# CAITLIN PRESS

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## **WINTER 2024**

SUSAN BLACKLIN CARLY BUTLER ERIC JAMIESON PETE & VERA MALOFF JUDY LEBLANC LESLIE SHIMOTAKAHARA **CHRISTINE LOWTHER** ONJANA YAWNGHWE TARIQ MALIK **TINA BIELLO** 

### WATER CONFIDENTIAL

### WITNESSING JUSTICE DENIED—THE FIGHT FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER IN INDIGENOUS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

BY SUSAN BLACKLIN

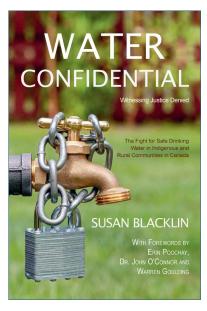
## THE SHOCKING TRUTH ABOUT CANADA'S ONGOING WATER CRISIS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING WATER TO FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

n Water Confidential, Susan Blacklin revisits the important work of her late ex-husband, Dr. Hans Peterson. Beginning in 1996, Peterson, growing frustrated with his work in government funded research in Saskatchewan, brought attention to the desperate need for equal access to safe drinking water after a visit to the Yellow Quill First Nation. In response to the issue, he developed biological technology for effective water treatment, still in use today.

Peterson and Blacklin joined forces with scientists from around the world to establish the registered national charity, the Safe Drinking Water Foundation. The SDWF developed accredited education programs for schools across Canada, while also educating the general public and Water Treatment Operators from Indigenous communities. Advocacy became a high priority when they discovered a variety of challenges to their mission, including questionable government practices that were blocking the reality of safe drinking water in First Nations communities. As committed activists, it became their life's work to ensure that access to Peterson's technology was available to all rural and First Nations communities.

Thirty years later, the majority of First Nations communities in Canada continue to face health issues as a result of unsafe drinking water. In this passionate and timely memoir, Blacklin shares her experiences with fundraising, activism and lobbying work. She reveals the complexities of negotiating between cultures, communities and the provincial and federal government. Blacklin emphasizes that ensuring safe drinking water to each and every First Nations community should be the top priority toward reconciliation with Indigenous people of Canada.

**SUSAN BLACKLIN** was born near London, UK, and later moved to Canada. Susan retired to Vancouver Island, where she now pursues her writing, painting, and gardening. *Water Confidential* is her first book.



#### **MEMOIR / ENVIRONMENT**

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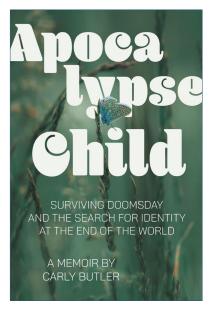
"With an inside look at how the system snuffs out innovation, this fine, thought-provoking book speaks the generally unknown truths about long-standing water injustices. Canadians should be very concerned—particularly those of us committed to real reconciliation with our Indigenous Peoples."

—Harvey Scott, PhD, Elders Council, Keepers of the Water

### **APOCALYPSE CHILD**

### SURVIVING DOOMSDAY & THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY AT THE END OF THE WORLD

### BY CARLY BUTLER



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BIOO26000 BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Personal Memoirs

BIOO22000 BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Women IN APOCALYPSE CHILD, CARLY BUTLER REVISITS A
CHILDHOOD SHAPED BY WHITE EVANGELICALISM
AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES, AND RECLAIMS HER
IDENTITY AS A QUEER, MEXICAN-INDIGENOUS,
CANADIAN MOTHER

Carly Butler was a lively, imaginative child being raised by her strong and independent mom, DJ, in 1990s Montana. They were a dynamic duo, working on housing projects and bringing music to the local church. Then, a whisper of a threatened future began to grow louder: Y2K was coming.

Believing every conspiracy theory and Evangelical Christian prediction they encountered to be true, DJ and a young, impressionable Carly set out on a lonely path. Taught to prepare for the worst and to fear her girlhood dreams as warnings from God, Carly and her mother flee to the Canadian wilderness, leaving behind Barbies and Nintendo for chopping wood and shooting empty bottles for target practice. They connect with other Evangelical Christians preparing for doomsday, but are often stranded alone, without electricity, for weeks at a time as the winter—and the apocalypse—approaches. But what happens when the world doesn't end, after all?

Apocalypse Child is a startling memoir about growing up in a tumultuous home, coming of age in isolation, and trying to figure out how to connect as an adult when your education has consisted of conspiracy theories, survivalist measures, and religious doctrine. From doomsday preparation and ideologies of purity and paranoia to motherhood and explorations of a burgeoning queer, Mexican-Indigenous identity, Carly Butler takes us on a gripping journey of resilience, self-discovery, and the search for community.

CARLY BUTLER is a bisexual Indigenous woman with ancestral roots in Mexico. She spent the first ten years of her life in the US, and was brought to Canada illegally in 1998. She has been a babysitter, a house cleaner, a barista and a birth doula, and now she is a stay-at-home-disabilitymom and author. Her writing has appeared in *Loose Lips Magazine*. She lives with her husband and two children in Langley, BC. *Apocalypse Child* is her first book.

### **ARCTIC PATROL**

### CANADA'S FIGHT FOR ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY

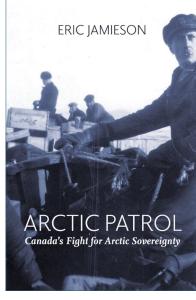
BY ERIC JAMIESON

## THE FASCINATING TALE OF ADVENTURE, ENDURANCE AND THE "LONGEST PATROL" IN CANADA'S FIGHT FOR SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE OUTER FRINGES OF THE ARCTIC ARCHIPELAGO

n the 1920s, Canada's claim on the Arctic Archipelago was tenuous at best. In 1880, the United Kingdom had handed over control of the area to the expanding dominion, though much of the area was still unoccupied and unexplored. But the need to reinforce sovereignty-and quickly—was driven by increasing threats on the horizon. The Americans, Danish and Norwegians were particularly active in the Arctic, posing sovereign challenges from both individuals and their nations; Dr. Donald MacMillan, American, went north with an American naval aviation unit in 1925 with a stated objective to search for new land. The Danish anthropologist and polar explorer Knud Rasmussen was rumoured to be populating Ellesmere Island with Greenland Inuit (Inughuit) to the obvious threat of both the Muskox population there as well as Canadian Arctic sovereignty. Meanwhile, the Canadian Government was wrestling with the Norwegian Government, as well as Norwegian explorer Otto Sverdrup, over ownership of the Sverdrup group of islands.

Something drastic had to be done. Legendary RCMP Inspector, Alfred Herbert Joy, joined by young recruit Reginald Andrew Taggart of Ireland, as well as the renowned Inughuit guide, Nuqaqpainguaq, embark on an 1,800-mile dogsled patrol to the outer fringes of the archipelago. As tensions rise and negotiations with Norway threaten to escalate, the three men face treacherous conditions and unexpected obstacles on a journey that takes on mythic proportions. In *Arctic Patrol*, Eric Jamieson uncovers the fascinating history of Canada's fight to secure its Arctic territories in this thrilling tale of international politics, polar exploration, and human endurance.

**ERIC JAMIESON** has authored three books: South Pole: 900 Miles on Foot, co-authored with Gareth Wood; Tragedy at Second Narrows; and The Native Voice. He was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for History Writing in 2009. He currently resides in North Vancouver with his wife, Joan.



### HISTORY / BIOGRAPHY

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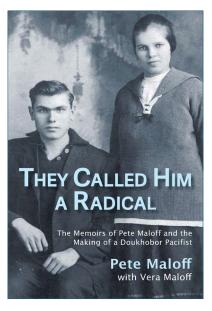
Also by Eric Jamieson



### THEY CALLED HIM A RADICAL

### THE MEMOIRS OF PETE MALOFF AND THE MAKING OF A DOUKHOBOR PACIFIST

BY PETE MALOFF, WITH VERA MALOFF



**MEMOIR / BC HISTORY**978-1-77386-134-0
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Also by Vera Maloff



BESTSELLING AUTHOR VERA MALOFF SHARES THE FASCINATING MEMOIRS OF HER GRANDFATHER, NOTED DOUKHOBOR PACIFIST AND PHILOSOPHER PETE MALOFF, WRITTEN DURING HIS YEARS UNDER HOUSE ARREST FOR PEACEFUL PROTESTS

Peter "Pete" Maloff was born in Saskatchewan in 1900, the year after the first Doukhobors, including his parents, immigrated to Canada. Living through the eras of WWI and WWII in a Doukhobor community strengthened his deep-rooted belief in pacifism and, at a young age, he dedicated himself completely to the idea that there must be another way to solve conflicts. This quest, as well as Maloff's status as an 'outsider,' was not always welcomed—judges and wardens considered him a radical and his influence a threat, and his outspokenness and peaceful protests resulted in house arrest and years in Canadian jails. Maloff was not deterred, and his perseverance garnered him many followers, including some who had formerly worked against him or had helped to incarcerate him.

Today, his granddaughter Vera Maloff remembers Pete as a tall, strong, charismatic man. Growing up, she worked beside him in the family's gardens, and at the local markets where they sold produce, she recalls that he would be regularly surrounded by people wanting to hear him speak. He was a kind, caring man, and the time spent incarcerated, forced away from his family, did not seem to have dulled his spirit. He was an avid reader who taught his family to consider all aspects and perspectives, instilling an awareness of other people and cultures and an eagerness to learn.

In *They Called Him a Radical*, Vera revisits her grandfather's memoirs, written while under house arrest and covering the formative years from his birth to his late twenties, during which Pete's resolve to live as a pacifist was cemented. Here, Pete writes of growing up in the new Canadian Doukhobor community at the turn of the century, meeting influential figures in the pacifist movement in California, his time in a cooperative freedom colony in Oregon, and his turning to writing, as he truly believed that the pen could be mightier than the sword.

### PERMISSION TO LAND

### A MEMOIR OF LOSS, DISCOVERY, AND IDENTITY

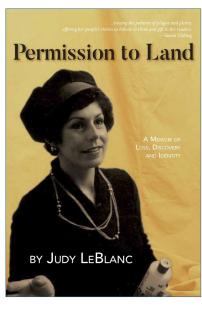
BY JUDY LEBLANC

IN THIS COURAGEOUS MEMOIR, JUDY LEBLANC
DELVES INTO A LYRICAL AND MOVING EXPLORATION
OF HER COAST SALISH HERITAGE, UNRAVELLING THE
DEEP-ROOTED CONSEQUENCES OF ERASURE THAT
HAVE SHAPED HER FAMILY

When Judy LeBlanc's mother died in 2015, she embarked on a personal journey of discovery and reconciliation with her known but unacknowledged Coast Salish ancestry on her mother's side. She was to discover that both maternal great-grandparents had Scottish fathers and Coast Salish mothers. Her great-grandmother was from the WSÁNEĆ people in what is now known as Saanich on Vancouver Island, and her great-grandfather was the son of a woman from either the Suquamish in Washington state or the Tsleil-Waututh in Burrard Inlet, North Vancouver. Finally, LeBlanc discovers that her great aunt attended Chemawa, an American Indian boarding school where, at the age of fourteen, she contracted tuberculosis and was sent home to die.

In this intimate and moving memoir-in-essays, LeBlanc reflects on the impact of erasure in her family, particularly on the women through four generations. Marked by grief for the loss of her mother and the discovery of buried family secrets, LeBlanc sets out on a journey, both literary and cultural, in the form of a voyage by canoe to the home of her ancestors. *Permission to Land* is a powerful and vulnerable exploration of the complexities of family, heritage and identity, courageously questioning whether it is possible to seek renewal after irrevocable loss.

JUDY LEBLANC is a writer from Fanny Bay, BC. She was the founder of the Fat Oyster Reading Series in Fanny Bay and taught creative writing at North Island College for several years. She won the Sheldon Currie Fiction Prize in 2012, the Islands Fiction Contest in 2015, and she's been a runner-up for fiction contests with Room, PRISM international and the CBC. Her collection of short stories, The Promise of Water, was published by Oolichan Books in 2017, and her novel, The Broken Heart of Winter, was published by Caitlin Press in 2023.



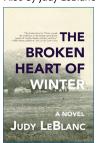
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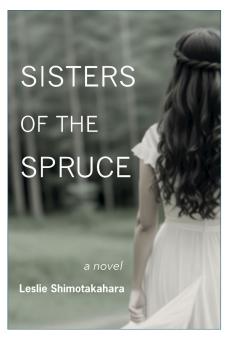
Also by Judy LeBlanc



### SISTERS OF THE SPRUCE

### **A NOVEL**

### BY LESLIE SHIMOTAKAHARA



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"One of the most original and gripping novels I've read in a long time. Leslie Shimotakahara has created an unforgettable heroine."

—Janie Chang

PRIZE-WINNING WRITER LESLIE SHIMOTAKAHARA'S
NEW NOVEL IS AN ENTHRALLING STORY OF FEMALE
ADVENTURE, FRIENDSHIP, AND RESILIENCE, SET
AGAINST THE MAJESTIC LANDSCAPE OF A
WWI-ERA LOGGING CAMP ON HAIDA GWAII

World War One is in high gear. Fourteen-year-old Khya Terada moves with her family to a remote, misty inlet on Haida Gwaii (then the Queen Charlotte Islands) in northern British Columbia, known for its Sitka spruces. The Canadian government has passed an act to expedite logging of these majestic trees, desperately needed for the Allies' aircrafts in Europe. At a camp on the inlet, Khya's father, Sannosuke—a talented, daring logger with twenty years of experience since immigrating from Japan—assumes a position of leadership among the Japanese and Chinese workers.

But the arrival of a group of white loggers, eager to assert their authority, throws off balance the precarious life that Khya and her family have begun to establish. When a quarrel between Sannosuke and a white man known as "the Captain" escalates, leading to the betrayal of her older sister, Izzy, and humiliation for the family, Khya embarks on a perilous journey with her one friend—a half-Chinese sex worker, on the lam for her own reasons—to track down the man and force him to take responsibility. Yet nothing in the forest is as it appears. Can they save Izzy from ruination and find justice without condemning her to a life of danger or exposing themselves to the violence of an angry, power-hungry man?

Drawing on inspiration from her ancestors' stories and experiences, Shimotakahara weaves an entrancing tale of female adventure, friendship, and survival.

LESLIE SHIMOTAKAHARA's memoir, The Reading List, won the Canada-Japan Literary Prize. She has written two critically acclaimed novels, After the Bloom and Red Oblivion. Her writing has appeared in the National Post, World Literature Today, and Changing the Face of Canadian Literature, among other anthologies and periodicals. She completed a PhD in English at Brown University. She and her husband live in Toronto's west end.

### HAZARD, HOME

### **POEMS**

#### BY CHRISTINE LOWTHER

ROOM IS MADE FOR MARTENS WHEN TIME HOLLOWS A HEMLOCK:
THE ARBORISTS' HAZARD, HOME TO MORE SCUFFLERS AND SINGERS.
IT'S THE DYING THAT REINVIGORATES; ROOSTS, RESTS, HIDDEN SHELTERS,
CLINGING OF BAT CLAW UNDER FLAP OF LOOSE BARK.

azard, Home is a tribute to both wonder and grief for Earth's inhabitants and systems. With admiration for the land holders (trees) and inhabitants of the rainforest, wetlands and ocean of her home, former Tofino Poet Laureate Christine Lowther delves into the pressing issues of urbanization, climate change, and loss of biodiversity while expressing her deep concern for those feathered, furred, webbed, and rooted. Hazard, Home is set apart from traditional nature poetry by its decolonial lens which pays tribute to stolen lands as well as displaced people and cultures. Lowther's words are both startling and reflective as she bears witness to the devastating impact of our presence on the natural world. Through her evocative writing, Lowther inspires us to celebrate the beauty of nature while recognizing the urgent need for change.

CHRISTINE LOWTHER resides in Tla-o-qui-aht territory on the west coast. She is the editor of Worth More Standing: Poets and Activists Pay Homage to Trees and its youth companion volume, Worth More Growing. Author of three poetry collections, in 2014 she was presented with the inaugural Rainy Coast Award for Significant Accomplishment. Christine's memoir, Born Out of This, was shortlisted for the 2015 Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize. In 2016 Christine won first place in the creative non-fiction category of the Federation of British Columbia Writers Literary Writes contest. She served as Tofino's Poet Laureate from 2020 to 2022.



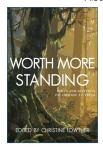
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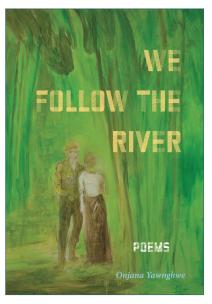




### WE FOLLOW THE RIVER

### **POEMS**

### BY ONJANA YAWNGHWE



### POETRY

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Also by Onjana Yawnghwe



### ONJANA YAWNGHWE RETURNS WITH A DEEPLY PERSONAL EXPLORATION OF FAMILY, MEMORY, AND SELF

We Follow the River tells the story of one family's escape from military violence in Myanmar, their exiled existence in Thailand, and their immigration to Canada with only a pile of beat-up suitcases on a luggage cart. It is about growing up as a foreigner in a foreign land, sifting through family history and grief, and alighting across cultures and continents to find a home.

Onjana Yawnghwe's third poetry book reveals an expertise in language—at times joyful, disobedient, wild, and other times condensed and restrained. A work of over twenty years, these poems are written and rewritten through the retroactive prism of experience, polished and honed, eroded and erased. Sweeping in scope, intimate and honest, these poems tell of the quiet moments, the unruly moments of rage and sorrow, the rough distillation of self, both hated and loved. These poems reside behind the secret, dark door of the self.

**ONJANA YAWNGHWE** is a Shan-Canadian writer and illustrator who lives in the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the Kwikwetlem First Nation. She is the author of two poetry books, *Fragments, Desire* (Oolichan Books, 2017), and *The Small Way* (Dagger Editions, 2018), both of which were nominated for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. She works as a registered nurse. Her current projects include a graphic memoir about her family and Myanmar, and a book of cloud divination.

### **BLOOD OF STONE**

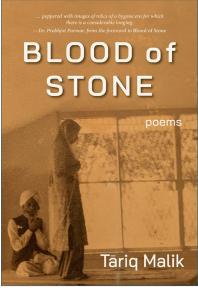
### **POEMS**

### BY TĀRIQ MALIK

DOES NOT THE GROUND SHAKE AND BLEED
FOR THOSE LEFT BEHIND
THE MOTHERS THE FATHERS
THE ANCESTORS
ALL TURNING TO DUST

n Blood of Stone, Tāriq Malik revisits Kotli, the 1,000-year-old city of his formative years in the province of Punjab, Pakistan. Marked by the traumas of dislocation and migration, the city and its inhabitants share secrets and longings, chronicled and imagined by Malik as he gives voice to a personal history that precedes his experiences as an immigrant in Canada, as portrayed in Exit Wounds. As the inhabitants of Kotli are forced to branch out in search of home, their stories expand to encompass the diaspora of Malik's fellow mohijar. Named for the earthy, familiar scent present after rainfall, Blood of Stone is a compelling, luminous celebration of people and place.

For the past four decades, Vancouver-based author TĀRIQ MALIK has worked across poetry, fiction, and visual arts, to distil immersive and compelling narratives that are always original and intriguing. He writes intensely in response to the world in flux around him and of his place in its shadows. Born in Pakistani Punjab, he came reluctantly late to these shores. To get here, he first had to survive three wars, two migrations, and two decades in the Kuwaiti desert. He loves landscapes, bodies of living water large and small, and readers and listeners, and claims he writes so that he has something to read on open mic at the local Poet's Corner or on the hallowed grounds of public libraries. His first book, *Exit Wounds*, was published by Caitlin Press in 2022.



#### POETRY

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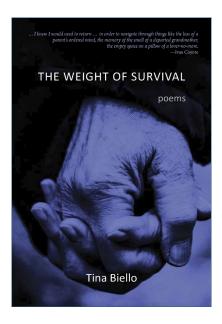
Also by Tariq Malik



### THE WEIGHT OF SURVIVAL

### **POEMS**

### BY TINA BIELLO



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Also by Tina Biello



IN THE WEIGHT OF SURVIVAL, TINA BIELLO
RETRACES HER FAMILY'S JOURNEY FROM
POST-WAR ITALY TO A SMALL LOGGING TOWN NEAR
COWICHAN LAKE, EXPLORING THEMES OF IDENTITY,
QUEERNESS AND BELONGING

Nestled in a small logging town near Lake Cowichan is an old elementary school. The child of immigrants from post-war Italy attends this school among the population of mostly white, anglo-saxon families. She does not speak English.

Her family is one of four who emigrated from Southern Italy to this small forested community. There are other families, from India, who share a kinship of 'other' with the Italian families. What happens when your voice, your food, your home is different? How do you know how to be queer when there is no language or place for it? How do you remember a time not spoken of, but passed on through the smell of walnut blossoms in the spring, grapes in the fall? In *The Weight of Survival*, Tina Biello chronicles this upbringing of otherness, of being shaped by two very different communities, of blending identities into one, and what is left behind in the process.

TINA BIELLO is Italian by way of Lake Cowichan, BC. She is born to immigrant parents from Southern Italy. She lives on the traditional territory of the Snaw-naw-as people. She is an actor, a poet and playwright. She had the great privilege of working with mentor Patrick Lane from 2008-2019. Her first full-length book of poetry, In the Bone Cracks of the Walls, published by Leaf Press, was part of a multi-disciplinary art exhibition of poetry, watercolour and music in Montreal, Vancouver and Italy. A Housecoat Remains is her second collection with Guernica Editions (2015). Playing into Silence is her third collection with Caitlin Press (2018). Her recent two-act play is based on Lorna Crozier's poems from A Saving Grace. She was the second Poet Laureate of Nanaimo from 2017–2020. Since then she has been collaborating with composers and the Vancouver Island Symphony with new symphonic works set to her poetry.

**Evette Sintichakis** 

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