CANADIAN LITERATURE
New & Frontlist
The Spectacular
A Novel
Zoe Whittall

Summary
It's taboo to regret motherhood. But what would happen if you did? Shifting perspectives and time periods, The Spectacular is a multi-generational story exploring sexuality, gender and the weight of reproductive freedoms, from the author of The Best Kind of People.

It's 1997 and Missy's band has finally hit the big time as they tour across America. At twenty-two years old, Missy gets on stage every night and plays the song about her absent mother that made the band famous. Missy is the only girl in the band and she's determined to party just as hard as everyone else, loving and leaving someone in every town. But then a forgotten party favour strands her at the border.

Forty-something Carola is just surfacing from a sex scandal at the yoga centre where she has been living, when she sees her daughter, Missy, for the first time in ten years-on the cover of a music magazine.

Ruth is eighty-three and planning her return to the Turkish seaside village where she spent her childhood. But when her granddaughter Missy winds up crashing at her house, she decides it's time that the strong and stubborn women in her family find a way to understand each other again.

In her new book, by turns sharp and provocative, Zoe Whittall captures three generations of very different women who struggle to build an authentic life in the absence of traditional familial and marital structures. Definitions of family, romance, gender and love will radically change as they seek out lives that are nothing less than spectacular.

Contributor Bio
ZOE WHITTALL's third novel, The Best Kind of People is currently being adapted for limited series by director Sarah Polley. It was shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, named Indigo's #1 Book of 2016, a Heather's Pick and a Best Book of the Year by the Walrus, the Globe and Mail, Toronto Life and the National Post. Her second novel, Holding Still for as Long as Possible, won a Lambda Literary Award for trans fiction and was an American Library Association Stonewall Honor Book. Her debut novel, Bottle Rocket Hearts, won the Dayne Ogilvie Prize and is being adapted for screen. In 2014 Whittall sold her first sitcom, Breaking, to CTV, and recently optioned the half-hour comedy Wellville to CBC. She has worked as a TV writer on the Emmy Award-winning comedy Schitt's Creek and the Baroness Von Sketch Show, for which she won a 2018 Canadian Screen Award. She has written three volumes of poetry, most recently an anniversary reissue of The Emily Valentine Poems, about which Eileen Myles said, "I would like to know everything about this person." Zoe Whittall was born on a sheep farm in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, has an MFA from the University of Guelph and has called Toronto home since 1997.
What Storm, What Thunder
A Novel
Myriam J.A. Chancy

Summary
The story of the earthquake that devastated Haiti in 2010, told through ten voices

In this masterful literary portrait of contemporary Haiti, Myriam J. A. Chancy deftly reveals the inner lives of ten people by recounting how each survives—or fails to survive—a catastrophe.

Chancy's intimate prose draws the reader into the hopes, dreams and regrets of a cast of characters in Port-au-Prince: a wealthy expat with a secret daughter; an architect who drafts affordable housing for an NGO; a small-time drug trafficker who pines for a beautiful call girl; a sex worker and her business partner who are followed by a man they believe is the vodou spirit of death; an emigrant musician who drives a taxi; a teenaged girl who longs for the life she sees in a telenovela; a grieving mother in a camp for displaced people; her husband, an accountant forced to abandon the wife he loves; their son, who haunts them both; and the old woman selling produce in the market, who remembers them all.

What Storm, What Thunder is a novel about hope, courage and the importance of community, and a moving study of a city brought to its knees by natural disaster.

Contributor Bio
MYRIAM J. A. CHANCY was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. A Guggenheim Fellow, she currently holds the Hartley Burr Alexander Chair in the Humanities at Scripps College in California. She is the author of four books of literary criticism and four novels. Her first novel, Spirit of Haiti, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize (Best First Book, Canada/Caribbean) in 2004. The Loneliness of Angels won the Guyana Prize for Literature Caribbean Award (Best Fiction) and was shortlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature in 2011.
The Listeners
A Novel
Jordan Tannahill

Summary
A propulsive literary page-turner about a family torn apart by a mother's obsession with a sound that no one else can hear

One night, while lying in bed next to her husband, Claire Devon suddenly hears a low hum. This innocuous sound, which no one else in the house can hear, has no obvious source or medical cause, but it begins to upset the balance of Claire's life. When she discovers that one of her students can also hear the hum, the two strike up an unlikely and intimate friendship. Finding themselves increasingly isolated from their families and colleagues, they fall in with a disparate group of people who also perceive the sound. What starts out as a kind of neighbourhood self-help group gradually transforms into something much more extreme, with far-reaching, devastating consequences.

The Listeners is an electrifying novel that treads the thresholds of faith, conspiracy and mania. Compelling and exhilarating, it forces us to consider how strongly we hold on to what we perceive, and the way different views can tear a family apart.

Contributor Bio
JORDAN TANNAHILL is an internationally acclaimed playwright who was born in Ottawa and is currently based in London. Two of his plays have won a Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. He has written one previous novel, Liminal, which was published to much acclaim and named one of the best Canadian novels of 2018 by CBC Books. CBC Arts named him as "one of sixty-nine LGBTQ Canadians, living or deceased, who has shaped the country's history." He is a regular columnist on CBC Radio's The Next Chapter.
Sufferance
A Novel
Thomas King

Summary
Jeremiah Camp, a.k.a. the Forecaster, can look into the heart of humanity and see the patterns that create opportunities and profits for the rich and powerful. Problem is, Camp has looked one too many times, has seen what he hadn’t expected to see and has come away from the abyss with no hope for himself or for the future.

So Jeremiah does what any intelligent, sensitive person would do. He runs away. Goes into hiding in a small town, at an old residential school on an even smaller Indian reserve, with no phone, no Internet, no television. With the windows shut, the door locked, the mailbox removed to discourage any connection with the world, he feels safe at last. Except nobody told the locals that they were to leave Jeremiah alone.

And then his past comes calling. Ash Locken, head of the Locken Group, the multinational consortium that Jeremiah has fled, arrives on his doorstep with a simple proposition. She wants our hero to formulate one more forecast, and she’s not about to take no for an answer. Before he left the Locken empire, Jeremiah had created a list of twelve names, every one a billionaire. The problem is, the people on the list are dying at an alarming and unnatural rate. And Ash Locken wants to know why.

A sly and satirical look at the fractures in modern existence, Sufferance is a bold and provocative novel about the social and political consequences of the inequality created by privilege and power—and what we might do about it.

Contributor Bio
THOMAS KING is an award-winning novelist, short-story writer, scriptwriter and photographer. His critically acclaimed, bestselling fiction includes Medicine River; Green Grass, Running Water; One Good Story, That One; Truth and Bright Water; A Short History of Indians in Canada; The Back of the Turtle (winner of the Governor General’s Literary Award for Fiction); The Inconvenient Indian (winner of the RBC Taylor Prize); Indians on Vacation; the DreadfulWater mystery series; and the poetry collection 77 Fragments of a Familiar Ruin. A Member of the Order of Canada and the recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award, Thomas King lives in Guelph, Ontario.
**Second Place**

*A Novel*

Rachel Cusk

**Summary**

On a sun-soaked Parisian street, M, a mother on the brink of rebellion, wanders into a famous artist's gallery show. The artist's paintings speak-quite literally—to her, promising a liberation usually reserved for men. She returns to the coastal home she shares with her husband, but the unsettling impression of the art, and the evasive artist, remains. So she writes, inviting him to stay in their second place, a modest cottage salvaged from the land.

When historical catastrophe upends daily life, M's daughter returns to the marsh, along with her prim, privileged boyfriend. The painter arrives, too, accompanied by a lithe, cosmopolitan lover. Resigned to the perilous indoors, fissures form within the strange group. The painter's quietly demonic presence wreaks havoc with M, plunging her into existential disarray. As secrets, alliances and private desires come to light, she is forced to choose between her deepest impulses: to comply or to rebel completely.

Like her acclaimed *Outline* trilogy, Rachel Cusk's *Second Place* transcends its form. Inspired by *Lorenzo in Taos*, Mabel Dodge Luhan's 1932 memoir of the writer D. H. Lawrence's fraught visit to her communal property, the novel hovers between past and present, Gothic and contemporary, fable and truth—continuing to haunt us long after we've looked away.

**Contributor Bio**

RACHEL CUSK is the author of the critically acclaimed trilogy of *Outline*, *Transit* and *Kudos*. She has written three memoirs—*A Life's Work*, *The Last Supper* and *Aftermath*—and several novels: *Saving Agnes*, winner of the Whitbread First Novel Award; *The Temporary*; *The Country Life*, which won a Somerset Maugham Award; *The Lucky Ones*; *In the Fold*; *Arlington Park*; and *The Bradshaw Variations*. Cusk was twice a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and was chosen as one of *Granta*'s 2003 Best of Young British Novelists. She is Canadian and lives in London, England.
Borders
Thomas King, Natasha Donovan

Key Selling Points:
World x Canada rights sold to Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

Summary
A stunning graphic-novel adaptation based on the work of one of Canada's most revered and bestselling authors

On a trip to visit his older sister, who has moved away from the family home on the reserve to Salt Lake City, a young boy and his mother are posed a simple question with a not-so-simple answer. Are you Canadian, the border guards ask, or American?

"Blackfoot."

And when border guards will not accept their citizenship, mother and son wind up trapped in an all-too-real limbo between nations that do not recognize who they are.

A powerful graphic-novel adaptation of one of Thomas King's most celebrated short stories, Borders explores themes of identity and belonging, and is a poignant depiction of the significance of a nation's physical borders from an Indigenous perspective. This timeless story is brought to vibrant, piercing life by the singular vision of artist Natasha Donovan.

Contributor Bio
THOMAS KING is an award-winning writer and photographer. His critically acclaimed, bestselling fiction includes Medicine River; Green Grass, Running Water; Truth and Bright Water; A Short History of Indians in Canada; The Back of the Turtle (winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction); The Inconvenient Indian (winner of the RBC Taylor Prize); the DreadfulWater mystery series; the poetry collection 77 Fragments of a Familiar Ruin; and Indians on Vacation. His fiction for young readers includes A Coyote Columbus Story, illustrated by William Kent Monkman; A Coyote Solstice Tale, illustrated by Gary Clement; and Coyote Tales, illustrated by Byron Eggenschwiler. A Companion of the Order of Canada and the recipient of an award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Thomas King lives in Guelph, Ontario.

NATASHA DONOVAN is a self-taught illustrator from Vancouver, BC, with a focus on comics and children's illustration. Her work has appeared in two anthologies: The Other Side, edited by Melanie Gillman and Kori Handwerker, and This Place, published by Portage & Main Press. She illustrated the award-winning children's book The Sockeye Mother by Brett D. Huson and the graphic novel Surviving the City by Tasha Spillett. She has a degree in anthropology from the University of British Columbia and has worked in academic and magazine publishing. She currently lives in Bellingham, Washington. Natasha Donovan is a member of the Métis Nation of British Columbia.
Libertie : A Novel
Kaitlyn Greenidge
9781443465823, 1443465828
Pub Date: 9/7/21
$24.99 CAD
336 pages
Paperback
Fiction / African American & Black / Historical

Summary: The critically acclaimed and Whiting Award-winning author of *We Love You, Charlie Freeman* returns with *Libertie*, an unforgettable story about one young Black girl's attempt to find a place where she can be fully, and only, herself.

Coming of age as a freeborn Black girl in Reconstruction-era Brooklyn, Libertie Sampson is all too aware that her purposeful mother, a practising physician, has a vision for their future together: Libertie is to go to medical school and practise alongside her. But Libertie, drawn more to music than science, feels stifled by her mother’s choices and is hungry for something else—is there really only one way to...

Indians on Vacation : A Novel
Thomas King
9781443465465, 1443465461
Pub Date: 8/3/21
$22.99 CAD
296 pages
Paperback
Fiction / Indigenous

Summary: A #1 Indie bestseller and a Canadian bestseller for 22 weeks, the brilliant latest novel from one of Canada's foremost authors

Inspired by a handful of postcards sent nearly a hundred years ago, Bird and Mimi attempt to trace long-lost uncle Leroy and the family medicine bundle he took with him to Europe.

"I'm sweaty and sticky. My ears are still popping from the descent into Vaclav Havel. My sinuses ache. My stomach is upset. My mouth is a sewer. I roll over and bury my face in a pillow. Mimi snuggles down beside me with no regard for my...

Rabbit Foot Bill : A Novel
Helen Humphreys
9781443451550, 144345155X
Pub Date: 8/3/21
$19.99 CAD
240 pages
Paperback
Fiction / Literary

Summary: A lonely boy in a prairie town befriends a local outsider in 1947 and then witnesses a shocking murder. Based on a true story.

Canwood, Saskatchewan, 1947. Leonard Flint, a lonely boy in a small farming town befriends the local outsider, a man known as Rabbit Foot Bill. Bill doesn't talk much, but he allows Leonard to accompany him as he sets rabbit snares and to visit his small, secluded dwelling.

Being with Bill is everything to young Leonard—an escape from school, bullies and a hard father. So his shock is absolute when he witnesses Bill commit a sudden violent act...