

STONEHEWER BOOKS

WINTER/SPRING 2024 CATALOGUE



MARK ABLEY

REVISED AND EXPANDED



CONVERSATIONS WITH A DEAD MAN INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND THE LEGACY OF DUNCAN CAMPBELL SCOTT

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STONEHEWER
BOOKS

CONVERSATIONS WITH A DEAD MAN

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND THE LEGACY OF DUNCAN CAMPBELL SCOTT

by MARK ABLEY

The second edition of Mark Abley's acclaimed creative biography, revised and expanded with a new introduction by the author.

When he died in 1947, Duncan Campbell Scott was revered as one of his country's finest poets and honoured as a devoted civil servant. Today, because of his work as head of the Department of Indian Affairs, he's widely considered one of history's worst Canadians. When word of this reaches Scott's ghost, he returns to the land of the living to ask poet and journalist Mark Abley to clear his name, and in the ensuing research, Abley learns of a man who could somehow write vibrant poems about Indigenous people in one moment, and in another institute policies designed to destroy Indigenous culture and force assimilation.

With intelligence, moral ferocity, and a hunger for truth, Abley delves into Scott's professional and personal lives while also exploring the hostile government policies — including the residential school system — that damaged and continue to damage the lives of hundreds of thousands of Indigenous people. By mixing traditional non-fiction with an imagined debate between the author and Scott's ghost, *Conversations with a Dead Man* makes it clear that “the villain was a man, and his nation is our nation. Abley's act of radical empathy makes it harder to turn the page on a chapter of our history we might otherwise slam shut” (Andrew Stobo Sniderman, *Maclean's*).

PRAISE FOR THE FIRST EDITION

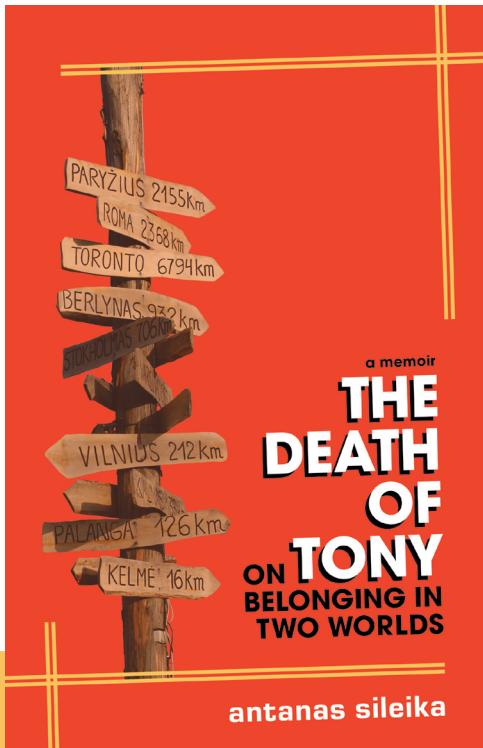
“Abley has produced something seemingly inconceivable: an intelligent, absorbing and, yes, entertaining book about an infamous Canadian villain...”

— Andrew Stobo Sniderman, *Maclean's*

“I love this book. I love the idea that Mark Abley wants answers from Scott. Why did he write such lovely, romantic and paternalistic poetry and prose about Indians? ... Thanks to Abley, he was no longer a cardboard figure...”

— Daniel David (Mohawk), journalist, broadcaster, writer

Mark Abley is a nonfiction writer, poet, and journalist. His many books include *The Organist: Fugues, Fatherhood, and a Fragile Mind*, a memoir of his father; *Spoken Here: Travels Among Threatened Languages* and *The Prodigal Tongue: Dispatches from the Future of English*, among other books on language; *Strange Bewildering Time: Istanbul to Kathmandu in the Last Year of the Hippie Trail*, a reflective travel memoir based on his own forty-five-year-old journals; and several poetry collections and children's books. His work has won international praise and has been translated into five languages. He lives in Montreal.



THE DEATH OF TONY ON BELONGING IN TWO WORLDS by ANTANAS SILEIKA

A delightful and evocative memoir by Leacock Medal nominee Antanas Sileika.

The acclaimed novelist who wrote this book wasn't always Antanas. Growing up in the immigrant hub of Weston, Ontario — with a childhood of Lithuanian summer camp, folk dancing, and booze-soaked Christmases — Sileika was known to friends and teachers as Tony. It wasn't until he entered university and began to understand his deep attachment to his heritage that he shed the anglicized name and became Antanas Sileika, the writer who straddles two worlds.

In animated, entertaining prose, Sileika recounts his time as a young writer in Paris, the dramatic events surrounding Lithuanian independence and the fall of the Soviet Union, and his growing involvement in Lithuania's political and cultural spheres. Proud of his heritage but unafraid to explore its darker chapters, he touches in this book on the Holocaust and the gulag, as well as the new threats facing Eastern Europe today. Laced with humour and wry observations, *The Death of Tony* is a tribute to the immigrant experience, a primer for Canadian readers on the history and culture of an underrepresented nation, and above all a sensitive exploration of this author's bifurcated identity.

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PRAISE FOR THE DEATH OF TONY

"Intelligent and observant... illuminates the experiences of a little-discussed ethnic group while probing the meanings of real and imagined homelands. A thoughtful reading experience."

— *Kirkus Reviews*

Antanas Sileika is the author of six works of fiction, including most recently the novel *Some Unfinished Business*. His short story collection *Buying on Time* was nominated for the City of Toronto Book Award and the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour. Beyond writing fiction, Sileika worked as a journalist and taught for many years at Humber College, eventually becoming director of the Humber School for Writers. He is now retired and lives in Toronto.



BLUE RUNAWAYS

by JANN EVERARD

From award-winning writer Jann Everard, a debut short story collection about love and loss.

Some of the women in *Blue Runaways* are grieving. Some are looking for a second chance. All are at a turning point. From Iceland to Bali, from the comfortable houses of Canada's cities to its wild and expansive backcountry, the characters in this collection face the most human of fears: that dear ones die, love is a risk, and no promise is certain.

As diverse in situation as it is controlled in theme, this collection serves as a multifaceted exploration of loss, love, and what it takes to move on. With a keen eye for landscape and an uncanny knack for inhabiting hearts and minds, Everard ventures into her character's darkest days. By confronting the sorrow of being alive, *Blue Runaways* reveals the joy of knowing we are not alone.

PRAISE FOR BLUE RUNAWAYS

"... Prose that's vivid, precise, and quite beautiful... stories that are at their beating heart mysterious and profoundly satisfying."
— Rachel Cantor (*Half-Life of a Stolen Sister; Good on Paper*)

"... a thought-provoking and bittersweet collection."
— Kathy Page (*Paradise and Elsewhere; Dear Evelyn*)

"Everard has a painter's eye for landscapes — both foreign and familiar — and a storyteller's skill in communicating how the natural world shapes our humanity. Read [these stories] slowly, and savour them."
— Carleigh Baker (*Bad Endings*)

"I loved these stories."
— Lynn Thomson (*Birding with Yeats*)

Jann Everard was winner of *The Malahat Review's* 2018 Open Season Award for Fiction. Her fiction has been published in several leading Canadian journals including *The Fiddlehead*, *Prairie Fire*, *Grain*, *Room*, *The New Quarterly*, *Humber Literary Review*, *EVENT*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *The Antigonish Review*, and *Coming Attractions 15*. A long-time resident of Toronto, she now lives on Vancouver Island.

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