

CAITLIN PRESS

WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL
& HOME OF DAGGER EDITIONS

WINTER 2023



featuring

CONNIE KUHNS MAUREEN MAYHEW

RON VERZUH STEPHEN KAKFWI

NATALIE VIRGINIA LANG

JUDY LEBLANC SUSAN BRALEY

RUBYMUSIC

A POPULAR HISTORY OF WOMEN'S MUSIC AND CULTURE

BY CONNIE KUHNS

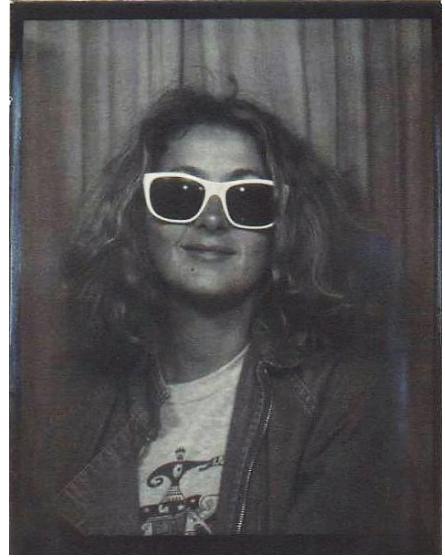
AN EXPLOSIVE JOURNEY THROUGH THE PACIFIC
NORTHWEST'S GROUNDBREAKING WOMEN'S MUSIC
SCENE IN THE 80S AND 90S

When journalist Connie Kuhns approached Vancouver Cooperative Radio in 1981 to host a music program dedicated solely to playing music by women, there was some doubt at the station that there was enough music by women to fill half an hour—and besides, who would tune in?

Such was the underground nature of women's music. Despite the doubters, Rubymusic became a successful program, running for fifteen years, introducing listeners to countless artists through radio, magazines and newspaper columns and on stage at Vancouver's annual Folk Music Fest; it served as a powerful platform for the feminist movements taking place in Vancouver's punk scene and throughout music history in the 80s and 90s. Rubymusic also served as the launching pad for Kuhns' life-long passion—the preservation of the histories and stories of the women with whom she crossed paths on the airwaves.

Rubymusic: A Popular History of Women's Music and Culture is a time capsule of a pivotal moment in women's music history, with special emphasis on the women's music movement in Canada, including the only written history of the women involved in Vancouver's punk rock scene. *Rubymusic* also includes over two dozen first-person interviews going back into the early 1980s, featuring a diverse group of women, including Ferron, Etta James, Roni Gilbert, Lillian Allen, Koko Taylor, Gloria Steinem, kd lang, Michelle Shocked, Amy Grant, Ellen McIlwaine, as well as essays on Joni Mitchell, Janis Joplin, and why Yoko Ono matters. *Rubymusic* is a necessary reflection on fifteen years of radio history and forty years in music journalism that contains unparalleled stories of women who fought for the right to be heard.

CONNIE KUHNS has a forty-year history as an essayist, journalist, photographer and broadcaster. Her essays have been finalists for Canada's National Magazine Award, Western Magazine Award and *PRISM international's* CNF prize; her piece titled "Last Days in Cheyenne"



CONNIE KUHNS PHOTO

MUSIC / FEMINISM

978-1-77386-101-2

6" x 9", black & white photos
paperback

\$26.00 CAD / \$19.00 USD

Available March 10, 2023

MUSIC

/ Essay

/ History & Criticism

was named a "Notable Essay" in the Best American Essay series. Her photographs have been shown in various formats, including the *Washington Post* and the *Globe and Mail*. She was a finalist for Canada's Salt Spring National Art Prize, receiving the award for Outstanding Salt Spring Artist. For fifteen years, Kuhns was the producer and host of the groundbreaking radio show Rubymusic on CFRO, Vancouver, specializing in the history of women in music. She lives on Salt Spring Island, BC.

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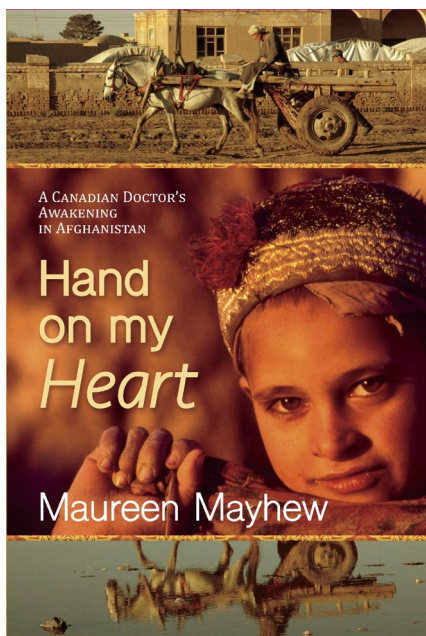
WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

HAND ON MY HEART

A CANADIAN'S AWAKENING IN AFGHANISTAN

BY MAUREEN MAYHEW

AN HONEST AND HEARTFELT EXAMINATION OF
THE CULTURAL ASSUMPTIONS AROUND GENDER,
TRADITION AND BELIEF



When Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) offered to send Maureen Mayhew to Taliban-occupied Afghanistan, she refused. Fearing she would be forced to give up her independence to preserve her safety, it was the last place on earth she wanted to volunteer medical expertise. But events didn't unfold as she had anticipated and in April 2000, wrapped in unfamiliar clothing, she stepped out onto the Afghan dust for the first time. Walking toward Taliban immigration officials, a fire raged in her belly and a tremor shot through the hand grasping her blue knapsack. Little did she know that she would return to this country seven more times over the span of a decade, learn to converse in the regional Afghan language of Dari, and develop lasting relationships with women, men—even members of the Taliban—and families through her work as a physician.

In *Hand on My Heart: Awakening in Afghanistan*, Mayhew juxtaposes her experiences of Afghanistan as a foreign, female physician with her personal journey of questioning who she is as a professional woman in the 21st century. As she travels from one remote outpost to another, sharing cups of tea in secret, muddling through language barriers, and brokering trust with her patients, she finds her Western beliefs challenged and makes sense of her own struggles with gender roles. With curiosity and tenderness, Mayhew reflects on moments of disorientation, fear, wonder and joy. *Hand on My Heart* is a moving account that takes readers on an uncharted path into the mysteries of the human heart.

MAUREEN MAYHEW earned a medical degree from McGill University, a Masters degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University, a fellowship in research methods from the University of British Columbia and a certificate in life coaching from the Co-Active Training Institute. She has practised medicine in eight provinces and two territories of Canada, as well as abroad with Médecins sans Frontières. Currently, she volunteers for MSF as a peer support worker. As a UBC clinical professor, she has instructed on topics in global health, refugee health, remote health care and primary care. She has published articles about her experiences in Afghanistan in the Canadian Medical Association journal and contributed to *Outside the Wire: The War in Afghanistan in the Words of its Participants*. Her passions include travelling, active forays into nature, and photography.

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MEMOIR / WOMEN'S STORIES

978-1-77386-102-9

6" x 9", paperback

\$26.00 CAD / \$19.00 USD

Available January 20, 2023

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY

/ Medical (incl. Patients)

/ Personal Memoirs

/ Women

PRINTER'S DEVILS

THE FEISTY PIONEER NEWSPAPER THAT SHAPED THE HISTORY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'S SMELTER CITY 1895–1925

BY RON VERZUH

JOURNEY BACK IN TIME TO THE BYGONE ERA OF
"PRINTER'S DEVILS" AND UNCOVER HOW THEIR
INFLUENCE SHAPED BC'S SMELTER CITY

The grisly murder of a nurse, a crippling 1917 strike, death on the wartime battlefield, the 1918–19 flu pandemic, life on the home front—these are just some of the historic events covered in the early days of the Trail Creek News. In *Printer's Devils*, historian Ron Verzuh offers both a study of pioneer journalism and a social history of the smelter city of Trail as it grew into a small but prosperous community. He traces the stories of residents and their evolving attitudes, pastimes and opinions as they respond in times of economic crisis, war, labour strife and life-threatening disease against the backdrop of one of Canada's pioneer industrial centres.

Beneath these stories is a revealing exploration into the lives of six Trail News editors—Trail's printer's devils—in which we see firsthand how their editorial choices were honed by their education, business priorities and experience as tramp printers in the early days of newspaper publishing. Delving back through layers of history, *Printer's Devils: The Feisty Pioneer Newspaper That Shaped the History of British Columbia's Smelter City* is a tribute to the lasting impact of journalism in Canadian society, as chronicled in one single-industry town.

RON VERZUH is a writer, historian and documentary filmmaker. His most recent book is *Smelter Wars: A Rebelious Red Trade Union Fights for Its Life in Wartime Western Canada*. He is also the author of *Radical Rag: The Pioneer Labour Press in Canada* and *Underground Times: Canada's Flower-Child Revolutionaries*. His work has appeared in numerous academic journals, newspapers, magazines and on web sites, including *The Globe and Mail*, *Vancouver Sun*, *Ottawa Magazine*, *BC History*, *Canada's History*, and several other publications. He is the producer and director of the award-winning short film *Joe Hill's Secret Canadian Hideout* as well as *Codename Project 9*, the story of the Trail smelter's participation in the making of the atomic bomb, and *Remembering Salt*, about the showing of the banned Hollywood film *Salt of the Earth* in Canada. He is married and lives in Esquimalt, BC.



BC ARCHIVES PHOTO

BC HISTORY

978-1-77386-103-6

6" x 9", paperback

black & white photos

\$28.00 CAD / \$21.00 USD

Available March 3, 2023

HISTORY

/ Canada / Provincial, Territorial
& Local / British Columbia
/ Canada / Post-Confederation 1867-

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY /
Editors, Journalists, Publishers

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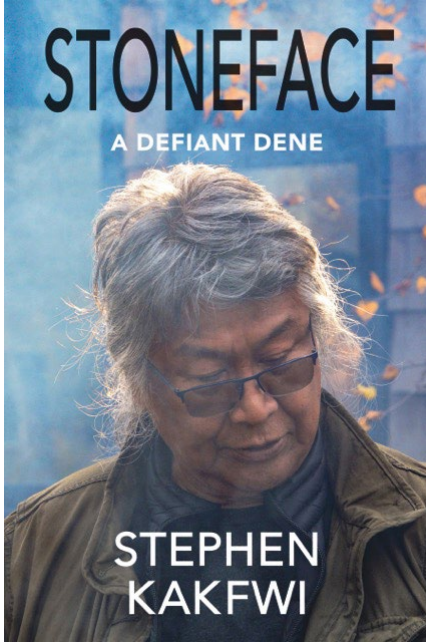
Caitlin Press — Winter 2023

WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

STONEFACE

MEMOIR OF A DEFIANT DENE

BY STEPHEN KAKFWI



FORMER PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
STEPHEN KAKFWI TRANSFORMS POLITICS INTO
PHILOSOPHY AND SHEDS LIGHT ON A HISTORY THAT
MANY CANADIANS HAVE LONG IGNORED

Stephen Kakfwi was born in a bush camp on the edge of the Arctic Circle in 1950. In a family torn apart by tuberculosis, alcohol and the traumas endured by generations in residential school, he emerged as a respected Dene elder and eventually the Premier of the Northwest Territories. Stephen belongs to a cohort of young northerners who survived the childhood abuses of residential school only to find himself in another residential school as a teenager. There, one Oblate father offered him the leadership skills he would need to succeed. Kakfwi, schooled on civil rights and 1960s protest songs, dedicated himself to supporting chiefs in their claim to land that had been taken away from them and in their determination to seize control of the colonial political system.

Kakfwi's life has been a series of diverse endeavours, blending traditional Dene practices with the daily demands of political office—hunting moose one day and negotiating with European diamond merchants the next. Throughout his career, Kakfwi understood that he held the power to make change. He also embraced the power of story-telling, and has helped change the story of the North. Kakfwi combines his remarkable memory for detail with his compelling raconteur's skill in taking us through the incredible story of his life and one of the most transformative times in Canadian history. In his candid description of the loneliness of leadership and his embrace of Dene spirituality, Kakfwi's *Stoneface* transforms politics into philosophy and an intensely personal guide to reconciliation.

STEPHEN KAKFWI, northern Dene, is a lifelong leader in Indigenous rights, environmental stewardship, and reconciliation. He served as Premier of the Northwest Territories, and as National Chief of the Dene Nation, representing Chiefs of Treaties 8 and 11. A husband, father and grandfather, he shares his heroes, homeland, and residential school experiences in his songs and stories.

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MEMOIR / INDIGENOUS

978-1-77386-107-4
6" x 9", paperback
\$28.00 CAD

Available March 24, 2023

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY

/ Cultural, Ethnic & Regional /
Indigenous

/ Political

/ Personal Memoirs

REMNANTS

REVERIES OF A MOUNTAIN DWELLER

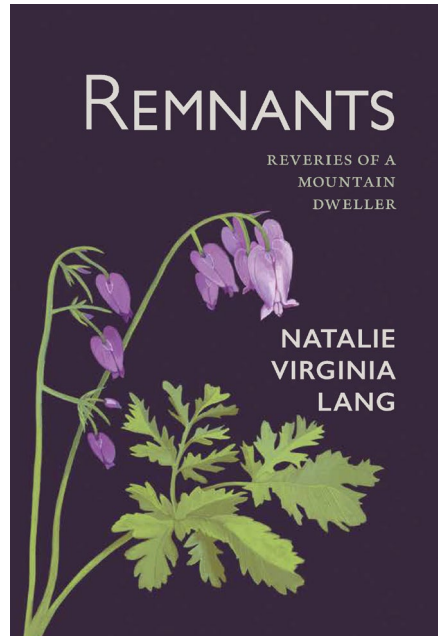
BY NATALIE VIRGINIA LANG

WITH STUNNING CLARITY, THOUGHTFUL MEDITATION AND WALDEN-EQUE PROSE, NATALIE VIRGINIA LANG INVITES READERS TO JOIN HER IN REEXAMINING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATURAL WORLD

In *Remnants: Reveries of a Mountain Dweller*, writer and educator Natalie Virginia Lang offers a vision of Sumas Mountain throughout the seasons to expose the impact of toxic progress on Place. Through poetic prose, Lang meditates on the social, historical, cultural, and environmental losses brought about by infringement upon natural areas. *Remnants* ventures into the natural spaces on Sumas Mountain, illuminating the errors of the modern colonial approach to progress and posing philosophical queries for alternate pathways into the future.

With whimsical descriptions and close encounters with creatures, forests, and climate change, Lang brings us an embodied experience of nature and bridges the gap between science, philosophy, academic theories, and the social sphere. *Remnants* offers a shift in the way environment is perceived and celebrates the value of interconnected relationships with and within ecosystems. The result is a fresh lens through which to see our relationship with that natural world, one that inspires us to join an ever-growing conversation about finding balance with our environment, even in the midst of growth.

NATALIE VIRGINIA LANG is a Canadian writer and teacher, living on Sumas Mountain in Abbotsford. She is ardently dedicated to the preservation of natural spaces and continues to reflect upon the beauty and mystery of nature. Natalie has written several book reviews for *The BC Review* and has won multiple awards from Simon Fraser University for her work in the Graduate Liberal Studies department. She has a forthcoming master's degree in liberal studies.



NATURE / MEMOIR

978-1-77386-104-3

6" x 9", 240 pages

paperback with French flaps

\$26.00 CAD / \$19.00 USD

Available February 10, 2023

**BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY /
Personal Memoirs**

**NATURE /
Essays**

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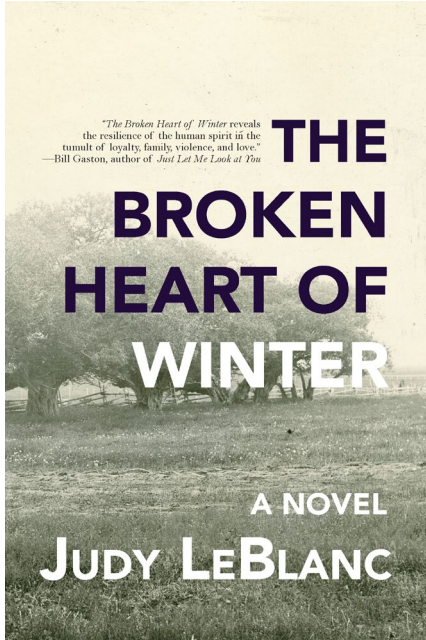
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WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

THE BROKEN HEART OF WINTER

A NOVEL

BY JUDY LEBLANC



THREE GENERATIONS OF ACADIAN WOMEN
GRAPPLE WITH THE IMPACTS OF DISLOCATION, EXILE,
AND VIOLENCE IN AWARD-WINNING WRITER
JUDY LEBLANC'S DEBUT NOVEL

Lise, Appoline and Anne are related, though they live on opposite coasts at different moments of time, with the vast geography of Canada and decades of change between them. The three women are linked by generations of hardship, displacement, and an eighteenth-century French musket that has been passed down through the LeBlanc family since the time of the Acadian expulsion. In contemporary Victoria, BC, Lise's estranged son, Daniel, reappears in Nova Scotia just when she's making significant changes in her life, including a nasty divorce from Daniel's father. Upon learning that her son is living with a distant relative, Lise begins to unravel a family history that brings about unintended consequences.

In 1832, on Isle Madame, Nova Scotia, eighteen-year-old Appoline is left by her older brother to overwinter in an isolated cove, where she's in charge of five members of her family ranging in age from ten to ninety-nine. Grand-mère, the family matriarch, refuses to leave despite the wishes of her family. Tension grows between Appoline and her younger sister, coming to a head when the sister brings home a young 'Jersey man.'

Finally, Grand-mère tells her own story of the Acadian expulsion of 1755. Her memories follow a group of Acadian fugitives on their flight into what is now northern New Brunswick, seeking refuge at the infamous Camp D'Espérance. In each successive generation, the imprint of the expulsion perpetuates further suffering, severs a connection to the past and contributes to the gradual erosion of cultural identity. Nevertheless, these three women are resilient in the face of great obstacles. *The Broken Heart of Winter* speaks to the capacity of the human spirit to love, to adapt, and to carry on.

FICTION

978-1-77386-105-0

6" x 9", paperback, 224 pages

\$24.95 CAD / \$18.95 USD

Available January 27, 2023

FICTION

/ Cultural Heritage / Women

/ World Literature / Canada /

Colonial & 19th Century

JUDY LEBLANC is a writer from Fanny Bay, BC. Her collection of short stories, *The Promise of Water*, was published by Oolichan Books in 2017. She won the Sheldon Currie Fiction prize in 2012, the Islands Fiction contest in 2015, and she's been a runner-up for fiction contests with *Room*, *PRISM international* and the CBC. She was the founder of the Fat Oyster Reading Series in Fanny Bay and taught creative writing at North Island College.

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TILLING THE DARKNESS

POEMS

BY SUSAN BRALEY

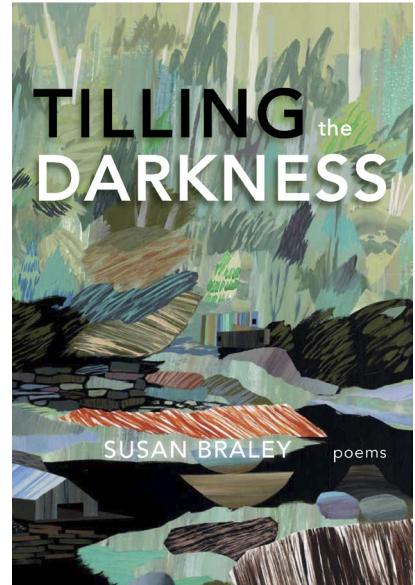
A FIERCE DEBUT EXAMINING THE TENSION OF GENDER DYNAMICS AMIDST THE FIRM IMMUTABILITY OF THE CHURCH AND THE CYCLICAL NATURE OF RURAL LIFE ON A FARM IN THE 60S

“Braley gets her hands dirty in *Tilling the Darkness*. She unearths a fierce, feminist voice as she wrests standing-ground for farm women and their stories. In the ‘mushroom dark,’ readers discover, with Braley, a slanted, beneficent, and necessary light.”

—Cornelia Hoogland

In Susan Braley’s debut poetry collection, *Tilling the Darkness*, a young woman born into a family of eleven navigates the inequities of gender roles on the farm and in the church. In this dramatic rural setting—birth and death sudden in the barn, the seasons vivid over the fields—she experiences first-hand how swiftly seedlings become stalks ploughed down, how easily she and her sisters are discounted. *Tilling the Darkness* explores how we all undertake this tilling ritual, season after season, in the finite field of our lives. Our darkness may be a calamity we seek to escape—a grave, a war, a grief—and our wish is the promise of renewal. In these powerful poems, it is often women who, even in the face of injury and erasure, turn dark to light. Braley’s poetry traces how this woman, after leaving the farm, comes to appreciate the complex, bountiful legacy of her early life.

SUSAN BRALEY grew up in a family of eleven on a farm in Southern Ontario. Her poetry is included in *Best Canadian Poetry 2023*, and was nominated for the 2022 National Magazine Award in Poetry. She was the winner of the inaugural BC Cedric Award for Poetry. Her poetry has appeared in the literary journals *Antigonish Review*, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *Canadian Women’s Studies*, *CV2*, *The Literary Review of Canada*, *The New Quarterly*, *Prairie Fire*, and *Room*, and in anthologies such as *Walk Myself Home* and *Poems from Planet Earth*. Her poems have been recognized in numerous writing contests, including Arc’s Poem of the Year. For much of her adult life, Susan lived in London, Ontario, where she earned a PhD in Modern Literature, and taught literature, writing and women’s studies. She now lives in Victoria, BC, with her partner.



POETRY

978-1-77386-106-7

5.5" x 8", paperback, 96 pages

\$20.00 CAD / \$15.00 USD

Available February 10, 2023

POETRY

/ Women Authors

/ Subjects & Themes / Family

/ Canadian / General

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WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

DANCING ON MOUNTAINS

WOMEN OF THE KOOTENAYS

EDITED BY LUANNE ARMSTRONG

AN INSPIRING COLLECTION OF FIRST-HAND STORIES
FROM WOMEN OF THE KOOTENAYS AND SINIXT AND
KTUNAXA NATIONS

Nestled among pristine lakes, powerful rivers and awe-inducing mountain ranges, the Kootenay region of British Columbia has always drawn a distinctly adventurous crowd. The dramatic and somewhat isolated landscape has long been a fertile ground for artists, musicians, back-to-the-landers, hippies, environmentalists, free thinkers, and those seeking to escape the confines of big cities to the east and west and the political dynamics to the south. Others have called the area home for millennia—the Sinixt Nation, which spans the interior plateau of BC and extends beyond the areas now known as the Kootenay region, and the Ktunaxa Nation, which have long resided on the lands and waters of the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers and beyond the confines of our colonial borders. Today, the Kootenay region is a hub of farming, arts, culture and counterculture in British Columbia.

Dancing on Mountains is a collection of inspiring and eclectic stories written by women from across geography and time, each of whom has been drawn to take root in the mystic, beautiful Kootenays. In their own words, these women—teachers, artists, musicians, writers, entrepreneurs and environmentalists—share stories that embody the spirit of the Kootenays. From fleeing the US draft alongside the men of the 60s and pushing against traditional gender roles and sexism, to reclaiming Indigenous identities, calling out environmental threats and fighting for our climate today, these stories span the spectrum of human experience. Thoughtful, heartwarming and delightfully entertaining, *Dancing on Mountains* is a celebration of the brilliant, radical essence of the women of the Kootenays.

LUANNE ARMSTRONG holds a Ph.D in Education and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia. She has written twenty-five books, and has co-written or edited many other books. Her latest work is a collection of essays, *Going to Ground*, published by Caitlin Press in 2022; she published a collection of poetry and photography titled *When We Are Broken: The Lake Elegy* with Maa Press, 2020, and in 2018, Caitlin Press published her memoir, *A Bright and Steady Flame*. She has won or been nominated for many awards, including the Chocolate Lily Award, the BC Hubert Evans Award, the Moonbeam Award, the Red Cedar Award, the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Award, and the Silver Birch Award. Armstrong lives on Ktunaxa ʔamak'is, "The People's Land."



MARCIE JAMIESON PHOTO

ANTHOLOGY / WOMEN'S STORIES

978-1-77386-089-3

6" x 9", paperback

black & white photos

\$24.95 CAD / \$18.95 USD

Available Spring 2023

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/ Women Authors

/ Essays

/ Canadian

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Caitlin Press — Winter 2023

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Caitlin Press Inc. acknowledges financial support from the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund and the Canada Council for the Arts, and from the Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council and the Book Publisher's Tax Credit.



Funded by the
Government
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WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

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