

Many  
awesome  
reads.\*

\*2021  
Fall/Winter  
Catalogue

Book\* hug  
Press


**BOOK\*HUG PRESS**

Co-Publishers: Jay Millar and Hazel Millar


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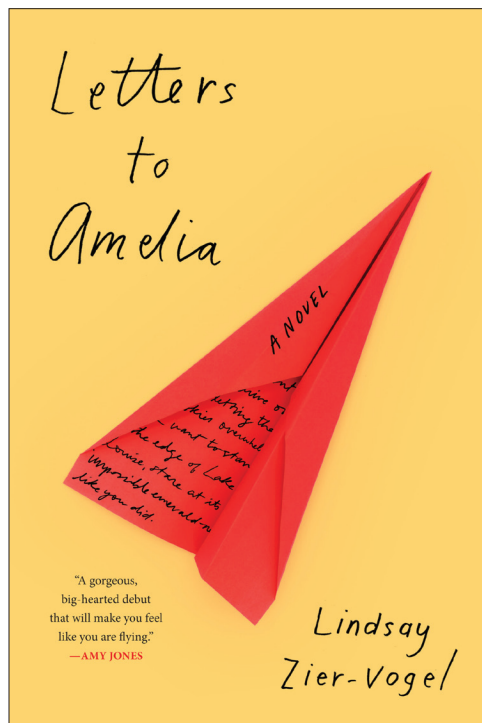
Catalogue cover by Gareth Lind / Lind Design

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Book\*hug Press acknowledges that the land on which we operate is the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples. We recognize the enduring presence of many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and are grateful for the opportunity to meet, work, and learn on this territory.

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## FRONTLIST FICTION



## LETTERS TO AMELIA

### Lindsay Zier-Vogel

Grace Porter is reeling from grief after her partner of seven years unexpectedly leaves. Amidst her heartache, the 30 year-old library tech is tasked with reading newly discovered letters that Amelia Earhart wrote to her lover, Gene Vidal. She becomes captivated by the famous pilot who disappeared in 1937. Letter by letter, she understands more about the aviation hero while piecing her own life back together.

When Grace discovers she is pregnant, her life becomes more intertwined with the mysterious pilot and Grace begins to write her own letters to Amelia. While navigating her third trimester, amidst new conspiracy theories about Amelia's disappearance, the search for her remains, and the impending publication of her private letters, Grace goes on a pilgrimage of her own.

*Letters to Amelia* is a story of the essential need for connection—and our universal ability to find hope in the face of fear.

#### Praise for *Letters to Amelia*:

"*Letters to Amelia* is a wonderful novel about flight and passion, about love-letters and reaching out; a novel about how we never know quite what's coming next, but still keep launching ourselves into the blue tomorrow."—Jon McGregor, Booker Prize longlisted author of *Reservoir 13*

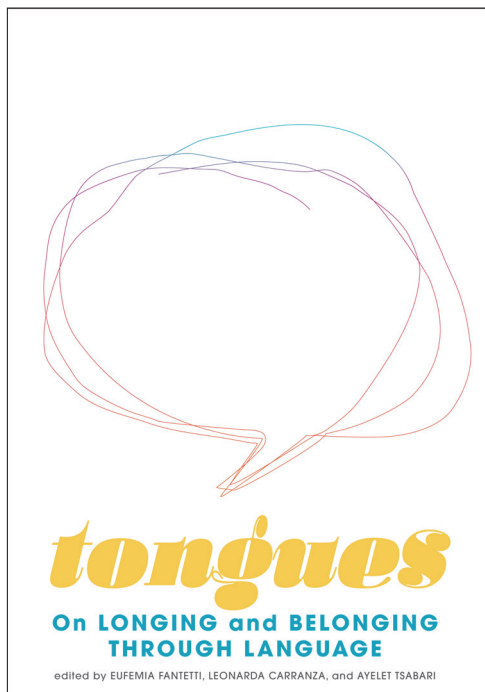
"*Letters to Amelia* invites us to hold our heroines close and to take heart – it is gentle and joyous, full of tenderness, alive and sturdy with hope."—Anne Michaels, author of *Fugitive Pieces* and *The Winter Vault*



PHOTO: PHILLIPA CROFT

**Lindsay Zier-Vogel** is a Toronto-based writer, arts educator and the creator of the internationally-acclaimed Love Lettering Project. After studying contemporary dance, she received her MA in Creative Writing from the University of Toronto. Her writing has been widely published in Canada and the U.K. Since 2001, she has been teaching creative writing workshops in schools and communities. Her hand-bound books are housed in the permanent collection at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library in Toronto. As the creator of the Love Lettering Project, Lindsay has asked people all over the world to write love letters to their communities and hide them for strangers to find, spreading place-based love. Lindsay also writes children's books. Because of The Love Lettering Project, CBC Radio has deemed Lindsay a "national treasure." *Letters to Amelia* is her first novel.

## FRONTLIST NONFICTION



## TONGUES: ON LONGING AND BELONGING THROUGH LANGUAGE

Edited by Eufemia Fantetti, Leonarda Carranza, and Ayelet Tsabari

In *Tongues: On Longing and Belonging Through Language* writers examine their intimate relationship with language in essays that are compelling and captivating. This vital anthology opens a dialogue about language diversity and probes the importance of language in our identity and the ways in which it shapes us.

In this collection of deeply personal essays, twenty-six writers explore their connection with language, accents, and vocabularies, and contend with the ways they can be used as both bridge and weapon. Some explore the way power and privilege affect language learning, especially the shame and exclusion often felt by non-native English speakers in a white, settler, colonial nation. Some confront the pain of losing a mother tongue or an ancestral language along with the loss of community and highlight the empowerment that comes with reclamation. Others celebrate the joys of learning a new language and the power of connection. All underscore how language can offer transformation and collective healing to various communities.

With contributions by: Kamal Al-Solaylee, Jenny Heijun Wills, Karen McBride, Melissa Bull, Leonarda Carranza, Adam Pottle, Kai Cheng Thom, Sigal Samuel, Rebecca Fisseha, Hege Anita Jakobsen Lepri, Logan Broeckaert, Taslim Jaffer, Ashley Hynd, Jagtar Kaul Atwal, Tea Mutionji, Rowan McCandless, Sahar Golshan, Camila Justino, Amanda Leduc, Ayelet Tsabari, Carrienne Leung, Janet Hong, Danny Ramadan, Sadiqa de Meijer, Jonina Kirton, and Eufemia Fantetti.

Essais Series No. 12

October 26, 2021 | Essays

5.75x8.25 inches | 220 pages

Trade Paper: 9781771667142 | \$25.00

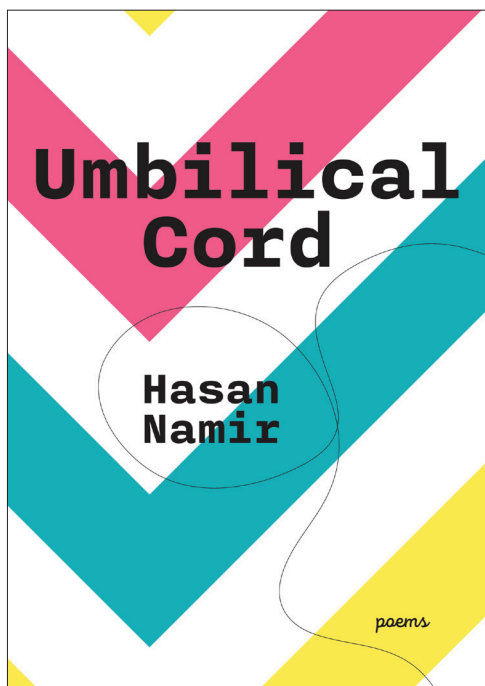
Editors Hometown: Toronto, ON, and  
Brampton, ON

**Eufemia Fantetti** is a graduate of The Writer's Studio at Simon Fraser University and holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph. Her short fiction collection, *A Recipe for Disaster and Other Unlikely Tales of Love*, was runner up for the Danuta Gleed Literary Award and winner of the F.G. Bressani Prize. She lives in Toronto.

**Leonarda Carranza** was raised in Tkaronto and born in El Salvador to a mixed-race family of Afro-Indigenous ancestry. She currently resides in Brampton, Ontario, part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. She holds a PhD in social justice education from the University of Toronto. Her children's book, *Abuelita and Me*, will be published in 2022. She is the winner of *Briarpatch Magazine's* Writing in the Margins contest, was shortlisted for *PRISM International's* short forms contest, and won *Room's* 2018 short forms contest for her piece, "White Spaces Brown Bodies."

**Ayelet Tsabari** was born in Israel to a large family of Yemeni descent. She is the author of *The Art of Leaving*, winner of the Canadian Jewish Literary Award for Memoir, finalist for the Writer's Trust Hilary Weston Prize, finalist for the Vine Awards for Nonfiction, and an Apple Books, CBC Books, and Kirkus Review Best Book of 2019. She lives in Toronto.

## FRONTLIST POETRY



September 14, 2021 | Poetry  
 8.75x5.75 inches | 112 pages  
 Trade Paper: 9781771667180 | \$20.00  
 Author Hometown: Vancouver, BC

## UMBILICAL CORD

### Hasan Namir

*Dear Child,  
 Once upon a time,  
 Your dads wanted to have a baby.  
 It was a life-long dream of ours.  
 We were always hopeful.*

Lambda Literary and Stonewall Book Award-winner Hasan Namir shares a joyful collection about parenting, fatherhood and hope. These warm free-verse poems document the journey that he and his husband took to have a child. Between love letters to their young son, Namir shares insight into his love story with his husband, the complexities of the IVF surrogacy process and the first year as a family of three. *Umbilical Cord* is a heartfelt book for parents or would be parents, with a universal message of hope.

#### Praise for *Umbilical Cord*:

*"Umbilical Cord takes a deep dive into all of the fears and anxieties of parenting as queer, but above all else, this book, at its core, is a love poem."* —Daniel Zomparelli, author of *Everything Is Awful and You're a Terrible Person*

*"This book brings to light the transformative experience of creating a family despite bigotry and adversity and the promises of unconditional love every parent makes. When Hasan Namir tells his son, 'I could scream and let the whole world know/You are our euphoria,' we swallow these words as witnesses."* —Adrienne Gruber, author of *Q&A*

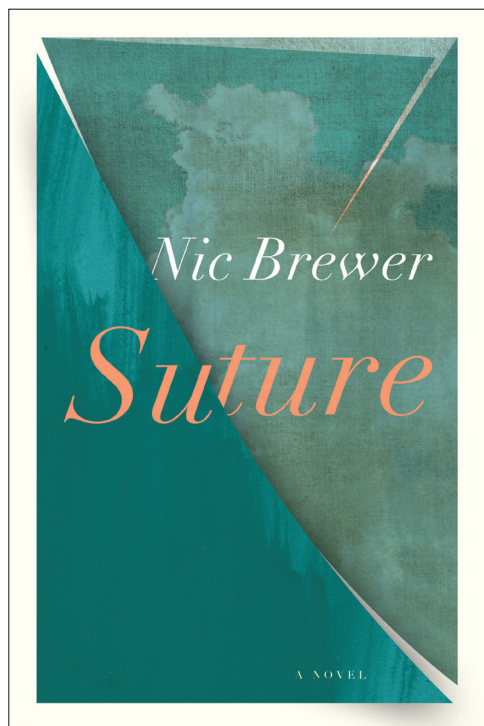
*"Hasan Namir's Umbilical Cord is an exceptionally beautiful love poem that lays bare the joy and complexity of family life. In this collection, Hasan continues to be a genius of confessional forms that breathe, sing, and cry."* —Jordan Scott, author of *Night & Ox*



PHOTO: TARN KHARE

**Hasan Namir** is an Iraqi-Canadian author. He graduated from Simon Fraser University with a BA in English and received the Ying Chen Creative Writing Student Award. He is the author of *God in Pink* (2015), which won the Lambda Literary Award for Best Gay Fiction and was chosen as one of the Top 100 Books of 2015 by *The Globe and Mail*. His work has also been in media across Canada. He is also the author of poetry book *War/Torn* (2019, Book\*hug Press) which received the 2020 Barbara Gittings Honor Book Award from the Stonewall Book Awards, and children's book *The Name I Call Myself* (2020). Hasan lives in Vancouver with his husband and child.

## FICTION



## SUTURE

### Nic Brewer

To make her films, Eva must take out her eyes and use them as batteries. To make her art, Finn must cut open her chest and remove her lungs and heart. To write her novels, Grace must use her blood to power the word processor.

*Suture* shares three interweaving stories of artists tearing themselves open to make art. Each artist baffles their family, or harms their loved ones, with their necessary sacrifices. Eva's wife worries about her mental health; Finn's teenager follows in her footsteps, using forearm bones for drumsticks; Grace's network constantly worries about the prolific writer's penchant for self-harm, and the over-use of her vitals for art.

The result is a hyper-real exploration of the cruelties we commit and forgive in ourselves and others. Brewer brings a unique perspective to mental illness while exploring how support systems in relationships—spousal, parental, familial—can be both helpful and damaging.

This exciting debut novel is a highly original meditation on the fractures within us, and the importance of empathy as medicine and glue.

#### Praise for *Suture*:

"*Suture* is a daring, visceral debut that examines the painful side of the creative process. Blending body horror with meditations on love, art, and forgiveness, this novel will startle and captivate you."

—Catriona Wright, author of *Difficult People*

"Nic Brewer's *Suture* is a fleshy, flashy, not-for-the-faint-of-heart tale that poetically reimagines artmaking into the gory-yet-tender body horror that it has—perhaps—always figuratively been. Hold on to your guts."

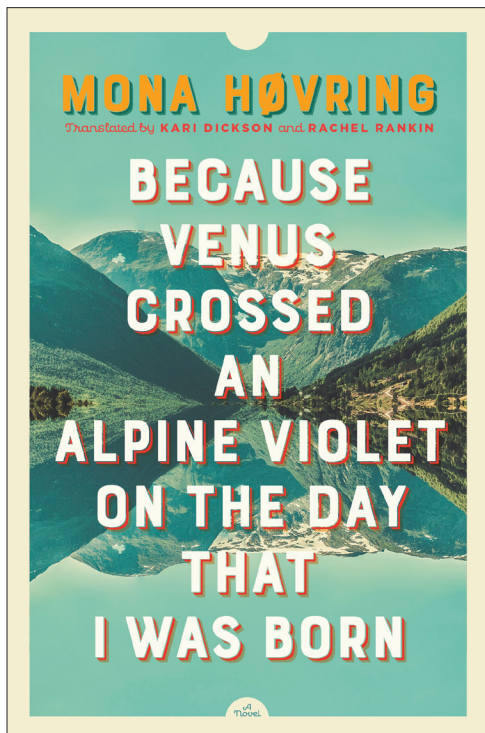
—John Elizabeth Stintzi, author of *Vanishing Monuments* and *My Volcano*

"I read this book with wonder—Brewer's confident prose swept me along. Hers is sure, sharp writing that doesn't flinch from tenderness. I felt this book in my body. I ached (in my heart and bones, along an old, spidery scar that split my chest in two) long after I set it down. What a privilege to read this work." —Gillian Wigmore, author of *Glory*

**Nic Brewer** is a writer and editor from Toronto. She writes fiction, mostly, which has appeared in *Canthius*, the *Hart House Review*, and *Hypertrophic Literary*, among others. She is the co-founder of *FronD*, an online literary journal for prose by LGBTQI2SA writers, and formerly co-managed the micropress *words(on)pages*. She lives in Kitchener, ON, with her partner and her dog. *Suture* is her first book.



PHOTO: BECCA LEMIRE



## BECAUSE VENUS CROSSED AN ALPINE VIOLET ON THE DAY THAT I WAS BORN

Mona Høvring

Translated by Kari Dickson & Rachel Rankin

Winner of the 2021 Dobloug Prize

Winner of the Norwegian Critics' Prize for Literature

Shortlisted for the Norwegian Booksellers' Prize

In a hotel, high up in a mountain village, two sisters aim to reconnect after distant years that contrast their close, almost twin-like upbringing. Martha has just been discharged from a sanatorium after a mental breakdown. Ella agrees to keep her company in the hope that the clean winter air will provide clarity—and a way back to their childhood connection.

It's only when plans go awry, and Martha disappears in a rage, that Ella discovers a new sense of self outside her filial role. This identity is reinforced by various encounters: the hotel receptionist who takes her under her wing; the enigmatic love interest; the wistful, drunken Salvation Army soldier; the carpenter. And not least, Ella's encounter with the writings of Stefan Zweig, which have a profound impact.

Mona Høvring's award-winning novel *Because Venus Crossed an Alpine Violet on the Day that I Was Born* is as sharp as it is sensitive; insightful as it is original when exploring the many distractions of the heart.

### Praise for *Because Venus Crossed an Alpine Violet on the Day that I Was Born*:

"A luminous tale of the burdensome tenderness between sisters and the emotional tumult of breaking free, Høvring's novel transports you to the faded grandeur of a hotel high up in a Norwegian mountain village. Høvring's prose, in Rankin and Dickson's translation, is sensual and searching and allusive; it shimmers with a strange winter light. I fell immediately under its spell." —Aimee Wall, author of *We, Jane*

**Mona Høvring** is the author of six poetry collections and four novels. Her previous novels include the acclaimed *Something That Helps* (2004), *The Waiting Room in the Atlantic* (2012), winner of the Unified Language Prize, and *Camilla's Long Nights* (2013), nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize. *Because Venus Crossed an Alpine Violet on the Day that I Was Born* won the 2021 Dobloug Prize, the Norwegian Critics Prize for Literature, was a finalist for the Norwegian Booksellers' Prize, and was included on numerous critics' Best of 2018 book lists.

Literature in Translation Series  
June 22, 2021 | Fiction  
8x5.25 inches | 146 pages  
Trade Paper: 9781771667067 | \$23.00  
Author Hometown: Oslo, NOR  
Translators Hometown: Edinburgh, SCT

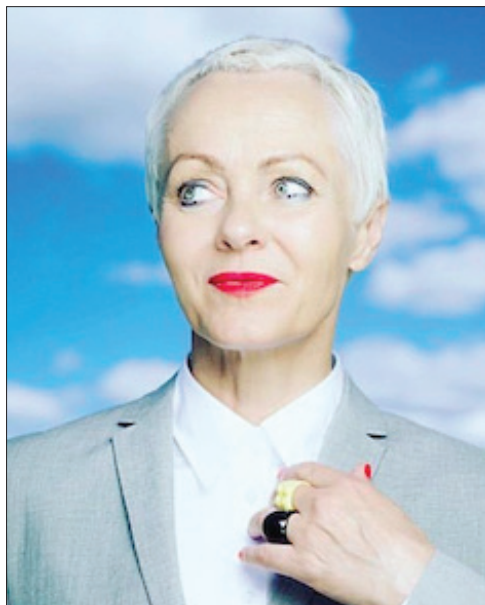


PHOTO: AGNETE BRUN

## POETRY



## ICELAND IS MELTING AND SO ARE YOU

Talya Rubin

The urgency of the climate emergency is explored in this latest collection by award-winning poet Talya Rubin. It offers recognition of, and salve for, the vast mysteries of the natural world, our human interior, and the relationship between the two.

In these poems, human and wild meet in everyday encounters: the melting of ice sheets and fathoming ecological disaster while listening to news reports on the radio; moments of childhood ice skating and unrequited love alongside geological formations and weather patterns. Underlying the collection is a mild sense of absurdity, one that mirrors our existential absurdity of continuing on in the face of what feels like impossibility.

*Iceland is Melting and So Are You* asks us to consider what we have kept frozen and unexamined within us and—in doing so—recognize the complex grief and wonder we face in considering the end of the human epoch.

### Praise for *Iceland is Melting and So Are You*:

"*Iceland is Melting and So Are You* is a fierce and melancholy collection of poems that both directly and indirectly addresses the central concern of the twenty-first century: global warming."

—Wyn Cooper, author of *The Way Back*

"What does it mean to grieve for a glacier? *Iceland Is Melting and So Are You* takes readers into the right now of the climate crisis, where the daily "thunder of collapse" is deafening, yet too often ignored."

—Claire Caldwell, author of *Gold Rush*

"Rubin's poetry goes to work, enacting what Goethe called, "active seeing"—joining the observer to the observed, resolving subject and object in an experience of poetic perception."

—Asa Boxer, author of *The Narrow Cabinet*

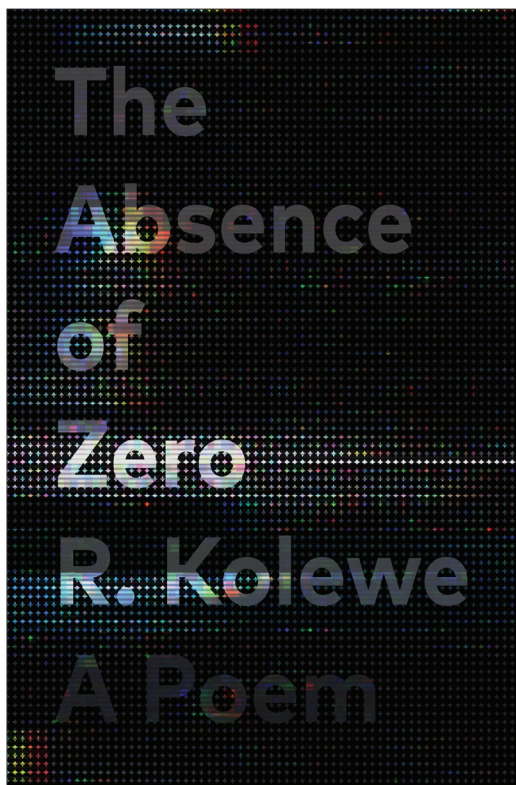
**Talya Rubin** is a Canadian poet originally from Montreal. She was awarded the RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers from the Writers' Trust of Canada in 1998. Her poetry has been longlisted for the CBC Poetry Prize and the Montreal International Poetry Prize. In 2015, she won the Battle of the Bards and was invited to read at the Toronto International Festival of Authors. Her first collection, *Leaving the Island*, was published in 2015. Talya holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia. She also runs a theatre company called Too Close to the Sun, and currently lives in Perth, Australia with her husband and son.

October 12, 2021 | Poetry  
8.75x5.75 inches | 96 pages  
Trade Paper: 9781771667227 | \$20.00  
Author Hometown: Montreal, QC;  
Perth, AUS



PHOTO: NICK JAMES

## NONFICTION



November 9, 2021 | Poetry  
 8x5.25 inches | 432 pages  
 Trade Paper: 9781771667265 | \$28.00  
 Author Hometown: Toronto, ON

## THE ABSENCE OF ZERO

R. Kolewe

*The Absence of Zero* is a triumphantly-executed celebration of the long poem tradition. Consisting of 256 16-line quartets, and 34 free-form interruptions, this slow-moving haunting work is a beautiful example of thinking in language, a meditation that explores time and memory in both content and form. The 20th century is already more than 20 years past: *The Absence of Zero* is Kolewe's elegy to that era, and the disparate fragments of its ideas that continue to affect and disrupt our present.

Praise for *The Absence of Zero*:

"Absolutely absorbing, returning again and again to this place, this street, this window, this room. Know that once you enter, there is no going back. The presence of absence, all too familiar, begins to read, occupy you. It's a glorious achievement. Prepare to be mesmerized."

—KIRBY, author of *Poetry is Queer*

"Ralph Kolewe's *The Absence of Zero* is a daring, daily progression that depends upon return as palimpsest. Call it what it is. Gorgeous. Steadfastly urgent. Patient as dawn."

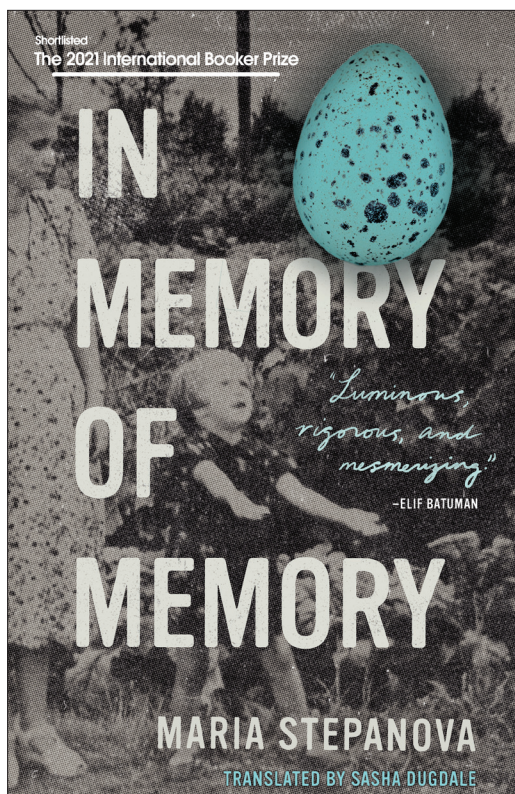
—Margaret Christakos, author of *charger* and *Dear Birch*



PHOTO: R. KOLEWE

**R. Kolewe** was born in Montreal and lives in Toronto. Educated in physics and engineering at the University of Toronto, he pursued a successful career in the software industry for many years. He now lives in Toronto, and writes full time. His work has appeared online at *ditch*, *e-ratio*, *The Puritan*, and *(parenthetical)*, as well as in the *Literary Review of Canada* and *PRISM International*. He is the author of two previous poetry collections, including *Afterletters* (Book\*hug Press, 2014) and *Inspecting Nostalgia* (2017).

## RECENT NOTABLE TITLES



**In Memory of Memory**  
by Maria Stepanova  
translated by Sasha Dugdale

Shortlisted for the 2021 International Booker Prize

March 2021, 448pp  
ISBN 9781771666596  
\$25.00

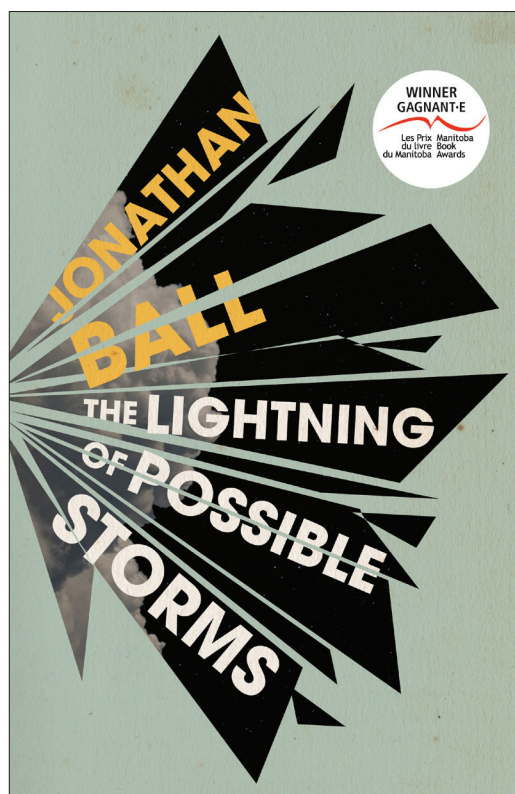
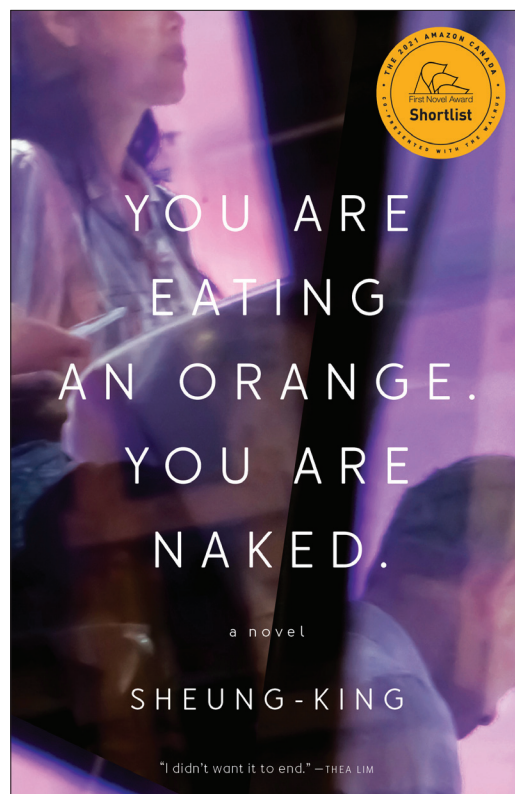
**You Are Eating an Orange.  
You Are Naked.**  
by Sheung-King

Finalist for the 2021 Amazon  
Canada First Novel Award

Longlisted for Canada Reads  
2021

"I didn't want it to end."  
Thea Lim

October 2020, 182pp  
ISBN 9781771666411  
\$20.00



**The Lightning of Possible Storms**  
by Jonathan Ball

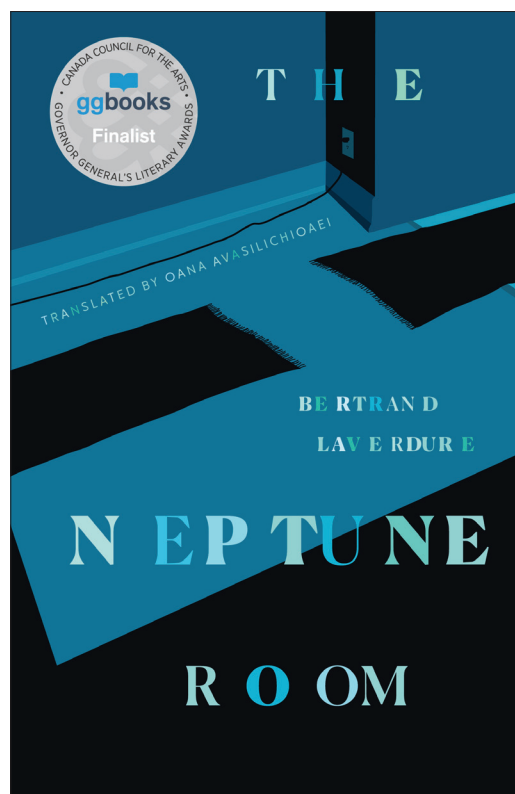
Winner of the 2021 Margaret  
Laurence Award for Fiction

September 2020, 260pp  
ISBN 9781771666138  
\$20.00

**The Neptune Room**  
by Bertrand Laverdure  
translated by Oana Avasilichioaei

Finalist for the 2020 Governor  
General's Literary Award for  
Translation

August 2020, 280pp  
ISBN 9781771665810  
\$20.00



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\*Adventures in literary publishing since 2004.

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