

ECW Press

Guest Cheque

Date	Table	Guests	060126
SPRING			
2026			
			
			Tax
			Total

Thank you — Please come again!

CANADA

Warehouse and Customer Service

Jaguar Book Group / Fraser Direct
65 Quarterman Road, Unit 1, Guelph, ON N1C 0A8
T: 905-877-4411 | orders@fraserdirect.ca

Returns and Customer Service

Jaguar Book Group / Fraser Direct
8300 Lawson Road, Milton, ON L9T 0A4
T: 905-877-4411 | orders@fraserdirect.ca

Canadian Manda Group Head Office

664 Annette Street, Toronto, ON M6S 2C8
mandagroup.com

National Accounts & Ontario

Representatives: Joanne Adams, David Farag,
Tim Gain, Chris Hickey, Peter Hill-Field, Anthony
Iantorno, Carey Low, Erin Morgan, Dave Nadalin,
Emily Patry, Nikki Turner, Ellen Warwick, Jodi
Grieve, Paulina Dabrowski, Catherine Phillips,
Jocey Asnong
T: 416-516-0911 | info@mandagroup.com

Quebec & Atlantic Provinces

Representative: Jacques Filippi
T: 855-626-3222 ex. 244 | jfilippi@mandagroup.com

British Columbia

Representatives:
Iolanda Millar | T: 604-662-3611 ex. 246
lmillar@mandagroup.com
Kate Condon-Moriarty | T: 604-662-3611 ex.247
kcondonmoriarty@mandagroup.com

Alberta, Saskatchewan & Manitoba

Representatives:
Jean Cichon | T: 403-202-0922 ex. 245
jcichon@mandagroup.com

UNITED STATES

Simon and Schuster USA

565 Gerdau Drive
Jackson, TN 38305
T: 731-574-9182
Hours: 7:30am to 3pm CST

Purchaseorders@simonandschuster.com
T: 800-223-2336

UK & EUROPE

Turnaround Publisher Services Ltd.

Unit 3, Olympia Trading Estate
Coburg Road, Wood Green
London, UK N22 6TZ
T: 020-8829-3000
orders@turnaround-uk.com

INTERNATIONAL

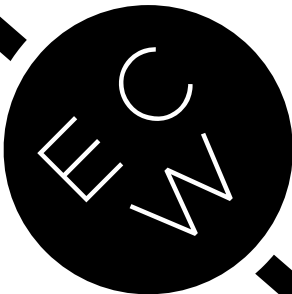
ECW Press

Emily Ferko, Sales & Rights Director
emily@ecwpress.com

RIGHTS INQUIRIES & SALES

ECW Press

Emily Ferko, Sales & Rights Director
emily@ecwpress.com



ecwpress.com

General inquiries: info@ecwpress.com

Publicity: publicity@ecwpress.com

665 Gerrard Street East
Toronto, ON M4M 1Y2
416-694-3348



@ecwpress



Publication Date: March 23, 2026
5.5 x 8.5", 260pp, trade paperback
24.95 CDN / 19.95 U.S.

FICTION / WOMEN (FIC044000)
FICTION / FAMILY LIFE / GENERAL (FIC045000)
FICTION / THRILLERS / PSYCHOLOGICAL (FIC031080)
FICTION / NATURE & THE ENVIRONMENT (FIC077000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-863-9 (Paperback)

Territory Rights: WORLD
Rights Available: World rights
Film Rights: Film rights controlled by CookeMcDermid Agency

FRET

A NOVEL

Nadia Bozak

A propulsive and incisive novel: a frazzled mother of two’s precarious situation is made more so when her idling car is stolen — with her young daughter still in it — and all her life choices, both big and small, are opened up to the scrutiny of the internet, her community, and ultimately, herself.

“Nadia Bozak is a tremendous talent.”
— **Zoe Whittall, author of *The Fake***

Once a rising star of indie rock, Kate is now a middle-aged single mom living far out of the spotlight. Everything changes for her when an unprecedented heat wave and a stolen car set off a chain of events that threaten to upend her new, peaceful life. Fired from her job, separated from her children, and overwhelmed by public shaming, Kate must navigate the cold realities of the child welfare and family court systems while struggling to stay cool in an increasingly unbearable world.

Determined to rebuild, Kate finds herself forging new connections and fostering a sense of community — something she hasn’t felt since her music career ended in disaster more than a decade before. As Kate finds a new voice, she makes her way back to her children and her love of music, and steps closer to reconciling with her former bandmate and arch-rival: her little sister.

If building community is Kate’s way of reckoning with the mistakes of her past, can it also be a way to mitigate the deeper, more urgent issues and structural injustices that threaten our future?

Nadia Bozak lives in Ottawa with her family and is a faculty member in the Department of English at Carleton University. *Fret* is her fifth book.



KEY SALES NOTES

- A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR, PIA SINGHAL:** “This is a really propulsive book, with a lot of depth to it. There’s a small, quickly resolved thriller aspect that gives this book a very commercial and engaging lean, but that mystery breaks open an entire world of questions about climate change and personal responsibility. It has that quality of one’s worst nightmares coming to pass that makes Ashley Audrain’s books so compelling — but the book is worth reading alone for its depictions of financial precarity, the oppressive heat of a city summer, feeling like one should have more to show for one’s life than one does, and how acceptance and surrender are not the same thing.”
- PRAISE FOR NADIA BOZAK:**
 - “Nadia Bozak’s coming-of-age snapshots are a gentle reminder of all that’s immediate and fleeting. Wistful, distinct, and full of life.” — **Iain Reid, author of *I’m Thinking of Ending Things*, on *Thirteen Shells***
 - “*El Niño* is a blazing novel about desperation and courage, survival and death, borders and barriers of all sorts and what it takes to break through. Nadia Bozak’s characters are fierce, brave, and haunting. Stylistically brazen and wildly suspenseful, this novel charges and snaps, sinks its teeth in, and doesn’t let go.” — **Lisa Moore, author of *Caught*, on *El Niño***



Publication Date: April 14, 2026
5.5 x 8.5", 280pp, trade paperback
24.95 CDN / 19.95 U.S.

FICTION / SCIENCE FICTION / CYBERPUNK
(FIC028100)
FICTION / SCIENCE FICTION / APOCALYPTIC & POST-APOCALYPTIC (FIC028070)
FICTION / DYSTOPIAN (FIC055000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-841-7 (Paperback)

Territory Rights: WORLD
Rights Available: World rights
Film Rights: Film rights available

LAVENDER SPIKE

Rachel Tremblay

“Lavender Spike is that rarest thing in fiction: a truly unique dystopia, one that shuns simple allegory and plays by its own strange and fascinating set of rules. In a just world, everyone would be obsessed with this book.” — Jason Pargin, bestselling author of John Dies at the End and I’m Starting to Worry About This Black Box of Doom

“Pain, passions, and violence are conveyed as agonizingly and earnestly here as they were in the Hunger Games and Handmaid’s Tale cycles. ... Cautious brush strokes help sell this speculative story of art as the basis of a future police state.” — Kirkus Reviews

Isobel “Izzy” Ker, the last working artist of the Old Holy Order, lives a life of poverty in the Dumps outside of Mahl City, covertly selling her illegal paintings to the Old Order’s few remaining devotees. But when her studio is ransacked by the city’s enforcers, her only choice is to seek refuge with the Half-Light Rebels, a gang of anti-art radicals and glorified thieves.

She agrees to help the rebels, but their first mission goes south, and Izzy is arrested and brought before the leader of the oppressive New Art Government, a group that keeps people in check by feeding their addiction to a novel and dangerous craft, Trigger Art. Izzy has a choice: Convert to their way of life, using her skills to debut as a Trigger Artist, or rot in the city’s infamous prison. Izzy accepts and is thrust into the spotlight, now intoxicated by the luxury and power afforded her, not to mention her handsome bodyguard, Rilke. The wild, engrossing act of creating her first public piece almost makes her forget what life was like in the Dumps. Almost. All the while, Izzy is fanning the flames of rebellion, working in secret with the rebels, and preparing to unveil her audacious debut piece.

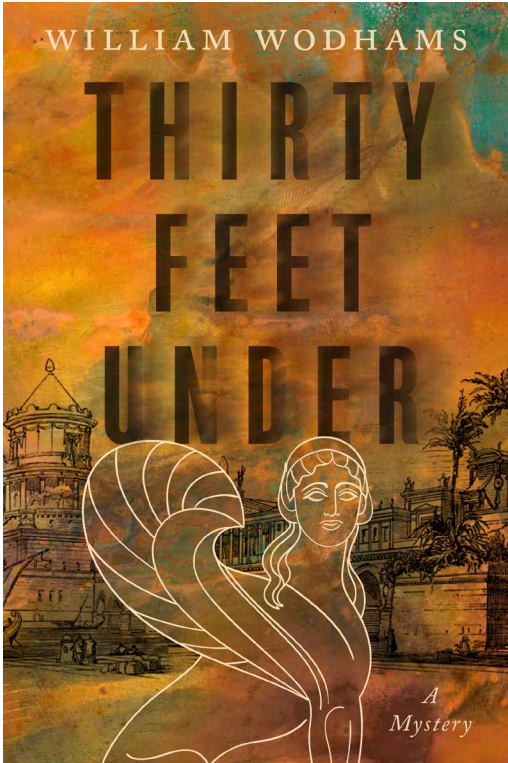
Written by a rising star in science fiction, *Lavender Spike* is a bold, wholly original cyberpunk novel in which art is both drug and religion.

Rachel Tremblay is a painter, writer, and musician. A youth filled with guitar shredding, horror movies, skateboarding, and poetry led her to produce two music albums, study fine arts, and pen stories. She lives in Montreal with her husband and two adult children. *Lavender Spike* is her fifth novel.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **MAKE WAY FOR REVOLUTION:** Readers of *The Hunger Games*, now all grown up, will love *Lavender Spike* for its complex heroine and challenge of social constructs. Fans of *The Fifth Element* and the *Mad Max* franchise will also connect with Tremblay’s wholly original cyberpunk world.
- **WELL-CONNECTED AUTHOR:** Rachel Tremblay is a bilingual (English/French) artist, musician, and writer from Montreal. She is a very active Instagrammer with 7.2K followers, mostly other bookstagrammers, and also has an art account with several thousand followers. Bestselling author Jason Pargin, who has 500K followers on TikTok, has already enthusiastically blurbed the book.
- **PRAISE FOR LAVENDER SPIKE:**
 - “*Lavender Spike* crackles with the spirit of power and creation. Rachel Tremblay’s newest novel is a visceral and poignant examination of the purpose of art that poses the question, ‘Can art truly be a catalyst for change?’ Brimming with action, *Lavender Spike* will take readers on a journey that will inspire, enthrall, and excite the imagination.” — **Karen McBride, author of Crow Winter**
 - “*Lavender Spike* is a luminous adventure, delicate and poignant to the very end. You won’t want to miss it!” — **Kayla Ancrum, award-winning author of The Wicker King and Icarus**
 - “A wild acid-trip dive into alleyways where art is both drug and religion — with all the vivid color and darkness that comes with both. A very I-need-a-cigarette-after-reading journey.” — **Nathan Makaryk, actor and author of Nottingham**
- **EDGY, THOUGHTFUL SCIENCE FICTION:** A unique dystopian novel focusing on a world of art and artists.



Publication Date: March 3, 2026

5.5 x 8.5", 260pp, trade paperback

24.95 CDN / 19.95 U.S.

**FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE /
INTERNATIONAL CRIME & MYSTERY** (FIC022080)

**FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE / WOMEN
SLEUTHS** (FIC022040)

FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE / HISTORICAL
(FIC022060)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-854-7 (Paperback)

Territory Rights: WORLD

Rights Available: World rights

Film Rights: Film rights available

THIRTY FEET UNDER

A MYSTERY

William Wodhams

For readers of Dan Brown comes a thrilling tale of lost kings, mad emperors, international smugglers, and an FBI Art Crimes Team that will stop at nothing to track down a stolen marble sphinx.

When a museum in Italy is robbed and the guard murdered, the Carabinieri Art Squad asks for Kate Taylor’s help searching for the thieves. After working in the FBI Art Crimes Team for years, doing little but updating files and computer work, she is thrilled to work on a real case.

Yet there’s something unusual about their request. It’s a small, unremarkable marble sphinx that was stolen — why would the Carabinieri care? Still, she’s looking forward to some excitement and adventure. Besides, Luca, the Carabinieri’s agent, has big, beautiful eyes.

Kate finds out the sphinx is the key to unraveling one of the greatest mysteries in archeology: the lost tomb of a legendary king. Before long, she’s searching for suspects in an international smuggling ring. People are dying. She doesn’t know who she can trust, including Luca. And time is running out: Kate has two weeks to solve a 3,000-year-old mystery before its treasures are looted and vanish forever.

Back in New York, Paul Klugman is about to give up his dream of becoming an art dealer. Then he gets a call from an eccentric art dealer that will change his life forever. He soon finds the success and wealth he’s always wanted, but the price is higher than he ever expected.

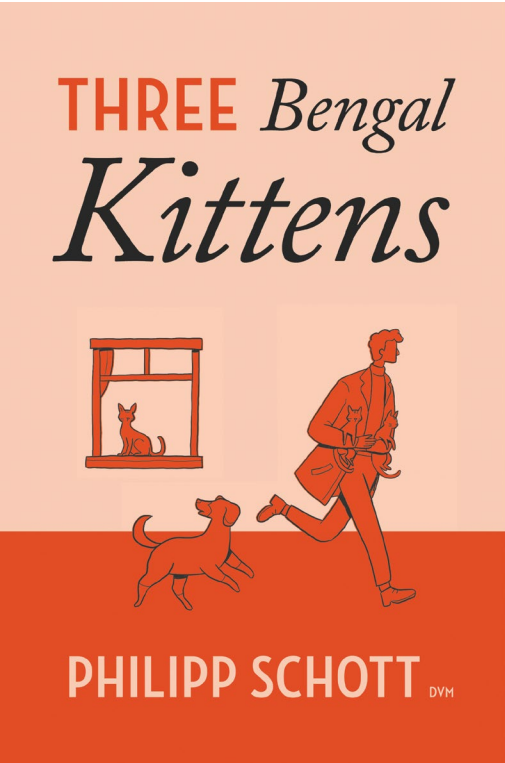
Thirty Feet Under is a tale of lost kings, mad emperors, international smugglers, and the search for the perfect Manhattan.

William Wodhams lives outside Toronto with his wife and an ill-behaved dog. His stories have appeared in several publications, and his first novel, *Declan Tucker’s Grand Debut*, was published in 2024. *Thirty Feet Under* was named a finalist for the 2024 Crime Writers of Canada Best Unpublished Crime Novel Award.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **A PRESENT-DAY INDIANA JONES:** Will Kate discover the treasures from the lost tomb of a legendary king before they’re smuggled out of the country and disappear forever?
- **FOR FANS OF** *National Treasure*, *Indiana Jones*, *Tomb Raider*, and for readers of Dan Brown, James Rollins, Clive Cussler, Robert Harris, Elizabeth Peters, Chris Pavone, and Steve Berry.
- **SHORTLISTED BY THE CRIME WRITERS OF CANADA:** *Thirty Feet Under* was shortlisted for the Crime Writers of Canada’s Best Unpublished Crime Novel in 2024.



Publication Date: April 14, 2026
5.5 x 8.5", 240pp, trade paperback
24.95 CDN / 19.95 U.S.

FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE / AMATEUR SLEUTH (FIC022100)
FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE / TRADITIONAL (FIC022030)
FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE / COZY / GENERAL (FIC022070)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-861-5 (Paperback)

Territory Rights: WORLD
Rights Available: World rights
Film Rights: Film rights available

THREE BENGAL KITTENS

A DR. BANNERMAN VET MYSTERY

Philipp Schott

With his sniffer dog, Pippin, Dr. Peter Bannerman uncovers suspects, treats animals, tracks a kitten kidnapper, and must solve a locked-room mystery.

In the fourth book in the series, Dr. Peter Bannerman’s brother Sam takes in three Bengal kittens after the previous owner, his neighbor in a Winnipeg north end apartment building, is found dead. The death was originally thought to be due to accidental autoerotic asphyxiation, but after investigation, Sam is arrested and charged with his neighbor’s murder.

Sam suffers from several mental health conditions, but Peter refuses to believe that he is capable of killing someone, so he sets out to prove his innocence. Sam, however, is more concerned about one of the kittens who has gone missing. With the help of his talented sniffer dog, Pippin, Peter tries to find the kitten, as well as evidence that someone else murdered the neighbor.

Peter talks to the other people in Sam’s building, and several appear to be plausible alternative killers. However, by that time, Sam, still in custody, begins to rave about ghosts being the real murderers and insists Peter investigate that. Despite not believing in ghosts (not in the slightest), he has a terrifying experience while spending the night in Sam’s apartment.

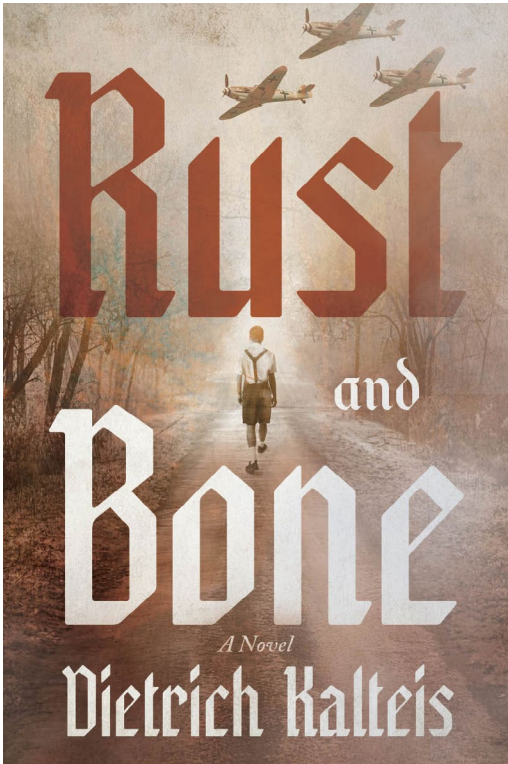
The situation rapidly spirals, putting Peter and Pippin in peril and ultimately revealing a story of revenge served cold from decades ago and continents away.

Philipp Schott lives in Winnipeg, where he practices veterinary medicine, writes, and shares a creaky old house on the river with his wife, two kids, a fluffy dog, and a skeptical cat. His first book, *The Accidental Veterinarian*, was a bestseller and was translated into five languages. Seven other books have followed.



KEY SALES NOTES

- BESTSELLING SERIES:** All three books in the Dr. Bannerman Vet Mystery series were national bestsellers.
- PRAISE FOR THE SERIES:**
 - Fifty-Four Pigs* won gold at the Foreword Indies Book of the Year Awards, Mystery, in 2022.
 - “A charming mystery, the first in a series featuring Peter Bannerman, an amiable, introverted, tea-drinking, obsessive vet, who converses more with his dog, Pippin, than with his wife, Laura, or anyone else ... James Herriot fans will want to check out this one.” — **Publishers Weekly on *Fifty-Four Pigs***
 - “Schott’s second mystery featuring gumshoe veterinarian Peter Bannerman (after 2022’s *Fifty-Four Pigs*) combines the soothing sleuthing of *Murder, She Wrote* with the humble charm of *All Creatures Great and Small*.” — **Publishers Weekly, starred review on *Six Ostriches***
 - “Whether read individually or together, these books offer lovers of cozy mysteries and animal stories a heartwarming yet stimulating read, with a puzzle that hits the sweet spot between comfortably challenging and brain-buster.” — **New York Journal of Books on *Eleven Huskies***
- INTERNATIONAL APPEAL:** Philipp Schott was born in Germany and speaks German. His first book, *The Accidental Veterinarian*, has been translated into Russian, Polish, Hungarian, Czech, and simplified Chinese; *The Willow Wren* has been translated into German; and *How to Examine a Wolverine* has been translated into Russian and simplified Chinese.



Publication Date: March 31, 2026
5.5 x 8.5", 300pp, trade paperback
24.95 CDN / 19.95 U.S.

FICTION / HISTORICAL / WORLD WAR II (FIC014050)
FICTION / WAR & MILITARY (FIC032000)
FICTION / LITERARY (FIC019000)
FICTION / COMING OF AGE (FIC043000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-850-9 (Paperback)

Territory Rights: WORLD
Rights Available: World rights
Film Rights: Film rights available

RUST AND BONE

A NOVEL

Dietrich Kalteis

Part coming-of-age story and part family drama, set against the harsh backdrop of World War II Ukraine and Germany.

Where does one seek refuge when all the world's gone mad?

The last winter of the war comes as young Jakob Fritsch's German village in Ukraine is torched by Russian troops. Separated from his mother and younger brother, he's shoved onto a train's stock car. Rumors float among them; they're being taken to a work camp over the Urals, where they will be worked to death.

As morning dawns, a lone Stuka dives from the sky, dropping its bomb on the locomotive, and the stock cars are blown from the tracks, tipped, and smashed. Through splintered boards, Jakob and others scramble out, running for the surrounding woods as the Russian guards begin shooting them down.

Jakob escapes into the endless pines, running until he's exhausted. Some time later, he chances upon other survivors from the train: his sick and aging schoolmaster who's a Nazi supporter at heart and the disagreeable post-master, a man Jakob can't stand and doesn't trust. Always on the lookout for deserters, partisans, and Russian soldiers, the three make their way across war-torn Ukraine, begging for food and shelter where they can.

A tragic turn of events forces Jakob to journey on alone. Ever watchful, he must chance crossing the desolate countryside of Poland en route to Berlin, the only place he can go — the land of his forefathers, the heart of Germany, which is being bombed to its knees and torn apart from all sides.

Dietrich Kalteis is the winner of the 2022 Crime Writers of Canada Award of Excellence for Best Crime Novel for *Under an Outlaw Moon*. Acclaimed by critics and readers in Canada and abroad, he is the prolific author of 13 novels, two of which won Independent Publisher Awards. Kalteis enjoys life with his family on Canada's beautiful West Coast.



KEY SALES NOTES

- WWII FROM A NEW PERSPECTIVE:** Unlike most WWII historical fiction, *Rust and Bone* is told from the perspective of two young Germans exploring how their lives are impacted by the war. Deviating from the noir tone of Kalteis's previous works, this book is part coming-of-age story and part family drama set against the harsh backdrop of World War II Ukraine and Germany. Not shying away from hard truths, Kalteis unpacks anti-German sentiments, racism, collateral damage, and what it means to be an innocent bystander during times of political turmoil.
- PRAISE FOR KALTEIS:** Kalteis's 2023 book, *The Get*, received a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*: "Fans of Elmore Leonard and George Pelecanos will find much to enjoy." He won the 2022 Crime Writers of Canada Award of Excellence for Best Crime Novel.
- INTERNATIONAL APPEAL:** Kalteis was born in Köln, Germany, and speaks fluent German. His 2015 novel, *The Deadbeat Club*, was published in German by Suhrkamp Verlag under the title *Shootout* and was an instant bestseller.



Publication Date: April 28, 2026
5 x 7.75", trade paperback
23.95 CDN / 18.95 U.S.

YOUNG ADULT FICTION / FANTASY / EPIC
(YAF019030)

YOUNG ADULT FICTION / FANTASY / HISTORICAL
(YAF019040)

YOUNG ADULT FICTION / ACTION & ADVENTURE / GENERAL (YAF001000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-460-0 (Paperback)

Territory Rights: WORLD
Rights Available: World rights
Film Rights: Film rights available

THE CALL OF THE RIFT: FUSE

Jae Waller

In Fuse, the fifth and final chapter of The Call of the Rift, Kateiko Rin faces her greatest challenge yet — herself.

Reeling from the Fourth Elken War, Katja throws herself into a grueling medical apprenticeship. Her fragile peace shatters when a rift tears open the world. In stumbles another version of herself: K, bloody and bruised, hunting the rogue wind spirit Suriel to reclaim her soul.

Their plans go awry when they realize the rift is killing their worlds. Wildfires and drought devastate the coastal rainforest. Sky rivers and rusty creeks defy logic. The girls’ only hope of saving their homeland is waking ancient, powerful nature spirits — the exact thing Katja fought a war to prevent.

The Kateikos forge a grudging alliance, but after nine years of their worlds diverging, they’re each other’s worst enemy. K is everything Katja’s scared to be — cold, callous, and conniving. Katja has everything K lost — a home, family, and the affection of Tiernan, the fire mage they both loved.

Friends take sides. Enemies take notice. Danger creeps closer — people Katja thought she escaped, people K killed in her world, people with grudges old and new. The Kateikos must find a way to calm the storm, because if their friction lights a fuse, nothing will survive the apocalypse.

Jae Waller grew up in Prince George, in northern British Columbia. She has a joint BFA in creative writing and fine art from the University of Northern British Columbia and Emily Carr University of Art + Design. She lives in Melbourne, Australia, and works as a novelist and freelance artist.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **PHILIP PULLMAN MEETS AVATAR:** An epic young adult sword-and-sorcery fantasy series that replaces castles with cabins and the well-worn paths of medieval Europe with the lush rainforest and mountains of North America’s colonial-era Pacific Northwest.
- **DIVERSITY IN THE MAIN CAST:** The series features a strong female protagonist and LGBTQ+ representation in the main cast (several same-sex couples, a transgender character, and an asexual/aromantic character). The book’s central romance is between Katja and another woman.
- **PRAISE FOR THE SERIES:**
 - “[A] stunning debut ... An intricately lush and well-crafted new fantasy that deserves (and demands) a sequel.” — *Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review on *The Call of the Rift: Flight***
 - “Waller puts a great deal of thought into her world-building ... A mature choice for those who love high fantasy and magical realism.” — *School Library Journal* on *The Call of the Rift: Flight*
 - “Knife-edge action and terrifying truths abound.” — *Kirkus Reviews* on *The Call of the Rift: Wake*



Publication Date: April 7, 2026
5.5 x 8.5", 96pp, trade paperback
24.95 CDN / 24.95 U.S.

POETRY / GENERAL (POE000000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-828-8 (Paperback)

Territory Rights: WORLD
Rights Available: World rights
Film Rights: Film rights available

LEANING INTO IT

POEMS

Rik Emmett

Poetry from the beloved lead guitarist of the multi-platinum legendary band Triumph

Rik Emmett’s second collection originated during the dark limbo of COVID-19: 2021–22. Five parts go from auto-fictional narration to observations on the modern world, moving inside out, then outside in. Eventually, *Leaning Into It* looks beyond.

Leaning Into ... what? The prevailing chaos of narcissistic, egotistical, patrimonial power-mongering lends these poems renewed vitality, as the author’s frustration and disappointment with current undemocratic global politics play out.

How much *leaning* gets us a tiny bit closer to wisdom? Emmett favors the balatrones, jesters, fools, poets, comedians, and atheists in his social media feeds. “Power” ignores the balanced values of a sense of humor and a good-natured humility — but this poetry takes on the world as it is, ultimately leaning into hope.

After a dozen platinum LPs from ’75 to ’88 with Triumph, **Rik Emmett** has released 20 more solo projects, ranging across genres. The avowed family man retired from touring but still writes and records. A *Guitar Player* magazine columnist for over a dozen years, he also taught with the Humber College music faculty for a couple of decades and now lives in Burlington, ON.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **RIK EMMETT HAS STAR POWER:** For over a decade, Rik Emmett was the lead singer, songwriter, and guitarist for the award-winning rock band Triumph. In 2019, Triumph was inducted into the Canadian Walk of Fame for its contribution to the Canadian music industry. Emmett’s hit song with Triumph, “Magic Power,” made it to no. 8 on the Billboard Mainstream Rock chart.
- **PRAISE FOR EMMETT’S WORK:**
 - “Those who have followed his career will recognize his wit and irreverence but might notice a new tone of introspection emerging in these pages. His fans everywhere will be delighted.” — **Adam Sol, author of *Broken Dawn Blessings* and *How a Poem Moves: A Field Guide for Readers of Poetry, on Reinvention***
 - “*Reinvention* is a captivating glimpse deep into the life and soul of one of our beloved rock ’n’ roll heroes. With sharp wit, engaging storytelling, and an out-an-out vulnerability that will take you by surprise, drawing the tears right out of you, Rik Emmett has written a beautiful collection of poems that bravely define what it means to love and live fully.” — **Emm Gryner, three-time Juno nominee and author of *The Healing Power of Singing: Raise Your Voice, Change Your Life***
 - “When you witness the mastery of Rik Emmett on stage, playing his guitar, singing his songs, it’s hard to fathom that you have not yet seen the limits of his talent. You can’t imagine that he could also be a brilliant writer and cultural explorer, too. Yet, you’ll understand when you start reading *Ten Telecaster Tales*.” — **Terry Fallis, two-time winner of the Leacock Medal for Humour**



THE BRIGHT AFTERS

Sadie McCarney

A genre-bending, heartbreaking book-length lyric poem about a gay teenager’s stabbing in a rural town

When a gay teenager is mercilessly stabbed in a high school bathroom in West Nowhere, Nova Scotia, the surrounding community is sent into a tailspin. While Colton fights for his life in a hospital room at West Nowhere General, everyone from a school janitor to the boy’s abusive stepfather overflows with emotion in the form of verse monologues, unburdening themselves of their feelings.

The Bright Afters is a poetic container for the pain endured by the town and surrounding area — and sometimes, their confessions. The voices we hear from include the sympathetic (a favorite teacher) and the arresting (the kid who stabbed Colton). As Colton recovers, his powder keg sister, Christine, and his escapist best friend, Annie, have the most to lose from the act that almost killed him — and the most to gain from coming to a new understanding about the senseless violence.

Told from a variety of perspectives, *The Bright Afters* seeks to interrogate collective and individual trauma, queer belonging, and the ways in which a place sculpts the people it produces. Its individual poems take their names from Broadway shows, containing all of the community’s fraught hope for a positive “big finish” to the story.

Sadie McCarney’s other books are *Live Ones* and *Your Therapist Says It’s Magical Thinking*. Her work has also appeared in *Best Canadian Poetry*, *The Walrus*, *Grain*, *Foglifter*, *The Malahat Review*, and *The Fiddlehead*, among other publications. She lives in Cornwall, PEI.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **DIVERSE VOICES & CONTENT:** At the epicenter of this long poem are two queer high school students, Colton (the victim of a brutal homophobic stabbing in the boys’ bathroom) and his best friend, Annie, sent reeling by the violence. Sadie McCarney is LGBTQ+ and writes with compassion, beauty, and firsthand authentic experience.
- **DECORATED POET:** Shortlisted for the J.M. Abraham Atlantic Poetry Award (2024), shortlisted for the Prince Edward Island Book Award for Poetry (2024, 2020), longlisted for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award (2020), finalist for the Walrus Poetry Prize (2017), semifinalist for Discovery/Boston Review Poetry Prize (2017), finalist for the Malahat Review Far Horizons Award for Poetry (2016).
- **EAST COAST APPEAL:** The book is set in a fictional town in Nova Scotia and will resonate with local and regional East Coast readers.

Publication Date: April 14, 2026
5.5 x 8.5", 80pp, trade paperback
24.95 CDN / 24.95 U.S.
POETRY / LGBT (POE021000)
POETRY / CANADIAN (POE011000)
POETRY / WOMEN AUTHORS (POE024000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-852-3 (Paperback)

Territory Rights: WORLD
Rights Available: World rights
Film Rights: Film rights available

Meet the acquiring editors

Visit ecwpress.com/submissions for more information about our editors and full details on how to submit a manuscript.



JEN SOOKFONG LEE
Fiction, nonfiction

"I'm looking for fiction or nonfiction that explores the complicated identities, intersections, and interests of our contemporary world."



PIA SINGHAL
Fiction, narrative nonfiction, social issues, and more

"I'm looking for writing that is sparse but sharp, and poised but vibrant."



JEN ALBERT
Fiction: SFF, speculative, YA, post-apocalyptic, horror, and more

"I'm drawn to fiction that overturns genre boundaries and strongly support books from diverse voices."



MICHAEL HOLMES
Fiction, wrestling, poetry, sports, music, and more

"I look for smart, culturally, socially, and politically engaged writing that takes risks, pushes limits, colors way outside the lines."



JACK DAVID
Fiction, mystery, biography, and more

"Make the hair stand up on the back of my neck. Compel me to turn the pages."



JEN KNOCH
Fiction, memoir, narrative nonfiction, social issues, and more

"I'm looking for a voice that is arresting from the first page."



JENNIFER SMITH
Nonfiction: business, leadership, corporate history, and more

"Everyone has a story to tell and the best part of my work is helping people share theirs with a wide audience."

Email us

General: info@ecwpress.com

Sales/Rights: Emily Ferko, emily@ecwpress.com

Publicity: publicity@ecwpress.com

Marketing: marketing@ecwpress.com

The ECW office is situated on land that was the traditional territory of many nations, including the Wendat, the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Chippewa, Métis, and the Mississaugas of the Credit, the latter of whom completed negotiation of a Treaty No. 13 known as the "Toronto Purchase" begun in 1787, negotiated in 1805, and re-negotiated in 2010. It was a sandy oak savannah on a hill rising westward from Heward Creek, one of Toronto's lost ravines. In the 1880s, the land was developed as part of a growing community around St. Matthew's Anglican and other churches. In the 1950s, our neighborhood, now known as East Chinatown, was transformed by people moving into the area, dispossessed by the building of Nathan Phillips Square and subsequent rise in real estate value in Old Chinatown, and immigrants fleeing the Vietnam War. We are grateful to those who cared for the land before us, and we are proud to be working now amidst this mix of cultures.

Our books are funded in part by the Government of Canada. Nos livres sont financés en partie par le gouvernement du Canada. | We acknowledge the support of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), an agency of the Government of Ontario. | We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts. Nous remercions le Conseil des arts du Canada de son soutien. | We acknowledge the support of the Government of Ontario through Ontario Creates.