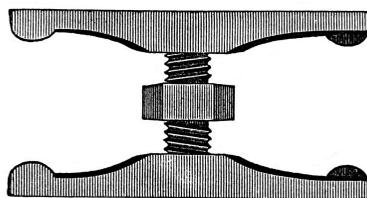




The Porcupine's Quill

DISTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS

Spring 2020



The Porcupine's Quill
Press sharply.

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In recent years all of our frontlist, and select backlist, has become available in searchable PDF format designed primarily for use on tablets. Many of these quality digital productions have been favoured with recognition by the eLit awards programme administered by the Jenkins Group of Traverse City, MI.

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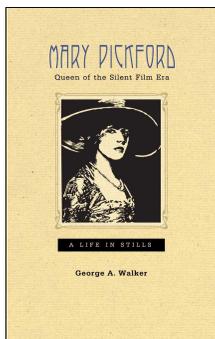
- contact us directly at store.porcupinesquill.ca
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The collection features the poetry of P.K. Page, the wordless novels of George A. Walker and all twenty titles in our Essential Poets series, showcasing work by Margaret Avison, Earle Birney, Don Coles, Daryl Hine, D.G. Jones, M. Travis Lane, Jay Macpherson, Richard Outram, P.K. Page, James Reaney and other luminaries.



STICKY fingers is a somewhat irreverent moniker we have adopted for a new digital imprint of the Porcupine's Quill that offers short, attractive, informative editions that probe the intersection between Canadian literature and the book arts, packaged exclusively for mobile devices.

Each chapbook is available in ePub for iPads and Android tablets, and Mobi for Kindle, and retails for \$2.99. The next release, *The Legacy of Leslie (Sam) Smart*, features three articles that originally appeared in the *Devil's Artisan* in 2018 together with an introduction by Brian Donnelly of the design programme at York / Sheridan.



Mary Pickford

QUEEN OF THE SILENT FILM ERA

George A. Walker

MAY

In this wordless biography, wood engraver George A. Walker employs a uniquely appropriate medium in which to celebrate the life of Mary Pickford, a silent film star whose groundbreaking contributions to the motion picture industry earned her the title 'Queen of the Movies'.

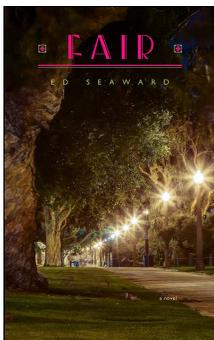
Toronto-born Gladys Louise Smith, who would later come to be known as Mary Pickford, first burst onto the silent-film scene at the tender age of 17. But Pickford was more than just 'the girl with the curls'. In addition to her acting career—a brilliant success that spanned 52 features—Pickford also helped establish the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as well as United Artists studio.

In *Mary Pickford, Queen of the Silent Film Era*, wood engraver George A. Walker tells the story of Pickford's life in a visual, sequential narrative not unlike the silent films of old. Walker's black-and-white wood engravings recall the monochromatic media of Pickford's films, and echo the experience of interpreting stories visually.

George A. Walker is an award-winning wood engraver, book artist and educator whose courses in book arts and printmaking at OCAD University in Toronto have been offered continuously since 1985. His artworks are held in collections that include the Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, The Morgan Library & Museum, New York, and The Museum of Modern Art (MoMa), New York City and he has had over 15 solo exhibitions as well as been included in more than 100 group shows. George Walker was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Art in 2002 for his contribution to the cultural area of Book Arts. He is also a member of the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto.

\$22.95 • 224 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

GRAPHIC NOVEL/Nonfiction • 978-0-88984-434-6



Fair

Ed Seaward

←
APRIL

In this spare, poetic novel, a young homeless man finds solace in friendship, falls prey to the machinations of a malevolent gang of thugs, and ultimately is swallowed up by the inevitability of consequences on the dangerous and deceptively sunny streets of Los Angeles.

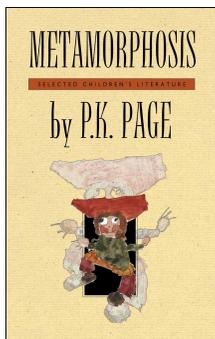
Eyan (pronounced Ian), homeless and all but invisible, drifts through the sun-drenched streets, parks and boardwalks of L.A., sometimes avoiding, sometimes seeking the shadows. A chance encounter with a childhood friend leads Eyan to meet 'the professor', an erudite and tragic figure who takes Eyan under his wing, reading to him from Milton's *Paradise Lost* in the lustrated light of the city at night.

But these friendships also drag Eyan into the City of Angels' Skid Row, the largest homeless community in North America. There, the sinister Paul and his gang of black-garbed 'eyeless boys' have established a reign of daily terror, committing murder after murder which the police are incapable of stopping. As tensions on the streets increase, the professor continues to read from Milton's great epic, and Eyan begins to wonder: if even the angels can find themselves at war, what hope, and what kind of home, exists for him?

Ed Seaward is the author of a number of short stories and screenplays, including *Mother Daughter Happiness*, which was a finalist at the 2019 Pasadena International Film Festival. *Fair* is his first published novel. After thirty years in the corporate world, he now spends his time cashing pension cheques, writing, and volunteering with the Canadian Authors Association in Toronto. Ed and his wife, Barb, split their time between Georgetown, Ontario, and Santa Monica, California.

\$19.95 • 176 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Literary • 978-0-88984-431-5



Metamorphosis

P. K. Page

MARCH

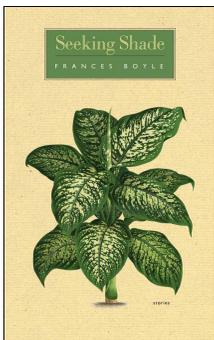
A carefully curated selection of esteemed Canadian writer-artist P. K. Page's poetry, prose and plays written for and about children.

The verses, plays, fables and essays in *Metamorphosis* celebrate the child's unique ability to look, to see, and to fashion immense worlds out of the smallest of things; they affirm the importance of fun, nonsense and language play; and they seek to impart spiritual wisdom through rich, complex narratives whose lessons of transcendence and metamorphosis amuse and astonish young readers.

In this sixth volume in the Collected Works of P.K. Page series, editor Margaret Steffler explores Page's diverse forays into the fantastical, dreamlike worlds of children's literature, documenting Page's ongoing efforts to recover the mysterious and elusive source of childhood. In so doing, she reveals the ways in which Page provides readers of all ages with the ability to throw open the doors between youth and adulthood, and to rediscover the imagination and vision of days gone by.

P. K. Page wrote some of the best poems published in Canada in the twentieth century. In addition to winning the Governor General's Award for poetry in 1957, she was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1999. She was the author of more than two dozen books, including ten volumes of poetry, a novel, short stories, eight books for children, and two memoirs based on her extended stays in Brazil and Mexico with her husband Arthur Irwin, who served in those countries as the Canadian Ambassador. P.K. Page was born in England and brought up on the Canadian prairies. She died on the 14th of January, 2010.

\$22.95 • 192 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"
JUVENILE FICTION/Canadian • 978-0-88984-432-2



Seeking Shade

Frances Boyle

←
APRIL

In Frances Boyle's first collection of short fiction, nuanced characters endure trauma, evolution and epiphany as they face challenges, make decisions, and suffer the inevitable consequences.

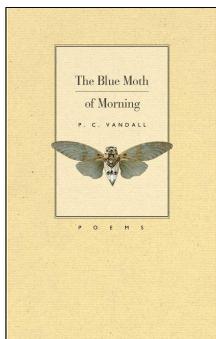
In *Seeking Shade*, ordinary situations are imbued with extraordinary emotion as women and men explore identity and independence, navigate complicated relationships and confront the fallibility of mind and body.

A reckless young woman dances through the Second World War—and through the lives of many a man in uniform. A graduate student considers a popular film and revisits a past tragedy as she watches flames devour her apartment. A hardworking man struggles with his own helplessness at three stages of enforced quietude. A wife and mother questions her health—and her sanity—when she is plagued by phantom pains and visions of ghostly twins. Through these and other stories, Frances Boyle leaves readers with a retinal impression, 'a shadow left by a flash', reminding us that the diverse ways we communicate—through art, literature, dance and performance—shape our lives and the stories that we tell.

Frances Boyle has practised corporate law, volunteered for a number of feminist, arts and international development organizations, and served as a board member and Associate Poetry Editor for *Arc Poetry Magazine*. She is the author of a novella (*Tower*, Fish Gotta Swim Editions, 2018), two books of poetry, (*This White Nest*, Quattro Books, 2019 and *Light-carved Passages*, BuschekBooks, 2014), and several chapbooks. She lives in Ottawa with her partner and a large standard poodle who believes he is a lap dog.

\$18.95 • 160 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Short Stories • 978-0-88984-435-3



The Blue Moth of Morning

P.C. Vandall

MAY

P.C. Vandall by turns acknowledges, embraces and subverts multiple clichés of female relationships, emotions and bodies, exposing the inner tumult women often try to conceal under a thin veneer of aplomb.

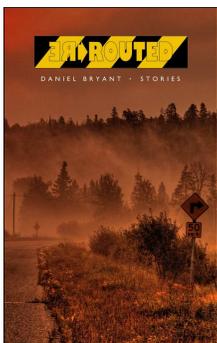
Full of wit and pithy wordplay, P.C. Vandall's *The Blue Moth of Morning* reveals the anarchy that often reigns full blown behind an outward illusion of female self-control. Images of domesticity are used to animate just consideration of the small messes, tragedies and evil little thoughts that are often swept under the rug or, perhaps just as often, left unspoken. These poems remind us that the business of love has little to do with blushing brides, rosy-red cheeks and ruby lips; that idols can tire of being hailed like cabs, evoked in the night and preyed upon by sinners; that pants can sing a woman's shame; that if you leave uncooked meat in the street, stray dogs will surely come and eat it; that when all is said and done there is nothing left to say.

By turns appreciative and deprecatory of the sundry facets of life, Vandall writes as one who recognizes that marriage can be characterized as the frying pan one swings at one's spouse—and that one can miss the mark but still make a point.

P.C. Vandall is the author of three collections of poetry: *Something from Nothing*, (Writing Knights Press, 2013) *Woodwinds* (Lipstick Press, 2013) and *Matrimonial Cake* (Red Dashboard, 2014). Her work has appeared in numerous magazines in Canada as well as England, Ireland, the United States, India and Australia. She is a member of the League of Canadian Poets and the Gabriola Poetry Society. She resides on Gabriola Island with her husband and two children.

\$16.95 • 80 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-433-9



Rerouted

Daniel Bryant

RECENTLY RELEASED

Expect the unexpected in Daniel Bryant's collection of linked short stories in which myth, mirth and mayhem are never far away.

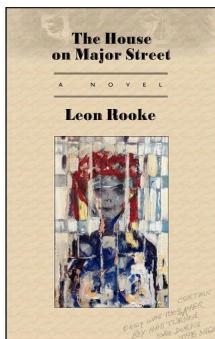
A postal worker confronts the supernatural after he is assigned a cursed route near an abandoned tannery. An attempted robbery goes awry when dimwitted thieves decide to knock off a coffee joint ... before it opens for business. Touring musicians experience uncomfortably close encounters while on the road in Northern Ontario. Serial killers and shape shifters are the least of their problems ... bad song writing—that's the real elephant in the room.

These and other stories form a linked narrative in which the mysterious Benny Tak appears and disappears. Is he a cipher? Some insidious background performer who shows up in everyone's personal narrative? Either way, he is ready for his close-up—with lines memorized. Eerie and at times otherworldly, the darkly comic tales in *Rerouted* take surprising detours, exploring what happens when plans change, things get weird, and fate is rerouted.

Daniel Bryant was born in Montreal and grew up in the small town of Aurora, Ontario. He graduated with an Honours B.A. in English from York University and received the Timothy Findley/William Whitehead Scholarship to attend the Humber School for Writers Correspondence Program. He has mentored with Paul Quarrington and Will Ferguson. *Rerouted* is his first collection of short stories. When not writing, Dan has worked many interesting jobs: at a large printing company, a tannery, a tart factory, and on a film crew. He currently works for Canada Post as a letter carrier. He lives in Toronto with his wife, Nancy.

\$19.95 • 204 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Short Stories • 978-0-88984-421-6



The House on Major Street

Leon Rooke

RECENTLY RELEASED

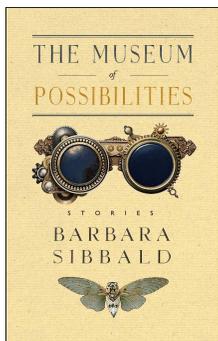
Populated by media personalities, literary characters, three-legged deer-like creatures and an array of idiosyncratic Toronto neighbours, Leon Rooke's latest extravaganza is an internal and external picaresque tale which begins with a dramatic bicycle accident and explores, along the way, the blurred boundaries between the stories we read, the stories we tell and the stories we live.

When free-spirited teenager Zan sets out on her bike to buy kitty litter she has no idea she's about to send her neighbour and maybe-sort-of crush Tallis into a months-long coma, kicking off a series of events both real and surreal that will change everything and everyone on her Toronto Annex street. Metafictional appearances are made by characters as diverse as J. J. O'Molloy, Chekhov's Riabovitch, an infamous lapdog and the indignant Rebecca Whitehall, heroine of fictional Sheila Shott's steamy romance novels. As these and divers others interact with the peculiarly ordinary inhabitants and neighbours of 2X8 Major Street, friendships, dalliances and alliances are formed and re-formed with uncommon results. Politics and literary culture intrude by turns. Through it all two questions overarch: Will Tallis ever wake up? And what will that mean for Zan?

Leon Rooke is an energetic and prolific storyteller whose writing is characterized by inventive language, experimental form and an extreme range of characters with distinctive voices. *Shakespeare's Dog* won the Governor General's Award in 1983 and toured as a play as far afield as Barcelona and Edinburgh. *A Good Baby* was made into a feature film. Rooke founded the Eden Mills Writers' Festival in 1989. In 2007, he was made a member of the Order of Canada. He lives in Toronto.

\$19.95 • 224 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Literary • 978-0-88984-419-3



The Museum of Possibilities

Barbara Sibbald

RECENTLY ACCLAIMED



A collection of 15 ‘shadow-box’ narratives—short, concentrated scenes depicting complicated relationships, strong emotions and hard consequences.

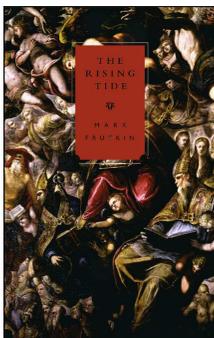
Barbara Sibbald presents a collection of quirky short stories focusing on pivotal moments of intense longing—for love, for power, for fame, for freedom, for revenge, and perhaps most of all, for connection in an increasingly disaffected world. Sibbald is a master of the slow burn, and of building psychological tensions in unexpected ways. And yet there is humour at times as well, which allows the reader bursts of levity that are at once ridiculous and delightfully dark.

The Museum of Possibilities is delivered in three parts. The five initial stories of women discovering the consequences of their actions—or inactions as the case may be—are full of psychological suspense, and verge on the supernatural. A second grouping of flash-fiction stories is wry, witty and satirical, and features the unbelievable antics of the jealous, bitter, disaffected and fearful who are trapped inside their own domestic purgatory. Lastly there is a short-story cycle and coming-of-age saga of air force brat Wanda. The stories in this section focus on Wanda’s first moments of sacrifice and jealousy, of sexual experimentation, of empathy, and of desperation, starting from childhood and proceeding through adolescence to adulthood.

Barbara Sibbald is an author, editor and journalist. She has published a number of books including *The Book of Love* and *Regarding Wanda*. A health journalist for over twenty years, she currently works as News and Humanities editor at the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. She lives in Ottawa, Ontario.

\$19.95 • 184 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Short Stories • 978-0-88984-400-1



The Rising Tide

Mark Frutkin

RECENTLY ACCLAIMED



'All things to excess might well have been the motto of Frutkin's 18th century Venice, which includes a selection of exceedingly malodorous cheeses, a wolf wearing a priest's cassock, a former priest living in a bordello, a virgin courtesan marked by a shocking version of stigmata, and a strange skeleton-bearing man who may or may not be Christ Almighty Again.'—Diane Schoemperlen

Venice, 1769. The City of Masks is awash with rumour. A strange man haunts the nearby island of Torcello, a skeleton strapped to his back. A wolf wearing a priest's cassock is spotted running through the fields. A mysterious courtesan bears signs of a most unusual form of stigmata. Michele Archenti, former priest and devil's advocate, and current publisher of a scandalous collection of erotic poetry, becomes reluctantly embroiled in political intrigue. Called upon to defend the skeleton-bearer—his friend Rodolfo—against charges of heresy, Archenti must navigate the murky political waters as well as the less-frequented canals of Venice, and outsmart the ambitious Inquisitor from Rome who vows not only to prosecute the heretic, but to see him burn. In the heady days of Carnival, the signs are ripe: the citizens of Venice prepare for the Second Coming of Christ.

Mark Frutkin is the author of over a dozen books of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. His works include the 2016 Trillium Book Award-winning *Fabrizio's Return*, which was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book, and *Atmospheres Apollinaire* (Porcupine's Quill, 1988), which was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award, the Trillium and the Ottawa Book Award. Frutkin lives in Ottawa.

\$22.95 • 224 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Canadian • 978-0-88984-414-8

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