



*45 years
of
feminist
publishing*

INANNA
FALL 2023

Inanna Publications & Education Inc.

Essential reading for feminists everywhere.



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In fall 2023, Inanna celebrates 45 years of feminist publishing!

Inanna Publications, founded in 1978, is one of only a very few independent feminist presses in Canada. We publish fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction, as well as scholarly monographs by and about women. Our goal is to foreground new and innovative perspectives that will change and enhance women's lives everywhere. Our publishing space is dedicated to feminist voices that provoke discussion, advance feminist thought, and speak to diverse lives of women, and we aim to amplify the voices of marginalized and underrepresented women. Our award-winning novels, short story and poetry collections tell the stories of women from all walks of life, and our academic titles are broadly interdisciplinary, straddling the humanities and social sciences. Over the last 45 years, we have overcome pressures, pandemics, and patriarchy to ensure that a wide range of feminist topics can be accessible to the largest possible community of readers.

Inanna Publications and Education Inc. gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council for our publishing program, as well as the financial assistance of the Government of Canada. Special thanks to the Ontario Creates Book Fund for supporting our 45th anniversary activities.

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for the Arts



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ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
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Canada

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ISBN 978-1-77133-956-8
\$22.95

5.5" X 8.25" / PB / 256 PAGES
HISTORICAL FICTION/
OWN VOICES,
OCTOBER 2023
INANNA POETRY &
FICTION SERIES

ZULAIKHA

A NOVEL BY NILOUFAR-LILY SOLTANI

In the winter of 2007, Zulaikha is travelling from Amsterdam to Tehran when she is approached by Kia, a family acquaintance she hasn't seen for many years, who is on the same flight. Kia's father has passed away and he is flying home to attend his funeral. In a shocking twist, Kia also reveals that his father may have had information about Zulaikha's missing brother, Hessam, and their mutual friend, Abbass, who was murdered before Hessam's disappearance during the Iran–Iraq War.

When the flight is suddenly cancelled, and Zulaikha is later taken into custody and questioned about her relationship with Kia by both the Dutch and Iranian authorities, who ultimately confiscate her passport, a tense thriller unfolds revealing the impacts of war and the consequences for one young woman unknowingly caught in the crossfire of greed, power, and international politics.

This sweeping novel explores many timely topics including issues related to gender, class, race, and interracial marriage. It also sheds light on the tumultuous history of Iran from a new perspective. The novel reveals a forty-year period of war and upheaval in the middle east, and specifically, in Zulaikha's home territory of Khuzestan, which boasts the bulk of Iran's oil reserves, a place of intense tension between Iran and the U.S. still today.

"*Zulaikha* is an often suspenseful and always emotionally striking account of the inescapable reach of a violent history, and the grip that political realities have over personal truths."

—**Naben Ruthnum/Nathan Ripley**, author of *Find You in The Dark* and *Your Life is Mine*

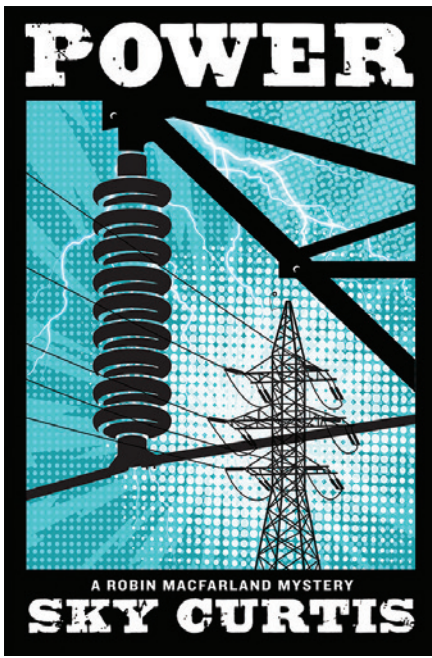
"A hauntingly moving and brilliant book that paints a portrait of longing, heartache, love and hope. *Zulaikha* is an ambitious and powerful debut novel from a brave new voice bringing attention to the politics in Iran and how lives are affected, especially the lives of women. With sensitivity, Niloufar-Lily Soltani weaves a tale of courage, betrayal, and forgiveness. Fast-paced and well-written, this story captures you from its first page and carries you along like the achingly beautiful notes of the oud."

—**Sonia Saikaley**, author of *The Allspice Bath*

Niloufar-Lily Soltani (Lily) is a literary and crime fiction writer and poet. Her poems have been published in magazines such as *Strange Horizons* and *Dissident Voices*. *Zulaikha* is Lily's debut novel. She lives in Vancouver, BC.

PROMOTIONAL PLANS

- Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal launches and readings
- Promotional bookmarks; giveaways
- Review copy mailing / submissions to reading series
- Ads in trade and literary magazines; social media ads



ISBN 978-1-77133-965-0
\$22.95
5.5" X 8.25" / PB / 200 PAGES
MYSTERY/CRIME FICTION,
OCTOBER 2023
INANNA POETRY &
FICTION SERIES

POWER: A ROBIN MACFARLAND MYSTERY

BY SKY CURTIS

Wry, forthright Home and Garden reporter Robin MacFarland has somehow gotten herself—along with her best friend and investigative journalist colleague Cindy—assigned by their newspaper editor to examine the deep-rooted causes of homelessness in Toronto, Ontario. Their investigation quickly reveals that environmental racism not only created hydroelectric power, it harmed the environment and displaced a large population of Indigenous people. When the Premier of Ontario dies at Robin's family cottage in Muskoka, Robin sets about proving that he was murdered against a tide of objection from Huntsville's police force. Though she's only supposed to be along for the ride, Robin MacFarland is honest to a fault, committed to justice and, though she's always willing to laugh at herself, also always willing to look for the hard truth no matter where it's hiding. Robin needs to figure out exactly how his death was disguised to look like an accident, what his part was in a dirty web surrounding the creation of more electric power, who knocked him off, and finally, how all this will impact her family.

PRAISE FOR THE ROBIN MACFARLAND MYSTERY SERIES:

"Robin MacFarland is a gutsy yet vulnerable heroine; she's a mother, a daughter, a good friend, and a more successful career woman than she gives herself credit for. Her sexual musings are hilarious, as are her self-observations and honesty. This gripping whodunnit does justice to various Toronto neighbourhoods and is a thoroughly enjoyable read. I hope there will be many more MacFarland adventures to come!"

—**Lisa de Nikolits**, author of *The Rage Room* and *Everything You Dream Is Real*

"Our heroine is as un-heroine-like as ever, and just as hilarious, clever, and quick to rise to the sexist remarks of a small town police chief or the annoying habits of her class-conscious brother. The baffling mystery will keep you guessing, but the banter between Robin and her newsroom pal, Cindy, will keep you laughing."

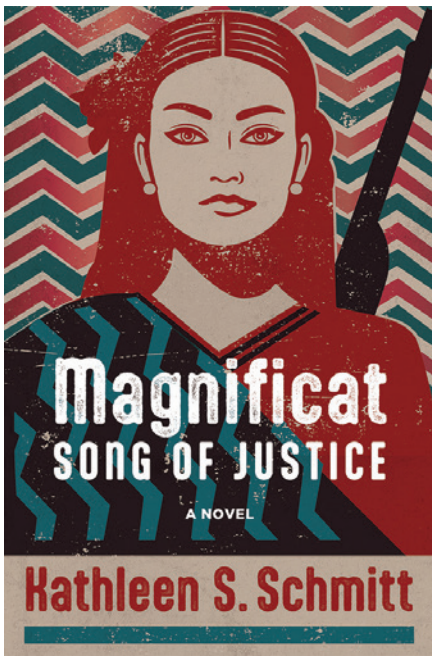
—**Jan Rehner**, author of *Just Murder* and *Almost True*

Sky Curtis is a novelist, journalist, poet, educational software designer, editor, magazine writer, columnist, playwright, children's author, and non-fiction writer. Sky is passionate about the environment and social issues and is currently working on the lively Robin MacFarland Mystery Series. She has written many books, some under the name Kathryn MacKay, and lives with her family in Toronto, ON. www.skycurtis.ca

PROMOTIONAL PLANS

- Toronto, Nova Scotia (Liverpool, Halifax, Truro) launches and readings
- Promotional bookmarks; giveaways
- Review copy mailing / submissions to reading series
- Ads in trade and genre magazines; social media ads





ISBN 978-1-77133-872-1
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 5.5" X 8.25" / PB / 350 PAGES
 HISTORICAL FICTION,
 OCTOBER 2023
 INANNA POETRY &
 FICTION SERIES

MAGNIFICAT: SONG OF JUSTICE

A NOVEL BY KATHLEEN S. SCHMITT

What happens when an upper middle-class but politically unsophisticated young mother leaves the mental health care home where she has lived for four years and travels from West Vancouver to the small, fictional Central American country of Ixcheltlán to rescue her eleven-year-old daughter from a vague danger identified by the child who is in the care of her father? Because Sara Bowley's spouse has taken control of all her finances and doesn't want her to leave the care home, she has to take the Greyhound to San Diego, ride chicken buses, and hitchhike through Mexico and Guatemala in search of her child.

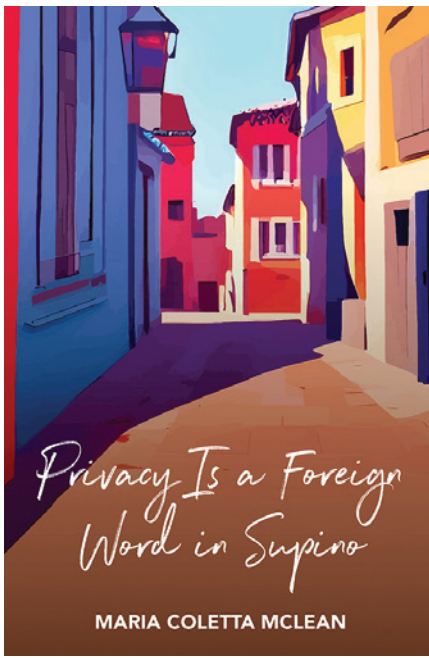
Magnificat: Song of Justice is a story of two women on separate paths, one a North American woman's journey to social consciousness, and the other, a tale of a campesina named Maria Luz who seeks to lead her people to an alternative to the war that is devastating her country. When these two paths converge, Sara comes to believe in the wisdom of the campesina, and embraces a radical change in her life, but the shadow of death soon descends on them both, threatening to destroy all that they have set out to accomplish.

Magnificat: Song of Justice is based on the author's interest in the concept of a female Christ figure in the context of liberation theology, and her post-war volunteerism in El Salvador in the 1980s.

Vancouver writer **Kathleen S. Schmitt** authored three volumes of *Seasons of the Feminine Divine: Christian Feminist Prayers*. She has published short stories and poetry in literary magazines and anthologies, the novel *Conversations with Amelia*, and the young adult novel, *Getting a Life*. A retired Anglican priest, Kathleen served for three years in the parish of Santísima Trinidad in San Martín, El Salvador. *Magnificat: Story of Justice* is her sixth book. www.justiceworks.ca

PROMOTIONAL PLANS

- Burnaby, Surrey, Vancouver launches and readings
- Promotional bookmarks; giveaways
- Review copy mailing / submissions to reading series
- Ads in trade and genre magazines; social media ads



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\$22.95

5.5" X 8.25" / PB / 216 PAGES
LITERARY FICTION,
SEPTEMBER 2023
INANNA POETRY &
FICTION SERIES

PRIVACY IS A FOREIGN WORD IN SUPINO

A NOVEL BY MARIA COLETTA MCLEAN

The village of Supino looks as sleepy as the opening shot of an old black and white Fellini film. At the newspaper office, Bianca stumbles into a job meant for someone else and a new advice column, "Ask Minerva," is born. Soon everyone is engaged in trying to discover the mystery columnist's identity as well as the identity of her correspondents.

Seven years have passed since Rosa's husband's disappearance and now he's been declared legally dead. And her secret lover (that all the villagers know about) wants to marry her. Bravo! Except Rosa is uncertain and when she's uncertain she tends to run away. That's why she's taken her son Carlito to Venice for a week. As Rosa's relationship unravels, Carlito does some unraveling of his own and inches closer to uncovering the mystery of his father's identity. Back in the village, Rosa's best friend Assunta is lonely. Perhaps that's why Assunta falls so quickly and naively for Enzo, the smooth-talking bottlecap salesman.

Every villager, from the hairdresser to the barman and each one in between, has an opinion on Bianca's column, "Ask Minerva!" The young hairdresser's assistant has trouble with her marriage to a man with a wandering eye, not to mention other body parts, and at the Kennedy Bar, the men gather to laugh over the columnist's advice until they begin to realize that it's their wives who are requesting the advice.

"Warm with wit and shining with insights into the human heart, this sunny tour of lives and loves in the Italian town of Supino is so captivating, you may never want to come home."

—**Barbara Kyle**, author of the *Thornleigh Saga* novels

"The lives of the villagers of Supino intertwine in this delightful book that tickles your sense of nostalgia and humour [for] a time where everyone knows or thinks they know everything about their neighbours' business. The village bar is a favourite hangout, filled with the latest news, advice, and opinions of everyone from the coffin maker and the electrician, to the hairdresser and the woman secretly behind the "Ask Minerva" advice column. Snappy dialogue, spirited characters, and the idyllic Italian setting make this new book by Maria Coletta McLean—like her previous ones: *My Father Came from Italy* and *Summers in Supino*—molto simpatico!"

—**Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli**, award-winning author of *La Brigantessa* and *Pigeon Soup & Other Stories*

Maria Coletta McLean is the author of the best-selling memoir, *My Father Came from Italy* and the sequel *Summers in Supino: Becoming Italian*. She's been featured in the *National Post*, *Toronto Star*, *Globe and Mail* and *USA Today*. In 2002, she was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for her contribution to the Canadian literary landscape. Maria is a graduate of York University and University of Toronto: she lives in Toronto where she teaches Creative Writing at Seneca College. She maintains a home in the village of Supino, where the patio is still under construction. www.mariacoletta.com

PROMOTIONAL PLANS

- Toronto, Montreal, Italy launches and readings
- Promotional bookmarks; giveaways
- Review copy mailing / submissions to reading series
- Ads in trade and genre magazines; social media ads



ISBN 978-1-77133-971-1

\$22.95

5.5" X 8.25" / PB / 160 PAGES

SHORT FICTION/OWN VOICES,

OCTOBER 2023

INANNA POETRY &

FICTION SERIES

THE NAMASTÉ WAY: STORIES OF HEALING

BY MEHRNAZ MASSOUDI

The Namasté Way is a collection of short stories written in journal form. Three of the stories reach into the hearts of grieving mothers and expose the darkest places a woman can go when faced with the unthinkable loss of her child. The author takes readers on a rollercoaster ride of emotion as the women gradually make their way out of their grieving and into a place of refuge; a place without blame or regret, where they and their families find a livable peace and they can again feel their soul connection to their lost children. Three other stories explore the heartache that comes with the breakup of a relationship, and the final three explore surrendering to cancer, caring for aging parents, and losing a best friend to suicide.

Healing is a journey that is different for everyone. *The Namasté Way* shows by example characters honouring the light, peace, and truth in oneself where the whole universe resides.

Mehrnaz Massoudi was born in Iran and immigrated to Canada in 1983 after the Iranian revolution and in the midst of the Iran–Iraq war. Since then, her journey has taken her from experiencing external conflict to using her training as a molecular biologist to explore and adopt techniques to resolve inner conflict. She integrates her science background with her knowledge of meditation, the Emotional Freedom Technique to support people wanting to manage stress in the chaos of their daily lives and to find new levels of self-love, courage, and inner tranquility. Her personal memoir, *Never without Love*, was published in 2019. She lives in Penticton, BC. www.mmassoudi.com

PROMOTIONAL PLANS

- Penticton, Vancouver, Calgary launches and readings
- Promotional bookmarks; giveaways
- Review copy mailing / submissions to reading series
- Ads in trade and literary magazines; social media ads



ISBN 978-1-77133-968-1
 \$19.95
 6" X 7.5" / PB / 100 PAGES
 POETRY, OCTOBER 2023
 INANNA POETRY &
 FICTION SERIES

SIGRENE'S BARGAIN WITH ODIN

POETRY BY ZOË LANDALE

Making a deal with Odin, the most powerful of the Norse gods, is a bad idea. Sigrene, who is considered one of the lowest of the low in Asgard, the Norse city of the gods, knows any dealings with Odin could get her killed, but after her friend is murdered, she is desperate to get justice for her.

When Sigrene learns the killer will be coming for her next, she's pushed into action. What can she sacrifice to persuade the Norns, the three Fates, to teach her to spin magic to uncover the murderer's name? Between Odin, the Valkyrie warriors, and the dragon who gnaws on the roots of the World Tree, Sigrene makes powerful enemies at every level of the Norse Nine Realms. And every choice she makes leads her into more perilous places. No one alive has ever returned from the deepest of the Hel Realms: how can Sigrene?

This unique, epic poem explores little-known Norse mythology and pays special attention to form, sound, and imagery. *Sigrene's Bargain with Odin* contemplates the age-old quandary of where our loyalties lie, and how to act with integrity to find peace in a troubled world.

"With the beauty and clarity of a fairy tale and the complexity of an ancient Norse legend, we share the tests a hero endures for love of a friend, and of a horse... This book shimmers in content, style and power."

—**Kate Braid**, author of *Inward to the Bones*, co-author of *In Fine Form: The Canadian Book of Form Poetry*

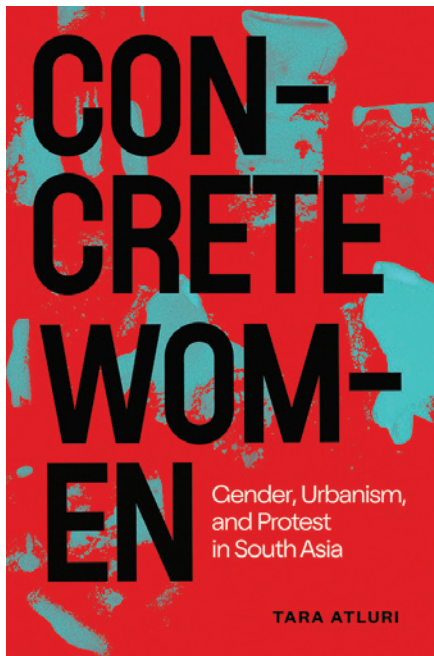
"In Zoë Landale's ambitious and remarkable epic poem, *Sigrene's Bargain with Odin*, the reader is immersed, immediately and completely, in lyrical legend. Sigrene, half goddess, half mortal, accepts the path destiny commands as she sets out to exact vengeance on the one who killed her childhood friend, Krista, 'sister-heart, beloved.' Here be skyhorses and dragons, Fire-gods and Valkyries; here a new song animates the ancient legends."

—**Rachel Rose**, former poet Laureate of Vancouver, author of *Notes on Arrival and Departure*

Zoë Landale has published ten books, edited two books, and her work appears in more than fifty anthologies. She taught for fifteen years as a faculty member in the Creative Writing Department at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Vancouver. Her writing has won significant awards in three genres, including first in the Stony Brook University Short Fiction competition, National Magazine Gold for memoir, and first in the CBC Literary Competition for poetry. She now lives and gardens on Pender Island, a southern Gulf Island in BC, where she is writing up a storm. www.zoelandale.com

PROMOTIONAL PLANS

- Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, Ottawa, Truro launches and readings
- Promotional bookmarks; giveaways
- Review copy mailing / submissions to reading series
- Ads in trade and literary magazines; social media ads



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\$44.95

6" X 9" / PB / 480 PAGES

ACTIVISM & SOCIAL JUSTICE/

OWN VOICES,

SEPTEMBER 2023

INANNA PUBLICATIONS

CONCRETE WOMEN: GENDER, PROTEST, AND URBANIZATION IN SOUTH ASIA

BY TARA ATLURI

People who live in South Asian cities re-shape the politics and actualize constitutional rights, in parks, on playgrounds, and in city streets. Each chapter in this book discusses feminist, transgender, and queer movements in urban India and Pakistan. The author has interviewed those who are part of a generation of unabashedly courageous, intersectional feminists who are living and working in South Asia and shares their first-hand stories. These activists stage protests and artistic interventions in a time period of legal reforms regarding queer rights, public debates regarding sex, the rise of urbanization, and growing forms of Internet literacy and accessibility. *Concrete Women* is a rumination on the distances between life and death, between the finitude of violence and the possibility of justice.

PRAISE FOR *UNCOMMITTED CRIMES*:

"While Tara Atluri's *Uncommitted Crimes* delves deep into the form, field, and thematics of contemporary art made by Black, Indigenous, and diasporic people, its success is in the way that those works expose the mechanism of a settler state (known as Canada), white supremacy, and the death of liberal multiculturalism."

—**Indu Vashist**, Executive Director, South Asian Visual Arts Centre

"Tara Atluri's work and passion around arts and activism has been inspiring and encouraging because so many of us who are in the 'margins' bring these worlds of art and activism together. Brick by brick ... we are creating, with Tara, something new. So many important voices, that are often not included, are welcomed. *Uncommitted Crimes* is brilliant and a necessary piece of writing."

—**Rosina Kazi**, lead singer of the radical electronic duo *lal* and founder of Unit 2

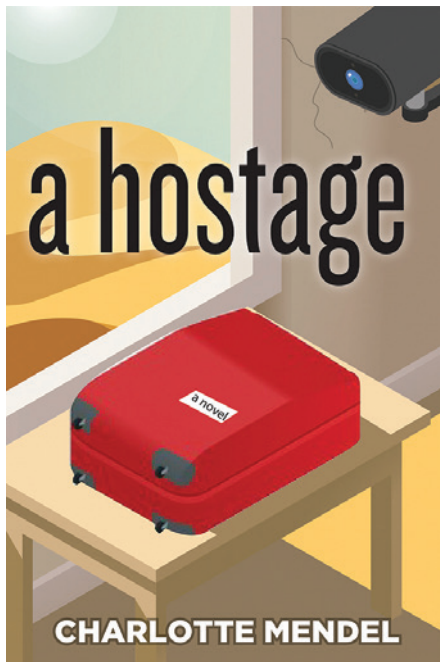
Atluri positions the book as a tribute to the artists whose work she examines—important, in that the book interrupts the cycle of subjugation, offering an art history not of instrumentalization, but of emancipation and intervening in the perpetuation of nationalist art historical narratives."

—**Erin Silver**, *University of Toronto Quarterly*

Tara Atluri has a PhD in Sociology. She has written two books. The most recent, *Uncommitted Crimes: The Defiance of the Artistic Imagination* (Inanna Publications, 2018) discusses subaltern artists in and from Turtle Island (Canada) whose inspiring artwork serves as political critique. Dr. Atluri's first book, *Azadi: Sexual Politics and Postcolonial Worlds* (Demeter Press, 2016) draws on interviews with activists, protestors, and people throughout India after the 2012 Delhi gang rape case and the 2013 decision to uphold Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, a colonial law that criminalized LGBTQ people. After years of protest, Section 377 was partially struck down in 2018 making it legal to be queer in India. Tara lives in Toronto, ON.

PROMOTIONAL PLANS

- Toronto; Ottawa; London, UK; New Delhi, India; Bangalore, India launches and readings
- Promotional bookmarks; giveaways
- Review copy mailing / submissions to reading series
- Ads in trade magazines; social media ads



ISBN 978-1-77133-924-7
 \$22.95
 5.5" X 8.25" / PB / 220 PAGES
 FICTION – SATIRE MAY 2023
 INANNA POETRY &
 FICTION SERIES

A HOSTAGE

A NOVEL BY CHARLOTTE MENDEL

When Charlotte is kidnapped, panic is only held at bay by a sardonic Inner Voice, which alternately consoles and condemns. When the Middle Eastern dictator Kassem questions the writer about why she had killed him off in her last book, *A Hero*, he triggers a surreal month of captivity. While Kassem appears determined to explain every warlike action, Charlotte attempts to instill humanity in the dictator. Inner Voice's incredulity at such hubris provides much-needed comic relief in an increasingly tense situation, as the unbearable loneliness unleashes a storm of unexpected sexual fantasies and complex feelings.

When the promised release date comes and goes, Charlotte embarks on a hunger strike, which ultimately brings about a joyful reunion with her family. However, home quickly disintegrates as Charlotte discovers that Kassem had used her for his propaganda, streaming their interactions live online. Media interest drives the introverted writer inward; as her ability to function normally deteriorates, Charlotte becomes convinced that her existence is a liability for her children.

Ultimately a post-modern fable, this novel cleverly plays with perceptions of truth while exploring the concept of imprisonment, the wider impacts of social media, and challenging widely held assumptions about fame. *A Hostage* probes Western political naïveté along with novelistic hubris as it—often hilariously—explores the relationship of the individual to society.

PRAISE FOR A HERO:

"Novel within a journal within a novel, unreliable narrator, elements of meta-fictional self-reflection, the blurring of fantasy and reality, combining the political and the personal, all swirling through a state-of-the-world Middle East setting. In *A Hostage*, Charlotte Mendel manages to juggle and balance these in a way that keeps the reader glued to the page. And leading to the final question: To whom (and to what) is the creative artist truly held hostage? Perhaps in the end to their own art."

—**Michael Mirolla**, author of *The Last News Vendor*

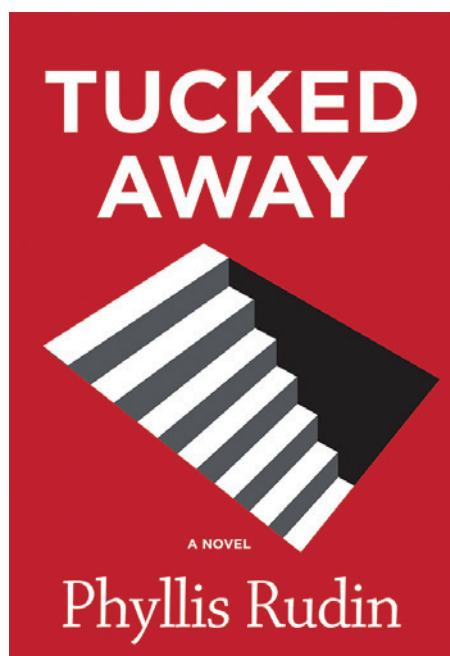
"With an ear for dialogue and a deep-seated understanding about the dynamics of a Middle Eastern family, Charlotte Mendel charts the challenging and heartfelt path of a family living during revolutionary times. *A Hero* is a poignant story of survival through a conflict that is raging not only at state level, but between family members as well. Mendel is a passionate writer."

—**Donna Morrissey**, author of *Sylvanus Now*

"Charlotte Mendel's tender look at an Arab family's passionate involvements takes us beyond headlines and into a nuanced and complicated world. If you're reading to understand the Middle East, *A Hero* is there to open your eyes and heart."

—**Carole Giangrande**, author of *The Tender Birds and All That Is Solid Melts Into Air*

Charlotte Mendel is a traveller, an author, a parent, a farmer, a teacher, and an environmental activist. Her two published adult novels have both won prizes. Her first YA novel, *Reversing Time* was published by Guernica Editions in 2021. Charlotte has lived in Nova Scotia for 20 years and raised two wonderful children; this year she left her partner of 32 years and is in transit—her first destination is Europe. www.charlottomendel.com



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\$22.95

5.5" X 8.25" / PB / 294 PAGES

URBAN FICTION, JUNE 2023

INANNA POETRY &
FICTION SERIES

TUCKED AWAY

A NOVEL BY PHYLLIS RUDIN

It seems like a dream gig when Daphne gets the job offer—live in Montreal’s Underground City for a full year and blog about the experience. The flip side of the city has all the creature comforts. The year will fly by. Except there’s a catch. To collect her whopping bonus for sticking it out till day 365, Daphne must agree never to set so much as a toe outside the territory of the Underground City, submitting to an ankle-monitor to keep her honest. Even if the conditions are hardcore, she doesn’t have much choice. Out of work, and sole provider for a grandmother whose bank account is on life support, Daphne signs on the dotted line. And that’s when her life goes into freefall.

Suddenly inspired by Daphne, her grandmother comes up with an underground plan of her own, sheltering illegal refugees at her granddaughter’s expense, ramping up the already significant pressure. But Daphne’s fury makes an about-face when she meets up with Chantal, a young runaway holed up in the Underground City, fleeing a threat she refuses to disclose. When Chantal later shows up on Daphne’s doorstep desperate for protection, Daphne must decide if she’s prepared to lay her future on the line to rescue a group of virtual strangers from discovery and ruin.

“At times both heartbreaking and hilarious, *Tucked Away* offers an intimate and irreverent tour of Montreal, especially its so-called Underground City. In and around it, Rudin sets an eclectic cast of characters and weaves their several stories together in a way that is surprising, moving, and engaging at every turn. A tour de force!”

—**Ann Lambert**, author of the *Russell and Leduc* mystery series.

PRAISE FOR *EVIE, THE BABY AND THE WIFE*:

“This novel, set in Montreal, is part feminist discourse, a mother–daughter story, a love story, a tale of redemption. Underlying the comedy and intrigue are issues such as abortion, the ethics of publishing writing drawn from others’ lives, generational divide, and more. With heart and humour, Phyllis Rudin reminds us of how those we love both surprise as well as disappoint us, and that injustice can inspire sacrifice.”

—**Renee Norman**, author of *True Confessions*

Phyllis Rudin is the author of two novels. Her first, *Evie, the Baby and the Wife*, a fictionalized account of the Vancouver to Ottawa Abortion Caravan, was published by Inanna Publications in 2014. This was followed by *My True and Complete Adventures as a Wannabe Voyageur*, which came out with NeWest Press in 2017. Her writing has also been published in numerous Canadian and American literary magazines. Phyllis has lived in the U.S. and France and now makes her home in Montreal, which serves as the landscape for all her fiction. She recently finished her five-year project of walking the full length of every street in that city. www.phyllisrudin.com



ISBN 978-1-77133-893-6
 \$18.95
 6" X 7.5" / PB / 128 PAGES
 POETRY, MAY 2023
 INANNA POETRY &
 FICTION SERIES

CIRCLE TOUR

POETRY BY EVA TIHANYI

Circle Tour, Eva Tihanyi's ninth poetry collection, seeks and celebrates beauty in the face of despondency. Its three sections—Outer Circle, Inner Circle, Centre—draw us in as we move from the “outside” world of politics, culture, and art to the “inside” world of relationships with family, friends, and lovers, to the “core” world of the self.

The book begins with a stark announcement of hope: “If you’re reading this, / you’re still here.” It then moves to engagement with (among other things) the pandemic, feminism, and artists such as Marina Abramović while reinforcing the healing power of Nature throughout our experiences with external, beyond-our-control circumstances. In the more personal second section, Tihanyi writes about loss through death; the continuing influence of her grandmother; the end of one love moving into a new, more profound love; the importance of friends, reminding us that “each day we must be / lucid with mutiny against despair.”

The final section focuses on the self—not just the poet’s own but the universal human Self. It confronts the process of aging and its attendant contemplations, and once again reminds us of how Nature and art can help us in our “continuous becoming.”

The poems in *Circle Tour* invite a sequential reading as the book gathers force in an upward spiral. It takes us on a powerful journey, ending with the ultimate affirmation that leads us full circle to our present moment: “Enough on this day / to be enormously alive.”

“In *Circle Tour* Eva Tihanyi not only poses the question, what does it mean to make art and meaning in an uncertain world?, she pulls us into this question and the act of questioning. ‘The artist is more than present’ in these poems, but—more than that—we are invited to be present too. A journey through the concentric circles of Tihanyi’s carefully structured book is a coming-to-presence. *Circle Tour* is a powerful collection that challenges us to rethink the nature and potential of lyric poetry as a mode of human contact and imaginative response.”

—**Johanna Skibsrud**, author of *The Description of the World*, *The Poetic Imperative: A Speculative Aesthetics*, and the Giller-Prize winning novel *The Sentimentalists*

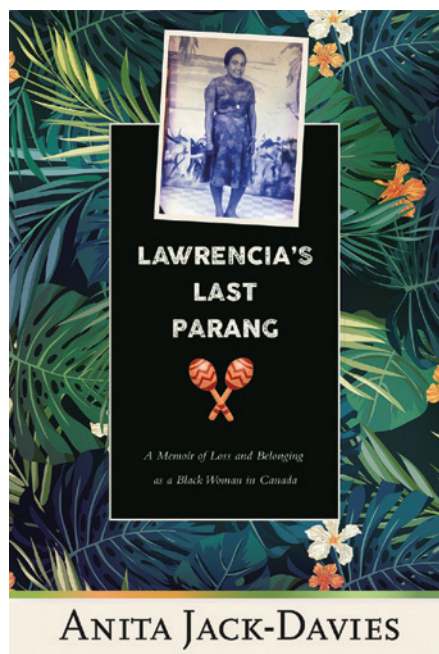
“A lyrical, big-hearted celebration of what it takes to remain whole and hopeful, come what may.”

—**Rona Maynard**, author of *My Mother’s Daughter* and former editor of *Chatelaine*

“Eva Tihanyi has done for stalwart love what Sylvia Plath did for despair. She examines it from every angle. She chronicles pain she has suffered in the past, and then does a stellar job of recounting how she left it behind. *Circle Tour* is erudite, uplifting, and completely honest.”

—**Catherine Gildiner**, author of *Good Morning*, *Monster* and the three-volume memoir *Too Close to the Falls*, *After the Falls*, and *Coming Ashore*

Circle Tour is **Eva Tihanyi’s** ninth poetry collection. She has also published a volume of short stories, *Truth and Other Fictions* (2009). Tihanyi, who taught English at Niagara College from 1989 to 2020, now writes full time. She lives in the Port Dalhousie neighbourhood of St. Catharines, Ontario. www.evatihtihanyi.com



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 MEMOIR/OWN VOICES,
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LAWRENCIA'S LAST PARANG: A MEMOIR OF LOSS AND BELONGING AS A BLACK WOMAN IN CANADA

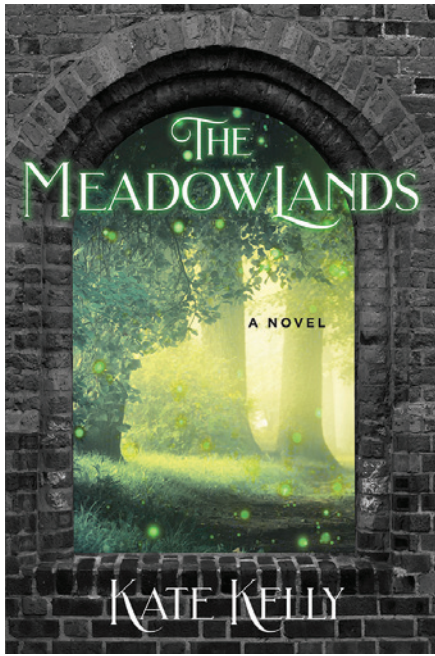
BY ANITA JACK-DAVIES

Lawrencía's Last Parang: A Memoir of Loss and Belonging as a Black Woman in Canada is a snapshot of the author's life immediately after the passing of her grandmother Lawrencía, the woman who raised her. Written in the style of a patchwork quilt that takes the reader back and forth between the present and the past, Anita Jack-Davies examines her grief from the perspective of a Canadian-born Black woman of Caribbean descent, and she begins to question her identity and what it means to be a Black Canadian in new ways. This means exploring her childhood in Trinidad and her adult life in Kingston, Ontario, a predominantly white city, her experience of raising a mixed-raced child, and the meaning of her interracial marriage.

Given love and protection by the grandmother who raised her in Trinidad, she belongs to Trinidad, but she was born in Canada. Thus, she occupies what she describes as a third space, needing both Trinidad and Canada, loving both, and belonging fully to neither. In Canada, in Kingston, she has a white husband from a famous family and a bi-racial daughter, and she struggles with issues of racism almost on a daily basis—everything from “where are you from?” to nurses who come to see the Black woman who gave birth to a white baby, to resentful students at the university where she teaches. Within the academy she is—as a “sometimes professor”—again in a kind of third space where archetypes of the Black body (mammy, jezebel, matriarch, and welfare mother) that her students read about clash with the position of authority she holds in the classroom.

Simultaneously a memoir, a eulogy, and an academic analysis of race in Canada, the book offers an insightful exploration of race in Canada, one that complicates these issues through the lens of identity and loss, but also through a prism of privilege.

Anita Jack-Davies was born in Toronto, Ontario, and spent her formative years on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean, but she returned to Canada at eleven years old. In 1998, she became a teacher and spent five years as an educator with the Toronto District School Board before returning to graduate school to earn a PhD in Education. She is currently Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Urban Planning at Queen's University and is Director, Strategic Partnerships & Development at Toronto Metropolitan University. She has taught courses in the areas of Black feminisms, feminist pedagogies, and race and racism. She lives with her family in Kingston, Ontario.



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THE MEADOWLANDS

A NOVEL BY KATE KELLY

The Meadowlands is a young adult dystopian fantasy following the adventures of four children who come from a near future dominated by institutions, technology, and state control. Children are raised in state homes and have no concept of family, with the exception of Terran and his younger sister, Brooke.

While stealing supplies at the market to supplement their needs, Terran and Brooke, along with two other children, Tyson and Simon, are chased by the authorities. Searching a dark alleyway for cover, Terran is drawn to a vibrant glow, a mystical green meadow, hidden behind a crumbling city wall. It's an archway with a small opening that has fallen away, a perfect place to hide, like a window into a different world—the world of the Beigfur, as it turns out. The Beigfur are small sentient beings who once shared the earth with humans, but now exist in a parallel universe. Theirs was a highly technical society at one time but they lost the ability to control their science and now live in harmony with nature, developing their intuitive and telepathic capabilities. The Beigfur are shy beings, wary of humans and their destructive ways. Centuries before, the Beigfur used the last of their technology to place a glamour between the worlds to protect themselves. Climbing through the archway, the children inadvertently penetrate the blocked passage and tumble into *The Meadowlands* where an unexpected, life-changing adventure begins.

The Meadowlands speaks to the confusion of today's world and the complex question of technology and how much of it is needed in our lives. The novel explores GMOs and their impacts on nature and the environment, the importance of family, and the challenges of coming of age in a world of technology and isolation.

PRAISE FOR A HARSH AND PRIVATE BEAUTY:

"Kate Kelly's *A Harsh and Private Beauty* transports us to a pulsing, teeming Chicago in the early twentieth century, as a family of Irish immigrants makes its way into the new world. Through her astute and nuanced observations of emotion and relationship, Kelly unravels the complicated threads that entwine a family and its collective and individual memories."

—Linda Quennec, author of *Fishing for Birds*

"This great family saga takes us from Chicago to Montreal and Toronto, from gangster wars in the Prohibition Era to the war of the sexes in the next generation. Family secrets are revealed, conventions (and hearts) are broken, and careers are forged in this fascinating tale told by the matriarch of the family, indomitable Ruby Grace. The story resonates with her granddaughter Lisa, who is at a cross-road in her own life, and it will resonate with readers everywhere. Bonus points if you love jazz and blues!"

—Erika Rummel, author of *The Effects of Isolation on the Brain* and *The Painting on Auerberg's Wall*

Kate Kelly is an educator, singer/songwriter, poet, and novelist. She is the author of *A Harsh and Private Beauty* (2019). A mother of three, she lives and works in Peterborough. Kate is also a spoken-word artist and has competed nationally in Toronto and Montreal. She can be found on YouTube, performing spoken word.



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 SHORT FICTION
 OWN VOICES,
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A FALL AFTERNOON IN THE PARK: SHORT STORIES

BY MEHRI YALFANI

Mehri Yalfani's new collection consists of nineteen short stories, primarily from Iranian women's perspectives, set in both Iran and Canada.

In the story "Rainy Day," a little girl longs for a doll with golden hair; in "Adopted Child," a successful business professional delays having a baby but then discovers a secret; in "Armchair Émigré," siblings struggle to settle their parents' estate; an educated woman finds herself cleaning the home of a wealthy, illiterate woman to pay the bills in the story "Adam," and, in the title story, a family is divided (literally) when the mother loses her job and they must make difficult decisions for their future.

These varied, compelling snapshots of family, friendship, culture, tradition, discrimination, class issues and struggle offer a glimpse into the challenges and joys of immigrants and refugees' lived experiences in the Canadian diaspora.

PRAISE FOR *THE STREET OF BUTTERFLIES*:

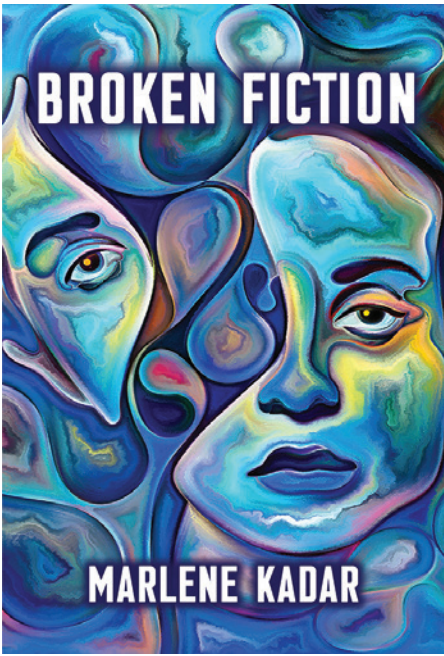
"Mehri Yalfani's stories in this new collection, *The Street of Butterflies*, are part of her growing repertoire of the travails and triumphs (more the former than the latter) of displacement, cultural change, and struggles for survival and adaptation. The stories, at the same time, judiciously reflect the racial, gendered, and cultural hang-ups of these same individuals who carry with them their old land's biases and fixed norms to the new land. This book is a welcome addition to the genre of works written by authors writing in a language not their own, who have come, or try to come, to terms with the complexity of language and culture."

—**Haideh Moghissi**, writer/scholar

"Mehri Yalfani's collection of short stories touched me with their nostalgic and vital quality. These accounts of the joys and difficulties that people from different cultures face as they learn to adapt to their new home give readers an important glimpse into how people deal with the daily tensions of living in two cultures, and made for compelling reading."

—**Nasreen Pejvack**, author of *Amity*

Mehri Yalfani was born in Hamadan, Iran. She graduated from Tehran University with a master's degree in electrical engineering. Mehri immigrated to Canada in 1987. She has published numerous books in Farsi as well as in English, most recently the novel, *A Palace in Paradise* (2019) and the short story collection, *The Street of Butterflies* (2017). She lives and writes in Toronto. www.yalfani.com



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 AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL FICTION,
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BROKEN FICTION

BY MARLENE KADAR

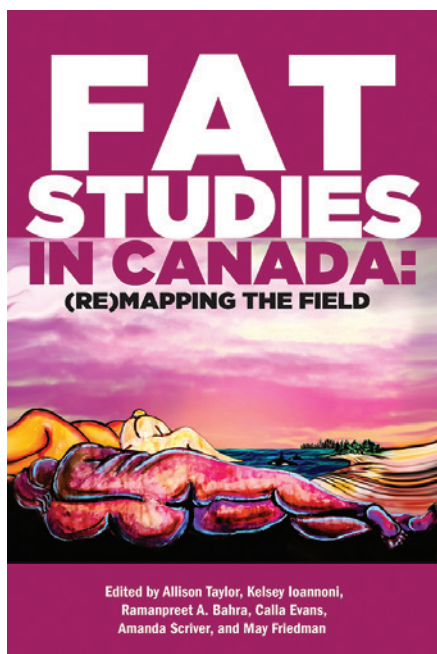
Broken Fiction is a collection of short auto/fictional pieces that move in between the force of memory and the force of loss. The collision of memory or storying, and loss or grief is where the author finds both solace and anguish and tries to negotiate a recognition or a moment without resorting to easy resolution. In each recognition there is an acceptance of the details of life gone off the rails in some worlds, but a life that is normal in other worlds—and not necessarily tragic but often heartbreaking, sometimes funny and always in an in-between orbit of love or love gone wrong, anger or anger misplaced, joy or joy's many faces, cultural memories that are translated into new-world talk or translated not at all.

On occasion, language invites a giggle especially when “real” objects assume a hyperfictional grace—as a way to travel quickly over decades or refer back to old wounds that shape new ones, and yet are attached to simple joys. Not all of these stories are fully true, but the fiction is also cracked or broken by photographic “evidence” of the forceful memory and the narrator’s sense of loss at the same time as she plays with the fact of life’s natural journey into its natural denouement and death. Can this fact find its difficult resolution and its difficult knowledge in a more neutral interpretation without giving into full-on sorrow or self-pity, or its many opposites, such as the force of forced optimism?

“This is a quirky and powerful book, original, heartbreaking, clever, enigmatic, oh so intelligent, sometimes angry, and more often humorous in a sly way. This is prose that slips into poetry. This is snatches of memory, a glimpse of family history, a dream journal, and a series of love letters. This is what the title says it is, broken fiction. It is autobiographical in some parts, not in others, except in the sense that authors always leave traces of themselves behind.”

—**Jan Rehner**, author of *The House of Izieu* and *Almost True*

Marlene Kadar is a writer who lives in Toronto. She is also Professor Emerita and Senior Scholar at York University. She studies domestic archival artefacts, including photographs. She is the Founding Editor of the *Life Writing Series* at Wilfrid Laurier University Press.



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POPULAR CULTURE, MAY 2023

INANNA PUBLICATIONS

FAT STUDIES IN CANADA: (RE)MAPPING THE FIELD

EDITED BY ALLISON TAYLOR, KELSEY IOANNONI,
RAMANPREET A. BAHRA, CALLA EVANS,
AMANDA SCRIVER, MAY FRIEDMAN

Fat Studies in Canada: (Re)Mapping the Field re-envisioning what it means to be fat in the colonial project known as Canada, exploring the unique ways that fat studies theorists, academics, artists, and activists are troubling and thickening existing fat studies literature. Weaving together academic articles and alternative forms of narration, including visual art and poetry, this edited collection captures multidimensional experiences of being fat in Canada. Together, the chapters explore the subject of fat oppression as it acts upon individuals and collectives, unpacking how fat bodies at various intersections of gender, sexuality, racialization, disability, neurodivergence, and other axes of embodiment have been understood, both historically and within contemporary Canada. Taking a critical approach to dominant framings of fatness, particularly those linked to an "obesity epidemic," *Fat Studies in Canada* aims to interrogate and dismantle systemic fat oppression by (re)centering and (re)valuing fat voices and epistemologies. Ultimately, the volume introduces new ways of celebrating fatness and fat life in Northern Turtle Island.

"This is an excellent and timely collection of essays and artwork exploring and (re)mapping the field of Fat Studies in Canada. The multiple points of knowledge contribution from creative to traditional academic essay complements this growing field. The weight of these various kinds of contributions makes for an incredibly insightful read."
—**Allyson Mitchell**, Artist, Professor of Gender Studies, and Founder of Pretty Porky and Pissed Off

"These chapters weave a tapestry of theoretical, personal, and embodied responses to the provocation of what it means to be fat in Canada. Most (perhaps all) of the contributions could stand alone as articles or poems; together, they generate an intensity of thought and feeling that I've rarely observed in volumes of this kind. This volume stands to make a critical contribution ... , as well as to kickstart further theorizing around fatness, particularly situated, localized, and intersectional experiences of fatness."
—**Andrea Lamarre**, PhD

Allison Taylor is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at Re•Vision: The Centre for Art and Social Justice at the University of Guelph. She holds a PhD in gender, feminist, and women's studies from York University. Allison is working on creating a digital archive and a pedagogical module on the subject of fat activist art. She lives in Toronto. **Kelsey Ioannoni**, PhD., is a fat solo mom and sociologist based out of Toronto, Canada. Her research focuses on the power dynamics between primary care physicians and patients (fat women); she also explores the way fat women navigate fertility and reproductive care in Ontario. She lives in Toronto. **Ramanpreet A. Bahra** is a PhD student in the sociology department at York University. Her research interrogates the intersections of fatness, race, disability, and gender to offer alternative perspectives on the notion of the body and embodiment. She lives in Brampton. **Calla Evans** is an image-maker, visual storyteller, digital problem solver, fat activist, and ex-academic. Calla works as a digital storytelling facilitator at Re•Vision. She lives in Vancouver. **Amanda (Ama) Scriver** is a freelance journalist. Her writing has appeared on the platform *Refinery 29* and in the *Toronto Star*, *THIS*, *Healthline*, and *Xtra*. She lives in Toronto. **May Friedman** is a faculty member at Toronto Metropolitan University. May's research looks at unstable identities, including bodies that do not conform to normative tropes of race, ethnicity, ability, size, beauty, and health. She lives in Toronto.

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