

LITERATURE

new titles for 2016

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GREETINGS FROM THE ACADEMIC TEAM AT PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE CANADA!

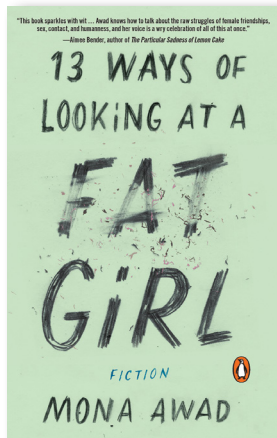
In an effort to support Canadian authors and promote their contributions to our literary canon, it is our mission to unite Canadian students with our wonderful books. We take pride in publishing some of Canada's best authors, creating the standard for quality within the industry, while also providing educators and students with affordable alternatives to traditional textbooks.

This month, we are excited to offer a **FREE** copy of Mona Awad's *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*. Simply send a reply to: academichelp@penguinrandomhouse.com, stating your interest, name, and institutional address to receive your **FREE** book. Deadline is August 1st, 2016.

If you would like to read an excerpt from the book, or order examination copies of any of the other titles featured in this brochure, please visit our website at: www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/academic

Warm regards,

Tim Armstrong, Christina Vecchiato, and Katrina Pidek



MONA AWAD *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*



"Beautifully told, with a profoundly sensitive understanding of the subject matter, it's clear that all of the anticipation for this particular fiction debut was entirely warranted." —The Globe and Mail

Growing up in a suburban wasteland, Lizzie has never liked the way she looks — even though her best friend Mel says she's "the pretty one". She starts dating guys online, but she's afraid to send pictures; she knows no one would want her if they could really see her. So she starts to lose. With punishing drive, she counts almonds consumed, miles logged, pounds dropped. She fights her way into coveted dresses. She grows up and gets thin, navigating double-edged validation from her mother, her friends, her husband, and her reflection in the mirror. But no matter how much she loses, will she ever see herself as anything other than a fat girl?

Penguin Canada, TR, 224 PP., 9780143194798, \$20.00

Mona Awad was born in Montreal and received her MFA in fiction from Brown University. Her work has appeared in *McSweeney's*, *The Walrus*, *Joyland*, *Post Road*, *St. Petersburg Review*, and other select publications. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in creative writing and English literature at the University of Denver.

In her brilliant, hilarious, and at times shocking debut, Mona Awad simultaneously skewers the body image-obsessed culture that tells women they have no value outside their physical appearance, and delivers a tender and moving depiction of a lovably difficult young woman whose life is hijacked by her struggle to conform. As caustically funny as it is heartbreaking, *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl* introduces a vital new voice in fiction.



Author: Mona Awad
Photo: George Baier IV

**WINNER OF THE
AMAZON.CA
FIRST BOOK
AWARD 2016**

"It was a decision from the very beginning of the book to put that word, 'fat,' on the cover, and I felt very strongly about it, in part because it is so charged, it is so provocative, it can be seen as an insult. It is very hard to imagine yourself, or see yourself that way...but I wanted to put it on there to complicate it, to subvert it, to challenge it, [and] to explore all the ways in which it can manifest in your life..."

— Mona Awad

applicable courses:

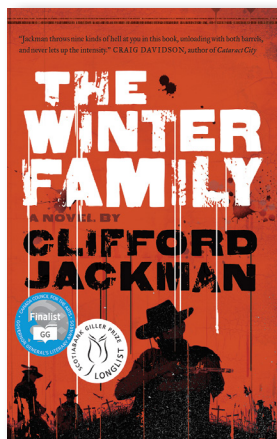
- New Canadian Writing
- Women's Studies
- Canadian Literature
- Canadian Short Story Collection

A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

Body image is something I've struggled with throughout my life. In my twenties I realized it was something I wanted to explore in my writing, and I was always taking notes to that end, even as I wrote fiction and poetry on other subjects. When I was twenty-two, I wrote a poem called "Zoology" which was nominally about not being able to find a plain black cardigan in a plus-size store, but underneath, it was really about how marginalizing the experience of being fat was. It felt good to write, but it was more of a rant than a poem, and it was ultimately not very satisfying — there was so much more I wanted to say. A few years later, after I'd lost weight and was working as a journalist, I wrote a feature article about the dieting trends my mother and I obsessed over in the 80s and 90s, but this didn't feel like enough either. I was interested in how body image can affect your relationships to people, clothing, and the way you are in the world. But I didn't want to explore the subject on a cultural level or on a strictly autobiographical level — I wanted to do it on a far more creative, intimate one. For that I needed the freedom to imagine, to draw out social dynamics and fully explore moments of rage, vulnerability, and desire I had experienced both as a fat person and as a thin one. I needed characters that were separate from me and had their own stories — I craved the freedom of fiction. *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl* is the product of that freedom.

By playing with form, structure, and point of view, this book enabled me to challenge and complicate the assumptions, images, and simplifications that come with the provocative and culturally charged term "fat girl", to explore how "fat" isn't simply a question of flesh — it's a far more dynamic, psychological, and relative state, one that can hold contradictions, is internally and externally constructed.

I am moved by the overwhelming response to this book and how much this character's struggle resonates with readers of all ages, backgrounds, and sizes. Having written these characters and these stories with as much honesty and complexity as I could, my hope is that the book continues to speak to anyone who has ever felt uncomfortable in their own body, their own skin. You are not alone. — Mona Awad



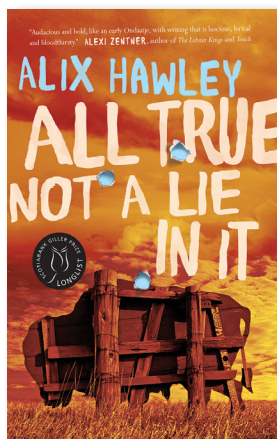
CLIFFORD JACKMAN

The Winter Family



Tracing a gang of ruthless outlaws during the American Civil War in Oklahoma, *The Winter Family* is a hyperkinetic Western noir and a full-on assault to the senses. From the 1860s to the 1880s, the outlaws known as the Winter Family roam the harsh frontier, both serving and battling the fierce advance of civilization. At the centre of this ultra violent storm is Augustus Winter – a man with a pathological resistance to the rules of society and a preternatural gift for butchery. From their political thuggery during a Chicago election to their work as bounty hunters in the deserts of Arizona, Winter and his crew follow a grim, borderland morality that plays out, time and again, in ruthless carnage. With its haunting, hard-edged style, *The Winter Family* is a feverishly paced meditation on human nature, violence and the deep contradictions of progress.

Vintage Canada, TR, 352 PP., 9780345814807, \$21.00



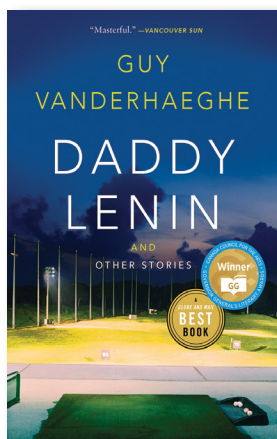
ALIX HAWLEY

All True Not a Lie in It



Here is Daniel Boone as you've never seen him. Debut novelist Alix Hawley presents Boone's life, from his childhood in a Quaker colony, through two stints captured by Indians as he attempted to settle Kentucky, the death of one son at the hands of the same Indians, and the rescue of one daughter. Boone was a fabulous hunter and explorer, and a "white Indian," perhaps happiest when he found a place as the captive, adopted son of a chief who was trying to prevent the white settlement of Kentucky. Hawley takes us intimately into the life-and-death survival of people pushing away from security and into Indian lands, despite sense and treaties, just before and into the War of Independence.

Vintage Canada, TR, 384 PP., 9780345808561, \$21.00



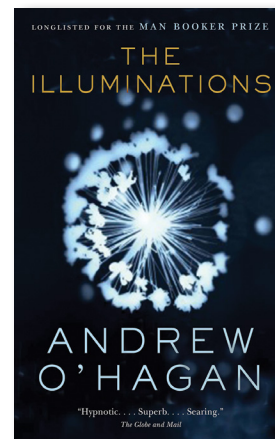
GUY VANDERHAEGHE

Daddy Lenin and Other Stories



Award-winning author Guy Vanderhaeghe returns to the short story form that launched his stellar literary career, showcasing his supreme talent as a storyteller and poignant observer of the human condition. Among these nine resonant stories: a teenage boy breaks out of the strict confines of his family and his bid for independence leads him in over his head. An actor's penchant for hiding behind a role, on and off stage, is tested to the limits, placing him face to face with the truth. And in the powerful title story, a middle-aged man reunites with his former adviser at university and as their tense reunion progresses, secrets from the past painfully threaten to topple the scaffolding of a marriage.

Emblem Editions, TR, 272 PP., 9780771099168, \$19.95



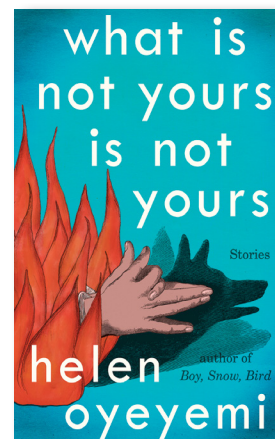
ANDREW O'HAGAN

The Illuminations



The Illuminations is a powerful, nuanced and deeply affecting novel about love and memory, modern war and the complications of fact. One evening, Anne Quirk sees a rabbit disappearing in the snow. In her youth she was an artistic pioneer, a creator of groundbreaking documentary photographs. Her beloved grandson, Luke, is a captain in the British army. When on a tour of duty in Afghanistan, his mission goes horribly wrong. Once Luke returns home to Scotland, Anne's secret story begins to emerge, along with his, and they set out searching for answers in an old guest house in Blackpool where she once kept a room. *The Illuminations* is a beautiful and highly charged novel revealing that, no matter how we look at it, there is no such thing as an ordinary life.

McClelland & Stewart, TR, 304 PP., 9780771068324, \$21.00

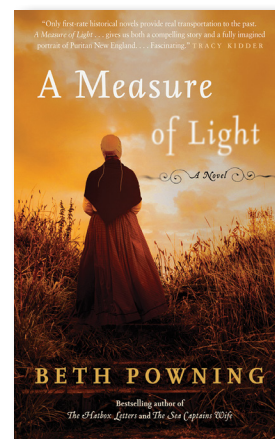


HELEN OYEYEMI

What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours

Playful, ambitious, and exquisitely imagined, *What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours* is cleverly built around the idea of keys, both literal and metaphorical. The key to a house, the key to a heart, the key to a secret – Oyeyemi's keys in each story not only unlock elements of her characters' lives, they promise further labyrinths on the other side. As ever, Oyeyemi's creative vision and storytelling are effervescent, wise, and insightful, and her tales span multiple times and landscapes as they tease boundaries between coexisting realities. Is a key a gate, a gift, or an invitation? *What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours* captivates as it explores the many possible answers.

Hamish Hamilton Canada, TR, 336 PP., 9780143197836, \$21.00



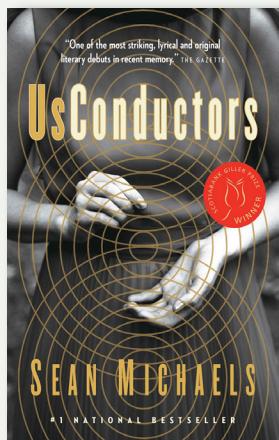
BETH POWNING

A Measure of Light



Historically, Mary Dyer is a seventeenth-century Puritan who flees persecution in England, only to find the colony of Massachusetts Bay as dangerous as the country she left behind. Though she is the wife of a successful merchant and mother to their children, she becomes stigmatized following a birth gone terribly wrong and is reviled as a friend to the infamous heretic Anne Hutchinson. As both outcast and privileged citizen, Mary becomes one of America's first Quakers. Caught between the callings of faith and the ambitions of her husband, she comes to the realization that she must follow her convictions in order to bring an end to the brutal repression of the Quakers in Massachusetts. *A Measure of Light* is both a sensitive work of imagination and meticulously true to the historical record.

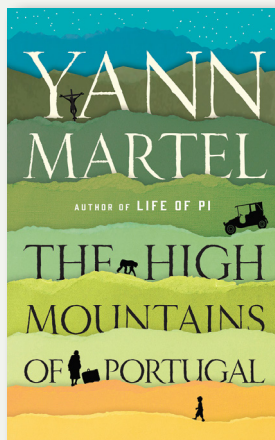
Vintage Canada, TR, 336 PP., 9780345808493, \$19.95



SEAN MICHAELS 🍁
Us Conductors
 WINNER OF THE 2014
 SCOTIABANK GILLER PRIZE

A beautiful, haunting novel inspired by the Russian scientist, inventor and spy Lev Termen – creator of the theremin. *Us Conductors* takes us from the glamour of Jazz Age New York to the gulags and science prisons of the Soviet Union. On a ship steaming its way from Manhattan back to Leningrad, Lev Termen writes a letter to Clara Rockmore, telling her the story of his life. He recalls his early years as a scientist inventing the theremin, and the Kremlin's dream his inventions could be used to infiltrate capitalism itself. Instead, New York infiltrated Termen – he fell in love with the city, with the students learning his strange instrument, and with Clara, a young violinist. The novel builds to a crescendo: Termen's spy games fall apart and he is forced to return home, where he's soon consigned to a Siberian gulag. Only his wits can save him, but they will also plunge him even deeper toward the dark heart of Stalin's Russia.

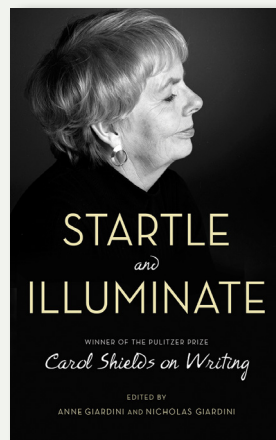
Vintage Canada, TR, 368 PP,
 9780345813336, \$14.95



YANN MARTEL 🍁
*The High Mountains
 of Portugal*

The High Mountains of Portugal is a suspenseful, mesmerizing story of a great quest for meaning, told in three intersecting narratives of three individuals throughout the last century. We begin in the early 1900s, when Tomás discovers an ancient journal and sets out from Lisbon in search of the strange treasure the journal describes. Thirty-five years later, a pathologist devoted to the novels of Agatha Christie, whose wife has possibly been murdered, finds himself drawn into the consequences of Tomás's quest. Fifty years after that, Senator Peter Tovy of Ottawa, grieving the death of his own beloved wife, rescues a chimpanzee from an Oklahoma research facility and takes it to live with him in his ancestral village in northern Portugal, where the strands of all three stories miraculously mesh together.

Knopf Canada, HC, 352 PP,
 9780345809438, \$32.00



EDITORS: ANNE & NICHOLAS GIARDINI 🍁
Startle and Illuminate

In the course of her extraordinary career, Carol Shields was unfailingly encouraging of other writers. Her own discipline rarely faltered. Her daily practice was to write a new page, then edit the page written the day before, and then repeat until after a year or so when her book was finished. Now in her own words, as clear and straightforward as a glass of water, comes *Startle and Illuminate*, the best possible guide to the writing process, from conception to publication. This essential work, drawn by her daughter and grandson from her voluminous correspondence with other writers, essays, notes, comments, criticism and lectures, is a last gift from one of our finest novelists meant for both aspiring and established writers.

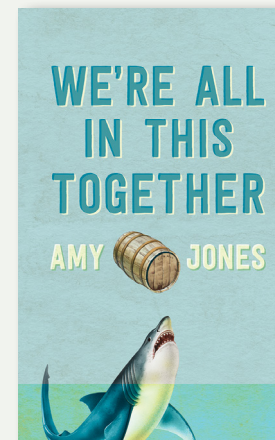
Random House Canada, HC, 240
 PP, 9780345815941, \$29.95



REIF LARSEN 🍁
I Am Radar

At the birth of Radar Radmanovic, all of the hospital electricity mysteriously fails. When the lights are turned on again, the staff is startled to see the healthy baby boy – with unusually black skin – born to the two stunned Caucasian parents. “A childbirth is an explosion,” explains their physician, “Some shrapnel is inevitable, isn’t it?” In the shrapnel of Twentieth Century propaganda and colonialism, genocide and racism, the characters of *I Am Radar* hunt for what life can still be salvaged. The novel follows tales of the Yugoslavian civil wars, Norwegian Nazi resistance, Cambodia’s murderous Khmer Rouge regime, and modern-day Congo. And through all these stories walks Radar Radmanovic, a gifted radio operator from New Jersey – an epileptic with a strange past, an uncanny ability to communicate with machines, and all too ordinary white skin.

Penguin Canada, TR, 672 PP,
 9780143192688, \$22.95



AMY JONES 🍁
We're All In This Together

Like all families, the Parkers of Thunder Bay have had their share of complications. But when matriarch Kate Parker survives plummeting over a waterfall in a barrel – a captured feat that goes viral – it’s Kate’s family who tumbles into chaos under the spotlight. Her prodigal daughter returns to town. Her 16-year-old granddaughter gets caught up in an online relationship with a man she has never met. Her husband sifts through their marriage to search for what sent his wife over the falls. Her adopted son fears losing the only family he’s ever known. Then there is Kate, who once made a life-changing choice and now fears her advancing dementia will rob her of memories from when she was most herself. Set over the course of four calamitous days, Amy Jones’s big-hearted first novel follows the Parkers’ misadventures as catastrophe forces them to do something they never thought possible – act like a family.

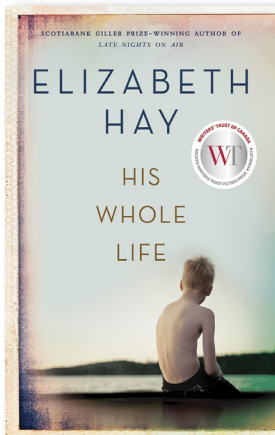
McClelland & Stewart, TR, 432 PP,
 9780771050640, \$24.95



JANE URQUHART 🍁
The Night Stages

Set in the remote area of County Kerry in the '40s and '50s, Jane Urquhart’s stunning new novel is at once intimate and epic in scope. Tam, an English woman in her thirties, has been living in this harshly beautiful region since shortly after the war. While leaving her lover, Niall, the air-liner she is traveling on becomes grounded by fog in Newfoundland. As she waits, she regards an enigmatic mural, and revisits the circumstances that brought her to Ireland, her intense relationship with Niall, and his younger brother Kieran’s disappearance. Running parallel is the story of Canadian artist Kenneth Loch-head and how he created the mural that is Tam’s only companion through her wait. *The Night Stages* explores the meaning of separation, the sorrows of fractured families, and the profound effect of home.

Emblem Editions, TR, 416 PP,
 9780771094439, \$22.00



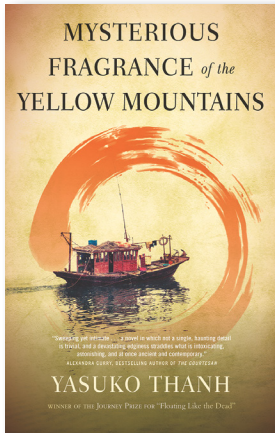
ELIZABETH HAY

His Whole Life



His Whole Life takes us into a richly intimate world where everything that matters is at risk: family, nature, country, home. At the outset, ten-year-old Jim and his Canadian mother and American father are on a journey from New York City to a lake in Eastern Ontario during the last hot days of August. What unfolds is an enveloping story that spans a few pivotal years of Jim's youth and sets out competing claims on everyone's love: for Canada over New York; for a mother over a father; a friend over a husband; one son over another. With her trademark honesty, wisdom, vivid sense of place, and nuanced characters, Hay deftly charts the deepening bond between mother and son even as the family threatens to come apart.

Emblem Editions, TR, 384 PP, 9780771038600, \$21.00



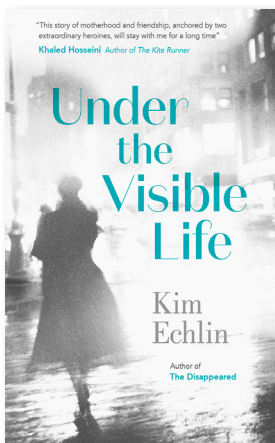
YASUKO THANH

Mysterious Fragrance of the Yellow Mountains



In 1908, the French rule Saigon, but uneasily; dissent whispers through the corridors of the city. Each day, more Vietnamese rebels are paraded through the streets towards the guillotine, now a permanent and gruesome warning to those who would attempt to challenge colonial rule, a warning that Georges-Minh will not heed. A Vietnamese national and Paris-educated physician, he is obsessed by guilt over his material wealth, loathing the French connections that have made him rich. With a close-knit group of friends calling themselves the Mysterious Fragrance of the Yellow Mountains, Georges-Minh plots revenge on the French for the savagery they have shown to the Vietnamese. Yasuko Thanh transports us into a vivid, historical Vietnam, one that is filled with chaotic streets, teeming market-places, and angry ghosts that exist side by side with the living.

Hamish Hamilton Canada, TR, 320 PP, 9780670068784, \$24.95



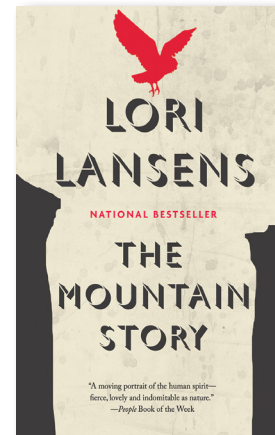
KIM ECHLIN

Under the Visible Life



Fatherless Katherine carries the stigma of her mixed-race background through a hostile era. It is only through music that she finds the freedom to temporarily escape and dream of a better life, throughout unexpected motherhood, an absent husband, and relying on her talent to build a future for her family. Orphaned Mahsa also grows up in the shadow of loss, sent to relatives in Pakistan after the death of her parents. Struggling to break free, she escapes to Montreal. But the threads of her past are not so easily severed, and she finds herself forced into an arranged marriage. For Mahsa, too, music becomes her solace and allows her to escape from her oppressive circumstances. When Katherine and Mahsa meet, they find in each other a kindred spirit as well as a musical equal, and their lives are changed irrevocably.

Penguin Canada, TR, 384 PP, 9780143178330, \$21.00



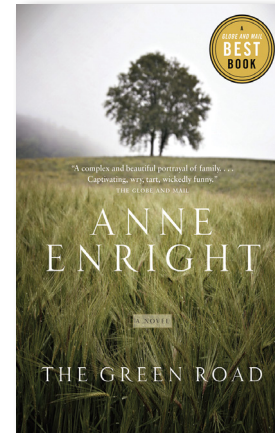
LORI LANSENS

The Mountain Story



Five days. Four hikers. Three survivors. *The Mountain Story* is a gripping tale of adventure, sacrifice and survival in the unforgiving wilderness of a legendary mountain. On his 18th birthday, Wolf Truly takes the tramway to the top of the mountain that looms over Palm Springs, intending to jump to his death. Instead he encounters strangers wandering in the mountain wilderness. Through a series of missteps he winds up stranded with the strangers, enduring five days in freezing temperatures without food, water, or shelter, and somehow finding the courage to carry on. Wolf, now a grown man, has never told anyone what happened on the mountain during those five days. In telling the story to his only child, he at last explores the nature of the ties that bind and the sacrifices people will make for love.

Vintage Canada, TR, 384 PP, 9780345809032, \$21.00

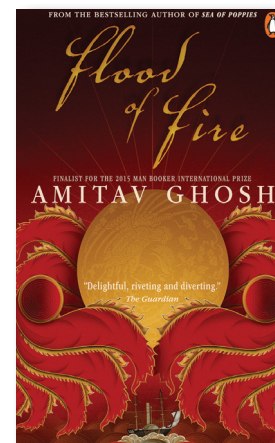


ANNE ENRIGHT

The Green Road

Set in a small town on Ireland's Atlantic coast, *The Green Road* is a story of fracture and family. The children of Rosaleen Madigan grow up in the West of Ireland, in a world that is about to change. In the years that follow, her three children leave home for lives they could never have imagined. Dan for the frenzy of New York under the shadow of AIDS; Emmet for the backlands of Mali; actress Hanna for modern-day Dublin and the trials of motherhood. In her old age, Rosaleen, decides to sell the family home with all its ghosts and memories. Her adult children visit for Christmas, carrying with them the complications of their past and present lives as they face their mother's aging and the effects her decision will have on them all. In this intimate story of one family, Enright has also given us a portrait of our times.

McClelland & Stewart, TR, 320 PP, 9780771025167, \$21.00

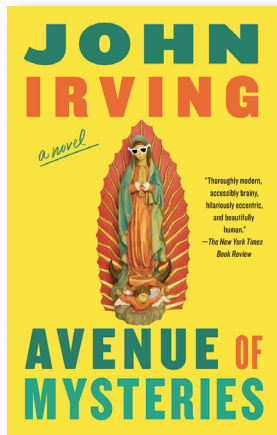


AMITAV GHOSH

Flood of Fire

It's 1839 and tension has been rapidly mounting between China and British India following the crackdown on opium smuggling by Beijing. With no resolution in sight, the colonial government declares war. One of the vessels requisitioned for the attack, the Hind, travels eastwards from Bengal to China, sailing into the midst of the First Opium War. *Flood of Fire* follows a varied cast of characters from India to China, through the outbreak of the First Opium War and China's devastating defeat, to Britain's seizure of Hong Kong. Thrillingly realised, richly populated and imbued with a wealth of historical detail, *Flood of Fire* is suffused with the magic of place and plotted with verve. It's a beautiful novel in its own right, and a compelling conclusion to an epic and sweeping story – it's nothing short of a masterpiece.

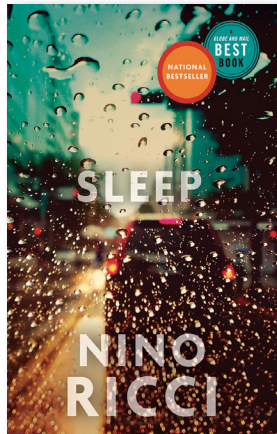
Penguin Canada, TR, 624 PP, 9780143053439, \$22.00



JOHN IRVING *Avenue of Mysteries*

John Irving returns to the themes that established him as one of North America's most admired and beloved storytellers in this absorbing novel of fate and memory. As we grow older – most of all, in what we remember and what we dream – we live in the past. Sometimes, we live more vividly in the past than in the present. As an older man, Juan Diego will take a trip to the Philippines, but what travels with him are his dreams and memories; he is most alive in his childhood and early adolescence in Mexico. *Avenue of Mysteries* is the story of what happens to Juan Diego in the Philippines, where what happened to him in the past – in Mexico – collides with his future.

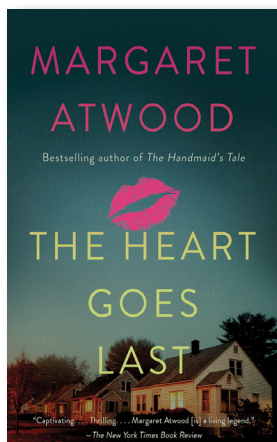
Vintage Canada, TR, 480 PP., 9780307361820, \$23.00



NINO RICCI *Sleep*

David Pace is a man who has it all: a successful career as an almost-famous academic, a wife blessed with both beauty and brains, a young son, and a lovely home. But David's brain has begun to misfire. It shuts off when David is meant to be awake, but otherwise denies him any rest at all. Popping a variety of pills at an increasingly alarming rate, David struggles to remain alert, but his efforts become less and less effective, leaving his family in tatters and his career on the brink. Then, almost by accident, David finds himself with a loaded gun in his hands, and all of a sudden he feels tantalizingly, gloriously awake. The sensation, fueled by a steady mix of pharmaceuticals, launches David toward the extremes of human behaviour as his sense of what is real, who he is and what he is capable of slips terrifyingly out of reach.

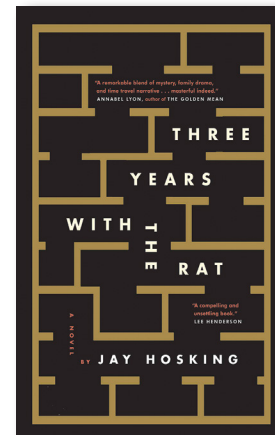
Anchor Canada, TR, 400 PP., 9780385681629, \$19.95



MARGARET ATWOOD *The Heart Goes Last*

Several years after the world's economic collapse, struggling couple Stan and Charmaine, hear about the Positron Project, an experiment in cooperative living that appears to be the answer to their problems – to living in their car, to the lousy jobs, to their piled-up debt. There's just one drawback: once inside, you don't get out. After weighing their limited options, Stan and Charmaine sign up, and soon find themselves involved in the town's strategy for economic stability: a pervasive prison system, whereby each citizen lives a double life, as a prisoner one month, and a guard the next. At first, they enjoy their newfound prosperity. But when Charmaine becomes romantically involved with the man who shares her civilian house, her actions set off an unexpected chain of events that leave Stan running for his life.

McClelland & Stewart, TR, 400 PP., 9780771009136, \$22.00



JAY HOSKING *Three Years with the Rat*

After years of drifting, a young man is drawn back into the big city of his youth by his older sister, Grace: always smart and charismatic; always his hero. Now she is a promising graduate student in psychophysics and a part of a group of friends who take him into their fold. But it soon becomes clear that things are not well with Grace. Always acerbic, she now veers into sudden rages directed at her adoring boyfriend and fellow researcher, John. When Grace and John disappear the narrator makes an astonishing discovery in their apartment: a box big enough to crawl inside, a lab rat, and a note that says "This is the only way back for us". He embarks on a mission to discover the truth, a pursuit that forces him to question time and space itself, and ultimately towards a perilous confrontation at the very limits of imagination.

Hamish Hamilton Canada, HC, 288 PP., 9780670069378, \$32.00



GAIL ANDERSON-DARGATZ *The Spawning Grounds*

An intimate family saga rooted in the Thompson-Shuswap region of British Columbia, that bridges Native and white cultures across a bend in a river where the salmon run. On one side of the river is a ranch once owned by Eugene Robertson, who arrived during the 1860s gold rush. On the other side is a Shuswap community that has its own tangled history with the river – and the whites. At the heart of the novel are Hannah and Brandon Robertson, teenagers who have been raised by their grandfather. As the novel opens, the river is dying, and Hannah is carrying salmon past the choke point to the spawning grounds. When a drowning nearly claims the lives of both Hannah's grandfather and her little brother, their world is thrown into chaos. Hannah and Brandon come to doubt their own reality as they are pulled deep into his numinous visions.

Knopf Canada, HC, 304 PP., 9780345810816, \$29.95



AMI MCKAY *The Witches of New York*

Two hundred years after the trials in Salem, Adelaide Thom and Eleanor St. Clair feel safe enough to open a shop and cater to Manhattan's high society ladies. Together, they specialize in cures, palmistry and potions. All is well until an enchanting young woman named Beatrice Dunn arrives at their door. Beatrice soon becomes indispensable as Eleanor's apprentice, but her presence is marred by strange occurrences. She sees and hears things no one else can. Objects appear out of thin air. Has she been touched by magic or is she simply losing her mind? While being put through a series of tests, Beatrice disappears. As Adelaide and Eleanor begin the desperate search for her, they're confronted by spectres from their own pasts. In a time when women were corseted, confined and committed for merely speaking their minds, will any of them be safe?

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