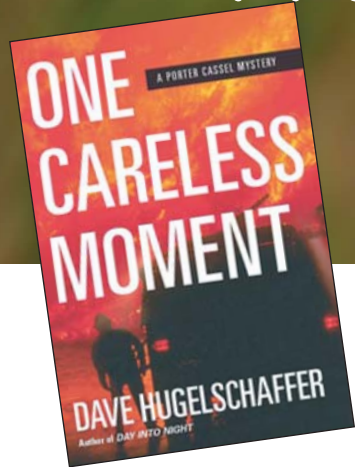


# SPRING

## into Action

With the public's spending dollars reduced, booksellers will be pleased to see exciting new adult lists to springboard them to soaring sales this season.

By Joy Ferguson



Dive into this spring's catalogues and you'll find a number of standout selections in all of the most coveted categories.

### Fiction

Many of this spring's compelling literary fiction titles explore the value we place on life and by extension ask what it means to be human.

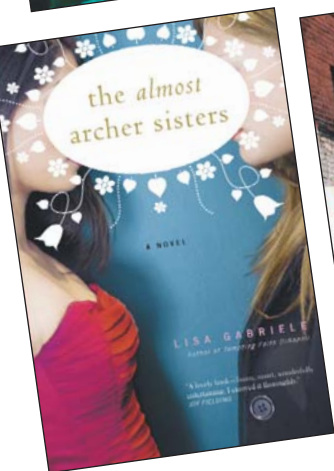
*Handle with Care* (Simon & Schuster Canada) is Jodi Picoult's novel that struggles with the heart-wrenching question of whether a mother should choose to give up a disabled fetus and searches to understand what constitutes a valuable life. Lia Gabriele's *The Almost Archer Sisters* (Doubleday Canada) is a witty and warm exploration of both the affection and the rivalry between two sisters as they swap lives for a weekend. Lauren Kirshner's debut novel, *Where We Have to Go* (McClelland & Stewart), is a coming of age story filled with quirky characters. In *In the Hands of Anubis* (Brindle & Glass Publishing) by Ann Eriksson, tractor salesman Trevor Wallace, en route to northern Africa, finds himself on a playful voyage of discovery accompanied by an unexpected guide. *Grace River* (Brindle & Glass Publishing) by Rebecca Hendry is a complex tale that examines the reasons why people remain in harmful situations. Steven Manners' *Valley of Fire* (Dundurn Press) tells the story of a gifted psychiatrist who suffers

a personal tragedy that compels him to question whether the rational world is really more mystical and fatalistic than he had believed. Acclaimed author Barry Callaghan's new work, *Beside Still Waters*, will be available from McArthur & Company in April. And author of bestseller *Water for Elephants*, Sara Gruen's greatly-anticipated new novel, *Ape House* (Random House Canada), features a family of Bonobo apes who are kidnapped from a language lab, only to reappear on a reality TV series where their compassion and humanity inspires.

A strong selection of novels take us back through time, including Sherri Smith's *The Virgin's Tale* (Simon & Schuster Canada), set in antiquity, in the mystical world of Rome's temple priestesses, and telling Aemilia's moving life story and her forbidden romance, recounted as she awaits her execution. *Fire at Midnight* (Medallion Press) by Lisa Marie Wilkinson begins in 1703 in London's Bedlam Insane Asylum where Rachael Penrose, although confined, discovers that her brother's life is in danger, and determines to save him. And Kim Echlin's *The Disappeared* (Penguin Group Canada) is one of the first titles on the inaugural Hamish Hamilton Canada list. Against the backdrop of the killing fields of Pol Pot, a Canadian and her Cambodian lover struggle with both horrific loss and fulfilling happiness.

### Thriller & Mystery

Savvy sleuths are trained in many different



professions this season. *Death was in the Picture* (H.B. Fenn & Company Ltd) by Linda L. Richards is a who-done-it investigated by P.I. Girl Friday, Kitty Pangborn, and set in the cutthroat—literally and metaphorically—society of 1930s Hollywood. In Aly Monroe's *The Maze of Cadiz* (McArthur & Co) a young intelligence officer investigates the death of a British agent at the end of WWII. Psychologist Morgan Cabot and her team are "highly intuitive," and employ their psychic gifts to track down a sadistic terrorist in Vicki Hinze's *Killzone* (Medallion Press). In *Old City Hall* (Simon & Schuster Canada), Adam Rothberg's thriller, detective Ari Greene obtains a confession to a brutal stabbing, but the evidence begins to lead him elsewhere. And finally, firefighter Porter Cassell is back to investigate a suspicious wildfire that caused a death in *One Careless Moment* (Cormorant Books) by Dave Hugelschaffer.

## Memoir & Biography

This season's outstanding memoir and biography selections range from life-journey's changed forever by the writer's childhood to those focused on adult accomplishments. In *I Am Full Moon: Stories of a Ninth Daughter* (Brindle & Glass Publishing), Lily Hoy Price writes in poignant detail about her childhood in a large Chinese Canadian family in the Cariboo country of northern British Columbia, and enriches her stories with photographs from her celebrated father's collection—pioneer photographer Chow Dong Hoy. *Dal and Rice* (McGill-Queen's University Press) is Wendy M. Davis's portrait of her childhood as a British officer's daughter in colonial India, her family's friendship with Mahatma Gandhi and her warm affection for the country. *War Child: A Memoir: A Child Soldier's Story* (H.B. Fenn & Company Ltd.) by Emmanuel Jal is an extraordinary memoir of a former child soldier, who survived and escaped a violent life to become Africa's number one hip-hop artist and an international ambassador for children in war-torn countries. *Where the Clouds Can Go: The Autobiography of Conrad Kain - Centennial Edition* (Rocky Mountain Books) by the acclaimed mountaineer is the anticipated reissue, enhanced with an expanded selection of more than 50 archival images celebrating Kain's accomplishments in the diverse mountain landscapes of North America, Europe and New Zealand. And *The Great Maritime Detective: The Exploits and Adventures of the Notorious Peachie Carroll*

(Nimbus Publishing) by Monica Graham enthralls with an account of the infamous Nova Scotia police detective's life and the high-profile cases he solved.

## Inspiration & Spirituality

Stories that inspire and guide us, those that help us to be introspective and to understand our spirituality and our place in the world, continue to be numerous on the spring lists. Topics range from the personal to the profound. *I Am My Father's Son: A Memoir of Love and Forgiveness* (HarperCollins Canada) by Dan Hill traces the moving and yet difficult relationship with his father, Daniel Grafton Hill III, noted human rights pioneer, through vivid family stories, letters, and his own award-winning lyrics, often revealing the motivation behind the songs, and at the same time illuminating the universal relationship between fathers and sons. *The Gift of Spiritual Intimacy* (Novalis Publishing) by Monty Williams, acclaimed retreat leader, is a guide to those seeking a deeper sense of self and of God, based on his traditional retreat exercises but intended for home use. And *ChristoPaganism* (Llewellyn) by spiritual advisors Joyce and River Higginbotham joins the conversation about the nature of faith and our evolving spiritual needs by exploring the notion that a growing number of both Pagans and Christians are incorporating each other's practices into their own belief systems.

## Self-Help

Spring's new beginnings inspire change, and this season's self-help titles are there to guide and motivate readers. For example, in *Baby Signs, 3rd Edition: How to Talk with Your Baby Before Your Baby Can Talk* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd), experts Linda Acredolo and Susan Goodwyn offer an updated version complete with the most recent research into translating your baby's sign language. And if that post-natal weight just won't come off, bestselling author Paul McKenna says *I Can Make You Thin: Revolutionary System Used by More Than 3 Million People* (Sterling Publishing / Canadian Manda Group). His book/CD package was created to transform thoughts and attitudes about food to get significant weight loss results. Dr. Helen Fischer asks *Why Him? Why Her? Understanding Your Personality Type and Finding Your Soul Mate* (H.B. Fenn & Company Ltd) and answers by exploring the hidden code of desire and

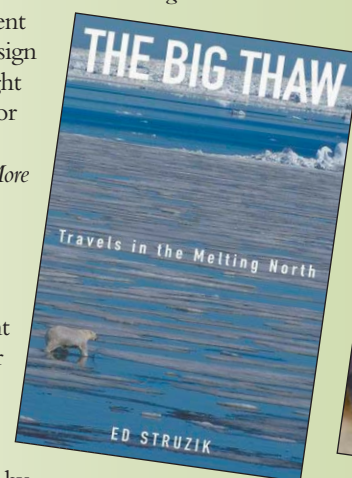
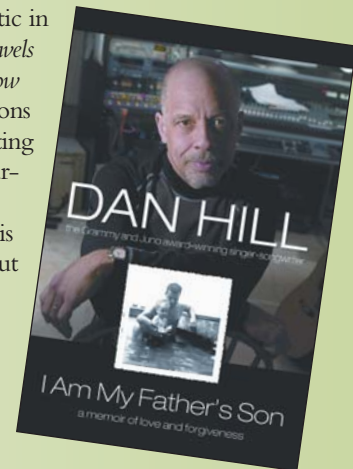
attachment. And in the midst of our frenzied attempts to improve our lives, bestselling author Tal Ben-Shahar, Ph.D., offers respite with *The Pursuit of Perfect: Break Free from the New Standard of Perfection and Find True Happiness in the Life You Already Have* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd).

## Environment

Global warming and other environment-related topics are heating up the lists this season.

The world's leading environmentalist, David Suzuki, along with Dave Robert Taylor, offer an urgent assessment of the state of the planet, as well as science-based solutions to the problems in *The Big Picture: Reflections on Science, Humanity and a Quickly Changing Planet* (Douglas & McIntyre). Likewise, Thomas Homer-Dixon edits *Carbon Shift: How the Twin Crises of Oil Depletion and Climate Change Will Define the Future* (Random House Canada) wherein experts share opinions about the future and how we might best manage these crises. And Evan Solomon and Andrew Heintzman edit *Food and Fuel: Solutions for the Future* (House of Anansi Press).

Ed Struzik concentrates on the Arctic in *The Big Thaw: Travels in the Melting Snow* (John Wiley & Sons Canada), recounting his year-long journey through the Far North and his observations about how climate change is challenging the people who live there. *Grass, Sky, Song: Promise*



Continued on next page

and *Peril in the World of Grassland Birds* (HarperCollins Canada), written and illustrated by Trevor Herriot, reflects his wonder at the magnificence of the natural world and its wildlife while reminding us that hope for the endangered wildness in North America's heartland is dependent on people making the right choices. And moving from land to sea, Alanna Mitchell investigates the damage we are inflicting on ocean wildlife and the impact that will have on our own lives in *Sea Sick: The Hidden Ecological Crisis of the Global Ocean* (McClelland & Stewart).

## Nature

The grandeur and beauty of both humankind and wildlife are the focus of numerous new releases this spring. For example, *Arctic Visions: Pictures from a Vanished Wasteland* (Key Porter Books) is Fred Bruemmer's captivating collection of images and commentary on his 30 seasons living with the Inuit in the Far North. Brian Atkinson's photographs and Joanne Cadogan's stories pull us into the lives of the people of *Miramichi: River of Character* (Goose Lane Editions). Animal topics include bears, North America's largest land predator. For example, in *Grizzlyville: Adventures in Bear Country* (HarperCollins Canada), Jake MacDonald examines the history and behavior, as well as the problems and solutions as climate change, deforestation and community encroachment diminish bear territory. And in Else Poulsen's *Smiling Bears: A Zookeeper Explores the Behaviour and Emotional Life of Bears* (Douglas & McIntyre), the author shares her poignant stories of her work with these magnificent animals. Another wildlife authority, Sarah Boysen, along with Deborah Custance, brings together research on the intelligence levels of nonhuman "smart" species, including how these animals communicate, show emotions, and even learn a foreign language, in the fascinating new release, *The Smartest Animals on the Planet: Extraordinary Tales of the Natural World's Cleverest Creatures* (Firefly Books).

## Business & Economics

This season's titles range from advice on a global scale to guidance for the individual. *Good to Green: How to Successfully Manage Business Risks and Opportunities Related to Environmental Issues* (John Wiley & Sons Canada Ltd) by John Phyper and Paul MacLean covers topics from green market-

ing strategies to supply chain optimization. *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy* (Berrett-Koehler / Raincoast Books), by Peter G. Brown and Geoffrey Garver, proposes a shift in how we think about, not just a nation's economy, but an interrelated world economy. And these challenging times are not only difficult for the corporate world economy, but of course, also for individuals. Finance experts Dara Duguay and Bill Knight offer *The City Commonsense Money Guide for Real People* (ECW Press), filled with practical information and easy options for dealing with everyday money challenges.

## History

This season some of the most intriguing history books bring their subjects to life with full-colour photos, many of which were previously unpublished. Sampling from east to west, *Prince Edward Island: An Illustrated History* (Nimbus Publishing) is Douglas Baldwin's journey through the incidents and events that shaped the province and its inhabitants. *Kingston and Frontenac County* (Boston Mills Press) blends Alex Ross's text with John de Visser's photography to explore this beautiful and historic region of Ontario. Barbara Smith, author of *The Mad Trapper* (Heritage House Publishing), was a member of the scientific and film production crew that unearthed the Arctic grave of the mysterious wanted man brought down by a hail of RCMP bullets in 1932. The book, illustrated with exhumation photos, will be available this spring concurrent with the Discovery Channel broadcast. And BC's Rogers Pass played a pivotal role in the development of Canada as a nation. Graeme Pole's *Gravity, Steam, and Steel: An Illustrated Railway History of Rogers Pass* (Fifth House Publishers) details CP Rail's 125-year battle with the elements, its triumphs and tragedies, on one of the world's most notorious sections of track.

## Society & Culture


Whether embracing our society and culture or examining it to discover its weaknesses and then argue for change, this season's titles are compelling. For example, Rudyard Griffiths' *Who We Are: A Citizen's Manifesto* (Douglas & McIntyre) is a passionate call for Canadians to take stock and re-engage with our country and its values. Penguin Group (Canada) is set to publish Michael Ignatieff's backlist this spring, as well as his new book, *True Patriot Love: Four Generations in Search of Canada*, described as a family

memoir that "blends history and love of country and tradition." *Death by Prescription* (Key Porter Books) is a powerful account of Terence H. Young's investigation into the workings of the Canadian pharmaceutical industry, which began for him when his 15-year-old died suddenly from a critical reaction to a routinely-prescribed drug. And *Unembedded: Two Decades of Maverick War Reporting* (Douglas & McIntyre) is the new release from Scott Taylor, Canadian journalist, former Iraqi hostage and bestselling author of *Tarnished Brass: Crime and Corruption in the Canadian Military*. Taylor's new book argues that the deceit of politicians and media is ultimately responsible for the senseless wars that have caused so much suffering.

## Cooking

This spring's cookbook offerings are delectable, from regional specialties to comfort food to international cuisine. Here's just a sample to whet your appetite: *Annapolis Valley Tastes: Recipes from the Valley's Best Restaurants* (Nimbus Publishing), by Sean Buckland with photographs by Colleen Dagnall and Bob Federer, offers tantalizing recipes that embrace local tastes, such as pumpkin chili and peach blueberry crumble pie. In *Country Cooking: 2,151 Recipes from the Readers of Harrowsmith Magazine* (Firefly Books), the collective wisdom of generations of inspired country cooks is gathered to offer easy-to-make meals. And if your palette craves something more exotic, Bal Arneson offers *Everyday Indian: 100 Fast, Fresh, and Healthy Recipes* (Whitecap Books) that are quick and easy to prepare.

## Sports & Leisure

Experts and insiders instruct and inform in this season's sports and leisure books, including *The Skateboarding Field Manual* (Firefly Books), Ryan Stutt's illustrated guide that offers both the intricacies of the sport and the intangibles of its culture. Larry Matysik's *Drawing Heat the Hard Way: How Wrestling Really Works* (ECW Press) is an insider's view of the sport: The wrestlers, their heavyweight promoters, and the fanatical fans that heat up the arena each week. And if readers crave leisure time sans competition, what could be more relaxing than to indulge oneself with a tour Ontario's beautiful wine region. Andrew Brooks, sommelier and tour director, offers assistance with *Crush on Niagara: The Definitive Wine Tour Guide* (Whitecap Books). 

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