



BIBLIOASIS

WINTER 24

FICTION / POETRY / NONFICTION

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### NEW FOR 2024: SALES REPRESENTATION

We're delighted to announce that, beginning January 1, 2024, we're bringing Canadian sales in house. We look forward to working more closely with our bookseller and library partners.

### SALES DIRECTOR

Emily Bossé  
ebosse@biblioasis.com

# WINTER 2024

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# JÓN KALMAN STEFÁNSSON

## YOUR ABSENCE IS DARKNESS

TRANSLATED FROM THE ICELANDIC BY PHILIP ROUGHTON

The spellbinding saga of the inhabitants and inheritors of one rural community, by one of Iceland's most beloved novelists.



Mar. 5, 2024 | Fiction  
6 x 9, 432 pp  
\$26.95 | 9781771965811  
(trade paper)  
[Bookmanager](#)  
[Catalist](#)

COMP TITLES:  
Jón Kalman Stefánsson,  
*Summer Light, and Then Comes the Night*  
Roy Jacobsen,  
*The Unseen*  
Anthony Doerr,  
*Cloud Cuckoo Land*

A man comes to awareness in a church in rural Iceland, not knowing why he's there or how he arrived. When a local woman offers to reunite him with her sister, he realizes he's lost not only his bearings, but his memory as well: he doesn't recall either sister, nor their mother, the woman buried beneath the stone. As their stories unfold, he's plunged into a history spanning centuries and lives: a city girl drawn to the fjords by the memory of a blue-eyed gaze; a pastor who writes to dead poets and falls in love with a stranger from afar; a woman who must abandon her son to save her family; a musician plagued by cosmic loneliness; and an alcoholic transfixed by the night sky. An incandescent romance about the misfortune of mortality and the strange salve of time, *Your Absence Is Darkness* is a spellbinding story of death, desire, and the perfect agony of star-crossed love.

Jón Kalman Stefánsson's novels have won the Icelandic Prize for Literature and the Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize and been nominated for the International Booker Prize, the *Independent Foreign Fiction Prize*, and three times for the Nordic Council Prize for Literature. He lives in Reykjavík, Iceland.

## PRAISE FOR JÓN KALMAN STEFÁNSSON

"Stefánsson shares the elemental grandeur of Cormac McCarthy."  
EILEEN BATTERSBY. *TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT*

"Stefánsson is a superb storyteller with a metaphysical bent. He draws characters with empathy and wit, and frames their condition in existential dichotomies: modernity versus the past, mystical versus rational, destiny versus coincidence."

### BOOKLIST

"Wistful and whimsical . . . [Stefánsson's] writing is fertile, yielding extraordinary imagery. There are many tears in these stories and in this village, but there is also hope, because even unfulfilled dreams offer guidance, 'they evaporate and settle like dew in the sky, where they transform into the stars in the night.'"

### MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE

"Jón Kalman Stefánsson's lyrical style has earned him a dedicated following of readers in Iceland. [In] *Summer Light and Then Comes the Night* each standalone story describes life in a small village in West Iceland, normal people—their insecurities and anxieties, their courage and loneliness. Together, these episodes create one, coherent whole; there's no set narrator, but rather, it's the village that tells these stories of hope, cruelty, life, and death." *LITHUB*

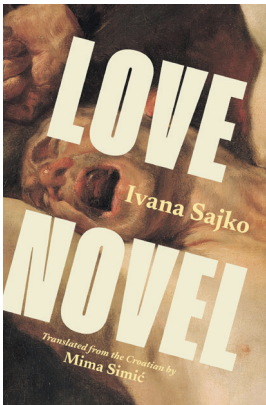
"The Icelandic Dickens . . . He has the same gift of writing with great understanding, an empathy with troubled souls and a skill at laugh-out-loud comedy." *IRISH EXAMINER*

# IVANA SAJKO

## LOVE NOVEL

TRANSLATED FROM THE CROATIAN BY MIMA SIMIĆ

Shortlisted for the 2023 Dublin Literary Award  
Winner of the HKW Internationaler Literaturpreis



February 6, 2024 | Fiction  
5.25 x 8, 112pp  
\$21.95 | 9781771965989  
(trade paper)  
[Bookmanager](#)  
[Catalist](#)

COMP TITLES:  
Ottessa Moshfegh,  
*Death in Her Hands*,  
Heather O'Neill,  
*When We Lost Our Heads*,  
Mona Awad, *Bunny*

Love in late capitalism: Ivana Sajko takes us to the frontlines of a war waged between kitchen and bedroom. He, an unemployed Dante scholar, trying to change the world and write a novel. She, once a passable actress with a vaguely rewarding theater job, now a stay-at-home mom. He is delirious with dreams of grandeur; she is on edge, a detonator bomb with a dirty laundry trigger. The rent is late, the neighbor caviling, the government astoundingly callous: with violence looming on all sides, husband and wife circle one another in a dizzying dance towards the abyss.

Intense and astutely ironic, devastating and darkly comic, Ivana Sajko's *Love Novel* takes a scalpel to the heart of modern married life.

**Ivana Sajko** is a writer, theatre director, and performer. The author of four acclaimed novels and dozens of political theatre pieces, she is the four-time winner of a national playwriting award as well as the French Chevalier Medal of Arts and Letters, the Ivan Goran Kovačić Prize for best debut novel, and Internationaler Literaturpreis.

## PRAISE FOR *LOVE NOVEL*

"Sajko takes no prisoners . . . [*Love Novel*] gloriously marries sociopolitical commentary on failed capitalism in a failed state to the inevitability of failed marriage, locating the narrative in an extraordinary violence of mind and body . . . Matching form with content, it depicts lives that involve walking constantly on tightropes with a ferocity of prose that allows no breathing space, consummately conveying the claustrophobic existence of the characters as external as well as personal circumstances close in on them." DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD JUDGES' CITATION

"*Love Novel* is not a comfortable read, but it is a timely exploration of socio-economic inequality, a raw confrontation of the pain humans are capable of inflicting on one another, and a fearless engagement with the challenges of poverty and parenthood." *READING IN TRANSLATION*

"The interpersonal magic now lost, or at least forgotten, but above all: poisoned by the big bad world 'out there.' Ivana Sajko celebrates this sad state of affairs with power and intensity." *NDR KULTUR*

"Breathless, barely punctuated. Her heroes: a nameless couple in a Mediterranean nowhere, devoted to each other in hate. A tough, great novel." *NEUE PRESSE*

# CHRISTOPHE BERNARD

## THE HOLLOW BEAST

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY LAZER LEDERHENDLER

Winner of the Quebec Booksellers' Prize | Winner of the Jovette-Bernier Award | Winner of the Québec-Ontario Award | Finalist for the Governor General's Award



April 2, 2024 | Fiction  
5.25 × 8.25, 624 pp  
\$32.95 | 9781771965552  
(trade paper)  
[Bookmanager](#)  
[Catalist](#)

COMP TITLES:  
Michael Christie,  
*Greenwood*  
Kevin Lambert,  
*Querelle of Roberval*  
Stéphane Larue,  
*The Dishwasher*

In 1911, in a hockey game in Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula, local tough guy Billy Joe Pictou fires the puck into Monti Bouge's mouth. When Monti collapses with his head across the goal line, Victor Bradley, erstwhile referee and local mailman, rules that the goal counts. Monti's ensuing revenge for this injustice sprawls over three generations, one hundred years and dozens of alcohol-soaked tall tales, from treachery in northern gold-mining camps to the appearance of a legendary beast by turns playful and ferocious. It's up to Monti's grandson, François, to make sense of the vendetta between Monti and Bradley that has shaped the destiny of their town and everyone who lives there. In a sumptuous, unpredictable language and slapstick comedy, Christophe Bernard reveals himself as a master of epic storytelling.



Originally from Carleton-sur-Mer in the Gaspé region of Quebec, **Christophe Bernard** lives in Burlington, Vermont.

### PRAISE FOR *THE HOLLOW BEAST*

"Christophe Bernard has hollowed out the past like a beast and, like an alchemist, has excavated a language of pure gold. He has added a great, savage nugget to Quebec literature." *LA PRESSE (MONTREAL)*

"Christophe Bernard scores a huge hit with *The Hollow Beast* ... He gives birth to a sort of crazed novel in the form of a fireworks show ... Bernard slips into the patchwork skin of a kind of Thomas Pynchon crossbred with Rabelais and Victory-Lévy Beaulieu (with a pint of James Joyce) ... His writing is flamboyant with vernacular flights. An example of utter mastery." *LE DEVOIR (MONTREAL)*

"The reader swims in sheer delirium reading *The Hollow Beast*, a novel from the Gaspé that takes place over several generations. Passionate and unsettling ... A universe plugged in at 10,000 volts!" *RADIO CANADA*

"A tale with plenty of momentum that covers a whole century and is at once fantastic, funny, cruel, brilliant." *LE JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL*

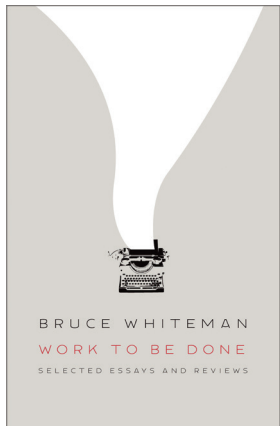
"A family saga unlike any other ... And it's funny! I envy this writer's talent." *L'ACTUALITÉ (MONTREAL)*

# BRUCE WHITEMAN

## WORK TO BE DONE

SELECTED ESSAYS AND REVIEWS

“Whiteman engages subject and readers with the phenomenology of existence. . . [He] is aware that the very nature of art is to elicit a reaction.” *QUILL AND QUIRE*



Drawn from essays and reviews written over the course of nearly fifty years, *Work to Be Done* showcases both the depth and breadth of Bruce Whiteman's critical work. An accomplished poet and critic whose essays and reviews are widely published in Canada, the work selected here demonstrates Whiteman's capacious interests, which range from Canadian and American poetry and European literary history to the work of writers as varied as Sappho, Goethe, and Philip Larkin.

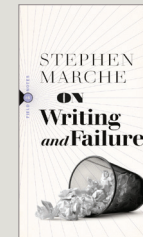
Mar. 12, 2024 | Nonfiction  
5.25 x 8.25, 400 pp  
\$26.95 | 9781771966092  
(trade paper)  
[Bookmanager](#)  
[Catalist](#)

COMP TITLES:  
Bruce Whiteman,  
*The Invisible World  
Is in Decline*  
Douglas Glover,  
*The Erotics of Restraint*  
Jorge Carrión,  
*Against Amazon*

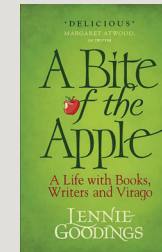


Bruce Whiteman is a poet, essayist, and book reviewer. His essays and reviews have appeared widely over the past forty years in journals and newspapers in Canada and the United States. He lives in Peterborough, Ontario, with his cat, Virgil, a harpsichord, and a Steinway grand piano.

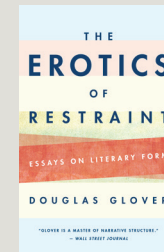
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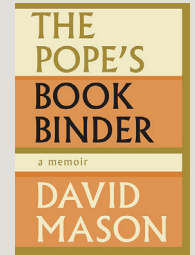
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*On Writing  
and Failure*  
9781771965163



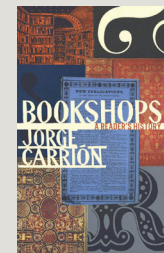
Lennie Goodings,  
*A Bite of the Apple:  
A Life with Books,  
Writers, and Virago*  
9781771963602



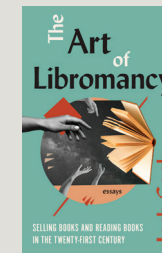
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*The Erotics  
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on Literary Form*  
9781771962919



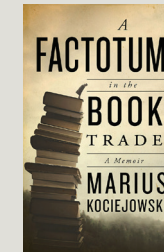
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*The Pope's  
Bookbinder:  
A Memoir*  
9781771960052



Jorge Carrión,  
*Bookshops:  
A Reader's History*  
9781771962650



Josh Cook,  
*The Art of  
Libromancy:  
On Selling Books  
and Reading Books  
in the Twenty-First  
Century*  
9781771965415



Marius Kociejowski,  
*A Factotum  
in the Book Trade:  
A Memoir*  
9781771964562



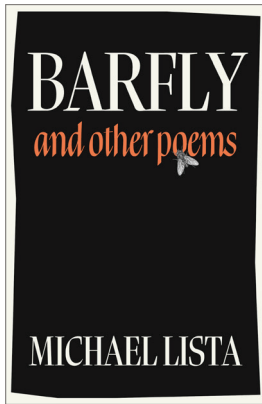
Alex Good,  
*Revolutions: Essays  
on Contemporary  
Canadian Fiction*  
9781771961196

# MICHAEL LISTA

## BARFLY

AND OTHER POEMS

*We're in love, but we're still Millennials.  
What's wrong with our hearts is congenital.*



April 2, 2024 | Poetry  
5.5 × 8.5, 96pp  
\$19.95 | 9781771966115  
(trade paper)  
[Bookmanager](#)  
[Catalist](#)

COMP TITLES:  
Michael Lista,  
*The Scarborough,*  
Michael Crummey,  
*Passengers,*  
Luke Hathaway,  
*The Affirmations*

Splicing Byronic rhymes and Auden's meters with twenty-first century irreverence and the profane juxtaposition of a late-stage Twitter feed, the poems in *Barfly*, Michael Lista's long-awaited third collection, are alternately aggressive, humane, LOL funny, and raw with break-your-heart vulnerability.

"After a ten-year hiatus from poetry—and out of nowhere—Michael Lista has dropped an instant classic. The poems in this book are profane, pugilistic, and moving, with wickedly funny rhymes to boot. *Barfly* is an uncompromising, messed-up masterpiece. I fucking love it." JASON GURIEL, AUTHOR OF *THE FULL-MOON WHALING CHRONICLES*

**Michael Lista** is an investigative journalist, essayist and poet. He is the author of two books of poetry, a collection of essays, and a book of longform journalism. His essays and investigative stories have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Walrus*, and elsewhere. He lives in Toronto.



### AMERICA

It's a banana republic  
Wearing Banana Republic

Manufactured in a banana republic  
And remaindered to a Banana Republic

Outlet  
Store,

Like tortoises  
But turtlenecks

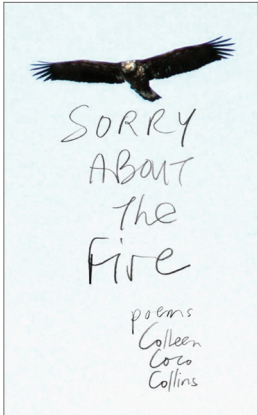
All the way down.



# COCO COLLINS

## SORRY ABOUT THE FIRE

*I wanted a good bewildering,  
down deep,  
as the keep of a castle.*



April 2, 2024 | Poetry  
5 x 8, 64pp  
\$19.95 | 9781771966139  
(trade paper)  
[Bookmanager](#)  
[Catalist](#)

COMP TITLES:  
Andreae Callanan, *The Debt*  
Lisa Robertson, *Boat*  
Luke Hathaway,  
*Years, Months and Days*

In this debut collection, Coco Collins draws on all of her multidisciplinary enamorations. Questions of time and presumptions of sentience, the language of rhythm and all forms of music, the peripatetic and the ouroboric all find expression in a widely cast net of sympathies rendered through the triple vision of her Irish, French, and Odawa heritage, each checking one against the others, detecting the patterns, allowing their depressions and amplifications. Hermetic and beguiling, sensuous and musical, *Sorry About the Fire* introduces not just a poet, but a stunningly original sensibility.

**Coco Collins** [she/they] is an interdisciplinary artist of Irish, French, and Odawa descent, working in songwriting, performance, poetry and visual arts. Hailing from Antler River/Deshkan Ziiibiing/London, Ontario, Coco has studied in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, New Zealand, and Ireland. She lives literally in rural Port Greville, Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia.



CAOINE

when Rose made the recordings

she kept having to be asked

to step back the plosives

were just too much

in the river an oxygen tank

bobs and weaves and gleams

rings out

struck from without

fast vibrato in the mouth

of the liberating cut

forced air

sent out

Rose

keep back      keep back



JÓN KALMAN STEFÁNSSON

IVANA SAJKO

CHRISTOPHE BERNARD

BRUCE WHITEMAN

MICHAEL LISTA

COCO COLLINS