

MAWENZ I  
H O U S E

# MAWENZ I H O U S E P U B L I S H E R S

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Mawenzi House Publishers brings to you new writing that reflects the diversity of our rapidly globalizing world, especially in Canada and the United States.

We publish Asian, African, Middle Eastern, and Caribbean—all Canadian—fiction and poetry, Young Adult fiction, and more recently Aboriginal Canadian and North African Quebecois poetry and fiction translated from the French. Our non-fiction titles include new Canadian criticism and post-colonial memoirs. Our bilingual editions include translations from Chinese, French, Punjabi, Tamil, and Innu-aimun.

We actively seek out works of cultural and literary criticism in the belief that new literatures and cultural evolution need legitimization through commentary and discussion. Our books commenting on Islam give uniquely Canadian perspectives.

*“Celebrating  
a world of  
difference.”*



## Choosing Hope 1 Woman, 3 Cancers MUNIRA PREMJI

Non-Fiction | Memoir  
ISBN-13: 978-1-774150054  
ISBN-10: 1-774150050  
\$24.95 | trade paperback  
5.75" x 8.75" | 176pp  
April 2020

**An inspirational account of surviving three cancers, describing the despair, hopelessness, hope, and ecstasy.**

In this remarkably inspirational story, Munira Premji describes how she battled three advanced cancers—Stage 4 Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Stage 3 multiple myeloma, and Stage 3 breast cancer—within a period of five years. **Choosing Hope** is a truly heroic story about resilience and hope in the face of overwhelming odds and at the threshold of death.

The book is written as a series of chronological anecdotes, starting with the author's first heart-breaking diagnosis, when she began to explore and share her experiences in real time; it describes moments of utter darkness and sheer light, of despair and hope, of intense pain and joyful relief. It describes the vital support of family, friends, and hospitals, and the comfort provided by faith.

**Choosing Hope** captures the psychological, physical, and emotional impacts of a cancer diagnosis and treatment. It is anecdotal in style and easy to read; it is moving and yet finds space for the humour that helped the author to get through; and it does not balk at describing the agony and humiliation that cancer patients endure.

This book will appeal to recently diagnosed cancer patients and survivors, as well as caregivers, and to others facing health challenges.

*I was pleasantly surprised when Dr Cserti came to see me in the general ward the next day. She marveled at the fact that I was up and about and on my iPad, writing. She sat down with me for half an hour to explain in layman terms what my body had gone through and how miraculous it was that I had survived.*

~from **Choosing Hope**

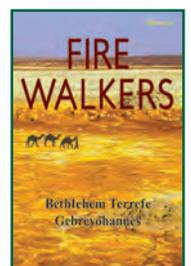
MUNIRA PREMJI was born in Moshi, Tanzania, at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, and immigrated to Canada in 1979. She is a human resources practitioner and executive coach who consults on organizational effectiveness and leadership development. **Choosing Hope** is her first book. She lives in Toronto.

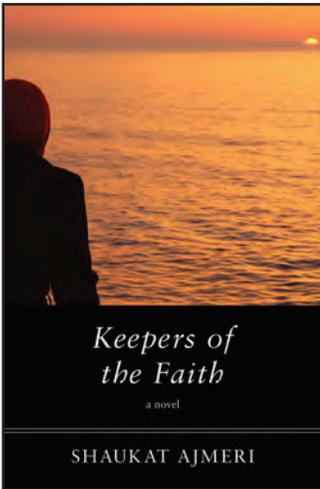
### SALES & MARKETING:

- Toronto launch.
- Visits to cities; appearances at community gatherings, hospitals.
- Submissions to festivals in Vancouver, Ottawa, Toronto, and Kingston.
- Targeted mailing to reviewers and journals; online marketing

### ALSO OF INTEREST:

**Fire Walkers**  
by Bethlehem Terrefe Gebreyohannes  
ISBN: 978-1-927494790  
\$24.95 | trade paperback





## Keepers of the Faith

SHAUKAT AJMERI

Fiction | Literary  
 ISBN-13: 978-1-988449968  
 ISBN-10: 1-988449960  
 \$20.95 | trade paperback  
 5.75" x 8.75" | 240pp  
 April 2020

**A heart-breaking love story set in an orthodox Islamic community**

Akbar and Rukhsana are secret teenage lovers in the historic city of Udaipur. But they belong to a strictly orthodox Shia Muslim community in which female circumcision and widow isolation are the norms, and the head priest is like God, dictating every facet of people's lives. While Akbar belongs to a liberal, "Radical" reformist faction, Rukhsana's father is a fanatical follower of the clergy, obedient to its every whim and dictate. Rukhsana is married off to a devout follower and goes to live with him in Boston, as a bored and frustrated wife and mother. Akbar marries and lives in Mumbai as an editor of a magazine. Twenty years later they meet.

*As he thought of his lost kite, wondering where it might have landed, he sensed a sudden movement in the distance. It was Rukhsana at her balcony. His heart leapt to his throat.*

-from **Keepers of the Faith**

SHAUKAT AJMERI was born and educated in India. He has worked as a journalist and takes a keen interest in reform movements in Islam. He is working on his next novel and a collection of stories. He lives in Mississauga, ON.



## Feel Ways A Scarborough Anthology

EDITED BY ADRIAN DE LEON,  
 TÉA MUTONJI & NATASHA  
 RAMOUTAR

Anthology  
 ISBN-13: 978-1-774150115  
 ISBN-10: 1-774150115  
 \$19.95 | trade paperback  
 5.5" x 8.5" | 160pp  
 June 2020

**Revealing the inner and outer lives of a diverse Toronto suburb.**

**Feel Ways** is a breakthrough anthology of works by writers of Scarborough, Ontario. It is inspired by the suburb of Scarborough in Greater Toronto, shedding light on its myths and its many stories set in the diverse immigrant communities that arrived in the 1960s and later. It presents us with a "chorus of emotional reality," in a community in its most vibrant state. The collection includes fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, and an introduction by the editors.

ADRIAN DE LEON is an Abagatan (Southern) Ilokano writer and cultural educator from Barangay Bagong Tanyag in Manila by way of Scarborough, ON. He teaches Philippine histories in university classrooms, community events, and martial arts gyms. He lives in Los Angeles.

Born in Congo-Kinshasa, TÉA MUTONJI is an author and poet. Mutonji's debut collection of short fiction, *Shut Up You're Pretty* (VS Books, 2019) was a finalist for the 2019 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. She lives in Toronto.

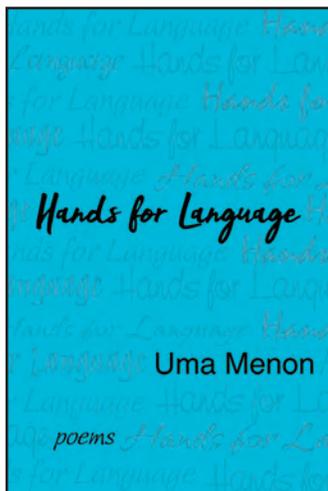
NATASHA RAMOUTAR is an Indo-Guyanese writer living in Scarborough. She is the Social Media Assistant at the Festival of Literary Diversity, and her first collection of poetry, *Bittersweet*, will be published in 2020 by Mawenzi House.

### SALES & MARKETING:

- Previously announced in Fall 2019.
- Mississauga and Toronto launches.
- Submissions to reading series, festivals.
- Targeted mailing to reviewers and journals; online marketing

### SALES & MARKETING:

- Scarborough launch.
- Submissions to local festivals, within the GTA.
- Presentation at academic conferences.
- Targeted mailing to reviewers, journals, academics.



## Hands for Language

UMA MENON

Poetry  
ISBN-13: 978-1-774150085  
ISBN-10: 1-774150085  
\$19.95 | trade paperback  
5.5" x 8.5" | 96pp  
May 2020

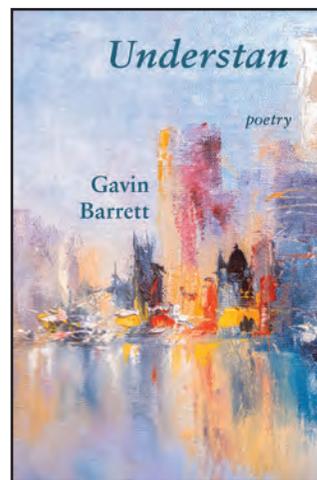
A fifteen-year-old author tackles vital modern issues of our time.

**Hands for Language** is a groundbreaking poetry collection that expands the dialogue around literary representation. At its core, it is a bildungsroman in verse encompassing postcolonial and diasporic themes. This volume is intended to take readers on a journey through the eyes of a young girl of colour living in America. She explores themes of transnationalism, migration, language, family, and culture. Organized into four sections, **Hands for Language** mirrors her path to self-discovery and understanding. The collection is a commentary on the interaction between historical and modern conceptions of ethnicity, gender, and cultural identity. What is more remarkable is that these important themes of our times have been explored by a precocious and sensitive 15-year-old.

*The story goes that my mother's land  
was born from the fall of an axe &  
my mother was born from the rise  
of a sailing ship*

-from "At the Intersection of the Land & Sea"

UMA MENON is a high school student from Winter Park, Florida. She is the 2019–2020 Youth Fellow for the International Human Rights Art Festival and the founder of IHRAF Publishes–Youth. **Hands for Language** is her debut book and was shortlisted by the 2019 International Erbacce-Prize.



## Understan

GAVIN BARRETT

Poetry  
ISBN-13: 978-1-774150146  
ISBN-10: 1-77415014X  
\$19.95 | trade paperback  
5.5" x 8.5" | 112pp  
June 2020

Reflective poetry about a life's journeys ending in Canada.

**Understan** is a reflective journey through what lies below the surface of a man's life. Crossing continents in space and decades in time, it uses memory and the minutiae of daily life to unravel the experiences of love and death. It examines belief and superstition, does not hesitate to pray, and takes delight in the sight of elders, lovers, and children. In **Understan**, the poet is lost but holds the map to everywhere.

*Salt has arms of wet hooped steel, cold flakes can drown a man in a cargo hold.*

*Flats cut deep like knives, mirror plate flash and always it is light that ends lives.*

-from "What does a desert breed"

GAVIN BARRETT was born in Bombay and lived in Hong Kong for several years before immigrating to Canada with his wife and daughters. His poetry has been published in India and Canada. He lives in Toronto.

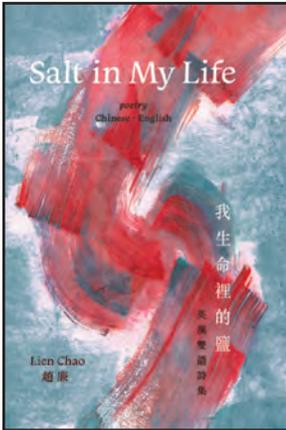
### SALES & MARKETING:

- Florida launch.
- Appearances with South Asian communities and festivals, poetry reading series.
- Targeted mailing to reviewers and journals; online marketing.

### SALES & MARKETING:

- Toronto launch.
- Appearances with South Asian communities and festivals, poetry reading series.
- Targeted mailing to reviewers and journals; online marketing.

# BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS

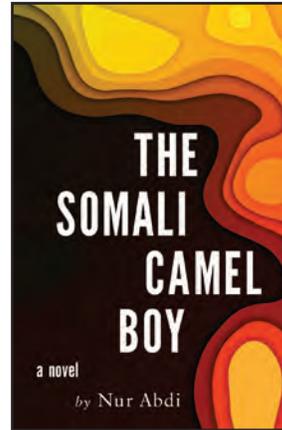


**Salt in My Life**  
Poetry in Chinese and English  
LIEN CHAO

Poetry  
ISBN-13: 978-1-774150016  
Fall 2019 | trade paperback | \$20.95

A sense of poetic and textual fluidity permeates this collection—embracing natural sounds such as heartbeats, electronic beeps, explosive thunderstorms, splashing raindrops, audible stillness, and eternal silence, as well as musical sounds and songs. The author uses different voices and considers a variety of subject matters, changes rhythm and emotional tone, and works with both the long narrative and short lyric forms.

LIEN CHAO is the author of several volumes of Chinese and English bilingual poetry. She lives in Toronto.

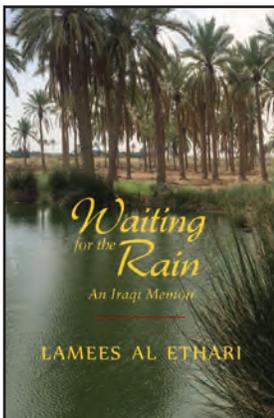


**The Somali Camel Boy**  
NUR ABDI

Fiction  
ISBN-13: 978-1-988449876  
Fall 2019 | trade paperback | \$20.95

When members of a rival clan kill Ali's father and raid his herd, he walks to the capital to start a new life and eventually ends up in Canada. Celebrating his new freedom, this self-willed but simple camel boy is still obsessed with one mission: to avenge his father's murder. Tragic, hilarious, and insightful about our world's complexities and conflicts.

NUR ABDI grew up in the territory now known as Somaliland. He lives in Toronto.

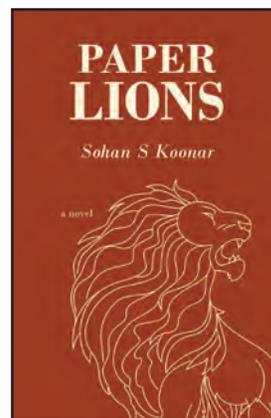


**Waiting for the Rain**  
An Iraqi Memoir  
LAMEES AL ETHARI

Non-Fiction  
ISBN-13: 978-1-988449906  
Fall 2019 | trade paperback | \$24.95  
12 colour illustrations

An Iraqi woman traces her transition from an idyllic childhood to the stability of her family life in Canada. Through memory fragments, flights of poetry, diary entries, and her own art, the author reveals the trauma suffered by Iraqis, caused by three senseless wars, dehumanizing sanctions, a brutal dictatorship, and a foreign occupation. Finely observed, highly personal, and intensely moving.

LAMEES AL ETHARI teaches in the Department of English at the University of Waterloo.



**Paper Lions**  
SOHAN S KOONAR

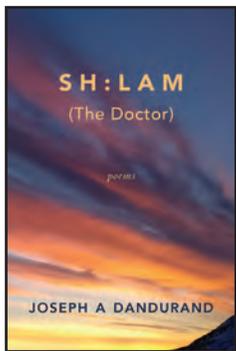
Fiction  
ISBN-13: 978-1-988449777  
Spring 2019 | trade paperback | \$23.95

An epic, multi-generational novel about India, set in the years from the advent of the Second World War to the 1960s. The war brings opportunities, Independence ushers in great hope, and the nation's Partition brings along horrors and opportunities for some.

"**Paper Lions** is an important contribution to the literature of Punjab." —*The Hindu* (India)

SOHAN S KOONAR has won the Judges' Award from the *Toronto Star*, and the Burlington Library Literary Award.

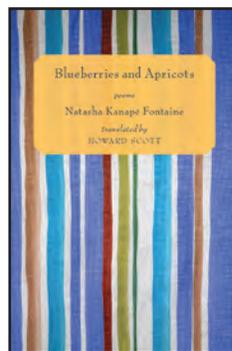
# BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS



**SH:LAM**  
(The Doctor)  
JOSEPH A DANDURAND

Poetry  
ISBN-13: 978-1-988449715  
Spring 2019 | trade paperback | \$19.95

These poems tell the story of a Kwantlen man who has been given the gift of healing but is also a heroin addict. A powerful collection, all too relevant today.

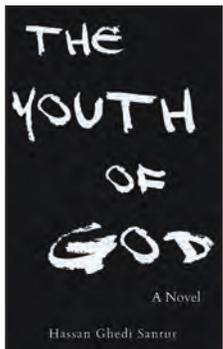


**Blueberries and Apricots**  
NATASHA KANAPÉ FONTAINE  
TRANSLATED BY HOWARD SCOTT

Poetry  
ISBN-13: 978-1-988449326  
Spring 2018 | trade paperback | \$19.95

**Finalist, 2016 Grand Prix du Livre de Montreal.**

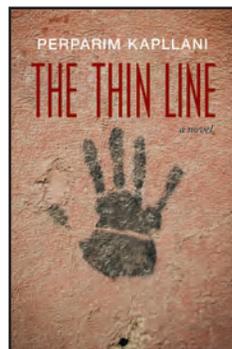
In her third volume of poetry, this Aboriginal writer from Quebec again confronts the loss of her landscape and language.



**The Youth of God**  
HASSAN GHEDI SANTUR

Fiction  
ISBN-13: 978-1-988449739  
Spring 2019 | trade paperback | \$20.95

Nuur, a sensitive and religious Somali-Canadian teenager, becomes radicalized at the local mosque. Set in Toronto's Dixon neighbourhood, this novel dramatizes the struggle for the soul of Islam.

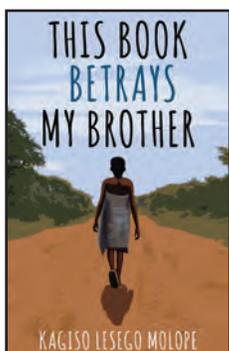


**The Thin Line**  
PERPARIM KAPLLANI

Fiction  
ISBN-13: 978-1-988449500  
Fall 2018 | trade paperback | \$20.95

How do you live your life after you've seen your mother and sisters massacred? Ermal Bllaca, a Kosovar refugee boy in Toronto, dreams of revenge.

"... compelling and heart-wrenching."  
—Maria Pia Marchelletta, President of WEN

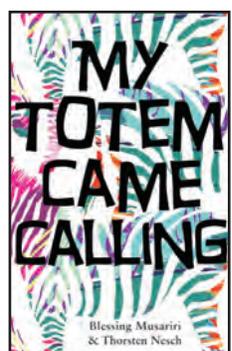


**This Book Betrays My Brother**  
KAGISO LESEGO MOLOPE

Fiction  
ISBN-13: 978-1-988449296  
Spring 2018 | trade paperback | \$18.95  
Ages 14+

**Winner, 2019 Ottawa Book Award for English Fiction | Best Book for Kids and Teens, 2018 | CBC Books, Top YA Pick for 2018 | The Globe 100, 2018**

"... a timely and worthy choice for any public or school library."  
—*School Library Journal*

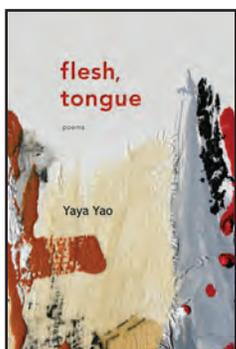


**My Totem Came Calling**  
BLESSING MUSARIRI & THORSTEN NESCH

Fiction  
ISBN-13: 978-1-988449753  
Fall 2019 | trade paperback | \$18.95  
Ages 12+

Suffering memory lapses and seeing a zebra nobody else sees, Chanda travels to her ancestral village to find a solution.

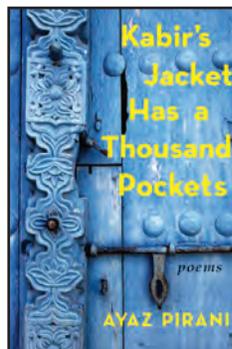
"A strong addition to any library collection."  
—*School Library Journal*



**flesh, tongue**  
YAYA YAO

Poetry  
ISBN-13: 978-1-927494677  
Fall 2015 | trade paperback | \$18.95

"From the globalized rush of gaining adulthood between (too) many Chinese dialects, these poems find home in the self when it is watchful and observant." —Paul Yee, author of *A Superior Man*

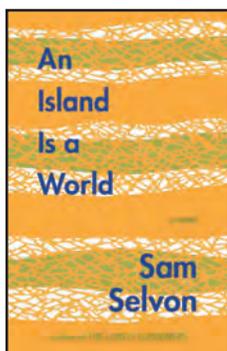


**Kabir's Jacket Has a Thousand Pockets**  
AYAZ PIRANI

Poetry  
ISBN-13: 978-1-988449692  
Spring 2019 | trade paperback | \$19.95

Ayaz Pirani draws from Kabir's *Bijak*, Ghalib, and the oral granth and gnan tradition to plot a lifelong and generational immigration. These poems describe a warm estrangement and salty gratitude for being on Earth.

# BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS



## An Island Is a World

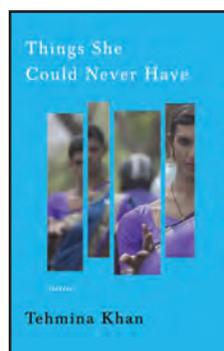
SAM SELVON

Fiction

ISBN-13: 978-0-920661345

Fall 1993 | trade paperback | \$20.95

In post-war Trinidad, as an older generation thinks of returning to India, two young men leave for England and the United States, each in search of himself and his world.



## Things She Could Never Have

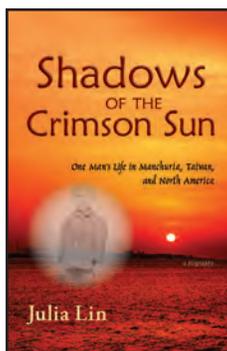
TEHMINA KHAN

Fiction

ISBN-13: 978-1-988449142

Fall 2017 | trade paperback | \$20.95

“Charmingly modern language surrounds readers, soaking them in the culture of [Khan’s] world while demonstrating the subtleties of an often-misrepresented Muslim society.” —*World Literature Today*



## Shadows of The Crimson Sun

JULIA LIN

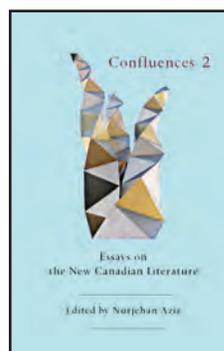
Non-Fiction

ISBN-13: 978-1-988449173

Fall 2017 | trade paperback | \$24.95

14 b&w photos; 2 maps

One man’s life under the Japanese in Manchuria, the totalitarian dictatorship in Taiwan, and finally as a medical doctor and community elder in Canada.



## Confluences 2 Essays on the New Canadian Literature

| EDITED BY NURJEHAN AZIZ

Non-Fiction

ISBN-13: 978-1-988449180

Fall 2017 | trade paperback | \$24.95

This collection, second of a series, consists of essays by accomplished critics looking at some of the most exciting new writing to emerge in Canada in the last three decades.



## Polychromasia

MOHINEET KAUR BOPARAI

Poetry

ISBN-13: 978-1-988449937

Fall 2019 | trade paperback | \$19.95

This poetry collection takes on themes of love through confessional poems, the biosphere, patriarchy, class, and caste, as well as the practice and appreciation of art.



## Monsoon on the Fingers of God

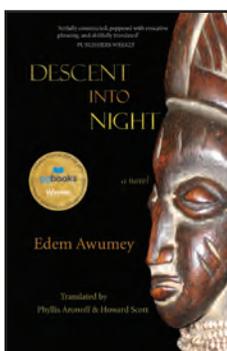
SASENARINE PERSAUD

Poetry

ISBN-13: 978-1-988449319

Spring 2018 | trade paperback | \$19.95

“No doubt, this work is a voice of tranquility and unmistakable originality. The writer is applauded for the extraordinary collection ...” —*Indo-caribbean Diaspora News*



## Descent into Night

EDEM AWUMEY, TRANSLATED BY  
PHYLLIS ARONOFF & HOWARD SCOTT

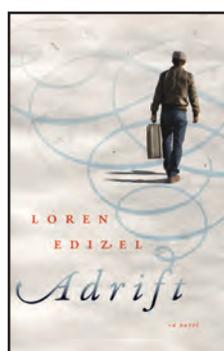
Fiction

ISBN-13: 978-1-988449166

Fall 2017 | trade paperback | \$20.95

**Winner, 2018 Governor General’s Literary Award for Translation.**

A brilliant novel from Francophone Africa and Quebec, by a Prix Goncourt finalist. A young dramatist describes a student protest against a brutal oligarchy and its crushing aftermath.



## Adrift

LOREN EDIZEL

Fiction

ISBN-13: 978-1-894770736

Fall 2011 | trade paperback | \$20.95

Set in Montreal’s Rue St-Denis neighbourhood.

“**Adrift** is a soulful read with a brand of acceptance that is uncommon in an era of intolerance.” —*Herizons*