



FALL  
2019



BIBLIOASIS

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Fall 2019

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*Best Canadian Poetry 2019* / 11

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*Best Canadian Stories 2019* / 11

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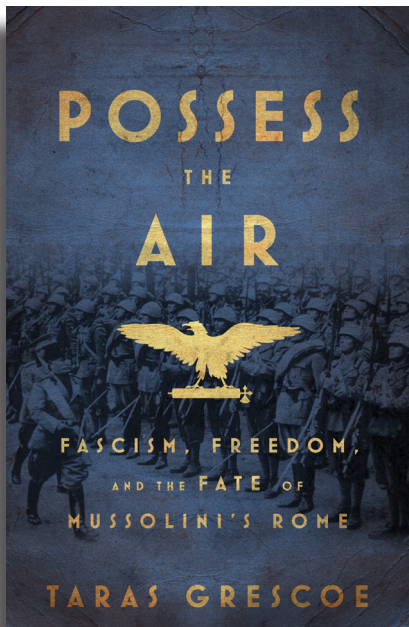
# Possess the Air

## Fascism, Freedom, and the Fate of Mussolini's Rome

TARAS GRESCOE

"Grescoe has a keen eye and vibrant style." —*National Post*

COVER NOT FINAL



September 24, 2019 | History

5.5 x 8.5 | 280pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-323-7

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\$22.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Montreal, QC

ISBN 978-1-77196-323-7



### COMPARABLE TITLES

Cecil Foster. *They Call Me George*

Tilar J. Mazzeo. *Irena's Children*

Caroline Moorehead. *A Bold and Dangerous Family*

### The inspiring true story of political resistance in Mussolini's Italy

Plunging readers into Fascist Rome at the height of Mussolini's power, *Possess the Air* tells the story of three people who defied Italy's authoritarian despot by opposing the rising tide of populism and xenophobia: two Canadian archeologists, Gilbert Bagnani and his wife Mary Stewart Houston, and poet and aviator Lauro de Bosis, who transformed himself into a modern Icarus, amazing the world as he risked his life in the skies to bring the dictator down. An inspiring story of resistance, risk, and sacrifice, Taras Grescoe's portrait of heroes past is an essential history for our time.

**Taras Grescoe** is the author of seven non-fiction books, including *Bottomfeeder*, *Straphanger*, and *Shanghai Grand*. *Bottomfeeder* won the Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, the Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-fiction, and was a finalist for the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing. He has contributed to the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The New Yorker*, *Gourmet*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

### Praise for Taras Grescoe

"Grescoe has fallen hard for the 'the wicked old Paris of the Orient,' its barrooms thick with gangsters and newsmen, its alleys 'scented with sweet almond broth, opium smoke and the chemical bite of Flit insecticide' . . . *Shanghai Grand* is a headlong swoon for old Shanghai. The feeling is easy to catch." —*NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW*

"Filled with excellent short character sketches and keeps the reader turning the pages to find out what will happen next . . . [*Shanghai Grand*] brings to life a special time and a special place." —*WALL STREET JOURNAL*

"Grescoe draws on archival sources rarely touched by other historians, and his treatment of his subjects is balanced and empathetic. . . . Time diminishes even the grandest monuments, and we are fortunate when a talented storyteller takes the trouble to reconstruct them in such meticulous and compelling detail." —*LITERARY REVIEW OF CANADA*

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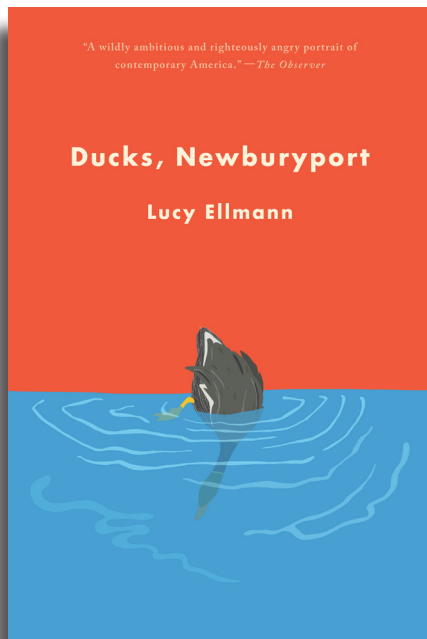
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- Advertising in *Canada's History*, *LRC*, *The Walrus*, and *This Magazine*

# Ducks, Newburyport

LUCY ELLMANN

**“A wildly ambitious and righteously angry portrait of contemporary America.”  
—Observer**

COVER NOT FINAL



**An Observer 2019 Fiction Pick  
A 2019 Herald Scotland Book to Watch For  
A Publishers Weekly Big Book of Winter Institute 14**

Peeling apples for tartes tatin, an Ohio mother wonders how to exist in a world of distraction and fake facts, besieged by a tweet-happy president and trigger-happy neighbors, all of them oblivious to what Dupont has dumped into the rivers and what’s happening at the factory farm down the interstate—not to mention what was done to the land’s first inhabitants. A torrent of consciousness, narrated in a single sentence by a woman whose wandering thoughts are as comfortably familiar as they are heartrendingly honest, *Ducks, Newburyport* is a fearless indictment of our contemporary moment.

**Lucy Ellmann’s** first novel, *Sweet Desserts*, won the *Guardian* Fiction Prize. It was followed by *Varying Degrees of Hopelessness*, *Man or Mango? A Lament*, *Dot in the Universe*, *Doctors & Nurses*, and *Mimi*. She has written for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Guardian*, *Independent*, *Independent on Sunday*, *Times Literary Supplement*, and elsewhere. She edits fiction for the Fiction Atelier ([fictionatelier.wordpress.com](http://fictionatelier.wordpress.com)), and abhors standard ways of teaching Creative Writing, which she considers mostly criminal. Though American by birth, she lives in Scotland.

## Praise for *Ducks, Newburyport*

"*Ducks, Newburyport* is, without hyperbole, a landmark work of genius...yet that feels like inadequate praise for what Lucy Ellmann is doing here... Superlatives fall short, especially when we're talking about a book that flouts the fusty conventions of the canon so wildly. 'Landmark', sure. 'Genius', of course. More importantly, Ellmann is writing something so free from the standards of those well-trodden terms that they begin to lose all meaning. And thank heavens for that." —JUSTIN WALL, POWELL'S

"Perhaps the most ambitious novel of '19, a contemporary Molly Bloom soliloquy, a paginated lioness, a corrective, a challenge, a '*Moby-dick* of the kitchen' in weird but sorta true ways." —JOSH COOK, PORTER SQUARE BOOKS

**September 10, 2019 | Novel**  
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\$26.95 CAD

**Author Hometown: Edinburgh, Scotland**

ISBN 978-1-77196-307-7



## COMPARABLE TITLES

Anna Burns. *Milkman*  
Miriam Toews. *Women Talking*  
Marlon James. *A Brief History of Seven Killings*

## MARKETING PLAN:

- 10000 copy print run
- 500 advance reader copies to booksellers and media
  - IndieNEXT campaign
  - Co-op available
- North American print campaign
- Outreach to feminist, environmental, and progressive media
- Giveaways through Edelweiss, Facebook, Goodreads, Twitter, Instagram
  - Excerpts in *This Magazine*
  - Ads in *CNQ: Canadian Notes and Queries*

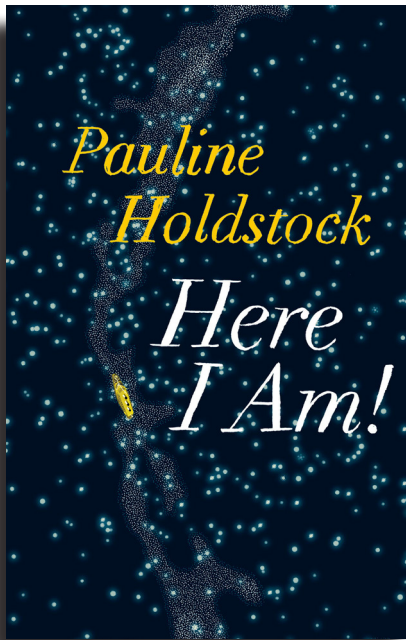


# Here I Am!

PAULINE HOLDSTOCK

“Powerful, almost elemental storytelling, an achievement not only of craft but of raw emotion.”  
—*Vancouver Sun*

COVER NOT FINAL



September 24, 2019 | Novel

5.25 x 8.25 | 256pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-309-1

eBook: 978-1-77196-310-7

\$21.95 CAD

Author Hometown: North Saanich, BC

ISBN 978-1-77196-309-1



## COMPARABLE TITLES

Mark Haddon. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

Sue Monk Kidd. *The Secret Life of Bees*

Bill Clegg. *Did You Ever Have a Family*

*MyMum said sometimes refugees don't eat anything for days and days. Sometimes weeks and months so I am really lucky. I think she exaggerates. But I think she is right about the lucky bit.*

*Or maybe not. Sometimes I forget that MyMum is dead. But that is probably better than remembering.*

When Frankie's mother dies, the six-year-old comes up with a plan: go to France, find a police station, and ask the officers to ring his father—and so begins Giller-nominated Pauline Holdstock's eighth novel. Narrated in turns by Frankie, who likes cheese, numbers, the sea when it's pink and "smooth like counting," and being alone when he feels bad, and a cast of characters that includes his Gran and his father, *Here I Am!* is a mesmerizing story about the lucidity of children and the shortsightedness of adults.

**Pauline Holdstock's** novels have been shortlisted for numerous awards, among them the Best First Novel Award, the Scotia Bank Giller Prize and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. Her historical novel *Beyond Measure* was the winner of the BC Book Prizes Ethel Wilson Award for Fiction. *The Hunter and the Wild Girl*, her most recent book, won the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize. Pauline lives just outside Victoria on Vancouver Island.

## Praise for Pauline Holdstock

"[*The Blackbirds's Song*] examines questions of faith, meaning and power; [Holdstock's] investigation of these issues is profound and beautifully paced, so that despite the intensity of the subject, the momentum of the narrative never falters, the evocation of place and time having an almost cinematic immediacy."—*TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT*

"Holdstock's ability to paint strange and compelling characters and march them through wondrous and terrifying events leaves one not too concerned about tracing themes. As her title suggests, mysterious life spills beyond the boundaries of inquiry."

—*GLOBE AND MAIL*

## MARKETING PLAN:

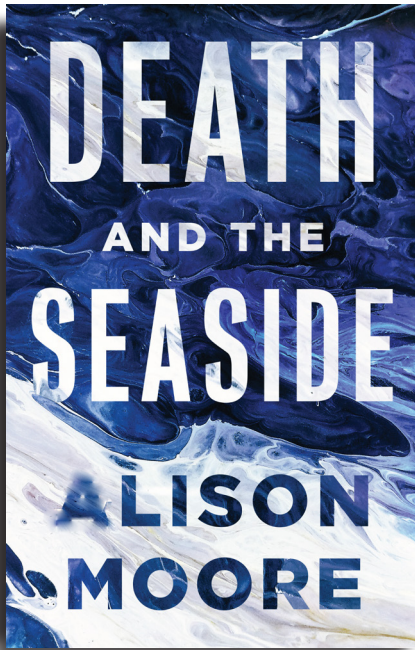
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  - National print campaign
- Giveaways through Edelweiss, Facebook, Goodreads, Twitter, Instagram
  - Touring in Vancouver and elsewhere
- Ads in *The Walrus*, *LRC*, *CNQ*, *SubTerrain*, *This Magazine*, and elsewhere

# Death and the Seaside

ALISON MOORE

“[Moore] is both gifted stylist and talented creator of a new English grotesque.”  
—Isabel Berwick, *Financial Times*

COVER NOT FINAL



October 8, 2019 | Novel

5 x 7.75 | 182pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-275-9

eBook: 978-1-77196-276-6

\$19.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Leicestershire, UK

ISBN 978-1-77196-275-9



## COMPARABLE TITLES

Clare Messud. *The Burning Girl*  
Araminta Hall. *Our Kind of Cruelty*  
Tana French. *The Witch Elm*

## A *Guardian* Book of the Day and Moore's first North American novel since the Man Booker-shortlisted *The Lighthouse*

Nearing thirty, with an abandoned degree and half-hearted dreams of becoming a writer, Bonnie Falls finally moves out of her parents' home and into a shabby flat. When her enigmatic landlady takes an interest in her—and one of her unfinished stories—Bonnie's aspirations are rekindled, and she's quickly persuaded by the older woman's suggestion that they go on holiday to a seaside town like the one in the story. A tense exploration of power and vulnerability, obsession and manipulation, *Death and the Seaside* is a masterpiece of form and a gripping psychological novel about the stories that we tell ourselves.

Alison Moore's first novel, *The Lighthouse*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the National Book Awards, winning the McKitterick Prize. Both *The Lighthouse* and her second novel, *He Wants*, were *Observer* Books of the Year. Her short fiction has been included in *Best British Short Stories* and *Best British Horror* anthologies and broadcast on BBC Radio.

## Praise for *Death and the Seaside*

“Dense, complex, thought-provoking, it manages to be at once a fairytale and a philosophical treatise, high-octane thriller and literary interrogation. Like the dreams that haunt Bonnie's night-times, it holds its secrets close, and repays careful rereading. The end of the novel, abrupt and death-haunted, feels as neat and tight as a key in a lock, and sheds light on the mysteries that have gone before.”—SARAH CROWN, *THE GUARDIAN* BOOK OF THE DAY

“Moore is cunning with literary conceits and motifs but the story remains absorbing and sharp . . . this short, elegant novel is a glimpse into the subconscious – like a lucid dream.”  
—RUTH MCKEE, *IRISH TIMES*

## MARKETING PLAN:

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- 400 advance reader copies to booksellers and media
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  - National print campaign
- Giveaways through Edelweiss, Facebook, Goodreads, Twitter, Instagram
  - Promotion through author's website: [www.alison-moore.com](http://www.alison-moore.com)

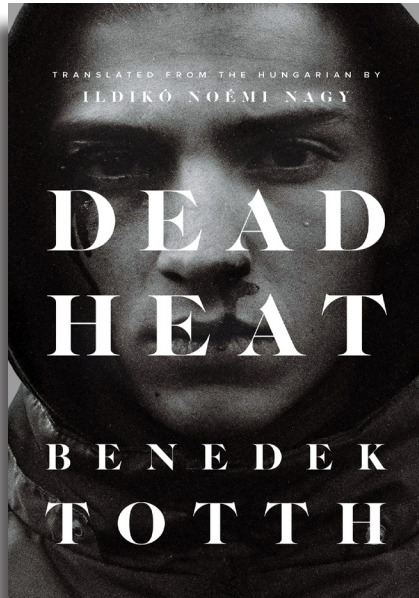
# Dead Heat

BENEDEK TOTTH

TRANSLATED FROM THE HUNGARIAN BY ILDIKÓ NOÉMI NAGY

**“Dead Heat is a no-holds-barred portrait of adolescents adrift ... The blue waters of the Danube have never looked this troubled.”—Paris Match**

COVER NOT FINAL



November 5, 2019 | Novel

5 x 8 | 256pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-301-5

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\$21.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Budapest,  
Hungary

ISBN 978-1-77196-301-5



## COMPARABLE TITLES

Gabe Habash. *Stephen Florida*

Kevin Hardcastle. *In the Cage*

Andrée Michaud. *Boundary*

## Winner of Hungary's 2015 Margó Award for Best First Book of Prose

In a nameless Hungarian town, teenagers on a competitive swim team occupy their after-training hours with hard drinking and fast cars, hash cigarettes and marathons of *Grand Theft Auto*. Invisible to their parents and subject to the whims of an abusive coach, the crucible of competition pushes them again and again into dangerous choices. When a deadly accident leaves them second-guessing one another, they're driven even deeper into violence. Brilliantly translated into breakneck English by Ildikó Noémi Nagy, *Dead Heat* is a blistering debut and an unforgettable story about young men coming of age in an abandoned generation.

Born in Hungary in 1977, **Benedek Totth** studied American literature and now works as an editor and translator in Budapest. His translations into Hungarian include works by Stephen King, Cormac McCarthy, Hunter S. Thompson and William S. Burroughs. *Dead Heat* has been published in translation in France and Slovakia.

## Praise for *Dead Heat*

“Benedek Totth darkens his pages with a boundless talent. He writes like a man screaming, moved by furious desperation. Totth's dialogues show that he understands the power of humour, and he also knows that the world moves too fast and leaves those who don't know how to swim at the edge of the pool. A devastating, beautiful Noir novel.”—*L'EXPRESS (PARIS)*

“Let's say it up front: reading *Dead Heat*, the Hungarian writer Benedek Totth's first novel, is a shock . . . [like] the cry of love and desperation flung out by a generation that's finished before it can begin, before it can even reach maturity.”—*YANN PERREAU, LES INROCKUPTIBLES*

## MARKETING PLAN:

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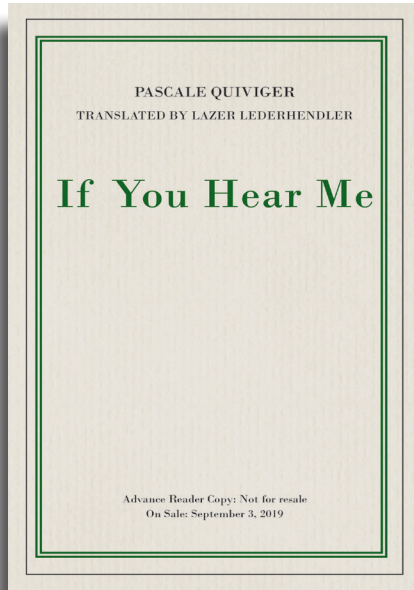
# If You Hear Me

PASCALE QUIVIGER

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY LAZER LEDERHENDLER

**“Ingenious narrative techniques, deep characters, a fine style: Pascale Quiviger plunges into her subject with remarkable dexterity.”—*Le Devoir* (Montreal)**

COVER NOT FINAL



*Sliding doors open and close automatically, exit to the left, entrance to the right. Beyond it, cars go by, and pedestrians and cyclists. A large park behaves as if nothing has happened. The mirage of a world intact.*

In an instant, a life can change forever. After he falls from a scaffold on the construction site where he works, the comatose David is visited daily by his wife, Caroline, and their six-year-old son Bertrand—but despite their devoted efforts, there’s no crossing the ineffable divide between consciousness and the mysterious world David now inhabits. A moving story of love and mourning, elegantly brought into English by Governor General Award-winning translator Lazer Lederhendler, *If You Hear Me* asks what it means to be alive and how we learn to accept the unacceptable.

Born in Montreal, **Pascale Quiviger** has published four novels, a book of short stories and a book of poems, and has written and illustrated two art books. Her novel *The Perfect Circle* won the Governor General’s Literary Award for Fiction in French, and, in English translation, was a finalist for the Giller Prize, and *The Breakwater House* was a finalist for the Prix France-Québec. She lives with her family in Nottingham, England.

## Praise for *If You Hear Me*

“A difficult subject which she treats in a documentary realist fashion ... Pascale Quiviger has written a feel-good book that is moving without being either cloying or tear-jerking, and is well written.”—*LE FIGARO* (PARIS)

“In beautiful, direct prose that reaches the heart, [Quiviger] succeeds in engaging our emotions from the first page and offers the reader deep reflection and a magical exercise in introspection.”—*BUSCANDO MI EQUILIBRIO* (SPAIN)

**September 10, 2019 | Novel**

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**Author Hometown: Montreal, QC**

ISBN 978-1-77196-271-1



## COMPARABLE TITLES

Tom Malmquist. *In Every Moment We Are Still Alive*

Lisa Genova *Every Note Played*

Catherine Leroux. *Madame Victoria*

## MARKETING PLAN:

- 2000 copy print run
- 100 advance reader copies to booksellers and media
  - Co-op available
- North American TV & radio campaign
  - National print campaign
- Online and social media campaign
- Giveaways through Edelweiss, Facebook, Goodreads, Twitter, Instagram

# Christmas Ghost Stories

## DESIGNED AND ILLUSTRATED BY SETH

"[These] miniature books chosen and illustrated by the cartoonist Seth... offer chills—and charm."—JOHN WILLIAMS, *NEW YORK TIMES*

Reading a ghost story on Christmas Eve was once as much a part of Christmas as Santa Claus. Biblioasis is thrilled to offer this series of collectible books that share classic Christmas ghost stories with readers across North America. Seth, our world-famous and beloved cartoonist, designs and illustrates each book in his own inimitable way. Featured in the gift catalogues of the *Toronto Star*, *Globe & Mail*, *Chatelaine*, and *Toronto Life*, *Seth's Christmas Ghost Stories* return with even more haunting tales for Christmas 2019. Trimmed to fit the coziest stocking, these little books are specifically made for display beside the registers of the finest bookstores.

### Bookseller praise for *Christmas Ghost Stories*

"The two classic Christmas ghost stories that Seth and Biblioasis fashioned last year were a huge success for us. Nifty packaging, striking design—so Seth."—BEN MCNALLY, BEN MCNALLY BOOKS, TORONTO, ON

"*Seth's Christmas Ghost Stories* series resurrects the legacy of fireside tales at Christmas with these beautifully illustrated editions."—JOHN TOEWS, MCNALLY ROBINSON BOOKSELLERS, WINNIPEG, MB



## The Apple Tree

DAPHNE DU MAURIER

A widower has a secret he'll admit only to himself: Midge's death comes as a relief. Yet somehow he still feels her presence. Is it guilt? Or does that weather-beaten tree in the orchard bear an uncanny resemblance to her hunched posture?

**Daphne du Maurier** (1907-1989) was an English novelist and playwright known for her paranormal themes.

October 15, 2019  
4 x 6 | 72pp  
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978-1-77196-317-6  
\$8.95 CAD



October 15, 2019  
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Trade Paper  
978-1-77196-315-2  
\$8.95 CAD



## The Old Nurse's Story

ELIZABETH GASKELL

After her parents pass away, young Rosamond is raised by her nurse in the ancestral home of her aunt, Miss Furnivall. One day the two uncover an exceptionally beautiful old portrait? A relative, distant or close? And is that the strange sound of a distant organ, or simply the wind?

**Elizabeth Gaskell** (1810-1865) was an English novelist, biographer, and short story writer known for her interest in Victorian social class dynamics.



October 15, 2019  
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Trade Paper  
978-1-77196-313-8  
\$8.95 CAD



## The Sundial

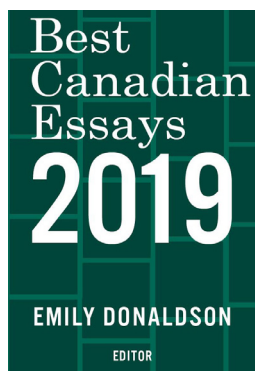
R.H. MALDEN

When he returns to England from the Civil Service, a man takes up residence in an old country home. Enchanted by midsummer days in the garden, he decides to install a sundial. As he waits for it to be delivered, the days grow shorter and his dreams grow dark—and when the sundial finally arrives, it isn't alone.

**R.H. Malden** (1879-1951) was an Anglican deacon, as well as an editor, a Classics scholar, and a writer of ghost stories.

# Best Canadian Series 2019

Collecting the best Canadian fiction, nonfiction, and poetry



## Best Canadian Essays 2019

EMILY DONALDSON

Culled from leading Canadian magazines and journals, *Best Canadian Essays 2019* contains award-winning and award-nominated nonfiction articles that are topical and engaging and have their finger on the pulse of our contemporary psyches.

November 19, 2019  
978-1-77196-332-9  
Trade Paper | \$22.95 CAD

**Emily Donaldson** is an editor, writer, and book critic. Her work has been nominated for National Magazine Awards and for a Governor General's Award. In 2016, she became the first female editor of *Canadian Notes & Queries*, Canada's oldest magazine of literary criticism.



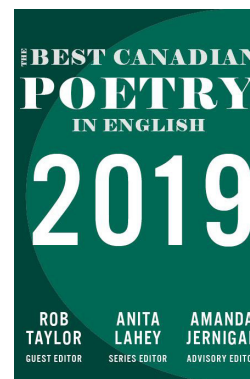
## Best Canadian Poetry 2019

ROB TAYLOR, ANITA LAHEY, AND AMANDA JERNIGAN

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Trade Paper | \$22.95 CAD

Featuring the fifty finest Canadian poems published in periodicals during the previous year, the 2019 edition of Canada's go-to yearly anthology, ushers readers into the heart of the vibrant Canadian poetry scene.

**Rob Taylor** is the author of three poetry collections and editor of *What the Poets Are Doing: Canadian Poets in Conversation* (Nightwood Editions, 2018). He lives in Port Moody, BC with his wife and son.



## Best Canadian Stories 2019

CAROLINE ADDERSON

November 19, 2019  
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Trade Paper | \$22.95 CAD

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