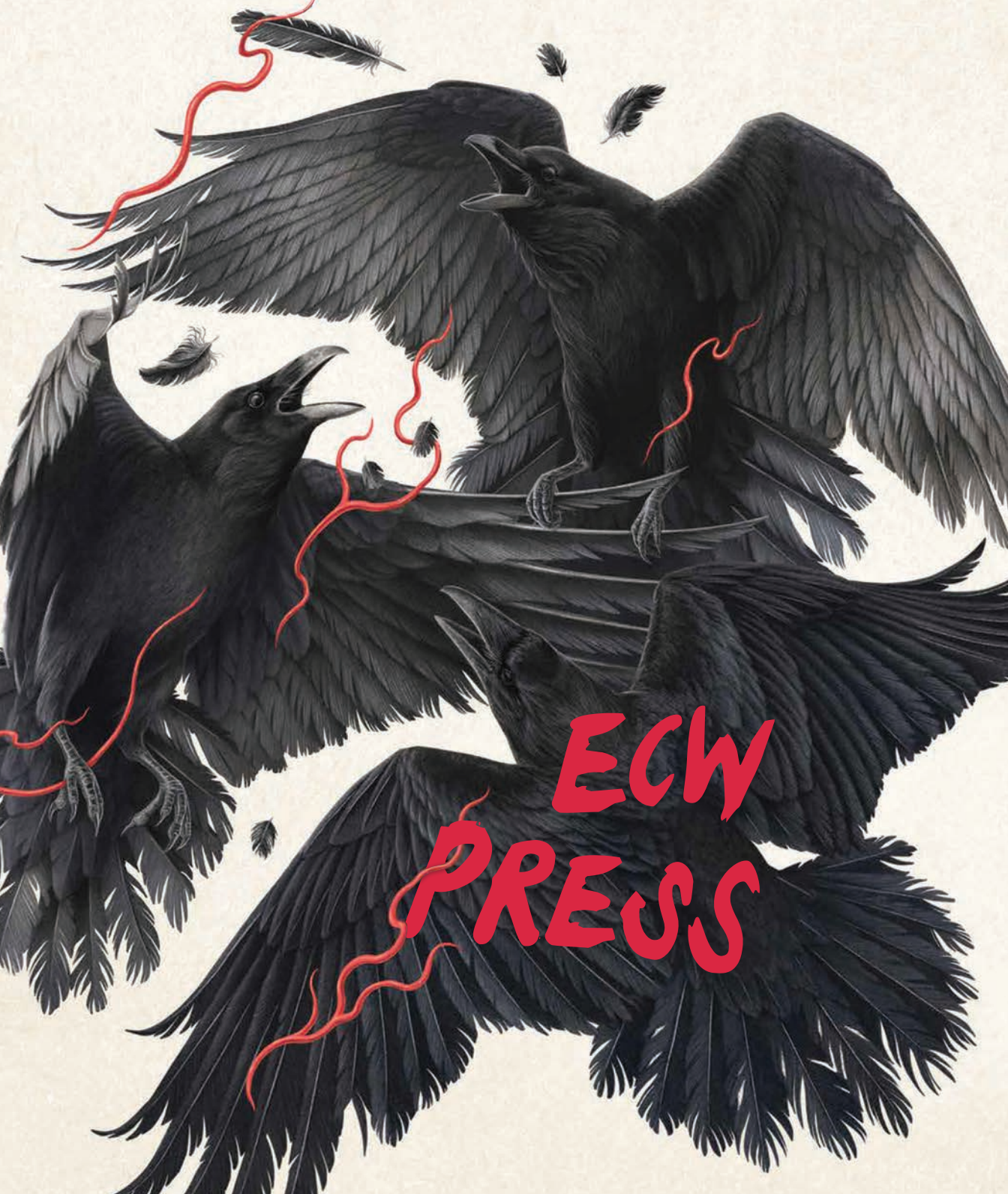


FALL 2025



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## INTERNATIONAL

### ECW Press

Emily Ferko, Sales & Rights Director  
[emily@ecwpress.com](mailto:emily@ecwpress.com)

## RIGHTS INQUIRIES & SALES

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Emily Ferko, Sales & Rights Director  
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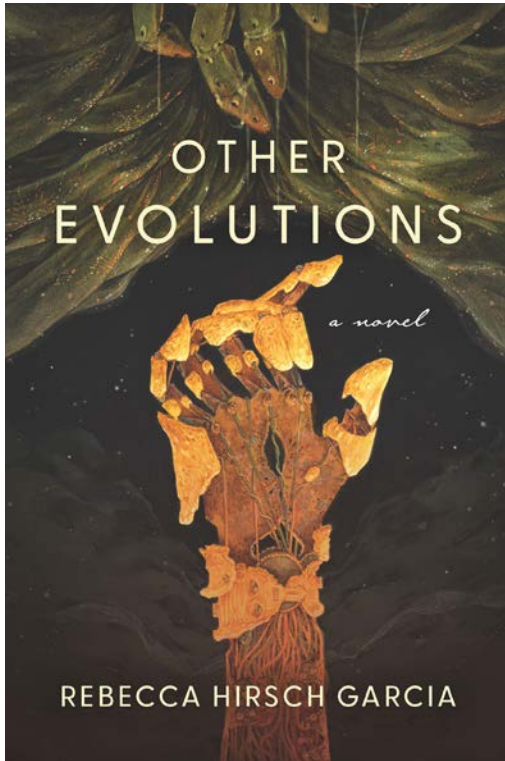
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5.5 x 8.5", 304pp, trade paperback

24.95 CDN / 18.95 U.S.

**FICTION / LITERARY** (FIC019000)

**FICTION / MAGICAL REALISM** (FIC061000)

**FICTION / HISPANIC & LATINO** (FIC056000)

**FICTION / JEWISH** (FIC046000)

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**Rights Available:** World English rights

**Film Rights:** Film rights controlled by Cooke  
McDermid Agency

## OTHER EVOLUTIONS

A NOVEL

Rebecca Hirsch Garcia

**With sharp human insight and unflinching prose, *Other Evolutions* is a dark, speculative debut with diverse characters and searing insight, perfect for readers of Iain Reid and Emily St. John Mandel.**

Alma Alt, the sheltered youngest daughter of an interfaith, interracial Jewish-Mexican couple, rarely ventures far from her home on a wealthy tree-lined street in Ottawa, where nothing ever happens. The one time she did, striking out to visit her older sister, Marnie, in Montreal, things ended in disaster as she found out that beautiful, blonde Marnie had been lying about their family's background, trying to pass herself off as white. The unintended fallout from that betrayal leads to a devastating accident, one that claims Alma's arm and someone's life.

Alma is now stuck in a holding pattern, unable to move past the grief, trauma, and injury she suffered that night, all while the bonds that hold her family together crumble, the guilt and resentment between the sisters simmering beneath the surface. But Alma's life is turned upside down by an encounter just steps from home with an impossible person, the boy she watched die.

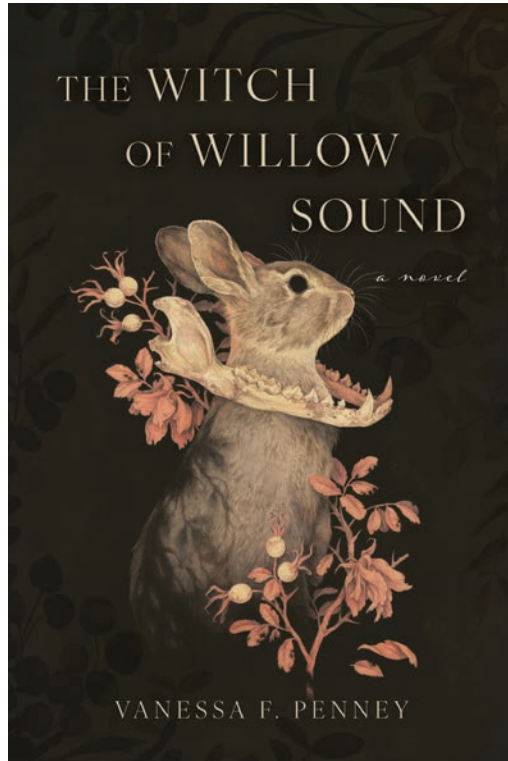
With keen human insight and stark and honest prose, *Other Evolutions* is a literary debut with a dark, speculative twist that reveals the uncanny in the mundane, seeing us through the worst parts of our lives toward the weird and wonderful things right in our own backyard.

**Rebecca Hirsch Garcia** lives in Ottawa, ON. An O. Henry Award-winning author, she has been published in *The Threepenny Review*, *PRISM international*, *The Dark*, and elsewhere. Her debut collection, *The Girl Who Cried Diamonds & Other Stories* (2023), was the runner-up for the Danuta Gleed Literary Award and shortlisted for an Ottawa Book Award. *Other Evolutions* is her debut novel.



## KEY SALES NOTES

- **LITERARY BOOK WITH A DARK SPECULATIVE TWIST:** Rebecca Hirsch Garcia's work is bleak and pessimistic, and she slips into the uncanny very easily. This allows her to explore mental and emotional stagnation, the delusion of the magic of youth, and the folly and delight in attempting to recapture it. *Other Evolutions* is a searing and dark debut novel that doesn't bother much with the boundaries of reality.
- **DIVERSE VOICES:** The protagonist, Alma, is Jewish and Mexican, sharing a background with author Rebecca Hirsch Garcia. Hirsch Garcia speaks fluent French.
- **FOR READERS OF:** *Bad Cree* (Jessica Johns); *We Spread, Foe*, and *I'm Thinking of Ending Things* (Iain Reid); *An Ordinary Violence* (Adriana Chartrand), *The Glass Hotel* (Emily St. John Mandel), and *The Vanishing Half* (Brit Bennett).
- **ACCOLADES FOR HIRSCH GARCIA:** Shortlisted for the Writers' Union of Canada Danuta Gleed Literary Award (2023) and a finalist for the Ottawa Book Awards (2024), Hirsch Garcia's short story collection was positively received and highly praised.



**Publication Date:** September 30, 2025

5.5 x 8.5", 288pp, trade paperback

24.95 CDN / 19.95 U.S.

**FICTION / GOTHIC** (FIC027040)

**FICTION / WOMEN** (FIC044000)

**FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE / GENERAL**  
(FIC022000)

**FICTION / SMALL TOWN & RURAL** (FIC066000)

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**Rights Available:** World rights

**Film Rights:** Film rights available

## THE WITCH OF WILLOW SOUND

A NOVEL

Vanessa F. Penney

For readers of *Our Wives Under the Sea* and *The Once and Future Witches* comes a feminist gothic tale with a tough-as-nails female protagonist who must find her elderly aunt, long suspected of being a witch.

A spooky, atmospheric, and fast-paced feminist tale about women called witches and the parts of our history we'd rather forget

Madeline is missing. Ordered to find her, Madeline's estranged niece, Fade, must return to the lonely forest of Willow Sound, Nova Scotia. There, Fade discovers her aunt's once-cozy cottage empty and rotting. The ominous smell of something burnt hangs in the air.

In her search for answers, Fade clashes with the people of Grand Tea, a nearby village struggling under the shadow of a massive, looming rock that could tip and crush them all at any time. For generations, they've invented bizarre lore about Madeline, calling her a witch and blaming her for their misfortunes. They've had more misfortunes than ever lately. And a hurricane is coming.

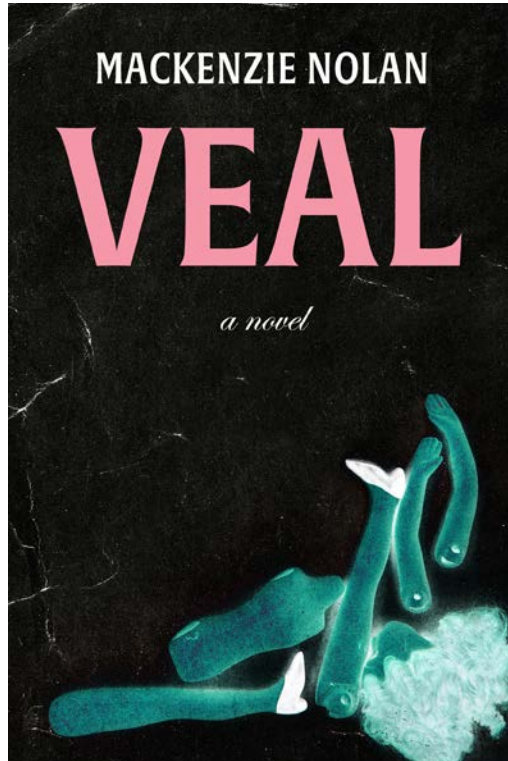
Inspired by real East Coast traditions and witch lore, *The Witch of Willow Sound* is a modern gothic tale that explores family lost and found and throws firelight on dark truths about what societies do with the people, and the past, they don't want.

**Vanessa F. Penney** was born in northern Newfoundland and raised in rural Nova Scotia. The coal-black ocean depths and bone-buried shorelines of the East Coast inspire her writing. Vanessa lives in Dartmouth, NS. This is her first novel.



### KEY SALES NOTES

- **A FEMINIST TAKE ON THE GOTHIC GENRE:** With a tough-as-nails female protagonist and an aunt deemed a witch by the local townsfolk, Penney turns the gothic genre on its head. Instead of victimizing female characters, Penney tells a story of strong, powerful women who aren't afraid of what anyone thinks of them.
- **SUPERNATURAL SUSPENSE — OR IS IT?** The story plays with the characters' — and the readers' — minds, keeping readers guessing whether the sinister happenings are supernatural or grounded in reality.
- **SET IN RURAL NOVA SCOTIA:** An eerie twist on small-town horror, this story is a haunting love letter to Canada's East Coast. Born in Saint Anthony, Newfoundland, and now based in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Penney's lifelong ties to the region bring an authentic touch.
- **SCREENWRITER TO DEBUT AUTHOR:** Vanessa Penney's full-length feature action screenplay *Raising the Dead* was a semi-finalist in the 2021 Toronto Metropolitan International Screenplay Competition, judged well for "superb plot revelations" that are "heartbreaking" and "a twisted mystery that brings a great plot and delivers well on it."
- **PERFECT FOR READERS OF:** T. Kingfisher, Shirley Jackson, *Mexican Gothic* (Silvia Moreno-Garcia), *Bunny* (Mona Awad), *Weyward* (Emilia Hart), *The God of the Woods* (Liz Moore).
- **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:** "It's fast-paced, feminist, and creepy, a fun read that still has something to say about the people we fear and how humans look for blame. I loved that you can't tell if it's actually supernatural for a good chunk of the book, which encourages us to question our own assumptions. It has a tough female protagonist, great atmosphere, misfit friendship, and the rural Nova Scotia setting provides some fresh folklore and haunting regional history." — Jen Knoch, senior editor



**Publication Date:** October 14, 2025

5.5 x 8.5", 288pp, trade paperback

24.95 CDN / 19.95 U.S.

**FICTION / HORROR** (FIC015000)

**FICTION / LGBT / LESBIAN** (FIC018000)

**FICTION / FEMINIST** (FIC076000)

**FICTION / FRIENDSHIP** (FIC071000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-806-6 (Paperback)

ISBN: 978-1-77852-490-5 (ePub)

**Rights Available:** World rights

**Film Rights:** Film rights available

## VEAL

A NOVEL

Mackenzie Nolan

Offering the atmosphere of *Twin Peaks* and the queer camaraderie of comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For*, *Veal* is a thrilling exploration of friendship, fear, and the thin line between justice and vengeance.

Delores “Lawrence” Franklin is a failed capitalist and a runaway headcase. Following a corporate meltdown, she decides to start fresh in Mistaken Point, a small town known for two things — Mistaken Point University, where she and her best friend, Anastasia Lanes, are now enrolled, and the grisly murders of countless young women.

At her new part-time arcade job, Lawrence meets Francesca “Franky” Delores — gritty, off-putting, and chronically serious, as opposite to Lawrence as her name would suggest. Soon, Lawrence discovers Franky is convinced there is a monster on the loose, a patchwork creature born of hatred and responsible for the supposedly solved string of violence haunting the town.

Against the advice of Franky’s closest friend, Pippa, Lawrence, and Stasia join Franky in a sticky, summertime search for a yellow-eyed monster between classes, shifts at the arcade, and eating popsicles by the pool. Motivated mostly by her unquenchable attraction to Franky, Lawrence allows herself to be pulled in strange directions, trying to appease Franky’s mania. Through the trials of hunting a monster only some of them believe in, Pippa, Lawrence, Stasia, and Franky discover truths about womanhood, relationships, and the reliability of urban legends.

**Mackenzie Nolan** was born and raised in Newfoundland. Working professionally as a social worker for several years, she found herself better suited to writing interpersonal dynamics rather than solving them. She lives in St. John’s, NL. *Veal* is her debut novel.



## KEY SALES NOTES

- **ATMOSPHERIC AND MOODY:** As a Maritime author, Mackenzie Nolan knows exactly what readers want out of a book about four lesbians hunting down a monster in a foggy, grey seaside town. *Veal* offers readers the atmosphere of *Twin Peaks* and the queer camaraderie of comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For*.
- **FOR READERS OF:** *Tell Me I’m Worthless* (Alison Rumfitt), *Motherthing* (Ainslie Hogarth), *Nightbitch* (Rachel Yoder), and *Natural Beauty* (Ling Ling Huang).
- **DEBUT MARITIME AUTHOR:** Mackenzie “Max” Nolan was born and raised in Port de Grave, and currently lives in St. John’s, Newfoundland, and believes stories about the interconnectedness of horror and love are integral to the small-town experience.
- **A STORY THAT CENTERS LESBIAN ROMANCE AND FRIENDSHIPS:** Mackenzie is committed to creating realistic and honest portrayals of the LGBTQ+ community. *Veal* focuses on the lives and friendships of four young queer women — Lawrence, Stasia, Franky, and Pippa. Readers encounter them as friends, daughters, lovers, crushes, heroes, and entrepreneurs, with their experiences taking center stage. Notably, only one male character appears throughout the entire book, underscoring the focus on these women’s stories.



**Publication Date:** September 30, 2025

5 x 8", 136pp, trade paperback

19.95 CDN / 15.95 U.S.

**FICTION / SCIENCE FICTION / APOCALYPTIC & POST-APOCALYPTIC** (FIC028070)

**FICTION / DYSTOPIAN** (FIC055000)

**FICTION / SCIENCE FICTION / ACTION & ADVENTURE** (FIC028010)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-734-2 (Paperback)

ISBN: 978-1-77852-390-8 (ePub)

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**Film Rights:** Film rights controlled by Donald Maass Literary Agency

## THE FIRST THOUSAND TREES

Premee Mohamed

“One of the most unique and engaging voices in genre fiction.” — *Booklist*

“In this rich and nuanced universe, Mohamed offers an emotionally fierce and human story that takes the time and space to personalize apocalypse.” — *Quill & Quire*, starred review

Henryk Mandrusiak, finding nothing left for him in his community following his best friend Reid’s departure, travels through the devastated land in search of a new place to call home.

After making a grievous mistake that ended in death, Henryk Mandrusiak feels increasingly ostracized within his own community, and after the passing on of his parents and the departure of his best friend, Reid, there is little left to tie him to the place he calls home. Henryk does something he never expected: He sets out into the harsh wilds alone, in search of far-flung family. He finds his uncle’s village, but making a life for himself in this unfriendly new place — rougher and more impoverished than the campus where he grew up — isn’t easy. Henryk strives to carve out a place of his own but learns that some corners of his broken world are darker than he could have imagined.

This stunning novella concludes the story Mohamed started in *The Annual Migration of Clouds* and continued in *We Speak Through the Mountain*, bleaker than ever but still in search of a spark of hope in the climate apocalypse.

**Premee Mohamed** is a Nebula-, World Fantasy-, and Aurora Award-winning Indo-Caribbean scientist and speculative fiction author based in Edmonton, AB. She is the author of the *Beneath the Rising* series of novels, as well as several novellas, and her short fiction has appeared in many venues.

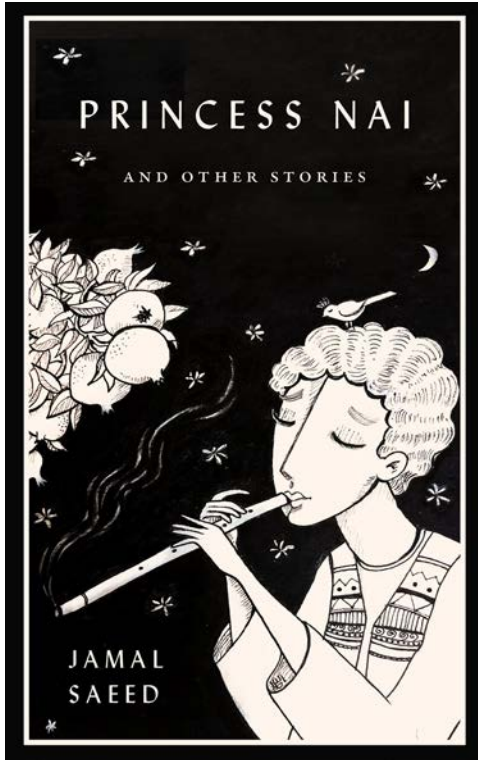


### KEY SALES NOTES

- **STUNNING TRILOGY CONCLUSION:** Concludes the story Premee Mohamed started in *The Annual Migration of Clouds* and continued in *We Speak Through the Mountain*, bleaker than ever but still searching for that glimmer of hope in the climate apocalypse.
- **AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR:** Mohamed has won the Aurora Award, the World Fantasy Award, the Nebula Award, and the Alberta Literary Award for Best Short Story Collection. She’s a three-time British Fantasy Award finalist, three-time Locus Award finalist, British Science Fiction Association finalist, and an Ursula K. Le Guin Fiction Prize finalist.
- **SPECULATIVE ELEMENTS:** Perfect for readers who are not into “hard” sci-fi but enjoy fiction with speculative elements, such as *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel.

### PRAISE FOR *THE ANNUAL MIGRATION OF CLOUDS*:

- “This packs a punch.” — *Publishers Weekly*
- “One of the most unique and engaging voices in genre fiction ... Science-fiction and horror readers alike will enjoy Mohamed’s novel, which will appeal to fans of Jeff VanderMeer, Kameron Hurley, and Tochi Onyebuchi.” — *Booklist*
- “Through Mohamed’s breathtaking prose, this post-apocalyptic story unravels meditations on community building, adaptation, and collective survival ... In this rich and nuanced universe, Mohamed offers an emotionally fierce and human story that takes the time and space to personalize apocalypse.” — *Quill & Quire*, starred review



**Publication Date:** October 7, 2025

5 x 8", 180pp, trade paperback

26.95 CDN / 21.95 U.S.

**FICTION / SHORT STORIES (SINGLE AUTHOR)**  
(FIC029000)

**FICTION / LITERARY** (FIC019000)

**FICTION / WORLD LITERATURE / CANADA / 21ST CENTURY** (FIC090030)

**POETRY / MIDDLE EASTERN** (POE013000)

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ISBN: 978-1-77852-488-2 (ePub)

**Rights Available:** World English rights

**Film Rights:** Film rights available

## PRINCESS NAI AND OTHER STORIES

Jamal Saeed

From award-winning author Jamal Saeed comes a collection of stories written in the dark of a Syrian prison. These gripping tales highlight his work as an activist, artist, and author, shedding light on Syria's ongoing humanitarian crisis and the enduring power of hope.

Jamal Saeed wrote the stories in this collection during different stages of his life, but most originated while he was a prisoner of conscience in one of the worst prisons in the world. Other stories were composed after the Syrian uprising in 2011. One story — written in 2009 when he was still in Syria — is about a mythical olive tree that the Syrian military would eventually destroy. Canada plays a role too: Two of the stories were rewritten after his family finally escaped Syria and landed in Kingston, Ontario.

In these stories, reality and imagination coexist, and again and again the reader arrives at the truth by exploring the imaginary. Most of Saeed's pieces include a poetic scene that enables the reader to engage with various characters' fresh dreams (or their scattered and shattered dreams, as the case may be). Love, beauty, despair, hope, the longing for freedom, the search for lost time, and the impact of the past all coexist and vie for supremacy. Here too there is betting on the future (along with mockery of every kind of bet).

In the end, these stories open windows to the inner world of the human soul — and it is also true that every one of Saeed's stories is based upon a solid fact.

**Jamal Saeed** spent 12 years as a prisoner of conscience in Syria before being invited to Canada. He continues to raise awareness about Syria's humanitarian crisis through his work as an activist, visual artist, and author. He lives in Kingston, ON. His memoir, *My Road from Damascus*, was shortlisted for the Hilary Weston Prize.

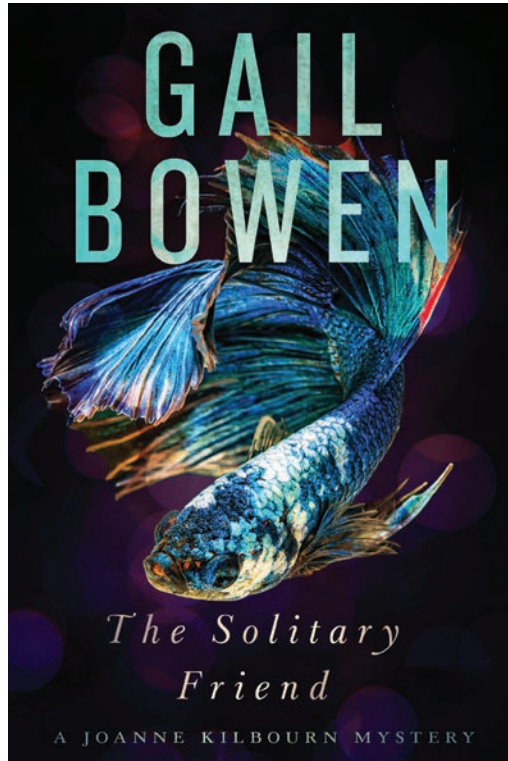


### KEY SALES NOTES

- **WRITTEN IN A SYRIAN PRISON:** Written during his time in Tadmor Military Prison, Saeed's stories blend fact with imagination, exploring escapism, hope, and harsh realities. Saeed not only smuggled these stories from one prison to another but also from Syria to Canada when he was granted asylum in 2016. These powerful tales reflect his journey as a Syrian-Canadian activist, artist, and author raising awareness of Syria's ongoing crisis.
- **AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR:** Saeed's memoir, *My Road from Damascus*, was shortlisted for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction (2023). His YA book, *Yara's Spring*, received high praise and many award nominations: *Kirkus Reviews*, Best Books of 2020; Ontario Library Association, Best Bests, top 10, 2021; Canadian Children's Book Centre, Best Books for Kids & Teens 2021 (starred selection); Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices 2021; Forest of Reading, Red Cedar Book Award 2021 (nominated); Red Maple Award 2021 (nominated); Next Generation Indie Book Award 2021 (shortlist); Indiana Library Federation, Young Hoosier Book Award 2022 (nominated).

### PRAISE FOR MY ROAD FROM DAMASCUS:

- "A lyrical, extremely rich narrative of loss, memory, and trauma." — *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review
- "This riveting memoir of a Syrian dissident, featuring an outstanding, often musical performance, deserves comparisons to Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning* in its ability to find the beauty of human connection in utterly inhumane conditions." — *Library Journal*, audiobook review
- "Uses a haunting poetic lyricism to probe the depths of brutality committed by a repressive regime ... At times bracing and darkly comic, this memoir examines the human psyche under extreme conditions of torture and finds poetry, hope, love, and freedom. Saeed's gift for storytelling and his deeply moving prose allows the reader to follow him wherever he goes." — Writers' Trust jury citation



**Publication Date:** October 14, 2025

5.5 x 8.5", 250pp, cloth

36.95 CDN / 28.95 U.S.

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

**FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE / COZY / GENERAL** (FIC022070)

**FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE / AMATEUR SLEUTH** (FIC022100)

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**Rights Available:** World rights

**Film Rights:** Film rights available

## THE SOLITARY FRIEND

A JOANNE KILBOURN MYSTERY

Gail Bowen

**Crime Writers Grand Master Award winner and the “queen of Canadian crime fiction” (*Winnipeg Free Press*) returns with the 23rd, and penultimate, installment in the Joanne Kilbourn series.**

Amateur sleuth Joanne Shreve finds herself caught in the middle when her friend Vera Wang, the owner of a discreet escort service, The Right Woman, calls in a favor. Howard Dowhanuik, another long-time friend of Joanne’s and the former premier of Saskatchewan, has been a loyal client for years. That is until he started badgering Vera’s employees, trying to discourage them from performing their “meaningless” work. Given his recent verbal attacks against any and all opponents on his podcast, Joanne knows his erratic behavior must be part of a larger issue. Can Joanne talk Howard down and make him see sense before he goes too far?

To complicate matters, the release of scandalous photos with threatening demands targets both Howard and Calista Wallace. Having quit the escort service, Calista is now engaged to Noah Wainberg, a close member of Joanne’s inner circle, but the past could put their future together in jeopardy. Is this hate mail from a heartbroken ex-client or a disgruntled listener of Howard’s podcast? Or worse, could the culprit be someone closer to home? With her loved ones’ happiness — and their very lives — at stake, Joanne races to find the source of the mysterious messages before they make good on their menacing ultimatum.

**Gail Bowen’s** Joanne Kilbourn Shreve mysteries have entertained a generation of readers. She has been acclaimed as the “queen of Canadian crime fiction” (*Winnipeg Free Press*). An author, playwright, and teacher, she has received numerous writing awards, including a lifetime achievement award from the Crime Writers of Canada. She lives in Regina, SK, with her husband, Ted.



## KEY SALES NOTES

- **FAN FAVORITE:** Dedicated readers have been returning to Joanne Kilbourn Shreve’s life for more than 20 books (over 32 years!). In 2018, Gail Bowen was one of the six recipients of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the prince’s highest award for a civilian.
- **AWARD-WINNING SERIES:** Bowen has won or been nominated for most major crime awards in the country, including the Crime Writers of Canada Award (formerly the Arthur Ellis), and each book in the series is met with enthusiasm by critics and readers. In 2008, *Reader’s Digest* named Bowen Canada’s Best Mystery Novelist, and she received the Derrick Murdoch Award from the Crime Writers of Canada in 2009. In 2018, she was recognized with the Crime Writers of Canada’s Grand Master Award.
- **BESTSELLING SERIES:** *The Unlocking Season* (ECW, 2020), *An Image in the Lake* (ECW, 2021), *What’s Past Is Prologue* (ECW, 2022), and *The Legacy* (ECW, 2023) were all national bestsellers. *The Solitary Friend* will likely be the penultimate book of the series.



**Publication Date:** September 2, 2025

5.5 x 8.5", 96pp, trade paperback

24.95 CDN / 24.95 U.S.

**POETRY / CANADIAN** (POE011000)

**POETRY / WOMEN AUTHORS** (POE024000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-851-6 (Paperback)

ISBN: 978-1-77852-504-9 (ePub)

**Rights Available:** World rights

**Film Rights:** Film rights available

## AN ORANGE, A SYLLABLE

Gillian Sze

A wandering meditation on motherhood, language, and art and a parallaxic and slow amble through private rooms and interiors. The result is a woman ricocheting off the bounds of marriage, memory, and herself.

The latest book by Gillian Sze, author of the Pat Lowther Memorial Award-winning book *Quiet Night Think*

This prosimetrical work is a meditation on motherhood, language, and art. The central speaker witnesses the earliest utterances of her child and launches into a poetic inquiry of words themselves, asking, *How to measure one's mouth by its words?* The speaker seeks an answer amidst the language that surrounds her — words misspoken, mispronounced, remembered, unwritten — and, in doing so, struggles with signification and significance.

Each prose poem in the five-part collection darts between the many meanings of “fit” — as in “a sudden burst of emotion” or “to be the right size and shape” and the archaic “fytte” (a section of a poem). A text becomes an open mouth, a square day of a calendar, or a bare fragment of a narrative. The final section of the book is an intimate and ekphrastic engagement with the work of Danish painter Vilhelm Hammershøi. Drawn to Hammershøi's paintings of the empty rooms of his apartment, the speaker recognizes a familiar space of art's insistence.

*An Orange, A Syllable* details a period of maternal and artistic transformation.

**Gillian Sze** is the author of multiple poetry books and picture books. Her book of poems and essays, *Quiet Night Think*, received the Pat Lowther Memorial Award. She lives in Montreal, QC, where she teaches creative writing and literature at Concordia University.



## KEY SALES NOTES

- **AWARD-WINNING POET:** Gillian Sze has won two awards for her poetry — the 2011 carte blanche Prize for individual poetry and the 2023 Pat Lowther Memorial Award for *Quiet Night Think*. Sze's work has also been shortlisted for the Quebec Writers' Federation A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry four times (2014, 2016, 2018, 2022), and *Quiet Night Think* was selected by the jury for the Grand prix du livre de Montréal in 2022

## PRAISE FOR QUIET NIGHT THINK:

- “*Quiet Night Think* is a stunning work. Gillian Sze has ‘the acrobatic ear’ and a generous mind. To be a mother, a daughter, a writer, a self — through reflection and poetry, essay and remembrance, these fragile threads carry one another in profound, transporting ways. I know I will return to this extraordinary book again and again.” — Madeleine Thien, author of *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*
- “Sze draws on emotion-imbued imagery from nature, daily observations, and intellectual investigations, punctuated by intimate, often heartrending glimmers that captivate all the way to the book's end.” — *Montreal Review of Books*
- “There is a lot of learning to be had from *Quiet Night Think*. Sze offers valuable observations and methods of practicing writing in her essays, and then presents the results of those in her poems. The way the essays and poems speak to each other in this collection is stunning.” — *The Fiddlehead*



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## NMLCT

POEMS

Paul Vermeersch

These poems explore the tension between the synthetic and authentic, raising hope for an escape from MCHNCT (Machine City) to NMLCT (Animal City), where “real life” might still exist.

Imagine *The Matrix* retold by the reanimated cyborg bodies of the Brothers Grimm.

Fables and fairytales collide with virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and monstrous myths in a world where no one knows what to believe. In his eighth book of poems, Paul Vermeersch responds to the increasing difficulty of knowing what is real and what isn't, what is our genuine experience and what is constructed for us by The Algorithm. In a “post-truth” society rife with simulations, misinformation, and computer-generated hallucinations, these poems explore the relationship between the synthetic and the authentic as they raise hope for the possibility of escape from MCHNCT (Machine City) to NMLCT (Animal City), where the promise of “real life” still exists.

These poems — all precisely 16 lines long, identically formed as though mass-produced — are themselves artificial creations, products of the imagination, sometimes disorienting but always vivid. They hold up a mirror not only to nature but also to its unnatural distortions and facsimiles. In *NMLCT*, Vermeersch gives us his answer to an existence in thrall to the artificial. But it also foretells a different future, one where the air and the grass and the trees, and all the life they engender, might always be genuine and sensed and safe.

**Paul Vermeersch** is a poet, multimedia artist, and literary editor. His last book of poetry was *Shared Universe: New and Selected Poems 1995–2020*. A professor of creative writing and publishing at Sheridan College, he also edits his own imprint, Buckrider Books, for Wolsak & Wynn Publishers. He lives in Toronto, ON.

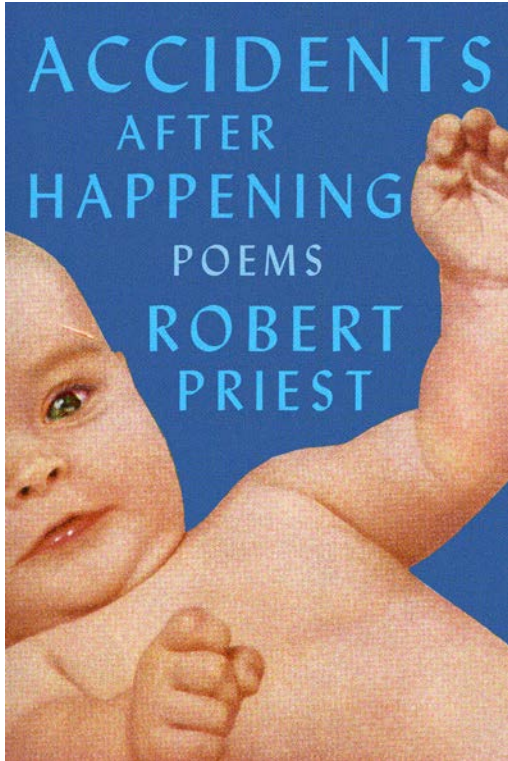


## KEY SALES NOTES

- **HIGHLY PRAISED POET:** Vermeersch's previous collections have been finalists for the K.M. Hunter Artist Award in Literature (2013), the Trillium Book Award (2011), and the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award (2000).

## PRAISE FOR VERMEERSCH:

- “Vermeersch’s poetry is tremendously rich ... The poems, always perceptive, sometimes achingly sad, and sometimes achingly funny — are real poems. That is, they are written with an ear for the sound of our language: for the basic iambic of English, for the drama of emotion and wit, for the richly suggestive possibilities of pun and colloquial usage.” — *The Fiddlehead* on *Shared Universe*
- “Replete with deep thinking and reflection, revealing the poet’s wide-ranging intellect, eclectic mind, and penchant for sharp satire.” — *Publishers Weekly* on *Self-Defence for the Brave and Happy*
- “Demonstrating remarkable virtuosity and range, Vermeersch here assumes the contradictory mantle of the prophetic, post-apocalyptic poet, and the poems suitably offer a paradoxical mix of cynicism and hope.” — *Quill & Quire* on *Don’t Let It End Like This Tell Them I Said Something*



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## ACCIDENTS AFTER HAPPENING

POEMS

Robert Priest

*Accidents After Happening* is for anyone who has a taste for immediate, meaningful poetry that sings, laments, and decries but also celebrates life in our modern world.

For readers of Leonard Cohen, Sharon Olds, Gwendolyn MacEwen, Jacques Prévert, George Elliott Clarke, Sylvia Plath, Warsan Shire, and Natalie Diaz

The accidents of Priest's collection are definitely not all "happy." They move through a full range of human emotions: dread, grief, anger, ecstasy, lust, and empathy. Plus some magic levity. This is poetry you will want to recite aloud: lyrical love poems, sonnets, satires, ghazals, curses, and bitter invective. These are not snobby poems — they want and welcome readers who love euphony, who enjoy tasteful eroticism, who rage at injustice. People who grieve and gush — smart people who think critically and form their own opinions. And for those with a taste for "brevity forever." *Accidents After Happening* also contains a whole new catalog of Priest's aphorisms, proverbs, maxims, and sayings — the kind of work that recently prompted Canadian literary icon Margaret Atwood to take to Twitter and praise Priest's "snappy, funny, spot-on micro poems — plus much more."

Priest is a people's poet who believes that humanity harbors a deep and ancient biological need for the spirit and time-binding experiences of the incantatory and shamanistic and that these can only be acquired through the poetic outlook. His words have been quoted in the *Farmers' Almanac*, posted in the Toronto transit system, sung in churches, denounced in the legislature, embedded in pavement, and turned into two hit songs. "Sometimes," as one of Priest's micro poems has it, "it is the book that opens you."

People's poet **Robert Priest** has achieved bestseller status as both a songwriter and a poet. He lives in Toronto, ON.



### KEY SALES NOTES

- **ROBERT PRIEST IS A MASTER STORYTELLER:** His words have been quoted in the *Farmers' Almanac*, debated in the Ontario Legislature, sung on *Sesame Street*, posted in Toronto's transit system, quoted by politicians, broadcast on MTV, and widely published in textbooks and anthologies. On X, Margaret Atwood praised Priest's "snappy, funny, spot-on micro poems."

### PRAISE FOR THE POETRY OF ROBERT PRIEST:

- "Snappy, funny, spot-on micro poems — plus much more." — Margaret Atwood
- "One line summary? Hell yeah. Some poets show emotion, some language, other's technique or flashes of insight and he has the whole spread." — *The Miramichi Reader*
- "Passionate, humourous, kick-ass poetry." — Susan Musgrave, *The Vancouver Sun*

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

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