

Vancouver Writers Fest Reading List 2014

Angie Abdou (BC), *Between*

Between satirizes contemporary love, marriage and parenthood by exposing the sense of entitlement and superiority at the heart of upper-middle-class North American existence through a ubiquitous presence in it: the foreign nanny. (Fiction, Arsenal, October 2014)

Caroline Adderson (BC), *Ellen in Pieces*

In this witty, compelling, and genre-bending new novel, a single mother navigates the loves, lusts and losses of middle-age to arrive at a final, bitter-sweet contentment. (Fiction, HarperCollins, August 2014)

Rabih Alameddine (LB/US), *An Unnecessary Woman*

One of the Middle East's most celebrated voices, Rabih Alameddine follows his international bestseller, *The Hakawati*, with an enchanting story of a book-loving, obsessive, seventy-two-year-old woman. Readers follow Aaliya's digressive mind as it ricochets across visions of past and present Beirut. (Fiction, Penguin, February 2014)

Ken Babstock (ON), *On Malice*

Griffin Poetry Prize-winner Ken Babstock's new collection, *On Malice*, assembles evacuated forms, polysemy, prayer, and perverse chatter into poems that embody our paranoia. (Poetry, Coach House, October 2014)

Martha Baillie (ON), *The Search For Heinrich Schlögel*

Martha Baillie's hypnotic novel follows Heinrich Schlögel from Germany to Canada, where he sets out on a two-week hike into the isolated interior of Baffin Island. *The Search for Heinrich Schlögel* dances between reality and dream, asking us to consider not only our role in imagining the future into existence but also the consequences of our past choices. (Fiction, Pedlar Press, September 2014)

Jacqueline Baker (BC), *The Broken Hours*

Set in 1936, *The Broken Hours* follows personal assistant Arthor Crandle after he is sent to work at H.P. Lovecraft's home. Crandle is drawn deep into Lovecraft's strange world as he begins to unravel the dark secrets at its heart. (Fiction, HarperCollins, September 2014)

Arjun Basu (QC), *Waiting for the Man*

Arjun Basu's first novel is about the struggle to find something more in life, told in two interwoven threads. Joe, unsatisfied with his life in Manhattan, journeys west and finds new purpose on a ranch in Montana. (Fiction, ECW, April 2014)

Nadia Bozak (ON), *El Niño*

Directly inspired by the work of Cormac McCarthy, Nadia Bozak's new novel asks us to notice the living ghosts of the American Southwest. Situated just outside of historical time, *El Niño* reads almost like science fiction, highlighting contemporary problems through a post-apocalyptic world that pointedly lacks a catastrophe. (Fiction, Anansi, May 2014)

Dionne Brand (ON), *Love Enough*

Love Enough is full of stories about love—between lovers, between friends, and for the places we live in—and pays homage to each moment of experience. Dionne Brand's stories open different windows on each of her characters' lives and the moments they occasionally, delicately, touch and cross one another. (Fiction, Random House, September 2014)

Robert Budd (BC), *Echoes of British Columbia*

In a follow-up to his well-received *Voices of British Columbia*, Robert Budd returns with more captivating tales of the province's pioneering past in the very words of the people who lived them. (Non-fiction, Harbour Publishing / Nightwood Editions, October 2014)

Sebastien de Castell (BC), *Traitor's Blade*

A royal conspiracy is about to unfold in the most corrupt city in the world. A carefully orchestrated series of murders threatens any sense of order, and a trio of knights must fight to foil the conspiracy. (Fiction, Penguin, March 2014)

George Elliott Clarke (ON), *Traverse*

Traverse is an autobiographical sequence that creates a web of intersecting, crisscrossing impulses, a great burst of imaginative energy and aesthetic reflection that celebrates a 30 years of George Elliott Clarke's poetry. (Poetry, Exile, April 2014)

Michael Crummey (NL), *Sweetland*

Set on a remote island in Newfoundland facing government resettlement, one man struggles against the forces of nature and the ruins of memory, as he refuses to leave the island. (Fiction, Random House, August 2014)

Hilary Davidson (NY/ON), *Blood Always Tells*

Hilary Davidson's *Blood Always Tells* is a twisted tale of love, crime, and family gone wrong, by the multiple award-winning author of *The Damage Done* and *Evil in All Its Disguises*. (Crime, Raincoast, April 2014)

A.M. Dellamonica (ON), *Child of a Hidden Sea*

One minute, 24-year-old Sophie Hansa is in an alley in San Francisco trying to save the life of an aunt she has never known. The next, she finds herself flung into the warm and salty waters of an unfamiliar world. Sophie doesn't know it yet, but she has just stepped into the middle of a political firestorm and a conspiracy that could destroy the world she has just discovered (Fiction, Raincoast, October 2014)

Cory Doctorow (UK)

In Real Life

From acclaimed teen author and digerati bigwig Cory Doctorow, *In Real Life* is a sensitive, thoughtful look at adolescence, gaming, poverty, and culture-clash. (Science fiction, First Second, October 2014)

Information Doesn't Want To Be Free

In sharply argued, fast-moving chapters, *Information Doesn't Want to Be Free* takes on the state of copyright and creative success in the digital age. (Non-fiction, McSweeney's, November 2014)

Emma Donoghue (ON), *Frog Music*

San Francisco, Summer of 1876: A young woman named Jenny Bonnet is shot dead. The survivor, her friend Blanche Beunon, is a French burlesque dancer. Over the next three days, Blanche will risk everything to bring Jenny's murderer to justice—if he doesn't track her down first. (Fiction, HarperCollins, April 2014)

James Ellroy (US), *Perfidia*

Set during WWII, a Japanese family is found dead. But is it murder or ritual suicide? The investigation will draw four people into a tangle involving a consuming romance, a searing exposé of the Japanese internment, and an astonishingly detailed homicide investigation. (Crime, Random House, September 2014)

Terry Fallis (ON), *No Relation*

CanLit's crowned king of chuckles, Terry Fallis, takes readers into the world of identity, inheritance, and belonging, begging the question: What's in a name? (Fiction, Random House, May 2014)

Musharraf Ali Farooqi (PK), *Between Clay and Dust*

Set in an unnamed Pakistani village, *Between Clay and Dust* unravels the lives of two professional wrestlers past their prime, forming an unspoken bond. (Fiction, Freehand, May 2012)

Charles Foran (ON), *Planet Lolita*

After posting a photo of a stranger on Facebook, Xixi triggers an online narrative she can neither comprehend nor control. Told in the voice of a girl struggling with racial identity and the language of social media, *Planet Lolita* is a riveting novel of desires and consequences in our unfolding digital age. (Fiction, HarperCollins, May 2014)

Esther Freud (UK), *Mr. Mac and Me*

In this compelling story of an unlikely friendship, Esther Freud paints a vivid portrait of a home front community during the First World War, and of a man who was one of the most brilliant and misunderstood artists of his generation. (Fiction, Penguin, September 2014)

Damon Galgut (SA), *The Arctic Summer*

Internationally acclaimed South African writer Damon Galgut's latest novel is a fictionalized account of E.M. Forster; his life, struggles with homosexuality, and the writing of his universally loved novel *A Passage to India*. (Fiction, Random House, August 2014)

Steven Galloway (BC), *The Confabulist*

Beginning as a playful, mind-teasing mystery about Harry Houdini, the novel brilliantly turns into a beautiful elegy on love, loss, identity and self-deception. (Fiction, Random House, April 2014)

William Gibson (BC), *The Peripheral*

Acclaimed science-fiction author and pioneer of the cyberpunk genre William Gibson returns with a new far-future thriller. When Flynn takes over beta-testing a video game for her brother, she discovers something much more complex and dangerous than a simple game. (Fiction, Penguin, October 2014)

Paolo Giordano (IT), *The Human Body*

Alternating between light-heartedness and drama, Paolo Giordano's war novel precisely outlines the contours of the "new wars". And, so doing, reveals the existence of other, more elusive, wars

that are no less insidious: family and affective conflicts, as well as the bloody and interminable ones against ourselves. (Fiction, Penguin, Fall 2014)

Katherine Palmer Gordon (BC), *We Are Born with the Songs Inside Us: Lives and Stories of First Nations People in British Columbia*

Since 2004, journalist Katherine Palmer Gordon has interviewed dozens of young First Nations people living in British Columbia. Her new book gathers the thoughts and hopes of young native people living in twenty-first century Canada. Each has a compelling, meaningful story that deserves to be told, understood and, above all, celebrated. (Non-fiction, Harbour Publishing, August 2014)

Nick Gray (UK), *Escape from Tibet*

Based on the true story of the brothers' 1994 journey first made into an acclaimed documentary by Nick Gray, *Escape from Tibet* is a riveting tale of courage, adventure, and triumph. Black and white photographs of Nick Gray's travels through Tibet vividly evoke the boys' homeland, and a timeline, glossary, and maps further contextualize the Tibetans' controversial and ongoing struggle with China. (Non-fiction, Annick Press, March 2012)

Ian Hamilton (ON), *The Two Sisters of Borneo*

The sixth installment of the wildly popular Ava Lee series from Arthur Ellis Award winner, Ian Hamilton. Ava is on her way to the Netherlands to investigate an investment discrepancy, but her life is threatened when she is confronted by a gang of local thugs in Borneo. (Crime, Anansi/Groundwood, February 2014)

Lee Henderson (BC), *The Road Narrows As You Go*

The Road Narrows As You Go embodies all the brash optimism and ruthless amorality of the 1980s, as well as its preoccupation with repressed memories, and fully captures the flavour of an uncertain but deeply vibrant era. (Fiction, Penguin, September 2014)

Cristina Henriquez (US), *The Book of Unknown Americans*

The Book of Unknown Americans is the story of a group of Latin-American immigrants who live in an apartment complex in Delaware. They speak in their own voices, with alternating chapters in the first person. The result is a narrative mosaic that moves toward a heartrending conclusion. (Fiction, Random House, June 2014)

David Homel (QC), *The Fledglings*

In *The Fledglings*, David Homel summons complex personalities and weaves them into a vividly-reconstructed historical landscape, taking readers on a fascinating journey into the inner thoughts and intricate relationships of a son piecing together the memories of his mother. (Fiction, Cormorant, May 2014)

C.C. Humphreys (BC), *Plague*

C.C. Humphreys tells the tale of a religious fundamentalist serial killer set during the Great Plague of London. Charles II is on the throne, Londoners have slipped the shackles of puritanism and now flock to the cockpits, brothels and, especially, the theatres, where for the first time women are allowed to perform alongside the men. (Fiction, Random House, July 2014)

Aislinn Hunter (BC), *The World Before Us*

Library archivist Jane Standen begins compiling a missing person case 125 years ago; as she does, she finds connections to her own personal experience with a missing friend. A dilapidated country house seems to somehow connect both events. (Fiction, Random House, September 2014)

Eve Joseph (BC), *In the Slender Margin*

Using the threads of her brother's early death and her twenty years of work in hospice, Eve Joseph utilizes history, religion, philosophy, literature, personal anecdote, mythology, and poetry to illuminate her travels through the land of the dying. (Memoir, HarperCollins, April 2014)

Anne Kennedy (NZ), *The Last Days of the National Costume*

During a five-week blackout, a clothing mender named GoGo is thrust into drama as a mistress, a wife, and finally the cheating husband all come to claim a vintage Irish costume that GoGo's been mending. (Fiction, Allen & Unwin, June 2013)

Maylis de Kerangal (FR), *Birth of a Bridge*

This Medici Prize-winning novel chronicles the construction of an immense suspension bridge in a fictional California city. Maylis de Kerangal interweaves the stories of a dozen men and women workers with various nationalities and social classes, presenting a microcosm of humanity. (Fiction, Talon, September 2014)

Thomas King (CA), *The Back of the Turtle*

Gabriel, a scientist working for Dowsanto, returns to his childhood reserve to find it wrecked by environmental disaster indirectly caused by his own research. *The Back of the Turtle* is filled with Thomas King's trademark wit, wordplay and a thorough knowledge of native myth and storytelling. (Fiction, HarperCollins, September 2014)

Karl Ove Knausgaard (NO), *Boyhood Island: My Struggle 3*

The third installment of his extremely popular six-part memoir series, *Boyhood Island* covers seven years of the 1970s, when school begins for Karl Ove on the small island of Tromøya off Norway's southern coast. (Fiction, Random House, March 2014)

Herman Koch (DU), *Summer House with Swimming Pool*

When a medical procedure goes horribly wrong and famous actor Ralph Meier winds up dead, Dr. Marc Schlosser needs to come up with some answers. It all started the previous summer when Marc, his wife, and their two beautiful teenage daughters agreed to spend a week at the Meier's extravagant summer home. But as the ultimate holiday turns into a nightmare, the circumstances surrounding Ralph's later death begin to reveal the disturbing reality behind that summer's tragedy. (Fiction, Random House, June 2014)

Nancy Lee (BC), *The Age*

Following Nancy Lee's celebrated story collection *Dead Girls*, *The Age* tells the story of Gerry, a troubled teenager whose life is suddenly and strangely catapulted into adulthood, while she escapes to a post-nuclear dystopia of her own creation. (Fiction, Random House, March 2014)

Daniel Levitin (QC), *The Organized Mind*

The information age is drowning us with an unprecedented deluge of data. At the same time, we're expected to make more—and faster—decisions about our lives than ever before. *The Organized Mind* shows how new research into the cognitive neuroscience of attention and memory can be applied to the challenge of navigating the churning flood of information in the twenty-first century. (Non-fiction, Penguin, August 2014)

Ann-Marie MacDonald (ON), *Adult Onset*

Adult Onset is a powerful drama about motherhood, the dark undercurrents that break and hold families together, and the powerful pressures of love. (Fiction, Random House, September 2014)

Lee Maracle (ON), *Celia's Song*

Celia's Song relates one Nu:Chahlnuth family's harrowing experiences over several generations, after the brutality, interference, and neglect resulting from contact with Europeans. (Fiction, Cormorant, October 2014)

Eimear McBride (US), *A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing*

Eimear McBride's debut novel recently won the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction. *A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing* tells the story of a young woman's relationship with her brother, who is living with the after effects of a brain tumor, and provides shocking and intimate insights into the thoughts, feelings and urges of a vulnerable and isolated protagonist. (Fiction, Simon & Schuster, June 2013)

Eric McCormack (ON), *Cloud*

Harry Steen discovers a mid-nineteenth-century account of a sinister storm cloud that plagued an isolated Scottish village and caused many gruesome and unexplainable deaths. It is the same village where he met the woman whose love and betrayal haunts him. Presented with this astonishing record, Harry resolves to seek out the ghosts of his past and return to the very place where he encountered the fathomless depths of his own heart. (Fiction, Penguin, August 2014)

Bob McDonald (BC), *Canadian Spacewalkers: Hadfield, MacLean and Williams Remember the Ultimate High Adventure*

Focusing on the only three successful Canadian spacewalkers, Bob McDonald's work will inspire, astound and surprise. This is the gripping first-hand story of unique adventurers—in their own words—who have gone where very few humans have had the privilege to go. (Non-fiction, Douglas & McIntyre, October 2014)

George McWhirter (BC), *The Gift of Women*

George McWhirter grounds his delightful characters in the real, while his sharp wit and creative scenarios border on the fantastical. *The Gift of Women* is about sexuality and religion, the surreal and the magical, tales of earthy and incendiary women, capable of setting a man, the Alberni Valley and all Vancouver Island on fire. (Fiction, Exile, 2014)

Rebecca Mead (US), *My Life in Middlemarch*

New Yorker writer Rebecca Mead revisits the seminal book of her youth—George Eliot's *Middlemarch*—and fashions a singular, involving story of how a passionate attachment to a great work of literature can shape our lives and help us to read our own histories. (Non-Fiction, Random House, January 2014)

Dinaw Mengestu (US), *All Our Names*

All Our Names is the story of a young man who comes of age during an African revolution. But as the line between idealism and violence becomes increasingly blurred, and the path of revolution leads to almost certain destruction, he leaves behind his country and friends for America. But the idyllic small town he moves to is inescapably darkened by the secrets of his past. (Fiction, Random House, March 2014)

K.D. Miller (ON), *All Saints*

In a linked collection that presents the secreted small tragedies of an Anglican congregation struggling to survive, *All Saints* delves into the life of Simon, the Reverend, and the lives of his parishioners. Effortlessly written and candidly observed, the intersecting stories illuminate the tenacity and vulnerability of modern-day believers.

(Fiction, Biblioasis, March 2014)

Shani Mootoo (ON), *Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab*

Jonathan reconnects with his mother, Sid, having not seen her since he was nine years-old. But to his shock and dismay, the woman he'd known as "Sid" has morphed into an elegant, courtly man named Sydney. (Fiction, Random House, April 2014)

Billeh Nickerson (BC), *Artificial Cherry*

Billeh Nickerson is one of Canada's showiest poets; by turns outlandish and poignant, *Artificial Cherry* heralds the return of Billeh's cheeky and sweet sensibilities. From Elvis Presley and glass eyes to phantom lovers and hockey haiku, you're never quite sure where Billeh will take you, but the outcomes are worth the ride. (Poetry, Arsenal Pulp Press, April 2014)

Heather O'Neill (ON), *The Girl Who Was Saturday Night*

In *The Girl Who Was Saturday Night*, Heather O'Neill returns to the grubby, enchanted city of Montreal with a light yet profound tale of the vice of fame and the ties of family. (Fiction, HarperCollins, June 2014)

Evan Osnos (US), *Age of Ambition*

Writing with great narrative energy and a keen sense of irony, Evan Osnos crafts a vibrant, colorful, and revelatory inner history of China during a historical moment of profound transformation. (Non-fiction, Raincoast, May 2014)

Alison Pick (ON), *Between Gods*

In her gripping memoir, Alison Pick recounts her struggle with the meaning of her faith, her conversion to Judaism, her battle with depression, and her path towards accepting the past and embracing the future. (Memoir, Random House, September 2014)

Michael Pond (BC), *The Couch of Willingness*

After two decades of helping clients battle addiction, Mike Pond, a successful therapist, succumbs to one himself. Mike's riveting account of his two-year journey to sobriety crackles with raw energy and black humour as he plunges readers into a world few will ever have the misfortune to experience. (Memoir, Everywhere Now, March 2014)

Kate Pullinger (UK), *Landing Gear*

Based on a newspaper article Kate Pullinger first read more than a decade ago, when the body of an airplane stowaway landed in a southwest London supermarket car park, *Landing Gear* explores what would happen if the stowaway survived, unscathed. (Fiction, Random House, April 2014)

Sina Queyras (QC), *MxT*

MxT, or 'Memory x Time,' is one of the formulas acclaimed poet Sina Queyras suggests as a way to measure grief. These poems mourn the dead by appropriating the language of technology, formula, and of elegy itself. (Poetry, Coach House, February 2014)

Tom Rachman (US), *The Rise and Fall of Great Powers*

The *New York Times* bestselling author returns with an intricately woven novel about a bookseller who travels the world to make sense of her puzzling past. (Fiction, Random House, June 2014)

Eliza Robertson (BC), *Wallflowers*

Eliza Robertson can handle the shocking turn, but she also has a knack for the slow surprise, the realization that settles around you like snow. Her stories are deftly constructed and their perspectives—often those of the loners and onlookers, distanced by their gifts of observation—are unexpected. (Fiction, Penguin, August 2014)

Michael Robotham (AU), *Life or Death*

After suffering through ten years of prison, Audie Palmer vanishes a day before he is due to be released. Everybody wants to find Audie, but he's not running. Instead he's trying to save a life - not just his own. (Crime, Hachette, October 2014)

Sjón (IC), *The Whispering Muse*

The year is 1949 and Valdimar Haraldsson, an eccentric Icelander with elevated ideas about the influence of fish consumption on Nordic civilization, has had the extraordinary good fortune to be invited to join a Danish merchant ship on its way to the Black Sea. Among the crew is the mythical hero Caeneus, disguised as the second mate. Every evening after dinner he entrances his fellow travelers with the tale of how he sailed with the fabled vessel the Argo on its quest to retrieve the Golden Fleece. (Fiction, Raincoast, June 2014)

Johanna Skibsrud (CA/US), *Quartet for the End of Time*

Three lives unfold during 1932 in the wake of the Bonus riots, taking readers to unexpected places—from the underground world of a Soviet spy to Hemingway's Florida and the hard labour camps of Roosevelt's New Deal Projects in the Keys; and finally, to the German prison camp where French composer Olivier Messiaen originally wrote and performed his famous *Quartet for the End of Time*. (Fiction, Penguin, September 2014)

Jane Smiley (US), *Some Luck*

Moving from post-World War I America through the early 1950s, *Some Luck* gives us an intimate look at one family's triumphs and tragedies, zooming in on the realities of farm life, while casting a panoramic eye on the monumental changes that marked the first half of the twentieth century. (Fiction, Random House, October 2014)

Carrie Snyder (ON), *Girl Runner*

The story of a former Olympic athlete who was famous in the 1920s, but now at age 104, lives in a nursing home alone and forgotten by history. When her quiet life is disturbed by the unexpected arrival of two young strangers, Aganetha begins to reflect on her childhood in rural Ontario. (Fiction, Anansi, September 2014)

Matthew Thomas (US), *We Are Not Ourselves*

Through the Learys, novelist Matthew Thomas charts the story of the American Century, particularly the promise of domestic bliss and economic prosperity that captured hearts and minds after WWII. Receiving advanced praise as a masterpiece, *We Are Not Ourselves* is epic in scope, heroic in character and heralds the arrival of a major new talent in contemporary fiction. (Fiction, Simon and Schuster, August 2014)

Kim Thúy (ON), *Man*

Vietnamese-Canadian author Kim Thúy's latest novel is a reflection on living and loving, as a chef learns of the all-encompassing obsession and ever-present dangers of a love affair. (Fiction, Random House, August 2014)

Miriam Toews (ON), *All My Puny Sorrows*

Miriam Toews is beloved for mingling laughter and heart wrenching poignancy like no other writer. In her latest novel, she brings us the riveting story of two sisters and a love that illuminates life. (Fiction, Random House, April 2014)

Colm Tóibín (IR), *Nora Webster*

Nora Webster is living with her two young sons in a small town on the east coast of Ireland. The love of her life, Maurice, has just died and so she must work out how to forge a new life for herself. As she reflects on her marriage, she begins to uncover painful memories of her own mother and the distance between them. (Fiction, Random House, October 2014)

Christos Tsiolkas (AU), *Barracuda*

Barracuda takes an unflinching look at modern Australia through the experience of a swimmer aspiring for a gold medal. (Fiction, HarperCollins, November 2013)

Katherena Vermette (MA), *North End Love Songs*

In minimalist language, Governor General's Award-winning *North End Love Songs* attends to the demands of Indigenous and European poetics, braiding an elegant journey that takes us from Winnipeg's North End out into the world. (Poetry, University of Toronto Press, March 2012)

Richard Wagamese (BC), *Medicine Walk*

A son fulfills his duty to a distant and dying father, what ensues is a rugged backcountry journey through the mountains and simultaneously his father's past. (Fiction, Random House, April 2014)

Russell Wangersky (NL), *Walt*

A dark psychological thriller about a man named Walt, a grocery store cleaner who collects the shopping lists left behind at the store, as he's pulled deeper into a string of disappearances. (Fiction, Anansi, September 2014)

Sarah Waters (UK), *The Paying Guests*

It is 1922, and London is tense. With the arrival of a modern young couple at a South London Villa, the routines of the house will be shaken up in unexpected ways. As passions mount and frustration gathers, no one can foresee just how far-reaching, and how devastating, the disturbances will be. (Fiction, Random House, October 2014)

Phyllis Webb (BC), *Peacock Blue: The Collected Poems*

Among Canada's most critically acclaimed poets, Phyllis Webb published twenty poetry collections between 1954 and 1999, before retiring from writing and dedicating herself to abstract painting. Compiled for the first time in one volume, Webb's poems are infused with an interest in public life and the common good. (Poetry, Talon, October 2014)

Ian Weir (BC), *Will Starling*

Steeped in scientific lore and laced with dark humour, Ian Weir's latest novel is a page turner decorated with grave diggers, actresses and rogue "men of science," all set against the backdrop of London in 1816. (Fiction, Goose Lane, September 2014)

Louise Welsh (UK), *A Lovely Way To Burn*

Beginning her Plague Times trilogy, Louise Welsh's novel is set during the outbreak of a pandemic called The Sweats. But Stevie Flint is convinced her boyfriend died from murder, not the disease, and sets out in search of his killer. (Crime, Hachette March 2014)

Jack Whyte (BC), *The Guardian*

From Jack Whyte, the master of the sweeping historical epic, comes the continuing story of two heroes who reshaped the entire destiny of the kingdom of Scotland by defying the might and power of the King of England. (Fiction, Penguin, October 2014)

Rudy Wiebe (AB), *Come Back*

Hal Wiens, a retired professor, is mourning the sudden death of his loving wife, Yo. One snowy April morning, he sees a tall man in an orange down jacket walk past on the sidewalk. The jacket, the posture, the head and hair are unmistakable: it's his beloved oldest son, Gabriel. But it can't be-- Gabriel killed himself 25 years earlier. (Fiction, Random House, September 2014)

Kathleen Winter (QC), *The Freedom in American Songs*

Kathleen Winter brings her quirky sensuality, lyrically rendered settings, and off-key humor to bear on a new short story collection about modern loneliness, small-town gay teenagers, catastrophic love, gut-wrenching laughter in the absolute wrong places, and the holiness of ordinary life. (Fiction, Biblioasis, September 2014)

Tim Winton (AU), *Eyrie*

Tom Keely's reputation is in ruins. And that's the upside. Funny, confronting, exhilarating and inhabited by unforgettable characters, *Eyrie* asks how, in an impossibly compromised world, we can ever hope to do the right thing. (Fiction, HarperCollins, June 2014)

Patricia Young (BC), *Summertime Swamp Love*

In Patricia Young's new collection, she shifts her creative attention to the mating habits of animals, birds, fish and insects. With a sense of awe and bemusement, the poems in this collection address, embody and sometimes become the animals through which they speak. (Poetry, Palimpsest, April 2014)