

Talonbooks Spring 2025 Catalogue



Talonbooks Awards and Prizes, Recent Highlights

2024

Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize (BC & Yukon Book Prizes): Samantha Nock, *A Family of Dreamers* (Short-listed)

Pat Lowther Memorial Award (League of Canadian Poets Awards): Samantha Nock, *A Family of Dreamers* (Long-listed)

Pat Lowther Memorial Award (League of Canadian Poets Awards): Nikki Reimer, *No Town Called We* (Long-listed)

Raymond Souster Award (League of Canadian Poets Awards): Nikki Reimer, *No Town Called We* (Long-listed)

Raymond Souster Award (League of Canadian Poets Awards): Wanda John-Kehewin, *Spells, Wishes, and the Talking Dead: LL^CΔ-ʌΔ-ʌ <ɔyʌ-Jʌ σ-Pʌʌ <Δσ-ʌC<ʌ>* *mamahtâwisiwin, pakosêyimow, nikihci-ânikotâpân* (Short-listed)

2023

Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize (BC & Yukon Book Prizes): Cecily Nicholson, *HARROWINGS* (Short-listed)

Fred Cogswell Award for Excellence in Poetry: Cecily Nicholson, *HARROWINGS* (Long-listed)

Pat Lowther Memorial Award (League of Canadian Poets Awards): Cecily Nicholson, *HARROWINGS* (Long-listed)

2022

Governor General's Literary Award for Drama: Daniel Arnold & Darrell Dennis & Medina Hahn, *Inheritance: a pick-the-path experience* (Finalist)

Governor General's Literary Award for Drama: Dorothy Dittrich, *The Piano Teacher: A Healing Key* (Winner)

2021

Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize (BC & Yukon Book Prizes): Dukesang Wong, *The Diary of Dukesang Wong: A Voice from Gold Mountain* (Finalist)

Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize (BC & Yukon Book Prizes): Junie Désil, *eat salt | gaze at the ocean* (Finalist)

Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize (BC & Yukon Book Prizes): Fred Wah, *Music at the Heart of Thinking: Improvisations 1-170* (Finalist)

2020

Governor General's Literary Award for Drama: Kim Senklip Harvey, *Kamloopa: An Indigenous Matriarch Story* (Winner)

Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry: Oana Avasilichioaei, *Eight Track* (Finalist)

The A. M. Klein Prize for Poetry: Oana Avasilichioaei, *Eight Track* (Finalist)

Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award (BC & Yukon Book Prizes): Bill Richardson, *I Saw Three Ships* (Short-listed)

The Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour: Drew Hayden Taylor, *Cottagers and Indians* (Short-listed)

The Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour: Bill Richardson, *I Saw Three Ships* (Long-listed)

The Sunburst Award for Adult Fiction: Christian Guay-Poliquin, *The Weight of Snow* (Long-listed)

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Talonbooks
9259 Shaughnessy St.
Vancouver, BC V6P 6R4
phone: 604-444-4889
toll-free: 888-445-4176
fax: 604-444-4119
info@talonbooks.com
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by Spencer Williams, 2022



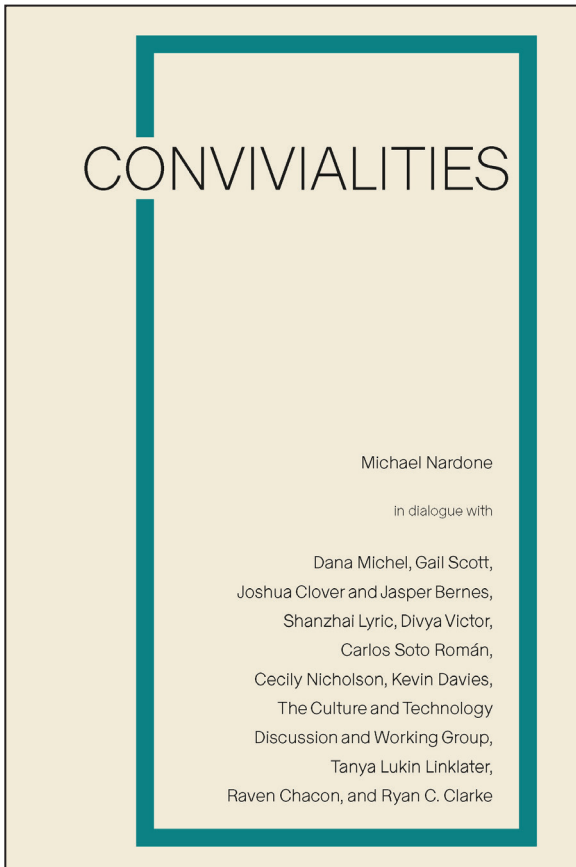
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Convivialities

Dialogues on Poetics

MICHAEL NARDONE

Convivialities is a collection of dialogues with contemporary writers and artists conducted over great distances and extended periods of time. These conversations – with Dana Michel, Gail Scott, Joshua Clover and Jasper Bernes, Shanzhai Lyric, Divya Victor, Carlos Soto Román, Cecily Nicholson, Kevin Davies, The Culture and Technology Discussion and Working Group, Tanya Lukin Linklater, Raven Chacon, and Ryan C. Clarke – focus on poetics, both the theory of poetry (its forms, histories, and critical categories) and the theory of poiesis (i.e., making). The dialogues vary. Some are chatty, others theoretical. They model how we might talk, think, and listen together, both to one another and to the sites and greater communities where we are situated. *Convivialities* investigates how the collected writers and artists craft their works, the contexts in which they make them, the intellectual and artistic histories that inspire their own ways of working, and the cultural issues that are at the core of their practices. And, perhaps most of all, it asks how they continue to create in a world ravaged by climate crisis, economic crisis, settler colonialism, and imperialism.

Michael Nardone is a poet and editor based in Montréal. Never settling on a single genre, practice, or mode, his works often explore and experiment within histories of literature, techniques of embodied performance, and cultures of mediation. Nardone's recent and forthcoming works include: *Aural Poetics* (an edited work on sound and composition across the arts), *Convivialities* (a book of dialogues), *Yellow Towel: A Score* (a collaboration with Dana Michel), *Border Tuner | Sintonizador Fronterizo* (a monograph on Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, co-edited with Edgar Picazo), the Documents on Expanded Poetics book series (which he co-edits with Nathan Brown), *The Transatlantic Conversation* (a translation of Abigail Lang's monograph on contemporary French and US poetry), and *The Ritualites* (a book of poems), as well as a range of essays and editorial works concerning the literary arts and other inscriptive practices. Beginning in 2024, he is a writer-in-residence at the SETI Institute.

ISBN 978-1-77201-646-8
Nonfiction

5.5" × 8.5"; 240 pp.; Trade paper

\$19.95 CAN / \$16.95 US

Forthcoming April 22, 2025



A Great Consolation

Survive! Survive! & Crossing the Gulf of Misfortune

MICHEL TREMBLAY

translated by Linda Gaboriau

Survive! Survive! transports readers to September 1935, to glorious, tragic times in the colourful company of Ti-Lou and “the Duchess” Édouard, whose sparkling exchanges hide indissoluble pain; to sombre, twilight times with Victoire and Téséphore at the bottom of the ruelle des Fortifications, and between Josaphat and Laura Cadieux, his ill-fated daughter who wants at all costs to find her mother, Imelda Beausoleil. “How to survive?” they all ask, inextricably caught in life’s cycle of lost illusions and forgotten dreams. Even as this chronicle of resilience dwells in the difficulties and disenchantments of ordinary life, it reveals existences that accommodate a happiness that passes – always too fast and almost too late.

The series closes with *Crossing the Gulf of Misfortune*, whose action unfolds in August 1941, when the families of Nana and Gabriel unhappily cram together in a new apartment. Nana, inconsolable after the loss of her two eldest children to tuberculosis, is forced to live with Victoire and Édouard, as well as with Albertine, her husband Paul, and their children, Thérèse and baby Marcel. Outside this unbearably crowded household, war rages and rationing deprives everyone of basic necessities.

These characters don’t know what readers of Tremblay do: that in a year, in May 1942, Nana – the Fat Woman Next Door – seven months pregnant, will open the fabulous *Chronicles of the Plateau-Mont-Royal* ...

A major figure in Québec literature, Michel Tremblay has built an impressive body of work as a playwright, novelist, translator, and screenwriter. To date Tremblay’s complete works include twenty-nine plays, thirty-one novels, six collections of autobiographical stories, a collection of tales, seven screenplays, forty-six translations and adaptations of works by foreign writers, nine plays and twelve stories printed in diverse publications, an opera libretto, a song cycle, a Symphonic Christmas Tale, and two musicals. His work has won numerous awards and accolades; his plays have been published and translated into forty languages and have garnered critical acclaim in Canada, the United States, and more than fifty countries around the world.

ISBN 978-1-77201-506-5

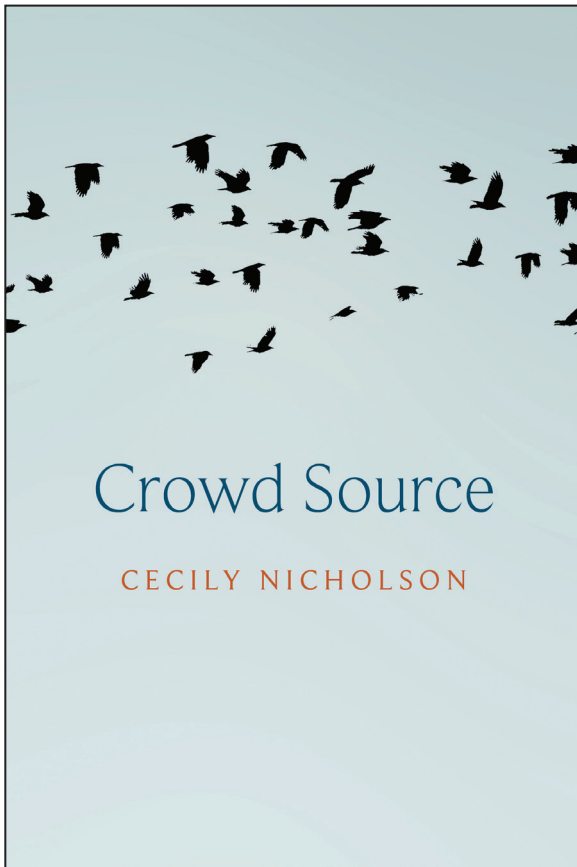
Fiction

5.5" × 8.5"; 192 pp.; Trade paper

\$19.95 CAN / \$16.95 US

Forthcoming May 12, 2025

Visit talonbooks.com for a complete listing of Michel Tremblay’s available books.



Crowd Source

CECILY NICHOLSON

Crowd Source parallels the daily migration of the crows who, aside from fledgling season, fly across metro Vancouver every day at dawn and dusk. This durational study echoes their flight, occasionally touching down to reflect on human-crow interactions. Attentive to the great intelligence and perspectives of corvid and non-human communications, the poems in *Crowd Source* engage historical and strategic examples of how these songbirds gather and disperse. Continuing Nicholson's engagement with the contemporary climate crisis, social movements, and Black diasporic relations, this is a text for all concerned about practising ecological futurities befitting corvid sensibilities, caw.

Cecily Nicholson is the author of five books, including *From the Poplars*, recipient of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize, and *Wayside Sang*, winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for poetry. Her collaborative practice spans municipal, artist-run centres, and community-based arts organizing, education, and advocacy. She is an assistant professor at the School of Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia and the 2024/2025 Holloway Lecturer in Poetry and Poetics at the University of California, Berkeley.

ISBN 978-1-77201-658-1
Poetry
6" x 9"; 112 pp.; Trade paper
\$19.95 CAN / \$19.95 US
Forthcoming April 1, 2025

Visit talonbooks.com for a complete listing of Cecily Nicholson's available books.



Future Works

JEFF DERKSEN

Future Works grapples with time, asking how to fully live with the present while also being attentive to possible futures and to the lost temporalities buried within the now. It was written haltingly over a decade shaped and troubled by climate change and environmental collapse, the global rise of populist fascism, an invigorated politics of bodily control (biopolitics), mass forced displacement of people, increasing disparities in wealth and resources, and a general understanding that daily life is getting meaner, unsustainably expensive, and generally shitty. Yet underneath this manure, very strong buds have tried to push through – mutual care, deeper social justice, an ethos of living more and working less, environmental action, and more ethical ways of being. This book is about trying to live through the last ugly decade. It's an angry-funny book about cities and trees, about human and more-than-human labour, about decolonizing temporalities, and about futurity.

Jeff Derksen is a poet, critic, and professor who lives in Vancouver and Vienna. His poetry books include *The Vestiges*, *Transnational Muscle Cars*, and *Down Time* (Winner of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize). His critical books include *After Euphoria*, *Annihilated Time: Poetry and Other Politics*, and the folio *How High is the City, How Deep is Our Love*. He works on artistic research projects with the collective Urban Subjects: their books include *The Militant Image Reader*, *Momentarily: Learning from Mega Events*, and *Autogestion: Henri Lefebvre in New Belgrade*. As curators, they brought The Vienna Model: Housing for the 21st Century to the Museum of Vancouver and curated the exhibition *If Time Is Still Alive at Camera Austria*. He was a founding member of both the Kootenay School of Writing and Artspeak Gallery. Derksen works at Simon Fraser University and is a Fulbright Fellow and former research fellow at the Centre for Place, Culture, and Politics at The Graduate Center, CUNY.

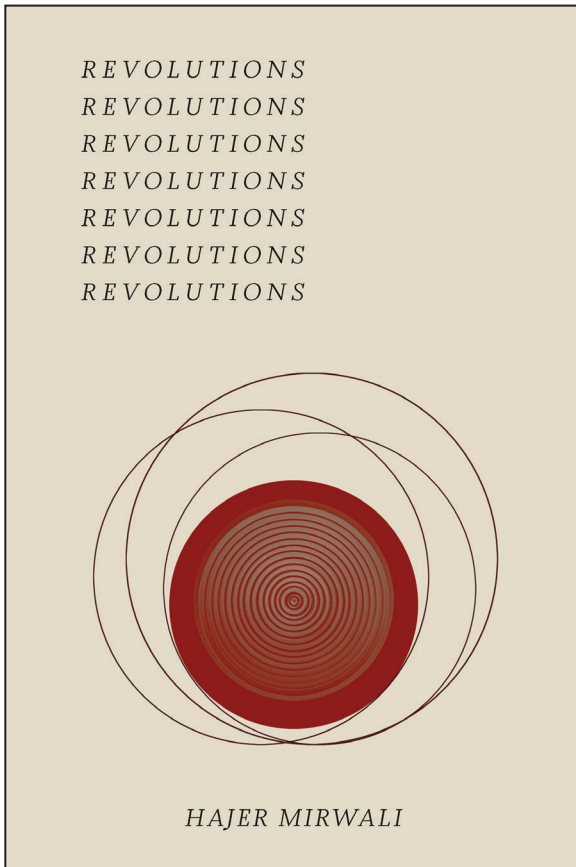
ISBN 978-1-77201-628-4

Poetry

6" x 9"; 96 pp.; Trade paper

\$18.95 CAN / \$18.95 US

Forthcoming April 1, 2025



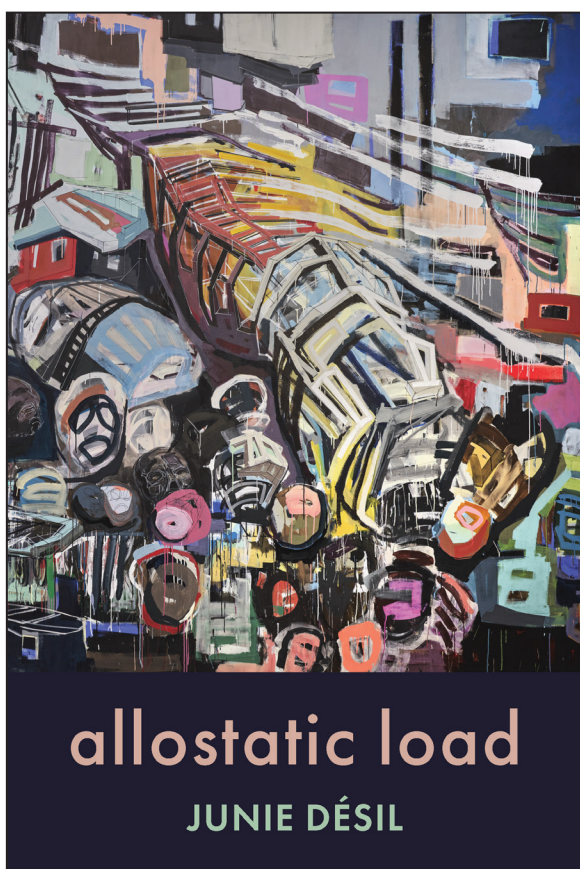
Revolutions

HAJER MIRWALI

Revolutions sifts through the grains of Muslim daughterhood to reveal two metaphorical circles inextricably overlapping: shame and pleasure. In an extended conversation with Mona Hatoum's artwork + and -, *Revolutions* asks how young Arab women – who live in homes and communities where actions are surveilled and categorized as 3aib or not 3aib, shameful or acceptable – make and unmake their identities. Working between a Palestinian and Iraqi poetics drawing from artists like Mahmoud Darwish and Naseer Shamma and a feminist Canadian poetics inspired by Erin Moure, M. NourbeSe Philip, and Nicole Brossard, *Revolutions* spirals and collapses as we turn and re-turn around its circles.

Hajer Mirwali is a Palestinian and Iraqi writer living in Toronto. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph. Her work has been published in *The Ex-Puritan*, *Brick Magazine*, *Room Magazine*, and *Joyland*.

ISBN 978-1-77201-650-5
Poetry
5.5" × 8.5"; 96 pp.; Trade paper
\$18.95 CAN / \$18.95 US
Forthcoming March 18, 2025



allostatic load

JUNIE DÉSIL

allostatic load navigates the racialized interplay of chronic wear and tear during tumultuous years marked by global racial tensions, an ongoing pandemic, the commodification of care, and the burden of systemic injustice. Moving between diaristic intimacy and the remove of news reportage, Désil's second poetry collection invites readers to hold the vulnerability and resilience required to navigate deep healing in a world that does not wish you well, in a world that is inflamed and consequently inflames us, in a world where true restoration and health must co-occur with the planet and with each other.

Junie Désil, born to Haitian immigrant parents in Montréal and raised in Winnipeg, has devoted over two decades to empowering communities made marginalized. With a background in supporting women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Junie's work spans human resources, leadership, and community engagement.

An accomplished poet, her debut collection, *eat salt | gaze at the ocean* (2020), was a finalist for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and explores themes of Black sovereignty and the Haitian diaspora. Currently residing on the Traditional Territories of the Homalco, Tla'amin, and Klahoose, Junie is the Manager of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Reconciliation at Vancity.

Junie's second poetry collection, *allostatic load*, delves into personal and collective experiences of stress, coping mechanisms, and the journey towards healing. She mentors emerging writers at Simon Fraser University's The Writer's Studio. Beyond her professional life, Junie enjoys writing, coaching, consulting, and raising goats.

ISBN 978-1-77201-606-2

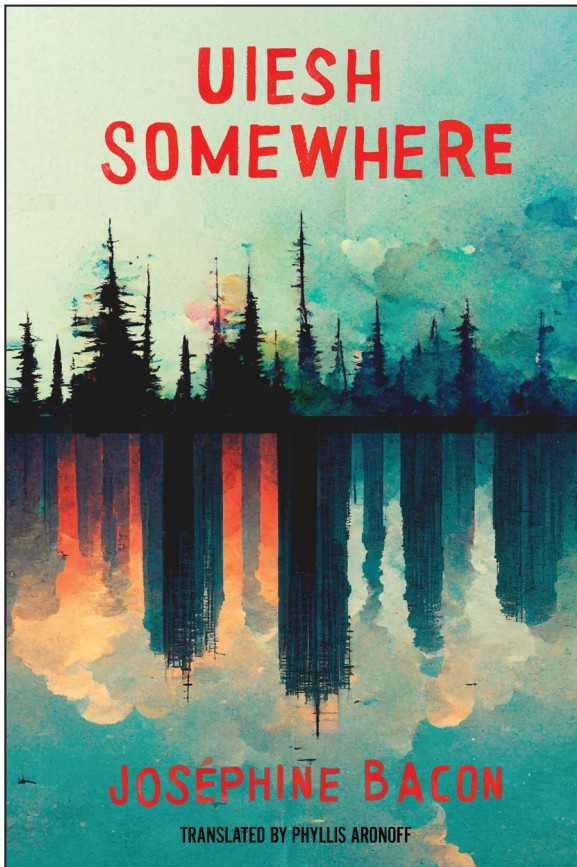
Poetry

5.5" × 8.5"; 96 pp.; Trade paper

\$18.95 CAN / \$18.95 US

Forthcoming April 15, 2025

Junie Désil's *eat salt | gaze at the ocean* is also available from Talonbooks.



Joséphine Bacon is an Innu poet born in 1947 in Passamit, Nitassinan / Québec, and now living in Montréal. An icon of Québec literature, she writes in Innu-aimun and French, and has been invited to read her poems in many countries. She has also worked as a translator, community researcher, documentary filmmaker, curator, and songwriter.

She spent her early years on the land with her family, living a nomadic life and hearing the stories passed down from her Ancestors. At the age of four, she entered residential school in Mani-Utenam (Maliotenam), where she remained until she was nineteen. She later moved to Montréal and became a translator and transcriber for anthropologists interviewing Innu Elders and knowledge keepers in Labrador and Québec.

Her poetry has won many awards, including the Indigenous Voices Award, the international Ostana Prize (for writers whose mother tongue is a language of limited diffusion), and the Prix des libraires du Québec, and has been shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry and the Grand Prix du livre de Montréal. She received an honorary doctorate from Université Laval in 2016 and has been inducted into the Ordre de Montréal and the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec.

ISBN 978-1-77201-514-0

Poetry

6" x 9"; 128 pp.; Trade paper

\$19.95 CAN / \$19.95 US

Forthcoming Dec. 9, 2024

Uiesh / Somewhere

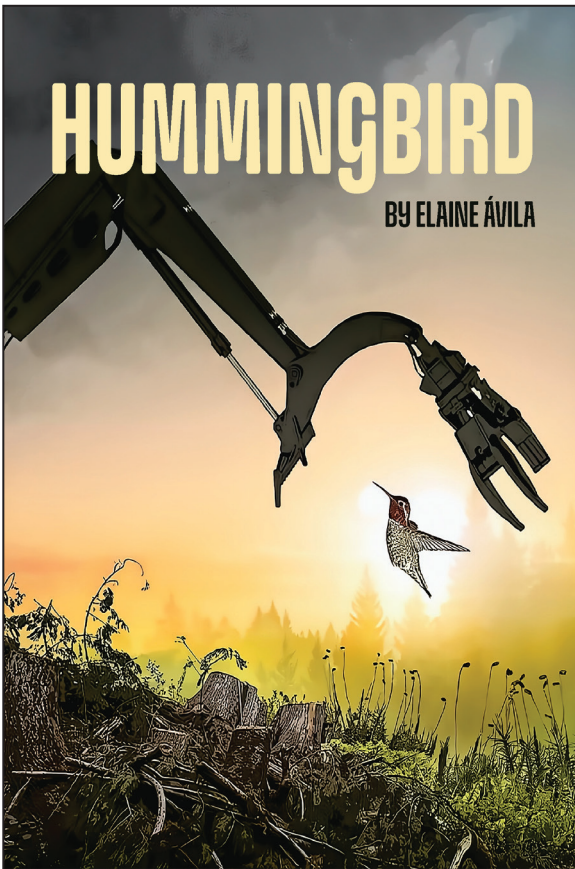
JOSÉPHINE BACON

translated by Jessica Moore

Winner of the Prix des libraires, the Indigenous Voices award, the Prix littéraire des enseignant.e.s de Français, and the Coup de Cœur Renaud-Bray, and a finalist for the Prix Alain-Grandbois

Dual-language edition

The poems in *Uiesh / Somewhere* are rooted in Innu Elder Joséphine Bacon's experiences of moving between the nomadic ways of her Ancestors in the northern wilderness of Nitassinan and the clamour of the city. Wherever she is, Bacon is attentive to the smallest details of her environment, from the moon and the stars, the Northern Lights, and the falling snow, to the sirens of fire engines and the noise of a busy bar night. From her quiet centre, she listens to the voices of the Old Ones, whose stories are alive within her, and reflects on the beauty and the pain of her long life.



Hummingbird

ELAINE ÁVILA

When forced to choose a topic for a mandatory high school project, Alex sarcastically says “hummingbirds” because one is hovering outside the window. Alex has no idea that this offhand choice will lead them to uncover hidden family histories in a mysterious journal from the 1860s, find an essential role in a community nest-finding network, open up to a vibrant ecosystem, and learn how a hummingbird disrupted a major pipeline project.

Elaine Ávila’s plays are produced in Central America, Europe, the US, Canada, and Australia. She is co-founder of the International Climate Change Theatre Action, involving 50 playwrights and 45,000 audience members worldwide. Some of her Best New Play Awards include: *Jane Austen*, *Action Figure* (Festival de los Cocos, Panamá City), *Lieutenant Nun* (Victoria Critics Circle), and *Café a Brasileira* (Disquiet International Literary Program in Lisbon). Elaine has taught in universities from Portugal to Tasmania, China to Panamá. She has served as the playwright in residence at Pomona College in Los Angeles, Quest University Canada, and Western Washington University; as the Endowed Chair and Head of the MFA Program in Dramatic Writing at the University of New Mexico; and founder of the LEAP Playwriting Program at the Arts Club Theater in Vancouver. The 2019 Fulbright Scholar to the University of the Azores, Elaine lives in New Westminster with her musician-teacher husband and her artist-activist son.

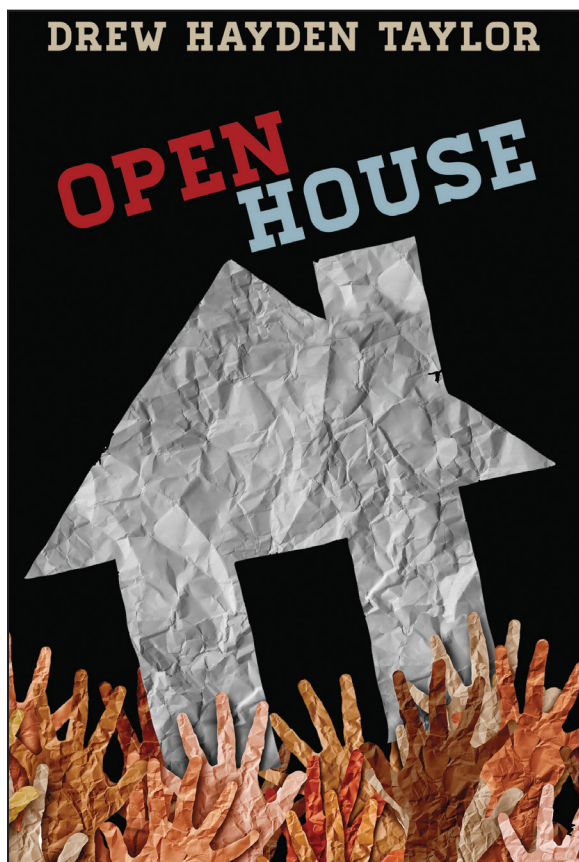
ISBN 978-1-77201-652-9

Drama

5.5" × 8.5"; 80 pp.; Trade paper

\$18.95 CAN / \$16.95 US

Forthcoming April 29, 2025



Open House

DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR

Ojibway writer **Drew Hayden Taylor** is from the Curve Lake Reserve in Ontario. Hailed by the *Montreal Gazette* as one of Canada's leading Native dramatists, he writes for the screen as well as the stage and contributes regularly to North American Native periodicals and national newspapers. His plays have garnered many prestigious awards, and his beguiling and perceptive storytelling style has enthralled audiences in Canada, the United States and Germany. His 1998 play *Only Drunks and Children Tell the Truth* has been anthologized in *Seventh Generation: An Anthology of Native American Plays*, published by the Theatre Communications Group. Although based in Toronto, Taylor has travelled extensively throughout North America, honouring requests to read from his work and to attend arts festivals, workshops and productions of his plays. He was also invited to Robert Redford's Sundance Institute in California, where he taught a series of seminars on the depiction of Native characters in fiction, drama and film. One of his most established bodies of work includes what he calls the Blues Quartet, an ongoing, outrageous and often farcical examination of Native and non-Native stereotypes.

Hoping to snag their perfect home in a red-hot housing market, an African Canadian man, a Chinese Canadian man, and a Jewish/Indigenous lesbian couple show up to an open house run by a white settler real estate agent. Each potential buyer feels most deserving of the prize. When a police incident outside traps them together in the house, debate erupts over which of their cultures has faced the most discrimination and exclusion. Passions run high and opinions clash. With wry humour, *Open House* deftly navigates current conversations about oppression, colonization, and middle-class aspirations.

ISBN 978-1-77201-656-7

Drama

5.5" × 8.5"; 160 pp.; Trade paper

\$18.95 CAN / \$18.95 US

Forthcoming Feb 28, 2025

Visit talonbooks.com for a complete listing of Drew Hayden Taylor's available books.

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Ontario

Saffron Beckwith · ext. 124 · saffronb@ampersandinc.ca

Morgen Young · ext 128 · morgeny@ampersandinc.ca

Laureen Cusack · ext. 120 · laureenc@ampersandinc.ca

Vanessa Di Gregorio · ext. 122 · vanessad@ampersandinc.ca

Evette Sintichakis · ext. 121 · evettes@ampersandinc.ca

Sarah Gilligan · ext. 129 · sarahg@ampersandinc.ca

Kris Hykel · ext. 127 · krish@ampersandinc.ca

Head Office:

213 – 321 Carlaw Ave.nue, Toronto, ON M4M 2S1

tel.: 416-703-0666 · fax: 866-736-5620

toll-free: 416-703-4745

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Québec

Sarah Gilligan · tel.: 416-703-0666 ext. 129

toll-free: 866-736-5620

fax 416-703-4745

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Atlantic Provinces

Kris Hykel · tel.: 416-703-0666 ext. 127

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Stuart Abraham

Abraham Associates

5120-A Cedar Lake Road

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

tel.: 952-927-7920; 800-701-2489

fax: 952-927-8089

stu@abrahamassociatesinc.com

John Mesjak

Abraham Associates

5120-A Cedar Lake Road

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

tel.: 815-762-0598

fax: 952-927-8089

john@abrahamassociatesinc.com

Emily Johnson

Abraham Associates

5120-A Cedar Lake Road

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

tel.: 800-701-2489

fax: 952-927-8089

emily@abrahamassociatesinc.com

Ted Seykora

Abraham Associates

5120-A Cedar Lake Road

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

tel.: 800-701-2489

fax: 952-927-8089

ted@abrahamassociatesinc.com

Sandra Law

Abraham Associates

5120-A Cedar Lake Road

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

tel.: 630-352-8640

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Linda Cannon

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fax: 866-583-2066

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Upstate NY

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 Parson Weems Publisher Services
 48 Wawayanda Road
 Warwick, NY 10990
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 fax: 866-761-7112
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 Parson Weems Publisher Services
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 Brooklyn, NY 11211
 tel.: 347-244-2165
 jasonkincade@parsonweems.com

NJ, Eastern PA, Western NY

Kevin Moran
 Parson Weems Publisher Services
 2364 Cook Dr.
 Easton, PA 18045
 tel.: 848-303-4164
 kevinmoran@parsonweems.com

Causten Stehle, Office Manager
 Parson Weems Publisher Services
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 fax: 866-861-0337
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Mark O'Neal
 Karel/Dutton Group
 4941 Defiance Way
 San Diego, CA 92115
 tel.: 562-587-0956
 fax: 877-847-1619
 oneal.mark@gmail.com

Ellen Towell and Howard Karel
 Karel/Dutton Group
 3145 Geary Boulevard #619
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 fax: 415-668-2463
 ellentowell.kdg@gmail.com

Lise Solomon
 Karel/Dutton Group
 1047 Stannage Avenue
 Albany, CA 94706
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 fax: 510-900-1088
 lise.solomon@sonic.net

Mid-South and Southeast

Bill McClung
 Bill McClung & Associates
 20540 State Highway 46 W, Suite 115
 Spring Branch, TX 78070
 tel.: 214-505-1501
 fax: 888-311-8932
 bmcclung@ix.netcom.com

Terri McClung
 Bill McClung & Associates
 20540 State Highway 46 W, Suite 115
 Spring Branch, TX 78070
 tel.: 214-676-3161
 fax: 888-311-8932
 tmclung@ix.netcom.com

CA, HI, UT, WY

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fax: 214-638-4535
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Barbara Toback
332 Bleeker Street
New York, NY 10014
tel.: 917-846-2628
barbaratoback@gmail.com

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Customer Service:**

Phone: 1-866-400-5351
Fax: 1-800-937-8100
gift.sales@ingramcontent.com

Special Markets

Matty Goldberg
VP, Sales & Acquisitions
tel.: 212-340-8120
matty.goldberg@ingramcontent.com

Specialty Retail & Gift Sales:

Eric Green, Director of Sales, Specialty Retail
Phone: 877-528-1444 x 3750
eric.green@ingramcontent.com

Judy Witt Gift Sales Manager
Phone: 219-242-8377
judy.witt@ingramcontent.com

Katie Gallagher Gift Sales Manager
Phone: 877-528-1444 x 3752
katie.gallagher@ingramcontent.com

Sandy Hernandez, Special Sales Manager
Phone: 818-914-9433
sandy.hernandez@ingramcontent.com

Tom Lupoff, Sales Representative, Travel and Outdoor
Phone: 877-528-1444 x 3754
tom.lupoff@ingramcontent.com

Steve Quinn, Sales Manager,
Specialty Retail
Phone: 401-209-9869
steve.quinn@ingramcontent.com

Meagan Kavouras
Sales and Support Representative
tel.: 646-854-5668

Lydia Doane, Sales and Support
Representative, Gift Sales
tel.: 877-528-1444 x 3749
lydia.doane@ingramcontent.com

Special Sales (includes Wholesale, Mail Order, Online, Premium)

Sonya Harris, Sales Manager
Phone: 610-662-4173
sonya.harris@ingramcontent.com

Bianca Johnson
Sales Representative, Special Sales
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