

# WINTER 2020



# BIBLIOASIS

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# BIBLIOASIS

## Winter 2020

### NEW FICTION, NONFICTION, AND POETRY

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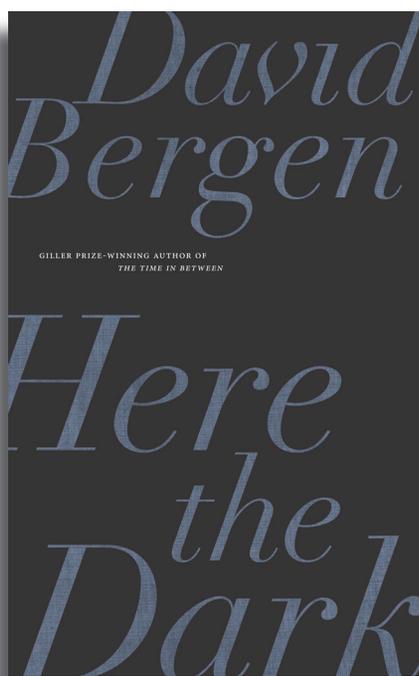
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# Here the Dark

DAVID BERGEN

“David Bergen’s command is breathtaking ... He is one of our living greats.”  
—Matthew Thomas, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *We Are Not Ourselves*

COVER NOT FINAL



March 20, 2020 | Short fiction

5 x 8 | 224pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-321-3

eBook: 978-1-77196-322-0

\$22.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Winnipeg, MB

ISBN 978-1-77196-321-3



## COMPARABLE TITLES

David Bergen, *Stranger*

Marilynne Robinson, *Home*

Kathy Page, *The Two of Us*

## Giller Prize-winner David Bergen returns with an assured collection of short stories and a novella about faith, doubt, and grace

From the streets of Danang, Vietnam, where a boy falls in with a young American missionary, to fishermen lost off the islands of Honduras, to the Canadian prairies, where an aging rancher finds himself smitten and a teenage boy’s infatuation reveals his naiveté, the short stories in *Here the Dark* chronicle the geographies of both place and heart. Featuring a novella about a young woman torn between faith and doubt in a cloistered Mennonite community, David Bergen’s latest deftly renders complex moral ambiguities and asks what it means to be lost—and how, through grace, we can be found.

**David Bergen** has published eight novels and a collection of short stories. His work has been nominated for the Governor General’s Literary Award, the Impac Dublin Literary Award, and a Pushcart Prize. He won the Giller Prize for his novel *The Time in Between*. In 2018 he was given the Writers’ Trust Matt Cohen Award: In Celebration of a Writing Life.

## Praise for David Bergen

“David Bergen’s command is breathtaking, and *Stranger* is a work of genius. There is not one sentence out of place in this book, not one missed stitch. This is a novel with the tension of *The Road* and the moral heft of *The Power and the Glory*. His work belongs to the world, and to all time. He is one of our living greats.” —MATTHEW THOMAS, *NEW YORK TIMES*-BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *WE ARE NOT OURSELVES*

“The gorgeous lyricism of David Bergen’s latest novel recalls the atmosphere of Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea*.” —MACLEAN’S

“At once grand and intimate, *Stranger* is an epic story with a very human heart.” —RACHEL GIESE, CHATELAINE

## MARKETING PLAN:

- Print run: 5000
- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- North American TV & radio campaign
  - National print campaign
  - Online and social media campaign
- Outreach to Mennonite media and booksellers.
- Touring in Winnipeg, Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and elsewhere

# Against Amazon

JORGE CARRIÓN

TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH BY PETER BUSH

“To read is to travel in time and space, and to travel from bookshop to bookshop is an ecstatic experience for Carrión, a joy he conveys page after page.” —*Maclean’s*

COVER NOT FINAL



**A history of bookshops, an autobiography of a reader, a travelogue, a love letter—and, most urgently, a manifesto.**

Picking up where the widely praised *Bookshops: A Reader’s History* left off, *Against Amazon* explores the increasing pressures of Amazon and other new technologies on bookshops and libraries. Collecting the author’s essays on these vital social, cultural, and intellectual spaces, as well as his interviews with the writers who love them—including Alberto Manguel, Iain Sinclair, Luigi Amara and Han Kang, among others—*Against Amazon* is equal parts a history of books and bookshops, an autobiography of a reader, a travelogue, a love letter—and, most urgently, a manifesto against the corrosive pressures of late capitalism.

**Jorge Carrión** is a writer, professor, curator and cultural critic. He writes every week for *The New York Times en Español*. He is the director of the Creative Writing Program of Universidad Pompeu Fabra / Barcelona School of Management. His published works include essays, novellas, novels and travel writing. His title *Bookshops* has been translated to 13 languages.

## Praise for *Bookshops: A Reader’s History*

“The perfect merging of love of travel and literature.” —*BUZZFEED*

“[Carrión’s] purpose is to celebrate bookstores. And he does so by wandering the globe in search of those that play—or have played—a special role in the intellectual and social lives of their communities. They become Carrión’s personal mappa mundi.” —*NEW YORK TIMES*

“Unabashedly sentimental... [Carrión] wanders through volume-laden aisles in Athens, Paris, Bratislava, Budapest, Tangier and Sydney, and invokes many other shops, both open and closed, telling stories about writers, readers and literary circles . . . By the end, you may feel poorly read—but well armed with titles and bookshops to visit on your own.” —*WALL STREET JOURNAL*

April 14, 2020 | Nonfiction

5.5 x 8.5 | 248pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-303-9

eBook: 978-1-77196-304-6

\$21.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Barcelona

ISBN 978-1-77196-303-9



## COMPARABLE TITLES

Jorge Carrión, *Bookshops: A Reader’s History*

Henry Hitchings, *Browse*

David Mason, *The Pop’s Bookbinder*

## MARKETING PLAN:

- Print run 5000
- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- North American TV & radio campaign
  - National print campaign
- Online and social media campaign
  - Excerpts in Lit Hub, Electric Lit
    - Indie Next campaign
- Events in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, and elsewhere

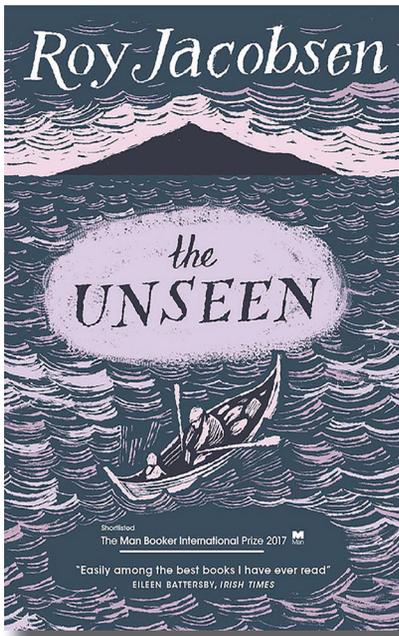
# The Unseen

ROY JACOBSEN

TRANSLATED FROM THE NORWEGIAN BY DON BARTLETT AND DON SHAW

“The Unseen... [is] easily among the best books I have ever read.” —*Irish Times*

COVER NOT FINAL



Shortlisted for the International Man Booker Prize  
and the Dublin IMPAC Award

*Islanders are never afraid, if they were, they wouldn't be able to live here.* Born on the Norwegian island that bears her name, Ingrid Barrøy's world is circumscribed by storm-scoured rocks and the moods of the sea by which her family lives and dies. But her father dreams of building a quay that will end their isolation, and her mother longs for the island of her youth, and the country faces its own sea change: the advent of a modern world, and all its attendant unpredictability and violence. Brilliantly translated into English by Don Bartlett and Don Shaw, *The Unseen* is a profoundly moving exploration of family, resilience, and fate.

**Roy Jacobsen** is a Norwegian novelist and short-story writer. Born in Oslo, he made his publishing debut in 1982 with the short-story collection *Fangeliv* (Prison Life), which won Tarjei Vesaas' debutantpris. He is winner of the prestigious Norwegian Critics Prize for Literature and two of his novels have been nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize: *Seierherrene* (*The Conquerors*) in 1991 and *Frost* in 2004. *The Burnt-Out Town of Miracles* was published in Britain in 2008. Jacobsen lives in Oslo.

## Praise for *The Unseen*

“A profound interrogation of freedom and fate, as well as a fascinating portrait of a vanished time, written in prose as clear and washed clean as the world after a storm.”—*THE GUARDIAN*

“The subtle translation, with its invented dialect, conveys a timeless, provincial voice... *The Unseen* is a blunt, brilliant book.”—*FINANCIAL TIMES*

“A beautifully crafted novel... Quite simply a brilliant piece of work... Rendered beautifully into English by Don Bartlett and Don Shaw, *The Unseen* is a towering achievement that would be a deserved Booker International winner.”—*NEW EUROPEAN*

February 25, 2020 | Novel

5 x 7.75 | 272pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-319-0

eBook: 978-1-77196-320-6

\$22.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Oslo

ISBN 978-1-77196-319-0



## COMPARABLE TITLES

Marilynne Robinson, *Lila*

Elena Ferrante, *The Story of the Lost Child*

Fiona Mozley, *Elmet*

## MARKETING PLAN:

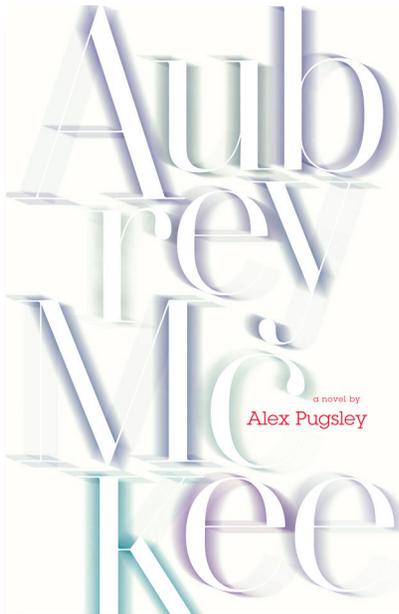
- Print run: 5000
- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- North American TV & radio campaign
  - National print campaign
  - Online and social media campaign
- Outreach to translation media and booksellers.
  - Indie Next campaign

# Aubrey McKee

ALEX PUGSLEY

Pugsley's long-awaited debut is a *Catcher in the Rye* for the 80s generation.

COVER NOT FINAL



*I am from Halifax, salt-water city, a place of silted genius, sudden women, figures floating in all waters. "People from Halifax are all famous," my sister Faith has said. "Because everyone in Halifax knows each other's business."*

Set amidst the old-money decadence of 70s-80s Halifax, *Aubrey McKee* follows a group of freaks and geeks as they navigate late adolescence and begin to come to terms with their privileged upbringing. In the tradition of *Franny and Zooey* and *Lives of Girls and Women*, *Aubrey McKee* is an episodic coming-of-age story and the first in a five-part series of autobiographical novels

**Alex Pugsley** is a writer and filmmaker originally from Nova Scotia. A winner of multiple awards, including the Journey Prize, his fiction has appeared in *Brick*, *The Walrus*, and *McSweeney's*, among other publications, and for the last two years in *Best Canadian Stories*. As a screenwriter or story editor, he's worked on over 170 episodes of television, writing for performers such as Dan Aykroyd, Mark McKinney, and Michael Cera.

## Praise for Alex Pugsley

"With more than a passing resemblance to J. D. Salinger, the authors accomplish something like what he did in *Fanny and Zooey*: to introduce fully two siblings, older and younger, at critical points in their lives...When you finish the book, you might find yourself starting it again."—LOS ANGELES READER

"An intelligent, fresh, witty look at how three twentysomethings live near the end of the 20th century, written in the ironic, sarcastic and sometimes cynical voices that have come to characterize a generation."—HALIFAX CHRONICLE HERALD

February 11, 2020 | Novel

5.5 x 8.5 | 400pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-311-4

eBook: 978-1-77196-312-1

\$22.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Toronto

ISBN 978-1-77196-311-4



## COMPARABLE TITLES

Craig Davidson, *The Saturday Night Ghost Club*

Catherine Hernandez, *Scarborough*

Lynn Coody, *Mean Boy*

## MARKETING PLAN:

- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- North American TV & radio campaign
  - National print campaign
- Online and social media campaign
  - Excerpts in Lit Hub, Electric Lit
- Events in Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, and elsewhere

# Menno Moto

## In Search of My Mennonite Identity

CAMERON DUECK

“In the hands of a good writer like Dueck, the story...is engaging and hard to put down.”—*Winnipeg Free Press*

COVER NOT FINAL



March 24, 2020 | Memoir

5.5 x 8.5 | 328pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-347-3

eBook: 978-1-77196-348-0

\$22.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Hong Kong

ISBN 978-1-77196-347-3



### COMPARABLE TITLES

Cameron Dueck, *The New Northwest Passage*

Joy Kogawa, *Gently to Nagasaki*

Robert M. Pirsig, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*

**On a motorcycle trip across the Americas, Cameron Dueck seeks out isolated enclaves of Mennonites—and himself.**

In the 1920s, groups of Mennonites fearing loss of autonomy moved from Canada to Latin America, where they closed their doors and minds to the secular world. There they live as if time stands still—an isolation with dark social consequences. In this memoir of an eight-month, 45,000 kilometre motorcycle journey across the Americas, Mennonite-born journalist Cameron Dueck offers an insider's view of this 21st century Canadian diaspora, finding reasons to both love and loathe the culture he left—and, in the process, finding himself.

**Cameron Dueck** is a writer and filmmaker who uses adventure travel to tell stories about fringe societies. He sailed his yacht through Canada's Arctic to research his first book and film, *The New Northwest Passage*, and drove a motorcycle from Canada to Argentina to research this book about Mennonite culture in the Americas. He was previously a financial journalist at *Reuters*, *South China Morning Post* and the *Financial Times*. Cameron lives in Hong Kong.

### Praise for Cameron Dueck

“Lots of people dream of quitting the rat-race, buying a boat and sailing away to the Caribbean or the South Pacific. But few do the first two and then embark on a voyage through the Northwest Passage. Hats off to Cameron Dueck: he acted, made good, and now he's written a compelling book about it.”—KEN MCGOOGAN, AUTHOR OF *THE FATAL PASSAGE QUARTET*

“Dueck presents an important portrait of a people and place in flux.”—DAVID LEONARD, *QUILL & QUIRE*

### MARKETING PLAN:

- Print run: 5000
- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- North American TV & radio campaign
  - National print campaign
  - Online and social media campaign
- Excerpts in Lit Hub, Electric Lit, Marie Clare, Ms., O Magazine, Vogue, The Mennonite Inc., Mennonite Family History periodical, Mennonite Life,
- Promotion through author's website: <http://www.camerondueck.com/>
- Events in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, and elsewhere

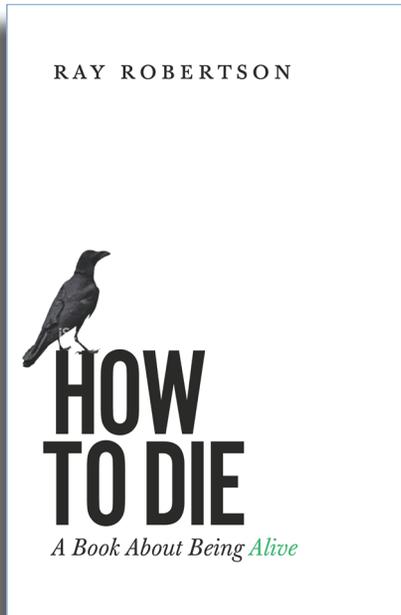
# How to Die

## A Book About Being Alive

RAY ROBERTSON

“Robertson is a moral writer and a biting intelligent one, a man who writes with penetrating insight of what needs to be written about: beauty, truth and goodness.”—*Globe and Mail*

COVER NOT FINAL



January 28, 2020 | Nonfiction

5 x 7.5 | 224pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-094-6

eBook: 978-1-77196-095-3

\$21.95 CAD

Author Hometown: Toronto

ISBN 978-1-77196-094-6



### COMPARABLE TITLES

Ray Robertson, *Why Not*

Mike Barnes, *Be With*

Kathy Kortess-Miller, *Talking About Death*

*Won't Kill You*

**A radical reevaluation of how contemporary society perceives death—and a literary tourist's argument for how it can make us happy.**

“He who would teach men to die would teach them to live,” writes Montaigne in *Essais*, and in *How to Die*, Ray Robertson takes up the challenge, arguing that the active and intentional consideration of death is essential to our ability to value life. An absorbing excursion through some of Western literature's most compelling works on the subject of death and a self-help book for people who hate self-help, *How to Die* is an anecdote-driven argument for cultivating a better understanding of death in the belief that, if we do, we'll know more about what it means to live meaningfully.

**Ray Robertson** is the author of eight novels and three works of non-fiction. His work has been translated into several languages. Born and raised in Chatham, Ontario, he lives in Toronto.

### Praise for Ray Robertson

“Clear-eyed...Robertson is no stranger to confronting unsavoury truths.”

—STEVEN BEATTIE

“Heartfelt, funny, rigorous, practical without ever being preachy...a book that feels like a friend.”—MONTREAL GAZETTE

“Sly wit and keen observation...an exceptional novel by one of the country's finest literary voices.”—NATIONAL POST

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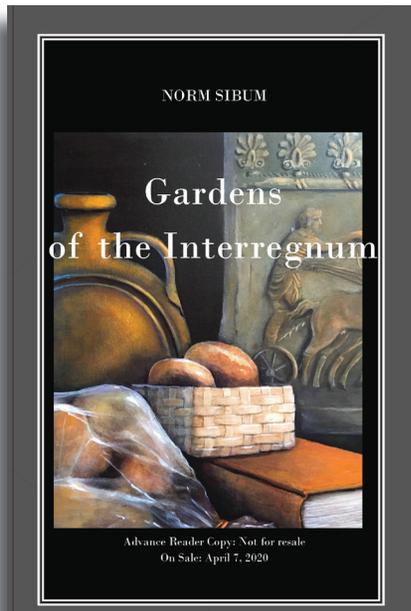
- Co-op available
- Advance reader copies
- North American TV & radio campaign:
  - National print campaign
  - Online and social media campaign
- Outreach to Death Café communities, academic markets
- Events in Toronto, Burlington, Hamilton, Windsor, Kingston, Vancouver and elsewhere

# Gardens of the Interregnum

NORM SIBUM

“Sibum’s antidote to middle-class sense of purpose is the meandering life, lingering on the boulevard—a kind of aristocratic rebellion.”—The Puritan

COVER NOT FINAL



April 7, 2020 | Poetry

5.5 x 8.5 | 72pp

Trade Paper: 978-1-77196-339-8

eBook: 978-1-77196-340-4

\$19.95 CAD

Author Hometown:

ISBN 978-1-77196-339-8



## COMPARABLE TITLES

Norm Sibus, *The Pangborn Defense*

Pino Coluccio, *Class Clown*

Shane Neilson, *New Brunswick*

**Field notes from the end of empire, a satirist’s barbs, verse letters from a poet to his enemies and friends.**

Begun during Bush-Cheney and continued through the Obama years, these poems were written in a waiting mood—and 2016 revealed for what. Field notes from the end of empire, a satirist’s barbs, verse letters to enemies and friends, *Gardens of the Interregnum* captures Sibum’s reverent disillusionment in irregular tetrameter lines.

Born in Oberammergau in 1947, **Norm Sibus** grew up in Germany, Alaska, Missouri, Utah, and Washington. He has been a Montréaler since 1994. Along with Bruce Serafin, he founded the Vancouver Review in 1989 and published several collections of poetry in Canada and in England with Carcanet Press. *His Girls and Handsome Dogs* (Porcupine’s Quill, 2002) won the Quebec Writer’s Federation A.M. Klein Award for Poetry. The *Pangborn Defence* (Biblioasis, 2008) was short-listed for the same award.

## Praise for Norm Sibus

“Kinetic and constantly surprising.”—*NATIONAL POST*

“The language, the focus on American politics and warfare, the contrarian dialogue with friends...gives way, just often enough, to rage...at how the century began.”

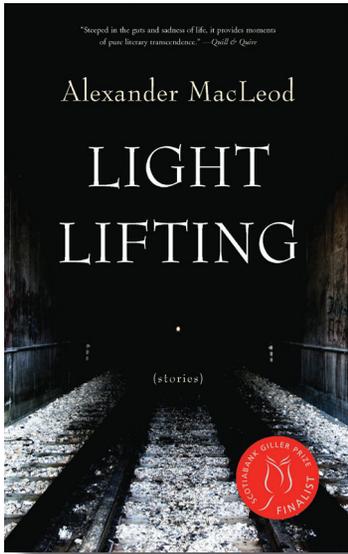
—**GORD SELLAR**

“[Sibus] creates a very original kind of dialectic between present and past, in which each illuminates and penetrates the other...there is in his approach none of that bright postmodern cynicism that makes everything grist to the solipsistic mill of the present.”—*POETRY NATION*

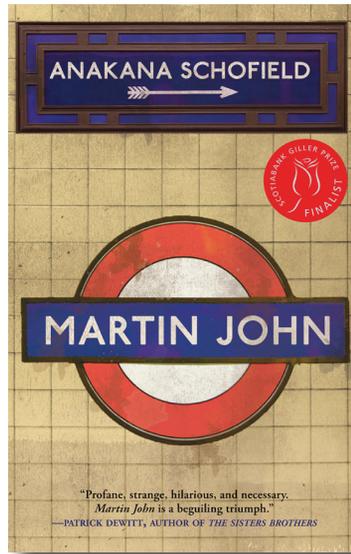
## MARKETING PLAN:

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  - National print campaign
  - Online and social media campaign:
- Excerpts in Poetry Daily, Verse Daily, *The Believer*, *New Yorker*
  - Events in Montreal, Toronto, and elsewhere

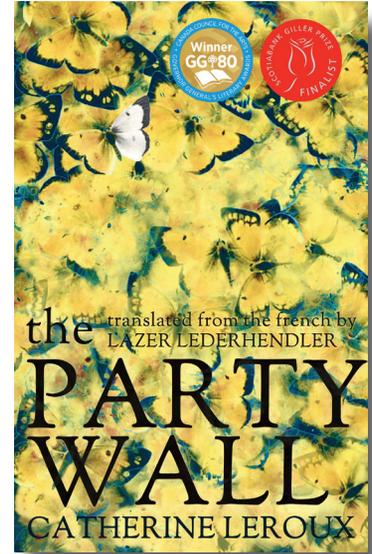
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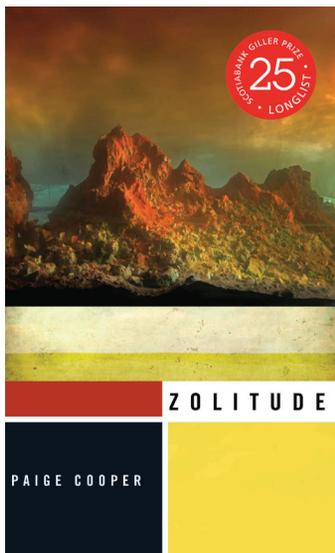
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Trade Paper | \$19.95 CAD



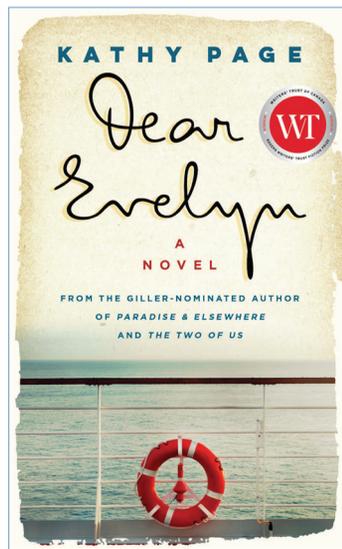
978-1-77196-034-2  
Trade Paper | \$19.95 CAD



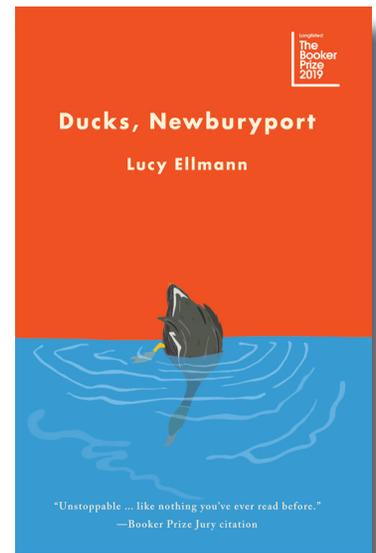
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Trade Paper | \$19.95 CAD



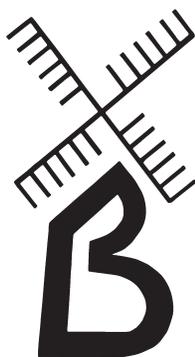
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SIBUM**

A stylized illustration of a rainy landscape. The sky is a light green color, and a large black cloud is in the upper left corner. White diagonal lines represent rain falling from the cloud. In the foreground, there is a dark green ground with a grey house with a chimney and several black trees of various shapes and sizes.

**READ INDEPENDENTLY**