

AFTERWORD

Gift Guide: A list for the literary



MARK MEDLEY | Nov 30, 2012 1:00 PM ET | Last Updated: Nov 30, 2012 1:02 PM ET
[More from Mark Medley](#) | [@itsmarkmedley](#)

Click on image to enlarge

With awards season over and best-of-season about to start, books editor **Mark Medley** selects his unjustly overlooked Canadian favourites from the fading year

the under rated

POETRY

OK, they are both former classmates, but that doesn't change the fact that two of the most impressive collections to grace my desk this year are Gillian Savigny's *Notebook* (McClelland & Stewart, \$39.95) and Moez Surani's *Floating Life* (Wolsak and Wrye, \$26.95), a splendid examination of Charles Darwin's theories, and Moez Surani's second collection, *Floating Life* (Wolsak and Wrye, \$26.95), a globe-trotting hymn to life and love that travels from Cape Breton to Cairo, Barcelona to Bombay. These make perfect stocking stuffers.

NOVELS

A struggling actor befriends an autistic boy in Cordelia Strube's *Milosz* (Coach House Books, 292 pp, \$19.95); Tami Rideout imagines George Mallory's ascent of Mount Everest in the critically acclaimed *Above All Things* (McClelland & Stewart, 360 pp, \$29.95); estranged siblings reunite for a family trip to Kansas in Christine Fournier's *Sweet Jesus* (McClelland & Stewart, 309 pp, \$29.95); a dying woman looks back on her life in Donna Morrissey's *The Deception of Livvy Higgs* (Viking Canada, 274 pp, \$32); in Kyo Maclear's *Stray Love* (HarperCollins Canada, 318 pp, \$29.95), a middle-aged man reflects on a childhood spent in London and Saigon; an Irish housewife struggles with her son's sexuality and her husband's infidelity in Anakana Schofield's uproarious *Malarky* (Biblioasis, 222 pp, \$19.95); a teen girl befriends an older couple in Tamara Faith Berger's sexually charged *Maidenhead* (Coach House Books, 171 pp, \$18.95); part fact, part fiction, Lynn Crosbie's *Life Is About Losing Everything* (House of Anansi, 348 pp, \$26.95) is a portrait of a woman's downward spiral and possible salvation.

NON-FICTION

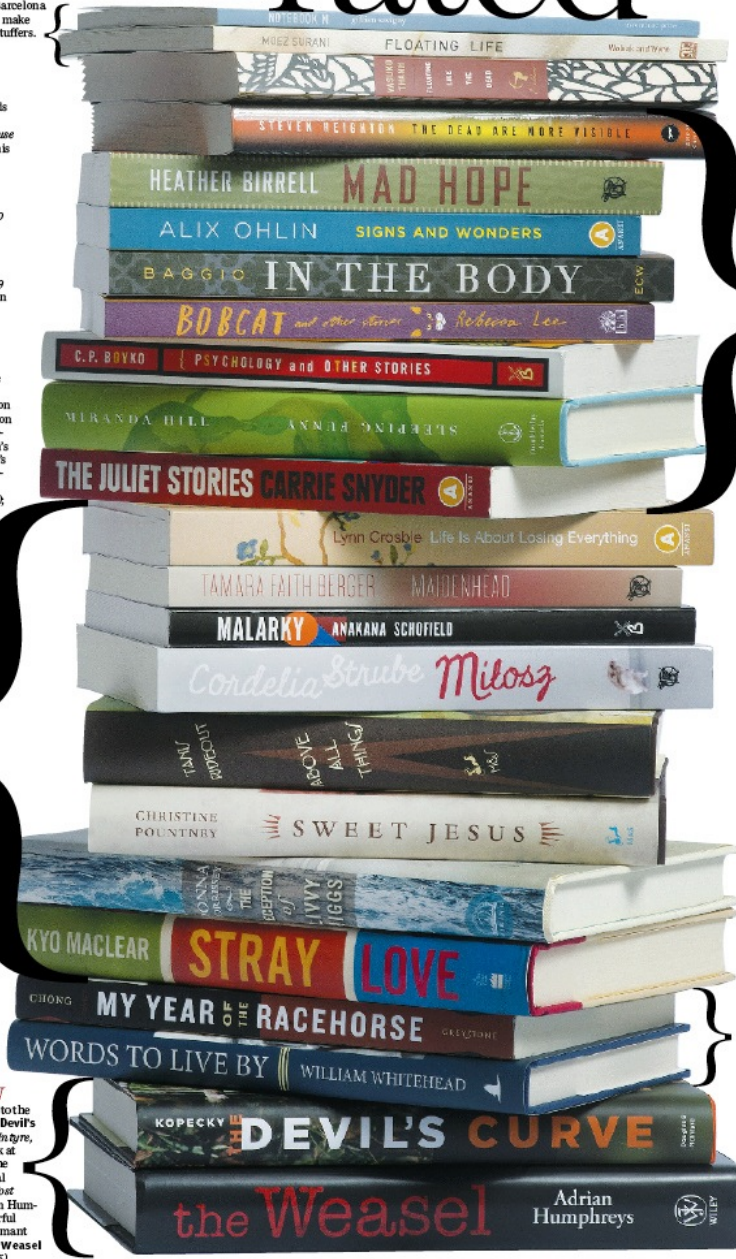
Amo Kopecky travels to the Amazon basin in *The Devil's Curve* (Douglas & McIntyre, 306 pp, \$29.95), a look at the ramifications of the world's lust for natural resources; *National Post* senior reporter Adrian Humphreys tells the colourful life story of mob informant Marvin Hink in *The Weasel* (Wiley, 406 pp, \$32.95).

SHORT STORIES

This was a very good year for short stories. C.P. Boyko looks at mental illness in *Psychology and Other Stories* (Biblioasis, 303 pp, \$19.95). Miranda Hill and Yasuko Thank both won the Journey Prize for stories included in their debut collections, *Sleeping Funny* (Doubleday Canada, 312 pp, \$29.95) and *Floating Like the Dead* (Emblem, 232 pp, \$22). Another past winner of the prize, Heather Birrell, delivers her second collection, *Mad Hope* (Coach House Books, 223 pp, \$18.95). Carrie Snyder was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for her second book, *The Juliet Stories* (House of Anansi, 324 pp, \$22.95), a linked collection that chronicles a young girl's childhood in Nicaragua and its effect on the rest of her life. Seventeen years since his last collection, Steven Heighton reminds us he's one of the best practitioners of the form in *The Dead Are More Visible* (Knopf Canada, 260 pp, \$22). Sure, Alix Ohlin was nominated for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize for her novel *Inside*, but she also published an acclaimed collection of stories, *Signs and Wonders* (House of Anansi, 262 pp, \$18.95). Allison Baggio examines our relationship with our physical selves in *In The Body* (ECW Press, 291 pp, \$18.95). Rebecca Lee's *Bobcat and Other Stories* (Hansie's Hamilton Canada, 209 pp, \$22), which jumps from a New York dinner party to a remote compound in Wisconsin.

MEMOIR

Kevin Chong writes about his time as a racehorse owner in the charming *My Year of the Racehorse* (Greggtime Books, 225 pp, \$22.95). William Whitehead chronicles his life with the late writer Timothy Findley in *Words to Live By* (Cormorant Books, 248 pp, \$29.95).



PETER J. THOMPSON / NATIONAL POST



Find National Post on Facebook

Sponsored Links

[Cheap Tickets To Any Event!](#)

Find The Best Deals On Tickets To Any Live Event, Even Sold Out Shows - Only At FanXchange.com

0 comments

0

Comments for this thread are now closed.



Discussion

Community

Share



No one has commented yet.

ALSO ON NATIONAL POST

[What's this?](#)

Idle No More: First Nations protests slow traffic at Ambassador bridge | Canada | ...

465 comments · 6 hours ago



Delphicorc — "We've been inconvenienced for 200 years." -----What, moving you from wigwams into 3 bed...

Barack Obama unveils \$500M gun violence package | World | News | National Post

434 comments · 8 hours ago



LoadedForBear — For the record and before the anti-gun left dump on me, I'm all for most of what Obama is proposing....

Barack Obama sees Benjamin Netanyahu as a 'political coward' who threatens Israel | ...

575 comments · 21 hours ago



Anon24601 — Moderate and progressive Israelis have been saying this for years, but are unfortunately always shou...

One month after Newtown shooting, Obama set to unveil gun control plan | World | ...

418 comments · 12 hours ago



Shave the Sheep — "Are the president's kids more important than yours?" Yes. Because he's the president, and I'm not. ...

Comment feed Subscribe via email

DISQUS