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literary publishing

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**Catalogue  
Spring 2024**

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“A thoughtful, searching novel about connection and love in all its many forms, from fleeting encounters with strangers to bonds with chosen kin. There is a deep generosity in these reflections on art and friendship, uncertainty and loss, and a beautiful openness to the world. This book left me feeling less alone.”

—Aimee Wall, author of *We, Jane*

Paperback / 9781771669009  
CAD 23.00 / USD 20.00

To read an excerpt of this book,  
visit [bookhugpress.ca](http://bookhugpress.ca)

## THESE SONGS I KNOW BY HEART

*Written by Erin Brubacher*

Pub Date: May 7, 2024

Extent: 204 pp

Trim: 5.25 in x 8.00 in

FICTION / Literary  
FIC019000

FICTION / Friendship  
FIC071000

FICTION / Family Life / Marriage & Divorce  
FIC045010

Married and divorced in her 20s, looking for friendship in her 30s, and contemplating pregnancy at 40, our narrator wonders if she's going through life out of order. But Alice, The Turtle, The Kid, and other beloveds show her that motherhood is more than giving birth, art is never finished, and love is not linear.

Through a three-day canoe trip, chance encounters, fierce female friendship, step-parenting, IVF, pandemic isolation, and quiet moments between humans, *These Songs I Know By Heart* weaves vignettes of everyday mythology into an absorbing and honest meditation on the connections in our lives. With razor-sharp reflection, humour, and most of all love, we are reminded that there's no formula to life and that instead, we must celebrate what makes the small moments of our lives extraordinary.



ERIN BRUBACHER is a multidisciplinary artist. She is the author of the poetry collection *In the small hours: Thirty-nine months & seven days* and co-author of the hybrid, performance-based book *7th Cousins: An Automythography*. Her award-winning work in theatre has taken her to contexts including the National Arts Centre (Ottawa), the Aga Khan Museum (Toronto), Festival Internacional Cervantino (Mexico), Theater der Welt (Germany), and the Edinburgh International Festival (UK). Erin lived in ten cities before returning to Toronto, where she makes a home with her husband and four children.



### KEY SELLING FEATURES

- Debut novel by award-winning multidisciplinary artist.
- Candidly discusses both step-parenting and IVF journey.
- A beautiful and uplifting celebration of friendship, love, family, community building, and support networks.
- For fans of Jenny Offill, Rachel Cusk, Sheila Heti, and Sarah Polley.



“Breathtaking in scope and thrillingly thoughtful, *Disobedience* lit up so many parts of my brain at once. In their dystopia that is a terrifyingly logical extension of our present moment, Daniel Sarah Karasik illuminates so much about our broken society, and the precious commodity of trust. A dire warning that is also dramatic, sexy, and bleakly hopeful, this story will stay with me for a very long time.”

—Jessica Westhead,  
author of *Avalanche*

Paperback / 9781771668972  
CAD 23.00 / USD 20.00

To read an excerpt of this book,  
visit [bookhugpress.ca](http://bookhugpress.ca)

## DISOBEDIENCE

Written by Daniel Sarah Karasik

Pub Date: May 21, 2024

Extent: 220 pp

Trim: 5.25 in x 8.00 in

FICTION / Dystopian  
FIC055000

FICTION / LGBTQ+ / Transgender  
FIC073000

FICTION / Political  
FIC037000

Shael lives in a vast prison camp, a monstrosity developed after centuries of warfare and environmental catastrophe. As a young transfeminine person, they risk abject violence if their identity and love affair with Coe, an insurrectionary activist, are discovered. But desire and rebellion flare, and soon Shael escapes to Riverwish, a settlement attempting to forge a new way of living that counters the camp's repression.

As the complexities of this place unfold before Shael, *Disobedience* asks: How can a community redress harm without reproducing unaccountable forms of violence? How do we heal? What might a compassionate, sustainable model of justice look like?

This is a remarkable work of queer and trans speculative fiction that imagines how alternative forms of connection and power can refuse the violent institutions that engulf us.

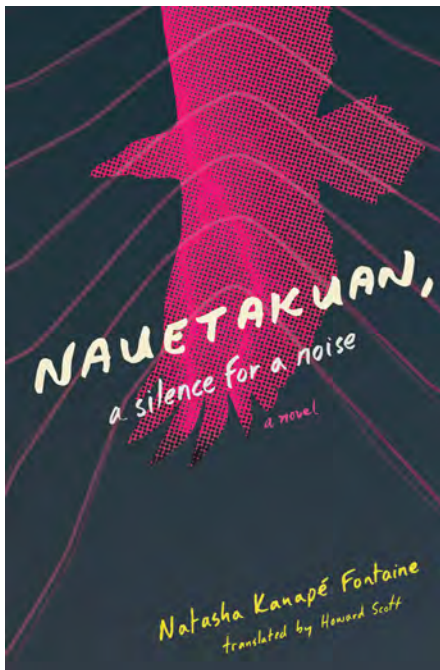


DANIEL SARAH KARASIK (they/them) is the author of many books, including two poetry collections, *Plenitude* and *Hungry*, and the short story collection *Faithful and Other Stories*. Their work has been recognized with the Toronto Arts Foundation's Emerging Artist Award, the CBC Short Story Prize, and the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Award. They organize with the network Artists for Climate & Migrant Justice and Indigenous Sovereignty (ACMJIS), among other groups, and are the founding managing editor of *Midnight Sun*, a magazine of socialist strategy, analysis, and culture. They live in Toronto.



### KEY SELLING FEATURES

- Debut novel by nonbinary, transfeminine poet and playwright, who has won the Toronto Arts Foundation's Emerging Artist Award and the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Award.
- A remarkable work of queer and trans speculative, dystopian fiction that imagines how alternative forms of connection and power can refuse the violent institutions that engulf us.
- Speculative, dystopian fiction rooted in a revolutionary socialist political subjectivity.



Paperback / 9781771668941  
CAD 23.00 / USD 20.00

To read an excerpt of this book,  
visit [bookhugpress.ca](http://bookhugpress.ca)

## NAUETAKUAN, A SILENCE FOR A NOISE

*Written by Natasha Kanapé Fontaine*

*Translated by Howard Scott*

Pub Date: June 11, 2024

Extent: 248 pp

Trim: 5.25 in x 8.00 in

FICTION / Indigenous  
FIC059000

FICTION / Cultural Heritage  
FIC051000

FICTION / Friendship  
FIC071000

*"What's happening to you is just that the visible and the invisible are finding each other through you. You are the passageway for our reconnection. You and your generation are the ones who will give our memory back to us..."*

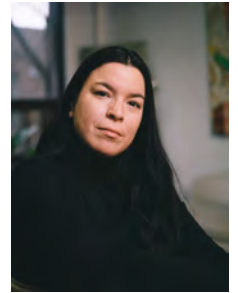
Monica, a young woman studying art history in Montreal, has lost touch with her Innu roots. When an exhibition unexpectedly articulates a deep, intergenerational wound, she begins to search for a stronger connection to her Indigeneity. A quickly found friendship with Katherine, an Indigenous woman whose life is filled with culture and community, underscores for Monica the possibilities of turning from assimilation and toxic masculinity to something much deeper—and more universal than she expects.

Travelling across the continent, from Eastern Canada to Vancouver to Mexico City, Monica connects with other Indigenous artists and thinkers, learning about the power of traditional ways and the struggles of other Nations. Throughout these journeys, physical and creative, she is guided by visions of giant birds and ancestors, who draw her back home to Pessamit. Reckonings with family and floods await, but amidst strange tides, she reconnects to her language, Innu-aimun, and her people.

A timely and riveting story of reclamation, matriarchies, and the healing ability of traditional teachings, *Nauetakuan, a Silence for a Noise* underscores how reconnecting to lineage and community can transform Indigenous futures.



**NATASHA KANAPÉ FONTAINE** is an Innu writer, poet and interdisciplinary artist from Pessamit, on the Nitassinan (North Shore, Quebec). She lives in Tio'tia:ke, known as Montreal. Her critically acclaimed poetry and essays are widely taught and have been translated into several languages. In 2017, she received the Rights and Freedoms Award for her poetry and contribution to bringing people closer through art, writing, performance, dialogue, respect, and cultural exchange. In 2021, she received the Chevalier de l'Ordre des arts et des lettres de la République française. She also works as a translator, screenwriter, sensitivity reader, and consultant on Indigenous literature.



**HOWARD SCOTT** is a literary translator living in Montreal who translates fiction, poetry and non-fiction, often with Phyllis Aronoff. He received the Governor General's Literary Award for Translation for *The Euguelion* by Louky Bersianik and, with Phyllis Aronoff, won the Quebec Writers' Federation Translation Award for *The Great Peace of Montreal of 1701* by Gilles Havard. The translating duo were also awarded a Governor General's Literary Award for their translation of *Descent into Night* by Edem Awumey. Scott is past president of the Literary Translators' Association of Canada.



## KEY SELLING FEATURES

- From award-winning, multi-disciplinary artist Natasha Kanapé Fontaine, comes a powerful and moving story of identify and reclamation.
- This powerful novel tells a very personal story of intergenerational trauma and reconciliation with the past, while also providing a broad perspective on Indigenous issues and the importance of the arts, culture, and language.
- A lyrical and poetic work of autofiction and magical realism. For fans of Billy-Ray Belcourt, Tommy Orange, Katherena Vermette, Jordan Abel, and Terese Marie Mailhot.





Paperback / 9781771668996  
CAD 23.00

To read an excerpt of this book,  
visit [bookhugpress.ca](http://bookhugpress.ca)

## ELEVATOR IN SAIGON

Written by Thuận

Translated by Nguyễn An Lý

Pub Date: July 9, 2024

Extent: 192 pp

Trim: 5.25 in x 8.00 in

FICTION / Literary  
FIC019000

FICTION / Mystery & Detective / Amateur Sleuth  
FIC022100

FICTION / Satire  
FIC052000

From the author of *Chinatown* comes a personal and political, tragic and biting satirical, ethereal journey through Hanoi, Saigon, Paris, Pyongyang, and Seoul.

A Vietnamese woman living in Paris travels back to Saigon for her estranged mother's funeral. Her brother had recently built a new house in Saigon, and staged a grotesquely lavish ceremony for their mother to inaugurate what was rumoured to be the first elevator in a private home in the country. But shortly after the ceremony, in the middle of the night, their mother dies after mysteriously falling down the elevator shaft.

Following the funeral, the daughter becomes increasingly fascinated with her family's history, and begins to investigate and track an enigmatic figure, Paul Polotski, who emerges from her mother's notebook. Like an amateur sleuth, she trails Polotski through the streets of Paris, sneaking behind him as he goes about his usual routines; meanwhile, she researches her mother's past—zigzagging across France and Asia—trying to find clues to the spiralling, deepening questions her mother left behind unanswered—and perhaps unanswerable.

Still banned in Vietnam, *Elevator in Saigon* is a suspenseful novel that is part detective story, historical romance, postcolonial ghost story, and a biting satire of life in a communist state.



**THUẬN** was born in 1967 in Hanoi. She studied at Pyatigorsk University (Russia) and at la Sorbonne in Paris. She is the author of ten novels and a recipient of the Writers' Union Prize, the highest award in Vietnamese literature. Seven of her novels were translated and published in France. *Chinatown*, her debut novel in English, won a PEN Translates Award, the 2023 ALTA National Translation Award, and was shortlisted for the 2023 Republic of Consciousness Prize. She currently lives in Paris.



**NGUYỄN AN LÝ** lives in Hochiminh City. She has over 20 translations into Vietnamese, published under various names and in various genres, including authors such as Margaret Atwood, Donna Tartt, Kazuo Ishiguro, Richard Flanagan, J. L. Borges, and the poetry in *The Lord of the Rings*. As an editor, she has worked on translations from Nabokov, A. S. Byatt, Roland Barthes, Joseph Campbell, Viet Thanh Nguyen, and Liu Cixin, among others. *Chinatown* by Thuận, her debut translation into English, won an English PEN Translates Award and the 2023 ALTA National Translation Award in Prose. She co-founds and co-edits the independent online *Zzz Review*.



### KEY SELLING FEATURES

- From the award-winning author and translator duo of *Chinatown*.
- Thuận is a dynamic and much lauded voice in contemporary Vietnamese literature and is the author of more than ten novels.
- *Elevator in Saigon* is a thrilling and masterful novel that is part hard boiled detective story, postcolonial ghost story, historical romance, and is a biting satire of life in a communist state.
- A haunting tale of lost love, migration, politics, racism, and deep dark family secrets.



“Wildly experimental, and yet movingly traditional. Ironic, and yet obsessed with spell-making. Full of allusions to various canonical voices, and yet heart-wrenchingly direct. What, friends, is this? It’s that glorious thing: the poetry of Maria Stepanova.”

—Ilya Kaminsky

Paperback / 9781771669276  
CAD 22.95

To read an excerpt of this book,  
[visit bookhugpress.ca](http://visitbookhugpress.ca)

## HOLY WINTER

Written by Maria Stepanova  
Translated by Sasha Dugdale

Pub Date: May 14, 2024

Extent: 80 pp

Trim: 5.50 in x 8.50 in

POETRY / Russian & Soviet  
POE016000

POETRY / Subjects & Themes / War  
POE023070

POETRY / Women Authors  
POE024000

A deeply moving poem about winter and exile, war and the pandemic from “Russia’s greatest living poet” (*Poetry*) and the acclaimed author of *In Memory of Memory*.

The outbreak of Covid-19 cut short Maria Stepanova’s 2020 stay in Cambridge. Back in Russia, she spent the ensuing months in a state of torpor—the world had withdrawn from her, time had “gone numb.” When she awoke from this state, she began to read Ovid, and the shock of the pandemic dissolved into the voices and metaphors of a transformative, epochal experience. *Holy Winter*, a book-length poem written in a frenzy of poetic inspiration, speaks of winter and war, of banishment and exile, of social isolation and existential abandonment. Stepanova finds sublime imagery for the process of falling silent, interweaving love letters and travelogues, Chinese verse and Danish fairy tales into a polyphonic evocation of frozen time and its slow thawing.

As a poet and essayist, Stepanova was a highly influential figure for many years in Moscow’s cosmopolitan literary scene until it was strangled by Putin, along with civil liberties and dissent. Like Joseph Brodsky before her, she has mastered modern poetry’s rich repertoire of forms and moves effortlessly between the languages and traditions of Russian, European, and transatlantic literature, potently yet subtly creating a voice like no other.

Her poetry, which here echoes verses by Pushkin and Lermontov, Mandelstam and Tsvetaeva, is not hermetic. She takes in and incorporates the confusing signals from social networks and the media, opening herself up to the voices of kindred poets like Sylvia Plath, Inger Christensen, and Anne Carson.

**MARIA STEPANOVA**, born in Moscow in 1972, is one of the most powerful and distinctive voices of Russia's first post-Soviet literary generation. She is an award-winning poet, novelist, essayist, and journalist. Stepanova's works have been translated into many languages and published widely. She has received several literary awards, including the prestigious Andrey Bely Prize and Joseph Brodsky Fellowship. Her novel, *In Memory of Memory*, was a finalist for the 2021 International Booker Prize and has been translated into many languages. Stepanova founded and was editor-in-chief of the online independent crowd-sourced journal Colta.ru, which engaged with contemporary Russia's cultural, social, and political reality until the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine when all dissenting media in Russia were forced to shut down. As a prominent critic of Putin's regime, Stepanova had to leave Russia and is now living in exile in Berlin.

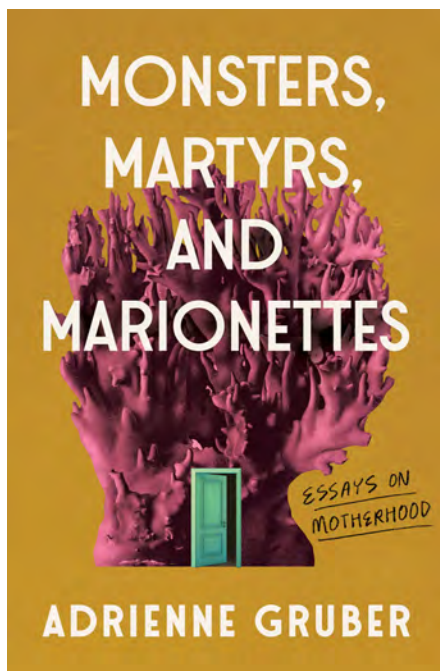


**SASHA DUGDALE** is a poet and translator. She has published five collections of poetry with Carcanet (UK), the most recent, *Deformations*, was shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize. She is a translator of Russian drama and poetry, including work by Elena Shvarts, Maria Stepanova and Marina Tsvetaeva, and former editor of the international magazine *Modern Poetry in Translation*.



## KEY SELLING FEATURES

- From the internationally-acclaimed author of *In Memory of Memory*
- book-length poem from one of Russia's most important and outspoken contemporary poets
- For fans of kindred poets like Sylvia Plath, Inger Christensen, and Anne Carson.
- Stepanova has been called Russia's most important living poet. Her poetry echoes verses by Pushkin, Lermontov, Mandelstam, and Tsvetaeva.
- Stepanova wrote *Holy Winter* during Covid, from her dacha in the Russian countryside over the winter of 2020/2021, in a frenzy of poetic inspiration.
- This collection speaks of winter and war, of banishment and exile, of social isolation and existential abandonment.
- *Holy Winter* is translated by award-winning UK poet Sasha Dugdale
- As a prominent critic of Putin's regime, Stepanova had to leave Russia after its invasion of Ukraine and is now living in exile.



“In this stunning and deeply personal collection of essays, Gruber explores modern motherhood in all its beautiful, terrifying, confusing, grotesque, joyful, sometimes mundane, sometimes ridiculous glory, in a way that is both intimate and yet wholly universal...Honest, tender, and firmly rooted in the body and its connection to the natural world, *Monsters, Martyrs, and Marionettes* is a deep, anguished howl in the dark, a love letter to a complex family, and a careful catalogue of the things we pass on, and the things we must carry on our own.”

—Amy Jones, author of *Pebble & Dove*

## MONSTERS, MARTYRS, AND MARIONETTES

*Written by Adrienne Gruber*

Pub Date: May 1, 2024

Extent: 146 pp

Trim: 5.25 in x 8.00 in

FAMILY & RELATIONSHIPS / Parenting / Motherhood  
FAM032000

LITERARY COLLECTIONS / Essays  
LCO010000

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Personal Memoirs  
BIO026000

*Monsters, Martyrs, and Marionettes* is a revelatory collection of personal essays that subverts the stereotypes and transcends the platitudes of family life to examine motherhood with blistering insight.

Documenting the birth and early life of her three daughters, Adrienne Gruber shares what it really means to use one's body to bring another life into the world and the lasting ramifications of that act on both parent and child. Each piece peers into the seemingly mundane to show us the mortal and emotional consequences of maternal bonds, placing experiences of "being a mom" within broader contexts—historical, literary, biological, and psychological—to speak to the ugly realities of parenthood often omitted from mainstream conversations.

Ultimately, this deeply moving, graceful collection forces us to consider how close we are to death, even in the most average of moments, and how beauty is a necessary celebration amidst the chaos of being alive.

Paperback / 9781771669030  
CAD 23.00 / USD 20.00

To read an excerpt of this book,  
visit [bookhugpress.ca](http://bookhugpress.ca)



ADRIENNE GRUBER is an award-winning writer originally from Saskatoon. She is the author of five chapbooks, three books of poetry, including *Q & A*, *Buoyancy Control*, and *This is the Nightmare*, and the creative nonfiction collection, *Monsters, Martyrs, and Marionnettes: Essays on Motherhood*. She won the 2015 *Antigonish Review's* Great Blue Heron poetry contest, *SubTerrain's* 2017 Lush Triumphant poetry contest, placed third in *Event's* 2020 creative non-fiction contest, and was the runner up in *SubTerrain's* 2023 creative non-fiction contest. Both her poetry and non-fiction has been longlisted for the CBC Books awards. In 2012, *Mimic* was awarded the bp Nichol Chapbook Award. Adrienne lives with her partner and their three daughters on Nexw̓lélex̓m (Bowen Island), B.C., the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples.



### KEY SELLING FEATURES

- In this collection of personal lyrical essays, Gruber pulls everyday experiences of birthing and motherhood into a broader context—historical, literary, biological, psychological, etc.
- Defying the easy platitudes surrounding mental health, birthing, mothering, and family, Gruber offers some welcome if brutal truths, exploring the ugly realities of bringing life into the world.
- Clearly established poetic sensibilities brought to the lyrical essay form, from a writer whose prose style is dynamic, candid, and visceral.
- Gruber possesses a great agility in her writing, an ability to jump from idea to idea, context to context, with grace and ease, a skill that brings great beauty and meaning to her work.
- For fans of Leslie Jamieson, Heather Christie, and Sarah Manguso.

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