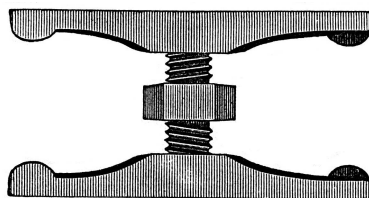




The Porcupine's Quill

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Fall 2020



The Porcupine's Quill
Press sharply.

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

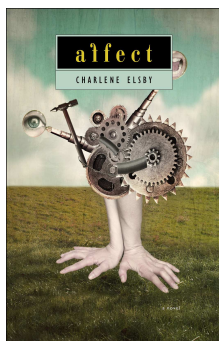
To date the collection as a whole includes more than 100 Porcupine's Quill titles as well as 24 backlist issues of the *Devil's Artisan*. To explore the range:

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



As you may know if you're a faithful blog follower and/or newsletter subscriber, we have been known to give away bits and bobs from our catalogue on occasion. This spring, in order to make the uptake of such largesse easier (and with some gentle encouragement from Digital Main Street), we've begun the process of adding a curated selection of literary morsels to our PQL eStore as Free Downloads. As it stands the offer includes three categories—Catalogues, Broad­sides and Chapbooks—the latter intended to provide free 'bonus' content such as Tim Inkster's behind-the-scenes look at the challenges attached to the publication of Leon Rooke's novel *The House on Major Street*.



Affect

Charlene Elsby

OCTOBER

The love story of a young graduate student who, though acutely aware of the absurdity of love in a universe where all is finite and death is inevitable, nevertheless insists on interpreting a developing relationship through the fractured lens of philosophy.

Have you ever met a person who actually seems larger than life? I did, once, just where you'd least expect him to be (standing around), in an environment you wouldn't be able to fit him into (the courtyard outside the Philosophy building), if the concept meant what it implies. Such a being makes us question whether we are, in fact, so limited, with the one life and the one death, and nothing else to reasonably look forward to, whether the whole system is flawed, whether it's not the case that they've cheated the system and come out on the other side ... That was Logan for me.

Hyper-rational and unapologetically cerebral, *Affect* is the story of a philosophy student who falls in love with an older man. Their relationship develops through a series of surreal events whereby Logan comes to infiltrate the narrator's psyche and then occasions the collision of her interior and exterior worlds. As much a love story as the analysis of a love story, *Affect* explores the notions of life and death, time and distance, and the astounding transformation of an 'other' to an 'I'.

Charlene Elsby is an assistant professor of philosophy and was recently philosophy program director in the Department of English and Linguistics at Purdue University Fort Wayne. She is the author of several scholarly works on logic, rationality and philosophy. She lives in Cambridge, Ontario.

\$18.95 • 144 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Literary • 978-0-88984-437-7



Breaking Right

Daniel Lockhart

NOVEMBER

Ordinary Hoosiers experience extraordinary moments that reveal the complicated correlations between their beliefs, their relationships and the land beneath their feet.

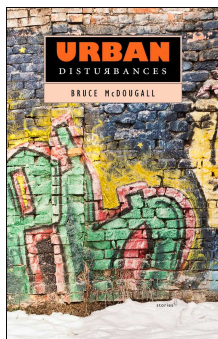
Sports legends, UFOs, big cats on the prowl and other modern Midwestern mythologies take centre stage in the fantastical, folkloric and absurdist stories of D.A. Lockhart's *Breaking Right*. A junkyard worker seeks fame, fortune and a feeling of belonging behind the wheel of a hot-rod emblazoned with a fire-breathing corgi. A hard-luck basketball scout, whose day-to-day existence abides within the quietude between calamities, expects the worst when a foreboding creature known as the Mothman is spotted in Muncie. A pharmaceutical researcher is drawn into the orbit of an eccentric artist whose dramatic plan to 'heal' the city of Indianapolis requires a car painted to resemble a possum and a shamanistic Etch-a-Sketch.

In these stories rooted in the everyday, fate, acts of God and good old-fashioned luck beget exceptional circumstances and once-in-a-lifetime occurrences in which shared mythologies have the power to bring people together—or tear them apart.

Daniel Lockhart is the author of several books of poetry, including *Devil in the Woods* (2019) and *Gravel Lot That Was Montana* (2018). He currently acts as publisher of Urban Farmhouse Press and poetry editor of *The Windsor Review*. He is a Turtle Clan member of the Moravian of the Thames First Nation and lives at Waawiiyaatanong, better known as Windsor, ON, and Detroit, MI.

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

FICTION/Literary • 978-0-88984-436-0



Urban Disturbances

Bruce McDougall

SEPTEMBER

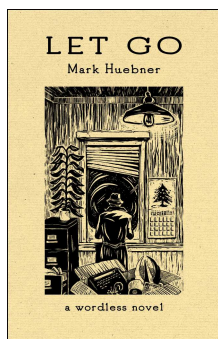
Bruce McDougall's skilful short stories sketch a warts-and-all portrait of humanity, illuminating the mysterious forces that drive people to behave in unique—and uniquely human—ways.

In *Urban Disturbances* ordinary characters reveal through their stories the infinite possibilities of our common humanity. A dispassionate lawyer experiences mixed feelings about talking a man out of jumping off a bridge. A respected philanthropist begins to buckle under the weight of a shocking secret. A determined woman crafts a meticulous plan to bag a rich husband. Jack (of beanstalk fame) discovers the maiden in the tower—and happily ever after—aren't always all that they're cracked up to be. These characters and others are at once painfully ordinary and deliciously absurd, often relatable and occasionally irredeemable. They navigate complicated relationships and contend with their own self-destructive behaviours, all the while clinging to essential, very human, desires: to be noticed, to be wanted, to be loved, and occasionally, when the situation calls for it, to get what they deserve.

Bruce McDougall has been a freelance writer for more than 30 years. A graduate of Harvard College, he served as an editor of *The Harvard Lampoon* and attended the University of Toronto Law School before becoming a full-time writer. He has written or co-written more than twenty books, including *The Last Hockey Game* (2014) and biographies of Canada's first detective, John Wilson Murray; and business tycoon Ted Rogers. He has also published a collection of short stories, *Every Minute Is a Suicide* (2014). His fiction has appeared in *Geist*, *subTerrain* and *Scrivener*. He lives in Toronto.

\$19.95 • 208 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Literary • 978-0-88984-438-4



Let Go

Mark Huebner

DECEMBER

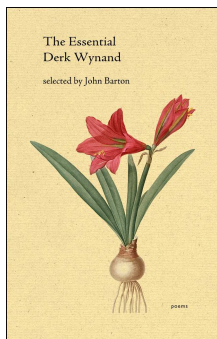
A story of travail and triumph, Mark Huebner's wordless novel follows a laid-off ad man struggling to carry the deadweight of his past as he labours through inclement weather toward an unknown future.

After being fired from his job, a veteran ad man is escorted from the office carrying a cardboard box packed with mementos of his career. He steps out into a blinding blizzard, burdened by the weight of his collection. Each object tells a story, and as he navigates the city and makes his way home, he recalls memories from his past: former colleagues, an award-winning campaign, a lost love. But faced with the demands of the present—and the very real danger of the snow-bound city streets—he must decide whether to hold on to the objects of his past, or to let go in the hopes of surviving the night.

The bold, honest linocuts in Mark Huebner's *Let Go* form an evocative narrative that distills over twenty years of memories into a single night of intense struggle against nature both meteorological and human.

Mark Huebner is a Canadian advertising copywriter and commercial illustrator. After studying film directing and screenwriting at New York University, Oral Roberts University and University of Winnipeg, Mark started his career in film production before discovering that copywriting provided a broader channel for his compelling narratives. He is the author of *Sports Bloopers: All-Star Flubs and Fumbles* (2003), a YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers. *Let Go* is his first published work of fiction. He lives in Toronto.

\$26.95 • 288 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"
GRAPHIC NOVEL/Canadian • 978-0-88984-439-1



The Essential Derk Wynand

selected by John Barton

SEPTEMBER

Thematic consistency and technical inventiveness shine in this latest selection of Derk Wynand's emotionally intelligent poetry.

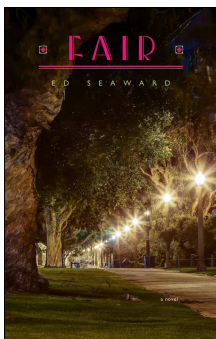
Derk Wynand began to publish a cohesive body of work in the 1970s. Though his poems touch on aspects of daily life both public and private, Wynand is essentially a love poet dedicated to exploring all aspects of his theme: from initial attraction and sustained eroticism, the anxieties and constancies of gradually negotiated connection, the satisfying longueurs of fidelity, to the pleasures of the seemingly timeless domestic moment. Whether Wynand sets his poetry in the snows of European folklore, the sunny climes of Portugal and Mexico or the rains of British Columbia, he adroitly maps the inscape of the human heart.

The Essential Poets Series presents the works of Canada's most celebrated poets in a package that is beautiful, accessible and affordable. *The Essential Derk Wynand* is the twenty-first volume in the increasingly popular series.

Derk Wynand was born in Bad Suderode, Germany, in 1944, not quite a week after D-Day. After receiving his BA in English and Philosophy from the University of British Columbia in 1966, Wynand taught for the Berlitz School in Montreal and Drummondville before returning to complete an MA in creative writing at UBC in 1969. He taught at the University of Victoria from 1969 to 2004, serving two terms as chair of the Department of Writing and working in many capacities for *The Malahat Review*, including as editor from 1992 to 1998. He lives in Victoria, BC.

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POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-440-7



Fair

Ed Seaward

NOW AVAILABLE

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

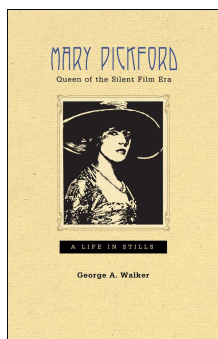
Eyan (pronounced Ian), homeless and all but invisible, drifts through the sun-drenched streets, parks and boardwalks of L.A., sometimes avoiding, sometimes seeking the shadows. A chance encounter with a childhood friend leads Eyan to meet 'the professor', an erudite and tragic figure who takes Eyan under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

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

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

\$19.95 • 160 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Literary • 978-0-88984-431-5



Mary Pickford

QUEEN OF THE SILENT FILM ERA

George A. Walker

NOW AVAILABLE

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

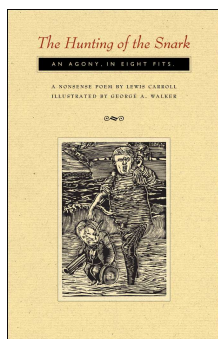
Toronto-born Gladys Louise Smith, who would later come to be known as Mary Pickford, first burst onto the silent-film scene at the tender age of 17. But Pickford was more than just ‘the girl with the curls’. In addition to her acting career—a brilliant success that spanned 52 features—Pickford also helped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

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

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

\$22.95 • 200 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

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



The Hunting of the Snark

Lewis Carroll / George A. Walker

NOW AVAILABLE

Masterful wood engraver George A. Walker provides an uproarious reinterpretation of Lewis Carroll's classic poem as seen through the convex lens of contemporary American politics.

Lewis Carroll's classic nonsense poem *The Hunting of the Snark* follows a band of oafish misfits as they undertake an epic quest to catch a fantastical creature known as the Snark. Led by the bombastic and bewildering Bellman, the crew sets out with enthusiasm, a blank map—and no clear idea of what they're doing.

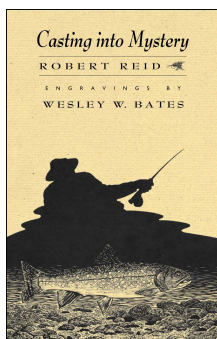
This newly illustrated edition contains all the delightful darkness and droll sarcasm of Carroll's original text; and yet, wood engraver George A. Walker cleverly reimagines the tale through his illustrations, drawing from the world of presidential politics to recast the story. In so doing, Walker creates an irresistible commentary on contemporary America, memorializing a baffling political climate and providing a sharp new way of looking at a familiar poem.

George A. Walker is an award-winning wood engraver, book artist, teacher, author and illustrator. He is Associate Professor at OCAD University in Toronto where he has taught popular courses in book arts and printmaking since 1985. Walker is also the illustrator of the first Canadian editions of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*. Walker was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Art in 2002 for his contribution to the cultural area of Book Arts. He lives in Toronto.

Lewis Carroll (1832–98) was a British mathematician who was best known for his novels and poems for children in the genre of literary nonsense.

\$16.95 • 88 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

ART/Canadian • 978-0-88984-430-8



Casting into Mystery

Robert Reid / Wesley W. Bates

NOW AVAILABLE

A celebration of the meditative sport of fly fishing and of the camaraderie and quietude to be found not only in the gentle flow of river currents, but also in the community and culture of anglers past and present.

In *Casting into Mystery*, writer Robert Reid and wood engraver Wesley W. Bates—avid anglers, both—put ink to paper in homage to the venerable sport of fly fishing. Through text and image, they recall with fondness the ‘company of rivers’ that provides a glimpse inside a sporting culture rife with literature, art and music. Part memoir, part objet d’art and part field guide, *Casting into Mystery* will delight passionate fly fishing practitioners and armchair anglers alike.

Robert Reid is a writer, journalist and avid angler whose career in journalism spanned forty years. Reid got his start writing for newspapers in Strathroy, St. Thomas, Timmins and Simcoe before he landed a position covering arts at the *Brantford Expositor*, and later, the *Waterloo Region Record*. Since his retirement, Reid has continued to write about his passions—art and culture, malt whisky, dining and travel, and especially fly fishing—on his website at reidbetweenthelines.ca.

Wesley W. Bates was born in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. One of Canada’s best-known wood engravers, Bates has ventured into book illustration, film, commercial art, letterpress publishing and acoustic country—played, naturally, on a bouzouki. A retrospective of his engravings, *In Black and White* was published by Bird & Bull in 2005, with a revised edition published by Gaspereau Press in 2008. He now maintains his studio, which is open to the public, in a nineteenth-century storefront on the main street of Clifford, Ontario.

\$26.95 • 284 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

SPORTS & RECREATION/Canadian • 978-0-88984-428-5

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