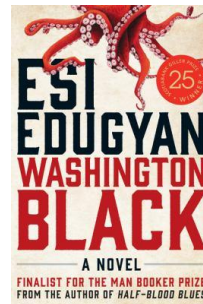


Black Authors, Black History Canadian Resource Guide



Fiction

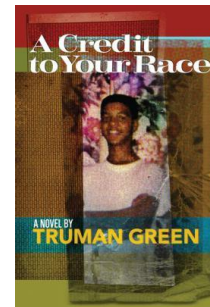


Washington Black: A Novel

By Esi Edugyan

Also available in Large Print

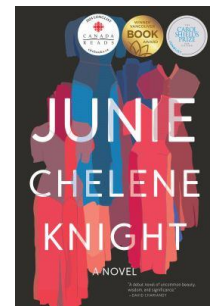
From the cane fields of Barbados to the icy plains of the Canadian Arctic, from the streets of London to the eerie deserts of Morocco, *Washington Black* teems with all the strangeness of life. It asks, what is freedom? And can a life salvaged from the ashes ever be made whole? Winner of the 2018 Scotiabank Giller Prize.



A credit to your Race: A Novel

By Truman Green

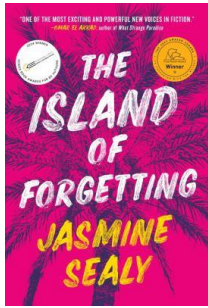
Set in Surrey, BC circa 1960, Green's novel is a disturbing and convincing portrayal of how the full weight of Canadian racism could come to bear on a youthful, interracial couple.



Junie

By Chelene Knight

Set in the 1930s in Hogan's Alley, a thriving Black and immigrant community located in Vancouver's East End. Told through the fascinating lens of a bright woman in an oft-disquieting world, this book is an unflinching look at the destruction of a vibrant community as well as a celebration of the Black lives within.

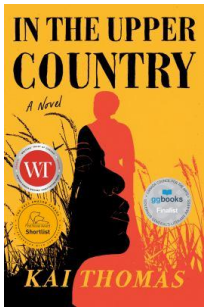


The Island of Forgetting

By Jasmine Sealy

An intimate saga spanning four generations of one family who run a beachfront hotel. Loosely inspired by Greek mythology, this is a novel about the echo of deep – and sometimes – tragic love and the ways a family's past can haunt its future.

Winner of the 2023 Amazon First Novel Award.

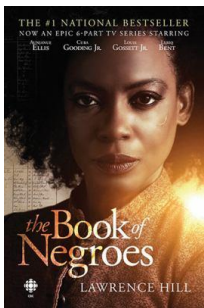


In the Upper Country

By Kai Thomas

The fates of two unforgettable women—one just beginning a journey of reckoning and self-discovery and the other completing her life's last vital act—intertwine in this sweeping, deeply researched debut set in the Black communities of Ontario that

were the last stop on the Underground Railroad. Winner of the 2023 Writer's Trust Atwood Gibson Prize.



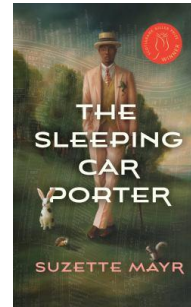
The Book of Negroes

By Lawrence Hill

Also available in DVD

A sweeping story that transports the reader from an African village to a plantation in a southern state, from the Halifax docks to the manor houses of

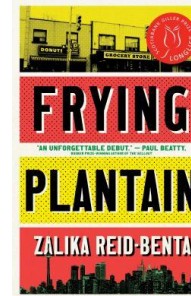
London, *The Book of Negroes* introduces one of the strongest female characters in recent Canadian fiction.



The Sleeping Car Porter

By Suzette Mayr

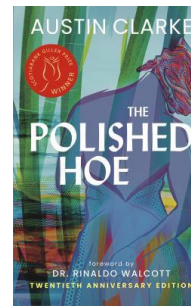
When a mudslide strands a train, Baxter, a queer Black sleeping car porter, must contend with the perils of white passengers, ghosts, and his secret love affair. Winner of the 2022 Scotiabank Giller Prize.



Frying Plantain: Stories

By Zalika Reid-Benta

Kara lives in the neighbourhood of “Little Jamaica” in Toronto. Through elementary school to high school graduation, she navigates the tensions between mothers and daughters, second-generation immigrants experiencing first-generation cultural expectations, and Black identity in a predominantly white society.

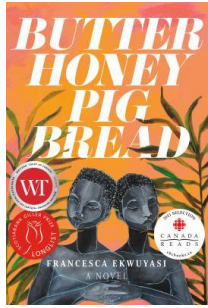


The Polished Hoe

By Austin Clarke

When an elderly Bimshire village woman calls the police to confess to a murder, the result is a shattering all-night vigil that brings together elements of the African diaspora in one epic sweep. Winner of the 2002 Scotiabank Giller Prize and the

2003 Commonwealth Writers' Prize: Best Book.

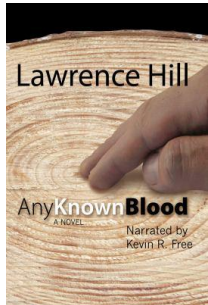


Butter Honey Pig Bread: A Novel

By Francesca Ekwuyasi

A story of choices and their consequences, of motherhood, of the malleable line between the spirit and the mind, of finding new homes and mending old ones, of voracious appetites, of queer love, of friendship, faith, and above all, family.

Winner of the 2022 Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBTQ2S+ Emerging Writers.



Any Known Blood: A Novel

By Lawrence Hill

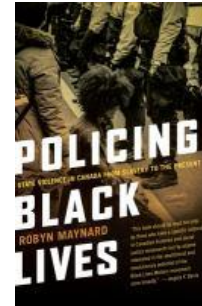
Audiobook

Langston Cane V finds his writing career (and, indeed, his life) in stasis until he travels to Baltimore to write about an ancestor who purportedly died fighting alongside John Brown at Harpers Ferry. Cane delves into history and in so doing awakens to new possibilities.

Rosemary Brown served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in the BC legislature as a member of the NDP from 1972 to 1986, making her the first Black Canadian woman to be elected to a Canadian provincial legislature.



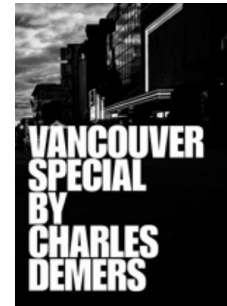
Nonfiction



Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present

By Robyn Maynard

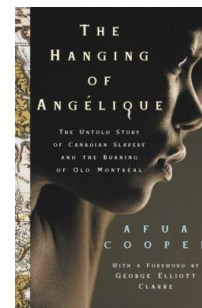
The first comprehensive account of nearly four hundred years of state-sanctioned surveillance, criminalization and punishment of Black lives in Canada.



Vancouver Special

By Charles Demers

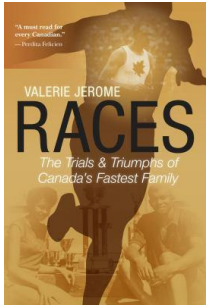
Demers' collections of essay and stories positions Black history and culture within a wider framework of the social history and the present day of Vancouver.



The Hanging of Angélique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Montréal

By Afua Cooper

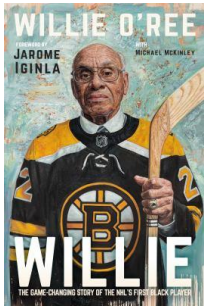
This account draws on extensive trial records that offer, in Angélique's own words, a detailed portrait of her life and a sense of what slavery was like in Canada at the time. Predating other first-person accounts by more than forty years, these records constitute what is arguably the oldest slave narrative in the New World.



Races: The Trials & Triumphs of Canada's Fastest Family

By Valerie Jerome

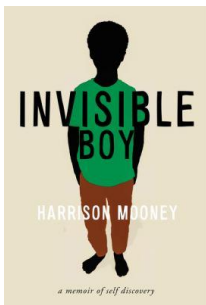
Races tracks Harry Jerome's life through his inimitable athletic career and into his work as an advocate for youth sport and education. Bringing readers inside the Jerome household, *Races* reveals the hurdles they faced during the heavily segregated '60s and the long reach of racism that plagued their family history.



Willie: The Game-Changing Story of the NHL's First Black Player

By Willie O'Ree

O'Ree proved that no one could stop him from being a hockey player. But he soon learned that he could never be *just* a hockey player. He would always be a black player, with all that entails.

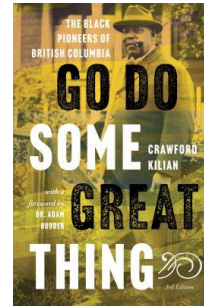


Invisible Boy: A Memoir of Self-Discovery

By Harrison Mooney

Author and journalist Harrison Mooney was born to a West African immigrant mother and adopted as an infant by a white family. This is his harrowing memoir about being raised by religious fundamentalists in British Columbia.

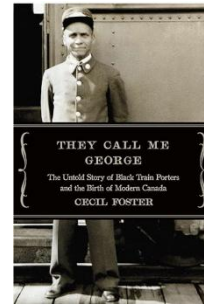
Portia May White (June 24, 1911 - February 13, 1968) was a Canadian contralto, known for becoming the first Black Canadian concert singer to achieve international fame.



Go Do Some Great Thing: The Black Pioneers of British Columbia

By Crawford Kilian

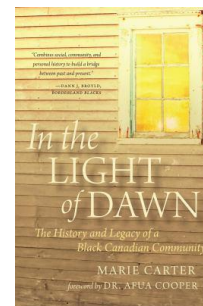
Despite opposition and racism, BC's Black pioneers played a pivotal role in the emerging province, establishing an all-Black militia unit to protect against American invasion, casting deciding votes in the 1860 election, and helping to build the province as teachers, miners, artisans, entrepreneurs and merchants.



They Call Me George: The Untold Story of Black Train Porters and the Birth of Modern Canada

By Cecil Foster

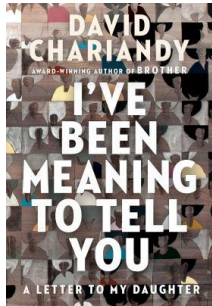
The so-called Pullmen of the country's rail lines were denied secure positions and prohibited from bringing their families to Canada. Their struggle against the racist Dominion laid the groundwork for the multicultural nation we know today.



In the Light of Dawn - The History and Legacy of a Black Canadian Community

By Marie Carter

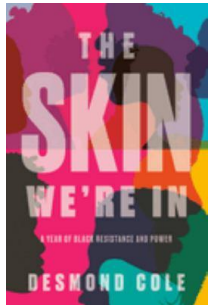
The Dawn Settlement was a historic abolitionist community in rural Ontario led by Reverend Josiah Henson (the real "Uncle Tom" of Harriet Beecher Stowe's landmark anti-slavery novel). Carter reveals how the town's scope and impact eclipses previously narrow interpretations as a "failed" utopian colony at a terminus of the Underground Railroad.



I've Been Meaning to Tell You: A Letter to My Daughter

By David Chariandy

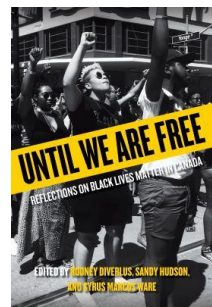
An intimate and profoundly beautiful meditation on the politics of race today. Chariandy writes a letter to his thirteen-year-old daughter, in the hope it will help cultivate within her a sense of identity and responsibility that balances the painful truths of the past and present with hopeful possibilities for the future.



The Skin We're In: A Year of Black Resistance and Power

By Desmond Cole

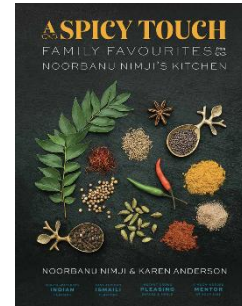
Urgent, controversial and unsparingly honest, this book is destined to become a vital text for anti-racist and social justice movements in Canada, as well as a potent antidote to the all-too-present complacency of many white Canadians.



Until We Are Free: Reflections on Black Lives Matter in Canada

By Rodney Diverlus

Some of the very best writing on the hottest issues facing the Black community in Canada. It describes the latest developments in Canadian Black activism, organizing efforts through social media, Black-Indigenous alliances, and more.

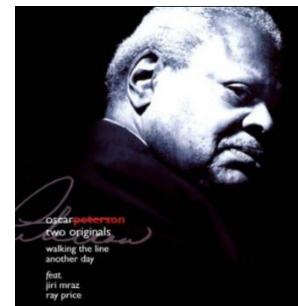


A Spicy Touch: Family Favourites from Noorbanu Nimji's Kitchen

by Noorbanu Nimji

From Indian Classics to the novel tastes of Indo-East African fusion to Canada's wide-open global influences, this book delivers crowd-pleasing food with a great mentor to guide the cook.

Music



Two Originals

Sound Recording by Oscar Peterson

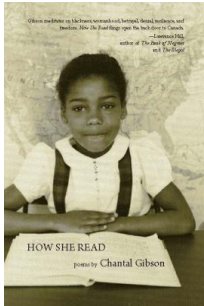
Considered to be one of the greatest jazz pianists of all time, Peterson released more than 200 recordings, won eight Grammy Awards and a lifetime achievement award from the Recording Academy, and numerous other awards and honours.



How High the Moon

Sound Recording by Oscar Peterson

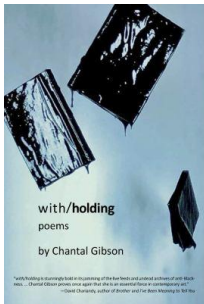
Poetry



How She Read: Poems

By Chantal Gibson

How She Read is a collection of genre-blurring poems about the representation of Black women, their hearts, minds and bodies, across the Canadian cultural imagination.



with/holding

By Chantal Gibson

Drawing on icons past and present, this collection imagines Black voices moving freely across time and space: the hold of a 19th century slave ship diagram printed on a white rubber yoga mat; a whispering set of 1950s grinning salt n pepper shakers on a

Pinterest dinner table; ringside with wrestler Sweet Daddy Siki at 1970s Maple Leaf Gardens on YouTube; and the dissenting centre of the 2020 Black Square.



Burning Sugar: Poems

By Cicely Belle Blain

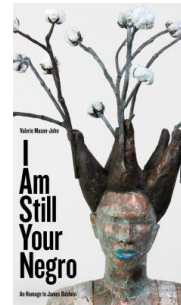
Blain's poems demonstrate how the world is both beautiful and cruel, a truth that inspires overwhelming anger and awe—all of which spills out onto the page to tell the story of a challenging, complex, nuanced, and joyful life.



the gospel of breaking

By Jillian Christmas

Befitting someone who "speaks things into being," Christmas extracts from family history, queer lineage, and the political landscape of a racialized life to create a rich, softly defiant collection of poems.



I Am Still Your Negro: An Homage to James Baldwin

By Valerie Mason-John

An emotive critique of colonization's bitter legacy, this collection will draw audiences of the spoken word genre and poetry readers who wish to broaden their knowledge about contemporary social justice issues.



Dear Current Occupant: A Memoir

By Chelene Knight

Using a variety of forms, Knight reflects on her childhood through a series of letters addressed to all the current occupants now living in the twenty different houses she moved in and out of with her mother and brother.

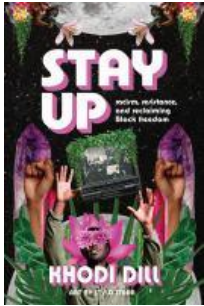
Teens



The Blue Road: A Fable of Migration

By Wayde Compton

Prose from Wayde Compton's short story forms the basis of this graphic novel. April delanoche Milne's vibrant, saturated illustrations enhance the story of the world seen from a migrant's perspective with dreamlike wonder.



Stay Up: Racism, Resistance, and Reclaiming Black Freedom

by Khodi Dill

From dismantling internalized racism and decolonizing schools to joining social justice movements and more, Dill lays out paths to personal liberation and social transformation.



Blood Like Magic

By Liselle Sambury

A rich, dark urban fantasy debut following a teen witch who is given a horrifying task: sacrificing her first love to save her family's magic. The problem is, she's never been in love—she'll have to find the perfect guy before she can kill him.



Like Home

By Louisa Onome

Chinelo is all about her neighborhood Ginger East, but when her friend Kate's parent's store is vandalized and the vandal is still at large, Nelo and her beloved Ginger East are shaken to their core.



Facing the Sun

By Janice Lynn Mather

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants meets *The Education of Margot Sanchez* in this Caribbean-set story about four friends who experience unexpected changes in their lives during the summer when a hotel developer purchases their community's beloved beach.

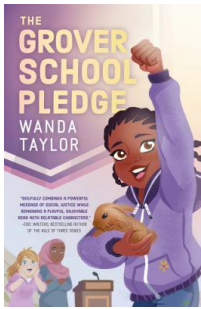


Swim Team

By Johnnie Christmas

Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school --until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears.

Kids' Fiction

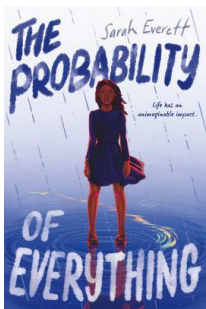


The Grover School Pledge

By Wanda Taylor

8 - 12 years

Grover School students team up to right a systemic wrong.

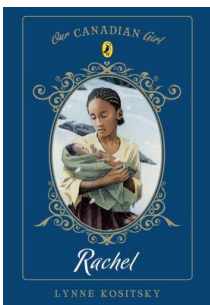


The Probability of Everything

By Sarah Everett

8 - 12 years

A heart-wrenching middle grade debut about Kemi, an aspiring scientist who loves statistics and facts, as she navigates grief and loss at a moment when life as she knows it changes forever.



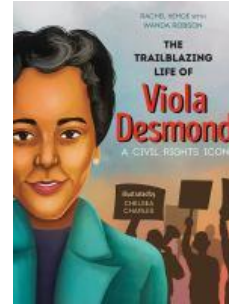
Rachel

By Lynne Kositsky

8 - 12 years

Rachel's joy at finally being free is challenged as her family faces life in a barren land and fights against harsh winter conditions and intolerant neighbours. Nevertheless, Rachel is determined to thrive.

Kids' Nonfiction

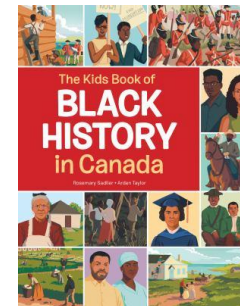


The Trailblazing Life of Viola Desmond: A Civil Rights Icon

By Rachel Kehoe

9 - 12 years

On November 8, 1946, Viola Desmond was arrested for refusing to move from the "whites-only" section of a movie theater. Her heroic act inspired Black community leaders and made her a symbol of courage in the fight against inequality.

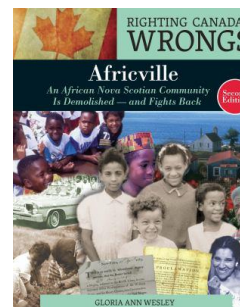


The Kids Book of Black History in Canada

By Rosemary Sadlier

8 - 12 years

This narrative journey through Black history in Canada begins with the arrival in 1604 of Mathieu Da Costa, the first known African in the country, and continues through the Black Lives Matter movement and the ongoing fight for social justice.

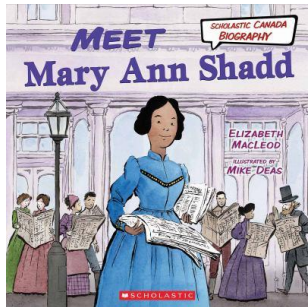


Africville: An African Nova Scotian Community is Demolished - and Fights Back

By Gloria-Ann Wesley

12+ years

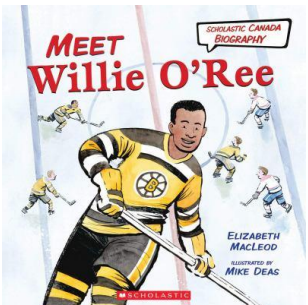
Through historical photographs, documents, and first-person narratives, this book tells the story of Africville, a Black community in Nova Scotia.



Meet Mary Ann Shadd
By Elizabeth MacLeod

6 - 10 years

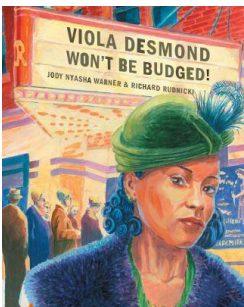
Shadd was a trailblazer: opening a desegregated school in Ontario; becoming the first Black female newspaper publisher in North America with the *Provincial Freeman*; becoming a suffrage activist; and at the age of 60 earning a law degree to become one of the first Black women to practice law!



Meet Willie O'Ree
By Elizabeth MacLeod

6 - 10 years

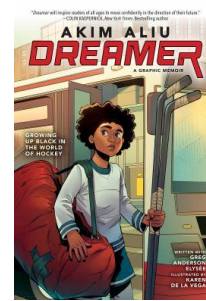
This book celebrates O'Ree's life from his childhood to his playing career, to his later work as an ambassador for NHL diversity, and to his eventual induction into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2018.



Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged!
By Jody Warner

5 - 9 years

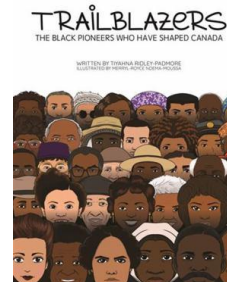
Like Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks, who many years later, in 1955, refused to give up their bus seats in Alabama, Desmond's refusal to leave the “whites only” section of a movie theatre awakened people to the unacceptable nature of racism and began the process of bringing an end to racial segregation in Canada.



Dreamer: A Graphic Memoir
By Akim Aliu

12+ years

Akim's incredible story, from being the only Black child in his Ukrainian community to his family struggling to make ends meet while living in Toronto, to confronting the racist violence he often experienced both on and off the ice.



Trailblazers: The Black Pioneers Who Have Shaped Canada
By Tiyahna Ridley-Padmore

5+ years

5+ years

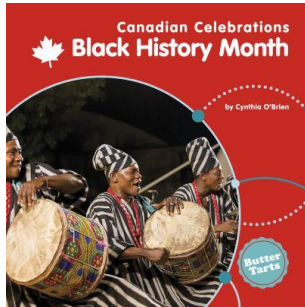
Trailblazers introduces readers to Canada's Black history through the under-told stories of over forty incredible Black change makers.



Kwanzaa
By Brian D'Souza

6 - 8 years

Learn about the origins of Kwanzaa, the seven symbols, how it is celebrated, and the future of the holiday.



Black History Month

By Cynthia O'Brien

6 - 8 years

February is Black History Month, a time to honour Black Canadians. Learn about the first Black Canadians, why Black History month is celebrated, and how Canadians celebrate this special month.

Mary Ann Shadd (October 9, 1823 - June 5, 1893) was the first Black woman publisher in North America and the first woman publisher in Canada. She was also the second Black woman to attend law school in the United States. Her newspaper "Provincial Freeman" advocated equality, integration, and self-education for Black people in Canada and the United States.

