

Malahat *lite*

Virtual Newsletter of *The Malahat Review*

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1. Issue 176, Fall 2011 On newsstands in November!

The days may be shorter, but chilly autumn nights are just right for curling up with *The Malahat*. Our Fall issue is an all-treats, no-tricks grab bag of literary delights, so indulge yourself—costumes optional.

Highlighting this issue is **Zoey Peterson's** "Next Year, For Sure," winner of our 2011 Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction. This is a heartbreaker of a story, by turns funny, sad, wistful, but always smart and sensitively tuned to the complexities of relationships. "So he tells Kathryn about his molecules. How the first time he met Emily, it felt like his DNA had been resequenced."

Another short story is "Witness," by **Daniel Karasik**, a vivid tale wherein a young man's walk after dark becomes a journey through the dark night of the soul. "

And so I waited in that familiar treehouse, on the night when I realized for the first time that I might never in my life publish a novel, for someone, preferably a girl, to arrive. This didn't happen; but what did happen was equally extraordinary.

Matt Rader's spare tour de force, "At the Lake" is a thought-provoking account of how base and senseless things can become when language fails us.

In the darkness of the car, on the black asphalt, with the black lake of the sky above them, Jonathan had no words and without them could not know even what he wanted to know.

The creative nonfiction in this issue is "In Transit," by **Hadley Carpenter**. A husband and wife, Canadian tourists passing through Mobile, Alabama en route to New Orleans, encounter an unlikely source of local history in a decrepit cemetery. "I don't want this to happen, but he puts his arm around Shirley, who is still holding the camera."

There are, of course, plenty of poetry treats here as well. Enjoy new work from: **Gary Allen, Marilyn Bowering, Rebecca Geleyn, Danny Jacobs, Allison LaSorda, Rhona McAdam, Marcus McCann, Sharon McCartney, Richard Osler, Craig Poile, Bren Simmers, Samantha Sternberg, and Tom Wayman**. Satisfying, tasty, and calorie-free.

Book reviewers **Rich Cole, Rita Donovan, Harold Hoefle, Michael Kenyon, Ian Letourneau, and Norma Lundberg** weigh in on some new Canadian titles, rounding out this fabulous Fall issue.

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www.malahatreview.ca/subscribe.html

2. Board Meeting: A Q&A with *Malahat* Creative Nonfiction Board Member Holly Pattison

Holly Pattison started at the MHR as Circulation Manager (2001-2006). She was thrilled to join the Creative Nonfiction Board when it was created in 2008. After graduating from UVic's Writing Program in 2005, she started working at the UVic Faculty of Law and has been at the Environmental Law Centre for over 5 years. Holly has published journalism, creative nonfiction, and photography in several magazines and newspapers. She is also a filmmaker specializing in environmental documentaries.

Describe your ideal creative nonfiction piece.

My ideal CNF piece has fresh and lively writing that propels readers through a story. It relies on concrete images, vivid scenes, and experiences that resonate beyond the author's personal experience. I'm generally drawn to pieces that are literary (yet humble) and evocative (without trying too hard). There has to be a natural flow. I like to feel like I'm tagging along with the author as they experience a change or gain some new insight throughout the piece.

Who is your favourite (for the moment or all-time) creative nonfiction writer?

Oh, I have so many favourites (and I'm sure I'll have many more after Canada Reads announces their True Stories Top 40.) George Orwell's essay "Shooting an Elephant" still captivates me, but I really like Annie Dillard's nature writing, particularly *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. Currently, I'm re-enjoying Stephen Hume's *Bush Telegraph*. Hume is known for his journalism, but I find his creative nonfiction about local (BC's) history and the natural world compelling. Every time I read "Huckleberries" I want to dash out to the forest so I can forage berries to bake in a huckleberry pie.



From the time you started on our creative nonfiction board, what has been your favourite pick?

Again, it's hard to choose a "favourite." But Aparna Sanyal's, "Shadows on a Night Train" (Fall 2010, #172) has really stayed with me. I appreciated the honest introspection that weaves throughout the story. Many people can relate to the weary traveller, but Aparna goes further to articulate a broader experience that seems to be a growing issue today: even in this age of instant global communication, many people do not feel connected. As Aparna puts it, "There were misfits everywhere; there was a universality to being peculiar."

What are you *not* seeing in submissions to *The Malahat* that you would like to see?

There are many subjects people write about, but to be considered for publication in the MHR as creative nonfiction, a story really has to go beyond the writer's personal experience. Take aging parents as a topic, for example. Many people today care for their aging parents. Writing about it can be a valuable experience that is cathartic for the author, but unless it connects to the universal experience, speaks to something bigger than the author's world, and gives the reader something new to take away, it does not necessarily make for good reading in a literary journal. I wish writers would ask themselves: What is my point? Why should readers care about my story? What takes it beyond my personal experience? What feeling or thought do I want readers to walk away with?

3. Fall Issue Launch November 9, 2011

Join us to celebrate the launch of our Fall issue!

Wednesday, November 9th

Doors: 7:00

Readings at 7:30

at The Well, 821 Fort Street (bw Blanshard and Quadra)

FREE Admission

Readings by: **Tom Wayman, Zoey Peterson** (winner of our 2011 Far Horizons Award), **Richard Osler, Rhona McAdam**, and fiction board member **Julie Paul**.

Friends of *The Malahat* will receive a free book at the launch!

4. Upcoming Malahat Contests



2012 Open Season Awards

Deadline: November 1, 2011 (postmarked)

Prize: \$1000 CAD in each of three categories

Entry fee:

\$35 CAD for Canadians

\$40 USD for US entries

\$45 USD for entries from elsewhere

(entry fee includes a one-year subscription)

Enter up to three poems (100 lines max. each), one short story (2500 words max.), OR one creative nonfiction story (2500 words max.) per entry.

2012 Novella Prize

Deadline: February 1, 2012

Prize: \$1500 CAD

Entry fee:

\$35 CAD for Canadians

\$40 USD for US entries

\$45 USD for entries from elsewhere

(entry fee includes a one-year subscription)

Enter a single work of fiction, with a minimum length of 10,000 words and maximum of 20,000 words.