



# READING AS RESISTANCE

HIGHWATER PRESS OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

HIGHWATER  
PRESS 

15TH ANNIVERSARY CATALOG

## About HighWater Press

HighWater Press, an imprint of Portage & Main Press, publishes stories by emerging and established Indigenous writers, many of which go on to receive critical acclaim. Our list includes national bestsellers, celebrated modern classics, and genre-expanding works. We are committed to telling stories with lasting impact.

We work to honor and support Indigenous resurgence by amplifying stories that share joy, creativity, strength, bravery, and community. HighWater Press books are a rich mix of non-fiction, novels, graphic novels, and children's literature, featuring compelling stories and exceptional production quality. HighWater Press is dedicated to community, both among our authors, illustrators, and creative contributors, as well as in our extended community of readers who are passionate about authentic storytelling.





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The offices of Portage & Main Press and HighWater Press are located on Treaty 1 Territory, the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabeg, Inninewak (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dakota, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

This catalog was printed in North America by Friesens, the first FSC-certified printing company in Canada. With plants powered by hydroelectric and wind farms, the company is 100% employee-owned and is committed to minimizing its ecological footprint. It is printed on FSC-certified paper made with 30% post-consumer waste using vegetable-based inks and alcohol-free blanket wash.

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FULLY GROWN	GALLONS	POUNDS	POUNDS



Environmental impact estimates were made using the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator 4.0. For more information visit [www.papercalculator.org](http://www.papercalculator.org)

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HIGHWATER  
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15TH ANNIVERSARY CATALOG



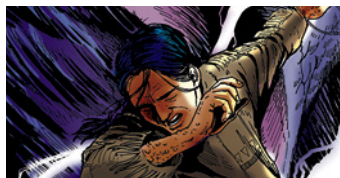
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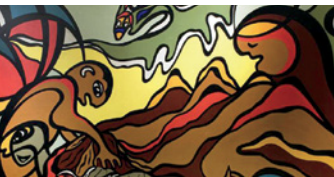


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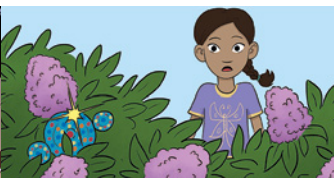
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## Introduction

When Portage & Main Press launched the HighWater Press imprint in 2009, there wasn't much public awareness around diverse and inclusive books. Indigenous-authored books were few, and non-Indigenous writers telling stories about Indigenous Peoples was still common. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission had launched only a year before, and some Canadian provinces were just starting to revise curricula to include Indigenous knowledges and perspectives.

In our early days as Peguis Publishers (est. 1967 in Winnipeg), then-publisher Mary Scorer focused on regional stories; a handful of these stories were about or written by Indigenous people. In 1991, Mary Dixon, the new publisher of Peguis Publishers (and later, Portage & Main Press), purchased the rights to *In Search of April Raintree* and Bernelda Wheeler's children's picture books from Pemmican Publications, introducing these talented writers to a wider audience. With these books, a changing curricula, and burgeoning relationships with writers David A. Robertson and Niigaanwewidam (Niigaan) James Sinclair, the HighWater Press imprint was born.

David A. Robertson would go on to become one of HighWater Press's most prolific writers, having published 25 books with the company as of 2024. Niigaan Sinclair would become the acquisitions editor for The Debwe Series, engaging established writers such as Richard Van Camp and emerging writers such as Tasha Spillett.

Like its parent company, HighWater Press's identity is grounded in place. Our offices are located in what is now called Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, on Treaty 1 Territory and the homeland of the Métis Nation. Indigenous Peoples have called this land home for millennia. Winnipeg now has the largest urban population of Indigenous people in Canada, situating HighWater Press amongst a rich community of Indigenous storytellers, thinkers, activists, and creators. As such, since its inception, HighWater Press has been guided by listening to this community and



its creators, building relationships with them, and championing the importance of their stories. These principles have allowed HighWater Press to launch the careers of several high-profile authors who not only radically changed common ideas about which kinds of stories were “worthy” of being part of the Canadian literary scene, but who altered and expanded it forever.

Much has happened in the years since HighWater Press was founded. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission released their report along with 94 Calls to Action, which spurred a nationwide shift in educational priorities and school interest in authentic stories. In 2013, Phyllis Webstad launched the first Orange Shirt Day, which later became the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (2021), a day to honor the Survivors of residential schools as well as those who never made it home.


So, while the pages of this catalog highlight 15 years of HighWater Press, they are really a tribute to the Indigenous writers and artists who kept working until the vibrancy and relevance of their work was recognized. Indigenous creators have challenged us, questioned our assumptions, introduced us to memorable characters, and transcended boundaries to give us moving stories crafted with artistic excellence.

Although we have chosen 15 titles to represent the work of the past 15 years, there are many inspiring and beautiful stories that we couldn’t include. Check out the “Reading as Resistance” section at the back of the catalog for these titles. Read with love and gratitude for the work of these Indigenous creators and of the generations that came before.

Catherine Gerbasi, Publisher  
December 2023









Stories are integral to many Indigenous cultures. Through stories, Indigenous Peoples share cultures, traditions, worldviews, languages, and knowledge of the land with one another. However, Western institutions, including the publishing industry, have been slow to recognize the value of these stories, and of Indigenous writers' works.

The books in this section represent moments of resurgence: sharing truths, breaking barriers, and pushing back against pre-conceived notions of Indigenous culture and identity. These books create space for new voices, expanding ideas about what it means to be Indigenous, as well as what Indigenous literature is and can be.

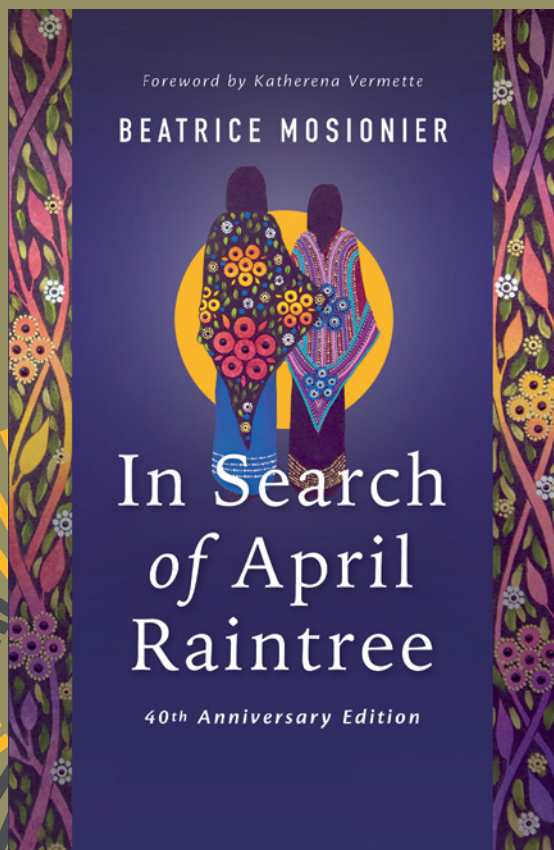




# **SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER**



Rediscover Beatrice Mosionier's groundbreaking classic with this 40th anniversary edition. Intimate, hopeful, and impossible to put down.



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

Beloved for more than 40 years, Beatrice Mosionier's *In Search of April Raintree* inspired generations of writers, thinkers, and artists. Its popularity demonstrated the need for Indigenous-authored books in Canada. *In Search of April Raintree*, and the high school edition *April Raintree*, have been read by tens of thousands of people across the country. While Beatrice's work paved the way for other Indigenous writers, it also laid the foundation for the HighWater Press imprint.

### **In Search of April Raintree**

Beatrice Mosionier

katherena vermette

Raven Sinclair (Ôtiskewâpît)

9781774920916

\$22.95 US / \$22.95 CAN

In this moving story of legacy and reclamation, two young sisters are taken from their home and family. Powerless in a broken system, April and Cheryl are separated and placed in different foster homes. Despite the distance, they remain close, even as their decisions threaten to divide them emotionally, culturally, and geographically. As one sister embraces her Métis identity, the other tries to leave it behind.

Will the sisters' bond survive as they struggle to make their way in a society that is often indifferent, hostile, and violent?

**I am endlessly indebted to Beatrice Mosionier for lighting the way to my own stories. The space that this book cleared and prepared for so many other writers is now populated with many voices, all celebrating that we get to share space with one of the guiding lights that brought us home.**

**—CHERIE DIMALINE, international bestselling author  
of *The Marrow Thieves***

A rich and diverse collection of works  
by Indigenous writers that together tell the story  
of Manitowapow, also known as Manitoba.

# MANITOWAPOW

Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water



NIGAANWEWIDAM JAMES SINCLAIR  
AND WARREN CARIOU, EDITORS  
FOREWORD BY BEATRICE MOSIONIER



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)



As the acquisitions editor for The Debwe Series, Niigaan Sinclair introduced the press to many of its first authors. Created in the spirit of the Anishinaabe concept of debwe—to speak the truth—The Debwe Series is a collection of exceptional Indigenous writing from across Canada. The first book in the series, *Manitowapow*, is a one-of-a-kind anthology of Indigenous writing that challenged the idea that there weren't any significant works by Indigenous writers.

**Manitowapow: Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water**

Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair

Warren Cariou

Beatrice Mosionier

9781553793076

\$35.00 US / \$35.00 CAN

Beginning with traditional writing systems, *Manitowapow* shares diverse Indigenous perspectives and histories from the late 1700s through to the present day in what is now Manitoba, Canada.

From one page to the next, readers will discover writings from historically significant figures, literary works by well-known writers, non-fiction and political pieces by Indigenous leaders, and contributions by storytellers and Knowledge Keepers from far-reaching Manitoba communities, as well as new and vibrant voices that express contemporary Indigenous experiences.

***Manitowapow* is a must-read, not only for all Manitobans, but for all Canadians. It brings to life the history and experiences of one of the most beautiful places in the world through images, words, and stories of people who draw their lives from the land and water here. Our home is a storied place. This book tells this story, completing a chapter of history rarely told in books and classrooms.**

**—PHIL FONTAINE, Former National Chief  
of the Assembly of First Nations**

# Indigenous Writes

A GUIDE TO FIRST NATIONS,  
METIS & INUIT ISSUES IN CANADA

CHELSEA VOWEL

*A rare, rare achievement... A must-read for  
engaging with the idea of reconciliation.*  
TRACEY LIMBORG, AUTHOR OF BIRDIE

NATIONAL  
BESTSELLER



[Chelsea Vowel] punctures the bloated tropes that have frozen Indigenous peoples in time. Reading *Indigenous Writes*, you feel that you are having a conversation over coffee with a super-smart friend, someone who refuses to simplify, who chooses to amplify, who is unafraid to kick against the darkness. What this book really is, is medicine.

—SHELAGH ROGERS, OC, broadcast journalist,  
TRC Honorary Witness



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

In the beginning, HighWater Press's focus was Indigenous histories. Building on the work of *Manitowapow*, with *Indigenous Writes* HighWater Press's focus shifted to current conversations and contemporary experiences. In this national bestseller, Chelsea Vowel unpacks the historic conversations and pervasive myths, stereotypes, and misconceptions affecting Indigenous Peoples in Canada. Working on this book with Chelsea challenged the press to think more critically about Indigenous issues and the role of HighWater Press in giving voice to those issues. This book has since become a touchstone for many educators, scholars, and people working in the field of law.

**Indigenous Writes:**

**A Guide to First Nations, Métis, & Inuit Issues in Canada**

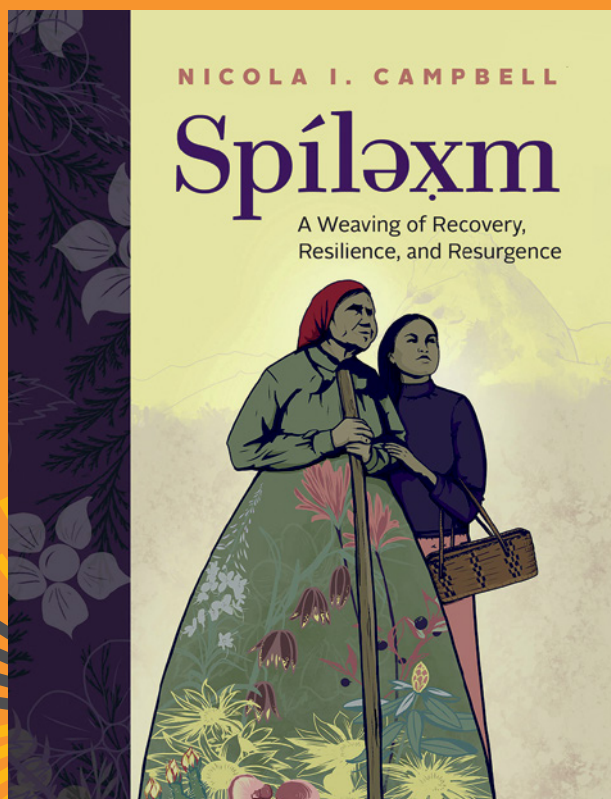
Chelsea Vowel

9781553796800

\$32.00 US / \$32.00 CAN

*Indigenous Writes* came out of the work that legal scholar, teacher, and intellectual Chelsea Vowel had originally done through her blog, [apihtawikosisan.com](http://apihtawikosisan.com). Expanding on this work, *Indigenous Writes* opened important dialogues around social beliefs concerning the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and Canada. In 31 essays, Chelsea explores the Indigenous experience of colonization from past to present, through five categories—Terminology of Relationships; Culture and Identity; Myth-Busting; State Violence; and Land, Learning, Law, and Treaties. She answers questions that many people have on these topics, sparking further conversations in the home, classroom, and larger community.

In this exceptional memoir, bestselling author Nicola I. Campbell deftly weaves together rich poetry and vivid prose to illustrate what it means to be an intergenerational survivor of Indian residential schools.



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

*Spiləxm* combines memoir, analysis, poetry, and languages in a way that captures the complexity and intersectionality of Indigenous experiences. Alongside English, *Spiləxm* creates space for three Indigenous languages: Nl̓eʔkepmxcín, Nsyílxcn, and Halq'eméylem. Blending these seemingly different forms and languages into a singular text redefines not only literary conventions but ideas about what Indigenous literature is and can be.

### **Spiləxm: A Weaving of Recovery, Resilience, and Resurgence**

Nicola I. Campbell

9781553799351

\$32.00 US / \$32.00 CAN

*If the hurt and grief we carry is a woven blanket, it is time to weave ourselves anew.*


In the Nl̓eʔkepmxcín language, spiləxm are remembered stories, often shared between Elders over tea in the quiet hours. Rooted within the British Columbia landscape, and with an almost tactile representation of being on the land and water, *Spiləxm* explores resilience, reconnection, and narrative memory through stories.

Captivating and deeply moving, this story basket of memories tells one Indigenous woman's journey of overcoming adversity and colonial trauma to find strength through creative works and traditional perspectives of healing.


**This is a terrific tale, peppered with some lovely poetry and deep philosophical convictions. [Nicola Campbell] is descended from two distinct Indigenous peoples: those that hold their arms and those that serve one another. Nicola braids these two cultures together and bequeaths the result to all of us and to the world. Loaded with history, rich in story, and lovely in its poetics.**

**—SI'YAM, LEE MARACLE, OC, author**





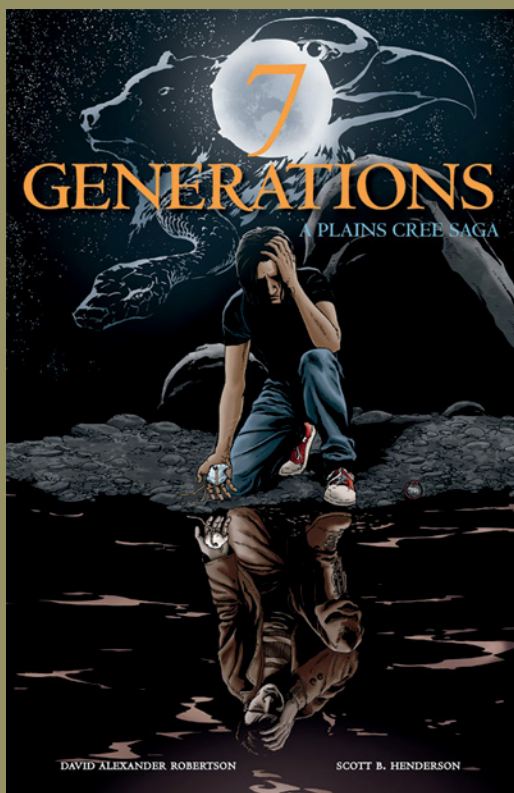
An important part of education is learning the history of the local land. Today, Canadian schools are making shifts to include Indigenous stories and perspectives about what happened to Indigenous Peoples in Canada over the past several centuries. HighWater Press was ahead of this curve, publishing stories by Indigenous authors about historical events from Indigenous perspectives. Many of these stories had never been brought to a young audience, or indeed the general public, at all. This act of reclamation was, and continues to be, pivotal to bringing more Indigenous voices into the literary world and the educational sphere.





# **RETELLING HISTORY**





David weaves an engrossing and unforgettable story with the precision of a historian and the color of a true Indigenous storyteller.

—**ROSANNA DEERCHILD**, author and CBC Radio host



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

The graphic novels collectively known as *7 Generations: A Plains Cree Saga* were groundbreaking in raising awareness about the ongoing intergenerational trauma and psychological impacts of colonization. Through an Indigenous lens, they provided a vivid look at historical events such as the smallpox epidemic of 1870–1871, as well as important topics such as residential school legacy, Plains Cree culture, Traditional Knowledge, and mental health.

### **7 Generations: A Plains Cree Saga**

David A. Robertson

Scott B. Henderson

Interest Age: 12+ | Grade: 8–12

9781553793557

\$34.99 US / \$34.99 CAN

*7 Generations: A Plains Cree Saga*, a series of four graphic novels—*Stone*, *Scars*, *Ends/Begins*, and *The Pact*—follows one Indigenous family over three centuries and seven generations.

In *Stone*, Edwin learns of his ancestor, Stone, a Plains Cree warrior from the early 19th century. When Stone's brother is killed during a Blackfoot raid, he must overcome his grief to avenge his brother's death. In *Scars*, Edwin's ancestor White Cloud must summon the strength to



find a new home amidst a smallpox epidemic. *Ends/Begins* follows Edwin's father, James, and his residential school experiences. In *The Pact*, the guilt and loss that James experiences from his time at residential school follows him into adulthood. When his life spirals out of control, James navigates his own healing to save his son's life—as well as his own.

katherena vermette Scott B. Henderson Donovan Yaciuk

# A Girl Called ECHO

OMNIBUS

A  
YALSA Great  
Graphic Novel  
pick



katherena vermette's *A Girl Called Echo* is a re-righting of Canada's relationship with the Métis on this land. Depicted in brilliant illustrations by Scott Henderson and colorist Donovan Yaciuk, its themes of relationality to land, to kinship, and to being and belonging will echo long after you have set it down.

—**RITA BOUVIER**, former Indspire Education Laureate  
and author of *a beautiful rebellion*



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)



*A Girl Called Echo* highlights the experiences of Métis women through its central protagonist, Echo. Published as an omnibus in 2023, the series retells significant events in Métis history through the eyes of the women involved, and represents the culmination of HighWater Press's efforts to seek out and support Indigenous female creators.

### **A Girl Called Echo Omnibus**

katherena vermette

Scott B. Henderson

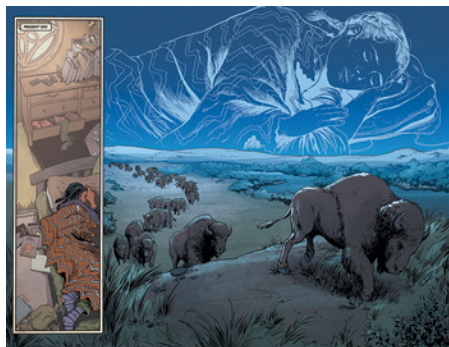
Donovan Yaciuk

Interest Age: 12+ | Grade: 8–12

9781774920886

\$36.00 US / \$38.00 CAN

Métis teenager Echo Desjardins is struggling to adjust to a new school and a new home. When an ordinary history class turns extraordinary, Echo is pulled into a time-traveling adventure that will allow her to experience pivotal events including: the Pemmican Wars, the Battle of Seven Oaks, the Red River Resistance, and the Northwest Resistance. Follow Echo as she experiences Métis history and imagines what the future might hold.





pīsim miskam ōmiskanaw

# PĪSIM Finds Her Miskanaw

BOOK ONE



By William Dumas  
Illustrated by Leonard Paul



In imagining the life of a young Cree woman, this volume provides a wonderful evocation of the wisdom and language of Cree Elders that seamlessly incorporates archaeology, ethnology, and oral traditions.

—**STEPHEN LORING**, Arctic Studies Center,  
Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

*Pisim Finds Her Miskanaw* shows how partnerships and collaborations can broaden the scope of Indigenous voices and stories in the literary world. HighWater Press partnered with the Six Seasons of the Asiniskaw Īthiniwak project to create *Pisim Finds Her Miskanaw*—a historical fiction picture book about the life of a Cree woman from the 1600s based on a recent archaeological finding. It points the way forward for future community partnerships while celebrating Rocky Cree ways of life, then and now, by weaving traditional Rocky Cree language and culture throughout the pages of the story.

### **Pisim Finds Her Miskanaw**

The Six Seasons of the Asiniskaw Īthiniwak

William Dumas

Leonard Paul

Interest Age: 9–12 | Grade: 4–6

9781553799092

\$29.00 US / \$29.00 CAN



Out of an important archaeological project came this unique story about a week in the life of Pisim, a young Cree woman who lived in the mid-1600s. In the story, created by renowned storyteller William Dumas, Pisim begins to recognize her *miskanaw*—the path for her life—and develop her gifts for fulfilling that path. The story is brought to life by the rich imagery of Mi'kmaw artist Leonard Paul, and is accompanied by sidebars on Rocky Cree language and culture, archaeology and history, maps, songs, and more.



# When We Were Alone



DAVID A. ROBERTSON

JULIE FLETT

*When We Were Alone* is rare. It is exquisite and stunning, for the power conveyed by the words Robertson wrote, and for the illustrations that Flett created. I highly recommend it.  
—**DEBBIE REESE**, *American Indians in Children's Literature*



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

The Governor General's Literary Award winner *When We Were Alone* addresses the dark history of Canada's residential schools. Although this is a challenging topic to discuss with young readers, it is a significant part of Canada's history and a truth that must not be shied away from. Through whimsical two-dimensional paper cut illustrations, *When We Were Alone* provides educators and parents with a gentle way to talk about residential schools. HighWater Press released a dual-language edition in both Swampy Cree and English in 2020.

### **When We Were Alone**

David A. Robertson

Julie Flett

Interest Age: 6–8 | Grade: 1–3

9781553796732

\$21.95 US / \$21.95 CAN

A young girl notices things about her grandmother that make her curious. Why does her grandmother have long, braided hair and beautifully colored clothing? Why does she speak Cree and spend so much time with her family? As the girl asks questions, her grandmother shares about her experiences in a residential school, when all of these things were taken away.





The stories contained within [these] pages are both beautifully rendered and vitally necessary. They represent a history not only largely untold and unknown, but one obscured, hidden from sight, so that other stories may occupy a privileged place in defining a national story. This is an essential book, for comic fans, teachers, and anyone who wants to learn the stories of this place we now share.

—JESSE WENTE, broadcaster and film critic



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

In response to Canada's 150 celebrations in 2017, HighWater Press collaborated with Indigenous writers to create the graphic anthology *This Place: 150 Years Retold*. The only direction writers were given was to tell a story about an event or person within their chosen decade that they felt passionate about. The stunning result provided an alternative to the colonial version of Canadian history and the graphic novel became an instant bestseller. The anthology was made into a CBC podcast created by an all-Indigenous cast, crew, and host in 2021.

### **This Place: 150 Years Retold**

WRITERS: Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm, Sonny Assu, Brandon Mitchell, Rachel Qitsualik-Tinsley, Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley, David A. Robertson, Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair, Jen Storm, Richard Van Camp, katherena vermette, Chelsea Vowel

ARTISTS: Tara Audibert, Kyle Charles, GMB Chomichuk, Natasha Donovan, Scott B. Henderson, Andrew Lodwick, Scott A. Ford, Donovan Yaciuk, Ryan Howe, and Jen Storm

Interest Age: 12+ | Grade: 8–12

9781553797586

\$38.00 US / \$38.00 CAN



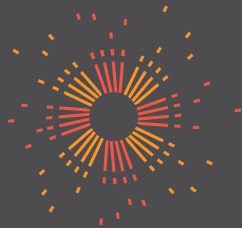
Explore the past 150 years through the eyes of Indigenous creators in this groundbreaking graphic novel anthology. These visually stunning stories are an emotional and enlightening journey that show how Indigenous Peoples have survived a post-apocalyptic world since contact.

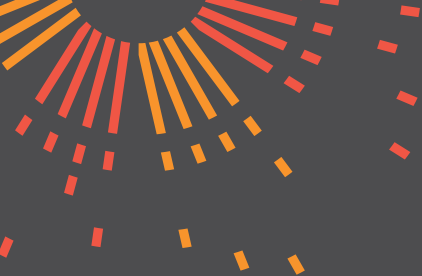
Each story includes a timeline of related historical events and a personal note from the author. Find cited sources and a select bibliography for further reading in the back of the book.





The Anishinaabe concept of Mino Bimaadiziwin encompasses the idea of “the good life” or “living in a good way,” which includes bringing traditional values and ways of healing into the present. This process can be a decolonizing act for Indigenous Peoples. The books in this section demonstrate living in a good way by emphasizing relationships and community building, non-violent conflict resolution, positive role models and forms of activism, and environmental responsibility. Thought-provoking and visually stunning, these stories inspire a way forward based on connecting the traditional with the contemporary.





# **LIVING IN A GOOD WAY**



RICHARD VAN CAMP

SCOTT B. HENDERSON

DONOVAN YACIUK

# The SPIRIT of DENENDEH

VOLUME 1



## A BLANKET OF BUTTERFLIES

The story and messages of honor, respect, peace, and human connection are powerful and moving. Valuable cultural and historical insights . . . support the story.

—KIRKUS REVIEWS



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

*A Blanket of Butterflies* overturns conventional action-comics tropes like macho superhero figures and violent conflict by blending them with Dene values. The story features Sonny, a 12-year-old Dene boy, and his grandmother as its heroes, emphasizing intergenerational and community relationships. *A Blanket of Butterflies* is based on a real Japanese suit of armor located at the Fort Smith Museum and the historic involvement of the Dene in Canada's war efforts. The book's non-violent conflict resolution contrasts with the depiction of the domestic and international devastation of WWII to demonstrate a better way forward through empathy and mutual understanding.

### **A Blanket of Butterflies**

The Spirit of Denendeh

Richard Van Camp

Scott B. Henderson

Donovan Yaciuk

Nickolej Villiger

Interest Age: 12+ | Grade: 8–12

9781774920404

\$21.95 US / \$21.95 CAN



No one knows how a suit of samurai armor ended up in the Fort Smith Museum. When a mysterious stranger turns up to claim it, Sonny, a young Tłıchʔ Dene boy, is eager to help.

Shinobu has traveled to Fort Smith, NWT, to reclaim his grandfather's samurai sword and armor. But when he discovers that the sword was lost in a poker game, he must confront the man known as Benny the Bank. Along the way, Shinobu must rely on unlikely heroes—Sonny, his grandmother, and a visitor from the spirit world. Together, they will face Benny and his men.

Tasha Spilliet Natasha Donovan

# Surviving the City Vol. 2

## From the Roots Up



*Beautiful, poignant,  
and emotional.*  
—The Tiny Artist

Every single thing about these volumes is important. They are beautifully written, fantastically illustrated, at times heartbreaking, humorous, and rooted in Indigenous strength.

—DANI ROULETTE, @thunderbirdwomanreads



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

Featuring the first non-binary, Two-Spirit character in a HighWater Press title, *From the Roots Up* challenges racial and gender stereotypes within both Canadian society and Indigenous communities. As Dez attempts to understand their Two-Spirit identity, they challenge traditional gendered ceremonial protocols that have roots in colonial gender norms. While the *Surviving the City* series as a whole highlights positive forms of community activism like organizing rallies, marches, and powwows, *From the Roots Up* focuses on individual activism.

### **From the Roots Up**

Surviving the City

Tasha Spillett

Natasha Donovan

Donovan Yaciuk

Interest Age: 12+ | Grade: 8–12

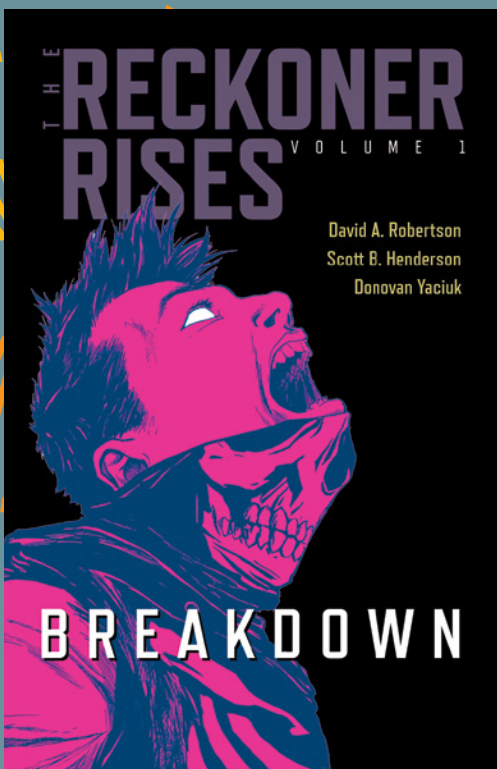
9781553798989

\$18.95 US / \$21.95 CAN



Grieving their grandmother and with nowhere to go, Dez is staying in a group home while also figuring out their identity as a Two-Spirit person. Miikwan is crushing on the school's new kid, Riel, but doesn't really understand what Dez is going through or how to support her best friend. Elder Geraldine is trying to be supportive, but doesn't know how to respond given the gendered protocols she's grown up with.

Will Dez ever be comfortable expressing their full identity? And will their community relearn their teachings and overcome prejudice to celebrate Dez for who they are?



The Reckoner Rises series immediately hooks you and doesn't let go. Its intense and compelling plot is balanced perfectly with incredible characters. This is the superhero story we need right now, incredibly real and incredibly poignant.

—JEFF LEMIRE, award-winning graphic novelist



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

Blending horror and superhero genre fiction, *Breakdown* follows the acclaimed YA Reckoner trilogy. By combining these genres, *Breakdown* challenges the misrepresentation of Indigenous people as stock characters in corporate comics. The story focuses on navigating the emotional turmoil of post-traumatic stress disorder and generalized anxiety disorder, openly highlighting the mental-health issues faced by many people. By inverting the infallible independent superhero trope, *Breakdown* emphasizes its Indigenous characters' reliance on community to overcome intergenerational pain and injustice.

### **Breakdown**

The Reckoner Rises

David A. Robertson

Scott B. Henderson

Donovan Yaciuk

Interest Age: 15–18 | Grade: 9–12

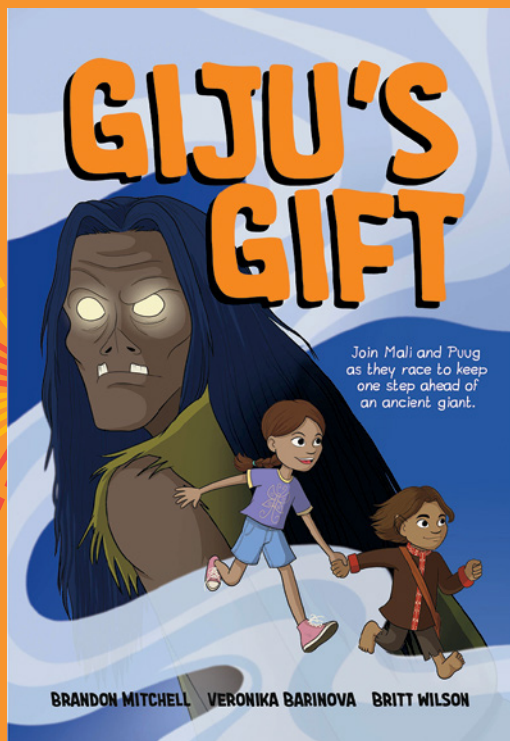
9781553798903

\$21.95 US / \$21.95 CAN



After the events in Wounded Sky First Nation, Cole and Eva arrive in Winnipeg, the headquarters of Mihko Laboratories. They are intent on destroying the company once and for all, but their plans are thwarted when a new threat surfaces. When Cole becomes mired in terrifying visions, Eva must harness her newly discovered powers to investigate Mihko without him. Are Cole's visions just troubled dreams, or are they leading him to a horrible truth?





What a read! What an adventure! *Giju's Gift* is a treasure filled with knowledge, insight, and a little bit of terror. I loved it!! Brandon Mitchell and Veronika Barinova have knocked it out of the park and given us something special that everyone can learn from.

—**RICHARD VAN CAMP**, author of  
*A Blanket of Butterflies* and *Three Feathers*



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

*Giju's Gift* was HighWater Press's first standalone book to explore Mi'kmaw culture and traditional stories. Along her adventure, Mali encounters Mi'kmaw figures like the little people, the guardians of the land, and an angry jenu, a giant destroying everything in its path. The quest to collect and reclaim cultural items speaks to this work's overall goal of reclamation and broadening awareness of Mi'kmaw stories, figures, language, and cultures. This includes acknowledging the pain and injustice of residential schools and their legacy. By highlighting Traditional Knowledge and teachings, however, *Giju's Gift* emphasizes healing through cultural connection.

### **Giju's Gift**

Adventures of the Pugulatmu'j

Brandon Mitchell

Veronika Barinova

Britt Wilson

Interest Age: 6–8 | Grade: 1–3

9781553799474

\$20.95 US / \$21.95 CAN

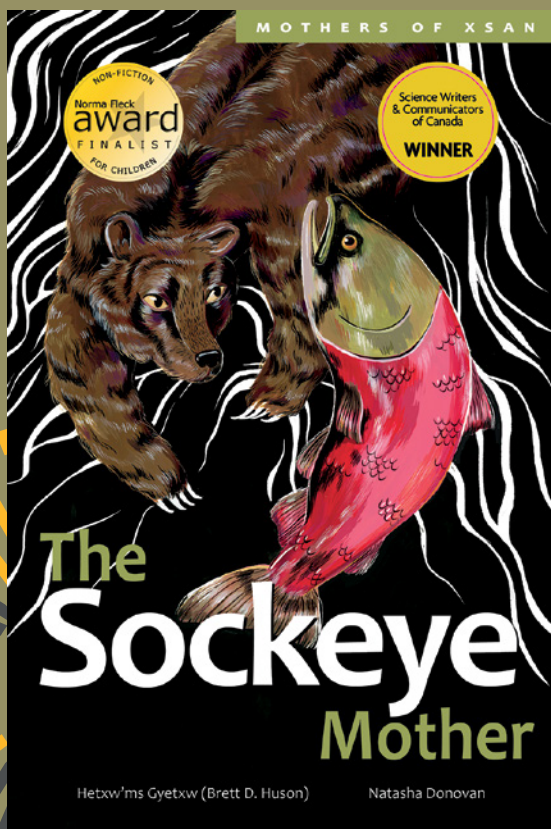
When her hair clip disappears, Mali is devastated. It was special, made by her giju'. Her mom thinks she lost it, but Mali knows it was stolen by the pugulatmu'j.

Soon after, Mali is surprised to meet Puug—and he's wearing her hair clip. If she helps him find what he needs, she has a chance of getting it back. As they hunt for the objects on Puug's list, Mali uncovers a lot of unanswered questions along the way.

Why is there a giant chasing them? Will she really get her hair clip back? And why is Puug collecting these things anyway?



Explore the life cycle of the sockeye salmon in this engaging look at how an ecosystem's animals, people, and seasons are intertwined.



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

Winner of the Science Writers and Communicators of Canada book award, *The Sockeye Mother* brings traditional Gitksan ecological understandings into conversation with contemporary environmental issues. Focused on sustainability, *The Sockeye Mother* underscores people's interconnectedness with their ecosystems. The story redefines non-fiction genre conventions by blending factual information with lyrical storytelling and stunning illustrations, including formline artwork.

### **The Sockeye Mother**

Mothers of Xsan

Hetxw'ms Gyetxw (Brett D. Huson)

Natasha Donovan

Interest Age: 9–12 | Grade: 4–6

9781553797395

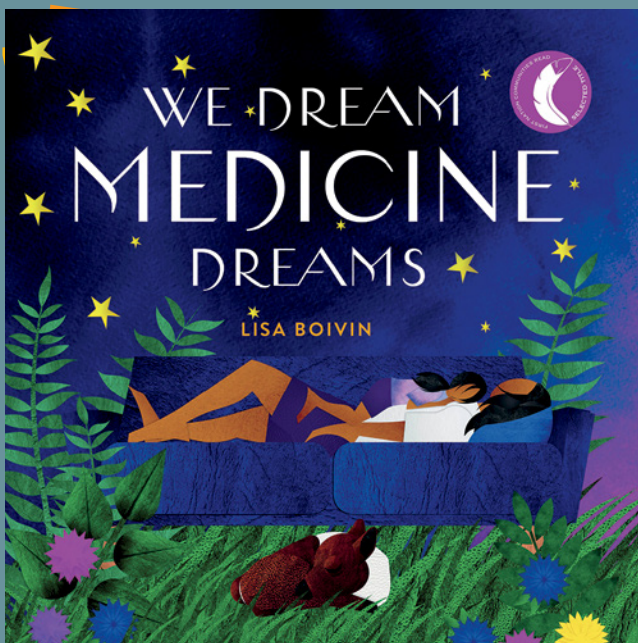
\$21.95 US / \$23.00 CAN

To the Gitksan people of Northwestern British Columbia, the sockeye salmon is more than just a source of food. Over its life cycle, it nourishes the very land and forests that the Skeena River runs through and where the Gitksan make their home. *The Sockeye Mother* explores how the animals, water, soil, and seasons are all intertwined.



Huson eloquently  
conveys the fragile  
interconnectedness of  
the natural world  
and the moral imperative  
to protect it.

—*Publishers Weekly*



These teachings about the medicine power of dreams, family, loss, and connection resonate with Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. In sharing these teachings with us, Lisa has given all those that read her book a great gift that allows the ancestors to speak with our children. I encourage everyone, young and old, to spend an evening with this charming masterpiece—you will not regret it.

—THE HONOURABLE YVONNE BOYER, JD, LL.M., LL.D



Scan to read an excerpt at  
[highwaterpress.com](http://highwaterpress.com)

Produced during the COVID-19 pandemic, *We Dream Medicine Dreams* embraces challenging conversations around end-of-life care, grief, and death. Centered around the relationship between a granddaughter and her grandfather, *We Dream Medicine Dreams* incorporates animal teachings to communicate Dene perspectives of death and dreams. Balancing traditional and contemporary understandings of medical ethics, *We Dream Medicine Dreams* gently guides young readers through the difficult process of saying goodbye to a loved one.

### **We Dream Medicine Dreams**

Lisa Boivin

Interest Age: 6–8 | Grade: 1–3


9781553799870

\$21.95 US / \$21.95 CAN


From Dene artist and bioethicist Lisa Boivin comes this healing story of hope, dreams, and the special bond between grandfather and granddaughter.

When a little girl dreams about a bear, her grandfather explains how we connect with the knowledge of our ancestors through dreams. Bear, Hawk, Caribou, and Wolf all have teachings to share to help us live a good life. But when Grampa gets sick and falls into a coma, the little girl must lean on his teachings as she learns to say goodbye.





Resistance is an action. Indigenous stories work to oppose the prejudices and stereotypes that pervade our society through the legacy of colonialism. By reading Indigenous stories, readers join forces with Indigenous storytellers and continue this work. Readers can empathize with complex issues affecting Indigenous Peoples, witness Indigenous joy, and learn about the robust history of languages, cultures, and identities that encompass Indigenous experiences. Many such experiences are taken up in the books on the following pages.



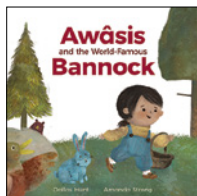


# **READING AS RESISTANCE**





## OTHER BOOKS FROM HIGHWATER PRESS



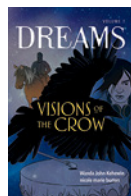
Awâsis and the  
World-Famous  
Bannock



Betty: The  
Helen Betty  
Osborne Story



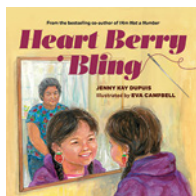
Between  
the Pipes



Dreams  
series



Fire Starters



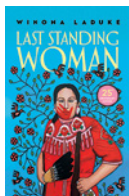
Heart Berry Bling



I Can't Have  
Bannock but the  
Beaver Has a Dam



I Will See  
You Again



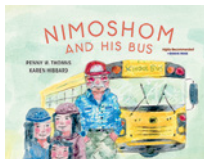
Last Standing  
Woman



Little by Little



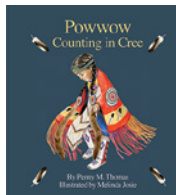
Little Moons



Nimoshom  
and His Bus



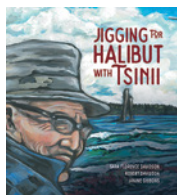
Perception:  
A Photo Series



Powwow  
Counting in Cree



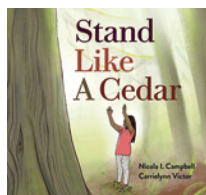
Siha Tooskin  
Knows series



Sk'ad'a Stories Series



Spirit of the White Bison



Stand Like a Cedar



Sugar Falls:  
A Residential School Story



Tales from Big Spirit series



The Evolution of Alice



The Gift Is in the Making:  
Anishinaabeg Stories



The Gift of the Little People



The Reckoner trilogy



The Rez Doctor



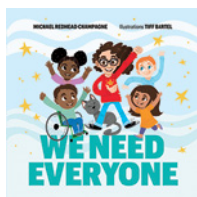
The Seven Teachings Stories series



The Stone Collection



Three Feathers



We Need Everyone



Will I See?



## Looking Forward

As Truth and Reconciliation efforts continue across Canada and around the world, there is much more to learn and explore. Indigenous people are reclaiming their cultures and knowledges and sharing them with the world, changing the ways Indigenous experiences are understood and enriching the future. HighWater Press understands that these experiences are always evolving and follows the lead of Indigenous creators, collaborators, and Knowledge Keepers. Working together, we strive to make necessary changes to how the publishing industry speaks about and includes Indigenous stories. We must continue amplifying experiences and voices still lacking within Canadian publishing.

At HighWater Press, we continue to respond to the evolving conversations within Indigenous communities, led by creators. Our forthcoming titles include characters with intersectional identities, including Two-Spirit and Afro-Indigenous lived experiences. As we work to diversify the experiences represented in our books, we are also working to make them more accessible for all readers. Our efforts include producing accessible text-based and audiobook formats while expanding our use of alternative text and literary image description in our picture books and graphic novels.

We are committed to bringing Indigenous perspectives to the forefront of our cultural conversations and, together with you, dear reader, we'll carry on this work well into the future.



