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## Petitot

A NOVEL BY SUSAN HALEY

Fresh out of college and reeling from the failure of a marriage that had barely even begun, Marcus takes a teaching job in a tiny northern-Canadian native community. While struggling to grasp his own predicament, Marcus finds himself entangled in much larger community tragedies—the suicide of an aging priest and the death of two young students from exposure. But it is his discovery of the writings of Émile Petitot—a controversial nineteenth-century missionary Oblate priest, linguist and ‘explorer’—which finally threatens to unhinge Marcus, launching him on an obsessive quest for answers. In this novel, Susan Haley explores the troubled life and dubious claims of Father Petitot, whose fifteen years beneath the Arctic Circle were punctuated by scandal, delusional behaviour and episodes of outright madness and paranoia—problems which caused him to be shuffled from mission to mission, temporarily excommunicated and even forcibly hospitalized by the bishop. Haley’s binocular approach ruptures the normal historical perspective as she attempts to depict Petitot in all his complexity, both through the eyes of his Inuit and Cree contemporaries and through those of Marcus, who sifts through the written records of one man’s life in search for the truth about us all. ☞ SUSAN HALEY’S most recent novels are *The Murder of Medicine Bear* and *Maggie’s Family*. She lives in Black River, Nova Scotia. ☞ \$31.95 (9781554471263) Printed offset on wove paper making 368 pages trimmed to 5.5 × 8.5 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in an offset-printed jacket. Maps by Jack McMaster. Typeset in Fournier.

## Listen All You Bullets

A NOVEL BY SEAN JOHNSTON

*Listen All You Bullets* tells the story of a young boy named Billy who is trapped on a hardscrabble North Dakota ranch with his lonely mother and his wheelchair-bound father. But Billy isn’t just any boy stuck on any ranch: Billy and his family are the creations of Jack Schaefer’s popular 1949 Western novel, *Shane*. Long after that novel’s action has concluded and its plot and characters have seemingly solidified into popular myth, Sean Johnston sets out to explore the possibilities of a story’s resistance to its own arrested afterlife. While the popular film and television renderings of *Shane* safely respect our expectations of the genre, Johnston’s playful and poetic novel disrupts boundaries, breaking through the surface to suggest new meanings. In the main thread of the novel, Billy’s family are visited by a travelling bookseller a year after the gunslinger *Shane*’s disappearance. A second thread follows a young Metis girl named Marie as she leaves her home in Saskatchewan in the 1930s. A third thread presents a sort of ideal reader who offers comments on the text in draft form many years later. *Listen All You Bullets* is about resistance, and the human impulse to hope in the midst of violence and distortion. It’s also about the fragility of both the material world we live in and the myths our lives are built upon. It is that rare kind of historical fiction that explores the complicity of the artist in the construction of popular history.

☞ SEAN JOHNSTON is the author of *The Ditch Was Lit Like This*, *All This Town Remembers* and *A Day Does Not Go By*, which won the 2003 ReLit Award for short fiction. He lives in Kelowna, BC. ☞ \$27.95 (9781554471294) Printed offset on laid paper making 208 pages trimmed to 5 × 8 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in an offset-printed jacket. Typeset in Electra.

## Someone Somewhere

SHORT STORIES BY DANA MILLS

In his debut story collection, Dana Mills writes with unsentimental clarity of contemporary rural life, of the roughneck world of back shifts and manual work, of dissolving prospects and of the overwhelming circumstances which one sometimes seems simply born to. Yet these stories are also shot through with the strange

beauty and hope which such complicated entanglements with others and such conflicted relationships with the place we inhabit can engender. ☞ DANA MILLS’ stories have appeared in *Geist*, *subTerrain* and *The New Quarterly*. His story ‘Steaming for Godthåb’ was shortlisted for the 2008 Journey Prize. He lives outside Wolfville, Nova Scotia. ☞ \$27.95 (9781554471287) Printed offset on laid paper making 192 pages trimmed to 5 × 8 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in a letterpress-printed jacket. Typeset in Neacademia.

## The November Optimist

CREATIVE NON-FICTION BY DAVID ZIEROTH

This book is almost a love story. Combining fiction, observation and anecdote, its male narrator conjures a dialogue with a woman— his imagined counterpart, his willing or unwilling muse who sometimes lends insight, sometimes remains contrary and elusive. Full of jaunty humanity and black humour, our narrator registers ironies in a light-hearted manner when bemusements arise from his fully engaged citizen-walkabouts and caffeine fantasies. Ordinary events (driving and parking, walking and watching) are transformed by minute representation into something of almost surreal importance. The conversation extends beyond the woman to the city itself, to rain and seasonal change, to books and the escape they offer, the ways they inform what is possible and what is daily. Clouds and quays, neighbours and strangers absorb our narrator, as does fast time in both his city and in himself in this flâneur’s look around. ☞ DAVID ZIEROTH is an award-winning poet. His latest publications include *The Fly in Autumn* and two chapbooks: *Berlin Album* and *Hay Day Canticle*. He lives in North Vancouver, British Columbia. ☞ \$24.95 (9781554471270) Printed offset on laid paper making 96 pages trimmed to 5 × 8 inches; Smyth sewn, bound in a paper cover and enfolded in a letterpress-printed jacket. Typeset in Californian.

## Writing the Common

Poetry Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Halifax Common, 1763–2013

VARIOUS CONTRIBUTORS

In 1763, King George III granted 235 acres of common land “for the use of the inhabitants of the Town of Halifax forever.” This anthology celebrates the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the Halifax Common by collecting an impressive offering of poems about the Common. These poems reflect the diversity of ways in which citizens relate to the Common, their subject matter ranging from the rhododendrons in the Public Gardens to the Rolling Stones concert, from romances to dog walking and from nostalgia to heartache and grief. Together they explore the concept of public space and the unique role that it can play in the life of a city, including the ways it fosters the literary imagination of the community. ☞ There are thirty-one contributors, including Gaspereau Press authors George Elliott Clarke and Sue Goyette. ☞ \$21.95 (9781554471324) Printed offset on laid paper making 96 pages trimmed to 5.3 × 8.5 inches; Smyth sewn and bound in a paper cover. Typeset in Caslon.

## Oikos

AN ESSAY BY PETER SANGER

This essay on ecology & language was originally presented during Convocation exercises held by Nova Scotia Agricultural College on 4 May 2012, at which the author received an honorary Doctorate of Laws from Dalhousie University. ☞ PETER SANGER has published numerous books of poetry and prose, including *Fireship: Early Poems, 1965–1991* and *Aiken Drum*, which was shortlisted for the Atlantic Poetry Prize. He lives in South Maitland, Nova Scotia. ☞ \$49.95 (9781554471256) Limited edition of 100 copies. Hand-printed letterpress on a rare handmade paper making 16 pages trimmed to 5 × 8 inches; handsewn into a handmade paper wrapper. Typeset in Deepdene.



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