

## 2021 Best of Fall guide: Nonfiction



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### NONFICTION

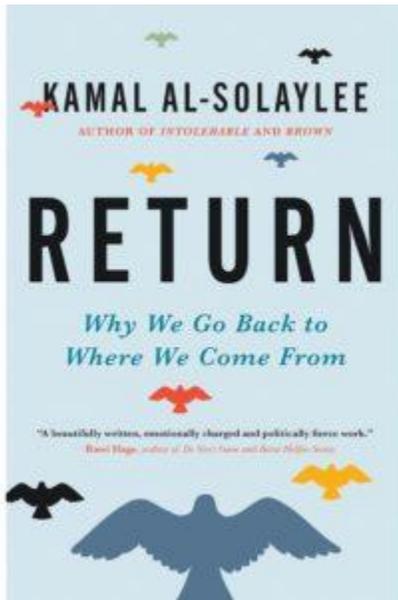
**Personal stories, rigorous investigations, gorgeous art, and audacious visions of a post-pandemic future**

***“Indian” in the Cabinet: Speaking Truth to Power***

Jody Wilson-Raybould

HarperCollins, Oct.

Wilson-Raybould, the first Indigenous justice minister and attorney general of Canada, resigned from Trudeau’s cabinet in the midst of the SNC-Lavalin affair to sit as an independent MP. Her memoir shares how her initial optimism about effecting change from within faded and outlines a better way to govern. –CD



*Kamal Al-Solaylee (Mark Raynes Roberts)*

***Return: Why We Go Back to Where We Come From***

Kamal Al-Solaylee  
HarperCollins, Sept.

With a personal lens on the longing to return home, Al-Solaylee, who fled Yemen as a child, returns to the Middle East, only to find himself disconnected from his land of origin. In addition to including the voices of dozens who've left their home countries, Al-Solaylee visits a place where the topic is especially raw and divisive: Israel and the West Bank. –RP

***Disorientation: Being Black in the World***

Ian Williams  
Random House Canada, Sept.

The poet, professor, and Giller-winning novelist turns his substantial creative skill to the topic of anti-Black racism in this collection of essays. Writing from his perspective as a Trinidadian Canadian, Williams extrapolates universal insight into the experience of living under white supremacy. –RP

***Made-Up: A True Story of Beauty Culture Under Late Capitalism***

Daphné B.; Alex Manley, trans.  
Coach House Books, Sept.

The poet and translator has said they find makeup to be a complex and contradictory subject worthy of deep consideration. In this book, they examine cosmetics from their anti-capitalist and intersectional feminist viewpoint. –CD



*The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book*

***The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book: Revised and Expanded***

Gord Hill

Arsenal Pulp Press, Oct.

This seminal 2010 work by the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation cartoonist has been expanded and reissued in full colour to cover everything from the Spanish conquest of the Aztec empire to the Wet'suwet'en anti-pipeline protests in a visual style that's direct and accessible. –AWB

***The Whisper on the Night Wind: The True Story of a Wilderness Legend***

Adam Shoalts

Allen Lane/PRHC, Oct.

Shoalts, an explorer and historian, takes readers deep into Labrador legend as he investigates the haunting of Traverspine 100 years ago, exploring what really emerged from the woods to haunt residents of this small, isolated community. –CD

***Tongues: On Longing and Belonging through Language***

Eufemia Fantetti, Leonarda Carranza, and Ayelet Tsabari, eds.

Book\*hug, Oct.

Twenty-six writers consider language diversity, especially as it affects those who speak a first language other than English. The talented contributors include Jenny Heijun Wills, Adam Pottle, Kai Cheng Thom, and Téa Mutonji. –RP

***Leonard Cohen: On a Wire***

Philippe Girard

Drawn & Quarterly, Oct.

The Quebec cartoonist traces the life of the iconic Canadian singer and poet, beginning with the last day of Cohen's life and casting back through flashbacks over a rich career that took him from the family's garment business to international acclaim, financial ruin at the hands of an embezzling manager, and a late-in-life touring resurgence in the 2000s. –CD

***Once a Bitcoin Miner: Scandal and Turmoil in the Cryptocurrency Wild West***

Ethan Lou

ECW Press, Oct.

Lou's rigorously reported first-person account of Bitcoin's dizzying ups and punch-to-the-gut downs was delayed when COVID-19 inspired his book *Field Notes from a Pandemic*. But it's clear the cryptocurrency hasn't lost any of its disruptive, divisive relevance. –RP

***My Privilege, My Responsibility***

Sheila North

Great Plains Publications, Nov.

The former journalist was the first woman elected as Grand Chief of Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak and is the creator of the #MMIW hashtag. She shares her life story marked by violence, perseverance, resilience, and a commitment to advocating for Indigenous women and girls. –CD



*Jesse Wentz (Red Works)*

***Unreconciled: Family, Truth, and Indigenous Resistance***

Jesse Wentz

Allen Lane/PRHC, Sept.

Billed as part memoir and part manifesto, *Unreconciled* is the former broadcaster's exploration, through his own experiences, of the lies Canada tells itself about how the country came to be and of how a new relationship grounded in truth could be forged between Indigenous Peoples and the nation of Canada. –CD

***Praying to the West: How Muslims Shaped the Americas***

Omar Mouallem

Simon & Schuster, Sept.

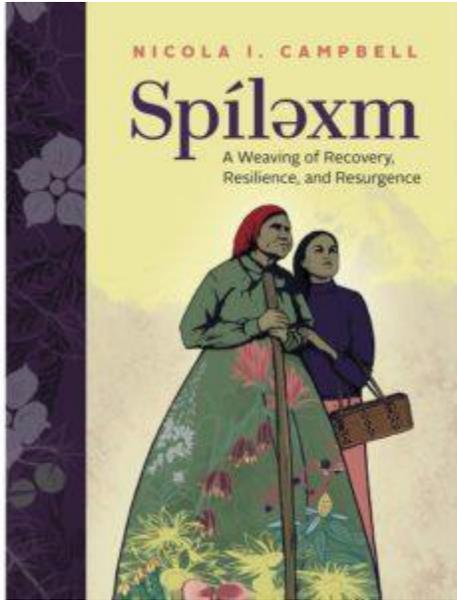
The Edmonton journalist visits 13 mosques from Inuvik, Northwest Territories, to Salvador, Brazil, to uncover the history of how Islam has influenced Western culture. Along the way, Mouallem, a non-practising Muslim, gains a new appreciation for a religion he has a complicated personal relationship with. –RP

***All We Want: Building the Life We Cannot Buy***

Michael Harris

Doubleday Canada/PRHC, Dec.

Current levels of consumerism aren't sustainable, and despite shopping our way to environmental catastrophe, North American standards of living are going down, not up. What could consuming less look like, and will we be happy without so much stuff? The GG and Taylor Prize winner shows us how less really is more. –AWB



Nicola I. Campbell (Kalvin Warbus Photography)

***Spilæxm: A Weaving of Recovery, Resilience, and Resurgence***

Nicola I. Campbell

HighWater Press/Portage & Main Press, Sept.

The author of five children's books tells her own story of being a descendent of residential school survivors in this memoir, named for the Ne?kepmxcín word meaning "events or news" traditionally shared between Elders over tea. –RP

***China Unbound: A New World Disorder***

Joanna Chiu

House of Anansi Press, Sept.

***Two Michaels: Cyberpawns in the U.S.-China War over Our Digital Future***

Fen Hampson and Mike Blanchfield

Sutherland House, Nov.

China's position as both rising power and looming threat is outlined in these revealing investigations. Chiu, who reports on China for the *Toronto Star*, tells the stories of religious and cultural minorities

threatened by the state while Carleton University's Hampson and journalist Blanchfield cast the arbitrary detention of Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig against China's bid to restrain digital freedom. –RP

***Fight to Win: Inside Poor People's Organizing***

A.J. Withers

Fernwood Publishing, Oct.

Drawing from their years of working with the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, the veteran organizer, writer, and scholar looks at how organizing and direct action can make positive change for even the most marginalized groups. –AWB

***On Borrowed Time: North America's Next Big Quake***

Gregor Craigie

Goose Lane Editions, Sept.

Outlining an all-too-plausible disaster scenario, the CBC journalist presents evidence for an inevitable earthquake in North America and expert advice on how we should prepare. While L.A. and Vancouver may seem like obvious epicentres, Craigie points out critical fault lines in places such as Ottawa and Montreal. –RP

***Modest Hopes: Homes and Stories of Toronto's Workers from the 1820s to the 1920s***

Don Loucks and Leslie Valpy

Dundurn Press, Sept.

Loucks and Valpy tease out the working-class histories preserved in brick Victorian row houses and cottages and make a case for conserving these modest dwellings in an age of glass and concrete towers. –AWB

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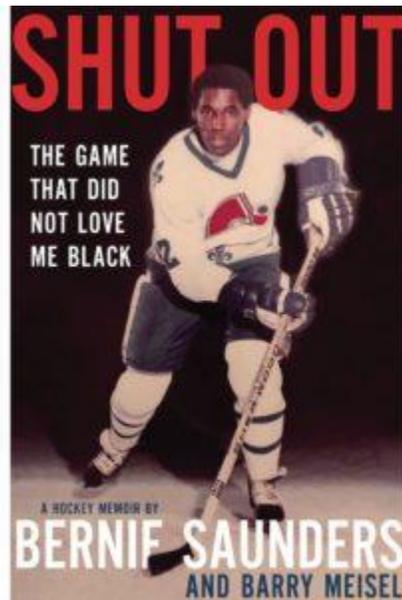
**SPORTS AND SOCIETY**

***Overcoming the Neutral Zone Trap: Hockey's Agents of Change***

Cheryl A. MacDonald and Jonathon R.J. Edwards, eds.

University of Alberta Press, Oct.

A deep dive into the world of hockey and a close look at the people and ideas working to transform its exclusionary traditions to create a more progressive and inclusive sport. –CD



***Shut Out: The Game That Did Not Love Me Black***

Bernie Saunders and Barry Meisel

Patrick Crean Editions/HCC, Oct.

Saunders, only the fifth Black player in the NHL, had a promising career with the Quebec Nordiques between 1979 and 1981. In his memoir, he calls out the league's shameful history and how racism from spectators, opponents, coaches, and his own teammates drove him from the sport. –RP

***Rebound: Sports, Community, and the Inclusive City***

Perry King

Coach House Books, Oct.

In a richly reported look at casual pickup sports in cities, the Toronto journalist examines what happens when people lose access to the sports or the spaces they use to play them. He reimagines how neighbourhoods can offer active and healthy connections for all. –CD

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**THE FUTURE IS NOW**

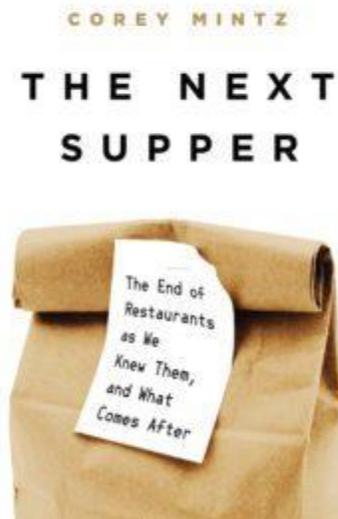
**The pandemic amplified systemic inequalities and personal challenges across all facets of society. These writers offer fresh directions and critical understanding as we try to move forward. –AWB**

***Welcome Back: How to Reboot Your Physical and Mental Well-Being for a Post-Pandemic World***

Elaine Chin

Sutherland House Books, Sept.

Chin's second book is a practical guide to resetting your health after a year of less activity, less connection, and – for many of us – a bit more comfort food than usual.



*Corey Mintz (Jaime Hogge)*

***The Next Supper: The End of Restaurants as We Knew Them, and What Comes After***

Corey Mintz

PublicAffairs/Hachette, Nov.

With delivery apps making a killing while restaurant margins dwindle, food writer Mintz asks, Was the restaurant industry ever sustainable? And who benefits from going back to business as usual? Mintz balances a deep appreciation for food with a hard look at the sector's dodgy labour practices and untenable social and environmental impacts.

***Me Tomorrow: Indigenous Views on the Future***

Drew Hayden Taylor, ed.

Douglas & McIntyre, Oct.

The prolific author and GG nominee brings together essays by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit writers, educators, and activists – such as Romeo Saganash, Lee Maracle, and Autumn Peltier – that weigh in on art, language, politics, and community as we look forward to more just and more joyful tomorrows.

***Spin Doctors: How Media and Doctors Misdiagnosed the COVID-19 Pandemic***

Nora Loreto

Fernwood Publishing, Nov.

As the pandemic unfolded, Canadians relied on Quebec-based writer, activist, and podcaster Loreto’s analytical voice to make sense of the statistics, the disease’s spread, and Canada’s response. *Spin Doctors* takes us month by month through the stories major newsrooms didn’t cover and the systemic changes we need in our post-COVID society.

***Pandemic Societies***

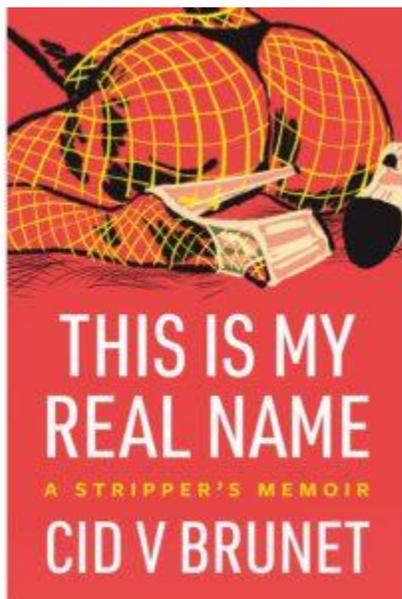
Jean-Louis Denis, Catherine Régis, and Daniel M. Weinstock, eds.

McGill-Queen’s University Press, Oct.

Experts across academic disciplines look at how the COVID-19 pandemic changed the world on personal and institutional levels and what the new world order means for the future. –*CD*

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**QUEER MEMOIRS**



## ***This Is My Real Name***

Cid V Brunet

Arsenal Pulp Press, Nov.

In an important addition to the growing literature of sex work, Brunet looks at how stripping was more lucrative and appealing than other entry-level positions and offered opportunities for self-expression and empowerment. Their memoir disrupts facile trauma narratives about sex work while examining stripping from labour-justice and feminist perspectives. –AWB

## ***The Light Streamed Beneath It***

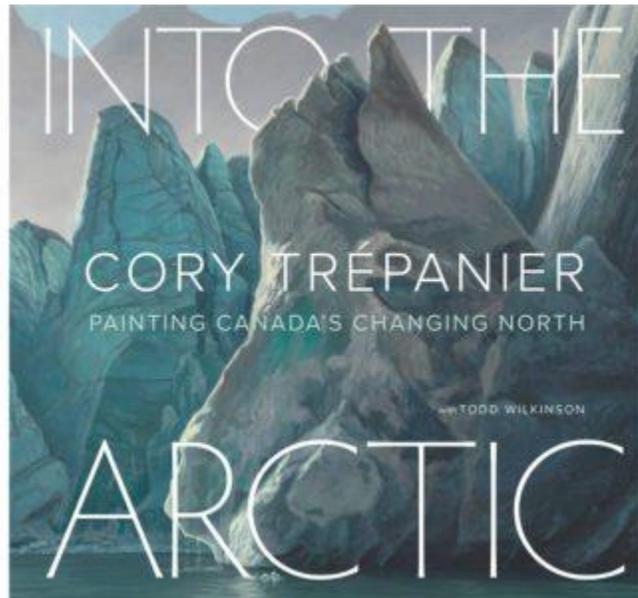
Shawn Hitchins

ECW Press, Oct.

What happens when a life of punchlines and wise cracks is confronted with loss and grief? When two great loves pass away within months, Hitchins explores the messiness and joys of life, and the ways that laughter can be both a deflection and a balm. –AWB

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## **ART**



## ***Into the Arctic: Painting Canada's Changing North***

Cory Trépanier

Figure 1 Publishing, Oct.

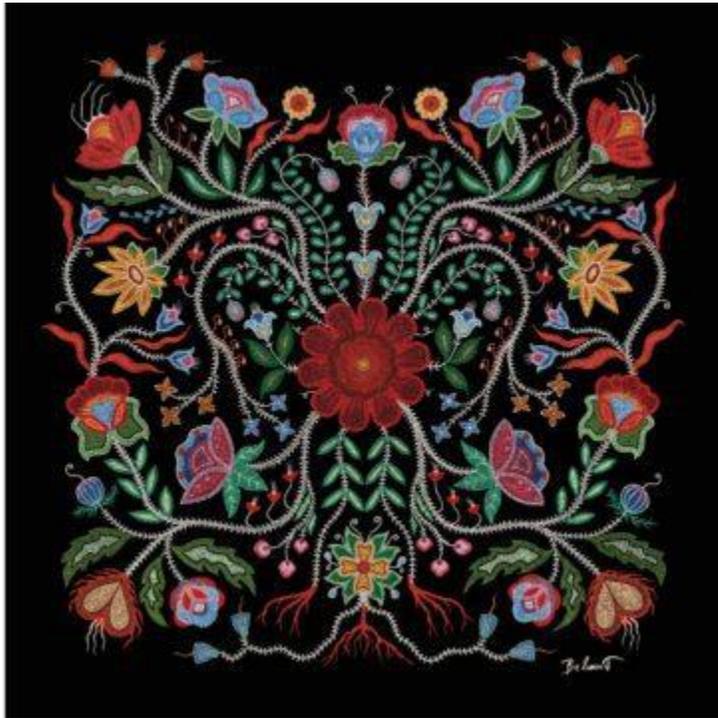
This collection includes more than 120 paintings as well as sketches and photos from Trépanier's five trips to the Arctic between 2006 and 2018. –*CD*

***Mischief Making: Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, Art, and the Seriousness of Play***

Nicola Levell

UBC Press, Oct.

A deep dive into the work of the creator of Haida manga reveals its philosophical underpinnings and dispels the idea that play is frivolous. –*CD*



***Christi Belcourt***

Sherry Farrell Racette, Nadia Kurd, and Dylan Miner

Goose Lane Editions, Sept.

The first book dedicated to the life and work of the Michif artist includes a powerful artist's statement as well as essays by scholars Racette and Miner and curator Kurd. –*CD*

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