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SPRING 2026

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ALEX PUGSLEY

SILVER LAKE

Told in the classic three-act structure of a Hollywood movie, *Silver Lake* is the third installment in a series of novels about the character Aubrey McKee.



May 19, 2026 | Fiction
8.5 x 5.5, 200pp
\$22.95 | 9781771967105
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Alex Pugsley,
*The Education of Aubrey
McKee*
Aubrey McKee

Alex Pugsley's latest is set in Toronto and Silver Lake, a trendy neighborhood in east central Los Angeles. It details Aubrey's journey from unemployed broken-hearted schlub to B-movie production assistant, to comedy writer and science-fiction screenwriter, and all the way up to feature film director. Along the way, he encounters long-ago Halifax friends, manic movie producers, NHL players turned talk show hosts, wilding Victoria's Secret models, impulsive movie stars ... and his own rising destiny.

A narrative-driven book, full of larger-than-life (but fully real) characters, told in vivid scenes, *Silver Lake* shimmers in and out of themes of comedy, romance, identity, and aspiration.

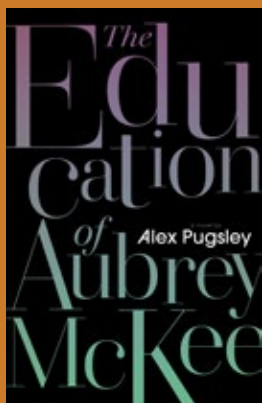
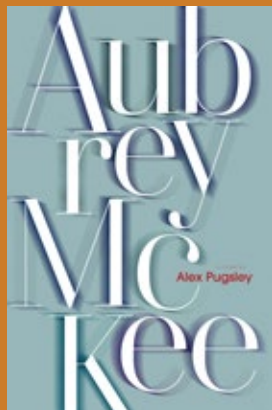


As a screenwriter and story editor, **Alex Pugsley** has worked on over 185 produced episodes of television. Following the publication of his first novel, *Aubrey McKee*, he was named one of CBC's Writers to Watch. His first story collection, *Shimmer*, was nominated for the ReLit Award for Short Fiction. His most recent novel, *The Education of Aubrey McKee*, was long-listed for the Toronto Book Awards.

ALSO FROM ALEX PUGSLEY

“Evoking comparisons in both style and substance to the work of John Irving and Robertson Davies in its assemblage of perceptive, richly detailed character studies ... The life of a Canadian city is revealed with verve and insight.” —**Kirkus Reviews**

I am from Halifax, salt-water city, a place of silted genius, sudden women, figures floating in all waters. “People from Halifax are all famous,” my sister Faith has said. “Because everyone in Halifax knows each other’s business.”



“In this coming-of-age novel, poetry and chemistry collide.”

—**Jeff Douglas, CBC Mainstreet**

The scene is Toronto, the early 1990s, and at a house party Aubrey McKee falls in love with a bewitching stranger who talks him into stealing a piece of cake. This woman—a poet named Gudrun Peel—rapidly becomes the person for whom he would do anything at all. Together, Aubrey and Gudrun make a life of delirious idiosyncrasy.

“His greatest gift as a writer is, I believe, his ability to carry dialogue ... a brave departure from the highly-praised Aubrey McKee.”

—**Miramichi**

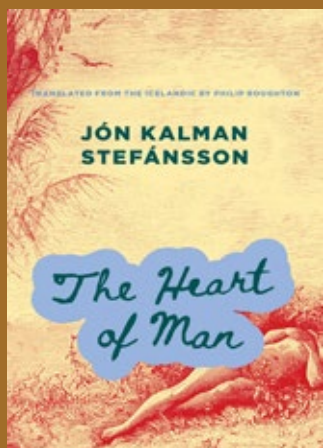
In ten vividly told stories, *Shimmer* follows characters through relationships, within social norms, and across boundaries of all kinds as they shimmer into and out of each other’s lives.



JÓN KALMAN STEFÁNSSON

THE HEART OF MAN

The final installment of Jón Kalman Stefánsson's Trilogy About the Boy is a profound exploration of life, love and desire written with a sublime simplicity.



June 16, 2026 | Fiction
5.25 x 7.75, 180pp
\$24.95 | 9781771966986
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Jon Kalman Stefansson,
Heaven and Hell
Sorrow of Angels
Roy Jacobsen,
Eyes of Rigel
White Shadow
Just a Mother

After coming through the blizzard that almost cost them everything, the postman Jens and the boy are far from home in a fishing community at the edge of the world. It is a strange place, with otherworldly inhabitants, including flame haired Alfheidhur, who makes the boy wonder whether it is possible to love two women at once; he had believed his heart was lost to Ragnheidur, the daughter of the wealthy merchant in the village, to which he must now return.

Set in the awe-inspiring wilderness of the extreme north of Iceland, *The Heart of Man*, the final book in Jón Kalman Stefánsson's audacious Trilogy About the Boy, is a profound exploration of life, love and desire, written with a sublime simplicity.

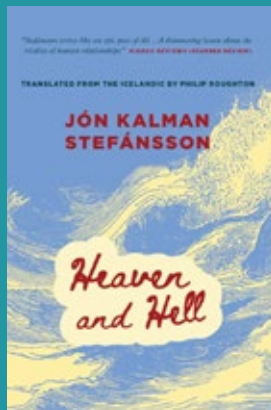
Jón Kalman Stefánsson's novels have been nominated three times for the Nordic Council Prize for Literature and his novel *Summer Light*, and then *Comes the Night* received the Icelandic Prize for Literature in 2005. In 2011 he was awarded the prestigious P. O. Enquist Award. His books include *Heaven and Hell*; *The Sorrow of Angels*, longlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize; *The Heart of Man*, winner of the Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize; and *Fish Have No Feet*, which was longlisted for the Man Booker International Prize. He lives in Reykjavik, Iceland.

ALSO FROM STEFÁNSSON

“Stefansson uses the drama and comedy of everyday lives to dive into a broad range of topics: philosophy, music, faith, and even the science of earthworms.”

—*New York Times*

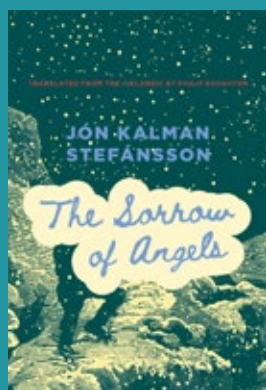
Navigating the depths of despair to celebrate the redemptive power of friendship, *Heaven and Hell* is an incandescent story of community, resilience, and love from one of Iceland’s most celebrated novelists.



“Some books are essential, others diversions,’ the boy thinks to himself. This book belongs in the former category.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

It’s been three weeks since the boy came to town, carrying a book of poetry to return to the old sea captain—the poetry Bárður died for. Just three weeks, but already Bárður’s ghost has faded. Snow falls so heavily that it binds heaven and earth together.

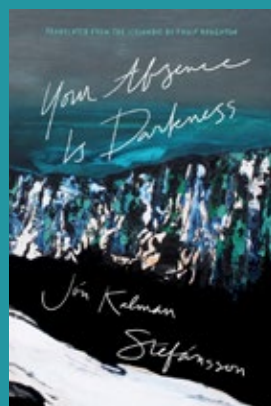


A SHELF AWARENESS BEST BOOK OF 2024

“[Your Absence Is Darkness] . . . lends itself to any number of superlatives: Masterful. Intelligent. Haunting. Biblical and modern in equal measure.”

—*Literary Review of Canada*

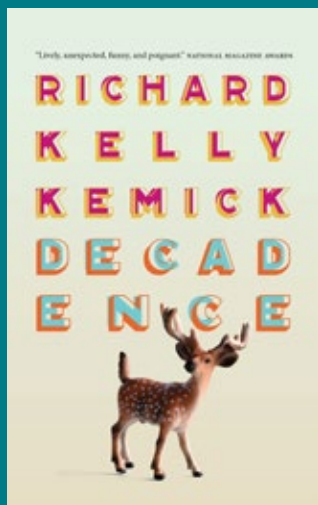
Incandescent and elemental, hope-filled and humane, *Your Absence Is Darkness* is a comedy about mortality, music, and the strange salve of time, and a spellbinding saga of death, desire, and the perfect agony of star-crossed love.



RICHARD KELLY KEMICK

DECADENCE

A collection of essays, ranging from the personal to the humorously mundane, *Decadence* spans a decade in the life of writer Richard Kelly Kemick.



July 7, 2026 | Nonfiction
5.25 × 8.25, 269pp
\$22.95 | 9781771967136
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

Richard Kelly Kemick
Hello, Horse
Elisa Albert,
*The Snarling Girl and
Other Essays*

The subjects of these essays are far-ranging, including Christmas villages, volleyball, municipal landfills, high-school plays, and dog fur. They feature the same rotating cast of characters: friends, family, Litia—Kemick’s partner of ten years—and their newborn son. Throughout the course of *Decadence*, a narrative is gradually revealed. The collection begins with the early days of Kemick’s relationship with his long-time partner; the collection closes with the surprising, unconventional end to their romance. In the pages between, Kemick creates a repository of humour and epiphany that make up the odds and ends of living.

These essays are for fans of David Sedaris and David Rakoff. However, unlike the books published by these authors, *Decadence* puts on display the writer’s evolution. The contents, in chronological order, span the ten years it took Kemick to write this collection, revealing a gradual shift in his voice and priorities.



Richard Kelly Kemick is an award-winning poet, journalist, and fiction writer. His debut collection of short stories, *Hello, Horse* (Biblioasis 2024). He is also the author of *I Am Herod* (available on audiobook), the poetry collection *Caribou Run*, and the stage play *Amor De Cosmos: A Delusional Musical*. Richard’s limited series podcast, *Natural Life*, is an intimate and unexpectedly honest documentary on his cousin.

ALSO FROM RICHARD KELLY KEMICK

“The animal world interacts with the human one in confounding and sometimes wondrous ways in Kemick’s first collection, which abounds with the poet’s sideways, observational writing.”

—***Globe and Mail***

Spanning states and provinces, and featuring an apocalypse, a coterie of ghosts, nuns on ice, and an above-average number of dogs, the stories in *Hello, Horse* consider the mirage of authenticity and the impact of decisions we make—for better and for worse.



“KEMICK CONVINCINGLY WRESTS THE SUBLIME FROM THE TRIVIAL. HE MANAGES, ASTONISHINGLY, A TONE BOTH EARNEST AND IRONIC, WITH DETAILS AND INSIGHTS THAT ARE LIVELY, UNEXPECTED, FUNNY, AND POIGNANT.”

—**NATIONAL MAGAZINE AWARDS JURY**

PAULINE HOLDSTOCK

WHAT ENDURES

Holdstock's stories attempt to discover what it is that saves us, time and again, from despair at ourselves and our world.



August 18, 2026 | Fiction
5.25 x 8.25, 280pp
\$22.95 | 9781771967174
(trade paper)

COMP TITLES:

*Pauline Holdstock,
Confessions with Keith
Caroline Adderson,
A Way to Be Happy
Sue Murtagh,
We're Not Rich*

A couple adopt a difficult dog and argue over morality. A man abandons his family in the middle of the night and spontaneously takes a flight across the country. A woman is rushed into emergency brain surgery at Christmas time.

What Endures represents Pauline Holdstock's responses to a world evolving at terrifying speed, exposing the absurd, the ridiculous, and the downright disturbing. Ranging from the eerily speculative to the flat-out comic, Holdstock's stories attempt to discover what it is that saves us, time and again, from despair at ourselves and our world.



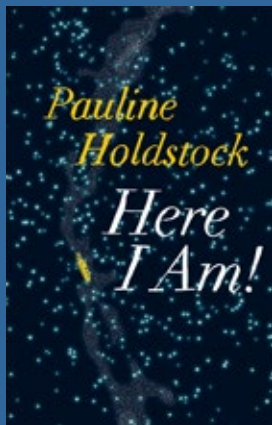
Pauline Holdstock is an internationally published novelist, short fiction writer and essayist. Her work has been shortlisted for the Giller Prize and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and has won the Ethel Wilson BC Book Prize for Fiction and the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize. Her most recent book is *Confessions With Keith*. She has written for *The Globe & Mail*, *The Vancouver Sun* and *The National Post*.

ALSO FROM PAULINE HOLDSTOCK

“Holdstock inhabits the mind of a bright, funny, and sensitive child through exuberant, playful language that doesn’t mask the darkness of his life...An unforgettable story about one very special child.” —*Kirkus*

My Mum 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 My Mum is dead. But that is probably better than remembering.



“PAULINE HOLDSTOCK’S LANGUAGE IS SO POWERFUL, HER WRITING SO WROUGHT WITH EMOTION AND BEAUTY, THAT YOU BECOME FULLY LOST IN HER WORLD.”

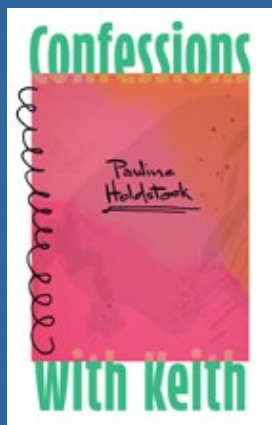
—*WINNIPEG REVIEW*

WINNER OF THE 2023 CITY OF VICTORIA BUTLER BOOK PRIZE

“Bridget Jones meets Nora Ephron in this diarized account of Vita, a woman dealing with an unexpected plot twist after 20 years of marriage.”

—*Globe and Mail*

An outrageously comic novel documents a middle-aged writer and mother’s grappling with mid-life crisis—her husband’s and her own.



PUBLISHER'S END NOTE

BACK(LIST) TO THE FUTURE

As a bookseller and publisher both, I think a lot about backlist. The stronger the backlist in my shop the better my shop is and does; the browser coming across *Crime and Punishment* or *Stoner* or *The Handmaid's Tale* doesn't care, and may not even know, that these books are 40, 60, and 140 years old; Dostoevsky might only be a bearded hipster to the TikTok generation. And this is as it should be, as these books remain as contemporary and relevant as anything being published today; and often more so.

As a publisher, I've grown tired of the perpetual frontlist hustle, and of the increasingly short window given to books that, if they are lucky, have a few months on shelves before returning to their dusty warehouse boxes. And yet many of these books, too, deserve a long life of hand-selling and discovery: these, too, are new to readers yet to happen upon them.

One day it struck me: Backlist is bullshit. No reader outside of the book industry thinks of books this way. Nor should we. So we have decided to start a backlist campaign — say it with me: Back(list) to the Future — to try to bring new interest and readers to important Biblioasis books. A strong backlist isn't just essential to the health of our shops; it's what gives publishers the ability to keep investing in new and important books, which will in turn and over time, support the publication of more excellent books, as it supports the risks we take as booksellers stocking the as-yet new and unproven.

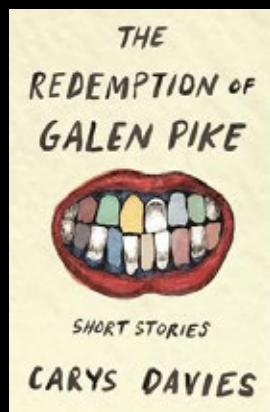
So perhaps it's not so much that backlist is bullshit as the way we're treating our (Canadian-published) backlist is. We'd like to try, with your help, to begin to change that. Back(list) to the Future will start in 2026 by highlighting six key Biblioasis titles, complete with marketing and promotional support, books ready to be rediscovered and that we're certain you have readers for. If you would like reading copies of any of them, or to work with us to make these more visible, please reach out to Hilary Ilkay at hilkay@biblioasis.com.



BACKLIST TO THE FUTURE

Carys Davies, *The Redemption of Galen Pike*

This Frank O'Connor Award-winning collection introduced readers to a writer who has gone on, in novels like *The Mission House* and *Clear*, to write tiny, hard-cut gems that are now celebrated around the world. The stories in this collection—one a single, brutal page—shows that this book is the equal of anything that has followed it.

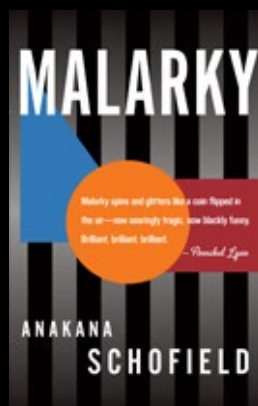


Kathy Page, *Alphabet*

Simon Austen has the names people have called him tattooed over his body: Bastard. A Threat to Women. Murderer. Serving life in prison, Simon embarks on a terrifying process of self-reconstruction. *Alphabet* is a harrowing exploration of one man's uncertain journey towards rehabilitation.

Anakana Schofield, *Malarky*

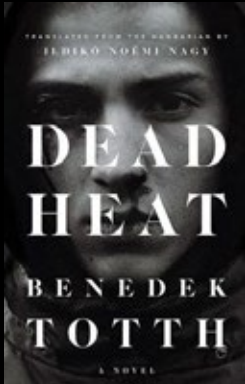
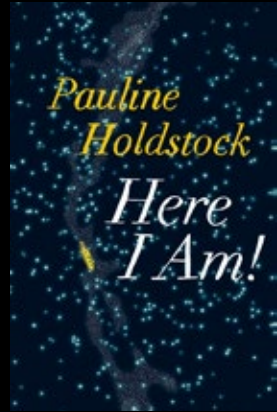
Winner of the Amazon.ca First Novel Award, this story of a teapot-wielding mother and farm-wife turned sexual outlaw is brilliant in its moving comedy, and launched one of the most original voices literature has seen in the last quarter-century.



BACKLIST TO THE FUTURE

Pauline Holdstock, *Here I Am!*

This novel narrated by six-year-old Frankie—who likes cheese, numbers, and the sea when it is pink and “smooth like counting”—charmed everyone when it first came over the threshold in its exploration of grief, the intelligence of children, and the opacity of the adults around them, and it can do so again.

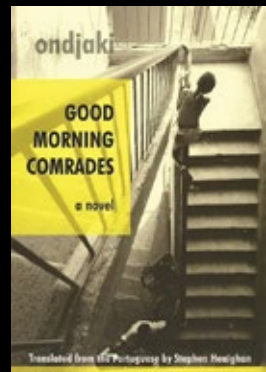


Benedek Tóth, *Dead Heat*

In Hungary, Benedek Tóth is the translator of William S. Burroughs, Aldous Huxley, Stephen King, and Cormac McCarthy, and these influences are evident in his only work to date available in English. *Dead Heat* is a shock to the system, a novel of reckless violence in a totalitarian world, a harrowing story of young men coming of age in an abandoned generation.

Ondjaki, *Good Morning Comrades*

Ondjaki wrote this bittersweet portrait of a childhood in Cuban-occupied Luanda, Angola, when he was in his early twenties. Now, more than twenty years since the original in Portuguese, Ndalú still charms with his sweet, imaginative naïveté as he invents games with friends and dodges criminal gangs. This is moving, heartfelt autofiction, incorporating both serious political commentary and moments of slapstick comedy.





PUGSLEY
KEMICK
STEFÁNSSON
HOLDSTOCK
LAVALLÉE
JARMAN



CARYS DAVIES
PAULINE HOLDSTOCK
KATHY PAGE
ANAKANA SCHOFIELD
BENEDEK TOTTH
ONDJAKI

