



**WINTER  
2019**

  
**BIBLIOASIS**

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# BIBLIOASIS

Winter 2019

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Published with the generous assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$153 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country, and the financial support of the Government of Canada. Biblioasis also acknowledges the support of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), an agency of the Government of Ontario, which last year funded 1,709 individual artists and 1,078 organizations in 204 communities across Ontario, for a total of \$52.1 million, and the contribution of the Government of Ontario through the Ontario Book Publishing Tax Credit and the Ontario Media Development Corporation.

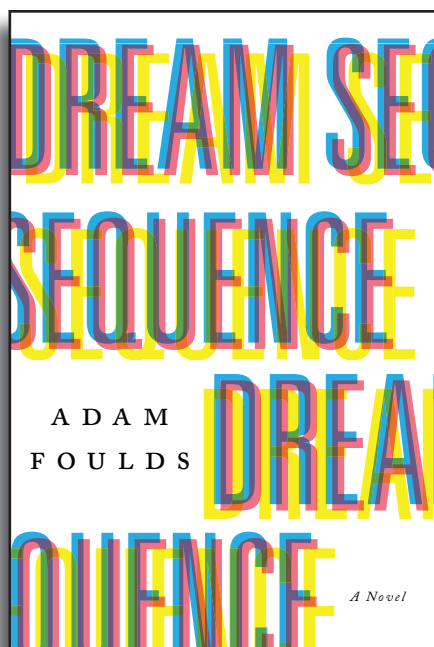
PRINTED IN CANADA

# Dream Sequence

ADAM FOULDS

“One of the best British writers to emerge in the past decade.” —Julian Barnes

COVER NOT FINAL



April 30, 2019 | Novel

5 x 8 | 200pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-281-0

eBook: 978-1-77196-282-7

\$19.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Toronto, ON



## COMPARABLE TITLES

Patrick deWitt. *Undermajordomo Minor*

Patrick deWitt. *The Sisters Brothers*

Esi Edugyan. *Half-Blood Blues*

Newly divorced, Kristin chafes against her sister’s concerns about how she’s faring. After all, she’s redecorated her ex-husband out of her home, taken up yoga, and has a new love interest: a man she met by chance in the airport, to whom she felt an instant connection, a fated love she describes to him in letter after letter—but except for the single envelope his agent’s new assistant mistakenly passes along to him, Henry Banks, star of the UK’s most popular television series, doesn’t even know she exists. From the author of Man-Booker shortlisted *The Quickening Maze*, *Dream Sequence* is a moving depiction of psychological obsession and the unsettling consequences of fame, and the surprising ways their distorting lenses overlap.

**Adam Foulds** is a poet and novelist from London, England, now resident in Toronto. He has been the recipient of a number of literary awards, including the *Sunday Times* Young Writer Of The Year, the Costa Poetry Prize, the Somerset Maugham Award, the South Bank Show Prize for Literature, and the E. M. Forster Award. His 2009 novel, *The Quickening Maze*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

## Praise for Adam Foulds

“It has been a while since I have read a book as richly sown with beauty ... A remarkable work, remarkable for the precision and vitality of its perceptions and for the successful intricacy of its prose.” —**JAMES WOOD, THE NEW YORKER**

“Electric ... Mr. Foulds powerfully achieves what Stephen Crane called the ‘psychological portrayal of fear’ ... fiercely memorable fiction.” —**WALL STREET JOURNAL**

“Foulds acknowledged mastery as a novelist and as a poet ... is often apparent in this book: in the ambiguous dialogues between strangers revealing unspoken intimacies, in the delicately clipped snippets of everyday life recalled in the confusion of war, in the lyrical broken-up sentences that mirror the physical and mental shattering of the ongoing slaughter.” —**ALBERTO MANGUEL, THE GUARDIAN**

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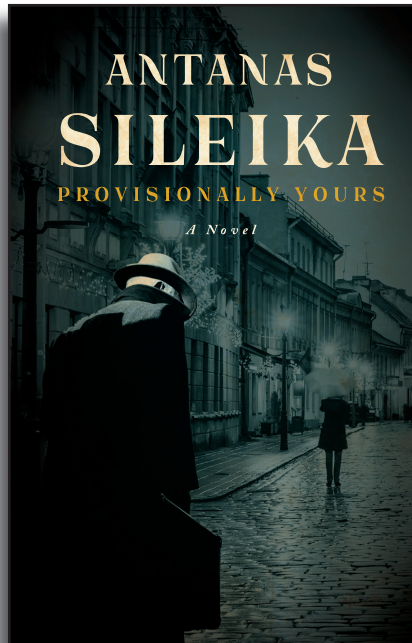
- 3000 Print run
- Co-op available
- Canadian TV & radio campaign
  - National print campaign
- Online and social media campaign
- Giveaways through Edelweiss, Facebook, Goodreads, Twitter, Instagram
  - E-book available
- Book tour in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Kingston, Vancouver, and elsewhere

# Provisionally Yours

ANTANAS SILEIKA

“Sileika writes with a spare style that suits the action sequences as well as the rare moments of tenderness or humour.” —*Montreal Gazette*

COVER NOT FINAL



March 19, 2019 | Novel

5.25 x 8.25 | 272pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-285-8

eBook: 978-1-77196-286-5

\$19.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Toronto, ON



## COMPARABLE TITLES

Sofi Oksanen. *When the Doves Disappeared*

Birute Putrius. *The Last Book Smuggler*

Antanas Sileika. *The Barefoot Bingo Caller*

Antanas Sileika. *Underground*

After the collapse of Czarist Russia, former White counterintelligence officer Justas Adamonis returns to his hometown in a fragment of the shattered Empire, not entirely sure what he'll find. His parents are dead, he hasn't seen his sister since she was a teenager, and Kaunas has become the political center of the emerging state of Lithuania. He's barely off the train when he's recruited back into service, this time for the nascent government eager to secure his loyalty and vast experience. Though the administration may be new, its problems are familiar, and Adamonis quickly finds himself ensnared in a dangerous web of political corruption and personal betrayal.

**Antanas Sileika** is the author of five books of fiction and a memoir. He has been short-listed for the Toronto Book Award and the Leacock Medal for Humour as well as long-listed for Canada Reads. His work has twice been chosen as among the Toronto *Globe and Mail's* best books of the year and received two starred reviews in *Quill and Quire*. He was the director of the Humber School for Writers for fifteen years before retiring to devote more time to his own writing.

## Praise for Antanas Sileika

“How are we going to survive unless we turn our hearts to stone?” a comrade warns the hero of Antanas Sileika's *Underground*. The question is an example of the elegant thinking that characterizes this rare and compelling chronicle.” —**GLOBE AND MAIL**

“Sileika's novel is a gripping tale, and the fate of Lukas—how long his luck runs—engages the reader to the last page.” —**NATIONAL POST**

“Sileika vividly brings this little-known (to us) and very sad chapter of European history alive.” —**TORONTO STAR**

“Evocative, unfailingly honest, and dead-on funny.” —**MIRIAM TOEWS**

## MARKETING PLAN:

- 2500 Print run
- Co-op available
- North American TV & radio campaign
  - National print campaign
- Giveaways through Edelweiss, Facebook, Goodreads, Twitter, Instagram
  - E-book available
  - Regional southern Ontario tour
- Promotion through author's website: [www.antanassileika.ca](http://www.antanassileika.ca)

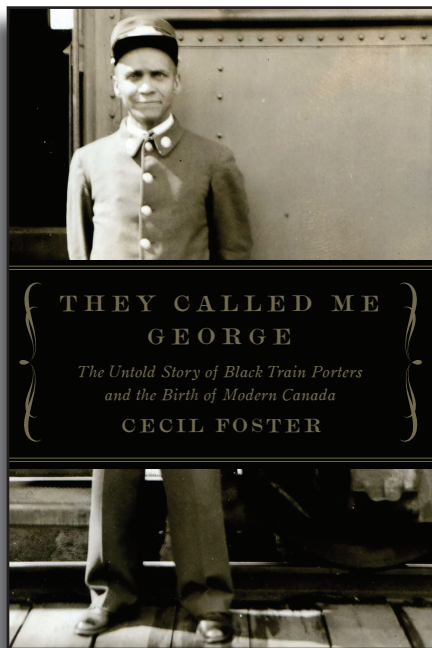
# They Call Me George

## The Untold Story of Black Train Porters and the Birth of Modern Canada

CECIL FOSTER

“Cecil Foster is a wise man with a flair for storytelling and writing that enters the heart.” —*Quill & Quire* (starred review)

COVER NOT FINAL



February 5, 2019 | Canadian History

6 x 9 | 296 pp  
Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-261-2  
eBook: 978-1-77196-262-9  
\$22.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Toronto, ON



### COMPARABLE TITLES

John S. Milloy. *A National Crime*  
Robyn Maynard. *Policing Black Lives*  
Aimee Craft. *A Knock on the Door, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*

A historical work of non-fiction that chronicles the little-known stories of black railway porters—the so-called “Pullmen” of the Canadian rail lines. The actions and spirit of these men helped define Canada as a nation in surprising ways, affecting race relations, human rights, North American multiculturalism, community building, the shape and structure of unions, and the nature of travel and business across the US and Canada. Drawing on the stories and legends of several of these influential early black Canadians, this book narrates the history of a very visible, but rarely considered, aspect of black life in railway-age Canada. These porters, who fought against the idea of Canada as White Man’s Country, open only to immigrants from Europe, fought for opportunities and rights and won.

**Cecil Foster** is a leading author, academic, journalist, and public intellectual. His work speaks about the challenges that Black people have encountered historically in Canada in their efforts to achieve respect and recognition for their contribution to what is now a multicultural Canada. He highlights their fight for social justice and human dignity. In particular, Foster addresses the issues of immigration in his critical discussions on who is a Canadian in the ever-evolving social narrative toward a genuine multicultural Canada.

### Praise for Cecil Foster

“Foster’s story of a West Indies community in transition is a marvelous read, filled with humour, sorrow, and wit, and told with the deft and gentle touch of a master storyteller.” —**THOMAS KING**

“With *Independence*, Foster elegantly equates the coming of age of his protagonists with the coming of age of the nation. At the same time, he interprets that enduring theme so aptly articulated in the writings of critic Wilfred Cartey: I going away. I going home.” —**NATIONAL POST**

“Sharp-edged ... moving.” —**KIRKUS REVIEWS**

### MARKETING PLAN:

- 3000 Print run
- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- Outreach to Black Interest and African-Canadian Media
  - North American TV & radio campaign
  - National print campaign
- Giveaways through Edelweiss, Facebook, Goodreads, Twitter, Instagram
  - E-book available
- Author events in Toronto, Montreal, Windsor, Halifax, Winnipeg, and elsewhere

# Rain

## And Other Stories

MIA COUTO

TRANSLATED FROM THE PORTUGUESE BY ERIC M.B. BECKER

“Mia Couto’s stories ... are told through a language that is precise and profound; he weaves together the living tradition of legend, poetry and song.” —Man Booker International shortlist jury citation

COVER NOT FINAL



Written in the aftermath of civil war, these early stories are among Mia Couto’s freshest, most original fiction. In tales that mingle playful comedy with surprising plot twists and magical events, fishermen, fortune-tellers, widows, small-town drinkers, and even an errant hippopotamus rediscover life’s possibilities and the ability to dream. A new translation of brilliant stories by Man Booker-finalist and author of *Confession of the Lioness*.

**Mia Couto**, an environmental biologist from Mozambique, was a 2015 finalist for the Man Booker International Prize. He is the author of 30 books of fiction, essays, and poems in his native Portuguese. Couto’s novel *Confession of the Lioness* was shortlisted for the 2017 International Dublin Literary Award. Mia Couto lives with his family in Maputo, Mozambique.

**Eric M. B. Becker** is an award-winning literary translator and journalist, and editor of *Words without Borders*. In 2014, he earned a PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant for his translation of the Portuguese. He holds an MFA from Queens College, City University of New York. He lives in New York.

### Praise for Mia Couto

“On almost every page ... we sense Couto’s delight in those places where language slips officialdom’s asphyxiating grasp.” —**NEW YORK TIMES**

“[Couto is] a brilliant aphorist. There are countless sentences that ... have the weight and wisdom of ancient proverbs.” —**WALL STREET JOURNAL**

“Even in translation, his prose is suffused with striking images.”

—**WASHINGTON POST**

February 19, 2019 | Short Fiction

5.25 x 8.25 | 168pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-266-7

eBook: 978-1-77196-267-4

\$18.95 CAD

Author Hometown:  
Maputo, Mozambique



### COMPARABLE TITLES

Mia Couto. *The Tuner of Silences*

Mia Couto. *Confession of the Lioness*

Mia Couto. *Woman of the Ashes*

Mia Couto. *The Blind Fisherman*

### MARKETING PLAN:

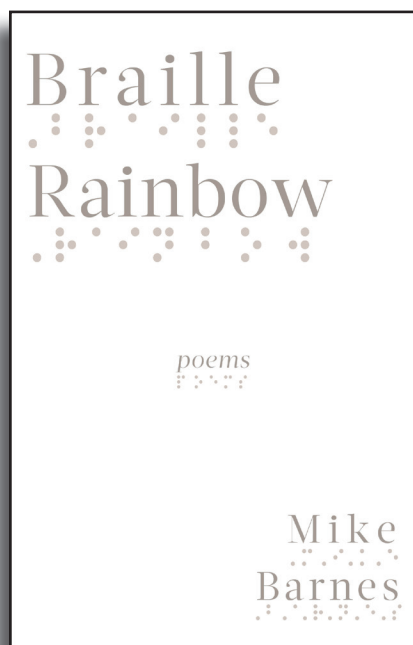
- 3000 Print run
- National review copy mailing
  - Co-op available
- Academic outreach to centers for African & Portuguese literature
- Strong focus on outlets who favourably reviewed Couto’s FSG novel, in addition to our contacts in NY media, along w/ all translation outlets
  - North American TV & radio campaign
    - National print campaign
  - Online and social media campaign
- Giveaways through Edelweiss, Facebook, Goodreads, Twitter, Instagram
  - E-book available

# Braille Rainbow

MIKE BARNES

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

COVER NOT FINAL



April 23, 2019 | Poetry

5.25 x 8.25 | 208pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-221-6

eBook: 978-1-77196-222-3

\$19.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Toronto, ON



## COMPARABLE TITLES

Patrick Warner. *Octopus*

Richard Sanger. *Dark Woods*

Pino Coluccio. *Class Clown*

Robyn Sarah. *My Shoes Are Killing Me*

Mike Barnes' *Braille Rainbow* is about perception across the sensory spectrum and the arc of learning about the world and oneself. These poems, organized in four sections, engage first with infant appetites, others, and social justice, before turning inward to traverse the perilous heights and depths of the mind, drawing on Barnes' own experience of mental illness and his years of caring for his mother in her dementia. The latter half of the book addresses shifts in ways of thinking and feeling that allow contraries to meet and inform one another, and concludes with poems of peace and nourishing meditative connection.

**Mike Barnes** is the author of eleven books, most recently *Be With: Letters to a Caregiver*, praised as “tough, lyrical, timely, accurate,” by Margaret Atwood, and *The Adjustment League*, a neo-noir thriller named as one of *Maclean's* ten best books of the year in 2016. He works as a private English tutor and lives in Toronto.

## Praise for Mike Barnes

“Masterful ... *The Adjustment League* is suspenseful, exquisitely written and—at times—corrosively funny.” —**MACLEAN'S, FEATURE PROFILE & EDITOR'S PICK**

“The author effectively humanizes himself as a man who has made errors, who wishes he had done things differently, and who has his own psychological burdens to bear ... A book that tells the reader that you are not alone, whoever you are.” —**KIRKUS REVIEWS**

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

“Timely, lyrical, tough, accurate.” —**MARGARET ATWOOD**

## MARKETING PLAN:

- Co-op available
- North American TV & radio campaign
  - National print campaign
  - Online and social media campaign
- Giveaways through Edelweiss, Facebook, Goodreads, Twitter, Instagram
  - E-book available
- Excerpts in *Poetry Daily*, *Verse Daily*, *The Believer*, *New Yorker*



# Damages

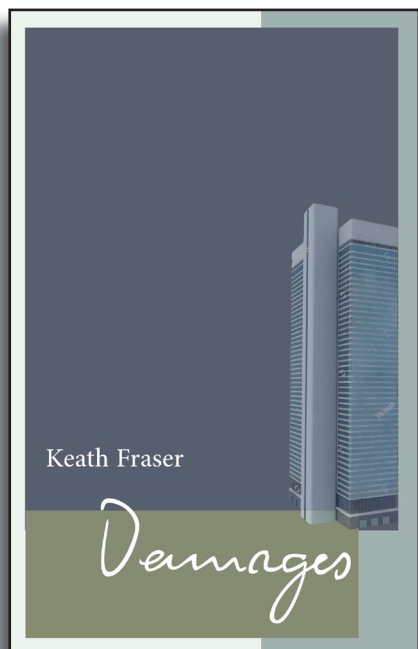
## Selected Stories 1982–2012

### KEATH FRASER



“The sheer exuberance of language, the sureness with which Fraser captures the movements of the working mind, makes this book a joy to read.” —*Ottawa Citizen*

COVER NOT FINAL



March 26, 2019 | Short Fiction

5.25 x 8.25 | 304pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-293-3

eBook: 978-1-77196-294-0

\$24.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Vancouver, BC



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#### COMPARABLE TITLES

Diane Schoemperlen. *First Things First*  
Norman Levine. *I Don't Want to Know*  
*Anyone Too Well*

John Metcalf. *The Museum at the*  
*End of the World*

Out on the West Coast, a waiter and comic in a nightclub diagnose the grim future of their city. Another waiter scoffs at racism and beats everyone at tennis. Elsewhere across the globe, a retired doctor and his wife lose control of a balloon's gondola over the Gulf of Thailand; a music lover travels to a Mexican Club Med seeking solace for her lost voice.

In this retrospective of elegant and expertly written stories, characters shock and language twists in crisp, astonishing ways. The first new collection of its kind in over a decade, *Damages* is an indispensable gathering of Keath Fraser's work across a generation. Moving, complex, and with the emotional perception of a true master, these stories showcase Fraser as one of the best story writers of the last fifty years.

**Keath Fraser** won the Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel Award for his 1995 novel *Popular Anatomy*, while his 1985 collection of stories and novels, *Foreign Affairs*, was short-listed for a Governor General's Award for Fiction and won the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. Fraser is the author of the memoir *The Voice Gallery: Travels with a Glass Throat* and editor of the anthology *Bad Trips: A Sometimes Terrifying, Sometimes Hilarious Collection of Writing on the Perils of the Road*.

#### Praise for Keath Fraser

“Fraser's controlled and confident writing gives us a rich sense of the longing of his fully drawn characters ... a remarkable, bittersweet celebration.”

—**QUILL & QUIRE (STARRED REVIEW)**

“The range of Fraser's characters is astonishing ... not an author who can be ignored.”

—**JANUARY MAGAZINE**

“If you really want to journey into the heart of darkness, you'd be advised to travel with Vancouver writer Keath Fraser, a man of extraordinary talents.”

—**BRONWYN DRAINIE**

“Keath Fraser is one of the most intelligent writers working in Canada.”

—**THE MALAHAT REVIEW**

#### MARKETING PLAN:

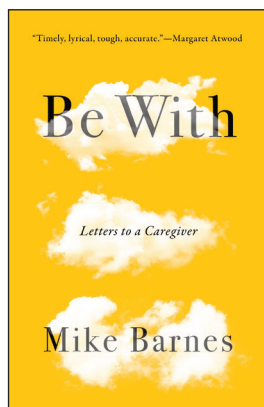
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- Giveaways through Edelweiss, Facebook, Goodreads, Twitter, Instagram
- E-book available
- Bookseller mailing
- Author events in Vancouver, Victoria, and Toronto

# Recent & Notable

ON SALE NOW AT BETTER BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE AND ONLINE!

## Be With: Letters to a Caregiver

MIKE BARNES



*Be With: Letters to a Caregiver* is what its title promises: four letters to a long-term caregiver, drawing on Barnes' years of caring for his mother through the stages of Alzheimer's. Written in brief passages, the book is designed for harried caregivers who might only have time for a few lines or paragraphs, making it a dippable source of clarity and solace while also telling a compelling personal story. Barnes balances candour about the devastations of dementia with insights into its paradoxical and indeed often uncanny enhancements of life, the ways in which it can call forth capacities long buried by the defenses of full cognition. In the words of the book itself: "All people with dementia, and some of them strikingly, show depths of sensitive awareness, resilience rising to heroism, and a capacity for joyful relatedness that is almost totally missing from public discussions of their condition." The two-word title encapsulates the book's core emphasis on fellowship and accurate witness: to simply be with those who are actually before us.

September 18, 2018  
Letters

5 x 7.75 | 156pp | \$17.95 CAD

Trade Paper:

978-1-77196-243-8

eBook:

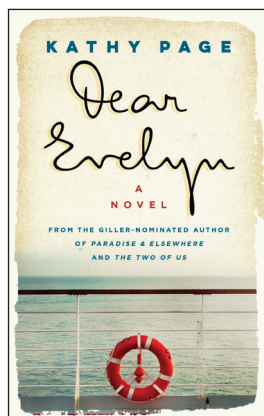
978-1-77196-244-5



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## Dear Evelyn

KATHY PAGE



Raised on a working-class London street in the wake of World War I, Harry Miles wins a scholarship and grows into a sensitive poetry-loving man. Meanwhile, the magnetic and demanding Evelyn Hill grows up with a layabout alcoholic father and dreams of a better life.

When the two fall in love amid the outbreak of World War II, their capacity to care for each other becomes increasingly tested. An unconventional love story that twists and startles, *Dear Evelyn* recounts the excruciating highs and beautiful lows of two people who shape each other over a lifetime.

September 4, 2018  
Fiction

5 x 8 | 328pp | \$19.95 CAD

Trade Paper:

978-1-77196-209-4

eBook:

978-1-77196-210-0



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## Man with a Seagull on His Head

HARRIET PAIGE

October Indie Next Pick



*Man with a Seagull on His Head* tells the story of Ray Eccles, a man "now past the age when anything interesting was likely to happen to him," whose life is nevertheless changed when a dying seagull strikes him on the head. Waking up from the trauma, he finds himself obsessed by the last thing he saw before his injury—an anonymous woman on the beach—and is compelled to depict her both compulsively and repeatedly, initially on any paper he can find in his house, and then on the walls, using any materials that come to hand. Eventually discovered by a couple of collectors of Outsider Art, he becomes one of the most celebrated artists of the last half of the twentieth century. From here the story explodes into four disparate but interrelated narratives.

*Seagull* is a novel about the impossibility of ever really knowing anyone and the electric charge that comes from real connection. Beautiful, lyrical, and profoundly moving, it heralds a wonderfully original new voice.

October 9, 2018  
Fiction

5 x 7.75 | 200pp | \$19.95 CAD

Trade Paper:

978-1-77196-239-1

eBook:

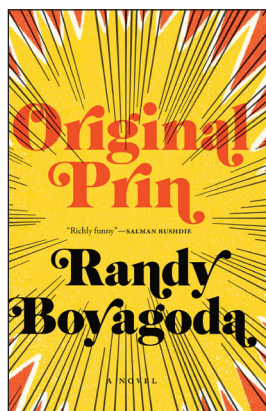
978-1-77196-240-7



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# Recent & Notable

VISIT BIBLIOASIS.COM TO VIEW OUR COMPLETE CATALOGUE



## Original Prin

RANDY BOYAGODA

*Eight months before he became a suicide bomber, Prin went to the zoo with his family.*

Following a cancer diagnosis, Prin vows to become a better man and a better Catholic. He's going to spend more time with his kids and better time with his wife, care for his aging parents, and expand his cutting-edge research into the symbolism of the seahorse in Canadian literature. But when his college in downtown Toronto faces a buyout and he meets with the condominium developers—one of whom is Wende, his sexy ex-girlfriend from graduate school—Prin hears the voice of God. Bewildered and divinely inspired, he goes to the Middle East, hoping to save both his college and his soul. Wende is coming, too.

The first book in a planned trilogy, *Original Prin* is an entertaining and essential novel about family life, faith, temptation, and fanaticism, a timely story, told with insight and humour, that confirms Randy Boyagoda's place as one of Canada's funniest and most provocative writers.

September 25, 2018  
Fiction

5.25 x 8.25 | 224pp | \$19.95 CAD

Trade Paper:

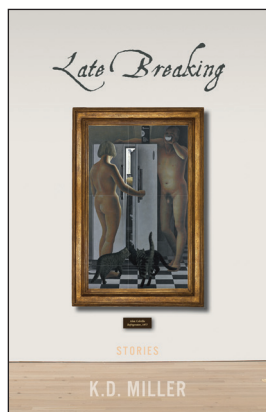
978-1-77196-245-2

eBook:

978-1-77196-246-9



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## Late Breaking

K.D. MILLER

A gothic, uncanny mosaic inspired by the paintings of Alex Colville, *Late Breaking* offers a chilling portrait of a small and aging community. Exploring the vulnerability of the elder heart, and proving that love and sex and heartbreak are not only the domain of the young, this gorgeous linked collection of short fiction offers up a strong whiff of Jackson-esque gothic. Each character appears in at least two stories, in a greater or lesser role, the most common being a ghost who “haunts” the book throughout. Death is a constant, in both peaceful and violent forms. Together, the stories crystallize into something more than a novel, and confirm its author as one of the country's best.

October 2, 2018  
Short Fiction

5.25 x 8.25 | 288pp | \$19.95 CAD

Trade Paper:

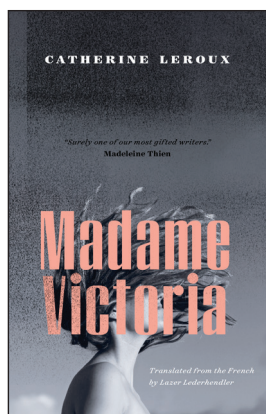
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978-1-77196-248-3



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## Madame Victoria

CATHERINE LEROUX

In 2001, the skeleton of a woman was found in the woods surrounding the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. Despite a thorough investigation involving the hospital's records, a reconstitution of the woman's face, several missing-person appeals, DNA tests, and an analysis of the deceased's hair revealing not only where she'd lived, but how she ate, it was impossible to find out who she was. She was dubbed Madame Victoria, put into a box in an evidence room, and forgotten.

By everyone, that is, but Catherine Leroux, who was determined to give the unknown woman a history and a name. *Madame Victoria* does just that, offering thirteen imagined histories of the woman who inspired its telling, a constellation of possible pasts that range from the realistic to the post-apocalyptic. *Madame Victoria* is a book about a single, unknown woman, but it is also about nameless women everywhere. Like *The Party Wall* before, it is equally unforgettable.

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