

BIBLIOASIS

SPRING 2020



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BIBLIOASIS

Spring 2020

NEW FICTION, NONFICTION, AND MEMOIR

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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.

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an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



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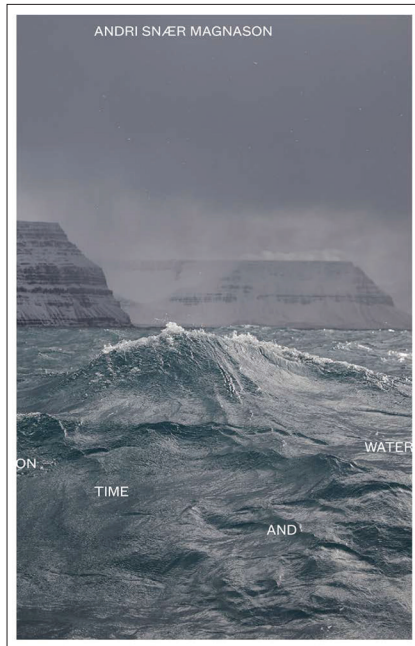
On Time and Water

ANDRI SNAER MAGNASON

TRANSLATED FROM THE ICELANDIC BY LYTTON SMITH

“Eco-lit needs more attention, and devotees will be pleased to discover Andri Snaer Magnason, who writes with. . .wonder, wit and gravitas.”—*NEW YORK TIMES*

COVER NOT FINAL



August 11, 2020 | Nonfiction

5.5 x 8.5 | 304 pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-358-9

eBook: 978-1-77196-359-6

\$24.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Reykjavik, Iceland

ISBN 978-1-77196-358-9



COMPARABLE TITLES

Elizabeth Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction*

David Wallace-Wells, *The Uninhabitable Earth*

Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything*

The book that will make you understand what our future holds
if we don't take immediate action.

A few years ago, Andri Snaer Magnason, one of Iceland's most beloved writers and public intellectuals, was asked by a leading climate scientist why he wasn't writing about the greatest crisis mankind has faced. Magnason demurred: he wasn't a specialist, he said; it wasn't his field. But the scientist persisted: "If you cannot understand our scientific findings and present them in an emotional, psychological, poetic or mythological context," he told him, "then no one will really understand the issue, and the world will end."

Based on interviews and advice from leading glacial, ocean, climate, and geographical scientists, and interwoven with personal, historical, and mythological stories, Magnason's response is a rich and compelling work of narrative nonfiction that illustrates the reality of climate change—and offers hope in the face of an uncertain future. Moving from reflections on how one writes an obituary for an iceberg to exhortation for a heightened understanding of human time and our obligations to one another, throughout history and across the globe, *On Time and Water* is both deeply personal and globally-minded: a travel story, a world history, and a desperate plea to live in harmony with future generations. Already a massive bestseller in Iceland, and selling in two dozen territories around the world, this is a book unlike anything that has yet been published on the current climate emergency.

Andri Snaer Magnason is an Icelandic writer born in Reykjavik. He is a writer of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, plays and documentary films. His book *LoveStar* won the Philip K. Dick special citation in 2014 and Le Grand prix de l'Imaginaire in France 2016, and his children's book, *The Story of the Blue Planet* has been published in 32 languages.

Praise for Andri Snaer Magnason

"Magnason has created an intimate epic that floats effortlessly between genres as diverse as fairy tale and political commentary, science fiction and social realism. *The Casket of Time* spans the chasm between 'once upon a time' and 'have you heard the news today' in a way that makes his philosophical fable feel both timely and timeless."—BJARKE INGELS

"The love child of Chomsky and Lewis Carroll."—REBECCA SOLNIT

MARKETING PLAN:

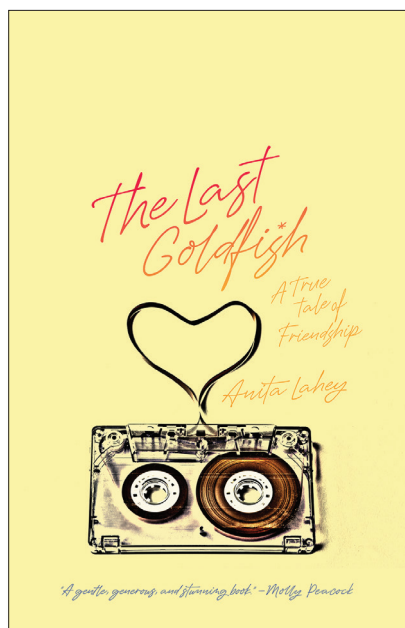
- Print run: 7500
- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- National TV & radio campaign
 - National print campaign
- Online and social media campaign
- Outreach to environmental media
- Touring in Winnipeg, Vancouver, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, and elsewhere

The Last Goldfish

ANITA LAHEY

"It's a testament to [Lahey's] capability with the personal essay that she can turn writing about the eulogy. . .into something deeply felt and engaging." —*MAISONNEUVE*

COVER NOT FINAL



Twenty-five years ago and counting, Louisa, my true, essential, always-there-for-everything friend, died. We were 22. . .I've been learning ever since how to exist in her wake, compiling who I am all over again, without her by my side.

Set against the fall of the Berlin Wall and the first Gulf War, this coming of age memoir is an intimate portrait of two friends who broach the promise of adulthood to find themselves navigating not only the complications of young womanhood, but a devastating illness as well. Giving voice to the friend who's there for hospital visits, side-effects, late-night phone calls about fears and what-ifs, *The Last Goldfish* traces the impacts of a terminal cancer diagnosis on a young person—and what it means to face the possibility of death at the very age when one's identity is being shaped.

Anita Lahey is a poet, an award-winning magazine journalist, past editor of *Arc Poetry Magazine*, and series editor of the annual anthology *Best Canadian Poetry*. Her books include the poetry collections *Out to Dry in Cape Breton* and *Spinning Side Kick* and the nonfiction book *The Mystery Shopping Cart: Essays on Poetry and Culture*. A former resident of Toronto, Montreal, Fredericton and Victoria, she maintains fierce familial ties to Cape Breton Island and lives in Ottawa with her family. She grew up in Burlington, Ontario, in a house with a huge backyard a short bike ride from Lake Ontario.

Praise for Anita Lahey

"Anita Lahey is no slouch. . . In crisp, descriptive phrases, Lahey turns details of ordinary domesticity — 'Everyday rags and wraps,' as she puts it — into vivid tableaux. . .*Out to Dry in Cape Breton* is a real footstomper, finely crafted and full of verve." —*TORONTO STAR*

"Here is a smart and generous voice that takes the reader into its fold. . . This is that kind of book, the kind that takes you places. —*KERRY CLARE*

April 7, 2020 | Memoir

5.5 x 8.5 | 296pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-343-5

eBook: 978-1-77196-344-2

\$22.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Ottawa

ISBN 978-1-77196-343-5



COMPARABLE TITLES

Chelene Knight, *Dear Current Occupant*

Kayleen Schaefer, *Text Me When You Get Home*

Meredith May, *The Honey Bus*

MARKETING PLAN:

- Print run: 5000
- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- North American TV & radio campaign
 - National print campaign
- Online and social media campaign
- Outreach to women's interest media
- Outreach to cancer and caregiving societies
- Touring in Burlington, Toronto, Montreal, Fredericton, Victoria, and Ottawa

You Will Love What You Have Killed

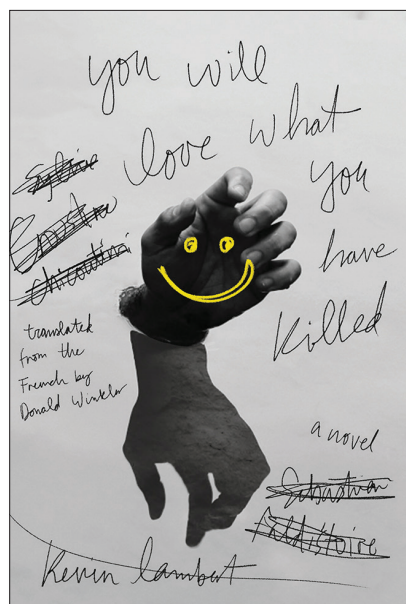
KEVIN LAMBERT

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY DONALD WINKLER

“This book is poisonously beautiful.” — Librairie Marie-Laura

COVER NOT FINAL

Winner of the 2018 Quebec Booksellers' Prize



Faldistore's grandfather thinks he's a ghost. Sylvie's mother reads Tarot and summons stormclouds to mete her witch's justice. Behind his Dad of the Year demeanor, Sébastien's father hides dark designs. It's Croustine's grandfather who makes the boy a pair of slippers from the dead family dog, but it's his dad, the uncannily-named Kevin Lambert, who always seems to be nearby when tragedy strikes, and in the cemetery, under the expressionless gazes of toads, small graves are continuously being dug: Chicoutimi, Quebec, is a dangerous place for children. But these young victims of rape, accidental violence, and senseless murder keep coming back. They return to school, discover their sexualities, keep tabs on grown-up sins—and plot their apocalyptic revenge. Surreal and darkly comic, the debut novel by Kevin Lambert, one of the most celebrated and controversial writers to come out of Quebec in recent memory, takes the adult world to task—and then takes revenge.

Born in 1992, **Kevin Lambert** grew up in Chicoutimi in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region of Quebec. His most recent novel, *Querelle* (Biblioasis, 2021), won the 2019 Prix Sade and was shortlisted for the Prix Médicis, the Prix Wepler, the Le Monde Literary Prize, and the Quebec Booksellers' Prize. Kevin is a bookseller at Le Port de tête in Montreal.

Praise for Kevin Lambert

“Difficult to describe, because wildly strange, but also furiously bewitching. Let us rejoice that this man who was born in Chicoutimi in 1992 obviously has accounts to settle; Quebec literature rarely allows such ferocity. . . The dark song of an angry queer young man, a fantasy of twisted vengeance, the hallucinated dream of an apocalypse as life-saving as a forest fire: *You Will Love What You Have Killed* exaggerates to its limits the ordinary ugliness of a Quebec caught in the grip of its prejudices. . . it is precisely because he speaks of reality that Kevin Lambert's novel evokes the taste of vomit.” —DOMINIC TARDIF, *LE DEVOIR*

“A powerful, inventive first novel midway between a memoir and a fantasy novel, funny and violent, unbelievably freewheeling even as it remains under tight control.”

—LA PRESSE

August 4, 2020 | Novel

5 x 7.5 | 184pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-352-7

eBook: 978-1-77196-353-4

\$19.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Montreal

ISBN 978-1-77196-352-7



COMPARABLE TITLES

Amber Dawn, *Sodom Road Exit*

Stéphane Larue, *The Dishwasher*

Joshua Whitehead, *Jonny Appleseed*

MARKETING PLAN:

- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- IndieNext campaign
- North American TV & radio campaign
 - National print campaign
- Online and social media campaign
 - Outreach to LGBTQIA+ media
 - Excerpts in Lit Hub, Electric Lit
- Events in Toronto, Ottawa, Toronto, Windsor, and elsewhere

Lucia

ALEX PHEBY

"A writer possessed of unusual, indeed extraordinary, powers. . .
Read [*Lucia*] with your eyes wide open." —*THE GUARDIAN*

COVER NOT FINAL

Winner of the 2019 Republic of Consciousness Prize



She is about thirty-three, speaks French fluently. . . [she] is gay, sweet and ironic, but she has bursts of anger over nothing when she is confined to a straightjacket, writes James Joyce in one of the few surviving documents concerning his daughter. A gifted dancer, Beckett's lover, an aspiring writer—what little we know about Lucia Joyce effectively ends with a diagnosis of schizophrenia and subsequent hospitalization: after her death, her nephew Stephen, executor of the Joyce estate, burned her letters and medical records, erasing her not only from her father's legacy, but from her own existence in the world as well.

To tell the story of a life redacted, Alex Pheby assumes not Lucia Joyce's lost voice, but the perspectives of the men around her, layering a series of narratives about those on the edges of her life to create a portrait of the lost woman in silhouette. As much a critique of male violence and the long history of misogyny in women's health, an *in absentia* illustration of the fate of inconvenient women as the story of a single life, *Lucia* is an ethical and empathetic creative act and a moving *in memoriam* to a woman whose experiences we can only imagine.

Alex Pheby's second novel, *Playthings*—about the life of Daniel Paul Schreber, whose case was made famous by Freud—was widely acclaimed in media from the *Guardian* to the *New York Times* and called "the best neuro-novel ever written" in the *Literary Review*.

Praise for *Lucia*

"Intensely moving. . . luminously delicate. . . [*Lucia* is] an ambitious and daring investigation of consciousness, agency, selfhood, mental disorder, medical callousness and misogyny."
—*TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT*

"An emotionally powerful and constantly questioning novel. . . [Pheby] sets the standard for fictional biography." —*IRISH TIMES*

June 16, 2020 | Novel
5.25 x 8.25 | 302pp
Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-345-9
eBook: 978-1-77196-346-6
\$22.95 CAD

Author Hometown: London, UK



COMPARABLE TITLES

Alex Pheby, *Playthings*
Lucy Ellmann, *Ducks Newburyport*
Elise Hooper, *The Other Alcott*

MARKETING PLAN:

- Print run: 3000
- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- North American TV & radio campaign
 - National print campaign
- Outreach to women's interest and feminist media
 - Outreach to James Joyce interest groups
 - Bloomsday marketing campaign
 - Online and social media campaign
- Events in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg, Vancouver, and elsewhere

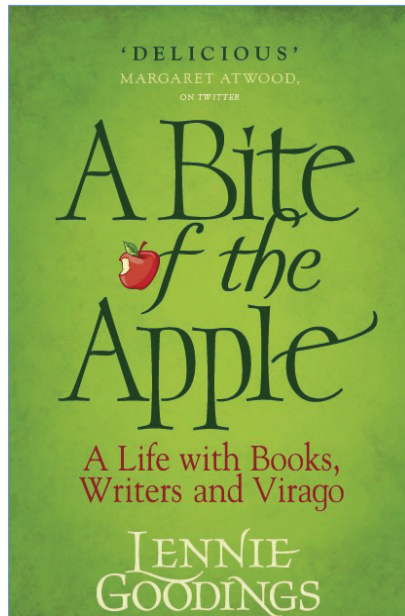
A Bite of the Apple

A Life with Books, Writers, and Virago

LENNIE GOODINGS

"All an apple should be: crisp, tart but sweet, steeped in mysterious history and tangled symbolism, and not a bad missile when it comes to alleyway combat. Oh, and delicious!" —MARGARET ATWOOD

COVER NOT FINAL



Carmen is vigorously polishing one of our three telephones. I am just twenty-five, Canadian, new to Britain and in awe of this formidable woman but as there are only two of us in the office I feel emboldened to ask: "Why did you start Virago?" She looks up and without missing a beat, replies "To change the world, darling. That's why."
I know I am in the right place.

Following the chronology of the press where she has worked nearly since its founding, Lennie Goodings tells the story of the group of visionary publishers and writers who have made Virago one of the most important and influential publishers in the English-speaking world. Like the books she has edited and published—by writers ranging from Maya Angelou and Margaret Atwood to Sarah Waters and Naomi Wolf—Goodings's contribution to the genre breaks new ground as well, telling a story of women in the world of work, offering much needed balance to the male-dominated genre of publishing memoirs, and chronicling a critical aspect of the history of feminism: how women began to assume control over the production of their own books.

Part memoir, part literary history, and part reflection on more than forty years of feminist publishing, *A Bite of the Apple* is a story of idealism and pragmatism, solidarity and individual ambition, of challenges met and the battles not yet won—and, above all, a steadfast celebration of the making and reading of books.

Lennie Goodings is Chair of the UK publishing house Virago Press. Born in Canada, she came to London in her early twenties and has remained there since.

Praise for *A Bite of the Apple*

"Enthralling. . . a marvellous celebration of writing, of reading, and of publishing. In fact, it's the best book I've read on publishing since Diana Athill's *Stet*." —**THE BOOKSELLER**

"Lively, frank, fascinating—and above all, inspiring. A celebration of boldness: of wanting something better and making change happen." —**SARAH WATERS**

"An indispensable piece of feminist history; nothing less than the exciting story of how women found their voice—and made society listen. I enjoyed it hugely."
—**CAROLINE CRIADO PEREZ**

June 23, 2020 | Memoir

5 x 7.5 | 280pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-360-2

eBook: 978-1-77196-361-9

\$24.95 CAD

Author Hometown: London, UK

ISBN 978-1-77196-360-2



COMPARABLE TITLES

Laura Claridge, *The Lady with the Borzoi*

Diana Athill, *Stet: An Editor's Life*

Anna Porter, *In Other Words*

MARKETING PLAN:

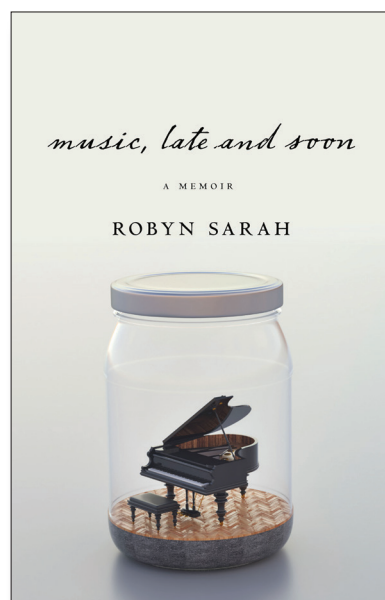
- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- North American TV & radio campaign:
 - National print campaign
- Outreach to women's interest and feminist media
- Outreach to publishing and bookseller media
 - Online and social media campaign
- Events in Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton, and Calgary

Music, Late and Soon

ROBYN SARAH

“Sarah knows the language: its pressure points, its traditions, its crevices. Trained as a musician, she also understands flow and timing, when to sing and when to keep silent.” —*MONTREAL GAZETTE*

COVER NOT FINAL



June 2, 2020 | Memoir

5.5 x 8.5 | 320pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-356-5

eBook: 978-1-77196-357-2

\$24.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Montreal

ISBN 978-1-77196-356-5



COMPARABLE TITLES

Glenn Kurtz, *Practicing: A Musician's
Return to Music*

Kyo Maclear, *Birds Art Life*

Alan Rusbridger, *Play It Again: An Amateur
Against the Impossible*

Later in life, a poet returns to the passion of her youth.

After thirty-five years as an “on-again, off-again, uncoached closet pianist,” poet and writer Robyn Sarah picked up the phone one day and called her old piano teacher, whom she had last seen in her early twenties. *Music, Late and Soon* is the story of Sarah’s return to study piano with the mentor of her youth, as well as a reflection on her previously unexamined musical past: a decade spent at Quebec’s Conservatoire de Musique, studying clarinet, dreaming of a career as an orchestral musician, but already a writer at heart. Both introspective and speculative, this two-tiered musical autobiography tracks the author’s long-ago defection from a musical career path and her late return to serious practice and tells the story of a relationship with an extraordinary teacher remembered and renewed.

Robyn Sarah is the author of ten poetry collections. *My Shoes Are Killing Me* won the 2015 Governor General’s Award and the Canadian Jewish Literary Award for poetry. Her poems have been included in the *Norton Anthology of Poetry* and other anthologies in Canada, the U.S. and the U.K., and two collections have appeared in French translation. She has also published two collections of short stories and a book of essays on poetry. Since 2011 she has served as poetry editor for Cormorant Books.

Praise for Robyn Sarah

“A poem by Sarah could fit into the palm of your hand... *Wherever We Mean To Be* showcases [her] gifts: her visual clarity, no-nonsense voice, compressed language, rhythmic prowess, and metaphoric agility. These qualities speak from a long-cultivated focus and bespeak a writer who pays fierce attention to the basic fact of being in the world.” —*THE WALRUS*

“So assured and musical is the hand that shaped them that these poems tend to memorize themselves, as though they had always formed part of our experience.” —ERIC ORMSBY

MARKETING PLAN:

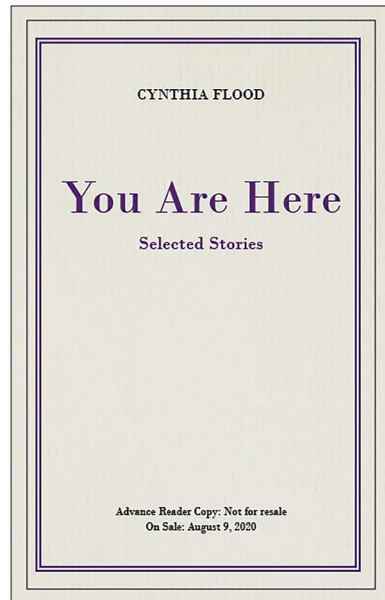
- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- North American TV & radio campaign
 - National print campaign
- Online and social media campaign
- Outreach to women’s interest media
- Touring in Toronto, Montreal, Kingston, Ottawa, Windsor, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Victoria

You Are Here: Selected Stories

CYNTHIA FLOOD

“[Flood’s] characters are impatient to be heard, grabbing your attention, word bullets flying, hope and despair spilling over the pages.” —VANCOUVER SUN

COVER NOT FINAL



August 11, 2020 | Fiction

5.5 x 8.5 | 320pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-341-1

eBook: 978-1-77196-342-8

\$24.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Vancouver

ISBN 978-1-77196-341-1



COMPARABLE TITLES

Lydia Davis, *Collected Stories*

John Metcalf, *Finding Again the World*

Diane Schoemperlen, *First Things First*

A reSet Original

The latest title in our reSet series, *You Are Here* gathers for the first time the twenty best stories from Cynthia Flood’s five collections. Written and published over the last fifty years, these spare, stylistically inventive stories vary in form and voice and explore a range of subjects, from the domestic to the political.

Cynthia Flood’s stories have won numerous awards, including *The Journey Prize* and a National Magazine Award, and have been widely anthologized. Her novel *Making A Stone Of The Heart* was nominated for the City of Vancouver Book Prize in 2002. She is the author of the acclaimed short story collections *The Animals in Their Elements* (1987), *My Father Took A Cake To France* (1992), and *Red Girl Rat Boy* (2013) which was shortlisted for the BC Book Prizes’ fiction award and long-listed for the Frank O’Connor award. She lives in Vancouver’s West End.

Praise for Cynthia Flood

“Flood does a masterful job creating a sense of existence for her characters that extends beyond the pages of their story.” —WINNIPEG REVIEW

“In understated yet nuanced pieces that are bittersweet, sobering, or chuckle-inducing, [Flood] introduces a gallery of figures for whom paths fork unexpectedly, plans go awry, and expectations require extensive revising. Still, Flood’s characters are managing. And committed to their decisions, as on-the-fly as they might be.” —BRETT JOSEF GRUBISIC

“Her latest collection, *What Can You Do?* cements her reputation as a gifted and observant storyteller. Technically superb, demonstrating Flood’s unstinting grasp of complex, subterranean emotion, these twelve stories tread familiar territory. The haunting “Struggle,” about a disturbed woman’s memories of her activist past, mines the rivalries and chauvinism of far-left politics in 1970s Vancouver.” —TORONTO STAR

MARKETING PLAN:

- Co-op available
- North American TV & radio campaign
 - National print campaign
- Online and social media campaign
- Events in Vancouver and Victoria

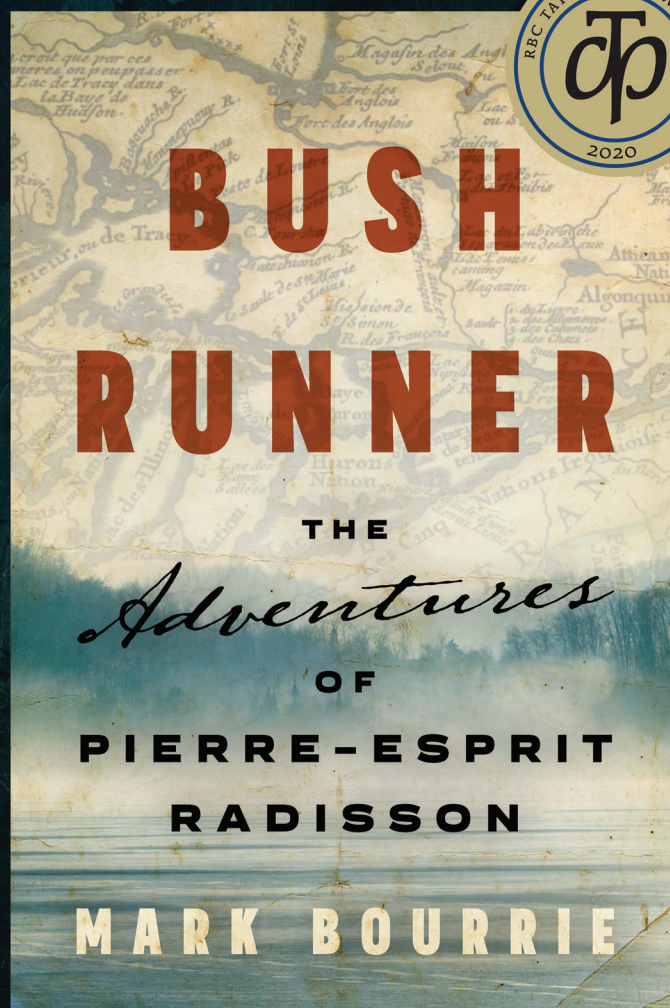
"Readers of Mark Bourrie's *Bush Runner* might well wonder if Jonathan Swift at his edgiest has been at work."

—2020 RBC Taylor Prize Jury

BUSH RUNNER

THE ADVENTURES OF PIERRE-ESPRIT RADISSON
BY MARK BOURRIE

WINNER
OF THE
2020 RBC
TAYLOR
PRIZE



READ INDEPENDENTLY
BIBLIOASIS

ANDRI SNAER MAGNASON
ANITA LAHEY
KEVIN LAMBERT
ALEX PHEBY
LENNIE GOODINGS
ROBYN SARAH
CYNTHIA FLOOD

BOOK
SALE

