

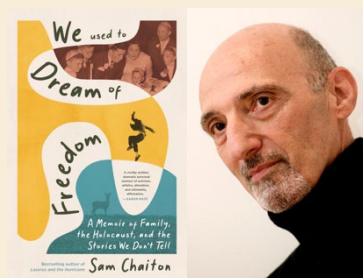
Elamin Abdelmahmoud is a culture writer for *BuzzFeed News* and was the host of CBC's pop culture show *Pop Chat*. He is the host of the new CBC Radio show *Commotion*. He was a founding co-host of the CBC Politics podcast *Party Lines*. His work has appeared in *Rolling Stone*, *The Globe and Mail*, and other publications.



Sadiya Ansari is a Pakistani Canadian journalist based in London. Her work has appeared in *The Guardian*, *VICE*, *Refinery29*, *Macleans*, *The Walrus* and *The Globe and Mail*. She is co-founder of the Canadian Journalists of Colour, a 2021 R. James Travers Foreign Corresponding Fellow, and a 2023–24 Asper Visiting Professor at the University of British Columbia.



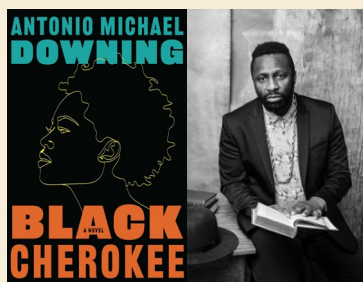
Katherine Ashenburg has worked as an academic, a CBC Radio producer and the Arts and Books editor of *The Globe and Mail*. She has written for *The New York Times* and *Toronto Life* magazine. Her books include *Going to Town: Architectural Walking Tours of Southern Ontario Towns*, *The Mourner's Dance*, *The Dirt on Clean* and the novel *Sofie & Cecilia*.



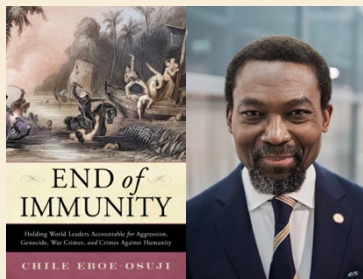
Sam Chaiton, the middle son of Holocaust survivors, is one of the Canadians who helped Rubin Carter gain his freedom. Co-author of the international bestseller *Lazarus and the Hurricane*, he is portrayed in the film *The Hurricane* by Liev Schreiber. A founder of Innocence Canada, Sam lives with his partner in Toronto.



Elle Douglas writes small-town contemporary romance novels that feature strong, relatable characters, set against a Canadian backdrop. Between writing romance novels, working as a high school guidance counsellor and teaching in Algonquin College's Creative Writing program, Elle helps others find their happily-ever-afters. She lives in Toronto with her wife.



Antonio Michael Downing is the author of *Saga Boy: My Life of Blackness and Becoming*, which was shortlisted for the 2021 Speaker’s Book Award and longlisted for the Toronto Book Award. He is also the author of the children’s book *Stars in My Crown*, and the forthcoming *Black Cherokee*. He also writes and performs music as John Orpheus.



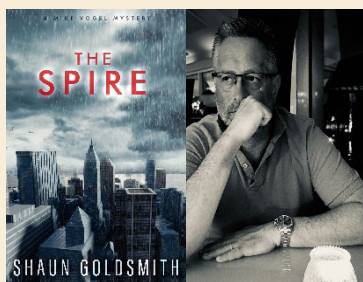
Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji is the former President of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Before the ICC, he served as the senior legal advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. He is the editor-in-chief of the Nigerian Yearbook of International Law and received the Goler T. Butcher Medal of the American Society of International Law for outstanding global contribution to human rights in 2022.



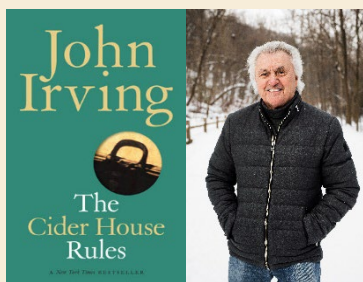
Natasha Kanapé Fontaine is an Innu writer, poet and interdisciplinary artist from Pessamit, on the Nitassinan. She lives in Tio’tia:ke, known as Montreal. In 2017, she received the Rights and Freedoms Award for her poetry and in 2021, she received the Chevalier de l’Ordre des arts et des lettres de la République française. She also works as a translator, screenwriter, sensitivity reader, and consultant on Indigenous literature.



Carley Fortune is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Every Summer After* and *Meet Me at the Lake*. She is an award-winning Canadian journalist who’s worked as an editor for *Refinery29*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Chatelaine*, and *Toronto Life*. She lives in Toronto with her husband and two sons.



Shaun Goldsmith was born and raised in Canada with a long-standing desire to write. He had a stint in the military with top-secret clearance and then taught English in the Middle East. After returning to Toronto, he decided to take a stab at writing a book. He loves reading and movies and has a thriller screenplay in development titled, *Cold Autumn*. *The Spire* is his debut novel.



John Irving has been nominated for a National Book Award three times—winning in 1980, for his novel *The World According to Garp*. In 2000, he won the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay for *The Cider House Rules*. He competed as a wrestler for 20 years, and coached wrestling until he was 47. Internationally renowned, his books have been translated into more than thirty-five languages. *A Prayer for Owen Meany* is his best-selling novel, in every language.



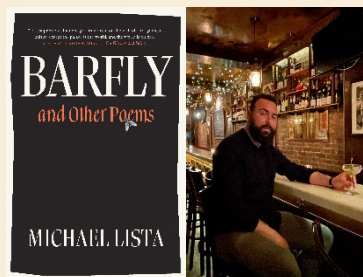
Natalie Jenner is the author of *Bloomsbury Girls* and *The Jane Austen Society*, a USA Today and #1 national bestseller. Born in England and raised in Canada, Natalie has been a corporate lawyer, career coach and, most recently, an independent bookstore owner in Oakville, Ontario, where she lives with her family and two rescue dogs.



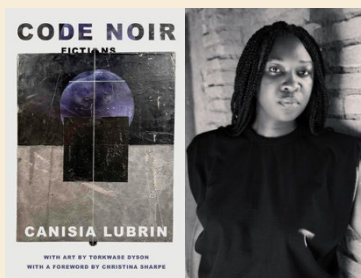
Emma Knight is Co-Founder and Head of Brand at Greenhouse, an award-winning Canadian organic beverage company. Emma is a co-author of *The Greenhouse Cookbook* (2017), a national bestseller. Her work has appeared in a number of Canadian and international publications. Emma lives in Toronto with her husband and two daughters.



Scaachi Koul is a senior writer for *Slate* and co-host of the podcast *Scamfluencers*. She co-hosted the Emmy-nominated series *Follow This*, and her writing has appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The Cut*. She is in documentaries like *Quiet On Set* and *Pretty Baby*. Her book, *One Day We'll All Be Dead and None of This Will Matter*, was a finalist for The Leacock Medal for Humour and the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize.



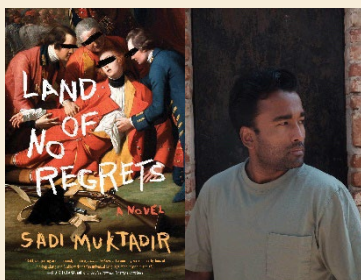
Michael Lista is an investigative journalist, essayist and poet. He has worked as a book columnist for the *National Post* and as the poetry editor of *The Walrus*. He is the author of five books, and his investigative stories have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Slate*, *The Walrus*, *Canadaland*, and *Toronto Life*. He was the winner of the 2020 National Magazine Awards for both Investigative Reporting and Long Form Feature Writing.



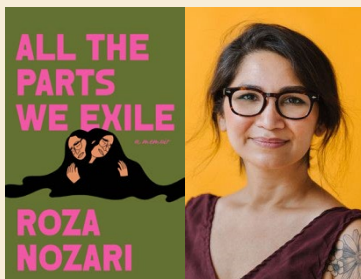
Canisia Lubrin's books include *Voodoo Hypothesis* and *The Dyzgraphxst*. Lubrin's work has been recognized with the Griffin Poetry Prize, OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature and Prize for Poetry, the Derek Walcott Prize, and the Writer's Trust of Canada Rising Stars prize. *Code Noir: Metamorphoses* is her debut fiction. Born in St. Lucia, Lubrin now lives in Whitby, Ontario, and is poetry editor at McClelland & Stewart.



Jennifer Moss specializes in future-focused leadership development, expertly balancing employee well-being with performance. As an award-winning writer and internationally acclaimed keynote speaker, she specializes in transforming workplace culture using data-driven leadership strategies. Her book *The Burnout Epidemic* tackled employee burnout and was among *Thinkers50's* "10 Best New Management Books for 2022."



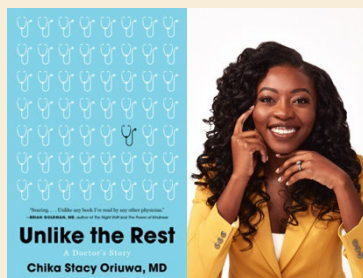
Sadi Mukhtadir was a finalist for the Thomas Morton Memorial Prize in Literary Excellence, a finalist for the Malahat Review's Open Season Awards, a third-place winner of the Humber Literary Review's Emerging Writer Story Contest, and a winner of Toronto's What's Your Story competition. His writing has appeared in *Joyland Magazine*, *The Humber Literary Review*, *Ricepaper Magazine* and other literary journals. This is his first novel.



Roza Nozari is a writer, artist and therapist based in Tkaronto ("Toronto") and known as YallaRoza on social media. Her work weaves together writing and visual art to share stories of wounding, healing and community which invites reimaginations of our world, towards one more invested in collective healing and liberation. She is the illustrator of three children's books.



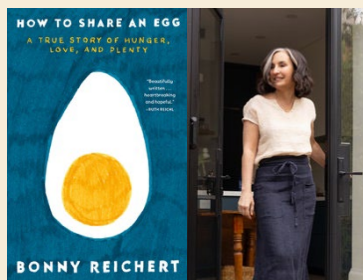
Heather O'Neill is a novelist, short-story writer, and essayist. Her most recent novel is *The Capital of Dreams*. Her previous works include *When We Lost Our Heads*, *The Lonely Hearts Hotel*, *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, *The Girl Who Was Saturday Night*, and *Daydreams of Angels*. O'Neill has also won CBC's Canada Reads and the Danuta Gleed Award. She lives in Montreal, where she was born and raised.



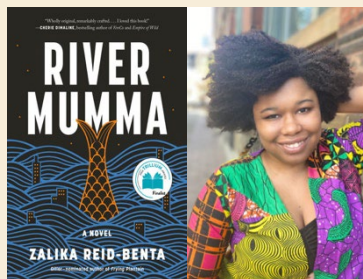
Chika Stacy Oriuwa, MD, is one of *Time's* 2021 Next Generation Leaders and was named on *Maclean's* Power 50 List in 2022. Currently a resident doctor in psychiatry at the University of Toronto, Oriuwa is a graduate of the school's Faculty of Medicine. Recently, Oriuwa established the Dr. Chika Oriuwa Award for the Advancement of Black Health, which will be awarded annually to a graduating medical student who has demonstrated their dedication to advancing health in the Black community.



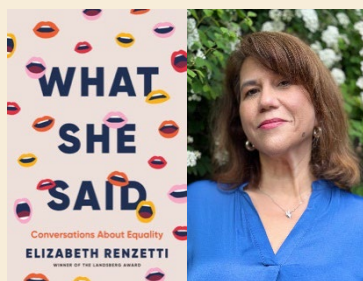
Rachel Phan is a Chinese Canadian author who was born and raised in a small town in Southern Ontario. Growing up, she wrote the stories she wanted to see, ones where a Chinese-Vietnamese girl like her was the main character. A graduate of TMU's Master of Journalism program, she's shared her stories on *CBC*, *HuffPost*, the *National Post*, and *Maclean's*. Her debut book, *Restaurant Kid*, publishes Spring 2025.



Bonny Reichert is a National Magazine Award-winning journalist. She has been an editor at *Today's Parent* and *Chatelaine*, and a columnist and regular contributor to *The Globe and Mail*. At 40, she enrolled in culinary school and began to explore her relationship with food, seeing her experiences growing up around the restaurant business and as a Holocaust survivor's daughter in a new light. She holds a master of fine art in creative nonfiction and teaches writing at the University of Toronto. *How to Share an Egg* is her first book.



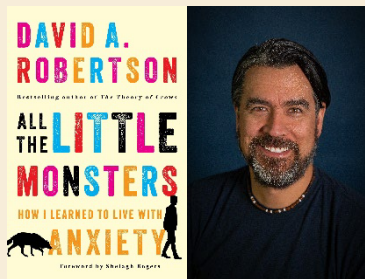
Zalika Reid-Benta is a Toronto-based writer whose debut story collection, *Frying Plantain*, won the Danuta Gleed Literary Award and the Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writer Prize for Literary Fiction. Zalika served as the 2021-2022 Writer in Residence at Western University and chaired the 2021 Scotiabank Giller Prize. She received an M.F.A. in fiction from Columbia University and was a John Gardner Fiction Fellow.



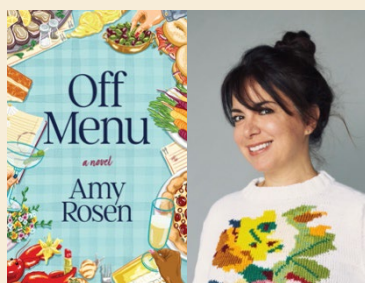
Elizabeth Renzetti is a bestselling Canadian author and journalist. She has worked for *The Globe and Mail*, where she served as the paper's Arts and Books editor. In 2020, she won the Landsberg Award for her reporting on gender equality. She is the author of the essay collection *Shrewed: A Wry and Closely Observed Look at the Lives of Women and Girls*, and the novel *Based on a True Story*. Her first mystery (co-authored with Kate Hilton), *Bury the Lead*, was published in 2024. She lives in Toronto with her family.



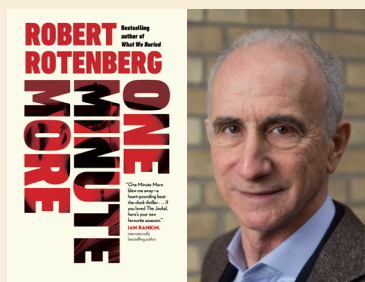
Debbie Ridpath Ohi's writing and art has appeared in over 20 books for young people. She is the award-winning author and illustrator of *Where Are My Books?*, *I Want to Read ALL the Books*, and *Sam & Eva* with Simon & Schuster. Her illustrations appear in books by Judy Blume, Michael Ian Black, and Linda Sue Park, among others. Debbie lives with her husband in Toronto, Canada.



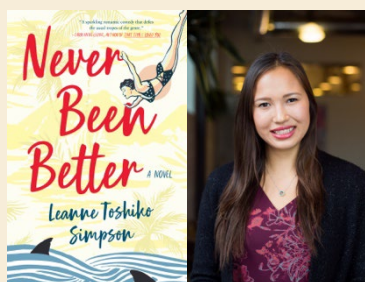
David Robertson is a two-time Governor General's Literary Award winner and has won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award and the Writer's Union of Canada Freedom to Read award. He was honoured with a Doctor of Letters by the University of Manitoba in 2023 for outstanding contributions to the arts and distinguished achievements. He is a member of Norway House Cree Nation and lives in Winnipeg.



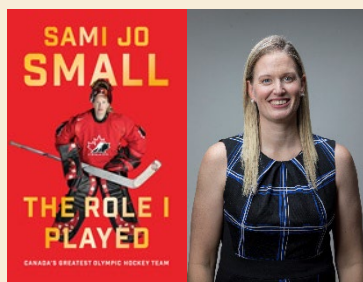
Amy Rosen is an award-winning food and travel writer and cookbook author who writes for publications such as *Food & Wine*, *Bon Appétit*, and *The Globe and Mail*. A former editor-in-chief at *Modern Farmer* and food editor at *Chatelaine*, she's the author of seven cookbooks. Amy's also the proud founder of Rosen's Cinnamon Buns. She lives in Toronto, Ontario.



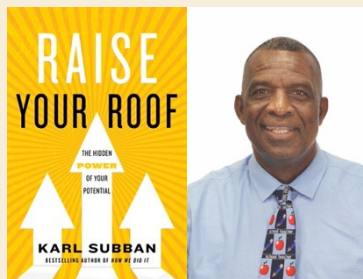
Robert Rotenberg is the author of several bestselling novels, including *Old City Hall*, *The Guilty Plea*, *Stray Bullets*, *Stranglehold*, *Heart of the City*, *Downfall*, and *What We Buried*. He is a criminal lawyer in Toronto with his firm Rotenberg Shidlowski Jesin. He is also a television screenwriter and a writing teacher.



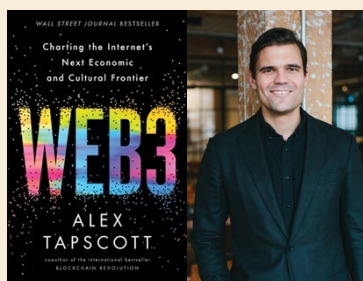
Leanne Toshiko Simpson is a mixed-race Yonsei writer who lives with bipolar disorder. She was named Scarborough's Emerging Writer in 2016. She co-founded a writing program at Canada's largest mental health hospital and teaches at the University of Toronto. Since her hospitalization, Simpson has connected with students, cultural centres, companies and media outlets about the power of storytelling. *Never Been Better* is her debut novel.



Sami Jo Small is a three-time Canadian Olympic ice hockey goalie (two golds and one silver) and a five-time World Champion. A graduate of Stanford University in mechanical engineering, she now works as a Certified Speaking Professional, delivering messages on how to build successful teams as well as successful teammates. From Winnipeg, Manitoba, she now lives in Mississauga, Ontario.



Karl Subban is a bestselling author, speaker and award-winning educator. A school principal for many years, he is also the director of the Greater Toronto Hockey League and the Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Foundation. Subban earned an honorary doctor of education degree from Lakehead University in 2022. He is a certified Maxwell coach, teacher, trainer and speaker. Karl Subban lives in Toronto.



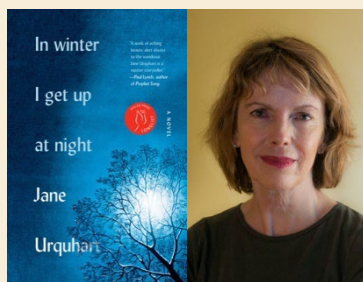
Alex Tapscott is an entrepreneur, business author, and seasoned capital markets professional focused on the impact of emerging technologies. Alex runs the Digital Assets Group at Ninepoint Partners and his writing has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Harvard Business Review*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The National Post*, *TIME* and *Fortune*. Alex is the co-author of *Blockchain Revolution*. His other books include *Financial Services Revolution* and *Digital Asset Revolution*.



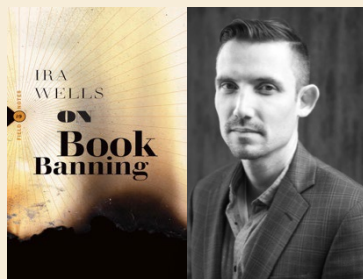
Ron Tite is the founder and Chief Strategy Officer of marketing agency Church+State and host and executive producer of the podcast *The Coup*. He has been an award-winning creative director for some of the world's most respected brands. He co-authored *Everyone's an Artist (or At Least They Should Be)* and wrote *Think Do Say*. Ron speaks on creativity, innovation, and corporate strategy to leading organizations all over the world.



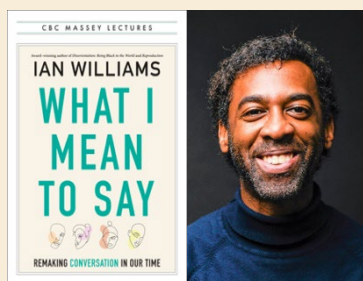
Georgia Toews is the author of the critically acclaimed debut novel, *Hey, Good Luck Out There*. She is also a writer for film and television. Born and raised in Winnipeg, she now lives in Toronto.



Jane Urquhart is the author of seven internationally acclaimed novels, a collection of short fiction, and four books of poetry. Her work has been translated into numerous foreign languages. Urquhart has received the Marian Engel Award and the Harboufront Festival Prize, and is a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France. Recently, she was named the Banff Distinguished Writer.



Ira Wells is a critic, essayist, and an associate professor at Victoria College in the University of Toronto, where he teaches literature and the humanities. His writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Guardian*, *The New Republic*, and many other venues. His most recent book is *Norman Jewison: A Director's Life*. He lives in Toronto with his wife and children.



Ian Williams is the author of seven books of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. He is the winner of the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Danuta Gleed Literary Award, the Raymond Souster Award, and a finalist for the Griffin Poetry Prize. Williams is a professor of English at the University of Toronto, where he directs the Creative Writing program.



Liann Zhang is a second-generation Chinese Canadian who splits her time between Vancouver, British Columbia and Toronto, Ontario. After a short stint as a skincare content creator, she graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in psychology and criminology. *Julie Chan Is Dead* is her first novel.
