

New Star Books

Fall 2018

new titles + recent highlights



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A SHORT HISTORY OF NEW STAR BOOKS

In 1969, a group of writers and editors published the first of several literary supplements inserted into the weekly *Straight*. The Georgia *Straight* Writing Supplement featured work by writers such as *Straight* editor/publisher Dan MacLeod, Stan Persky, Milton Acorn, Gerry Gilbert, Jack Spicer, George Stanley, Robin Blaser, Maria Hindmarch, Jim Herndon, Dennis Wheeler, and Colin Stuart.

Soon the GSWS began publishing books, including works by Bill Bissett, Judith Copithorne, Fred Wah, Brian Fawcett, George Bowering, and Daphne Marlatt. Within another year, many of the GSWS writers left the

Straight to continue under a new imprint, Vancouver Community Press, based at "the York St. commune."

By 1974, the press began to emphasize non-fiction titles about current affairs and politics. One of these books, *Two Roads* by Jack Scott, a largely positive account of the People's Republic of China (Scott was one of the first westerners to visit, and write an account of, the China of Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution) inspired another name change, to New Star Books.

By 1978, the York Street commune was no more, and Lanny Beckman, who had joined the press in 1974, be-

came publisher, a position he held until 1990, when Rolf Maurer assumed the role. This last change coincided with a return to the press's literary roots: while New Star continues to publish books about politics and social issues, it also resumed publishing poetry, as well as prose fiction and non-fiction. As well, books on local history and culture became an important component of New Star's list.

In 1998, New Star moved across town to its current location, at 18th and Commercial Street in East Vancouver. Today, New Star Books publishes four to ten new titles per year.

A WORD ON OUR SPONSORS

This country's literary culture is made possible by the citizens of Canada and BC through the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$153 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country, and the BC Arts Council. Be sure to let your elected representatives know of your support for these vital initiatives.



Cover photograph by David Wisdom, from *Mudflat Dreaming*

Jean Walton

Mudflat Dreaming

Waterfront Battles and the Squatters Who Fought Them in 1970s Vancouver

This is necessary history, rooted in place and deeply West Coast.

—Daphne Marlatt

***Mudflat Dreaming* tells the story** of two communities on Vancouver's waterfront fringes in the 1970s.

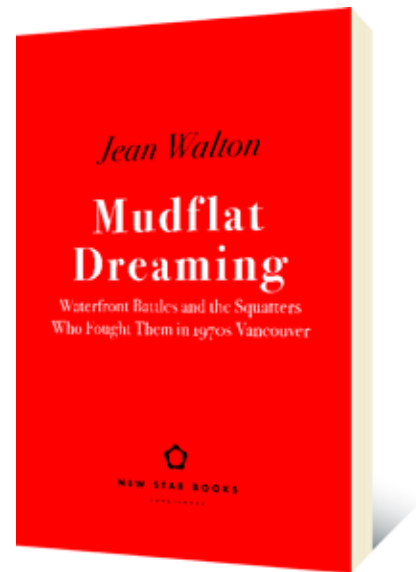
On the North Shore, a counter-cultural village of float houses and shacks on stilts sprouted on the estuarial Maplewood Mudflats. A few miles to the south, on the southern banks of the Fraser River above New Westminster, the long-established Bridgeview neighbourhood was mired in an endless battle with local city council for basic amenities.

As a teenager, Jean Walton lived just up the hill from Bridgeview, but it was only much later that the author learned about the struggle embroiling her near neighbours, as well as its connection to the Maplewood Mudflat squatter community — not to mention Malcolm Lowry and Habitat 76.

Walton's way into these stories is through a few documentary films made at the time about Bridgeview and Maplewood, as well as Robert Altman's breakthrough feature film, *McCabe and Mrs. Miller*, shot just a few miles up the mountainside from the Maplewood Mudflats.

Mudflat Dreaming traverses the intersecting domains of activist and documentary film, waterfront environmentalism, urban land use, utopian experiments, and working class struggle.

Jean Walton has spent the last twenty-five years as a professor at the University of Rhode Island, teaching courses on literature of World War I, activist documentary, seventies pop cultural films, and all waves of feminist theory. She divides her time between Providence, RI; Maine; and the Fraser Valley outside Vancouver, where she grew up.



PUBLICATION DATE

August 30, 2018

SPECS

Trade ppb, 224 pages, 6.75" x 9.75"

PRICE

\$24 CAD • \$20 USD

ISBN

978-1-55420-149-5



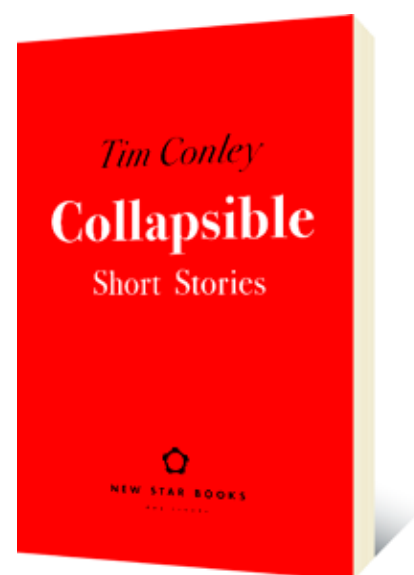
Tim Conley

Collapsible

The short story form is unambiguously un-dead in this new album of thirty fictions from writer Tim Conley, coming at the reader in a variety of shapes and guises running the gamut from elliptical micro-fictions to tales of the inexplicable.

Steeped in Beckett, Borges and Nabokov, Conley's multiple universes allow for werewolves that excite ridicule not fear, and where birthdays are an occasion for forgetting not remembering. Here, the world greets a new colouring book with the same seriousness as it might some newly discovered gospel, and struggles to embrace fictional celebrities with the same ardour it reserves for real ones. And why not a variant of origami that is used on the human form?

Tim Conley is the author of several collections of short fiction, the most recent of which is *Dance Moves of the Near Future* (New Star, 2015). He teaches modernist and contemporary literature at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario.



PUBLICATION DATE

September 6, 2018

SPECS

Trade ppb, 128 pages, 5" x 8"

PRICE

\$21 CAD • \$18 USD

ISBN

978-1-55420-151-8



Michael Turner

9 × 11

and Other Poems like *Bird*, *Nine*,
x, and *Eleven*

“A small room behind a bay window. A single bed, a table and chair, and a sink. I could manage something larger, with more conveniences, but I could never match the view.”

How you view 21st century life depends largely on the view from your place, which depends on where you can afford to live. In this suite of texts and poems written over twenty years that span the infamous towers, Michael Turner drops in to see what condition we're in, a subject whipped into insistence by the rhythms that shape his city, his neighbourhood, his universe.

What arises out of the debris of these towers is a vision of contemporary history that sees them — their creation and destruction — existing within a web of capital relations that leave no landlord or office worker unturned.

In her *Globe and Mail* review of Turner's “startlingly straightforward and minimalist” *8x10* (2009), Zoe Whitall concludes: “*8 x 10* is an unsettling and daring work, a tangible symbol of our anxious world and the stark emotional devastation of war. I hope Turner starts a trend in Canadian literature, because Canada needs more writers like him.”

Michael Turner is a Vancouver-based writer whose multigenre books include *Company Town* (1991), *Hard Core Logo* (1993), *Kingsway* (1995), *American Whisky Bar* (1997) and *The Pornographer's Poem* (1999). A frequent collaborator, he has written scripts with Stan Douglas, poems with Geoffrey Farmer, and songs with cub, Dream Warriors, Fishbone and Kinnie Starr.



PUBLICATION DATE

September 11, 2018

SPECS

Trade ppb, 104 pages, 6" x 9"

PRICE

\$18 CAD • \$16 USD

ISBN

978-1-55420-150-1



Charles Ulrich

The Big Note

A Guide to the Recordings of Frank Zappa

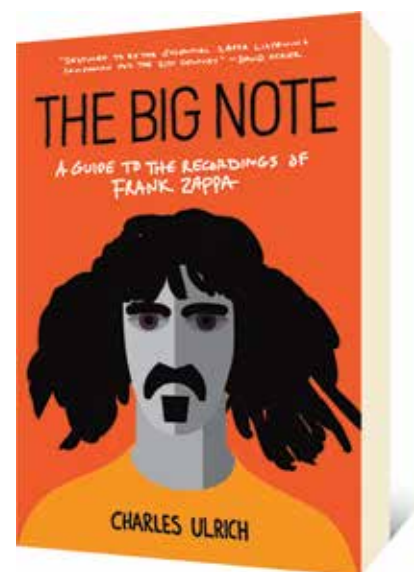
The Big Note is the complete guide to the music of Frank Zappa — 100 albums recorded over 35 years, the 80+ players on them, each one of 1,663 tracks described in detail, backed up by 1,773 citations.

Who's playing what on each track? When was this recorded? How did FZ put this together? What is the "hippy riff"? What does a Telefunken U-37 look like? What the heck are we listening to, anyway, and why does it sound vaguely familiar?

In a work of careful scholarship that itself took more than fifteen years, Charles Ulrich answers all these questions, along with a whole lot of others most listeners probably didn't even know were lurking within FZ's vast continent of recorded output.

Based on hundreds of interviews, letters, and e-mail correspondences with scores of musicians, singers, engineers, artists, copyists, and others who worked with Zappa, **The Big Note** provides the liner notes that every album in the protean and prolific composer's oeuvre cries out for. It is the indispensable resource for any FZ fan or scholar.

Charles Ulrich was born in Palo Alto, California, in 1957. He attended Pomona College, where — like Frank Zappa — he was a disc jockey on KSPC-FM. He earned a PhD in linguistics from UCLA and taught at ten universities in the United States and Canada. He published the *Frostbite Falls Far-Flung Flier*, a zine devoted to Jay Ward cartoons. Since 1994 he has been active in the on-line Zappa fan community — on alt.fan.frank-zappa, zappateers.com, and his own website, The Planet Of My Dreams <fzpmo.net>. He lives in Vancouver, BC.



PUBLICATION DATE

Mother's Day, May 13, 2018

SPECS

Trade pbp, 800 pages, 6.75" x 9.75"

PRICE

\$48 CAD • \$39 USD

ISBN

978-1-55420-146-4



David Bromige

if wants to be the same as is

Essential Poems of David Bromige

Introduction by George Bowering

Edited by Jack Krick, Bob Perelman, and Ron Silliman

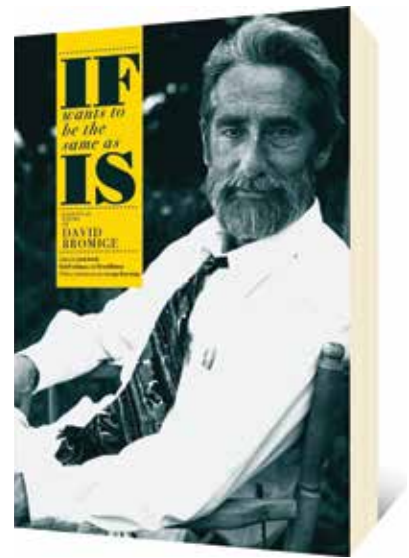
Drawn from 22 books of poetry published by David Bromige in his lifetime, *if wants to be the same as is* chronicles the career of one of contemporary poetry's most distinctive writers.

Born in London, England, in 1933, raised in Canada, and a resident for most of his adult life of California, David Bromige is just as difficult to pin down in terms of his aesthetics. As a student at the University of BC in the early 1960s, Bromige met writers like Fred Wah, George Bowering, and Jamie Reid, who pointed him towards the American postmodernists, and eventually, to a scholarship to UC—Berkeley. There, he became immersed in the Bay Area's explosively creative poetry scene, and came to be associated with many of the L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poets.

Bromige's own work, however, holds wide appeal and from the start resisted any sort of classification, winning praise across the literary-critical spectrum. His publishers included Black Sparrow Press (Bukowski's publisher), Sun & Moon, Brick, and The Figures, and he won acclaim from the likes of Robert Hass, the Poetry Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He died in Sebastopol, California, in 2009.

if wants to be the same as is presents a life's work that is, in the words of Bob Perelman, "beautiful, deeply amusing, continually surprising."

David Bromige taught at Sonoma State University for over twenty years, published thirty books of poetry, and was twice honoured by both the Poetry Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. He died in 2009.



PUBLICATION DATE

June 21, 2018

SPECS

Trade ppb, 624 pages, 6.75" x 9.75"

PRICE

\$45 CAD • \$35 USD

ISBN

978-1-55420-134-1



George Bowering & George Stanley

Some End / West Broadway



A masterpiece of late style and friendship, this volume combines back to back two powerful new works by old masters, **George Bowering** and **George Stanley**.

Stanley's **West Broadway** is a long poem, composed over the past decade, following on Stanley's other long city poems, "San Francisco's Gone", "Terrace Landscapes", and *Vancouver: A Poem*. Like those poems, *West Broadway* has embedded in it shorter verse poems that stand on their own.

Bowering's **Some End** is a suite of thirty-two poems tracking his recovery from a near fatal cardiac arrest in 2015. Throughout, Bowering's wit, his command of the idiom, and his ironic self-awareness shine through as powerfully as ever.

George Bowering is a two-time winner of the Governor-General's Award for Poetry, and was Canada's first Poet-Laureate. His most recent books of poetry are *The World, I Guess* (2015) and *Teeth* (2013). New Star Books recently re-issued his 1977 novel *A Short Sad Book*.

George Stanley is the author of seven previous books, the most recent being *After Desire* (2013), *Vancouver: A Poem* (2008), and *North of California St.* (2014), which collects poems from three earlier, out-of-print books. Born in San Francisco and living in Canada since 1970, Stanley was the 2006 recipient of the Shelley Memorial Award from the American Poetry Society.

PUBLICATION DATE

February 14, 2018

SPECS

two-sided ppb ("tumble book"),
80 pp, 5.5" x 8.5"

PRICE

\$18 CAD • \$16 USD

ISBN

978-1-55420-145-7



Sharon Thesen

The Receiver

The Receiver is Sharon Thesen's thirteenth book, and the first from the three-time G-G finalist since *Oyama Pink Shale*, six years ago.

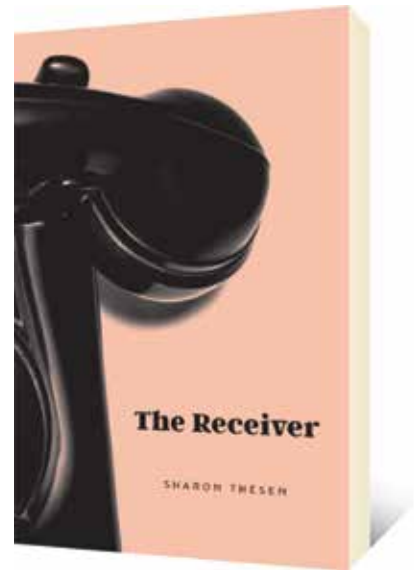
More formally various than Thesen's recent books, *The Receiver* includes the short lyrics documenting the poet's witnessing that readers of her work will recognize, as well as various kinds of found poems, translations, prose poems, alongside some brief essays or memoirs.

Thesen's mother and father, friends, poets in her own life, their poems, might form the immediate subject of the poems here, but above all, *The Receiver* is about poetic imagination:

"The body is the receiver of all that is; poetic imagination the transmitter of the world. A memoir about poetic imagination, about the transmission of language / energy (the poet will have had 'some several causations'), contagion, ancestral / cellular memory, what is received through books, reading, talk, voices, rhythms of thought & experience. The education / mis-education of a poet 'by ear'; transmission/transcription/telephone/telegraph; annunciation as method." (Sharon Thesen)

A native of Tisdale, Saskatchewan, **Sharon Thesen** grew up in Prince George and has been a British Columbia resident ever since. She now lives in Lake Country in the West Okanagan, and is professor emerita of creative writing at the University of British Columbia—Okanagan in Kelowna.

Three of Sharon Thesen's previous books have been finalists for the Governor-General's Award for Literature — *The Good Bacteria* (2006), *The Beginning of the Long Dash* (1987) and *Confabulations* (1984). She has also won the Pat Lowther Award (for *A Pair of Scissors*, 2006), and been a finalist for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize (for *Oyama Pink Shale*, 2011, and *The Good Bacteria*).



PUBLICATION DATE

September 28, 2017

SPECS

ppb, 110 pp, 5.5" x 8.5"

PRICE

\$19 CAD • \$18 USD

ISBN

978-1-55420-140-2



Erín Moure

Sitting Shiva on Minto Avenue, by Toots

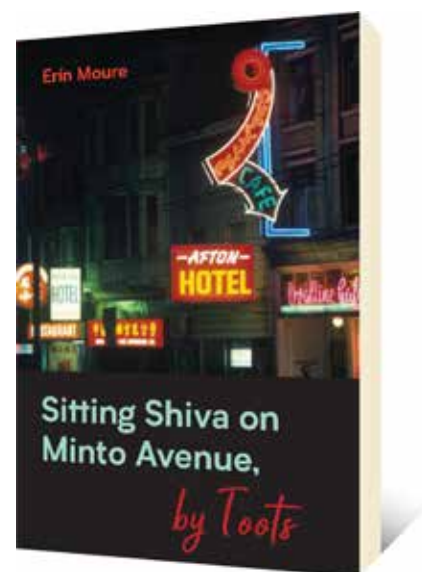
"A beautiful testimony to a life bravely lived on the edges of contemporary values." —Aaron Peck

Sitting Shiva on Minto Avenue, by Toots is the story of a man who had no obituary and no funeral and who would have left no trace if it weren't for the woman he'd called Toots, who took everything she remembered of him and — for seven days — wrote it down.

Erín Moure, a poet who once lived in Vancouver, begins this "work of the imagination" ("minto," in Galician, means "I'm lying") with a quote from Judith Butler about those persons who have "come to belong to the ungrievable," though there may be some that grieve them.

In recording the tale of the little man, through memories and Google searches, the book gives a glimpse into an entire era of urban Canada, from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and Main Street and Chinatown to a long-ago Montreal between the Great Depression and Expo '67.

Erín Moure's most recent book of poems is *Planetary Noise: The Poetry of Erín Moure*, edited and introduced by Shannon Maguire (Wesleyan University Press). No one alive now knows who Toots is.



PUBLICATION DATE
October 26, 2017

SPECS
ppb, 160 pp, 5.5" x 8.5"

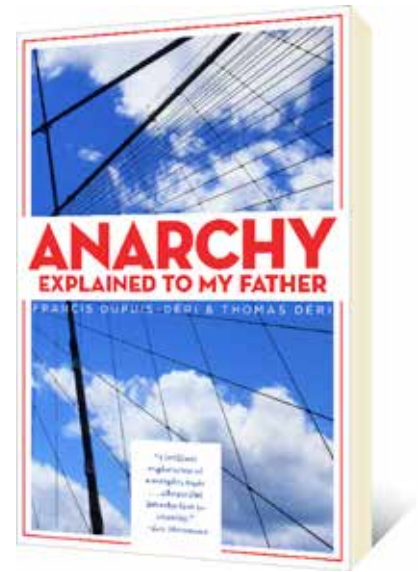
PRICE
\$21 CAD • \$19 USD

ISBN
978-1-55420-141-9



Francis Dupuis-Déri and Thomas Déri

Anarchy Explained to My Father



"Anarchy Explained to My Father is the best introduction to anarchism since Alexander Berkman's 1929 classic *Now and After: The ABC of Communist Anarchism*." — *Mark Leier, author of Bakunin: The Creative Passion and Rebel Life.*

Anarchy Explained to My Father (first published by Lux Éditeur in 2014 as *L'anarchie expliquée à mon père*) is a provocative and accessible discussion of the revolutionary mode of thought that rejects all forms of domination and seeks, in the words of Louise Michel, "order through harmony." Francis Dupuis-Déri, a professor of political science and a radical anarchist, reveals through dialogue with his father the deeply humanistic and peaceful roots of anarchism. The discussion shows that beyond the caricature of anarchists as proponents of chaos and violence is a movement based on ideals of equality, co-operation, and autonomy.

The wide-ranging conversation covers the ideas of classic writers such as Proudhon, Bakunin, and Goldman, as well as contemporary thinkers like Taiaiake Alfred, Patricia Hill Collins, and Randall Amster; the main flavours of anarchism, from anarcho-syndicalism to anarcho-feminism; anarchist views on oppressive systems like the state, capitalism, and patriarchy; the tremendous achievements that anarchist activists have contributed to, such as labour unions and eight-hour work days; and the recent resurgence of anarchism in protest movements and activist groups around the world. With temperatures rising and authoritarianism flourishing near and far, *Anarchy Explained to My Father* is a timely initiation to a way of thinking that's more relevant than ever.

Francis Dupuis-Déri teaches political science at Université du Québec à Montréal and is the author of numerous books and articles about anarchism, including *Who's Afraid of the Black Blocs? Anarchy in Action Around the World* (Between the Lines, 2013). His father **Thomas Déri** is a former publisher, an editor and translator, co-founder of the Librairie du Québec bookstore in Paris, and former director of the Salon du livre book fair in Montreal.

PUBLICATION DATE

November 2, 2017

SPECS

ppb, 224 pp, 5.5" x 8.5"

PRICE

\$20 CAD • \$18 USD

ISBN

978-1-55420-137-2



Judith Plant

Culture Gap

Towards a New World in the Yalakom Valley

No. 22 in the TRANSMONTANUS series of books

"Judith Plant takes us on a journey we're not likely to forget. Thanks to her candour and the bold questions she leaves us with, this journey deepens our own search for relevance in a radically changing world."

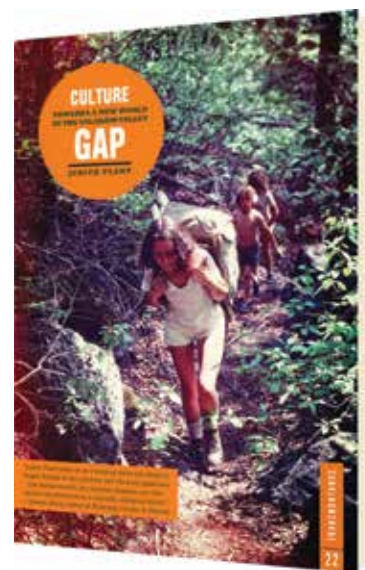
— Joanna Macy, author of *Widening Circles: A Memoir*

The time is the early 1980s. Judith Plant and her new partner, Kip, are ready for a change. Inspired by the charismatic Fred Brown, their communications professor at Simon Fraser University, they join a commune in a remote valley near the Yalakom River, deep in BC's Coast Mountains.

Culture Gap: Towards a New World in the Yalakom Valley tells the story of that sojourn. The challenges and privations, the joys and adventures of rural communal living, form the backdrop to the human drama the author recounts. Judith and Kip's family includes her children; Willie takes to the new life, but his sisters feel the strong pull of the life they left behind. Meanwhile Fred, the inspiration for the commune, stricken with cancer, is dying.

An absorbing account of a lifestyle emblematic of a time, *Culture Gap* also shows, from her own older perspective, a young mother's struggles to reconcile her social ideals of personal and environmental responsibility, and loving and caring for those closest to her.

Judith Plant, together with her late partner Kip, is longtime publisher of New Society Publishers of Gabriola, BC. She co-edited the collections *Healing the Wounds: The Promise of Ecofeminism*, and *Home! A Bioregional Reader*.



PUBLICATION DATE

May 25, 2017

SPECS

ppb, 112 pp, 6.75" x 9.75"

PRICE

\$19 CAD

ISBN

978-1-55420-133-4



Jean Barman

Maria Mahoi of the Islands

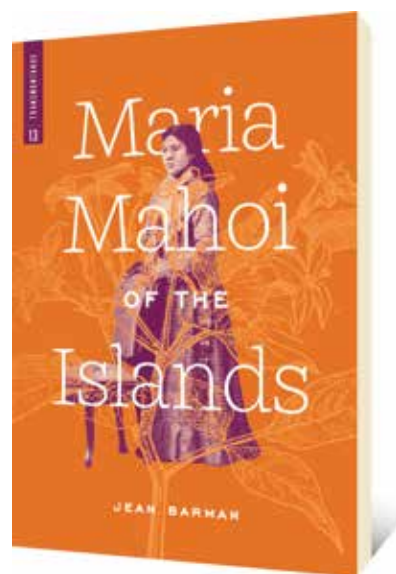
No. 13 in the TRANSMONTANUS series of books

Since its original publication in 2004, *Maria Mahoi of the Islands* has become a classic in its field, and an important document on the history of Indigenous Hawaiians known as Kanakas, who had an early presence across the Pacific Northwest and are now part of the broader Hawaiian diaspora across North America.

Born in the mid-1850s on Vancouver Island to an Indigenous Hawaiian father and an Indigenous British Columbian mother, Maria (pronounced Ma-RYE-ah) moved as a young woman to Salt Spring Island in British Columbia's Strait of Georgia, and in mid-life to her very own nearby Russell Island. Now part of the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, the island and Maria's home, overseen by descendants, are open to visitors. A true pioneer, Maria lived until 1936 and bore thirteen children, but also kept her father's surname and fiercely protected her interests, including a legal action to acquire Russell Island in her own name. Maria Mahoi's many descendants encouraged and facilitated the telling of her story in its original and now revised edition.

Drawing on information that has come to light since the book's first publication—and sometimes as a result of it—Jean Barman has updated and expanded her account, and written a new Foreword talking about the life that the book has taken on.

The author of numerous articles and books, including *The West Beyond the West: A History of British Columbia*, **Jean Barman** has a MA in Russian Studies (Harvard), MLS (Berkeley), EdD in History of Education (UBC) and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. She lives in Vancouver.



PUBLICATION DATE

April 27, 2017

SPECS

ppb, 116 pp, 6.75" x 9.75"

PRICE

\$19 CAD • \$17 USD

ISBN

978-1-55420-132-7



Andrew Struthers

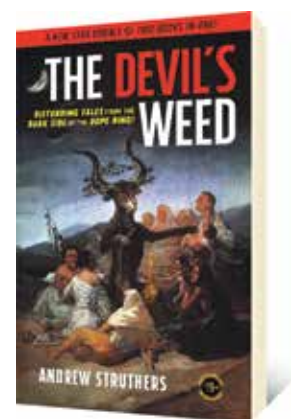
The Sacred Herb / The Devil's Weed

The Sacred Herb / The Devil's Weed is informative and even enlightening, but above all, it's a hilarious look at a humble plant that has entertained, inspired, and occasionally terrified so many for so long. Andrew Struthers directs his "brilliant madness" towards the ambivalent nature of marijuana, once the target of "reefer madness" hysteria and now available for quasi-legal purchase at dispensaries on every other block (at least in some jurisdictions).

One side of this double paperback answers all your questions about the world's most misunderstood plant, from how "the bikers of the Stone Age" spread it across Europe to why it makes music sound better. The other side is a non-stop trip as Struthers weaves together true stories, collected from 100 friends, of marijuana-inspired misadventures. The result is a book that "inverts expectations, giving your skull a little shake so that things come a little unstuck and can settle back in a slightly new way" (*Focus Magazine*).

With Canada poised to join several U.S. states in finally re-legalizing marijuana, *The Sacred Herb / The Devil's Weed* is your liferaft in the coming sativa tsunami.

Andrew Struthers was accused of being "a Canadian version of Hunter S. Thompson" (*Vancouver Sun*) on the merits of his most recent memoir, *Around the World on Minimum Wage* (2014). His other books include *The Last Voyage of the Loch Ryan* (2004) and *The Green Shadow* (1995). He is at least as well known as his films, which include *The Magic Salmon*, *TigerBomb: A Symphony in Dynamite*, and *Spiders on Drugs*.



PUBLICATION DATE
April 20, 2017

SPECS
double-sided ppb, 208 pp, 5.5" x 8.5"

PRICE
\$19 CAD • \$18 USD

ISBN
978-1-55420-115-0

ILLUSTRATIONS
16 black and white



John Armstrong

A Series of Dogs

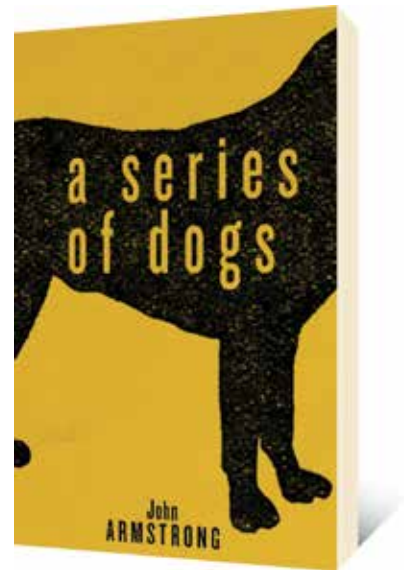
Some human lives can be measured in dogs. Writer/musician John Armstrong is such a person, and in *A Series of Dogs*, he takes the measure of his own, now at nine dogs' lives and counting.

A hilarious, perceptive and moving memoir that is really about the dogs that have added texture and meaning to his own journey, *A Series of Dogs* introduces the reader to a cast of some of the most memorable characters to come along in Canadian literature in some time — all of them dogs.

Meet Ruff, the family/farm dog, who started it all; Kiltie, a cocker spaniel, longed-for and but never truly embraced, who nevertheless teaches the author an important life lesson; Spooky, the boy-and-his-dog dog, who introduces the author to heartbreak.

Chopper is another man's dog, but that doesn't stop him from getting a chapter in Armstrong's story. The reader gets to know Rip, the bandmate; Mugsy, the \$5,000 Rottweiler; the story of Sluggo's redemption on Skid Road. The reader is brought into the present day with Bobo, now ten, and Seamus the stepdog. Plus cameos by several cats that the reader will recognize.

Musician and bandleader of The Modernettes, **John Armstrong** is the author of two highly acclaimed books, *Wages* and *Guilty of Everything*, a BC Book Prizes finalist. He lives in Chilliwack, BC with his dogs and family.



PUBLICATION DATE

November 17, 2016

SPECS

ppb, 192 pp, 5.5" x 8.5"

PRICE

\$21 CAD • \$19 USD

ISBN

978-1-55420-118-1



TITLES IN PRINT

TITLE (bold=ebook available) AUTHOR	GENRE	ISBN	YEAR PUBLISHED	CAD / USD					
Æthel Donato Mancini	POETRY	978-1-55420-030-6	2007	\$21 / \$18	Exercises in Lip Pointing Annharte (Marie Baker)	P	978-0-921586-92-0	2003	\$18 / \$16
After Desire George Stanley	P	978-1-55420-070-2	2013	\$18 / \$18	Field Day Matt Hern	N	978-1-55420-002-3	2003	\$21 / \$21
Age of Briggs & Stratton Peter Culley	The P	978-1-55420-039-9	2008	\$18 / \$16	Franzlations Gary Barwin, Hugh Thomas, & Craig Conley	P	978-1-55420-062-7	2011	\$19 / \$19
Along the No. 20 Line Rolf Knight	NON-FICTION	978-1-55420-061-0	2011	\$24 / \$24	Gardens Aflame Maleea Acker	N	978-1-55420-065-8	2012	\$19 / \$19
Anarchy Explained to My Father Francis Dupuis-Déri & Thomas Déri	N	978-1-55420-137-2	2017	\$20 / \$18	Ghost in the Water A Terry Glavin	N	978-0-921586-38-8	1994	\$16 / \$16
Around the World on Minimum Wage Andrew Struthers	N	978-1-55429-086-3	2014	\$24 / \$21	Greatly Exaggerated Marc Edge	N	978-1-55420-102-0	2014	\$21 / \$21
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