-1  
EPUB: 978-1-55065-418-9

Trade paper | 6 × 9 | 214 PP  
\$19.95 CDN

Winner, Canadian Jewish  
Book Awards

“A rich and readable resource for  
anyone with an interest in the  
past, historians and general read-  
ers alike.” –Montreal Gazette



**A Place in Mind**  
The Search for Authenticity  
AVI FRIEDMAN

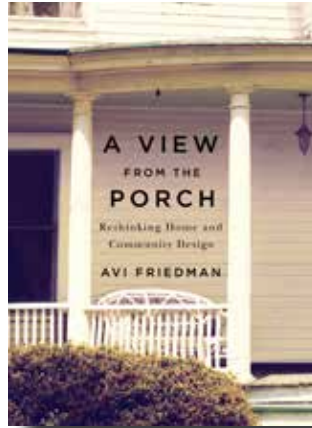
URBAN PLANNING | DESIGN  
ISBN: 978-1-55065-452-3  
EPUB: 978-1-55065-458-5

Trade paper w/ 52 b&w photographs | 5 × 7 | 224 PP  
\$19.95 CDN

*A Place in Mind* is the result of Avi Friedman's worldwide quest for successful environments where people congregate and feel comfortable.

"If you are looking for a good book to read, consider picking up a copy of Avi Friedman's *A Place in Mind*."

—Richard White, *Calgary Herald*



**A View from the Porch**  
Rethinking Home and  
Community Design  
AVI FRIEDMAN

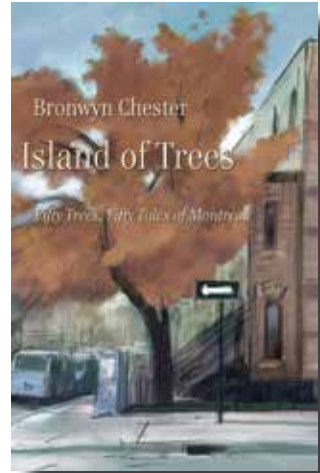
URBAN PLANNING | DESIGN  
ISBN: 978-1-55065-399-1  
EPUB: 978-1-55065-408-0

Trade paper w/ 25 b&w photographs | 5 × 7 | 240 PP  
\$25.00 CDN | \$19.99 US

*A View from the Porch* offers a compelling vision of the influence of design in our everyday lives.

"Friedman approaches his subject with a warm, personal tone that makes this book an accessible and thoroughly enjoyable read."

—*Canadian Architect*



**Island of Trees**  
Fifty Trees, Fifty Tales  
of Montreal  
BRONWYN CHESTER

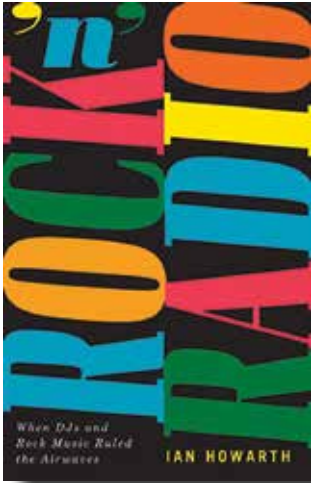
ENVIRONMENT | HISTORY  
ISBN: 978-1-55065-329-8  
EPUB: 978-1-55065-421-9

Trade paper w/ 50 illustrations + maps | 5½ × 8½ | 182 PP  
\$18.00 CDN

"A love letter to Montreal and its urban forest ... Chester offers a new way of interacting with, and appreciating, the world around us."

—Ian McGillis, *Montreal Gazette*





**Rock 'n' Radio**  
When DJs and Rock Music Ruled the Airwaves

IAN HOWARTH

**MUSIC HISTORY**

ISBN: 978-1-55065-469-1

EPUB: 978-1-55065-475-2

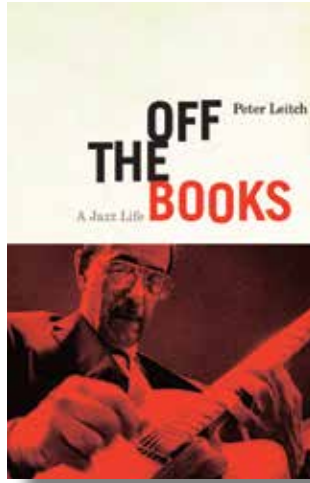
Trade paper w/ photographs

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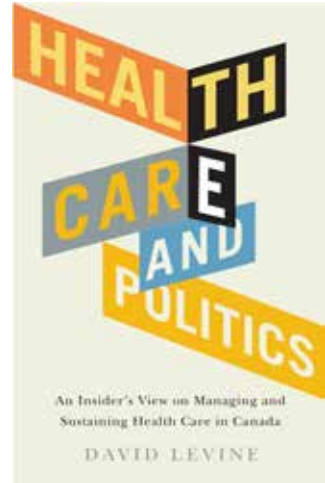
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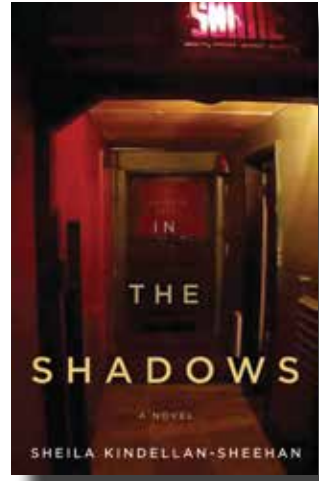
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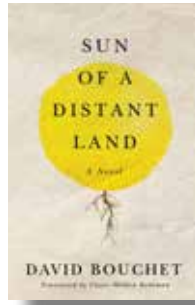
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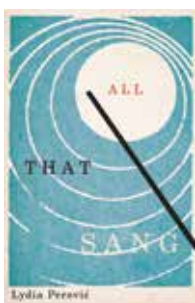


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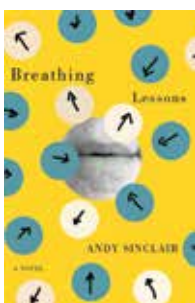
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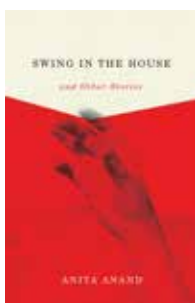
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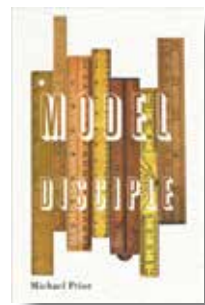
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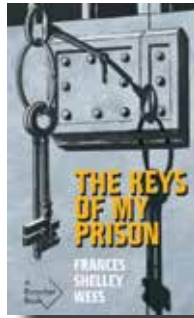
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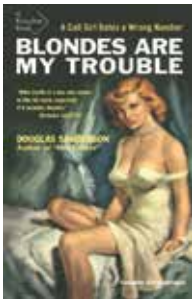
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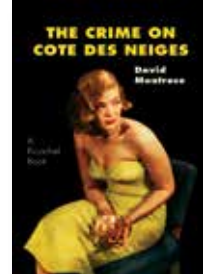
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In 2009 we published *Penned: Zoo Poems* edited by Stephanie Bolster, Katia Grubisic and Simon Reader. Stephanie won the 1998 Governor General's Award for Poetry, for her debut, *White Stone: The Alice Poems*. A first GG for both of us!



On October 24, 2005, the literary community celebrated Judy Mappin of the iconic Double Hook Bookshop, venue of many book launches. Pictured here with H el ene Holden, a co-founder.

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