

BIBLIOASIS

SPRING 2016



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Spring 2016

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ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

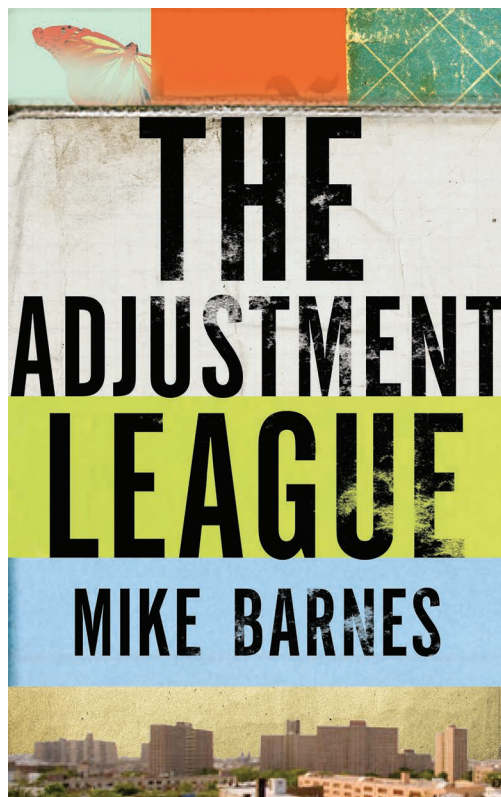
25 YEARS OF ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF THE ARTS  
25 ANNÉES DE SOUTIEN DU GOUVERNEMENT DE L'ONTARIO AUX ARTS



Ontario  
Media Development  
Corporation

# THE ADJUSTMENT LEAGUE

MIKE BARNES



May 10, 2016 | Novel

5.25 x 8.25 | 352pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-082-3

\$19.95 CAD

eBook: 978-1-77196-083-0

At a psychiatric hospital in the 1980s patients formed what they called The Adjustment League to protect themselves against the depredations of a corrupt and abusive staff. Prompted by a mysterious summons from his past, a message from a fellow patient on a locked ward twenty years before, the hero of the novel—a man known only as “the Super”—embarks on a series of adjustments, his word for the personal interventions he conducts on behalf of the powerless to even the playing field. But what begins as a discovery of the neglect by a privileged Toronto family of their Alzheimer’s-afflicted mother opens out into much larger and more systematic crimes.

The first in a new noir trilogy, *The Adjustment League* offers up a grittily gothic examination of privilege and power on the mean streets of contemporary Toronto. Working in the 6-8 week windows of what The Super calls hyper-time—the periods of near-sleepless hyper-awareness and activity which precede his own mental collapse—he tries to balance the scales of justice while seeking atonement for a crime from his own past: the maiming of his own daughter during a period of psychological distress. Part bi-polar detective, part avenging angel, The Super is a noir anti-hero like none other....

MIKE BARNES, a dual Canadian-American citizen, has published eight previous books across a range of genres: poetry, short fiction, novels, and memoir. His stories have appeared twice in *Best Canadian Stories* and three times in *The Journey Prize Anthology* and has won a National Magazine Award Silver Medal in the short story category. His collection of poems, *Calm Jazz Sea*, was shortlisted for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award; and *Aquarium*, his first collection of stories, won the Danuta Gleed Award. His last book, a collaboration with the artist Segbingway, was an illustrated book of fairy tales entitled *The Reasonable Ogre*. He works as a private English tutor and lives in Toronto.

## PRAISE FOR MIKE BARNES

“... fiercely alive, marked by a sharp, unerring eye for detail and a wonderful way with metaphors.”  
—TORONTO STAR

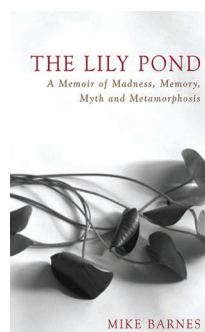
“His lucid prose brings to mind Poe’s Gothic horror, Hunter S. Thompson’s strangeness (without the drug-craze), and William Burroughs’ ellipsis (without the disintegration). But it is perhaps closest to Roald Dahl’s intimate exploration of human oddity and use of surprise in *Switch Bitch*.”

—GLOBE AND MAIL

“Barnes writes like a contrary angel, dazzling with his deft craft and smacking readers in the gut with concentrated and perceptive subjects.”

—MALAHAT REVIEW

## Also of Interest:



### The Lily Pond

A Memoir of Madness, Memory,  
Myth and Metamorphosis

Mike Barnes

Trade Paper

5.25 x 8.25

978-1-897231-48-7

28.95 CAD

eBook

978-1-897231-79-1

# INTRODUCING THE SUPER—PART BI-POLAR DETECTIVE, PART AVENGING ANGEL—THE ANTI-HERO OF MIKE BARNES’S GRITTY NEW NOIR TRILOGY SET IN CONTEMPORARY TORONTO’S UNDERWORLD.

from *The Adjustment League*

1

SATURDAY MORNING, EARLY. Sweeping up broken glass and litter on the lobby stairs, I catch a peep of white from the mailbox below. Inside, a line in blue ink on a folded sheet of paper. Handwriting I don’t recognize, though a wobble in the letters tugs at me. An address up on Highway 7.

Then the three block capitals: TAL. Which I do know.

---

An hour later, up in Markham, I pull over on the long drive opposite the covered entranceway. Sitting in the Honda, I take it in. The sign flanked by junipers behind a low rock garden: **VIVERA: A Helping Community**. Below, in smaller letters: **With Special Assistance For The Memory Impaired**. *Words to hang on City Hall.*

Two stories in brick and wood, spacious, with long side wings. Fresh white trim around picture windows. Shrubs and flowers rising from raked wood chips beside the walkway. Gourds and ornamental grasses in big ceramic urns leading to the double wooden doors.

Vibe of an old-time farmhouse or plantation manor. Rambling as generations add on wings. The gray McHomes stretching to either side a jarring note. Ditto the four lanes of traffic. But the low-lying woods to the north, aflame now with scarlets and yellows, work perfectly.

Inside, old people. Women, mostly. In armchairs, on couches. Two in wheelchairs helping an Asian girl put creamers in bowls. A woman gripping her walker, another inching hers ahead. A ginger-spice smell that’s hard to place. Apple cake? Sunday pot roast? Slow, savoury hours. A gray terrier and a calico cat mooching about.



“Judy Wyvern,” I tell the young black receptionist. She looks up from her magazine, frowning at what she sees.

Remembering, she gentles her face. “Family?” The phone rings and she holds up a finger. Behind me, I hear “Just a minute,” but am halfway across a livingroom-like space towards the door marked Director.

Older than the receptionist, mid-thirties, palely pretty with long black hair. Gray business suit and slacks over a ruffled white blouse. She extends a hand at Judy’s name. “Family?”

I give her the slip of paper. “I’m sorry,” she says. Her eyes stray up me without a flicker. Why she’s not answering phones. She pulls a file over the form she’d been filling in. “Come with me.”

People’s assumptions will carry you a long way. If you don’t force a scene, their own hunger to find one will take you a few steps further than you were meant to go.

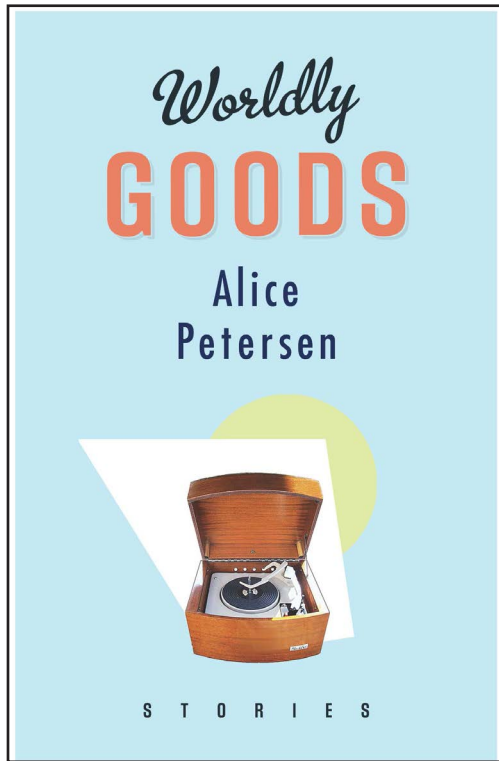
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## Marketing Plan:

- National review copy mailing
- Radio and social media campaign
- 100 Advance Reader Copies
  - 3000 copy print run
- Author Tour: Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Windsor, and elsewhere
  - Co-op available

# WORLDLY GOODS

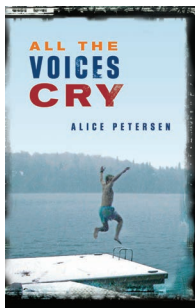
ALICE PETERSEN



May 10, 2016 | Short Fiction  
5 x 7.5 | 176pp  
Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-080-9  
\$19.95 CAD

eBook: 978-1-77196-081-6

By the same author:



## All the Voices Cry

Alice Petersen

Trade Paper  
5.25 x 8.25  
978-1-926845-52-4  
19.95 CAD

eBook  
978-1-926845-53-1

In his dying moments, an old man's eyes come to rest on the record player he bought in 1958, bringing back memories of a time its ownership opened up a world of artistic, cultural and romantic possibilities which would not have happened otherwise. A young girl in the southern United States from an evangelical family spends an endless night listening to Orson Welles's broadcast of the *War of the Worlds* on the front porch, waiting for the world to end.

The stories of Alice Petersen's new collection attach themselves to very small material things—the worldly goods of the title—which we carry along with us as we pass through life, in some cases only recognizing the significance of them much later, after living with them for years in a way that made them almost invisible. These things—often connected in some way to music or art, whether they are record players or radios or musical instruments or paintings—develop a totemic aspect in the lives of Petersen's characters, and her stories. But it is the artful music of her writing, and her deep understanding of human motivation and emotion and the fragility of personal relations, that are Alice Petersen's real strengths, and which make *Worldly Goods* itself such an essential work of art.

ALICE PETERSEN'S first short story collection, *All the Voices Cry* (Biblioasis, 2012) was awarded the Quebec Writers' Federation Concordia University First Book Prize. Petersen's stories have variously been shortlisted for the CBC Literary awards, The Journey Prize and the Metcalf Rooke Award for fiction. Her work has appeared in *The Journey Prize Anthology* and *Best Canadian Stories*. Originally from New Zealand, Alice Petersen has spent the last two decades living in Canada.

## PRAISE FOR ALICE PETERSEN

"Alice Petersen writes as eloquently about the natural world as she does about the world of human emotion and desire. This is a wise and impressive collection of stories."

—DAVID BEZMOZGIS, AUTHOR OF THE FREE WORLD

## PRAISE FOR ALL THE VOICES CRY

"Finely crafted and pared down to their bare essentials ... These are stories that work on multiple levels, and continue to divulge their secrets after several rereadings."

—QUILL & QUIRE

"Among the book's pleasures are bursts of descriptive panache."

—GLOBE AND MAIL

"Alice Petersen's *All the Voices Cry* is masterful and potent—incredibly satisfying for a reader."

—KATHLEEN WINTER, AUTHOR OF ANNABEL

## A WONDERFUL NEW COLLECTION BY THE AUTHOR OF THE QWF FIRST BOOK AWARD WINNING *ALL THE VOICES CRY*

*from* *Worldly Goods*

### MUSIC MINUS ONE

BRIAN FITZGERALD THOUGHT that he had a strong grip on the banister, but these things happen so quickly, don't they? There was no use in calling out. Spiffy was at the market buying suet and currants for the mince pies and Brian was quite alone. He did not appear to have hit his head, but he could not move. Slivers of cold snow light entered the basement from between the sack-shrouded bushes in the garden outside. From where Brian lay, half on and half off the bottom stair, he could see the Christmas tree in its oblong carton, and on the shelf behind it, a Pye Black Box; not the first record player that Brian had ever owned, the second. He had purchased it in 1958. He had been twenty-two and living in London at the time, in a basement flat in the mouldier part of Camden Town.

Because of the mould, Brian was forced to keep the windows open, even on spring days. One chilly morning, while he was listening to a new and satisfyingly dissonant Janáček violin sonata, a man about his own age clumped down the area stairs. The stranger brought a trumpet mouthpiece out of his pocket and blew a raspberry that cut sideways across the sound of the violin.

"I say," said the man, pointing a stubby-nailed finger at the record player, "nice Black Box." The pointed finger turned into an outstretched hand. "Vincent Cooper, top floor. How do you do? Our orchestra's giving a concert tonight, at the new St Mark's. There will be an after-party at my flat upstairs. Do come. And bring the Box, why don't you?"

Around ten-thirty that night, Brian hefted the Black Box onto his knee and, straining, climbed three flights of mustard-coloured carpet to the landing on the top floor. The door was already open.

Brian found Vincent settled deep in an armchair, his arms around two girls, his tie askew. He was telling a story about a conductor giving such a vigorous upbeat that he drove his baton



through his finger. One of the young women, a rather common girl from Cambridge, kept saying "ooh-err" followed by "err-do" to everything Vincent said. It appeared that the sole aim of Vincent's conversation was to elicit this noise from her pursed lips.

"Hail to the Pye Black Box," shouted Vincent. "Over there, unplug the lamp why don't you? People, this is Brian Fitzgerald. He is a music appreciatah. Brian plays on the linoleum down at Barclay's."

"Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald," they chorused, crowding around him. "Give me your coat, I'll throw it in here," someone shouted.

Brian shrugged off his coat and busied himself making space for the Black Box on a table with rickety brass legs.

There was too much noise to hear the comforting crackle with which the Box warmed up, but Brian could see light glowing around the edge of the turntable. Helping hands reached in for the stack of records.

"Aha, Shostakovitch," said Vincent. "Fitzgeraldski, you are a dark horse, quite the modern man."

Brian moved out of the way, letting someone else have the pleasure of watching the arm slide across the margin of unrecorded grooves.

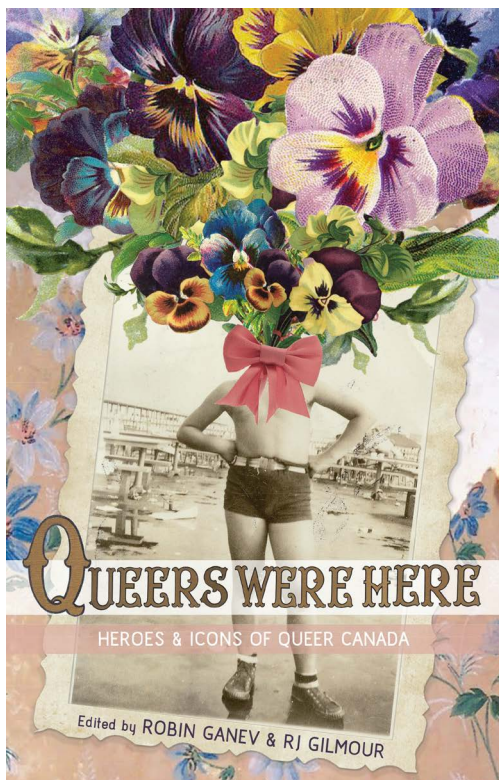
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### Marketing Plan:

- National review copy mailing
- Radio and social media campaign
- 100 Advanced Reader Copies
  - 2000 copy print run
- Author Tour: Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, and elsewhere
  - Co-op available

# QUEERS WERE HERE

ROBIN GANEV AND RICHARD GILMOUR



**June 7, 2016 | Nonfiction**

5.25 x 8.25 | 224pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-086-1

\$19.95 CAD

eBook: 978-1-77196-087-8

In the twenty-first century, Canada has a reputation for being one of the most gay friendly nations on earth, a pioneer in legalizing same-sex marriage and home to enormously popular Pride parades. Yet Canada was not always so hospitable to its gay and lesbian citizens. Homosexuality was only decriminalized in Canada in 1969 and remained socially stigmatized for many years.

*Queers Were Here* will tell personal stories to illuminate the enormous social changes that have transformed sexuality in Canada. A celebration of queer identity, this book will look back in order to look forward. The book will appeal not only to GLBT audiences but also to anyone who wants to re-examine Canada's history and culture with fresh eyes.

## INCLUDING:

RJ Gilmour on Introduction (Vern Hern)

Ian Young on Scott Symons

Alec Butler on Marie-Claire Blais

Anne Fleming on the Lesbian Organization of Kitchener (LOOK)

Gordon Bowness on Gay TO Salon

Derek McCormack on Carole Pope

Steve MacIssac on Scott Thompson

Maria-Belén Ordóñez on John Robin Sharpe

Maurice Vellekoop on Paul Baker an OCA professor

Nancy Jo Cullen on the Nelson Art School

Nik Sheehan on the General Idea

Karleen Pendleton-Jimenez on Tim McCaskell

Robert Teixeira on Various Activists

RICHARD GILMOUR has a doctorate in History from York University and was the lead editor for the essay collection *Too Asian (Between the Lines)*.

ROBIN GANEV teaches at the University of Regina (including a course on the history of sexuality) and is the author of *Songs of Protest, Songs of Love* (University of Manchester Press).

Also of Interest:



**Canary**

Nancy Jo Cullen

Trade Paper

5 x 7.5

978-1-927428-14-6

19.95 CAD

eBook

978-1-927428-15-3

## Marketing Plan:

- Launches across the country during Gay Pride Week
- National newspaper, radio and social media campaign
  - Co-op available
  - 2000 copy print run



# THE CANADIAN SHORT STORY

JOHN METCALF

COVER NOT FINAL



June 7, 2016 | Nonfiction

5.25 x 8.25 | 320pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-084-7

\$22.95 CAD

eBook: 978-1-77196-085-4

John Metcalf has been the leading student, scholar, writer and champion of the Canadian short story for more than five decades. As an editor, he has worked with several generations of Canada's best short fiction writers, from Alice Munro and Norman Levine to Caroline Adderson, Rebecca Rosenblum and Annabel Lyon. In his new critical book, *The Canadian Short Story*, he sifts and sorts through a lifetime of reading, writing and thinking about the short story in this country and where it fits within the larger currents of world literature, offering up the most authoritative and important book on the subject to date. Building and expanding on his Century List of the best Canadian short story collections of the last 100 years, *The Canadian Short Story* offers up a guide not only to what to read, but in a series of far-ranging and personal essays, offers careful and considered instruction on how to read short fiction as well. Essential reading for academics, critics and all students of the form.

JOHN METCALF was Senior Editor at the Porcupine's Quill until 2005, and is now Fiction Editor at Biblioasis. He is the author of more than a dozen works of fiction and non-fiction, including *Standing Stones: Selected Stories*, *Adult Entertainment*, *Going Down Slow* and *Kicking Against the Pricks*.

## PRAISE FOR JOHN METCALF

"John Metcalf often comes as close to the baffling, painful comedy of human experience as a writer can get ... he has written some of the very best stories ever published in this country."

—ALICE MUNRO

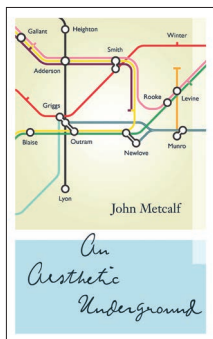
"Generous, hectoring, huge and remarkable."

—WASHINGTON POST

"As an editor, teacher, author, critic, and pioneering anthologist of Canadian fiction, Metcalf was in the front ranks of writers and intellectuals who transformed the term Canadian writer from oxymoron to viable reality."

—QUILL & QUIRE

## Also of Interest:



### An Aesthetic Underground

John Metcalf

Trade Paper

5.25 x 8.25

978-1-927428-95-5

19.95 CAD

eBook

978-1-927428-96-2

"John Metcalf is still writing with the same élan that animates almost every line of his distinguished oeuvre ... [his memoir] is obligatory reading for anyone who cares about aesthetic vitality, the state of the nation's literature and the essential importance of very good sentences. It is also a moving record of time past, a shimmering and often comic account of recent travels, and—Metcalf being Metcalf—a sometimes prickly if not intemperate *j'accuse*."

—GLOBE & MAIL

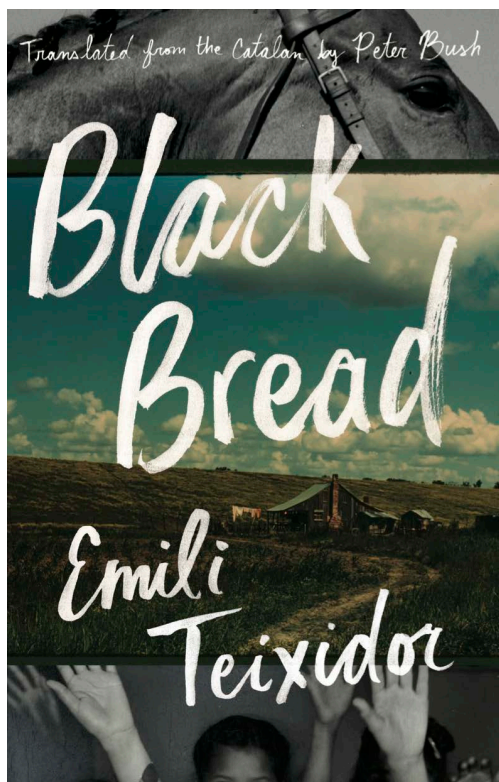
## Marketing Plan:

- Select review copy mailing
- Targeted academic mailing
- Launches in Ottawa, Vancouver, and Toronto
  - 2000 copy print run
  - Co-op available

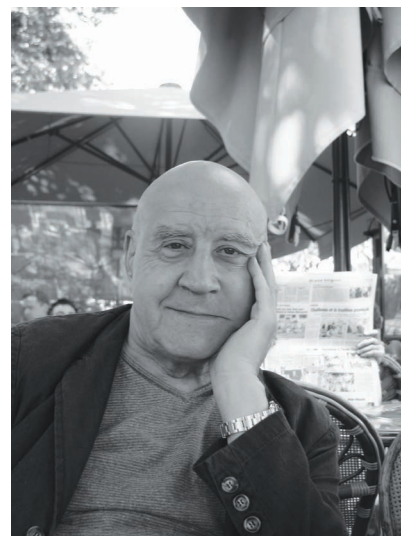
# BLACK BREAD

EMILI TEIXIDOR

Translated from the Catalan by Peter Bush



After his father is arrested for dissent, Andrés moves from Barcelona to his grandparents' cottage in the mountains of Catalonia. As he transitions to the pastoral life of his ancestors, he's awakened to the beauty of their history—and the injustice of Franco's occupation. Upon news of his father's death in prison, anger spurs action, and Andrés' life is changed forever.



EMILI TEIXIDOR was born in Roda de Ter, Barcelona, Spain in 1933. Known best for his numerous children's books, his first adult novel, *Retrato de un asesino de pájaros*, was published to tremendous acclaim in 1988. Several more novels followed, establishing his reputation as one of Spain's greatest contemporary authors. Emili Teixidor passed away in 2012.

## PRAISE FOR BLACK BREAD

"This is one of Teixidor's major works and one of the best Catalan novels of the year."  
—LA VANGUARDIA

"Emili Teixidor is very close to the state of grace attained by consummate writers."  
—EL PAÍS

"This is a masterpiece."  
—AVUI

"The stifling times after the Civil War in a vigorously alive country area where the pure chime of the words conserves intact the purity of living battered by the gales of history."  
—PERE GIMFERRER

July 12, 2016 | Novel

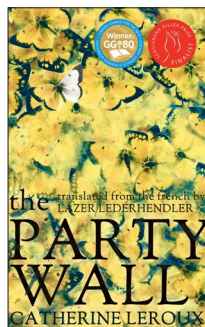
5 x 8 | 224pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-090-8

\$19.95 CAD

eBook: 978-1-77196-091-5

Also of Interest:



**The Party Wall**

Catherine Leroux

Trade Paper

5 x 8

978-1-77196-076-2

19.95 CAD

eBook

978-1-77196-077-9

## Marketing Plan:

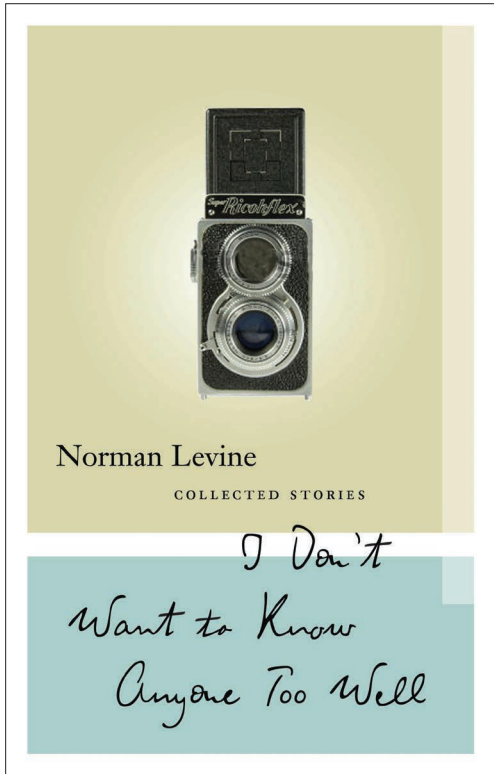
- Select Advance Reader Copy mailing
- North American review copy mailing
  - Co-op available



# I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANYONE TOO WELL

NORMAN LEVINE

COVER NOT FINAL



Norman Levine’s stories, so spare and compassionate and elegant and funny, so touching, sad, fantastic and unforgettable, rank alongside the best published in this country. Celebrated abroad, his work was largely unknown in Canada, except among the generations of writers he influenced, from André Alexis and Cynthia Flood to Lisa Moore and Michael Winter, who passed his work among themselves and learned much of their craft from studying Levine’s own. His work long out of print, his entire output of short stories are collected here for the first time, to be discovered by a new generation of Canadian readers and writers.

NORMAN LEVINE (1923-2005) was the author of eight short story collections, two novels, and a memoir, among other works. He was raised in Ottawa’s Lower Town, served overseas in the RCAF during WWII, and attended McGill University. In 1949 he returned to England, where he remained until 1980. Levine’s fiction titles include *The Angled Road* (1952), *One Way Ticket* (1961), *I Don’t Want to Know Anyone Too Well* (1971), *Thin Ice* (1979) and *Something Happened Here* (1991).

## PRAISE FOR NORMAN LEVINE

“Levine’s stories are made of things that stick, unexpectedly, in the imagination.”  
—GLOBE AND MAIL

“A marvellous style. His stories are spare but there is so much hidden beneath the surface of them.”  
—ROBERT WEAVER

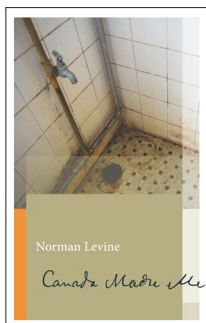
“Mr. Levine is a true artist, who grinds his bones—and anything else he can lay his hands on—to make his bread.”  
—BERNARD LEVIN, THE SUNDAY TIMES

“Norman Levine sees with a clear eye a good deal of the tragic comedy of human life. And he writes in a marvellously clean, naked prose which is a joy to read.”  
—EDWARD MCCOURT, THE MONTREALER

**July 12, 2016 | Short Fiction**  
5 x 8 | 296 pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-088-5  
\$24.95 CAD  
eBook: 978-1-77196-089-2

By the same author:



## Canada Made Me

Norman Levine  
Trade Paper  
5.25 x 8.25  
978-1-77196-060-1  
19.95 CAD

eBook  
978-1-77196-061-8

## Marketing Plan:

- National review copy mailing
  - Co-op available

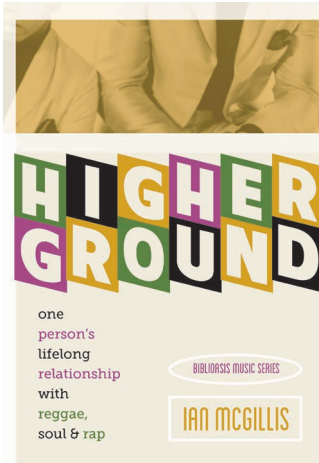
## PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

# HIGHER GROUND

One Person's Lifelong Relationship with Reggae, Soul and Rap

IAN MCGILLIS

COVER NOT FINAL



Ian McGillis may well have grown up in the whitest place in North America: Edmonton, Alberta in the 1970s and '80s. Yet, through a series of fortuitous accidents, he became exposed to the world of black music—first soul and Motown, then reggae, then hip-hop—and it became a life-long passion.

In three parts—built around Stevie Wonder's *Innervisions*, The Congos' *Heart of The Congos*, and Nas' *Illmatic*—*Higher Ground* recounts his love affair with each form. McGillis does not shy away from the tough questions: What is the line between sincere appreciation and cultural appropriation? Can a white person truly understand soul, reggae, and hip-hop? Can a black form “cross over” without losing its essence? His answers to each of these questions, and many more, are thoughtful and illuminating, and may well leave the reader rethinking some of his own assumptions.

Reminiscent of the best writing of Greil Marcus and John Jeremiah Sullivan, and mixing memoir, cultural history, and musical and cultural theory in a fresh and readable way, *Higher Ground* offers up a real life *The Commitments* and a life-study in musical appreciation.

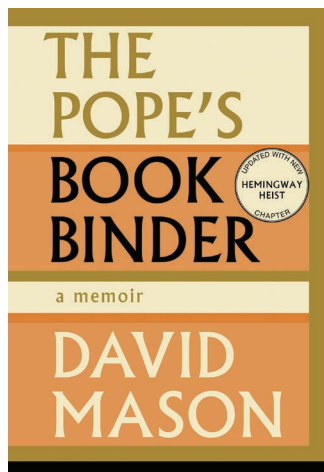
IAN MCGILLIS resides in Montreal, is the author of the best-selling novel *A Tourist's Guide to Glengarry*, and writes a weekly books column for the *Montreal Gazette*.

April 2016 | Nonfiction

5.25 x 8.25 | 224pp | Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-048-9 | \$19.95 CAD

# THE POPE'S BOOKBINDER

DAVID MASON



From his drug-hazy, book-happy years near the Beat Hotel in Paris and throughout his career as antiquarian book dealer, David Mason brings us a storied life. He discovers his love of literature in a bathtub at age eleven, thumbing through stacks of lurid Signet paperbacks. At fifteen he's expelled from school. For the next decade and a half, he will work odd jobs, buck all authority, buy books more often than food, and float around Europe. He'll help gild a volume in white morocco for Pope John XXIII. And then, at the age of 30, after returning home to Canada and apprenticing with Joseph Patrick Books, David Mason will find his calling.

Over the course of what is now a legendary international career, Mason shows unerring instincts for the logic of the trade. He makes good money from Canadian editions, both legitimate and pirated (turns out Canadian piracies so incensed Mark Twain that he moved to Montreal for six months to gain copyright protection). He outfoxes the cousins of L.M. Montgomery at auction and blackmails the head of the Royal Ontario Museum. He excoriates the bureaucratic pettiness that obstructs public acquisitions, he trumpets the ingenuity of collectors and scouts, and in archives around the world he appraises history in its unsifted and most moving forms. Above all, however, David Mason boldly campaigns for what he feels is the moral duty of the antiquarian trade: to preserve the history and traditions of all nations, and to assert without compromise that such histories have value.

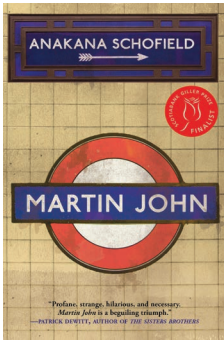
Sly, sparkling, and endearingly gruff, *The Pope's Bookbinder* is an engrossing memoir by a giant in the book trade—whose infectious enthusiasm, human insight, commercial shrewdness, and deadpan humour will delight bibliophiles for decades to come.

April 2016 | Autobiography/Book History

5.5 x 8.5 | 424pp | Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-005-2 | \$24.95 CAD



# AWARD NOMINEES



**MARTIN JOHN**  
Anakana Schofield

**Shortlisted for the 2015 Giller Prize**  
**from the Winner of the 2013 Amazon.ca First Novel Award**

“*Martin John* is a beguiling triumph.”—Patrick deWitt, author of *The Sisters Brothers*

From Anakana Schofield, the brilliant and unconventional author of *Malarky*, comes a dark and uncomfortable novel circuiting through the minds, motivations, and preoccupations of a character many women have experienced, but few up until now, have understood quite so well. The result confirms Schofield as one of the bravest and most innovative authors at work in English today.

978-1-77196-034-2

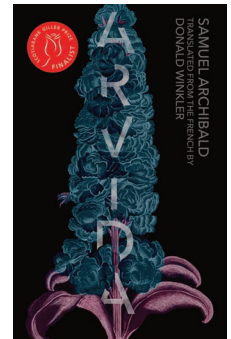
Trade Paper | \$19.95 CAD

**ARVIDA**

Samuel Archibald  
Translated by Donald Winkler

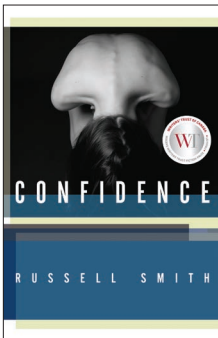
**Shortlisted for the 2015 Giller Prize**

Like a Proust-obsessed Cormac McCarthy, Samuel Archibald’s portrait of his hometown is filled with innocent children and wild beasts, attempted murder and ritual mutilation, haunted houses and road trips to nowhere, bad men and mysterious women. Gothic, fantastical, and incandescent, filled with stories of everyday wonder and terror, longing and love, *Arvida* explores the line which separates memory from story, and heralds the arrival of an important new voice.



978-1-77196-042-7

Trade Paper | \$19.95 CAD



**CONFIDENCE**  
Russell Smith

**Shortlisted for the 2015 Rogers Writers’ Trust Prize for Fiction**  
**Longlisted for the 2015 Giller Prize**

In Russell Smith’s darkly brilliant new collection of short stories *Confidence*, the reader will be introduced to ecstasy-taking PhD students; financial traders desperate for husbands; owners of failing sex stores; violent and unremovable tenants; aggressive raccoons; seedy massage parlours; experimental filmmakers who record every second of their day; wives who blog insults directed at their husbands. There are cheating husbands. There are private clubs, crowded restaurants, psychiatric wards. Every character has a secret of some kind.

978-1-77196-015-1

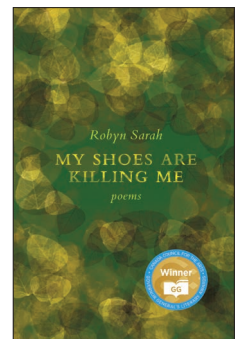
Trade Paper | \$19.95 CAD

**MY SHOES ARE KILLING ME**

Robyn Sarah

**Winner of the 2015 Govenor General’s Award for Poetry**  
**Winner of the 2015 Canadian Jewish Literary Award for Poetry**

In *My Shoes are Killing Me*, poet Robyn Sarah reflects on the passing of time, the fleetingness of dreams, and the bittersweet pleasure of thinking on the “hazardous ... treasurehouse” that is the past. Natural, musical, meditative, warm, and unexpectedly funny, this is a restorative and moving collection from one of Canada’s most well-regarded poets.



978-1-77196-013-7

Trade Paper | \$18.95 CAD

## RECENTLY RELEASED



978-1-77196-038-0

Trade Paper | \$19.95 CAD

### FRANKIE STYNE AND THE SILVER MAN

Kathy Page

When Liz Meredith and her new baby move into the middle rowhouse on Onley Street—Liz having lived for years off-grid in an old railcar—there's more to get used to than electricity and proper plumbing. She's desperate to avoid her well-meaning social worker and her neighbours Alice and Tom, who, for reasons of their own, won't leave her alone. And then there is her other neighbour, the disfigured and reclusive John Green, better known to the world as Frankie Styne, the author of a series of violent bestsellers. When his latest novel is unexpectedly nominated for a literary prize and his private life is exposed in the glare of publicity, Frankie plots a gruesome, twisted revenge that threatens others who call Onley Street home. *Frankie Styne and the Silver Man* is unforgettable: a thrilling novel of literary revenge, celebrity culture and the power of love and beauty in an ugly world.

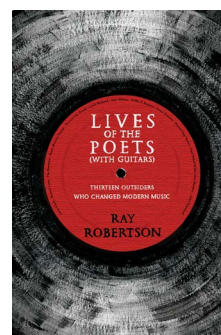
### LIVES OF THE POETS (WITH GUITARS)

Ray Robertson

“Ray Robertson is the Jerry Lee Lewis of North American letters.”

—CHUCK KINDER, AUTHOR OF HONEYMOONERS

“What nature means to Jim Harrison’s books,” Ray Robertson writes in the preface to the present volume, “music means to mine.” *Lives of the Poets (with Guitars)* picks up where Samuel Johnson left off nearly 250 years ago, collecting biographical and critical portraits of 13 of rock & roll, blues, folk, and alt-country’s most inimitable artists. These often irreverent essays offer a riotous, toe-tapping and original take on how each musician shaped their genre, while looking into their tumultuous lives and how these helped to shape their art.



978-1-77196-072-4

Trade Paper | \$19.95 CAD



978-1-77196-054-0

Trade Paper | \$19.95 CAD

### BAD THINGS HAPPEN

Kris Bertin

“Kris Bertin is one of Canada’s rising literary stars ... he’s a provocative, award-winning writer of some of the best short fiction currently being written across the country.” —TREVOR CORKUM, CURRENTLY LIVING

The characters in *Bad Things Happen*—professors, janitors, webcam models, small-time criminals—are between things. Between jobs and marriages, states of sobriety, joy and anguish; between who they are and who they want to be. Kris Bertin’s unforgettable debut introduces us to people at the tenuous moment before everything in their lives change, for better or worse.

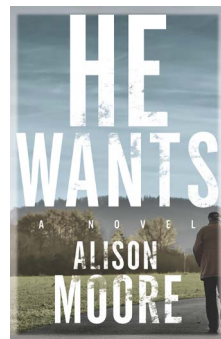
### HE WANTS

Alison Moore

“Following her Booker-shortlisted *The Lighthouse*, Alison Moore’s artistically pleasing second novel is ... a story of ageing and thwarted desire in which a man drifts away from his moorings into Dionysian impulses, after a lifetime spent serving the values of the humdrum contemporary community in which he lives ...”

—RACHEL CUSK, THE GUARDIAN

Lewis Sullivan lives less than a mile from his childhood home. His grown-up daughter visits every day, bringing soup, and he spends his evenings at his second favourite pub for half a shandy and sausage. But when an old friend appears, Lewis finds his comfortable life shaken up, and he longs for more excitement. A modern-day *Death in Venice* by the author of Booker-shortlisted *The Lighthouse*, *He Wants* is charged and unpredictable.



978-1-77196-056-4

Trade Paper | \$19.95 CAD

## RECENTLY RELEASED

### THE PARTY WALL

Catherine Leroux  
Translated by Lazer Lederhendler

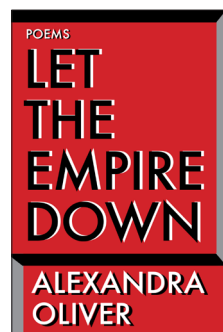
Catherine Leroux's brilliant second novel—though first to be translated into English—shuffles between, and eventually ties together, stories about siblings joined in surprising ways. A woman in northern New Brunswick learns that she absorbed her twin sister's body in the womb, and that she has two sets of DNA; a Mexican American brother and sister in San Francisco unite, as their mother dies, to search for their long-lost father; a little girl in the deep South pushes her sister out of the way of a speeding train and loses her legs; and a political couple learn—after the husband is elected Prime Minister in a chaotic future Canada—that they are non-identical twins separated at birth.

Reminiscent of the novels of Tom Robbins and David Mitchell, with perhaps a dash of Thomas Pynchon, *The Party Line* establishes Leroux as one of North America's most intelligent and innovative young authors.



978-1-77196-076-2

Trade Paper | \$19.95 CAD



### LET THE EMPIRE DOWN

Alexandra Oliver

"An incredible feat of vision and voice ... technically, nothing is out of Oliver's grasp. Her go-to iambic pentameter can swallow anything in its path. *Meeting the Tormentors in Safeway* should go a long way toward establishing Oliver as one of the country's best stanza makers, with a fluidity and ambition aspiring to Dylan Thomas or Yeats ... When she succeeds, she succeeds entirely."

—THE NATIONAL POST

In her second book, Alexandra Oliver takes us on a journey of escape from the suburbs of Canada to Glasgow, Scotland. Training her eye on the locals—on the streets, by rivers, in museums, on playgrounds, in their own homes, in the ill-starred town of Lockerbie—Oliver reflects on issues of exile, memory and identity, while traveling back into her own past.

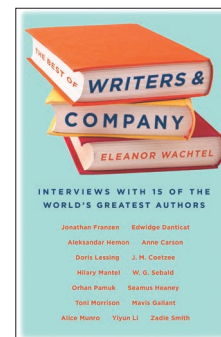
978-1-77196-078-6

Trade Paper | \$18.95 CAD

### THE BEST OF WRITERS & COMPANY

Eleanor Wachtel

Eleanor Wachtel is one of the English-speaking world's most respected and sought-after interviewers. This book, celebrating her show's 25 year anniversary, presents many of her best conversations from the show with authors including Jonathan Franzen, Alice Munro, Hilary Mantel, J.M. Coetzee, Zadie Smith, W.G. Sebald, Toni Morrison, Seamus Heaney, and nearly a dozen others who share their views on process, the writing life, and the hazards of literary fame. By turns humorous, insightful, empathetic, and profound, this gathering will help to cement Eleanor Wachtel's reputation as one of the leading interviewers of her time.



978-1-77196-074-8

Trade Paper | \$22.95 CAD



### FIRST THINGS FIRST

Diane Schoemperlen

"Schoemperlen's inventive language and narrative structures encourage readers to be free 'from the prison of everyday thinking.'"

—THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

"Lovely, clever [and] imaginative."

—THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

A reSet original, *First Things First* gathers 18 of the best of Diane Schoemperlen's earliest and uncollected stories, with several being published in book form for the first time. Playfully inventive, comic, moving and profound, this collection will reinforce Schoemperlen's importance as one of the leading short story writers of her generation.

978-1-77196-070-0

Trade Paper | \$19.95 CAD

