

FBF 2022: Non-Fiction

Sheima Benembarek | Halal Sex: The Intimate Lives of Muslim Women in North America [CookeMcDermid] (Gender Studies)

- With a foreword from **Mona Eltahawy**, from *Toronto Life* Senior Editor **Sheima Benembarek**, one of the **2020 RBC Taylor Prize Emerging Writers**, *Halal Sex* is an unprecedented glimpse into the sex lives of Muslim women living across North America
- In most of the Muslim world, sex is permissible (or halal) only within the confines of marriage. So, what happens when immigrants and their children set about pursuing an open and active sex life amid western peers and attitudes? The six deeply personal stories in *Halal Sex* attempt to answer this question.
- From a niqabi in a polygynous marriage, a non-binary trans Sufi, a lesbian stand-up comic in an interfaith marriage, to an exotic dancer and sex worker: a tapestry of a diverse Islam emerges in *Halal Sex*, encompassing a wide variety of cultural and religious and socioeconomic backgrounds
- For readers of **Leïla Slimani's *Sex and Lies*** and **Lisa Taddeo's *Three Women***, *Halal Sex* aims to be a frank, feminist contribution to the advancement of Muslim sexual education and pleasure
- **Rights Sold: Canada English (Penguin Canada); Pub date: Mar 2023; Page extent: 240 (pb)**

Alexandra Gater | Own Your Space: Attainable Room-by-Room Decorating Tips for Renters and Homeowners [CookeMcDermid] (Interior Design)

- Gorgeously designed, full of practical advice, DIY projects, fun anecdotes, and packed with approximately 300 four-colour photographs, *Own Your Space* will help readers turn their apartments or starter homes into places where they enjoy spending time
- For fans of **Emily Henderson** and *Dream Home Makeover*, and visually comparable to *The Curated Closet* by **Anuschka Rees**, **Alexandra Gater** shows how to creatively, inexpensively, and beautifully decorate a space in this inviting and accessible definitive guide to décor ideas for renters and new homeowners alike
- With nearly **half a million Youtube subscribers**, former lifestyle magazine editor **Alexandra Gater** is the **fastest growing and second most engaging Canadian Home & DIY YouTuber** – her videos receive huge engagement and have been **viewed more than 60 million times** – whose work has been showcased on *The Rachael Ray Show* and *Breakfast Television*, among others, and who was the feature of a two-page spread in *Chatelaine*
- *Forbes* identified home improvement as the fastest growing retail sector in 2019 and since the widespread stay-at-home orders of 2020, the demand for home décor-related products and content has only accelerated – everyone is interested in sprucing up or renovating their homes and **Alexandra Gater's** impeccable eye for all things design, her innovative budget-friendly ideas, and her friendly and encouraging voice empower readers to take control over their surroundings
- The perfect gift for someone who's moving out for the first time, or as a housewarming present, *Own Your Space* balances aspirational and inspirational and will be a go-to resource for readers
- **Rights Sold: World English (Harper Design); Pub date: April 2023; Page extent: 272 (hc)**

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Holly Hogan | *Message in a Bottle: Lessons from a Life at Sea in the Age of Plastic* [CookeMcDermid] (Environmental Science)

- From the heart of the Labrador Current to the furthest reaches of our global oceans, bringing together nature, science and adventure writing, *Message in a Bottle* conjures an exquisite diversity of marine life and warns of an urgent central threat to its survival: ocean plastic
- Wildlife biologist and writer **Holly Hogan** brings to extraordinary life the wonder and resilience of the many birds, fish and marine mammals she has encountered in sea voyages from the Arctic to the Antarctic oceans, while shining a light on a troubling pattern she noticed in her travels: the constant presence of plastic, in the form of adrift fishing gear ("ghost gear"), garbage and micro-plastics, which form an invisible but pervasive smog in our oceans and threaten even the most seemingly resilient forms of sea life
- For readers of **Elizabeth Kolbert's** *The Nature of the Future* and **Jill Heinerth's** *Into the Planet*, *Message in a Bottle* is a clarion call to protect global oceans and the life they sustain, including our own
- **Rights Sold: Canada English (Knopf Canada); Pub date: May 2023; Page extent: 177 (ms)**

Brett Popplewell | *Outsider: An Old Man, A Mountain, and the Search for a Hidden Past* [Rick Broadhead & Associates] (Biography)

- **Christopher McDougall's** *Born to Run* meets **Jon Krakauer's** *Into the Wild* and **Michael Finkel's** *The Stranger in the Woods* in *Outsider*, investigative journalist **Brett Popplewell's** spellbinding and immersive portrait of reclusive septuagenarian marathon runner living in a school bus on the side of a mountain who seemed to be aging more slowly than the rest of us and whose mysterious past (spanning Nazi-occupied Norway, Argentina, British Columbia, and beyond) the author spent six years uncovering
- Both joyful and tragic, *Outsider* offers a bold challenge to our notions of life, aging, human accomplishment, and the pursuit of happiness, and reminds us that age is a concept as much as it is a reality
- **National Magazine Award winner Brett Popplewell** is a bestselling author of *The Escapist*, an associate professor of journalism at Carleton University, and has written for *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *Mother Jones*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star*, *Sportsnet*, *Maclean's* and *The Walrus*, among other publications
- "In *Outsider*, Brett Popplewell deploys his impeccable narrative skills to produce a biography that is equal parts engrossing, heart-wrenching and inspirational. With fascinating sojourns to Nazi-occupied Norway and the dawn of extreme skiing, *Outsider* ultimately traces one man's path to finding a deep and abiding joy in existence amid remarkably unconventional circumstances."—Sarah Everts, author of *The Joy of Sweat*
- **Rights Sold: NA English (HarperCollins Canada); Pub date: April 2023; Page extent: 384 (pb)**