



Association of
Manitoba Book
Publishers

What's New in Manitoba Books – July/August 2010

A monthly calendar of events and new book releases from the AMBP
serving Manitoba's publishers since 1979.

1. New Releases

English...

Drama

God's Middle Name by Jennifer Overton is the compelling tale of one mother's journey through the uncharted territory of raising an autistic child. Jennifer is the mother of the child with autism. The play, in a series of episodic scenes, follows Jennifer's family over the course of 10 years: from confusion to a life-altering diagnosis, through stages of denial, anger, depression, bargaining and finally acceptance. Along the way are flights of fancy and a great deal of humour, found both in Jennifer's own approach to the challenge, and in Nic's perception of the world around him. Written with sensitivity and lightness of touch, the play does not flinch from describing the grief involved in parenting an autistic child, yet the dominant emotion is one of joy in Nicholas' accomplishments. JGS. ISBN: 978-1-897289-54-9, \$14.95. pb. Drama/Canadian

Naked in the Kitchen by Lynda Martens. As *Naked in the Kitchen* opens, Psychologist Charlie Campbell, and his wife Beth, are packing their son Michael, off to his first day in college. The parents are a study in contrasts. Charlie, sitting reading the paper, is so calm that he seems passively aggressive. Beth is just the opposite. She's checking lists offering advice worrying out loud. Their son Michael is torn between the apparent lack of emotion from his father and the smothering of his mother. The tension is leavened with a good bit of genuine humor along with a certain amount of edginess. With Michael dropped off at school, the tensions between Charlie and Beth escalate. Somehow the bonus in intimacy that Beth had expected with Michael's departure isn't happening. Old trauma and deep seated pains that were only hinted at in the opening scenes erupt as some surprising new events come to the surface. Back into what's become a standoff with the parents comes Michael with a new friend from school, Kevin. Although he's a fellow freshman Kevin does add a sophomoric but thoughtfully comic note of humanity to the tense situation. JGS. ISBN: 978-1-897289-56-3, \$14.95 pb. Drama/Canadian

Things That Go Bump, Volume 2 Plays for Young Audiences edited by Kit Brennan is an anthology of recent Canadian plays for elementary school audiences. It is a companion volume to fall 2009's *Things That Go Bump Volume 1: Plays for Young Adults*. Through humour and great characters, these 6 plays explore large issues with an entertaining verve. SIG. ISBN: 978-1897109-41-0, \$24.95. Pb. Drama.

Fiction

It is Just That Your House is So Far Away by Steve Noyes. Divorced, adrift, and fast approaching forty, Jeff Mott has come to China, fascinated by the culture and the language. He secures a teaching post in a small town north of Beijing, where he meets a young woman, Wang Bian Fu, and falls in love; however, as they get to know each other, Bian Fu's family life and emotions seem increasingly more complex and disturbing—there is more to her than he can handle, he senses, something hidden. Nonetheless, they become engaged. As the months pass, Jeff misses his young daughter back in Canada ever more keenly. And then he learns the truth about his Chinese

fiancée—a truth concealed behind her considerable deception. His heart divided, he must make a choice, and flies back to Canada, promising to return. Separated, the lovers continue to plan, through their heated and awkward long-distance telephone calls, and through the Chinese characters, the ancient poems and proverbs, mangled in Jeff's fumbling words. As they head towards marriage, Jeff wonders is it Bian Fu that he loves. or China? Or is it that he has imagined both of them as he wishes, not as they are? As Confucius says near the end of the novel, "It is not that I do not love you, it is just that your house is so far away." Poignant and ironic, and searchingly funny, *It is Just That Your House is So Far Away* delivers a Beijing love story and a vision of 1990s China on the edge of globalism. SIG. ISBN 978-1897109-42-7, \$19.95. Fiction.

Graphic Novel

Book 2: Scars, by David Alexander Robertson, illustrated by Scott Henderson, follows White Cloud and the people he encounters, as he struggles to survive against impossible odds. The book also reconnects readers to Edwin, a lost young man on his own quest introduced in *book 1, Stone*. By learning about the bravery and perseverance of his ancestor White Cloud, Edwin summons his own courage and travels to confront the main source of his despair: the father he barely knows. *7 Generations* is an epic, four-part graphic novel series that spans three centuries of one family, from the prairie encampment of Plains Cree in the early 19th century to the urban modern day. HighWater Press (an imprint of Portage & Main Press). ISBN: 978-1-55379-227-7, \$12.95. Graphic Novel.

Non-Fiction

The Gift of Difference: Radical Orthodoxy, Radical Reformation, edited by Chris K. Huebner and Tripp York, with a foreword by John Milbank. When the Radical Reformers demanded the separation of church and state, it was not to privatize their convictions or depoliticize the church, but rather an attempt to recognize Jesus as Lord over all. The theological movement known as Radical Orthodoxy is currently rethinking theology's influence by secular modernity, thereby making a bold critique of contemporary Christianity. It should not be surprising that Anabaptist theologians have found theological kinship with Radical Orthodoxy. Taking their cues from John Howard Yoder, Henri de Lubac, Jacques Derrida, Stanley Cavell, Hans Urs von Balthasar, Stanley Hauerwas, and others, writers in this volume engage Radical Orthodoxy on topics such as ecclesiology, martyrdom, worship, oath-taking, peace and violence. This is a breakthrough collection of philosophical theology from important voices in the Radical Reformation tradition. CMU. ISBN: 978-0-920718-85-8, pb. \$29.50. Religion/philosophy.

Storied Landscapes: Ethno-Religious Identity and the Canadian Prairies by Frances Swyripa. *Storied Landscapes* is a beautifully written, sweeping examination of the evolving identity of major ethno-religious immigrant groups in the Canadian West. Viewed through the lens of attachment to the soil and specific place, and through the eyes of both the immigrant generation and its descendants, the book compares the settlement experiences of Ukrainians, Mennonites, Icelanders, Doukhobors, Germans, Poles, Romanians, Jews, Finns, Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes. It reveals how each group's sense of identity was shaped by a complex interplay of physical and emotional ties to land and place, and how that sense of belonging influenced, and was influenced by, relationships not only within the prairies and the Canadian nation state but also with the homeland and its extended diaspora. Through a close study of myths, symbols, commemorative traditions, and landmarks, *Storied Landscapes* boldly asserts the inseparability of ethnicity and religion both to defining the prairie region and to understanding the Canadian nation-building project. B&W photos throughout. UMP. Pb. ISBN: 978-0-88755-720-0, \$26.95. Cloth, ISBN: 978-0-88755-191-8, \$55.00. Library E-book ISBN: 978-0-88755-300-4, \$70.00. Studies in Immigration and Culture Series, No. 5. Non-fiction.

Touch the Dragon: A Thai Journal by Karen Connelly, 2nd edition. New material including photos, maps, and an afterword by celebrated author Karen Connelly are included in this new format edition of her 1993 Governor General's Award-winning classic. "Painfully bored" with school, 17-year-old Karen Connelly set off for rural Thailand to spend one year as an exchange student. This is her intensely honest account of living in a beautiful but sometimes infuriating culture. TUR. ISBN: 978-088801-376-7, \$20.00. Non-fiction.

Poetry

Blue Wherever by Barry Dempster. "In the new world, we wake up/to a bone ark bobbing on a blue wherever," Dempster writes in the title poem of this new collection, his twelfth book of poetry. He connects the intensity of loving someone with the visceral vividness of being alive, as though waking from a beautiful dream and finding the world still sparkling. Granted, there is still loss and loneliness, even huge awols of hope, but the particulars of the outside world remain spectacular despite their ordinariness: cedar wax-wings with their "little caramel whisks/of hairdo above Lone Ranger masks;" the one-eyed horse who "wouldn't/blame you if you ran, muck flicking/from the soles of your shoes;" the river rocks in the front garden "pretending/the inanimate way is holy,/a stunning coldness in the place of eyes." *Blue Wherever* returns us to being in the moment with an intensity and beguilement often reserved for romantic love, and from the various perspectives of observer and creator. Whether it be "Pancake Tuesday," a lonely "Office Party" or a Sunday drive through strip-mall "Wastelands," Dempster reminds us there is still much to see—myriad reasons for staying awake and alive. SIG. ISBN 978-1897109-39-7, \$14.95. Poetry.

Catchment Area by Jena Schmitt. Like a geographic catchment area, this debut collection draws together influences from poetry, prose, biography, art, architecture and history into a perceptive study of the forces that shape our physical and emotional landscapes. In a voice that is subtle yet distinctly confident, Schmitt describes how at times these forces are quiet as "sleet that turns to rain/ that turns to snow," and at times unyielding as a child who throws himself down in a tantrum. *Catchment Area* captures glimmers of that instance when, just as we are about to define the emergent terrain, just when variables such as an earring or glove could solve "any number of unknowns," the earth shifts—whether due to memory, relationships, natural disasters or war—leaving an absence that cannot be mapped. These poems call on the reader's own sense of this absence and how it impels us to search for meaning in a world of constant change, where each time we turn on the news we are witness to earthquakes and floods, or suburban homes turned into methamphetamine factories and bronze statues stolen from parks. And so we are brought to a place of possibility, a place to "revel in/ the parts that are/ missing: heart and mind/ like phantom limbs." Schmitt reveals the watershed point at which each of us stands, where we can go this way or that, where the struggle for articulation and understanding forms our own personal topographies. SIG. ISBN 978-1897109-40-3. \$14.95. Poetry.

En Français...

Les mathématiques au travail 10. Le programme Mathématiques pour les métiers et le milieu de travail a été conçu pour les élèves qui voudraient poursuivre des études postsecondaires afin d'occuper un métier ou une profession certifiée ou pour ceux qui voudraient entrer directement sur le marché du travail. Ainsi, Les mathématiques au travail 10 conduit aux résultats d'apprentissage du programme par l'intermédiaire de projets, d'activités et de problèmes qui se déroulent dans des contextes concrets, ce qui permet aux élèves de faire des liens entre les mathématiques de niveau secondaire et le milieu de travail. La ressource de l'élève et la ressource de l'enseignant adhèrent à la philosophie du Cadre commun des programmes d'études de mathématiques 10-12, et les aspects suivants de l'apprentissage des mathématiques y sont intégrés :

- communications;

- liens;
- calcul mental et estimation;
- résolution de problèmes;
- raisonnement;
- outils technologiques;
- visualisation;
- pensée critique;
- considérations culturelles;
- adaptation de l'enseignement en fonction des divers besoins des élèves.

PLA. Manuel de l'élève : 8 ½" × 11", broché, couverture rigide, 368 pages couleurs. Manuel de l'enseignant : 8 ½" × 11", broché, couverture souple, 480 pages.

2. Other Highlights, News, and Announcements

The summer issue of Prairie books NOW featuring Children's books and more will be released in early August.

On The Same Page! Read the same book, Speak the same language. Voting has started for this year's On the Same Page. From the short list below, select the title you'd like for Manitoba's biggest book club. To vote, and for more information on these selected titles, go to www.onthesamepage.ca. The book that receives the greatest public support before the end of September, 2010 will be featured. The nominees are:

An Ordinary Decent Criminal by Michael Van Rooy

Beautiful Girl Thumb by Melissa Steele

The Dead of Midnight by Catherine Hunter

Juliana and the Medicine Fish by Jake MacDonald

Calls For Submissions

Prairie Fire Press & McNally Robinson Booksellers 2010 Writing Contests. Three categories: Bliss Carman Poetry Award, Short Fiction, Creative Non-Fiction. 1st prize \$1,250, 2nd prize \$500, 3rd prize \$250 in all categories. **Deadline November 30.** For more information check Prairie Fire's website at <http://www.prairiefire.ca>, call (204) 943-9066, or e-mail prfire@mts.net.

Enfield & Wizenty Literary Fiction Contest. Building on the success of its initial contest last year, Enfield & Wizenty is once again offering a \$5,000 advance for the most outstanding submission of literary fiction that we receive. We will be reading fiction submissions (novels and collections of short stories) from now until **December 2010**. Short story collections should have appeared extensively in Canadian literary magazines. For more information see www.greatplainspublications.ca, or contact Maurice Mierau, Associate Editor at info@greatplains.mb.ca.

KEY:

ARP: Arbeiter Ring Publishing

BLÉ: Les Éditions du Blé
CMU: Canadian Mennonite University Press
FPC: Fernwood Publishing Co. Ltd.
GPP: Great Plains Publications
HL: Heartland Associates
JGS: J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing
PEM: Pemmican Publications
P&M: Portage & Main Press
PF: Prairie Fire Press Inc.
PLA: Les Éditions des Plaines
SIG: Signature Editions
TUR: Turnstone Press
UMP: University of Manitoba Press

Association of Manitoba Book Publishers 404 - 100 Arthur Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 1H3 Canada Tel: 204-947-3335, Fax: 956-4689, Email: projectsambp@mts.net Web: www.bookpublishers.mb.ca
--