

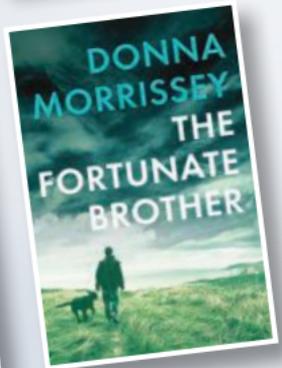
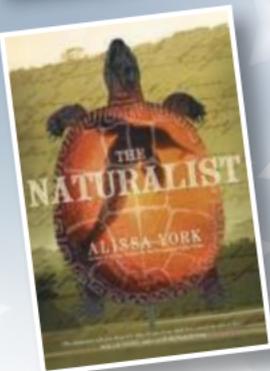
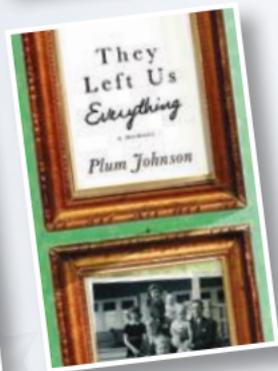
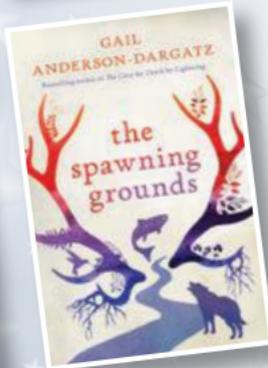
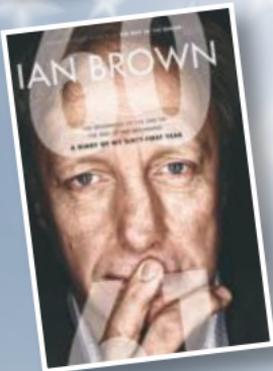
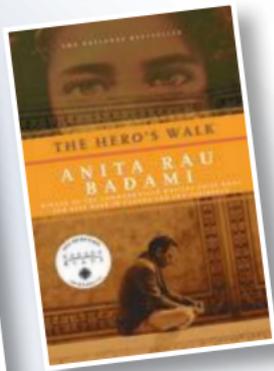
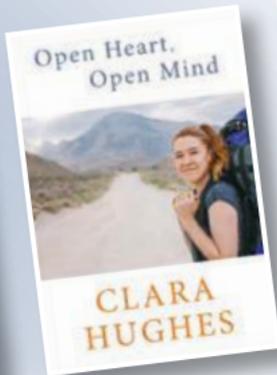
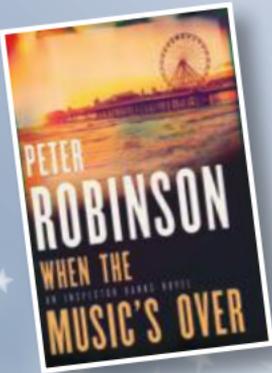


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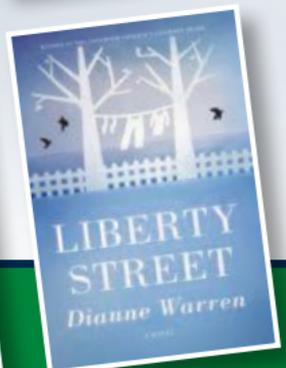
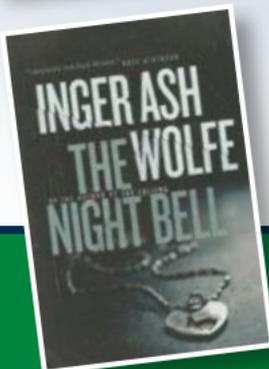


STAR Fest

St. Albert Readers Festival



OCTOBER
12-25,
2016



STARFest at a glance

Wednesday, October 12. 7pm

IAN BROWN

Hosted by Jana Pruden
Forsyth Hall



Friday, October 14. 7pm

CLARA HUGHES

Arden Theatre



Saturday, October 15. 7pm

**GAIL ANDERSON-
DARGATZ**

Hosted by Laurie Greenwood
Forsyth Hall



Sunday, October 16. 2pm

PLUM JOHNSON

Hosted by Gail Sidonie Sobat
Forsyth Hall

Tuesday, October 18. 7pm

ALISSA YORK

Hosted by Paula Simons
Forsyth Hall



Thursday, October 20. 7pm

CAMILLA GIBB

Hosted by Diana Davidson
Forsyth Hall



Friday, October 21. 7pm

PETER ROBINSON

Hosted by Wayne Arthurson
Arden Theatre



Saturday, October 22. 2pm

DONNA MORRISSEY

Forsyth Hall

Saturday, October 22. 7pm

**MICHAEL REDHILL/
INGER ASH WOLFE**

Hosted by Marty Chan
Forsyth Hall



Sunday, October 23. 2pm

DIANNE WARREN

Hosted by Marina Endicott
Forsyth Hall

Tuesday, October 25. 7pm

ANITA RAU BADAMI

Hosted by Angie Abdou
Arden Theatre



Welcome to St. Albert Public Library and to STARFest



Charmaine Brooks
Library Board Chair

STARFest is a stellar event and we, as Trustees, see it as a shining example of the innovation and creativity that has made your library award-winning. Passion and dedication, from both those who organize and those who attend, has resulted in an annual community event that has put St. Albert on the literary map. In this special year as we plan our new branch library, we thank you for your continued commitment and support—you are essential to our exciting future.

Welcome to St. Albert and to STARFest



Mayor Nolan Crouse

On behalf of the City of St. Albert I wish STARFest well. Thank you to everyone who makes this such a successful Festival, from the Library staff and the many volunteers who plan and deliver an excellent event, to the great authors that are visiting our City, and to you, the audience, for cultivating community here in St. Albert.

STARFest Tickets

Tickets for events in
Forsyth Hall at St. Albert Public Library \$5

Tickets for events in
the Arden Theatre\$10

Tickets for Clara Hughes in
the Arden Theatre\$55

Tickets for all events except Clara Hughes available from:

- www.STARFest.ca
- The Main Floor Desk at
St. Albert Public Library
- (780) 459-1530

Tickets for Clara Hughes available from:

- Arden Theatre Box Office (780) 459-1542
- Ticketmaster outlets
- Ticketmaster.ca

Find out more at
www.STARFest.ca

 **STARFest**

 @ReadersFest

The Insider's Guide to STARFest



Heather Dolman
Festival Director

From memoirs to mysteries, STARFest welcomes writers from across the country who will transport you to the Shuswap, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Newfoundland, and on to India and Yorkshire!

Reflecting the character and geography of our country with a cast of well-rounded characters we welcome a trio of popular Canadian storytellers: **Gail Anderson-Dargatz, Donna Morrissey** and **Dianne Warren**. Take a 19th century trip to the Amazonian rainforest with **Alissa York** and experience the colours and customs of Indian life with **Anita Rau Badami**, runner-up in this year's CBC Canada Reads.

For lovers of mysteries, STARFest welcomes **Peter Robinson**, creator of Yorkshire's DCI Banks, and **Inger Ash Wolfe**, creator of Detective Inspector Hazel Micallef. Wolfe is the alter ego of literary fiction writer **Michael Redhill**—two for the price of one at this event!

As an alternative to fiction **Ian Brown, Plum Johnson, Camilla Gibb** and Olympian **Clara Hughes** offer stories of aging, family relationships, and overcoming challenges. Lot of food for thought!

You will experience, and be part of, great conversations with our talented hosts: **Angie Abdou, Wayne Arthurson, Marty Chan, Diana Davidson, Marina Endicott, Laurie Greenwood, Jana Pruden, Gail Sidonie Sobat** and **Paula Simons**.

We hope you enjoy STARFest 2016.

Ian Brown

Wednesday, October 12, 7pm



Consider the meaning of life with Ian Brown as he reviews his 61st year. As someone headed into the last quarter of the game, Brown's book *Sixty* will resonate with all those who are facing conflicting emotions on the subject of getting older. He will be exploring this and many of his other passions, including reading, with journalist Jana Pruden.



STARFest Facts

Ian Brown is an acclaimed Canadian journalist and author, recipient of over a dozen national magazine and newspaper awards, and a TV and radio host.

Brown has published four books: *Freewheeling* about the Billes family, owners of Canadian Tire; *Man Overboard: True Adventures with North American Men*; *What I Meant to Say: The Private Lives of Men*; and *The Boy in the Moon: A Father's Search for His Disabled Son*. This was a book-length version of Brown's series of *Globe and Mail* features dealing with his son Walker's rare genetic disorder. It won the Charles Taylor Prize, which recognizes excellence in literary non-fiction, and was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Non-fiction.

Brown's newest book is *Sixty: The Beginning of the End, or the End of the Beginning? A Diary of My Sixty-First Year*. He began keeping a diary with a Facebook post on the day of his sixtieth birthday. As well as keeping a running tally on how he survived the year, Brown explored what being sixty meant physically, psychologically and intellectually. *Sixty* was shortlisted for the RBC Taylor Prize.

Jana Pruden is an award-winning reporter at *The Globe and Mail*, and the former crime bureau chief of the *Edmonton Journal*. She specializes in investigative features, narrative writing, and true crime.



Clara Hughes

Friday, October 14. 7pm.
Arden Theatre.

In collaboration with  **rivers edge**
COUNSELLING CENTRE



Told with honesty and passion, *Open Heart, Open Mind* is Clara Hughes' personal journey through physical and mental pain to a life where love and understanding can thrive. This revelatory and inspiring story is touching the hearts of its readers.



Sponsor:



Photo credit: Simon Baker

STARFest Facts

Six-time Olympian and mental health advocate Clara Hughes is the only athlete in history to win multiple medals in both summer and winter games—for speed skating and cycling.

Believing that actions off the track define us as much as those on it, Hughes inspires people toward success in all areas of their lives. Her memoir *Open Heart, Open Mind* is a raw but life-affirming story of one woman's struggle with depression.

After more than a decade in the gruelling world of professional sports that stripped away her confidence and bruised her body, Hughes began to realize that her physical extremes, her emotional setbacks, and her partying habits were masking a severe depression. She was determined to repair herself and has emerged as one of our most committed humanitarians, advocating for a variety of social causes both at home and abroad.

Hughes recently championed Lawrence Hill's book *The Illegal* in a four-day debate to win CBC's Canada Reads 2016 where the theme was "starting over".

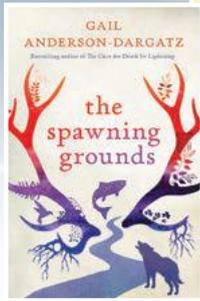
Refreshments, book signing and silent auction to follow this presentation. All proceeds from this event to support St. Albert Mental Health Initiatives.

Gail Anderson-Dargatz

Saturday, October 15. 7pm



Discover the people and landscapes that inspire Gail Anderson-Dargatz. The rural characters and small-town settings of her award-winning books set her apart from many writers of her generation. Hear how family stories of the Thompson-Shuswap region influenced her writing about ghosts, premonitions and Canadian women in rural settings as she talks with Laurie Greenwood.



STARFest Facts

Gail Anderson-Dargatz, whose fictional style has been coined as “Pacific Northwest Gothic” by the *Boston Globe*, has been compared by critics to Steinbeck, Atwood, Munro and Rushdie.

Anderson-Dargatz’s literary career began when she won first prize in a CBC Literary Competition for a story taken from an early draft of her first novel, *The Cure for Death by Lightning*. By the time a literary agent took her on she already had a short story collection ready to go: *The Miss Hereford Stories*, which was nominated for the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour.

Anderson-Dargatz’s novels *A Recipe for Bees* and *The Cure for Death by Lightning* were international bestsellers, and finalists for the prestigious Giller Prize; and *Turtle Valley* and *A Rhinestone Button* were national bestsellers.

Her long-awaited new novel, *The Spawning Grounds*, is full of the qualities Anderson-Dargatz’s fans love: it’s an intimate family saga rooted in the Thompson-Shuswap region of BC, a bold story that bridges native and white cultures, saturated with the history of the place. The book will be published just prior to us welcoming Anderson-Dargatz to St. Albert.

Host Laurie Greenwood is CBC Radio’s book columnist and former Edmonton independent bookstore owner.

Plum Johnson

Sunday, October 16. 2pm



Experience what it was like to empty a house full of history and memories as Plum Johnson talks with Gail Sidonie Sobat about *They Left Us Everything*. It is a funny, touching memoir about the importance of preserving family history to make sense of the past and nurturing family bonds to safeguard the future.



STARFest Facts

Born in Richmond, Virginia, Plum Johnson spent her early years in Hong Kong and Singapore before her family settled in Oakville, Ontario.

In 1983, she established KidsCanada Publishing, and pioneered the first parenting publications in Canada. In 2002, she launched *Help's Here!*, a resource for senior citizens and caregivers.

Johnson's first book, the memoir *They Left Us Everything*, won the 2015 RBC Taylor Prize and was nominated for a number of other awards including the Leacock Medal for Humour.

The book chronicles the year Johnson spent decluttering and eventually selling her lakefront childhood home after her mother's death—a home which hadn't been decluttered in more than half a century. Twenty-three rooms bulge with history, antiques, and oxygen tanks. The task is more rewarding than she ever imagined: childhood items trigger memories of her eccentric family, and unearthing facts about her parents helps Johnson reconcile past relationships. *They Left Us Everything* is a humorous and touching story about family love, loss and legacies.

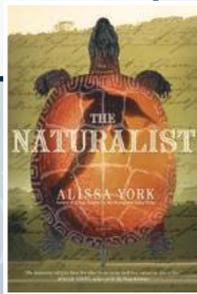
Gail Sidonie Sobat is a teacher, actor, singer and writer and was Writer in Residence at the Library in 2015.

Alissa York

Tuesday, October 18. 7pm



Delve into the world of a novelist with Alissa York whose stories are wide-reaching and varied. Her 2016 book *The Naturalist* is set in the late 1800s in the Amazon and tells of the power of the place over a reluctant explorer and his companions.



STARFest Facts

Alissa York was born to Australian immigrant parents in Alberta, but has lived in numerous places across Canada. Before publishing her first short story in 1995, she worked various jobs including acting, waitressing, working at a bookstore and arranging flowers.

York has written three novels and a book of short stories. Her essays and articles have appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Quill & Quire*, and more.

Her first novel *Mercy* told the story of the separate love affairs of two priests spanning over 50 years in a small Manitoba town. *Effigy* is a historical novel describing the life of a polygamist family in rural Utah. It was nominated for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. Her novel *Fauna* tells of a Toronto wrecking yard that acts as a modern-day sanctuary for injured souls—people and animals. It was short-listed for the City of Toronto Book Award.

York's fourth novel was published in spring 2016. Set in the time when Darwin was reshaping the world and a new breed of explorer-hero possessed the popular imagination, *The Naturalist* is a spellbinding tale of loss, discovery and love.

Host Paula Simons is the award-winning city columnist with the *Edmonton Journal*. She is a regular and popular interviewer at STARFest.

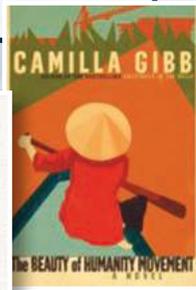
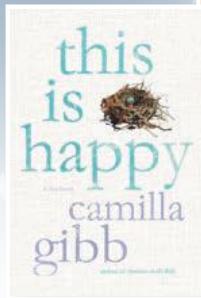
Camilla Gibb

Thursday, October 20. 7pm



Meet Camilla Gibb, author of four internationally acclaimed novels. Her recent memoir *This is Happy* has been described as one of the most exquisite,

agonizing and uplifting books of the year. Gibb will talk with Diana Davidson about the genesis of *This is Happy*, a story of new motherhood, altered relationships, and a family finding its way to wholeness.



STARFest Facts

Gibb gained recognition with her first novel, *Mouthing the Words*, in 1999. It was listed as one of the “Best Books of the Year” by *The Globe and Mail* and *Now Magazine*, and it won the City of Toronto Book Award and the CBC Canadian Literary Award for short fiction. Her second novel *The Petty Details of So-and-so’s Life* was also selected by *The Globe and Mail* as one of the “Best Books of the Year.” *Sweetness in the Belly* was shortlisted for the 2005 Giller Prize and won the Trillium Award. Her most recent novel was *The Beauty of Humanity Movement*.

Gibb’s 2015 memoir, *This Is Happy*, was shortlisted for the RBC Taylor Prize. It was selected as a best book by the *National Post*, *The Globe and Mail*, the CBC, *Quill and Quire* and the *Vancouver Sun*.

Gibb has been writer-in-residence at the universities of Toronto, Alberta and BC. She teaches in the graduate creative writing programs at the universities of Guelph-Humber and Toronto and the Humber School for Writers and is currently a Professor in Social Justice at the University of Toronto.

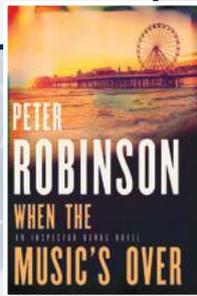
Diana Davidson’s writing appears in several anthologies, and her debut novel *Pilgrimage* made the top five in the Alberta Readers’ Choice Awards. She is a popular host at STARFest.

Peter Robinson

Friday, October 21. 7pm.
Arden Theatre.



Solve the mystery of prolific crime writer Peter Robinson, creator of DCI Alan Banks, who has been thrilling fans for almost 30 years, winning a caseload of awards along the way. Author Wayne Arthurson will be questioning the man behind the detective in the hunt for clues to his amazing success.



STARFest Facts

Robinson is a Canadian crime writer born in Britain. His first novel in 1987, *Gallows View*, introduced readers to the Yorkshire-based Detective Chief Inspector Alan Banks. It was short-listed for the Crime Writers of Canada best first novel award. Since then Robinson has written a further 23 titles in the series; the latest, *When the Music's Over*, will be published this fall.

Over the years Robinson has won numerous awards including some of the most prestigious awards in crime fiction. He was also presented with the UK Crime Writers Association Dagger in the Library for his body of work. His books are regularly on the bestseller and notable books lists. Since 2010 several of the novels have been adapted for television under the series title DCI Banks.

Robinson has also published many short stories, again garnering several awards. His books have been translated into 19 languages including Norwegian, Estonian and Brazilian Portuguese.

Robinson divides his time between Toronto and Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Wayne Arthurson is currently the Writer in Residence at Edmonton Public Library. He is a freelance writer and bestselling crime novelist. His most recent book, *The Traitors of Camp 133*, was published earlier this year.

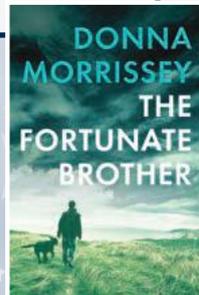
Donna Morrissey

Saturday, October 22. 2pm



Get a satisfying helping of great literary fiction with award-winner Donna Morrissey who will be spending the afternoon sharing her writing life. Her novels

explore the Newfoundland outport existence and the events that continue to alter and threaten that way of life.



STARFest Facts

Donna Morrissey is one of Canada's most beloved voices. As well as writing award-winning novels she is also the Gemini Award-winning writer of the screenplay *Clothesline Patch*.

Morrissey garnered international attention with her first novel, *Kit's Law*, a book of dark secrets and light humour which won the Canadian Booksellers' Association Libris Award and was nominated for the Books in Canada First Novel Award.

Her second novel, *Downhill Chance*, won the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize. *Sylvanus Now* garnered Morrissey a second Thomas Head Raddall Prize and was short-listed for a Commonwealth Writers Prize. The novel deals with a remote outport world and the contradictions of a small town that both supports and stifles. She returns to the same family in *What They Wanted*, and again in her latest novel due to be published in September 2016, *The Fortunate Brother*.

Morrissey's most recent stand-alone novel, *The Deception of Livvy Higgs*, takes the reader from modern day Halifax back to the mid-thirties and to World War II as she tells the story of one woman's life—a character-driven novel full of Eastern charm from a classic Canadian voice.

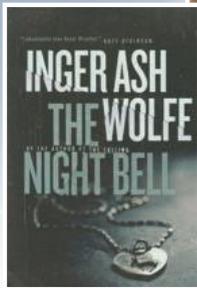
Michael Redhill / Inger Ash Wolfe

Saturday, October 22. 7pm



Enjoy an evening with writer Michael Redhill as he shares his story with Marty Chan. As a writer of many forms Redhill will talk about his wide ranging contributions

to the literary world including his decision to invent an alias—something that caused much conjecture in the writing community.



STARFest Facts

Michael Redhill: poet, playwright, short-story writer, and a novelist who wears two hats—he also writes as Inger Ash Wolfe, creator of the detective Hazel Micallef who features in four acclaimed thrillers, the latest of which was published in 2015. The series is brilliantly paced and addictively suspenseful and Micallef has become one of crime writing's most memorable detectives.

Redhill has gained national and international acclaim for his fiction. His book *Martin Sloane* won the Books in Canada First Novel Award, the Commonwealth Writers Prize (Canadian-Caribbean Region) and was nominated for a slew of other awards. His second novel, *Consolation*, traces the evolution of Toronto through the death of two of its citizens, separated by a century and a half. It was the winner of the City of Toronto Book Award and nominated for the Man Booker Prize.

In 2014 Redhill published his first book for young readers, *Saving Houdini*.

Redhill is also the editor of *Brick*, one of Canada's premier literary journals.

Host Marty Chan is the 2016 Metro Federation Writer in Residence, currently based at St. Albert Public Library. He is a local playwright and children's author.

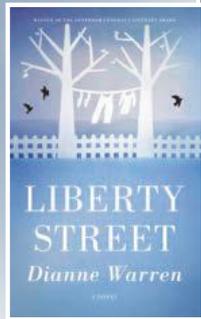


Dianne Warren

Sunday, October 23. 2pm



Spend an afternoon with Dianne Warren in conversation with Marina Endicott. Her books are full of gloriously dry humour and perceptiveness, as she demonstrates a finely tuned understanding of the importance of everyday life.



STARFest Facts

Dianne Warren's first book of short fiction, *The Wednesday Flower Man*, was published in 1987. Two more story collections followed: *Bad Luck Dog* and *A Reckless Moon*. She has also written three stage plays; *Serpent in the Night Sky* was short-listed for the Governor General's Award for drama in 1989.

Warren studied art at university graduating with a Fine Arts degree. She wrote during those years, and eventually decided she needed to develop more so joined the writing group *The Bombay Bicycle Club*. The diligence with which its members approached the art of literary critique set her on the path to becoming a published writer.

Warren's first novel was *Cool Water*, set in a blink-of-an-eye kind of town in Saskatchewan. It is a deeply felt yet witty and entertaining book telling the rich and overlapping stories of the town's people. It won the Governor General's Award for English Language Fiction and was nominated for the Giller Prize.

Her second novel, *Liberty Street*, was published last year—a deeply affecting novel about the truths we avoid and the bad choices that come back to haunt us.

Marina Endicott's work has won numerous accolades and literary awards. The Library was delighted to help launch her recent new novel *Close to Hugh*.

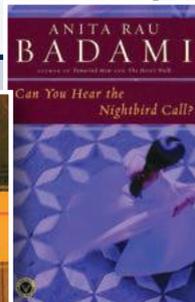
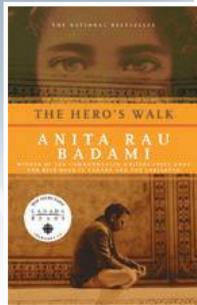
Anita Rau Badami

Tuesday, October 25. 7pm.
Arden Theatre.



Meet the writer behind the much-debated *The Hero's Walk* as Anita Rau Badami talks with Angie Abdou about being selected for CBC's Canada Reads. Badami's

descriptive and beautiful writing puts us easily into someone else's shoes, giving us the ability to understand another's perspective. Join us for an insightful evening.



STARFest Facts

Anita Rau Badami was born in India and sold her first short story at age 18. She worked as an advertising copywriter, freelanced for major Indian newspapers and published stories in children's magazines, before moving to Canada in 1991. Her graduate thesis became her first novel, *Tamarind Mem*, published in 1996.

Badami's four novels deal with the complexities of Indian family life and with the cultural gap that emerges when Indians move to the west. Her bestselling second novel, *The Hero's Walk*, won the Regional Commonwealth Writers Prize, and was named a *Washington Post* Best Book of 2001. It was also nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Prize and the Orange Prize for Fiction. It was runner-up in this year's CBC Canada Reads competition.

Badami's third novel, *Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?*, explores the Golden Temple massacre and the Air India bombing, and her most recent novel, *Tell it to the Trees*, explores a marriage of fear with a suspicious and controlling husband.

Badami was recently the Writer-in-Residence at Athabasca University in Edmonton.

Angie Abdou is a Library favourite having been a guest here on several occasions as a STARFest host and to share her own novels. She is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Athabasca University.



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