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digitally lit
Atlantic Canadian Youth Read

Digitally Lit Catalogue

Most-❤️'d Atlantic Canadian Books

Read, Rated & Reviewed by

Atlantic Canadian Youth



It all starts here

Digitally Lit is a not-for-profit society that **gives Atlantic Canadian youth**—ages 13 to 25—a platform to **read, review,** and **talk** about the books made in our own region.

Since 2019, our young reviewers have been partnering with Atlantic Canadian publishers **and telling the truth** about what they read: what ***hooked them***, what ***didn't***, and ***why***.

This catalogue ***celebrates*** those 80 books that earned the highest authentic praise from **these young** readers.

digitally lit

Youth approved. For real.

The 80 most-popular books made in the region, according to our youth

For seven years, Digitally Lit's young people have been reading and reviewing books from a wide range of Atlantic Canadian publishers. This catalogue is the result.

The metrics

Every book in these pages was reviewed by at least five of our Youth Ambassadors and Literacy Champions, and each earned no less than 4 out of 5 stars from every reviewer.

For our youth: *by our youth*

Nobody is assigned a book. Our reviewers choose from the frontlists and backlists of any participating publisher, and they're free to say exactly what they think. No one has ever been required to love a book or scolded for a negative review. So these aren't ad copy or marketing. They're honest reactions from young readers.

Praxis: Critical pedagogy of place

Each Youth Ambassador is trained to read with the empowerment of their community and identity in mind, an approach called "critical pedagogy of place". In plain terms, each review reflects *who* the reviewer is, *what* experiences they've been through, and *where* in Atlantic Canada they come from.

How to use this catalogue

START with our reviewers' top pick from each publisher on Page 3. Next, **BROWSE THROUGH the SIX MOST-LOVED SECTIONS**: Most-Loved Atlantic Mystery/Adventure; Atlantic Sci-Fi/Fantasy; Atlantic Non-Fiction; Atlantic Coming of Age; Atlantic Historical Fiction; and Atlantic Contemporary Fiction/Poetry. **KINDLY NOTE** all ages are mixed together, so check each title's suggested age and content note.

✶**IMPORTANT: CLICK ON THE COVERS** and you'll find that every title links to its page on digitallylit.ca, where you'll find a link to purchase as well as the publisher's full description. Additionally, you can **SCROLL DOWN** from this link on our site to read most of our reviewers' reviews. *Please note some young reviewers shared their reviews elsewhere, such as on social media, so not every review appears on our website. We tracked every score, reviewer and title either way.*

Most popular by Atlantic Canadian publisher

Every publisher in this catalogue has a book that rose to the top. Here are our reviewers' 13 favourites, one from each publisher, chosen because each earned the most reviews of 4 stars or higher. Genre, age, and publication date didn't matter. A picture book and a thriller competed on equal terms, and [two] publishers had such close races that we've included both of the winning titles.

Two publishers' titles tied for first place, so both of their top books appear here. It should be noted, our reviewers have read books from other publishers, too. However, for whatever reason, only certain publisher's books were read or met the criterion. And these are the best books per Atlantic Canadian publisher... at least according to our young readers!

Publisher	Title	Author	In a sentence
Acorn Press	Ten Thousand Truths	Susan White	A letter arrives out of the blue, and Rachel learns you can't hide from your past.
Bouton d'or Acadie	Coquelicot sur un rocher	Aurélie Resch	(French) Three young people, three mothers, and three voices bound by a fight for love.
Breakwater Books	The Blue Moth Motel	Olivia Robinson	Two sisters raised in a motel revive a childhood party celebrating the arrival of blue moths.
Breton Books	Blast!	Rennie MacKenzie	A former miner tells the stories of Cape Breton's major coal mine disasters.
Donovan Street Press	Hope of the Wasteland	Matt Watts	Twelve-year-old Huey leaves his bunker to search a nuclear wasteland for his missing dad.
Fernwood Publishing (tie)	Warrior Life: Indigenous Resistance and Resurgence	Pamela Palmater	Short, accessible chapters on Indigenous resistance, rights, and reconciliation.
Fernwood Publishing (tie)	Wake the Stone Man	Carol McDougall	In 1964, an unlikely friendship is torn apart, and one girl spends years finding her way to forgiveness.
Formac	The Summer Between Us	Andre Fenton	Adrian's last summer before post-secondary is full of big choices about belonging, family, and love.
Glowing Light Press	Journey to the Dark Galaxy	Hannah D. State	A YA space adventure in which Sam must find more than courage to save humanity.
Goose Lane Editions	The Town That Drowned	Riel Nason	Fourteen-year-old Ruby comes of age in 1960s New Brunswick as her village faces being flooded.
HARP Publishing	Yes! To Canada: When Grampa Refused to Fight the Vietnam War	Roger Davies	The story of American draft resisters who chose Canada, and the Canadians who welcomed them.
Nimbus Publishing (tie)	The Goodbye Girls	Lisa Harrington	Sixteen-year-old Lizzie and her best friend Willa start a secret "breakup basket" business at their high school.
Nimbus Publishing (tie)	The Last Time I Saw Her	Alexandra Harrington	Set in River John, Nova Scotia, the story follows Charlotte Romer returning home after nearly a year at boarding school.

Most-♥'d Mystery/Adventure

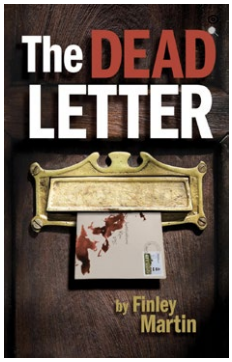
Secrets, suspects, and stories that keep you turning pages.

The Dead Letter

ADULT FICTION

Finley Martin

Acorn Press



In 2012, Anne Brown is running her late uncle's detective agency when the mail brings an eleven-year-old letter from a woman begging him for help with a murder. When Anne tracks down the letter writer, she finds that the woman is dead too, and that a case everyone thought was solved may not be.

Welcome to Camp Fill-in-the-blank

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Hope Dalvay

Acorn Press



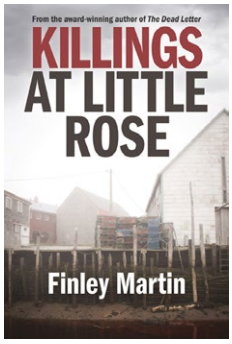
Page is a meticulous planner who agrees to babysit her young cousins for the summer. She discovers they secretly wanted to go to camp, so she invents one in their own backyard with a new theme each week.

Killings At Little Rose

ADULT FICTION

Finley Martin

Acorn Press



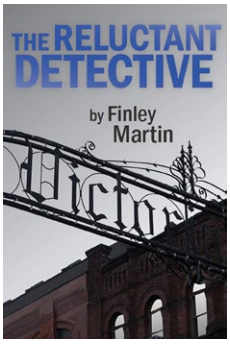
Anne Brown goes undercover at a seafood plant in an eastern PEI fishing village that's plagued by vandalism and bad luck. Amid rumours, buried secrets, and a growing threat of violence, she has to uncover the truth before the mystery turns deadly. Third in the Anne Brown series.

The Reluctant Detective

YA FICTION

Finley Martin

Acorn Press



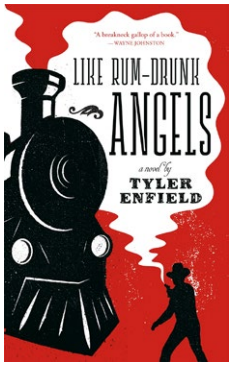
Anne Brown inherits her uncle's detective agency in Charlottetown and quickly takes on two cases: a mysterious package and a motorcycle gang bent on revenge. She has to protect her family while chasing justice for her clients. First in the Anne Brown mystery series.

Like Rum-Drunk Angels

ADULT FICTION

Tyler Enfield

Goose Lane Editions



Fourteen-year-old Francis Blackstone is a gunslinger with a heart of gold in Nowhere, Arizona, in 1883. He has fallen for the mayor's daughter and sets out to make his fortune to win her favour. With the volatile outlaw Bob Temple he heads across the West in search of treasure and love.

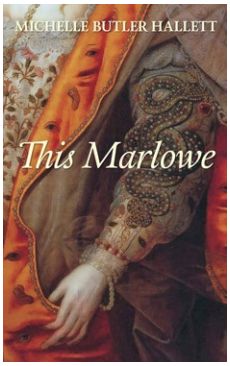
Winner of the 2021 Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize

This Marlowe

ADULT FICTION

Michelle Butler Hallett

Goose Lane Editions



It's 1593, and Queen Elizabeth reigns while two rival spymasters plot. Playwright Christopher "Kit" Marlowe, a cobbler's son from Canterbury, is caught between loyalty, love, and betrayal in the months before his death.

Longlisted for the 2018 International DUBLIN Literary Award

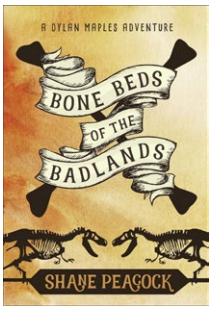
Most-❤'d Mystery/Adventure

Bone Beds of the Badlands

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Shane Peacock

Nimbus Publishing



Dylan and his best friends win the National Science Fair with a mechanical T. rex, and the prize is a parent-free trip to the Alberta badlands. The trip turns dangerous because a desperate escaped killer, "the Reptile," is on the loose nearby. The boys and a new friend, Dorothy, get separated from their tour in Dinosaur Provincial Park, and they're not alone.

Keepers of the Pact

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Karen Kelloway

Nimbus Publishing



In the seaside town of Brigus, Newfoundland, Alistair and his friends Ben and Sadie are pulled into a centuries-old secret involving mermaids and an agreement that keeps the sea safe. They must help reinstate the pact before ships and the whole town are in danger.

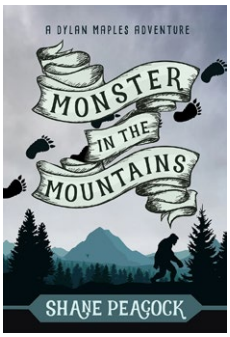
Winner of the Nova Writes Joyce Barkhouse Award

Monster in the Mountains

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Shane Peacock

Nimbus Publishing



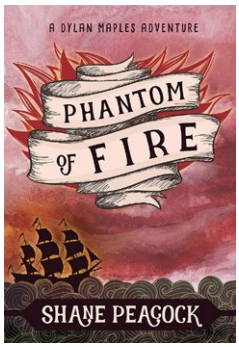
Dylan Maples' family vacation in British Columbia takes a turn when he meets his estranged great-uncle Walter. With a new friend, Alice, he heads deep into the wilderness on the trail of the legendary Sasquatch.

Phantom of Fire

YA FICTION

Shane Peacock

Nimbus Publishing



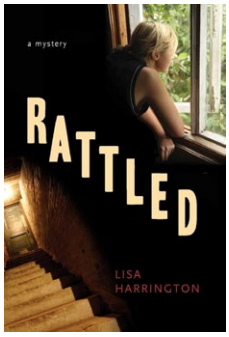
Fifteen-year-old Dylan Maples is grieving a friend's death and dreading a dull family trip to New Brunswick. On Youghall Beach he and a local girl, Antonine, see the legendary burning ghost ship of Chaleur Bay. They start investigating the mystery, and a local politician may be hiding something.

Rattled

YA FICTION

Lisa Harrington

Nimbus Publishing



Fifteen-year-old Lydia grows suspicious of a woman named Mrs. Swicker and discovers a dangerous secret, but not until it may be too late.

WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"BEST DEBUT NOVEL" 2025

The Mystery of Ireland's Eye

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Shane Peacock

Nimbus Publishing



Twelve-year-old Dylan Maples is paddling toward a ghost town on an island off the coast of Newfoundland. But an old man has a grim warning for him about the place. Is it just a spooky story, or is something really out there?

WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"IT TOOK ME ON AN ADVENTURE" 2022

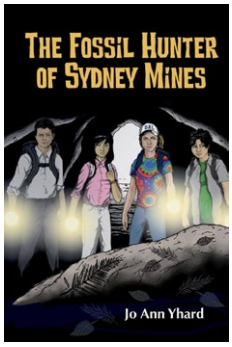
Most-❤'d Mystery/Adventure

The Fossil Hunter Of Sydney Mines

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Jo Ann Yhard

Nimbus Publishing



Thirteen-year-old Grace is grieving her father's mysterious death, and she and her friends escape by hunting fossils near an abandoned mine they call The Black Hole. When Grace gets a strange note about her father's death, the friends turn detective and race through sinkholes and old mine shafts to find out what really happened.

The Secret of the Silver Mines

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Shane Peacock

Nimbus Publishing



Dylan has barely recovered from his Ireland's Eye adventure when his parents plan another family trip, and this one is no vacation. A Toronto millionaire has hired Dylan's dad to track down a fortune in silver that was supposedly stolen from his grandfather. Was it really stolen, and where has it been hiding all this time?

The Last Time I Saw Her

YA FICTION

Alexandra Harrington

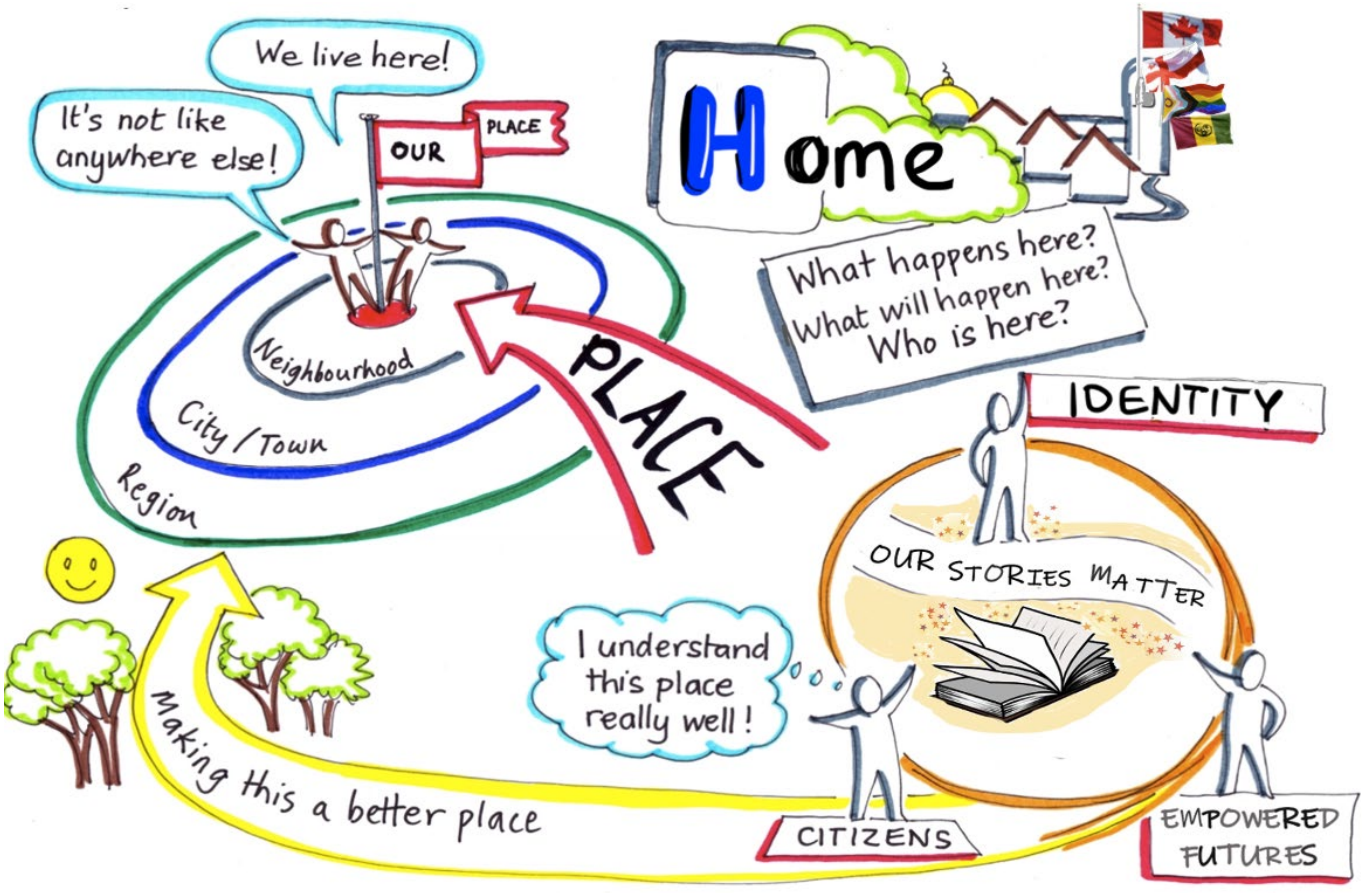
Nimbus Publishing



Charlotte left her small Nova Scotia town without telling anyone, not even her best friend Sophie, who had just been in a terrible car accident. When she comes home, she shows up uninvited at Sophie's eighteenth birthday party, and the fallout haunts her for weeks. Somebody knows what really happened, and they don't want Charlotte and Max to figure it out.

WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"BEST PAGE-TURNER" 2025



Most-❤'d Sci-Fi/Fantasy

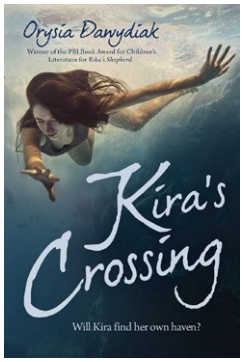
Other worlds, strange powers, and those big "what if" questions.

Kira's Crossing

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Orysia Dawydiak

Acorn Press



Five years later, Kira joins a mission to reclaim the merrows' undersea home. When the mission goes wrong, she is swept into an unexpected journey across the continent and a fight to survive.

WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"IT TOOK ME ON AN ADVENTURE" 2025

Kira's Quest

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Orysia Dawydiak

Acorn Press



Kira now knows she is a merrow, or mermaid, and that her birth parents are prisoners of the finfolk on a hidden island. When a group of selkies offers to guide her there, she sets off on a daring rescue mission.

Kira's Secret

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Orysia Dawydiak

Acorn Press



Twelve-year-old Kira loves to swim but has been forbidden to go near the sea. When she rebels and dives in, she learns something startling about who she is. With her friend Cody, she begins searching for her original family

Queen of the Crows

YA FICTION

Harmony Wagner

Acorn Press



Eleven-year-old Elsa is often hungry and scared when her mother doesn't come home. Then a crow starts talking to her and opens up a secret world. The crows' queen has vanished, and a scheming rival moves to take control. The novel is based on the author's short film of the same name.

Skyward

YA FICTION

Susan White

Acorn Press



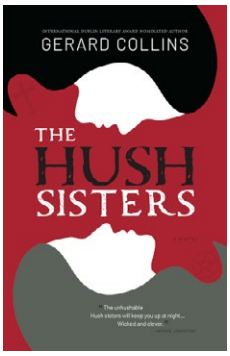
A YA dystopian fantasy about a crumbling world where money matters more than people. A young woman tastes real food, sees trees, and uncovers her own past for the first time.

The Hush Sisters

ADULT FICTION

Gerard Collins

Breakwater Books Ltd.



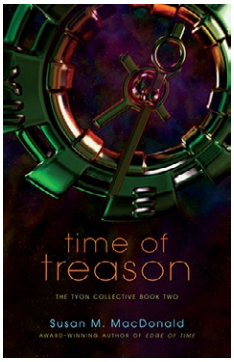
Estranged middle-aged sisters Sissy and Ava reunite at their family's old manor in St. John's to decide what to do with the inherited house. As they uncover its dark secrets, strange events begin and the spirits of the past awaken. They must face it together or be torn apart.

**Mature topics explored.*

Most-♥'d Sci-Fi/Fantasy

Time of Treason
Susan M. MacDonald
Breakwater Books Ltd.

YA FICTION



Book 2 of the Tyon Collective sci-fi series. Teens Riley and Alec have special genetic powers that make them targets for the extraterrestrial Tyons. They travel back in time to fix things, but it only makes everything worse. The Tyons are on their trail, and the dangerous Rhozan is back.

Hope of the Wasteland
Matt Watts
Donavon Street Press

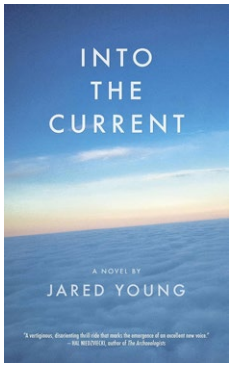
MIDDLE GRADE FICTION



Twelve-year-old Huey was born a century after nuclear devastation and raised in a bunker. When his father doesn't return from a supply run, Huey sets out across the wasteland. He faces mutants, giant scorpions and insects, and a feisty pre-teen named Hope.

Into the Current
Jared Young
Goose Lane Editions

ADULT FICTION



Daniel Solomon is not having a good day. He can relive memories in any order, but he can't change the present. A funny, time-bending debut about love, regret, bad decisions, and chance.

**Mature topics explored.*

The Rest Is Silence
Scott Fotheringham
Goose Lane Editions

ADULT FICTION

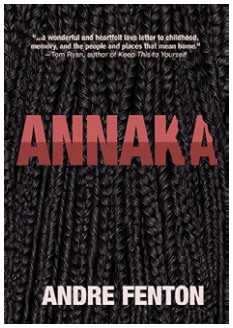
Winner of the H.R. (Bill) Percy Novel Prize



An unnamed narrator lives off the land at Forest Garden on a mountain in Nova Scotia, having withdrawn from modern society. As the story moves between two very different worlds, it explores what happens when the human relationship with technology and the environment goes wrong.

Annaka
Andre Fenton
Nimbus Publishing

YA FICTION

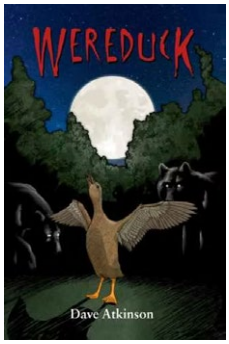


Annaka hates her first name, and goes by Anna after her mother moves her from Yarmouth to Halifax. She returns to Yarmouth to mourn her grandfather and faces mysteries from her past. Her "not-so-imaginary" friend Clay, the embodiment of her childhood journal, helps her find answers.

WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS
"COMMUNITY AND PLACE" 2022

Wereduck
Dave Atkinson
Nimbus Publishing

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION



Kate's family has always said that on the first full moon after her thirteenth birthday, she'll howl back at the moon and become a werewolf like them. The twist is that Kate turns out to be a wereduck, which makes for a very funny story about growing up in a family of werewolves

Most-♥'d Sci-Fi/Fantasy





Journey to The Dark Galaxy YA FICTION
Hannah D. State
Glowing Light Press

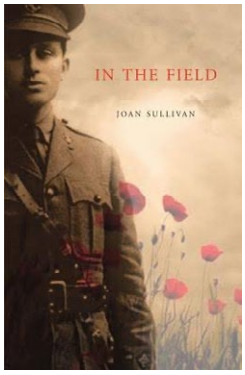


Telepathic teenager Sam Sanderson is drafted into a secretive interplanetary agency after a hostile alien AI demands Earth hand her over or face annihilation. The second book in *The Dark Galaxy Series* and the sequel to *Journey to the Hopewell Star*.

Most-♥'d Non-Fiction

True stories, real people, and ideas worth exploring.

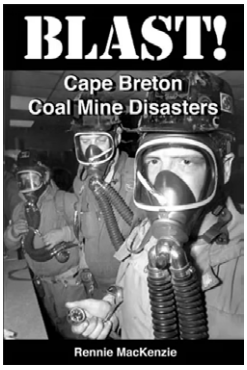
In the Field YA NON-FICTION
Joan Sullivan
Breakwater Books Ltd.



Narrative non-fiction about Stephen Norris, a young Newfoundland soldier lost in the First World War. It traces how his death affected his family and community, and how it still resonates decades later when a 2004 high school theatre class stages a musical about the Newfoundland Regiment.

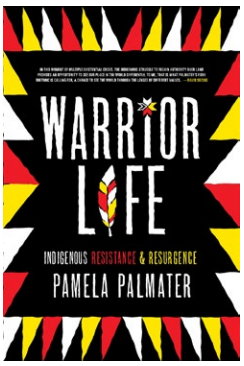
Mature topics explored.

Blast! MIDDLE GRADE NON-FICTION
Cape Breton Coal Mine Disasters
Rennie MacKenzie
Breton Books



A former Cape Breton miner tells the stories of all eighteen major disasters in the island's coal mining history. He writes with insider knowledge of how explosions, runaways, bumps, and falls happened.

Warrior Life HISTORY/ POLITICAL SCIENCE
Indigenous Resistance & Resurgence
Pamela Palmater
Fernwood Publishing



Renowned Mi'kmaw lawyer and activist Pam Palmater wades through media headlines and government propaganda to get to the heart of unchecked colonization, such as unlawful pipelines being built on Indigenous territories, the RCMP's illegal arrests of land defenders on unceded lands, and the permeation of racism on social media.

Mature topics explored.

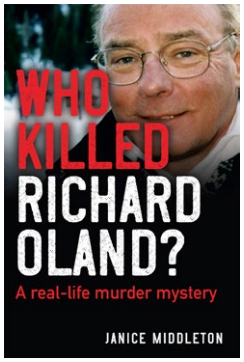
Most-♥'d Non-Fiction

Who Killed Richard Oland?

TRUE CRIME

Janice Middleton

Formac Publishing



A true-crime account of the 2011 killing of Saint John businessman Richard Oland. The author reconstructs the case, arguing that the police investigation was flawed and that other possibilities were overlooked.

Brit Happens

BIOGRAPHY

James Mullinger

Goose Lane Editions



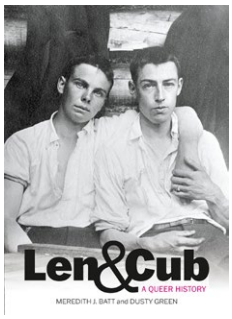
A comedian's memoir covering his path from a shy kid collecting comedy records in London, to working at GQ magazine, to starting over in New Brunswick. It's funny and honest about the grind of stand-up and about becoming Canadian. It also gives an outsider-turned-local's view of Atlantic Canada.

Len & Cub: A Queer History

BIOGRAPHY

Meredith J. Batt & Dusty Green

Goose Lane Editions



WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"COMMUNITY AND PLACE" 2022

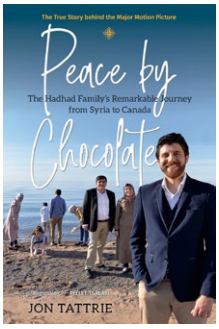
Leonard "Len" Keith and Joseph "Cub" Coates grew up as neighbours in rural Havelock, New Brunswick. Len's photographs of the two men in the 1910s and 1920s show a loving relationship built around the outdoors, animals, and adventure.

Peace by Chocolate

BIOGRAPHY

Jon Tattrie

Goose Lane Editions



WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"COMMUNITY AND PLACE" 2025

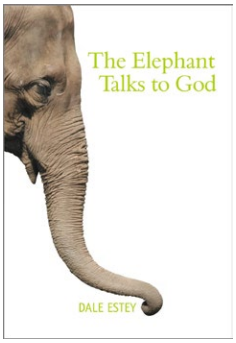
When war destroyed their family's chocolate factory in Syria, the Hadhads started over in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. This is the true story of how a refugee family rebuilt their business and became part of their new community, one sweet bite at a time.

The Elephant Talks to God

PHILOSOPHY

Dale Estey

Goose Lane Editions



WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"IT MADE ME THINK" 2022

Fourteen-year-old Francis Blackstone is a gunslinger with a heart of gold in Nowhere, Arizona, in 1883. He has fallen for the mayor's daughter and sets out to make his fortune to win her favour. With the volatile outlaw Bob Temple he heads across the West in search of treasure and love.

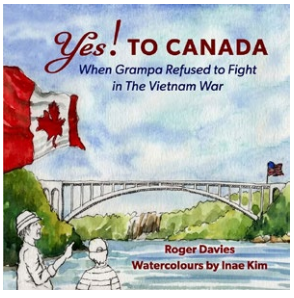
Yes! To Canada
When Grampa Refused to Fight in the Vietnam War

POLITICAL SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES

Roger Davies

Illustrations by Inae Kim

HARP

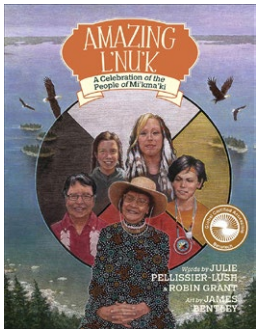


A timely book for young people (and readers of all ages) about American draft resisters and army deserters who chose Canada during the Vietnam War. It also tells of the support they received from thousands of ordinary Canadians.

Most-❤'d Non-Fiction

Amazing L'nu'k
A Celebration of the People of Mi'kma'ki
Julie Pellissier-Lush & Robin Grant
Art by James Bentley
Nimbus Publishing

MIDDLE GRADE HISTORY, POLITICAL SCIENCE,



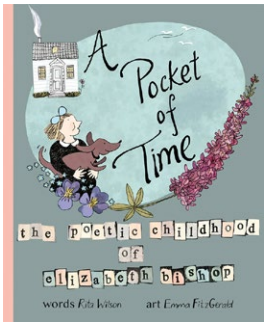
A celebration of the largest group of Indigenous people from Atlantic Canada, the Mi'kmaq, featuring profiles of dozens of Mi'kmaw people, past and present. From kids to Elders, these L'nu'k include activists, artists, athletes, educators, scientists, and entrepreneurs, grouped into six themes.

WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS
"BEST ATLANTIC REPRESENTATION" 2025

Shortlisted for the 2022 PEI Book Award.

A Pocket of Time
Rita Wilson
Illustrated by Emma FitzGerald
Nimbus Publishing

CHILDREN'S BIOGRAPHY



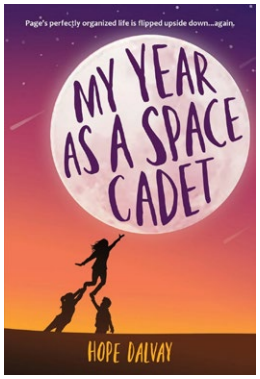
A picture book about the famous poet's childhood with her grandparents in Great Village, Nova Scotia. It shows how she found poetry in everything around her. Illustrated by Emma FitzGerald.

Most-❤'d Coming of Age

Messy, funny, heartbreaking firsts...all written the way growing up really *feels.*

My Year as a Space Cadet
Hope Dalvay
Acorn Press

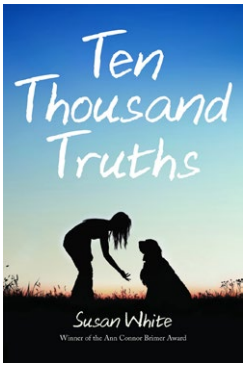
MIDDLE GRADE FICTION



In this sequel, Page is the new kid at school, and her carefully organized life is turned upside down again. The story is about standing up for yourself and others, and shows how anyone can become an everyday hero.

Ten Thousand Truths
Susan White
Acorn Press

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION



Rachel is trying to leave her past behind until a letter arrives out of the blue. She soon learns that you can't hide from your past, or from your future.

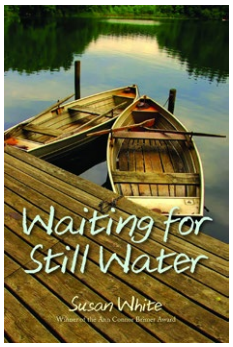
WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS
"IT MADE ME FEEL" 2025

Most-❤'d Coming of Age

Waiting for Still Water
YA FICTION

Susan White

Acorn Press

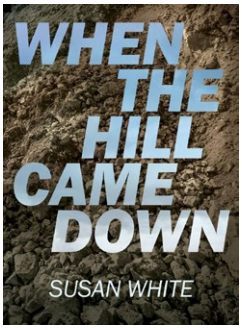


A sweeping story of love and redemption, pitched to fans of Maeve Binchy and Lesley Crewe.

When the Hill Came Down
ADULT FICTION

Susan White

Acorn Press

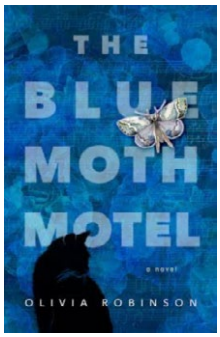


A novel about a community whose stories are tangled together by greed, jealousy, love, and loyalty. As the title hints, nothing is quite what it seems.

The Blue Moth Motel
YA FICTION

Olivia Robinson

Breakwater Books Ltd.



Sisters Ingrid and Norah grow up in a motel, raised by their mother and her partner. Years later, Norah revives a childhood party that celebrates the arrival of mysterious blue moths. **Winner of the 2022 PEI Book Award for Fiction.**

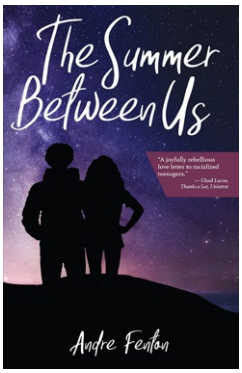
WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"OUTSTANDING CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT" 2022

The Summer Between Us
YA FICTION

Andre Fenton

Formac Publishing

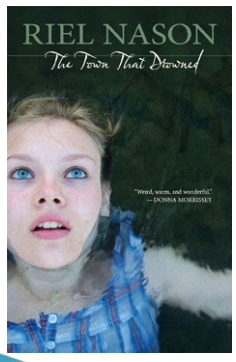


Eighteen-year-old Adrian Carter has just graduated, and the summer ahead is full of big choices. He works through race, belonging, family expectations, his relationship with his girlfriend, and a friend's eating disorder.

The Town That Drowned
YA FICTION

Riel Nason

Goose Lane Editions



Set in 1960s New Brunswick. Fourteen-year-old Ruby Carson has an eccentric little brother, a first crush, and a village threatened by a government plan to flood it for a dam.

A Beginner's Guide to Goodbye
MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Melanie Mosher

Nimbus Publishing



Ten-year-old Laney's family returns to their Nova Scotia beach cottage for the first summer since her little sister Jenny died. Laney writes letters to Jenny and struggles with guilt and sadness. A gentle, honest book about grief, forgiveness, and moving forward.

WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

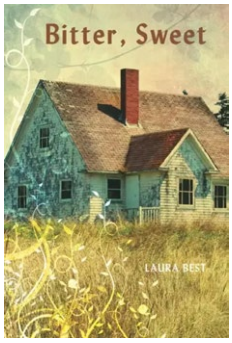
"IT MADE ME FEEL" 2022

Most-❤'d Coming of Age

Bitter, Sweet
YA FICTION

Laura Best

Nimbus Publishing

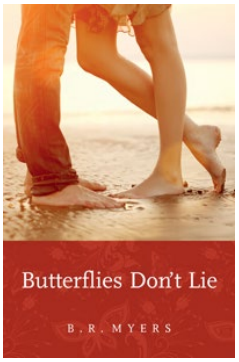


Set in 1948 in rural Nova Scotia, Pru, the eldest of four children, tells the story after her father abandons the family and her mother dies. She tries to hold her siblings together against a nosy neighbour and an adult who proves untrustworthy. **Shortlisted for the Geoffrey Bilson Award.**

Butterflies Don't Lie
YA FICTION

B.R. Myers

Nimbus Publishing



WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"CHARACTER CRUSH" 2025

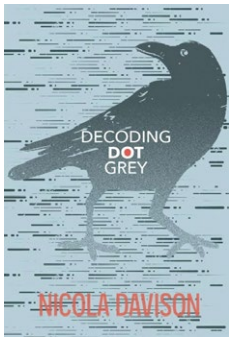
Sixteen-year-old Kelsey Sinclair is a magazine-quiz junkie who wants an unforgettable summer, starting with winning over her secret crush, Blaine. But she keeps clashing with her new co-worker Luke, who has a blue mohawk and unpredictable stunts.

Decoding Dot Grey
YA FICTION

Nicola Davison

Nimbus Publishing

Winner of the 2023 Ann Connor Brimer Award

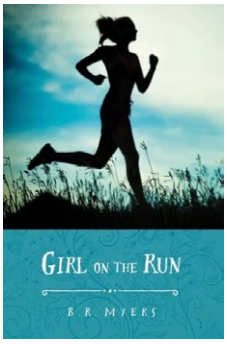


Set in Halifax in the 1990s, eighteen-year-old Dot Grey prefers animals to people. She lives in a basement apartment with a menagerie of pets and works at an animal shelter. When tragedy hits, she has to learn to cope with loss and let people in.

Girl on the Run
YA FICTION

B.R. Myers

Nimbus Publishing



WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"BEST YOUTH PICK" 2025

Jesse is still mourning her father's death when she takes a summer job at a camp hoping to find her "old self" again. A coming-of-age tale of grief, friendship, and facing the truth. **A Canadian Children's Book Centre Best Book for Teens in 2016.**

Nosy Parker
ADULT FICTION

Lesley Crewe

Nimbus Publishing

Named one of Indigo's Top 100 Books of 2022



It's 1967 in Montreal, and twelve-year-old Audrey Parker has moved to a new neighbourhood full of people to spy on. She records everything in her notebooks and hopes to uncover a mystery, but the one that matters is who her mother was.

The Big Dig
YA FICTION

Lisa Harrington

Nimbus Publishing



Fourteen-year-old Lucy is just figuring out life after her mom's death when her dad sends her to her mom's hometown, Cape John, for the summer. While Colin digs in the ground, Lucy digs into her family's history, and both of them uncover a shocking truth. It asks whether secrets are ever okay, what makes a family, and whether we can ever really know our parents.

The Goodbye Girls

Lisa Harrington

Nimbus Publishing

YA FICTION



WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"FAVOURITE BOOK" 2022

Sixteen-year-old Lizzie is short on cash and desperate to go on the school band trip, and she's surrounded by terrible breakups. So she and her friend start an anonymous business selling breakup baskets, made to ease the pain of the person being dumped. Business is booming until someone starts sabotaging them with impossibly cruel baskets, which threatens everything they've built and their anonymity.

Spirit of Summerwood

Vivien Gorham

Nimbus Publishing

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION



WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"IT TOOK ME HOME" 2025

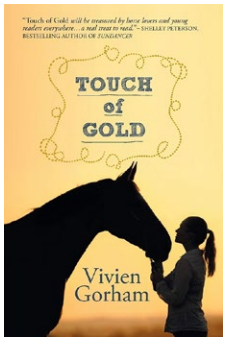
Twelve-year-old Aislinn expects two perfect weeks at her favourite horse camp, but this summer there are rumours that the stable's land is being sold. She also keeps seeing a fox and an owl that nobody else can see, and they turn out to be a Mi'kmaw ghost who needs her help to cross over. With magical realism and plenty of horse-camp action, it follows her as she learns to be a better friend and ally.

Touch Of Gold

Vivien Gorham

Nimbus Publishing

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION



The 2021 Jim Connors Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction

After her parents' divorce, thirteen-year-old Jamie moves from Halifax to a small town where she doesn't know anyone. Then she finds a neglected golden palomino in a field, which she names Peach, and learns the horse is about to be sold to a notorious trainer. Helping out at the stables gives her a way to make friends, but will she ever feel like she belongs?









Most-❤'d Historical Fiction

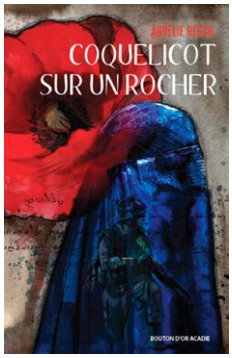
The past, brought to life through the people who lived it.

Coquelicot sur un Rocher

YA FICTION

Aurélie Resch

Bouton d'or Acadie



WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"OUTSTANDING FRENCH TITLE" 2022

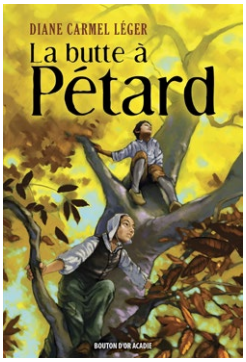
A novel told through three young people and their three mothers, each with a voice of their own. Carla, a war journalist in Afghanistan, is searching for something. The book is poetic, and the mothers and their child are bound by a shared fight for love.

La butte à Pétard

CHILDREN'S FICTION

Diane Carmel Léger

Bouton d'or Acadie



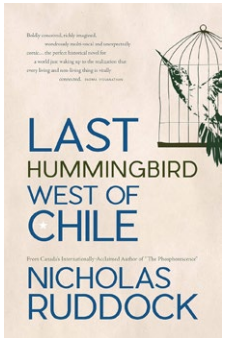
Narrative non-fiction about Stephen Norris, a young Newfoundland soldier lost in the First World War. It traces how his death affected his family and community, and how it still resonates decades later when a 2004 high school theatre class stages a musical about the Newfoundland Regiment.

Last Hummingbird West of Chile

ADULT FICTION

Nicholas Ruddock

Breakwater Books Ltd.



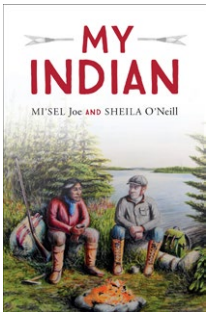
A 19th-century adventure that circles the globe, following Andrew after he flees the family manor and Catherine after her unhappy marriage. The story is told through a kaleidoscope of voices, including sailors, servants, and a talking hummingbird.

My Indian

YA FICTION

Mi'sel Joe and Sheila O'Neill

Breakwater Books Ltd.



WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"IT SHOULD BE IN SCHOOLS" 2022

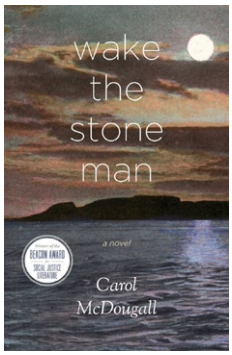
Historical fiction set in 1822, when explorer William Cormack hired a Mi'kmaw guide to lead him across Newfoundland in search of the last Beothuk camps. Cormack's journals refer to the guide only by a label. This retelling restores his name, Sylvester Joe.

Wake the Stone Man

ADULT FICTION

Carol McDougall

Fernwood Publishing



Winner of the Beacon Award for Social Justice Literature

Molly Bell is eleven in 1964 when she befriends Nakina, an Ojibwe girl, in a northern Ontario town under the shadow of the Sleeping Giant. Personal tragedy tears them apart, and Molly spends years searching for forgiveness. *Mature topics explored.

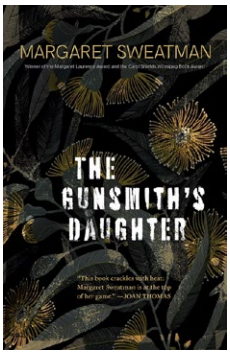
Mature topics explored.

The Gunsmith's Daughter

ADULT FICTION

Margaret Sweatman

Goose Lane Editions

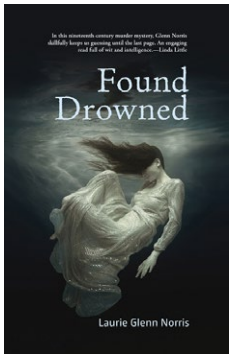


It's 1971, and eighteen-year-old Lilac Welsh lives an isolated life with her parents on the Winnipeg River. Her father is a brilliant gunsmith whose business profits from the Vietnam War. When a stranger arrives, Lilac starts her own life as a journalist, reporting on the war that is making her family rich. Both a coming-of-age story and an allegory of Canada-US relations.

Most-❤'d Historical Fiction

Found Drowned
Laurie Glenn Norris
Nimbus Publishing

ADULT FICTION



WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS
"PLOT TWIST MASTERPIECE" 2025

A young woman washes up on a beach in Prince Edward Island, and the disappearance of a teenage girl links two small Maritime towns. Based on a true story, the reader will gain real insight into 19th-century law and crime investigation.

**Mature topics explored.*

Secrets of Sable Island
Marcia Pierce Harding
Nimbus Publishing

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION



In 1904, fourteen-year-old orphan Caleb is swept off a fishing boat in a storm and washes up on Sable Island. A wild stallion helps rescue him, and a mysterious stranger who is secretly living on the island gives him shelter. Caleb befriends a ghostly girl who rides bareback over the dunes and realizes he has to do whatever it takes to save her, and himself.

Swan
Sidura Ludwig
Nimbus Publishing

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

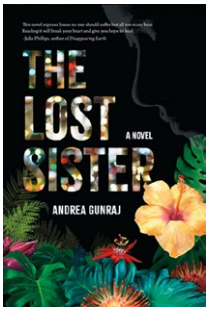


WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS
"IT BELONGS IN SCHOOLS" 2025

Long before she became "The Giantess from Nova Scotia" and toured with P. T. Barnum, Anna Swan was a girl near Tatamagouche trying to fit into a world she was literally too big for. A true tender tale of body positivity and unconditional self-acceptance.

The Lost Sister
Andrea Gunraj
Nimbus Publishing

ADULT FICTION



Alisha is thirteen, and her sister Diana is the brilliant family star, destined for medical school. When Diana goes missing and is later found murdered, the family's lives are shattered. In a second timeline, Paula, a former orphan from the Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children, helps Alisha face hard truths.

The Spoon Stealer
Lesley Crewe
Nimbus Publishing

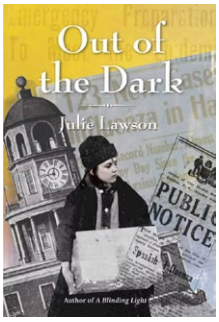
ADULT FICTION



Emmeline was born into a basket of clean laundry and never quite fit in on her family's Nova Scotia farm. She's also a compulsive spoon stealer, with hundreds of spoons liberated over a lifetime. When she unexpectedly inherits the farm, she writes her memoirs, and old secrets and new friendships come to light.

Out of the Dark
Julie Lawson
Nimbus Publishing

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION



When the Halifax Explosion destroys her neighbourhood in December 1917, Jane Mooney loses her father and three brothers, and her mother is left injured and confused. Jane's family has to start over in a new home and school, and then the Great Influenza Pandemic arrives. Her older brother Connor, who lied about his age to enlist in the war, is still overseas, and she has to keep her family together without him.

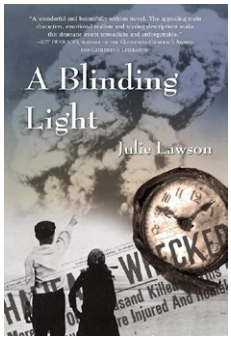
Most-❤'d Historical Fiction



A Blinding Light
YA FICTION

Julie Lawson

Nimbus Publishing



In 1917, a flash of light and a rumble from underground signal the Halifax Explosion, and the city is suddenly unrecognizable. Separated from their mother in the destroyed streets, a group of siblings try to find each other again, and the story asks who is to blame. It also looks at the divide between rich and poor and the bonds that form in tragedy. This one is the first book in the pair, and *Out of the Dark* follows it.

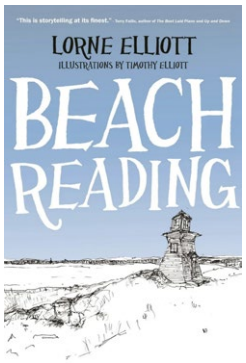
Most-❤'d Contemporary Fiction/Poetry

Stories and poems about right now, and more or less, right here!

Beach Reading
ADULT FICTION

Lorne Elliot

Acorn Press .

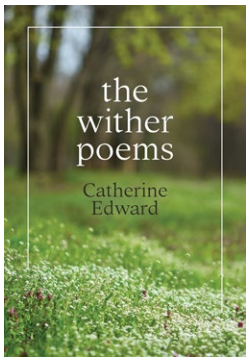


A young naturalist from central Canada takes a summer job in a brand-new PEI national park and camps on the beach, where he meets a cast of eccentric locals caught up in politics, money, music, and romance.

The Wither Poems
POETRY

Catherine Edward

Acorn Press



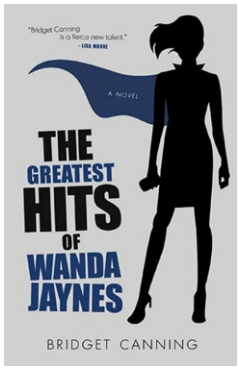
A poetry collection by a grandmother in her seventies. The author says its theme is accepting what can't be changed, and that a person's character shows in how they respond to unexpected change.

"OUTSTANDING POETRY COLLECTION" 2022

The Greatest Hits of Wanda Jaynes
ADULT FICTION

Bridget Canning

Breakwater Books Ltd



Wanda Jaynes throws a can of coconut milk at a gunman in a grocery store and becomes a media hero overnight. She has to find the courage to face who she really is.

Most-❤'d Contemporary Fiction/Poetry

Love, Life
ADULT FICTION

Bernadine Ann Teráz Stapleton

Breakwater Books Ltd.

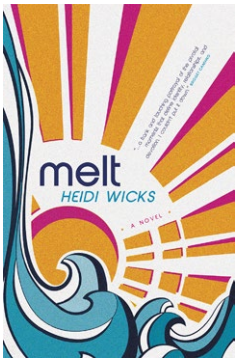


A debut novel and a comic romp through love, food, and Italy. A Newfoundlander feels an inexplicable pull toward Italy and sets off on a self-discovery trip. The book is light, funny, and features queer characters.

Melt
ADULT FICTION

Heidi Wicks

Breakwater Books Ltd.

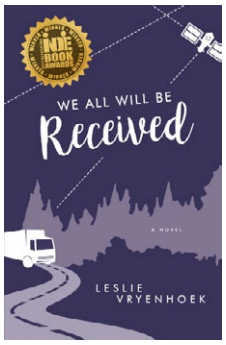


Jess and Cait have been best friends since childhood. The novel opens at the funeral reception for Jess's mother in 2016, then follows them from their teens into their late thirties. Along the way come drifting desires, grief, job loss, love loss, and personal renewal.

We All Will Be Received
ADULT FICTION

Leslie Vryenhoek

Breakwater Books Ltd.

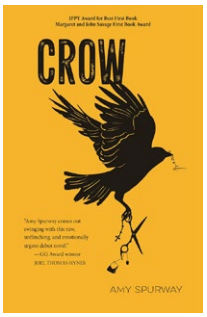


In 1977, a young woman steals a duffel bag of drug money and flees her boyfriend, hitching a ride with a trucker to the edge of the world. Decades later she runs a roadside motel in Newfoundland, where four desperate characters are headed as a storm brews.

Crow
ADULT FICTION

Amy Spurway

Goose Lane Editions



Stacey "Crow" Fortune is diagnosed with three inoperable brain tumours and leaves her glamorous Toronto life for her mother Effie's scruffy trailer in rural Cape Breton. She reconnects with her hometown and plans a memoir exposing her family's secrets, including what happened to her father.

Mature topics explored.

Heartbreak Homes
YA FICTION

Jo Treggiari

Nimbus Publishing



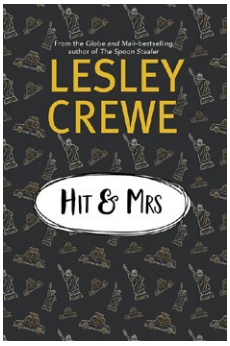
Winner of the 2023 Crime Writers of Canada Award of Excellence for Juvenile/YA crime.

A back-to-school party at a mansion in a failed housing development ends with the host found murdered in a locked room. Three teens from very different backgrounds are drawn into the mystery. Their stories alternate and slowly converge as they close in on the killer.

Hit & Mrs
ADULT FICTION

Lesley Crewe

Nimbus Publishing



Four lifelong friends from Montreal are all turning fifty and take a trip to New York. A series of miscommunications and mishaps tangles them up in the city's criminal underworld.

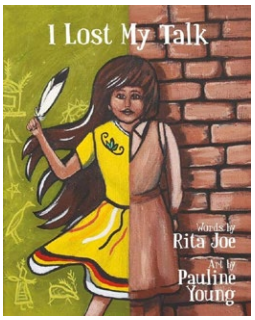
WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

"LAUGH OUT LOUD" 2025

I Lost My Talk

CHILDREN'S POETRY

Rita Joe
Art by Pauline Young
Nimbus Publishing



In this powerful poem, Mi'kmaw elder Rita Joe reflects on being forced to give up her language at residential school. It's a short read that hits hard, and it ends on hope and the power of sharing your voice.

I Place You into the Fire

POETRY

Rebecca Thomas
Nimbus Publishing



WINNER digitally lit YOUTH CHOICE BOOK AWARDS
"OUTSTANDING POETRY COLLECTION" 2025

A debut poetry collection by Mi'kmaw spoken-word poet and former Halifax poet laureate. The poems explore colonialism, identity, family, and love from the view of a second-generation residential school survivor.
A CBC Best Canadian Poetry pick of 2020.



Why we do this

At its core, Digitally Lit is a platform where youth voices are welcomed, sought out, trusted, and shared. We provide mentorship, skill-building, and opportunities that help participants grow as creators and cultural critics, and we use that work to push broader conversations about equity, representation, and access in the literary world.

Our values, set by our founding youth and shared by every new recruit:

Critical thinking · Creativity · Empowerment · Equity & Collaboration · Integrity

Meet the readers

Creative and independent. From remixing memes to running small businesses on TikTok and Etsy, we value self-expression over conformity.

Born digital. We're the first generation raised on smartphones and social media, so we explore books in new, dynamic ways.

Socially conscious. We care about climate justice, equity, mental health, and identity, and we look for books that reflect those values.

Pragmatic and entrepreneurial. Shaped by a pandemic, a climate crisis, and rising debt, we're practical, forward-thinking, and side-hustle savvy.

Committed to inclusion. For us, it isn't a bonus, it's essential. We want stories that reflect all races, genders, identities, and abilities







Join us!
Read. Review. Grow.

Are you 13 to 25, Atlantic Canadian, and obsessed with books? Everyone at Digitally Lit starts as a volunteer Literacy Champion. You choose what you read, write honest reviews, and build your skills alongside other young readers.

If your passion for reading, creativity, and the project shines through, you may be invited to join our team as a paid Youth Ambassador.

Find out how to join, and see all the details, at **www.digitallylit.ca**.

Keep these voices going

Digitally Lit is a small, youth-led, not-for-profit run by volunteers, and funding for the program is running extremely low. **If you believe in what these readers do, please consider supporting us through a donation, sponsorship, or partnership.**

Reach us at **info@digitallylit.ca** or **www.digitallylit.ca**.

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