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Salem Press Announces A New Addition to the *Critical Insights Series:* *Contemporary Canadian Fiction*

Critical Insights: Contemporary Canadian Fiction takes readers on a journey across Canada, from the eastern Maritime Provinces to British Columbia, covering long and short fiction from 1970 through the present day. Fourteen critical essays examine the scope of Canadian identity from various walks of life, analyzing the works of such nationally and internationally renowned authors as Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro, Jane Urquhart, Lucy Maud Montgomery, Marie-Célie Agnant, Dany Laferrière, Carol Shields, Margaret Laurence, Aritha van Herk, and Madeleine Thien.

Edited by Carol L. Beran, Professor of English and Chair of the English Department at Saint Mary's College of California, this new compilation brings together a full, rich idea of the important themes, struggles, and questions prevalent in Canadian literature, through the scope of a modern-day lens. Canadian writers have long been interacting with the world inside and outside of Canada, exploring ideas of personal fulfillment, multicultural communities, obligations to the common good, and the individual versus society, nature, and him/herself. This brand-new *Critical Insights* volume tackles those ideas, beginning with two introductory essays from the editor ("About This Volume" and "On Contemporary Canadian Fiction") that detail Canadian writers and how their short stories and novels truly encapsulate the Canadian spirit.

Critical Insights: Contemporary Canadian Fiction is then split up into two sections of essays. The first section, **Critical Contexts**, presents four original essays by current scholars in contemporary Canadian fiction, offering close readings of the works discussed, addressing how the time period influenced the authors, comparing/contrasting the works with other noteworthy writers or writings, and reviewing critical and popular receptions. This volume's Critical Contexts essays include:

- "Perceptions of Contemporary Canadian Fiction" by Carol L. Beran
- "A Literary, Sociocultural, and Political Timeline for Canada and the United States, 1960-2013" by Rita Ross
- "Learning How to Read in Atwood's *MaddAddam*" by Sharon R. Wilson
- "Cultural Heroines and Canadian Imaginaries: Evangeline and Anne" by Rita Ross

The second section, **Critical Readings**, rounds out the perspectives of the Critical Contexts section with ten critical and analytical essays from renowned twentieth and twenty-first century Canadian fiction scholars, who thoroughly explore the cultural and historical contexts of each work. The essays in this volume's Critical Readings section include:

- “MacLeod’s Men” by Shannon Hengen
- “Race Roulette: Hierarchy, Hypersexuality, and Hyperbole in Marie-Célie Agnant’s *The Book of Emma* and Dany Laferrière’s *How to Make Love to a Negro Without Getting Tired*” by Holly L. Collins
- “Margaret Atwood’s Comedy: The Fat Lady and the Gendered Body in *Lady Oracle*” by Charlotte Templin
- “Alice Munro’s 1994 ‘A Wilderness Station’: Storytelling and Retelling of Historic, Biblical, Gothic, and Grimm Stories” by Judith McCombs
- “Analogical Structure in the Novels of Jane Urquhart” by Patricia Linton
- “‘By Mistake’: Larry Weller as ‘The Stone Guest’ in Carol Shields’ Novel *Larry’s Party*” by Nora Foster Stovel
- “Listening and Loving: Reading Margaret Laurence’s *The Diviners*” by Carol L. Beran
- “Riding the Waves: Aritha van Herk’s *Restlessness*” by Mary K. Kirtz
- “Naming and Becoming: Finding Love in the Klondike” by Aritha van Herk
- “Understanding a Father’s Pain in Madeleine Thien’s ‘Simple Recipes’” by Janice Fiamengo

The volume finally closes with an appendix of Resources, including a list of Contributors, a list of Additional Works of Contemporary Canadian Fiction, an About the Editor page, a complete Bibliography of cited sources, and an alphabetical Index.

Thoughtful yet accessible to high school and college students, all *Critical Insights* essays open the door to critical thinking and analysis that is a cornerstone for Common Core state standards, as well as for success at the college level. This popular series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world’s most studied literature. Each volume in the series focuses on an individual author’s entire body of work, on a single work of literature, or on a popular literary theme. *Critical Insights* provides authoritative, accessible, and in-depth insights and analysis suitable for students and teachers alike.

Each volume of the *Critical Insights* series contains 10-14 essays offering the following critical analysis of the author, work, or theme. Each essay is 2,500-5,000 words in length, and most essays conclude with supporting bibliographic information.

Free Online with Print Purchase

In addition, *Critical Insights: Contemporary Canadian Fiction* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world’s most-studied literature. Featuring essays by some of academia’s most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Contemporary Canadian Fiction* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years to come.

Critical Insights: Contemporary Canadian Fiction

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