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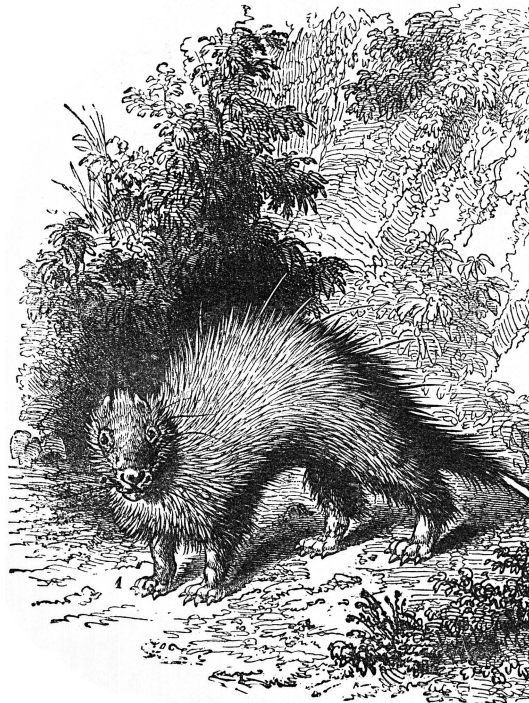
Spring 2011

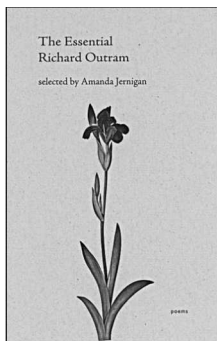


Press sharply.

*Petting
a Porcupine
Is Not As Easy
As It Looks.*

Thanks to Richard Clewes
and Clique Communications
for the re-branding campaign
that will roll out
over the spring.





The Essential Richard Outram

Selected by Amanda Jernigan



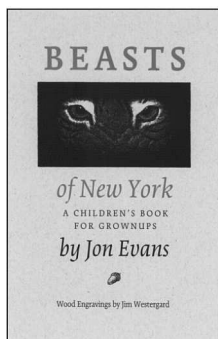
This, the seventh *Essential* in the series published by the Porcupine's Quill, is selected by Amanda Jernigan. It celebrates the work of Richard Outram, 'one of the finest poets in the English language' according to Alberto Manguel. As much at home with the physical as with the metaphysical, Outram is by turns bawdy and decorous, sensual and ascetic. He is a virtuoso ventriloquist, speaking now as a reluctant sailor, now as a heartbroken prophetess, now as 'a bloody great Indian elephant'; he even speaks, occasionally – a rarer feat, this, than is commonly acknowledged – as himself.

Outram wrote over twenty books of poetry, many of these privately published with his wife, the artist Barbara Howard, under the Gauntlet Press imprint. The poems in these privately-published books, alongside the deeply personal lyrics that Outram chose not to publish in his lifetime, comprise a little-read oeuvre of great importance. Collecting a selection of these rarities alongside highlights from Outram's trade-publications, *The Essential Richard Outram* provides a fuller sense of the arc of this poet's career than has yet been made accessible in book form. Editor Jernigan states: 'I began with those poems of Outram's that have become essential to me – that I have come to "understand", if only in the most literal way: by learning them by heart.'

Born in 1930, Outram worked for many years as a stagehand crewleader for the CBC. In 1954 he met his wife and artistic collaborator, Barbara Howard, in London, England. Their interest in the reciprocities of word and image led them to letterpress printing. Outram died in 2005 leaving behind his poetry, a lively correspondence and a series of prose lectures delivered at the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto.

\$12.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

POEMS • 978-0-88984-338-7 • Available: February 2011



Beasts of New York

Jon Evans with illustrations by Jim Westergard



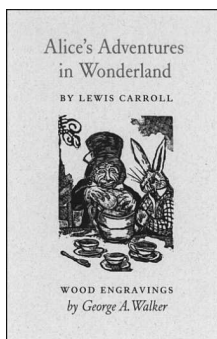
Patch, a squirrel in Central Park, wakes one cold morning to find every foodstore stolen. In the middle of winter, that spells starvation. His mother is gone without a trace, and in her den drifts a musky, unfamiliar scent. Hungry, tired and alone, Patch sets off into the 'mountains' – the human lands of New York City – to find food and to uncover what's happened to his family. He finds out too late that a war is brewing beneath his paws. Patch is swept into a deadly battle that unites squirrels, birds, cats and dogs against vicious forces below the ground, rumoured to be led by the mysterious, legendary King Beneath. Gripping and suspenseful, *Beasts of New York* is a gritty urban fantasy populated by unforgettable characters as vivid and complicated as humans: from mercurial Zelina, the Queen of All Cats, to Snout, a massive and power-hungry rat, to Karmerruk, an arrogant, dangerous hawk.

Evans's New York City of wildlife is deeply imagined; the urban landscape wavers between the familiar and the disturbingly bizarre, while award-winning artist Jim Westergard's intricate wood engravings illuminate the settings and many characters. *Beasts of New York* is a young adult adventure from one of Canada's premier writers of dark crime thrillers. Evans brings his fast-paced energy to an entirely new world full of very eccentric, often hilarious, yet dangerous characters - one right under our feet.

Jon Evans is the author of four thrillers, one graphic novel, and one dark urban fantasy, and his journalism has been published in *Wired*, *The Guardian*, *Reader's Digest* and *The Globe and Mail*. His debut novel, *Dark Places*, won the 2005 Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel. Evans currently lives in Toronto and at www.rezendi.com.

\$25.95 • 256 pp • sewn paperback • 5.56"x8.75"

FICTION/FANTASY • 978-0-88984-341-7 • Available: March 2011



Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

George A. Walker

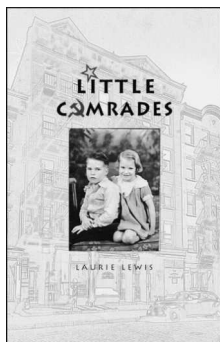


In 1980, art student George A. Walker and professor Bill Poole from the then-named Ontario College of Art collaborated on the first Canadian publication of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. It took ten years to complete. Walker created over two hundred playful, eccentric wood engravings to illustrate the pages of this letterpress masterpiece, but only 177 copies of the book were ever made. Now Walker is an internationally acclaimed artist and the Porcupine's Quill has finally made this unique artwork, alongside the book that inspired it, widely available to lay readers – and this time with several extra illustrations that were not included in the first edition. Wood engraving is a meticulous, delicate art form with a history spanning hundreds of years. Walker's engravings are surreal and downright provocative, offering a new and darkly energetic interpretation of Carroll's masterpiece and subtly toying with Sir John Tenniel's famous nineteenth-century illustrations. With an insightful introduction by Alberto Manguel, the author of *The Dictionary of Imaginary Places*, this 2011 edition celebrates Alice's spectacular adventures as well as her equally spectacular artistic heritage.

George A. Walker, known as the 'Mad Hatter' of Canadian graphic arts, is an award-winning wood engraver, book artist, teacher, author and illustrator. For over twenty years Walker has exhibited his wood engravings and limited edition books internationally. Among many book projects Walker has illustrated two hand-printed books written by novelist Neil Gaiman. In 2002, George A. Walker was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Art for his contribution to the cultural area of Book Arts. He lives in Toronto where he is an Associate Professor at OCAD University.

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

ART/JUVENILE FICTION • 978-0-88984-339-4 • Available: April 2011



Little Comrades

Laurie Lewis



With wit, pathos and blistering honesty, Laurie Lewis's memoir begins with her child's-eye understanding of family. Her abusive father is an important man in the Alberta Communist Party; her mother, a committed Party member, tries to protect her children from his alcoholic rages and maintains the pretence that everything is all right.

Laurie watches her brother's anger, her mother's unhappiness, and learns to keep secrets – her own and other people's. When she is fifteen a new life begins as her mother leaves her marriage and takes Laurie with her to New York City, where Laurie faces fervent anti-Communist sentiment as well as eye-opening experiences with men and new freedom for women.

'Deftly rendered and simply told, with thoughtful recollection and frequent sparks of humour, this personal narrative is grounded in and propelled throughout by a clear and fierce intelligence.' – Diane Schoemperlen

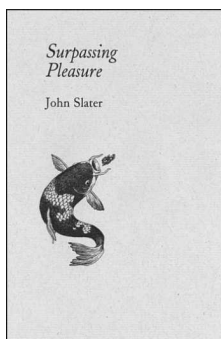
'*Little Comrades* is an important personal and political memoir and at the same time a touching, unusual mother-and-daughter story. While the New York chapters are especially engaging, the whole book exudes a real freshness and relevance, reminding us that the past was always modern in its own way.'

– Steven Heighon

Laurie Lewis is a Fellow of the Graphic Designers of Canada and founder of Artful Codger Press. During her thirty years in publishing, she worked at Doubleday and UTP, and also taught book design in Guyana, the Philippines, and at Ryerson University in Toronto. She now lives in Kingston, Ontario.

\$22.95 • 224 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

AUTOBIOGRAPHY • 978-0-88984-342-4 • Available: May 2011



Surpassing Pleasure

John Slater



A unique collection from a talented new poet, *Surpassing Pleasure* pulls hard in two directions. Launching for 'the every-coloured light/streaming through the bright rose-window', or savouring 'flow caught longing for the ground', these poems arrive at surprised moments of fusion. Whether straining at the leash of formal constraints like a watchdog 'hot on the trail of his own release' or nestling into them like 'bees nuzzling into ... rain-wet petals', Slater combines density and compression with an expressive, fluent music. Open forms, even at their most ragged and disjunctive, remain rhythmically knit and crafted, while the occasional sonnet, villanelle, or ghazal retains something of the ease and authenticity of speech. This energetic first collection moves freely from the world of professional snooker to drunken adolescent escapades.

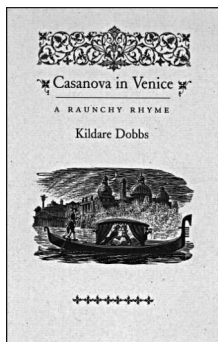
"There are indeed pleasures surpassing ordinary pleasure in these poems. Whether his topic is the cracking of a safe, drinking in a late-night bar, hauling furniture into a new house, or chanting prayers in the monastery, Slater crafts poems of sharp-eyed wit. His poetry awakens us to those moments when the nitty gritty of everyday life is unexpectedly transformed."

– Peggy Rosenthal, author of *The Poets' Jesus*

John Slater pursued life as a Cistercian monk until 2000. Immersion in the rhythm of monastic living, its definite structures and open spaces, were formative in the genesis of *Surpassing Pleasure*. Slater's poetry has appeared in *Canadian Literature*, *Queen's Quarterly* and *PN Review*. Slater is currently at work on a degree in theology from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

\$16.95 • 112 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

POEMS • 978-0-88984-340-0 • Available: June 2011



Casanova in Venice

Kildare Dobbs

Imagine a twenty-first-century riposte to Lord Byron's *Don Juan*. *Casanova in Venice* leads the reader on a fast-paced, deliriously raunchy journey in pursuit of that infamous lover and liar, Giacomo Casanova. The rhythm gallops and the imagery bucks as Casanova grows out of innocence into the daring legend that has since become the subject of fascination, envy and art – and Kildare Dobbs reveals every tantalizing detail in rhyming couplets that beg for recitation – or rather, almost every detail. For the narrator of *Casanova in Venice* has a decidedly modern agenda: from complaints about the excessive sanitation of modern women, to opinions on the Big Bang Theory, the lively banter between narrator, audience and Casanova himself turns this mock-heroic epic into an equally thoughtful commentary on contemporary life. The narrative is based loosely on Casanova's *Memoires* and uses the sort of eighteenth-century poetic conventions that Casanova himself might have used, so nymphs, gods, lyres and Muses all make the occasional appearance. Accompanied by suitably irreverent wood engravings by Wesley Bates, the result is a worthy contribution to modern mythology: 'Arthur, Cu, Scarface, move over,/make room for hero Casanova!'

Born in India, Kildare Dobbs is an award-winning writer and poet who has lived the world over. After serving in the Royal Navy during World War II and in East Africa, Dobbs migrated to Canada in 1952 and worked in journalism and publishing. His autobiography, *Running to Paradise* (1962), won a Governor-General's Award. He has published collections of short stories, novellas and poetry, including *The Great Fur Opera* (1970). In 2000, he was invested with the Order of Ontario. Kildare Dobbs lives and writes in Toronto.

\$14.95 • 80 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

POEMS • 978-0-88984-332-5 • Now Available



My Other Women

Pauline Carey

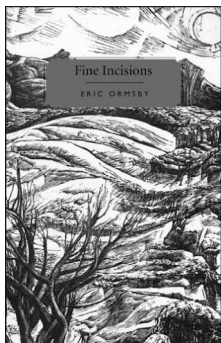
In *My Other Women*, Pauline Carey takes a sidelong, sardonic look at the institution of marriage through the eyes of a young woman who wants no part of it. Andrea Dermot is a gifted, determined young actress who creates a life and career for herself in the wave of theatrical innovation that erupted in Toronto in the 1960s. Believing that an artist with ambition must need to guard her independence, Andrea chooses to avoid marriage, but she can't ignore love: the arrival of the contraceptive pill to Canada, nudity to Toronto stages and Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* all point to an age of revolutionary freedom for women, men and Canadian theatre.

There are intriguing parallels between Andrea's exploration of her work in the theatre and exploration of her sexuality. The three main loves of Andrea's life are three married men, each of whom works in the arts. And three times, after the love affairs and the marriages fall apart, Andrea finds a friend and co-worker in her ex-lover's wife. (Do the wives know? Perhaps.) The examination of love and friendship in *My Other Women* adds a deeper emotional colour and truth to the story, while Carey's portrait of a time of rebellion and change is sharp, insightful and entertaining.

Pauline Carey, currently living in Toronto, is a former actor and ongoing writer of plays about Pauline Johnson, Anna Jameson, Emily Murphy, Mary Shelley and her parents Mary Wollstonecraft and William Godwin, and a musical about four obstreperous bugs. She is also the author of two children's picture books, a children's novel, and various short fiction and song lyrics. *My Other Women* is her debut novel.

\$22.95 • 208 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

FICTION/NOVEL • 978-0-88984-327-1 • Now Available



Fine Incisions: Essays on Poetry and Place

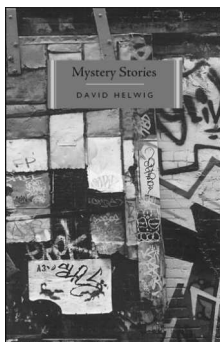
Eric Ormsby

Eric Ormsby, that gracious, intelligent and occasionally fractious poet, has produced another vigorous collection of essays to shake North American literary criticism from its lethargy. Opinionated and hilarious, Ormsby indulges his wide-ranging interests and discusses writers from Bob Dylan to S. D. Goitein, La Fontaine to Leo Tolstoy. These are figures whose accomplishments Ormsby admires – even loves in some cases – though not always uncritically. *Fine Incisions* also draws connections between Ormsby's criticism and his travel writing; as his essay 'Shadow Language' notes, the music of another language can seep pleasurably into a writer's work (and, as Ormsby also notes, the lack of such linguistic overlap cheapens much of contemporary poetry!). Although the topics vary widely, Ormsby's viewpoint remains sharp and uncompromising. His familiarity with North American, British and Arabic literary cultures informs each essay and leads to new and provocative reflection. Most of all, each essay is an expression of Ormsby's own romance with language, and his devotion is clear in his insistence on all writers' very best.

Eric Ormsby's poetry has appeared in major journals in Canada, England and the U.S., including *The New Yorker*, *Parnassus* and *The Oxford American*. His first collection of poems, *Bavarian Shrine and other poems* (1990), won the QSpell Award of 1991. In the following year he received an Ingram Merrill Foundation Award for 'outstanding work as a poet'. His collection, *Coastlines* (1992), was a finalist for the QSpell Award of that year. A third collection, *For a Modest God: New and Selected Poems*, appeared in 1997 with Grove Press in New York. His work has been anthologized in *The Norton Anthology of Poetry* as well as in *The Norton Introduction to Literature*. Eric currently lives in London, England.

\$24.95 • 256 pp • sewn, paperback • 5.56" x 8.75"

ESSAYS • 978-0-88984-334-9 • Now Available



Mystery Stories

David Helwig

Mystery Stories is inhabited by absence: strange trauancies (with equally strange arrivals), missing friends, lost lovers. The survivors are left behind to navigate the pitfalls of memory while trying to make sense of lives built by people no longer present. An aging artist is still entangled in the startling events of his youth. A clergyman is struck by wonder after visiting the deathbed of a hundred-year-old woman, once a war correspondent. An old lawyer, blinded by war, recalls the beauty of Venice in his dreams. A petty criminal named Wicker is trapped on a snow bound island with a blind pony and a three-legged dog. The book ends with a long story that twines itself around old photographs of strange Montreal graffiti. Men and women, both faithful and unfaithful, reflect on the past in their slow march towards mortality.

In this world love is intense and enigmatic. The characters and the times change, but mystery remains a constant. What is this life that I have lived, each of us must ask, and what has it meant? *Mystery Stories* is an intricate addition to Helwig's already large canon of rich, thoughtful stories populated by densely real people.

Born in Toronto, David Helwig attended the University of Toronto and the University of Liverpool. He went on to teach at Queen's University, and in 1980 he became a full-time freelance writer. Helwig is the founder and longtime editor of the *Best Canadian Stories* annual, and in 2009, he was appointed to the Order of Canada. He is the author of more than thirty books, mostly fiction and poetry. *Catchpenny Poems* won the CBC Poetry Award in 1983, and in 2004, his long poem, *The Year One*, won the Atlantic Poetry Award. David Helwig lives in the village of Eldon on Prince Edward Island.

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STORIES • 978-0-88984-337-0 • Now Available

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