

HIGHWATER PRESS

PORTAGE & MAIN PRESS

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Cover Art by
Rebekah Brackett,
The Moth Dreamer

THE MOTH DREAMER



by Amy Lynn Farrell
YA Novels (ages 12–15)
5.5 x 8.25 in. • 272 pages
Rights Held: World
Themes: Coming of age, Grief, Guilt, Supernatural

Farrell combines Anishinaabe traditions and language throughout, engaging readers with Indigenous culture and spiritual practices. Purchase this for larger YA collections.

—School Library Journal

A powerful YA novel blending Indigenous spirituality with a haunting coming-of-age journey.

Grief, guilt, and dark visions haunt sixteen-year-old Aubrey after a premonition of her cousin's death comes true. As disturbing visions continue and a Trickster enters her dreams, a creature that feeds on suffering begins to stalk her. Guided by her Kokum, a medicine woman, Aubrey must draw on her Anishinaabe roots to confront the darkness and protect those she loves.

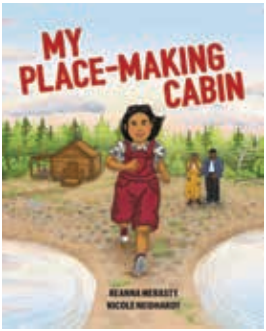
Amy Lynn Farrell (she/her) is a professor at the University of Manitoba, where she focuses on Indigenous education. A member of Eabametoong First Nation and Anishinaabe by heritage, Amy grew up with a foot in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous worlds.





MY PLACE-MAKING CABIN

by Reanna McKay (Merasty)
illustrated by Nicole Neidhardt
Juvenile Fiction (ages 6–8)
8 x 10 in.
Rights Held: World
Themes: Indigenous architecture, Indigenous teachings, Land-based learning, Stewardship and environmentalism



What can we build from the land and our surroundings?

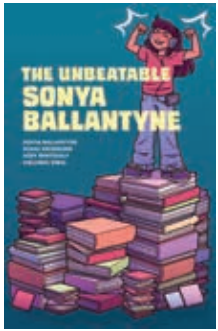
Inspired by Nihithaw designer Reanna Merasty's own upbringing, this beautifully told story shines a light on Indigenous architecture, cultural knowledge, and the enduring relationship between people and place.



Reanna McKay (Merasty) (she/her/hers) is Ininew from Barren Lands First Nation. She completed her Master of Architecture degree at the University of Manitoba. Currently her research focuses on reciprocity, Indigenous knowledge systems, and land-based pedagogy.

Nicole Roessel Neidhardt is a queer Diné artist of Towering House Clan, descended from educators, dreamers, and survivors. Her diverse artistic practice spans muraling, tattooing, painting, installation, community arts, and children's book illustration.

THE UNBEATABLE SONYA BALLANTYNE



by Sonya Ballantyne
illustrated by Rhael McGregor
colours by Azby Whitecalf
letters by Kielamel Sibal
Comics & Graphic Novels (ages 12–14)
6.5 x 10 in. • 64 pages
Rights Held: World
Themes: Family break-up, Trauma, Teenage suicide, Multigenerational family

In this heartfelt and often funny graphic memoir, Sonya Ballantyne shares her journey of growing up on the rez, using her younger self's diary—and a love of comics and fantasy—to navigate identity, belonging, and pop culture.

A much needed hero to combat the division and hate in today's world...assuring readers that anyone can find their superpower if they keep looking.

—Niigaan Sinclair, author of *Wînipêk: Visions of Canada from an Indigenous Centre*

Sonya Ballantyne (she, they) is a Swampy Cree writer, filmmaker, and speaker based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her award-winning projects include the documentary *Nosisim* (2024 Barry Lank Award) and the graphic novel *Little by Little* (In The Margins, 2025 Top Ten Title).



JOSHUA LEARNS FROM THE LAND

by Tyna Legault Taylor
illustrated by Michelle Dao
Juvenile Fiction (ages 5–8)
8.5 x 8.5 in.
Rights Held: World
Themes: Generational knowledge, Land-based learning, Seasons, Indigenous food sovereignty

DAD, IS IT TIME TO GATHER MINT?
Celebrating the Seasons
Book 1, 36 pages

Join Joshua as his father teaches him about traditional food harvesting.

KOKUM, ARE THESE MOOSE TRACKS
Celebrating Fall
Book 2, 40 pages

Young readers will get ready for autumn on a moose tracking adventure with Joshua and Kokum.

MOM, IS IT TIME FOR THE NISKA FEAST?
Celebrating Spring
Book 3, 36 pages

Experience the quiet magic of early spring with Joshua and his mom as they prepare for the first niska feast of the season.







AUNTIE, ARE THE RABBITS RUNNING?
AVAILABLE OCTOBER 2027





A glossary and pronunciation guide included in the back of the books.

PRAISE FOR THE SERIES

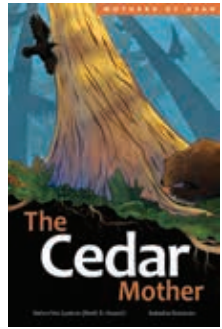
Vibrant illustrations radiate warmth and connection.
—Booklist

Gently rhythmic narrative.
—Kirkus Reviews

This book has a strong sense of place. The...illustrations are lovely.
—Youth Services Book Review

MOTHERS OF XSAN

by Hetxw'ms Gyetxw (Brett D. Huson)
illustrated by Natasha Donovan
Juvenile Nonfiction (ages 9–12)
6.5 x 10 in. • 32 pages
Rights Held: World
Themes: Life cycles, Family, Ecosystems



Nuture young scientists with the award-winning Mothers of Xsan series.

Discover the important role of each mother as she prepares her young to survive on their own in these colourful picture books for young readers.

IN THE SERIES

THE SOCKEYE MOTHER
THE GRIZZLY MOTHER
THE EAGLE MOTHER
THE FROG MOTHER
THE WOLF MOTHER
THE RAVEN MOTHER
THE BEE MOTHER
THE CEDAR MOTHER

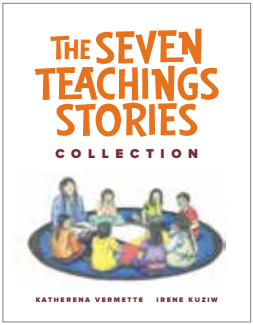


Huson eloquently conveys the fragile interconnectedness of the natural world and the moral imperative to protect it.
—Publishers Weekly, ★review

Described with delicious adjectives...lushly colored and detailed...will engage readers.
—School Library Journal

THE SEVEN TEACHINGS STORIES COLLECTION

by katherena vermette
illustrated by Irene Kuziw
Juvenile Fiction (ages 3–5)
7.5 x 9 in.
Rights Held: World
Themes: Traditional knowledge, Indigenous teachings, Identity, Contemporary urban setting



This stunning hardcover collection from bestselling author katherena vermette brings together all seven beloved picture books in this series for ages 3–5 in a timeless celebration of the Seven Sacred Teachings of the Anishinaabe people. This edition features new illustrations, a heartfelt note to readers, and a refreshed glossary of Anishinaabemowin words.



IN THE COLLECTION

AMIK LOVE SCHOOL
MISAABE'S STORIES
WHAT IS TRUTH, BETSY?
THE JUST RIGHT GIFT
SINGING SISTERS
THE FIRST DAY
KODE'S QUEST(ION)

PRAISE FOR THE SERIES

Educational, joyous, vivid, and have an irresistible cadence.

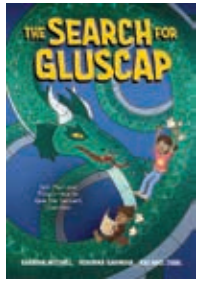
—David A. Robertson, author of *When We Were Alone*

These are books that belong in every school library since their messages are important for all children.

—Library Matters

ADVENTURES OF THE PUGULATMU'J

by Brandon Mitchell
illustrated by Veronika Barinova
Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 6–8)
5.5 x 8 in. • 88 pages
Rights Held: World
Themes: Adventure, Overcoming fear



Join Mali and Puug as they race to outwit an ancient giant and, in their latest adventure, fight to save the Serpent Guardian before all the salmon vanish from the river.

IN THE SERIES
GIJU'S GIFT **Vol. 1**
THE SEARCH FOR GLUSCAP **Vol. 2**

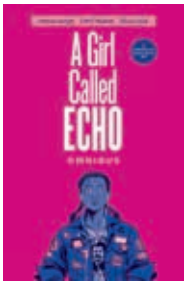
A beautiful adventure story that comes together through the art and the words.
—Jury for the 2022 VLA Graphic Novel Diversity Award

A strong pick for middle-grade readers.
—Booklist

From Listuguj, Quebec, **Brandon Mitchell** is the founder of Birch Bark Comics and creator of the Sacred Circles comic series which draws on his Mi'kmaq heritage.



A GIRL CALLED ECHO OMNIBUS



by katherena vermette
illustrated by Scott B. Henderson
colour by Donovan Yaciuk
Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 12–18)
6.5 x 10 in. • 224 pages
Rights Held: World
Rights Sold: French World
Themes: Poverty, Displacement, Coming of age

Experience Echo's entire time-travelling adventure in this omnibus* of award-winning author katherena vermette's best-selling series.

The *A Girl Called Echo* series of graphic novels tells a story about identity, isolation, and finding strength and hope through family. Featuring compelling illustrations and a female main character, the series follows Echo as she discovers her people's history first-hand, gains new perspectives about where she came from, and imagines what the future might hold.

***Includes** *Pemmican Wars, Red River Resistance, Northwest Resistance,* and *Road Allowance Era*

katherena vermette is a Governor General's Award-winning Métis writer from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.



LITTLE BY LITTLE

You Can Change the World

by Sonya Ballantyne
illustrated by Rhael McGregor
lettered by Toben Racicot
Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 9–12)
6.5 x 10 in. • 56 pages
Rights Held: World
Themes: Social justice, Helping others, Finding your voice



***Little by Little* is a beautifully illustrated graphic novel about how one person can spark change and inspire others.**

At a youth conference, Michael sees a chance to help people. But the speaker on stage is saying things about his community that aren't true! Will Michael be brave enough to use his voice to stand up for what he knows is right?

Based on a true story.

A vibrant... motivational graphic memoir.

—School Library Journal



Rhael McGregor is a Queer Two-Spirit/non-binary artist of both Métis and settler heritage working in comics and animation.

WHEN WE WERE ALONE



by David A. Robertson
illustrated by Julie Flett
Juvenile Fiction (ages 6–8)
7.5 x 8.5 in. • 24 pages
Rights Held: World
Rights Sold: French, German, Spanish Language USA, Philippines, Mexico
Themes: Grandparents, Relationships, Love and hope, Empowerment

Governor General's Literary Award *winner*

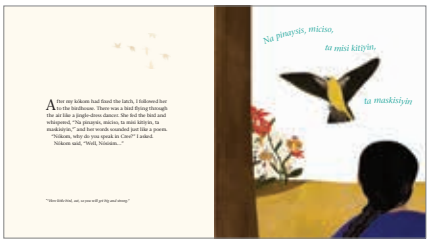
An empowering story of resistance that gently introduces children to the history of residential schools in Canada.

An empowering and important story.
—Booklist, ★review

A quiet story...of love and resistance...
—The Horn Book, ★review

David A. Robertson, a member of Norway House Cree Nation, is a two-time winner of the Governor General's Literary Award.

Julie Flett is an award-winning Swampy Cree and Red River Métis author, illustrator and artist.



7 GENERATIONS

A Plains Cree Saga

by David A. Robertson
illustrated by Scott B. Henderson
Afterword by Cherie Dimaline
Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (15–18)
6.5 x 10 in. [divider] 144 pages
Rights Held: World
Themes: Mental Health, Healing, Family separation



Experience Edwin's story with gorgeous new colours and lettering in this special 15th anniversary edition* of the 7 Generations omnibus.

***Includes** *Stone, Scars, Ends/Begins, The Pact*

Scott B. Henderson is the artist for AIYLA Honour Book *Fire Starters* and Joe Shuster Awards nominee *This Place: 150 Years Retold.*

Among Recommended Indigenous Centered Titles *list*
—Booklist

SUGAR FALLS

A Residential School Story

by David A. Robertson
illustrated by Scott B. Henderson
Comics & Graphic Novels/Fiction (ages 12–15)
6.5 x 10 in. • 48 pages
Rights Sold: French (NA)
Themes: Racism, Social justice, Stereotypes, Healing

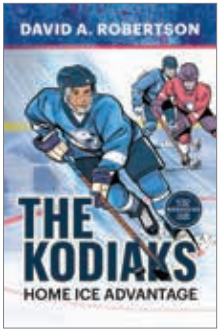


Based on a true story.

THE BREAKOUT CHRONICLES

A Hans Christian Andersen Award *nominee*

by David A. Robertson
Juvenile Fiction (ages 9–12)
5.25 x 8 in. • 184 pages
Rights Held: World
Rights Sold: French, World
Themes: Bullying, Prejudice and racism, Sports culture



THE KODIAKS
Home Ice Advantage

Hockey fans will love this action-packed middle grade novel about teamwork, overcoming adversity, and being proud of who you are and where you come from.

Everything is changing for 11-year-old Alex Robinson. After his father accepts a new job, Alex and his family move from their community to the city. For the first time in his life, he doesn't fit in. His fellow students don't understand Indigenous culture. Even a simple show of respect to his teacher gets him in trouble.

A fun read filled with a ton of action....
—Kevin Sylvester, Author/Illustrator of *The Hockey Super-Six*

A high-quality series! Highly recommended.
—American Indians in Children's Literature (AICL)

Lots of depth here.... Sports books always fly off the shelves, so this is a really nice addition to the field.
—School Library Journal's Teen Librarian Toolbox

HOPELESS IN HOPE

by Wanda John-Kehewin
YA Fiction (ages 12–18)
5.5 x 8.25 in. • 216 pages
Rights Held: World
Themes: Substance use, Child in care, Hope



Among USBBY's Outstanding International Books, this is a heartbreaking and humorous young adult story of a Cree teenage girl.

For Eva Brown, life feels lonely and small. Her mother, Shirley, drinks and yells all the time. She's the target of the popular mean girl, and her only friend doesn't want to talk to her anymore. All of it would be unbearable if it weren't for her cat, Toofie, her beloved nohkum, and her writing, which no one will ever see.

With Nohkum in the hospital, Eva's mother struggles to keep things together and loses custody of Eva and her little brother. As Eva tries to adjust to living in a group home, can she find forgiveness for her mother within the pages of an old diary?

Wanda John-Kehewin is a Cree writer who uses her work to understand and respond to the near destruction of First Nations cultures, languages, and traditions.

A tender and even humorous coming-of-age story…a resonant story of healing, belonging, and persisting despite the odds.
—Kirkus Reviews

WE NEED EVERYONE

by Michael Redhead Champagne
illustrated by Tiff Bartel
Juvenile Fiction (ages 6–8)
9 x 9 in. • 40 pages
Rights Held: World
Themes: Social activism, Community involvement



This welcoming call to action will inspire young readers to contribute to their communities by recognizing their own gifts and talents.

We Need Everyone empowers children to identify their gifts and use them to overcome challenges, achieve goals, and strengthen communities. Inspiring and uplifting, this interactive picture book celebrates diverse cultures, perspectives, and abilities through playful illustrations.

Michael Redhead Champagne, a *Time Magazine* Next Generation Leader (2015), is an Ininew public speaker, writer, award-winning community advocate, and on-screen personality.

Tiff Bartel is an award-winning Viet-Canadian multimedia artist. Her body of work includes illustration, filmmaking, design, animation, music, sculpture, and more.

An engaging, encouraging [story].
—Kirkus



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Manitoba



Art by Natasha Donovan
from *The Cedar Mother*



Back cover art by Michelle Dao from *Kokum, Are These Moose Tracks?*

HIGHWATER PRESS

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We acknowledge that our offices are located on Treaty 1 Territory, on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabeg, Inninewak (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dakota, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.