

# SUBTEXT



Nicole Raziya Fong

<b>Violence</b>	From:	
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	Subject: [Internal]	
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**sometimes, forest**  
ELEE KRALJII GARDINER

# TALONBOOKS

# SPRING 2026



# Growing My Way Home

STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND CARE



JENN ASHTON

## Growing My Way Home

Stories of Resilience and Care

Jenn Ashton

Sad, shocking, and truthful, *Growing My Way Home* chronicles one woman's struggle through events all too common among a people who have been separated from their culture and their language. From abuse to early involvement in the criminal justice system, from her experiences as a thirteen-year-old drug dealer, a fifteen-year-old parent, and finally an award-winning writer, artist, and filmmaker, Jenn Ashton has survived it all. A work of autofiction based on her teenage journals and fifty years of lived experience, *Growing My Way Home* documents a long journey to acceptance and understanding.

"Powerful." —Candace Fertile, *The British Columbia Review*

Jenn Ashton is an award-winning Skwxwú7mesh author, visual artist, filmmaker, and historian. Her book of short stories, *People Like Frank and Other Stories from the Edge of Normal* (Tidewater Press 2020), was a finalist for the Indigenous Voices Award, and her personal essay "Qualifying Hymns" was a finalist for the 2024 National Magazine Awards. She is an authenticity reader for several top publishing houses. [www.jenniferashton.ca](http://www.jenniferashton.ca)

978-1-77201-703-8

222 pages

Tue, 07 Apr 2026

8.5 × 5.5 × 0.625 in

Fiction

Trade paperback (US)

\$24.95 CAD

\$24.95 USD



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## *Sailors Can't Swim*



A NOVEL BY **DOMINIQUE SCALI**



*Translated by Jessica Moore*

**Dominique Scali** is a novelist and journalist from Montréal. *Sailors Can't Swim* is her second novel. A huge success on both sides of the Atlantic, it has been awarded the Prix des libraires du Québec, the Prix Jacques-Brossard de la science-fiction et du fantastique, and the French Prix Imaginales.

978-1-77201-701-4

416 pages

Tue, 01 Sep 2026

9 × 6 × 0.3125 in

Fiction

Trade paperback (US)

\$24.95 CAD

\$24.95 USD

# Sailors Can't Swim

**Dominique Scali, translated by  
Jessica Moore**

**On the island of Ys, somewhere in the middle of the Atlantic, safety lies behind the city's high walls – where citizens live in opulent security while the shore-dwellers below rebuild their ruined homes after each great tide.**

Danaé Poussin is an orphan – and a swimmer, a gift both rare and suspect on Ys. She was born to the sea but yearns for a life within the walls. Flowing between shore, city, and open sea, she navigates the rocky possibilities for women – from salter to thief to aristocrat to sailor's wife – learning to steer through the sexist and classist indignities of the calm before revolution.

*Sailors Can't Swim* is a squall of a novel: part bildungsroman, part maritime fairy tale, part history of an alternate eighteenth century. It reflects our own era, laying bare the meanness of meritocracy and arbitrariness of citizenship in a world where every possession, or privilege, belonged to someone else first.



In Search of New Babylon

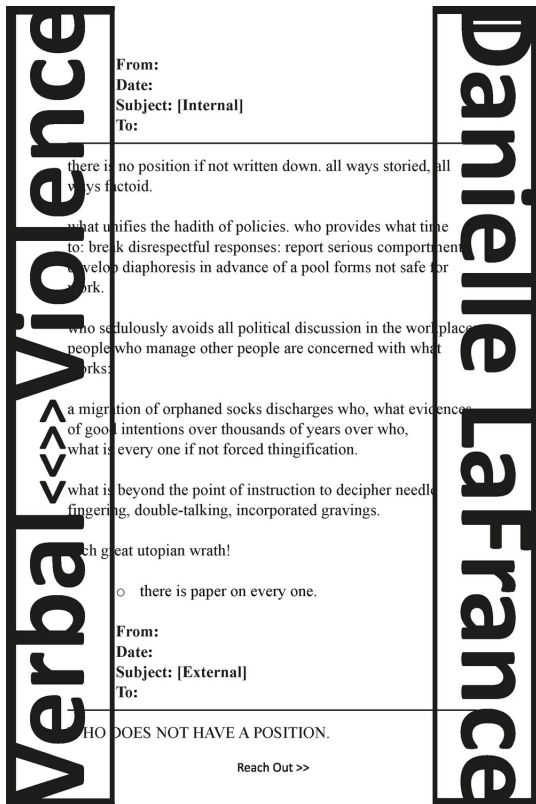
W. Donald Wilson et al.

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# Verbal Violence

Danielle LaFrance

*Verbal Violence* unravels, dissects, and shreds the language of the professional managerial class. Critically straining the email thread, the Freedom of Information Request, and the white paper through an aesthetics of anger that appropriates their last gasps at relevancy, LaFrance registers the absurdities of a purposeless people “just doing their job.” Hacking up neoliberal doublespeak, ideological reproduction, and progressive-except-Palestine rhetoric, *Verbal Violence* spits it out time and time again, scheduling a meeting to verbalize the what and the who liberal democratic institutions systematically shut down. *Verbal Violence* confronts capitalism’s managerial style guide for saying nothing at all with the fiery and empathetic conscience of the managed, their cri de cœur cracking the straight-faced bureaucracy of our most banal communications.

Danielle LaFrance is a poet and information malprofessional. Their commitments revolve around questions of liberation, resistance, and pleasure. LaFrance is the author of *species branding* (Capilano University Editions, 2010), *Friendly + Fire* (Talonbooks, 2016), *JUST LIKE I LIKE IT* (Talonbooks, 2019), and *#postdildo* (Talonbooks, 2022); chapbooks include *Tentacle Rasa* (Asterion Books, 2021) and *pink slip* (Standard Ink & Copy, 2013). Their poetry and critical work have appeared in magazines and journals, both online and in print. LaFrance also co-created the reading and journal series About a Bicycle and currently collaborates on the ad infinitum intertextual sound project Yes, Sydo. They reside on still occupied and still unceded x̣ẉṃə̣θ̣ḳẉə̣ỵə̣ṃ, Sḳẉx̣ẉụ́7mesh, and ṣə̣ḷịḷẉə̣ṭə̣† Lands.

978-1-77201-705-2  
 136 pages  
 Tue, 05 May 2026  
 9 × 6 × 0.4375 in  
 Poetry  
 Trade paperback (US)  
 \$19.95 CAD  
 \$19.95 USD



#postdildo  
 Danielle LaFrance  
 978-1-77201-437-2  
 \$19.95 / C\$19.95



JUST LIKE I LIKE IT  
 Danielle LaFrance  
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# SUBTEXT

**Nicole Raziya Fong**

*SUBTEXT* refracts the language of identity formation. It collages the echoes of diasporic and colonial histories through poetry, drama, autobiography, and archival uncovering. Divided into four parts, *SUBTEXT* peers into the imperceptible psychic strata created by intergenerational trauma, confronting the challenge of finding one's place in a sensorium of concealed realities and obscured memories. Dwelling in the bubbling froth of dreamwork, these poems take a multifaceted approach to questions of diaspora and selfhood, incorporating visual and textual elements that dialogue with one another and ask readers to negotiate the unsteady shoals of identity and history.

Nicole Raziya Fong (they/them) is the author of *Я* (forthcoming, Hiding Press), *ORACULE* (2021, Talonbooks), *PERFACT* (2019, Talonbooks), and other works. Their work seeks to delimit and reconstruct immaterial ampoules of psychic experience, coaxing the incorporeal into inhabiting a more muscular physique. Writing appears in literary journals including *The Capilano Review*, *carte blanche*, *Social Text*, and *The Volta*. Their work has been translated, featured on the CBC, and long-listed for the Pat Lowther Memorial Award. They live in Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang/Montréal, Québec, Canada.

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104 pages

Tue, 28 Apr 2026

9 × 6 × 0.4375 in

Poetry

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\$19.95 USD



ORACULE

Nicole Raziya Fong

978-1-77201-361-0

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PERFACT

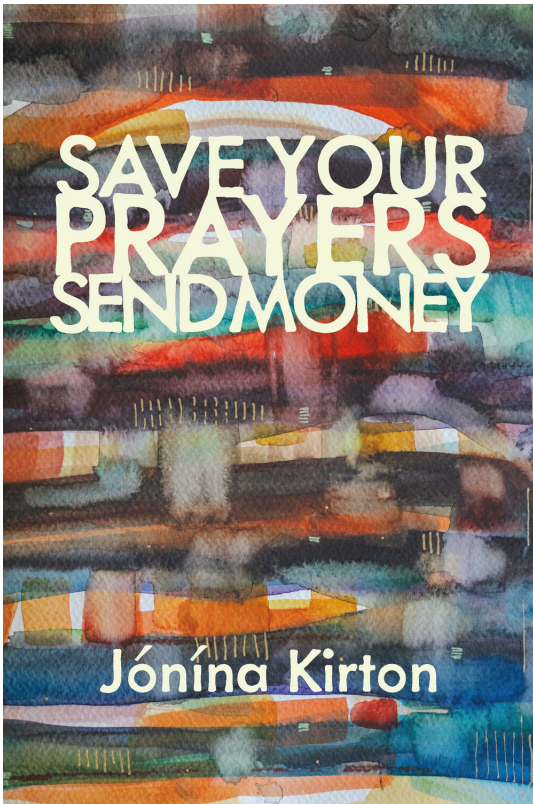
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# Save Your Prayers – Send Money

Jónína Kirton

*Save Your Prayers – Send Money* boldly takes on the wellness industry. Kirton delves into disability politics through the lived experience of a seventy-year-old Métis woman and recovering New Ager. A hybrid collection that moves fluidly between prose and poetry, *Save Your Prayers – Send Money* weaves intergenerational trauma and its impact on health through the daily realities of chronic pain and illness. These poems explore where healing might lie and how a peace might be found whether we heal or not. The weft supporting them all is the importance of belonging, of blood memory and cellular memory reaching back to our earliest Ancestors.

Jónína Kirton, an Icelandic and Red River Métis poet, was born in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Treaty 1, the Traditional Lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples and the homeland of the Métis. One of the co-founders of Indigenous Brilliance, she currently lives in New Westminster BC, the stolen land of the Hul'qumi'num speaking peoples. Jónína graduated from the SFU Writer's Studio in 2007 and since that time has published three books with Talonbooks. She was sixty-one when she received the 2016 Vancouver's Mayor's Arts Award for an Emerging Artist in the Literary Arts category. Her second collection of poetry, *An Honest Woman*, was a finalist in the 2018 Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize.

"What emerges over the course of this collection, animated by the question of what healing might look like in relation to chronic conditions, is a web of ancestral and community belonging."—melanie brannagan frederiksen, *The Winnipeg Free Press*

978-1-77201-709-0  
126 pages  
Tue, 28 Apr 2026  
9 × 6 × 0.4375 in  
Poetry  
Trade paperback (US)  
\$19.95 CAD  
\$19.95 USD



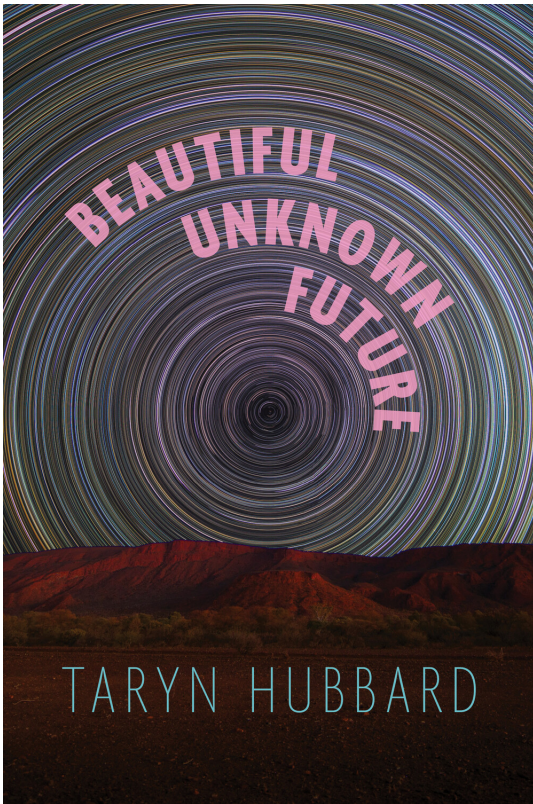
page as bone – ink as blood  
Jónína Kirton  
978-0-88922-923-5  
\$16.95 / C\$16.95



An Honest Woman  
Jónína Kirton  
978-1-77201-144-9  
\$16.95 / C\$16.95



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# Beautiful Unknown Future

**Taryn Hubbard**

Haunted by the looming shadows of our compounding crises, *Beautiful Unknown Future* reflects with candour and wit on the precarity we share with the nonhuman world. Written while Hubbard's children were young, these poems hold space for messy feelings about motherhood and care, the climate crisis, family ghosts, and office dynamics. Refusing false optimism, *Beautiful Unknown Future* layers the chaos of domestic life with the detachment of the corporate environment to examine the joys and complexities of these competing spaces, looking critically to a future centred around tenderness, resilience, and love.

Taryn Hubbard is the author of *Desire Path* (Talonbooks, 2020) and *The Very Good Best Friend* (Now or Never Publishing, 2025). She lives in Chilliwack, British Columbia, with her family.

Find out more at [tarynhubbard.com](http://tarynhubbard.com).

978-1-77201-648-2

110 pages

Tue, 12 May 2026

9 × 6 × 0.4375 in

Poetry

Trade paperback (US)

\$19.95 CAD

\$19.95 USD



Desire Path

Taryn Hubbard

978-1-77201-263-7

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Elee Kraljii Gardiner is the author of two poetry books, *Trauma Head* (Anvil Press, 2018) and *serpentine loop* (Anvil Press, 2016). She is editor of the anthologies *Against Death: 35 Essays on Living* (Anvil Press, 2019) and *V6A: Writing from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2012) and nine anthologies from Thursdays Writing Collective, a program she founded with Downtown Eastside writers. She is also author of the chapbooks *Trauma Head: the medical file* (Otter Press, 2017) and *Residence* (Otter Press, 2023).

Originally from Boston, Elee lives in Vancouver, where she directs Vancouver Manuscript Intensive, a program pairing authors with mentors. She serves as the seventh Poet Laureate of Vancouver until the conclusion of 2028 and is focusing on sound-related projects.

978-1-77201-711-3  
114 pages  
Tue, 14 Apr 2026  
9 × 6 × 0.4375 in  
Poetry  
Trade paperback (US)  
\$19.95 CAD  
\$19.95 USD



# sometimes, forest

Elee Kraljii Gardiner

*sometimes, forest* alternatively rails at and desires a fluid beloved, sometimes forest, sometimes lover, friend, mother, or an absence the speaker yearns for in herself. But the coastal temperate rainforest continues foresting, existing independently of the speaker's wants or needs, a place of both refuge and harm. Returning daily to the same woods, the speaker notices minute seasonal changes and considers her own internal changes too.

Meanwhile, fires, heat domes, and landslides mirror hormonal heat and biological surges. Considering how networks of lateral support mitigate and challenge hierarchical, individualistic structures, *sometimes, forest* develops a theory of hylofeminism that attends to a deep, communal connection with nature as a relational way of being with the self and the more-than-human world.

"The poems of *sometimes, forest* have such a wonderful thick and rich quality, a mélange of sound and bounce and visual play, offering a layered density of language as thick and teeming with life as any forest floor."—rob mcLennan

"Extraordinary ... a lush, layered, textured invitation into an interconnected web of beings centred on, but not exclusive to, the forest ... a kind of magic."  
—melanie brannagan frederiksen, *The Winnipeg Free Press*

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# PEARL



# George Bowering

George Bowering, Canada's first Parliamentary Poet Laureate, is a major Canadian literary figure and one of the country's most prolific authors, having written more than one hundred books, including works of poetry, fiction, autobiography, biography, and youth fiction. A founder of the influential poetry journal *TISH*, Bowering went on to become a distinguished novelist, poet, editor, professor, and historian and a tireless supporter of fellow writers. He has twice won the Governor General's Literary Award, and has been shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize, the BC Book Prize, the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, and the British Columbia National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction. Bowering is an Officer of the Order of Canada, and has also been awarded the Order of British Columbia and the British Columbia Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence.

978-1-77201-711-3

114 pages

Tue, 31 Mar 2026

9 x 6 x 0.125 in

Poetry

Trade paperback (US)

\$19.95 CAD

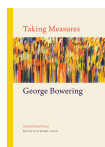
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# Pearl

## George Bowering

The making of a poem is like the making of a pearl – you take something gritty and create a jewel. George Bowering's final book of poetry, *Pearl*, follows this impulse, sprawling in search of the next glimmering insight, tugging at different threads with a multifarious large-heartedness. *Pearl* centres around a promise Bowering made to himself that one day he would write a poem about his mother, Pearl Bowering – a hillbilly, athlete, and champion bridge player. This promised poem anchors a book about the grit of life and what poetry can make from it. Touching, ribald, and cheeky, *Pearl* reflects on a life well-lived and well-written.

"Bowering gets ... close to the bone on his life's work through poetry."  
—rob mclennan



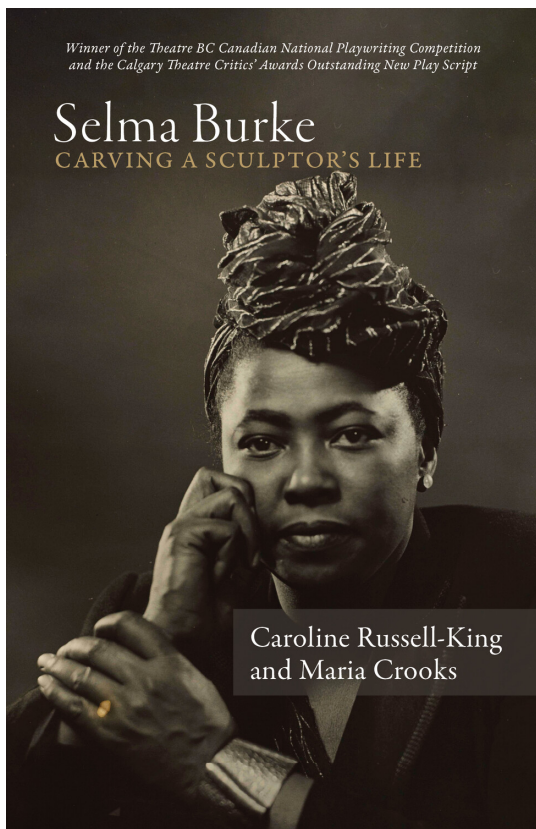
Taking Measures  
George Bowering et al.  
978-1-77201-244-6  
\$29.95 / C\$29.95



My Darling Nellie Grey  
George Bowering  
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Caroline Russell-King has worked in theatre for over forty years. An award-winning playwright, with thirty-three plays to her credit, she currently represents Western Canada as ambassador for the Dramatist Guild of America. She is also a professional dramaturg and the CEO and founder of *Dramaturgy on Demand*. As a critic she reviews sixty to seventy plays a year. Caroline is currently working on a thriller and her first opera.  
[www.carolinerussellking.com](http://www.carolinerussellking.com)

978-1-77201-715-1

126 pages

Tue, 31 Mar 2026

8.5 × 5.5 × 0.5 in

Drama

Trade paperback (US)

\$18.95 CAD

\$18.95 USD

# Selma Burke

## Carving a Sculptor's Life

### Caroline Russell-King, Maria Crooks

**Winner of the Theatre BC Canadian Playwriting Competition, two Betty Mitchell Awards, and two Calgary Theatre Critics' Awards**

*Selma Burke: Carving a Sculptor's Life* is a flight of fancy based on the incredible life of Dr. Selma Hortense Burke, who lived from 1900 to 1995, approximately 49,932,000 minutes. Here, imagined, are ninety of them, in a play that asks, "Who gets to make art, and who gets to destroy it?"

African American sculptor Selma Burke chronicled many of the extraordinary and devastating events of the past century in her outstanding work: lynchings, the Harlem Renaissance, the Holocaust, the assassination of Martin Luther King. Understanding that it is always easier to rip things down than build them up, Burke persisted in artmaking in the face of a society that didn't always recognize her talents, a husband who demolished her work, and a government who stole it.

Cast of 1 Black woman, 1 white woman, 1 Black man, and 1 white man



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# Fire Never Dies

THE TINA MODOTTI PROJECT



Carmen Aguirre is an award-winning theatre artist and author who has written and co-written over twenty-five plays, including the #1 national bestseller *Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter* (winner of CBC Canada Reads 2012), and its bestselling sequel, *Mexican Hooker #1 and My Other Roles Since the Revolution*.

Carmen is a Core Artist at Electric Company Theatre, a co-founding member of the Canadian Latinx Theatre Artist Coalition (CALTAC), and has over eighty film, TV, and stage acting credits, including her award-winning lead role in the Canadian premiere of Stephen Adley Guirgis's *The Motherfucker with the Hat*, and her Leo-nominated lead performance in the independent feature film *Bella Ciao!* She is a graduate of Studio 58. [carmenaguirre.ca](http://carmenaguirre.ca)

978-1-77201-717-5

112 pages

Tue, 26 May 2026

8.5 × 5.5 × 0.5 in

Drama

Trade paperback (US)

\$19.95 CAD

\$19.95 USD

# Fire Never Dies

## The Tina Modotti Project

### Carmen Aguirre

*What is the purpose of art in the face of fascism? Can art serve the poor? And what is the personal cost of militancy?*

In *Fire Never Dies: The Tina Modotti Project*, bestselling author and Electric Company Core Artist Carmen Aguirre explores the intersection of art and revolution through the life of Italian photographer and activist Tina Modotti.

Modotti's story begins in 1920s Mexico City, where her art flourished and she encountered other icons of the day, including Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. However, after seven years she abandoned photography to join the antifascist cause, ultimately running the Red Aid Hospital during the Spanish Civil War. Through a dynamic blend of styles and theatrical forms, the play mirrors Modotti's struggle to reconcile passion, creativity, and political conviction as it unfolds across twenty episodes, all recalled in Modotti's final moments during a fatal heart attack in a taxi at age forty-five.

Cast of 7 diverse actors

"Engrossing ... it lets us in on the making and remaking of a revolutionary spirit." —Angie Rico, *Stir*

"Colourful, handsome and sweepingly epic." —Jo Ledingham

"*Fire Never Dies* seamlessly blends different genres." —Elena Massing, *CBC News*



Anywhere but Here

Carmen Aguirre

978-1-77201-290-3

\$16.95 / C\$16.95



The Refugee Hotel

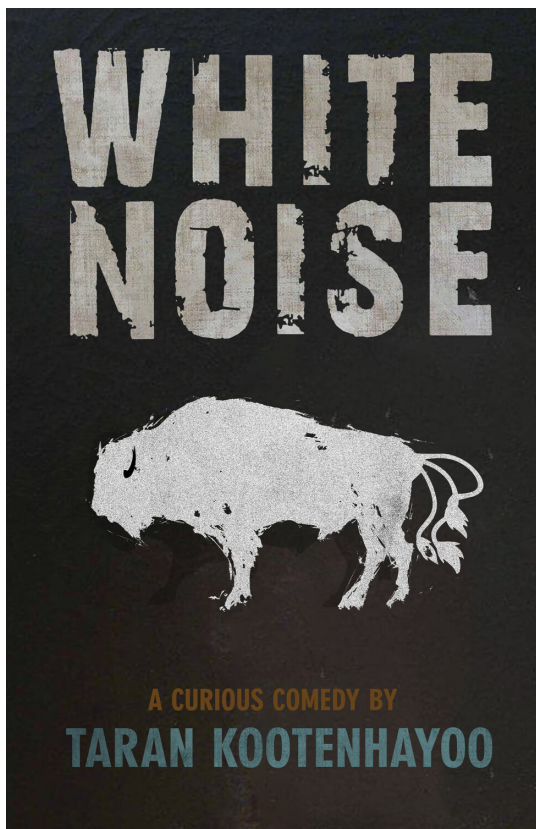
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# White Noise

**Taran Kootenhayoo**

Two neighbouring families, one Indigenous and one white, dine together during Truth and Reconciliation Week. As cultural misunderstanding, colonial violence, and racism both covert and overt surface, *White Noise* asks, “How do we deal with internalized racism? Do we keep pushing it away ... or do we make a change?” Taran Kootenhayoo’s answer is both emotionally intense and outrageously hilarious, a blistering comedic exploration of what it means to live in so-called Canada.

Cast of 1 Indigenous woman, 2 white women, 2 Indigenous men, and 1 white man

The late Taran “Standing Sunrise” Kootenhayoo was proud to be Denesųliné and Stoney Nakota. Born in Cold Lake, Alberta, and a member of the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Taran was like water flowing between many different mediums and disciplines. Most importantly, he was a storyteller; he was also an activist standing up for Indigenous Rights, an actor, a writer, a skateboarder, a dancer, a filmmaker, and a director. Taran was a transformer, cool in whatever he was involved in. He could steal the show, but he was always generous in his offerings as a person and a performer. He made things better.

978-1-77201-557-7

150 pages

Tue, 07 Apr 2026

8.5 × 7.875 × 0.5625 in

Drama

Trade paperback (US)

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