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## WINTER 2022

*featuring*

CHAD REIMER | LILY CHOW | SAGE BIRCHWATER  
LUANNE ARMSTRONG | SARAH DE LEEUW  
YVONNE BLOMER | ALAN HILL | ARLEEN PARÉ



# TALKING TO THE STORY KEEPERS

## STORIES FROM THE CHILCOTIN PLATEAU

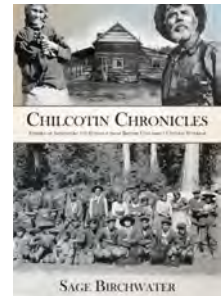
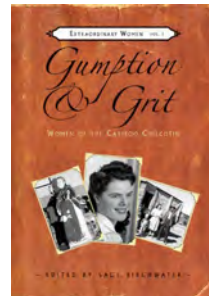
BY SAGE BIRCHWATER

A new collection of voices and stories from the Chilcotin, from the bestselling author of *Chilcotin Chronicles*.

In *Talking to the Story Keepers: Tales from the Chilcotin Plateau*, writer and journalist Sage Birchwater gathers dozens of stories spanning decades in the Cariboo Chilcotin from those who hold onto stories passed through generations. These stories reflect on the story keepers themselves as well as our collective humanity, tying everything from the small, almost forgettable moments, heroic deeds and colourful characters, to the greater significance of our histories. Each story contains insight, wisdom, knowledge or entertainment, connecting the past to the present and shaping the future in their telling; each story provides a sense of perspective of where we come from, and prepares us for how we might proceed forward.

*Talking to the Story Keepers* also offers an image of a changing landscape, identifying the quiet or forgotten stories swept aside by colonization. Here, those often left unnamed in historic photographs and the side characters in the many stories are given a voice, a name, that may otherwise be left to history. From the tale of the Old Emmanuel United Church's Brass Band playing "Onward Christian Soldiers" from the pews, as the church is dragged across the river to its new location on the south side of the Bella Coola river, to the Ulkatcho community search for missing local Tory Jack, which was successfully led to its conclusion by a clever horse, each story builds a portrait of time, place, and of the story keepers that protect these histories for the next generation.

**SAGE BIRCHWATER** is the author of *Chiwid, Williams Lake: Gateway to the Cariboo Chilcotin*, and the bestselling *Chilcotin Chronicles*. He was a staff writer for the *Williams Lake Tribune* until his retirement in 2009, and is the editor of *Gumption & Grit: Extraordinary Women of the Cariboo Chilcotin* (Caitlin Press, 2009). Sage lives in Williams Lake, BC.



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Also by Sage Birchwater:

# DEADLY NEIGHBOURS

A STORY OF COLONIALISM, CATTLE THEFT, MURDER AND VIGILANTE VIOLENCE

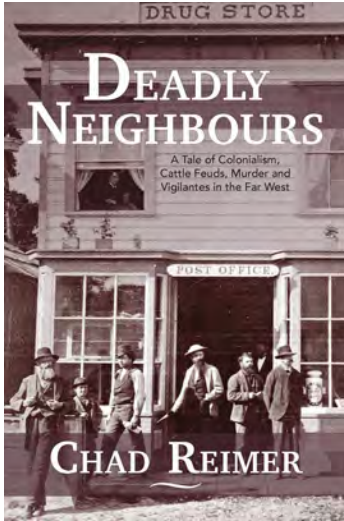
BY CHAD REIMER

A revealing and thoughtful examination of one of Canada's most shocking and misunderstood moments of violence—the lynching of Louie Sam.

On a cold night in February 1884, just metres north of the border on Sumas Prairie, BC, an Indigenous boy named Louie Sam was lynched by a mob of mounted vigilantes. The vigilantes had ridden up from Nooksack Valley in Washington Territory, hell-bent on avenging the murder of one of their neighbours, which they had pinned on Sam. The American origin of the mob, and the fact that Sam's murder was one of only two recorded lynchings in Canadian history, have led historians and writers to represent it as an isolated and foreign incident—disconnected from people and events north of the border and an aberration from the norm of Canadian history.

When placed within the historical context of that time and place, the vigilante murder of Sam no longer appears to be an isolated and foreign incident. Rather, it emerges as the result of a series of events and causes on both sides of the border, with the active participation of locals in both BC and Washington Territory. *Deadly Neighbours* takes a closer look at the lynching, and in so doing reveals a more complex and disturbing chronicle of the deadly grip the leading White settlers in Nooksack and Sumas held over the area—and most notably, over their Indigenous neighbours.

**CHAD REIMER** has previously published four books of BC history, including *The Trials of Albert Stroebel: Love, Murder and Justice at the End of the Frontier*, and *Before We Lost the Lake: A Natural and Human History of Sumas Valley*, which received an honourable mention in the BC Historical Federation's Historical Writing Awards. He holds a BA in Honours History from the University of BC, along with an MA and PhD in History from York University. He was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and now lives in Williams Lake, BC.



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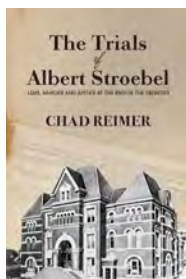
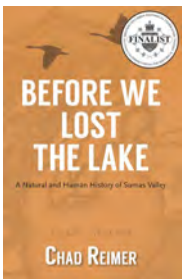
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**Post-Confederation (1867-)**

Also by **Chad Reimer**:



WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

# HARD IS THE JOURNEY

## STORIES OF CHINESE SETTLEMENT IN BC'S KOOTENAYS

BY LILY CHOW

Award-winning writer Lily Chow shares the difficult history of Chinese Canadians in the Kootenay through first-hand stories that are devastating, heartfelt and inspiring.

In *Hard is the Journey*, award-winning historian and researcher Lily Chow shares the difficult history of Chinese Canadians in the Kootenay. She unearths the racism of early newspapers that portrayed Chinese immigrants as dirty, sinister, and lethargic people not fit to live in BC and uncovers the history of the Chinese labourers who completed the deadly work of blazing the Dewdney Trail from Hope to Kootenay only to be dismissed, without any compensation, as soon as the project was completed. She also offers an intimate and inspiring look into the many ways Chinese immigrants survived, finding community, building resilience, and preserving their culture.

Piecing together interviews with Kootenay residents and descendants of Chinese immigrants, government records and documents, and early newspaper articles, Chow bravely exposes dark parts of BC's history while shedding light on the struggles but also resilience and untold accomplishments of the Chinese immigrants who risked everything and often lost their lives in building the Canada we know today. *Hard is the Journey* is Chow's fourth book on the history of Chinese Canadians.

**LILY CHOW**, a researcher and writer, immigrated to Canada in 1967. She possesses a master's degree of Education and has taught high school in Prince George and Mandarin at the University of Northern British Columbia. Her book publications include *Blossoms in the Gold Mountains* (2018), *Blood and Sweat over the Railway Tracks* (2014), *Chasing Their Dreams* (2000), *Sojourners in the North* (1996). She also has written articles for *Ricepaper Magazine* and the *Prince George Citizen*. In her twenty-five years of writing, she has won the Jeanne Clarke Memorial Award (1996) and certificates of merit from the BC Historical Federation in 2014 and 2019. Her volunteer services have been awarded with two Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee Medals (2002 & 2012). Currently, she resides in Victoria, BC.



BC History / Chinese Canadians  
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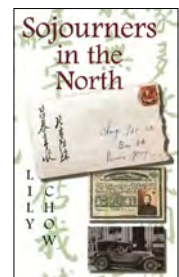
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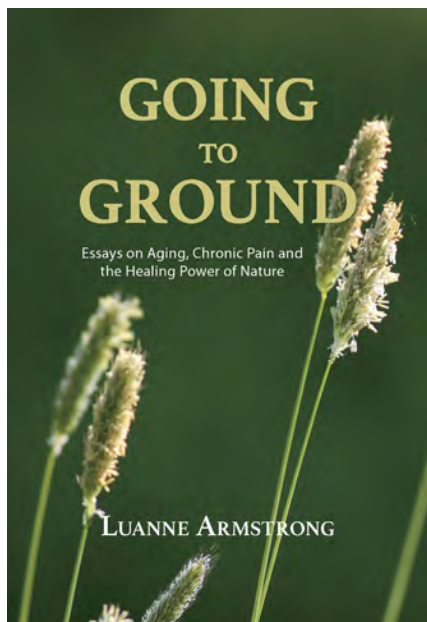


WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

# GOING TO GROUND

ESSAYS ON AGING, CHRONIC PAIN AND THE HEALING POWER OF NATURE

BY LUANNE ARMSTRONG



Personal Essays  
ISBN: 978-1-77386-075-6  
5.5" x 8", 192 pages, paperback  
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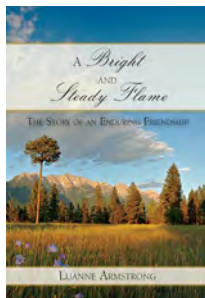
Available February 18, 2022

LITERARY COLLECTIONS /Canadian

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LITERARY COLLECTIONS /Essays

Also by Luanne Armstrong:



In this warm and tender new collection of essays, award-winning writer Luanne Armstrong returns to her first love, the land, and delivers a nourishing blend of self-reflection, nature-inspired philosophy, and social critique.

At the age of five, Luanne Armstrong fell in love with the beauty of the land—the late afternoon sun on a field of emerald-green grass, the clucking of hungry chickens as she spread seed for their meals. Her growing years were spent subsistence farming with her family, living closely with the animals of the farm and immersing herself in the surrounding wilderness. Now, at seventy-two, she continues to garden—albeit a bit more slowly and on a much smaller scale—and to observe the world around her, both human and animal.

*Going to Ground* is a deeply intimate and meditative collection of personal essays exploring the intersections of chronic pain, the myths and stories that make us human, and the unexpected magic of finding your rage and joy reflected back to you by nature. Through these brave and vulnerable vignettes brimming with a lifetime's worth of wisdom and filled with astonishing prose, Luanne Armstrong gets deeply personal about what it means to recover from traumatic brain injuries, grow older when you've fallen in love with being needed, and slow down enough to listen to nature, even when the message isn't what you were expecting to hear.

In this mix of self-reflection, nature-inspired philosophy, and social critique, Armstrong helps us make sense of the complicated relationships between aging parents and their adult children, the changes brought about by climate change and technology, and the slow, surprising process of getting older when you belong to the generation that lived by the motto, "Never trust anyone over 30."

**LUANNE ARMSTRONG** holds a Ph.D in Education and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia. She has written twenty-five books, and has co-written or edited many other books through to publication. Her published works include novels, children's books, memoir, essay collections, and poetry. She has won or been nominated for many awards, including the Chocolate Lily Award, the BC Hubert Evans Award, the Moonbeam Award, the Red Cedar Award, Surrey Schools Book of the Year Award, the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Award, and the Silver Birch Award. Armstrong lives on Ktunaxa ʔamak'is, "The People's Land."

WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

# LOT POEMS

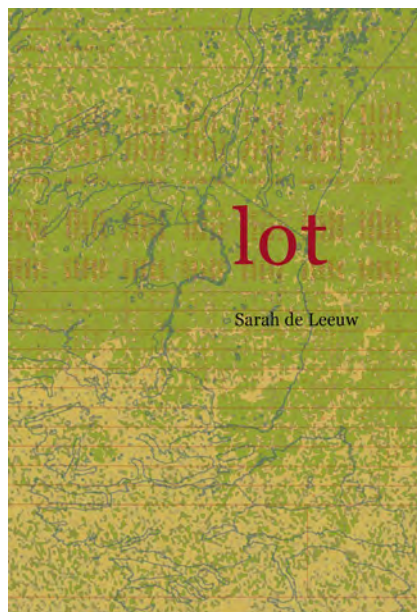
BY SARAH DE LEEUW

In *Lot*, award-winning poet Sarah de Leeuw considers the ways in which words and languages form and embolden coloniality and create unequal imaginings of—and power in—place.

In *Lot*, award-winning poet and essayist Sarah de Leeuw returns to the landscape of her early girlhood to consider the racial complexities of colonial violence in those spaces. Following loosely as a companion to *Skeena*, *Lot* is written entirely of couplets, mirroring the two main islands of Haida Gwaii, and draws on lyric traditions, assemblage, and investigative poetry techniques to re-imagine geological and anthropological data, re-read colonial documents, and interrogate the role of language in centering stories of white supremacy on and about the islands.

Written in a time of ostensible Truth and Reconciliation in lands now called Canada, a time when the Government of British Columbia has declared support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples but continues to arrest Indigenous peoples in their homes and on unceded lands, *Lot* draws a firm, and yet poetic, line between historic and present-day white-Euro-colonial violence. Through structure, form, and sound that insists on strength; on the possibilities of poetry to create better worlds, to utter something anew.

Author or editor of more than ten books, **SARAH DE LEEUW** is a poet, essayist, and geographer who works in a faculty of medicine on issues of health humanities and the determinants of marginalized peoples' health. De Leeuw grew up in rural and northern BC, on Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii and Terrace. She holds an appointment with The Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, has been a Fulbright Scholar, and is a Canada Research Chair (Humanities and Health Inequities): de Leeuw's writing has been honoured with a *Western Magazine* Gold Award, the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize, two CBC Literary Awards in creative non-fiction, and a short-listing for a Governor General's award in non-fiction. She divides her time between Lheidli T'enneh/Dakelh Territory (Prince George) and Syilx Territory (Okanagan Centre), BC.



Poetry / Place  
ISBN: 978-1-77386-076-3  
5.5" x 8", 15 pages, paperback  
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POETRY / Subjects & Themes / Places

POETRY / Subjects & Themes / Nature

POETRY / Canadian / General

Also by Sarah de Leeuw:



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# THE LAST SHOW ON EARTH

## POEMS FROM THE ANTHROPOCENE

BY YVONNE BLOMER



Poetry / Environmentalism  
ISBN: 978-1-77386-077-0  
5.5" x 8", 112 pages, paperback  
\$20.00

Available February 11, 2022

**POETRY / Women Authors**

**POETRY / Subjects & Themes /  
Death, Grief, Loss**

**POETRY / Canadian / General**

Also by **Yvonne Blomer**:



In this unflinching and whimsical collection, Victoria's former poet laureate Yvonne Blomer explores death, disability and the fate of our imperilled world.

In *The Last Show on Earth*, Yvonne Blomer gathers the diverse characters and distinct moments from everyday life, its tragedies, and triumphs, and begins to imagine them in a circus as side shows and exhibitions of the unusual. In her latest collection, Blomer borrows from museum dioramas, the paintings of Robert Bateman, and the animal portraits in *National Geographic* to question and explore the human element in the lives and survival of other species. In poems that are at times unflinchingly dark yet playful, Blomer balances on a tightrope of grief and hope as she traces the lines from motherhood and caring for aging parents to caring for our planet and its endangered creatures—the whale, the elephant, the wolf, the polar bear—as they face ongoing environmental destruction. *The Last Show on Earth* imagines us all as performers under the bright striped tent or packed on the circus train heading toward an unknown destination.

Award-winning poet and memoirist **YVONNE BLOMER** is the author of the travel memoir *Sugar Ride: Cycling from Hanoi to Kuala Lumpur*, and three books of poetry, most recently *As if a Raven*. She works as an editor, teacher and mentor in poetry and memoir. Yvonne served as the city of Victoria poet laureate from 2015–2018. In 2017 Yvonne edited the anthology *Refugium: Poems for the Pacific* and in 2020, *Sweet Water: Poems for the Watersheds*, both with Caitlin Press. The anthology *Hologram for PK Page*, which Yvonne co-edited, will be released with Ekstasis Editions in 2021. Yvonne lives, works and raises her family on the traditional territories of the WSÁNEĆ (Saanich), Lkwungen (Songhees), Wyomilth (Esquimalt) peoples of the Coast Salish Nation.

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# IN THE BLOOD

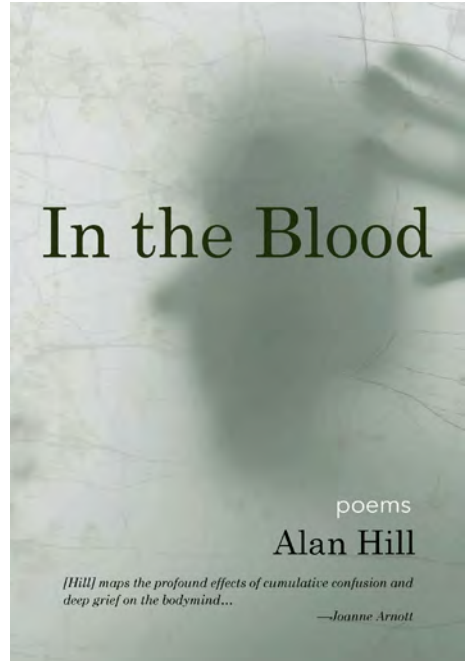
## POEMS

BY ALAN HILL

*In the Blood* traces the relationship of two brothers through childhood to adulthood and in and out of institutions to reveal the intricate, often hidden bonds that are broken and forged by the effects of mental illness.

In his debut full-length collection, former City of New Westminster Poet Laureate Alan Hill delivers a deeply revealing and heartfelt depiction of a lifetime of mental illness—both his own and that of his brother. *In the Blood* traces the brothers' relationship from childhood to adulthood, and examines how his brother's diagnosis became inextricably intertwined with Hill's own mental health struggles. As his brother spends much of his life in and out of institutions, Hill grapples with his own guilt, shame, and loss. Moving from the past to the present and back again, *In the Blood* looks for meaning and comfort in the confusion of childhood and the untethered searching of adulthood. With stark vulnerability, Hill reveals the intricate and often hidden bonds that are both broken and created by mental illness and pushes toward a form of relief, release and recovery.

**ALAN HILL** was born in the UK and immigrated to Canada in 2005 after meeting his wife while working in Botswana. He is the former Poet Laureate of the City of New Westminster, BC (2017-2020), former president of the Royal City Literary Arts Society (RCLAS), and was the editor and curator of *A Poetry of Place: Journeys Across New Westminster*, published in partnership with New Westminster Arts Services. His writing has been published internationally and his poetry has appeared in *Event*, *CV2*, *Canadian Literature*, *The Antigonish Review*, *subTerrain*, and *Poetry is Dead*, among others. He works in the field of community development and immigrant settlement and lives in New Westminster, BC.



Poetry / Family & Relationships  
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# TIME OUT OF TIME

## POEMS

BY ARLEEN PARÉ

Award-winning poet Arleen Paré pays homage to the work of lesbian Syrian American poet Etel Adnan.

If books come from books, as David W. McFadden has claimed, then *Time Out of Time* is a clear example, arising, very deliberately as it does, out of Etel Adnan's astonishing collection entitled *Time*. The poems in *Time Out of Time* are in love with the poems in Adnan's *Time* and, it seems, Paré has fallen in love with *Time's* author, Etel Adnan, the internationally renowned poet and painter—or perhaps it is that she has merely fallen in love with Adnan's words. Paré's poems mirror the form, the rhythm, the shape, the short, brief lines in her own spare missives that are the poems in *Time*. This mirroring increases the intensity of *Time Out of Time*, creating a rare intimacy in Paré's collection. Paré's work pays homage to Adnan's work. Both collections pay homage to the world of the lesbian in the twenty-first century and to the world of the small poem. Using clear, crisp, well-defined language in visibly defined geometries, in "stanza after sweet-smelling stanza," Paré attempts to examine the trials of this new century, the hush around the word lesbian, and the hush of the world's general collapse.

**ARLEEN PARÉ** is the author of seven collections of poetry, including *Paper Trail* (NeWest Press, 2007), *Lake of Two Mountains* (Brick Books, 2014), and *He Leaves His Face in the Funeral Car* (Caitlin Press, 2015). Her work has been short-listed for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and has won the American Golden Crown Award for Poetry, the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize, a CBC Bookie Award, and a Governor Generals' Award for Poetry. She lives in Victoria, BC.



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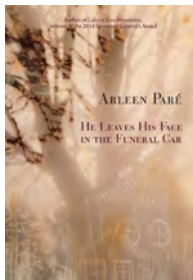
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vici@caitlin-press.com

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### ONTARIO

Saffron Beckwith  
Ext. 124  
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Morgen Young  
Ext. 128  
morgeny@ampersandinc.ca

Lauren Cusack  
Ext. 120  
laurenc@ampersandinc.ca

Vanessa Di Gregorio  
Ext. 122  
vanessad@ampersandinc.ca

Evette Sintichakis  
Ext. 121  
evettes@ampersandinc.ca

Jenny Enriquez  
Ext. 126  
jennye@ampersandinc.ca

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Dani Farmer  
phone: 604-448-7168  
danif@ampersandinc.ca

Jessica Price  
phone: 604-448-7170  
jessicap@ampersandinc.ca

Pavan Ranu  
phone: 604-448-7165  
pavanr@ampersandinc.ca

### QUEBEC

Jenny Enriquez  
phone: 416-703-0666 Ext. 126, toll-free: 866-736-5620  
fax: 416-703-4745 jennye@ampersandinc.ca

### ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Kris Hykel  
phone: 416-703-0666 Ext. 127, toll-free: 866-736-5620  
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