

VIWF Reading List 2011

Angie Abdou (CAN), *The Canterbury Trails*

In a blend of mordant humour and heartbreak, *The Canterbury Trails* tracks a group of ski-town enthusiasts as they embark on a pilgrimage to a cabin on the last weekend of the season. (Fiction, Brindle & Glass, February 2011)

Wayne Arthurson (CAN), *Fall From Grace*

When Leo Desroches—the Aboriginal Issues reporter at an Edmonton newspaper—is assigned to cover the murder of a young native prostitute he starts a chain of events that leads him to discover a much bigger story, one that could bring down the entire police department, if it doesn't get him killed. (Fiction, Forge Books, March 2011)

Anita Rau Badami (CAN), *Tell it to the Trees*

Tell it to the Trees is a psychological thriller about an Indian family in Northern BC. When the Dharma family discovers their tenant Anu Krishnan inexplicably frozen to death, a chilling story of secrecy unfolds. (Fiction, Knopf Canada, September 2011)

Russell Banks (US), *Lost Memory of Skin*

Banks' novel watches a young man struggle with identity after being released from prison and taking up residence in an encampment with other convicted sex offenders. (Fiction, Ecco/HarperCollins Canada, October 2011)

Kate Beaton (CAN), *Hark! A Vagrant*

Hark! A Vagrant takes readers on a undignified romp through history and literature with comic strips about famous authors, their characters, and political and historical figures, all drawn in Beaton's pared-down, excitable style. (Cartoonist/Graphic Novel, Drawn & Quarterly, September 2011)

Peter Behrens (CAN), *The O'Briens*

The O'Briens follows the family from Behrens' award winning novel, *The Law of Dreams*, two generations later. Joe O'Brien is coming of age in a new century, travelling the continent, building a business, and never quite able to leave his past behind. (Fiction, House of Anansi, July 2011)

David Bezmozgis (CAN), *The Free World*

The Free World is a historical saga of the multigenerational Krasnansky family, Russian Jews who have escaped to the bustling streets of Rome in the face of turmoil in Soviet Russia. (Fiction, HarperCollins Canada, March 2011)

Clark Blaise (CAN), *The Meagre Tarmac*

Blaise spotlights the sociological anomaly of a generation of South Asian immigrants in America marked by its disproportionately high rate of success. *The Meagre Tarmac* weaves Indo-American stories exploring the places where tradition, innovation, culture, and power meet with explosive force. (Short Fiction, Biblioasis, May 2011)

Dennis E. Bolen (CAN), *Anticipated Results*

Bolen's collection follows the lost members of the boomer generation as they struggle with alcohol and drug abuse, and seek solace in one another's dysfunctional company. (Short Fiction, Arsenal Pulp Press, April 2011)

Randy Boyagoda (CAN), *Beggar's Feast*

Beggar's Feast tells the remarkable story of Sam Kandy's life. Born in 1899 to low prospects in a Ceylon village, he passes one hundred years later as the wealthy headman of the same village, a self-made shipping magnate and father of sixteen. (Fiction, Penguin Canada, April 2011)

Barry Callaghan (CAN), *Raise You Twenty*

Masterfully written, this third volume of essays and encounters is literary criticism and cultural history of a high order, in turn joyous, acerbic and celebratory. (Non-Fiction, McArthur & Company, April 2011)

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Kevin Chong (CAN), *Beauty Plus Pity*

A tragicomic modern immigrant tale about a slacker twenty-something Asian-Canadian who is about to begin a modelling career when his life is suddenly derailed. (Fiction, Arsenal Pulp Press, October 2011)

Adrienne Clarkson (CAN), *Room for All of Us*

Former Governor General Adrienne Clarkson explores the immigrant experience through the people who have helped transform Canada. *Room for All of Us* is an intimate and unforgettable portrait of a changing country and its people. (Fiction, Penguin, September 2011)

Lynn Coady (CAN), *The Antagonist*

Against his will and his nature, the hulking Gordon Rankin ("Rank") is cast as a goon by his peers. Rank lives up to his role, until tragedy strikes, and Rank decides to disappear. But almost twenty years later, he discovers that a trusted friend—the only person to whom he has ever confessed his sins—has published a novel mirroring Rank's life. (Fiction, Anansi, September 2011)

Tanya Davis (CAN), *At First, Lonely*

Spoken word performer and musician Tanya Davis' collection reflects on life's many passages: falling in and out of love, the search for personal truth, and the search for home. (Spoken Word/Poetry, Acorn Press, June 2011)

Farzana Doctor (CAN), *Six Metres of Pavement*

Ismail is a Toronto bureaucrat burdened by his past. He drinks heavily, lives alone and is nowhere close to getting on with his life until he forges a relationship with two compelling women: a young queer activist and his in-mourning Portuguese-Canadian neighbour. (Fiction, Dundurn, March 2011)

Esi Edugyan (CAN), *The Second Life of Samuel Tyne*

Suspenseful and atmospheric, this extraordinary novel portrays both the hardship and grace in the life of a man struggling to realize his destiny. (Fiction, Vintage Canada, March 2011)

Marina Endicott (CAN), *The Little Shadows*

Giller-nominated author Endicott tells the story of three sisters, the little shadows that lurk behind the curtain of 1912 vaudeville—a show world which, in all its madness, melodrama, hilarity and sorrow, echoes the art of life itself. (Fiction, Doubleday, September 2011)

Martín Espada (US), *The Trouble Ball*

In this new collection of poems, Martín Espada crosses the borderlands of epiphany and blasphemy: from a pilgrimage to the tomb of Frederick Douglass to an encounter with the swimming pool at a center of torture and execution in Chile, from the adolescent discovery of poet Omar Khayyám to the death of an "illegal" Mexican immigrant. (Poetry, W.W. Norton & Company, April 2011)

Trevor Ferguson aka. John Farrow (CAN), *River City*

On the night of the "Rocket Richard Riot" in 1955, the legendary Cartier Dagger is stolen. On the night of its theft, a man is found murdered, with a dagger wound to his heart. Detective Armand Touton quickly recognizes the dead man as his friend and informer Roger Clement. Thirteen years later, the case remains unsolved and Touton asks Emile Cinq-Mars, a young constable, to continue the investigation. (Fiction, HarperCollins, July 2011)

Aminatta Forna (UK/SL), *The Memory of Love*

The Memory of Love transports us to an African city, where a dying man Elias Cole, reflects on Saffia, the woman he loved, and Julius, her husband. Arriving in the wake of war Adrian Lockheart is a psychologist struggles in this foreign land, until he

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finds friendship in Kai Mansaray, a young colleague at the hospital. All three lives will collide in a story about understanding the indelible effects of the past and the nature of obsessive love. (Fiction, Atlantic Monthly Press, January 2011)

Alexandra Fuller (US/ ZW), *Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness*

In *Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness* Alexandra Fuller braids a multi-layered narrative around the perfectly lit, Happy Valley-era Africa of her mother's childhood; the emotionally frozen landscape of her father's English childhood; and the darker, civil war-torn Africa of her own childhood. (Fiction, Penguin, August 2011)

Zsuzsi Gartner (CAN), *Better Living Through Plastic Explosives*

Better Living is a depth charge of deadly satire and trademark dark humour. Gartner's collection takes on evolution and modern manhood, international adoption, real estate, the movie industry, science and faith, art, and terrorism. (Short Fiction, Hamish Hamilton Canada, April 2011)

Gary Geddes (CAN), *Drink the Bitter Root*

Drink the Bitter Root is a provocative, emotionally charged account of one writer's travels in sub-Saharan Africa. This masterful blend of history, reportage, testimonial and memoir is a condemnation of the horrors spawned by greed and corruption and an eloquent tribute to human resilience. (Fiction, Douglas & McIntyre, August 2011)

Amitav Ghosh (US/ IN), *River of Smoke*

Spectacular coincidences, startling reversals of fortune, and tender love stories abound. But this is much more than an irresistible page-turner. The nineteenth and twenty-first centuries meet in *River of Smoke* and the result is a consuming historical novel with powerful contemporary resonance. (Fiction, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, September 2011)

Douglas Gibson (CAN), *Stories about Storytellers*

Spotlighting an extraordinary career, this autobiography reviews the author's accomplishments working and playing alongside some of Canada's greatest writers. (Memoir, ECW Press, October 2011)

Charlotte Gill (CAN), *Eating Dirt: Field Notes on Deep Forests, Big Timber & Life with the Tree Planting Tribe*

A tree planter's vivid story of a unique subculture and the magical life of the forest. (Memoir, Greystone, October 2011)

John Glenday (SCT), *Grain*

Glenday is a genuinely spiritual poet, with the ability to turn every detail towards the same clear light. *Grain* announces him as an essential voice in contemporary poetry. (Poetry, Pan Macmillan, December 2009)

Misha Glenny (UK), *Darkmarket: Cyber Thieves, Cyber Cops and You*

Bestselling journalist Misha Glenny delves into the dark world of cybercrime, revealing the personalities of cyber criminals and offering surprising suggestions for the ways in which the authorities might begin to end the cybercrime epidemic. A gripping story of true crime and a vital call to arms for our governments, for the private sector and for anyone who logs on. (Non-fiction, Knopf, October 2011)

Linda Grant (UK), *We Had It So Good*

We Had It So Good paints an amusing portrait of the baby boomers through a cautionary tale about the complacency of the hippie generation. (Fiction, Simon & Schuster, April 2011)

Lev Grossman (US), *The Magician King*

In the sequel to the bestselling novel *The Magicians*, Grossman takes us back to Fillory, where the Brakebills graduates have fled the sorrows of the mundane world, only to face terrifying new challenges. (Fiction, Viking USA, August 2011)

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Elizabeth Hay (CAN), *Alone in the Classroom*

A spellbinding tale—set in Saskatchewan and the Ottawa Valley – which crosses generations and cuts to the bone. It probes the roots of obsessive love and hate, and how the hurts and desires of childhood persist and are passed on as if in the blood. (Fiction, McClelland & Stewart, April 2011)

Dermot Healy (IRL), *Long Time, No See*

Long Time, No See introduces us to the unforgettable world of Mister Psyche in the isolated coastal townland of Ballintra in the North West of Ireland. (Fiction, McArthur & Company, April 2011)

Pauline Holdstock (CAN), *Into the Heart of the Country*

Into the Heart of the Country explores the relationship between the English fur traders in Churchill, Manitoba, and the First Nations women on whom they relied for survival. (Fiction, HarperCollins Canada, March 2011)

Fanny Howe (US), *Come and See*

In Fanny Howe's latest collection of poems, she beckons us toward the origins of both our collective knowing and our misperception. These poems move from one country to another and from one archetypal position—parent, grandparent, child—to another in the wake of the twentieth century. *Come and See* urges us to observe the world anew. (Poetry, Graywolf Press, May 2011)

Chris (C.C.) Humphreys (CAN), *A Place Called Armageddon*

Constantinople. For a thousand years, the city was the heart of the vast Byzantine empire. Beloved of Greeks. Coveted by Turks. 1453. The empire has shrunk to what lies within its no-longer magnificent walls. Yet for one man, Constantinople is the stepping stone to destiny. (Fiction, Orion Books, July 2011)

Helen Humphreys (CAN), *The Reinvention of Love*

When Charles Sainte-Beuve, an ambitious French journalist, meets Victor Hugo, he finds himself in a world of great passions. But, to Charles' surprise, he is more attracted to Victor's long-suffering wife Adele. When the two lovers create scandal in Paris, Victor exacts his price for betrayal. (Fiction, HarperCollins, September 2011)

Zaccheus Jackson (CAN), *Spoken Word*

Zaccheus Jackson is a Vancouver-based spoken word artist who infuses his poetics with lyrical energy as he tackles issues of modern, urban life.

Wayne Johnston (CAN), *A World Elsewhere*

This sweeping tale immerses us in St. John's and North Carolina at the close of the nineteenth century and centres around the mystery of the suspected murder of a child. (Fiction, Knopf Canada, August 2011)

Lloyd Jones (NZ), *Hand Me Down World*

This is a story about a woman. And the truck driver who mistook her for a prostitute. The old man she robbed and the hunters who smuggled her across the border. The woman whose name she stole and the wife who turned a blind eye. This is the story of a mother searching for her child. (Fiction, Knopf Canada, November 2010)

Cate Kennedy (AU), *The World Beneath*

World Beneath paints a compassionate portrait of a broken family who go to extraordinary lengths to reclaim their lives from the mistakes of the past. (Fiction, Grove/Atlantic, January 2011)

Jen Sookfong Lee (CAN), *The Better Mother*

The Better Mother is a vivid tale of two misfits, photographer Danny Lim and former burlesque dancer Miss Val. Lee touches upon the issues of AIDS and prostitution. (Fiction, Knopf Canada, May 2011)

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Nicole Lundrigan (CAN), *Glass Boys*

Glass Boys is a mesmerizing novel which explores the incalculable power of family secrets to make and unmake lives. Lundrigan writes about Newfoundland the way William Faulkner wrote about the American south. (Fiction, Douglas & McIntyre, July 2011)

Stuart MacBride (SCT), *Shatter the Bones*

Detective Logan McRae returns with a chilling new crime thriller filled with Stuart MacBride's trademark twists and dark humour. (Fiction, HarperCollins UK, January 2011)

Joan MacLeod (CAN), *Amigo's Blue Guitar*

College life was frugal and empty for Sander before he decided to take on Elias, a Salvadoran refugee, as a class project. When Elias arrives, his hosts learn what it means and feels like to be a refugee and how to relate to someone who has come from such a different life and endured such intense grief. (Script, Talon Books, February 2001)

Don McKay (CAN)

Tessa McWatt (CAN/ UK), *Vital Signs*

In *Vital Signs*, her moving and fiercely honest new novel, Tessa McWatt takes us deep inside a marriage at the edge of an emotional abyss. Powerfully she reckons with the needs of men and women, and teases out the unspoken rules that run—or ruin—love relationships. (Fiction, Random House Canada, July 2011)

Suzette Mayr (CAN), *Monoceros*

Monoceros is a tragicomic novel about the effects of the suicide of a 17 year old boy, Mayr's novel is a study of grief and unexpected joy. (Fiction, Coach House Books, April 2011)

Denise Mina (UK), *The End of the Wasp Season*

The End of the Wasp Season is a gripping tale tracing the links between an elite private school, the suicide of a millionaire, and the shocking murder of a wealthy young woman. (Fiction, McArthur & Company, May 2011)

Sachiko Murakami (CAN), *Rebuild*

Sachiko Murakami approaches the urban center through its inhabitants' greatest passion: real estate. *Rebuild* engraves itself on the absence of Vancouver's center, with its cranes, excavation sites, and bulldozed public spaces. Its poems crumble as the page turns, words flaking from the line like rain-damaged stucco off a leaky condominium, exposing the absence life inside the "stanza" of a despised "Vancouver Special". (Poetry, Talonbooks, July 2011)

Andrew Nikiforuk (CAN) *Empire of the Beetle*

The bestselling author of *Tar Sands* investigates the human-engineered devastation of North America's beetle-ravaged forest. (Non-Fiction, Greystone Books, September 2011)

Rosemary Nixon (CAN), *Kalila*

Kalila chronicles the lives of Maggie and Brodie, whose joy collides with devastation when their daughter's birth also heralds the news of her congenital heart condition. In this startlingly inventive novel, Rosemary Nixon braids light and darkness into a narrative chain pulled exquisitely taut. (Fiction, Goose Lane Editions, April 2011)

Helen Oyeyemi (UK), *Mr. Fox*

A celebrated 1930's American novelist has a predilection for murdering his heroines, until his long-absent muse Mary Foxe (beautiful, British, and 100% imaginary) wanders in. *Mr. Fox* is a mischievous story of love, lies and inspiration. (Fiction, Hamish Hamilton Canada, September 2011)

John Pass (CAN), *crawlspac*

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The poems in *crawlspace*, work within the narrowing passages imposed upon us by the inevitable strictures and limitations of living and experience: aging, love and loss, tightening or unravelling family ties. Close to home as always, Pass' work is grounded in the wider world. (Poetry, Harbour, May 2011)

Thomas Pletzinger (GER), *Funeral for a Dog*

Pletzinger's critically acclaimed first novel is about what happens when things are lost: a Brazilian police dog loses a leg, a German-Finnish love triangle loses a member, a boy loses his friend, a woman loses her baby, an ethnologist loses his calling, and a journalist loses his way. (Fiction, W.W. Norton & Company, March 2011)

Steven Price (CAN), *Into That Darkness*

A stunning debut novel, *Into That Darkness* opens at the moment when a massive earthquake hits the entire West Coast with devastating results. (Fiction, Thomas Allen & Son, March 2011)

Ian Rankin (SCT), *The Impossible Dead*

Malcolm Fox is back, sent to Fife to investigate a corrupt colleague, but the investigation is soon complicated by intimations of conspiracy and a cover-up. (Fiction, Orion Publishing Group, October 2011)

Gayla Reid (CAN), *Come from Afar*

Come from Afar is a sweeping historical novel of personal and political struggle about a volunteer nurse during the Spanish Civil War who works tirelessly to assist Republican soldiers in their fight against fascism. (Fiction, Cormorant Books, August 2011)

David Adams Richards (CAN), *Incidents in the Life of Markus Paul*

Incidents in the Life of Markus Paul tells an intricate story about the miscarriage of justice in the case of one man's death in a shipping yard in New Brunswick in 1985. (Fiction, Random House Canada, May 2011)

Nino Ricci (CAN), *The Origin of Species*

Alex Fratarcangeli is a 30-something grad student who has raised the cultivation of dysfunctional relationships to the level of an art form and who is plagued by a familiar sense of being a fraud in all aspects of his life, from his professional ambitions to his search for love. Underlying his malaise is a haunting experience in the Galapagos Islands whose aftereffects threaten to undo him until fate casts Esther in his path, a disarmingly vibrant and willful young woman who, however, may be dying before his eyes. (Fiction, Doubleday Canada, September 2008)

Peter Robinson (CAN), *Before the Poison*

Through the years of success in Hollywood composing film scores, Chris always promised his wife they'd return to the Yorkshire Dales one day. Now a widower, Chris feels he must not forget his promise. Back in the Dales, he rents an isolated house that will allow him the space to grieve, but when he finds that the house was the scene of a murder in the 1950s, and the convicted murderer was one of the last women hanged in England, he finds himself increasingly distracted by the events of sixty years before. (Fiction, McClelland & Stewart, October 2011)

Olive Senior (CAN/ JM), *Dancing Lessons*

(Poetry, Cormorant Books, August 2011)

Antanas Sileika (CAN), *Underground*

Inspired by true events, *Underground* tells the story of a troubled romance between two members of the underground Lithuanian resistance movement in mid-1940s. (Fiction, Thomas Allen & Son, February 2011)

Michael V. Smith (CAN), *Progress*

Progress follows Helen, who is unable to move on after losing her fiancé. But life itself is literally moving on around her: the

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building of a dam is forcing her small town and her family home to relocate.
(Fiction, Cormorant Books, March 2011)

Timothy Taylor (CAN), *The Blue Light Project*

From the Giller Prize-nominated author of *Stanley Park* comes a novel about the clash of art and advertising, the cultish grip of celebrity, and the connections that form in times of crisis. (Fiction, Knopf Canada, March 2011)

Sharon Thesen (CAN), *Oyama Pink Shale*

Oyama Pink Shale is a joyously emancipatory work showing the transience of the moment while convincing us of the spirit that links all our lost bits and makes them possible. (Poetry, House of Anansi, March 2011)

Madeleine Thien (CAN), *Dogs at the Perimeter*

Thien faces Cambodia's tortured past, tracing one woman's search for her mentor. The novel looks at the tragedies of war and the myriad identities that are parcelled into a lifetime. (Fiction, McClelland & Stewart, May 2011)

Miriam Toews (CAN), *Irma Voth*

Irma Voth entangles longing and family secrets. The reclusive Mennonite life of Voth is irrevocably changed when a film crew moves in next door to make a movie about the community. (Fiction, Random House Canada, April 2011)

John Vaillant (CAN), *The Golden Spruce*

On January 20, 1997, a former timber-cruiser, Grant Hadwin, cut into an ancient spruce tree growing on the Yacoun River on the Queen Charlotte Islands, a process that precipitated the tree's fall several days later. It was a rare mutant form of Sitka spruce, *Picea sitchensis* 'Aurea', intensely golden in colour, a tree sacred to the Haida people with an honoured place in their culture. From this account of the spruce and the man who brought it down, John Vaillant has created an intricate prism through which we are shown many linked stories on the subject of the great tree and the surrounding forest, sometimes simultaneously. (Non-Fiction, RandomHouse Canada, January 2006)

Guy Vanderhaeghe (CAN), *A Good Man*

Vanderhaeghe's eagerly awaited new novel culminates a multitude of stories set in the late nineteenth-century Canadian and American West. (Fiction, McClelland & Stewart, September 2011)

Andrew Westoll (CAN), *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary*

The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary is an absorbing, big-hearted book that grapples with questions of just what we owe to the animals who are our nearest genetic relations. (Non-Fiction, HarperCollins Canada, May 2011)

Harry Whitehead (UK), *The Cannibal Spirit*

Based on the life of the real historical figure George Hunt, this astonishing evocation of the northwest coast, and the heedless bustle of the arrival of modernity in the midst of an older, beleaguered way of life, tells the story of the grappling of two civilizations in the life of one man. (Fiction, Penguin, October 2011)

Rudy Wiebe (CAN), *Collected Stories: 1955-2010*

This volume contains the fifty short stories that Wiebe completed between 1955 and 2010, including four previously unpublished stories. This is an essential book for aficionados of great world literature, fans of prairie fiction and Wiebe's faithful readers. (Fiction, University of Alberta Press, November 2010)

Doug (D.W.) Wilson

Set in the remote Kootenay Valley in western Canada, *Once You Break a Knuckle* tells stories of good people doing bad things. The stories interconnect and reveal to us how our best intentions are doomed to fail or injure, how our loves can fall

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short or mislead us, how even friendship—especially friendship—can be something dangerously temporary. (Fiction, Hamish Hamilton, September 2011)

Sheri D. Wilson (CAN), *Spoken Word*

Driven by the passion to connect people, voices and ideas, Sheri D. Wilson founded the Calgary International Spoken Word Festival in 2003, and has worked at quantum velocities to present one of the most respected Spoken Word Festivals in Canada.

Ling Zhang (CAN), *Gold Mountain Blues*

Gold Mountain Blues, a rich saga chronicling the lives of five generations of a Chinese family from Guangdong Province transformed by the promise of a better life in Gold Mountain, the Chinese name for Canada's majestic West Coast. (Fiction, Penguin Canada, October 2011)

Jan Zwicky (CAN), *Forge*

(Poetry, Gaspereau Press, June 2011)

Schools Program

Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark (CAN), *Franklin in the Dark*

In the Franklin Classic Storybook that started it all, poor little Franklin has one of the most common childhood afflictions: he is afraid of the dark. (Fiction, Kindergarten, Kids Can Press, February 2011)

Alan Cumyn (CAN), *Tilt*

Stan is an intense 16 year old loner who desperately wants to make the junior varsity basketball team. And it seems that he may be about to do so, until he's blindsided by the unexpected attentions of Janine Igwash. (Fiction, Gr. 7-9, Groundwood Books, August 2011)

Sarah Ellis (CAN), *That Fatal Night*

In the aftermath of the Titanic disaster, a young girl must come to terms with her haunting memories from the voyage, including a secret about her own actions on that fatal night. (Fiction, McNally Robinson, September 2011)

Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton (CAN), *Fatty Legs: A True Story*

Eight-year-old Margaret Pokiak has set her sights on learning to read, even though it means leaving her village in the high Arctic. A moving memoir of an Inuit girl who emerges from a residential school with her spirit intact. (Fiction, Gr. 4-7, Annick Press, June 2010)

Deborah Hodge (CAN), *Watch Me Grow: A Down-to-Earth Look at Growing Food in the City*

A charming introduction to raising food in cities. Where it can be grown? Anywhere! On windowsills, balconies, yards, boulevards and even rooftops. (Fiction, Kindergarten-Gr. 5, Kids Can Press, February 2011)

Glen Huser (CAN), *The Runaway*

Leroy "Doodlebug" Barnstable likes to call himself the quickest draw in the west—with a crayon. It's 1923 and Doodle is on the run from a couple of abusive cousins. He stumbles into a travelling Chautauqua show where it's easy to get lost in a crowd—but also easy to lose your heart. (Fiction, Gr.8-9, Tradewind Books, April 2011)

Daniel Loxton (CAN), *Ankylosaur Attack*

Ankylosaur Attack explores tales of prehistoric life by the author/illustrator of *Evolution*. (Fiction, Gr. 2-4, Kids Can Press, September 2011)

Kit Pearson (CAN), *The Whole Truth & Dear Canada: Whispers of War*

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The Whole Truth is a coming of age novel about two sisters who must travel from Winnipeg to an island off the coast of Vancouver in 1932. (Fiction, Gr. 4-6, HarperCollins Canada, August 2011)

Dear Canada: Whispers of War: The 1812 War Diary of Susanna Merritt tracks young Susanna Merritt's diary as she is faced with the looming war. (Fiction, Gr. 4-6, Scholastic Canada, September 2002)

Margriet Ruurs (CAN), *Amazing Animals: The Remarkable Things That Creatures Do*

With stunning art and bright, brief text, *Amazing Animals* is the perfect introduction to a host of creatures. (Fiction, Gr. 4-6, Tundra Books, March 2011)

David Smith (CAN), *This Child, Every Child*

A groundbreaking book of statistics and stories that compare the lives of children around the world today. (Fiction, Gr. 3-6, Kids Can Press, February 2011)

Maggie de Vries (CAN), *Somebody's Girl*

Martha knows she is adopted, but she's well-loved and popular, at least until her mother gets pregnant and she feels her parents' attention start to shift. (Fiction, Gr. 3-4, Orca Books, May 2011)

Janet Willen (CAN), *Five Thousand Years of Slavery*

Encyclopaedic in scope and minutely detailed, this comprehensive volume takes on the history of slavery across the globe. Readers will be drawn in by the dramatic biographies and personal testimonies, illustrated with archival photos and paintings. (Fiction, Gr. 4-7, Tundra Books, January 2011)

John Wilson (CAN), *I Am Canada: Shot at Dawn: World War I, Allan McBride, France, 1917*

This outstanding new title in the *I Am Canada* series explores life in the horrific trenches of WWI and the effect of battle on a shell-shocked soldier. (Fiction, Gr. 4-7, Scholastic Canada, February 2011)

Moira Young (UK), *Blood Red Road*

Blood Red Road has a searing pace, a poetically minimal writing style, violent action, and an epic love story. (Fiction, Gr. 9 and up, Simon and Schuster, June 2011)