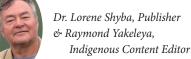


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# ASCENTI OPENING TO AI

## LORENE SHYBA PhD & JAMES R. PARKER PhD, eds.

• • •

"The Ascenti Project" explores the question: How might professionals in the creative arts collaborate with AI programs to discover new tools and techniques for their work? The overall project encompasses a book titled Ascenti: Opening to AI, a dedicated website at ascenti-project.com, and a two-day conference symposium. The book features a lineup of "creatives" in the cultural industries who specialize in visual art, writing (prose, poetry, and playwriting), animation, audiobook performance, sound design, and videogames. They experiment with AI by making two original works within their respective artistic mediums, inspiring an AI program(s) to generate works based on prompts derived from their original creations, and then evaluate the AI-generated output. They will demonstrating AI's potential to enhance the original works, and help them overcome visual or other challenges. Alternatively, participants may express the downsides of AI.

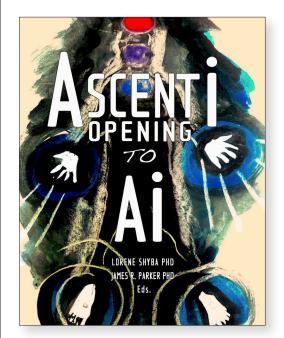
### **EDITORS AND PARTICIPANTS**

**Lorene Shyba** is publisher at Durvile & UpRoute Books and editor of the Artist Survival series. Her PhD in Interactive Media is from the University of Calgary.

**James R. Parker** is a professor of art at the University of Calgary and an expert in multimedia and game design. Jim is author of *Generative Art: Algorithms as Artistic Tool.* 

Participants: Verna Vogel, Rich Théroux, Julian Hobson, and Eveline Kolijn (visual art), Dagmar Jamieson (architectural design), Clem Martini (playwriting), Uchechukwu Umezurike (prose), Rosemary Griebel (poetry), Jim Parker (games), Lorene Shyba (audiobook narration/animation), and Kenna Burima (sound/music).





"Is AI going to be like the printing press that diffused knowledge, power, and learning widely, empowering ordinary, everyday individuals? ... Or is it going to be more like the atom bomb?"

—Sam Altman, OpenAI CEO

### **UpRoute** Imprint of Durvile Publications

ART046000 ART / Digital COM004000 COMPUTERS / Artificial Intelligence

Artist Survival Series ISBN: 978-1-990735-50-9 (pbk) *E-book and audiobook also available* 

Book release date, April 2024 7.25" x 9.25" | 160 Pages | Full Colour illustrations \$37.50 in Canada, \$29.95 in US

Participants and editors are from Calgary and Foothills, Alberta, and East Kootenays, BC.

The Ascenti Project was funded in part by

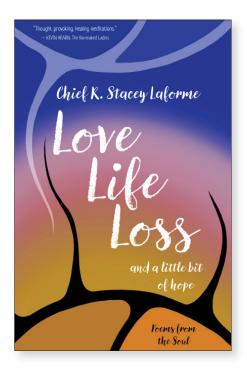


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"Thought-provoking and healing meditations.... Gimaa Laforme writes from his perspective as a son, father, husband, community leader, but most of all as a human being."

 Kevin Hearn, band member of Barenaked Ladies

### **UpRoute** Imprint of Durvile Publications

LCO013000 / Indigenous Peoples in the Americas Poetry of Indigenous People

The Spirit of Nature Series ISBN: 978-1-990735-43-1 (pbk) *E-book and audiobook also available* 

Book release date, March 2024 5.5" x 8.5" | 160 Pages | b/w art illustration \$24.95 in Canada, \$19.95 in US

Chief Laforme is from the Anishinaabek New Credit First Nation, Ontario

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# LOVE LIFE LOSS and a little bit of hope

POFMS FROM THE SOUL

## BY CHIEF R. STACEY LAFORME

Foreword: Kevin Hearn Illustrations: Samantha Gibbon

"We should not have to change to fit into society.

The world should adapt to embrace our uniqueness."

— Chief R. Stacey Laforme

Chief Stacey Laforme breathes life into every poem and story he shares, drawing from his own experiences. Rich with the essence of his soul, the poems in this book capture the moments and emotions that have shaped him. His desire is for readers to not just read, but to truly feel the humour and pain intertwined in these poems. Much like in *Living in the Tall Grass*, this latest poetry collection invites non-Indigenous people to see through the eyes of Indigenous people with topics of peace and humanity, as well as grief, trauma ... and hope.

## ABOUT CHIEF R. STACEY LAFORME



Stacey Laforme was born into a life of alcoholism and abuse. At 15, he lived on the street, eventually finding a home with his grandmothers. He started his first job at 12 years old, eventually joining the iron workers union. He attended college late in life. He ran and was elected Chief of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe in December 2015. He says, "I am

dedicated to my people, and to all the people who live within our treaty lands." Chief LaForme recently became only the third Honourary Senior Fellow of Massey College of the University of Toronto.



For more information go to DURVILE.COM

## ÎETHKA

# Stories and Language in Stoney Nakoda Country

## BY TRENT FOX & VALENTINA FOX

Illustrations: Tanisha Wesley

• • •

This book features the Stoney Nakoda First Nation language in context and in action. The book contains a collection of stories by Trent and Valentina Fox, with each of their teachings culminating in a learning section. To assist in nuances of the language, the book also includes audio components as web links. The Îethka Stoney Nakoda People are an integral part of the Treaty 7 group of Indigenous Nations in Southern Alberta. Their spoken language is part of the Dakota-Sioux linguistic group.

#### ABOUT TRENT AND VALENTINA FOX



Trent Fox, Tatâga Thkan Wagichi (Dancing White Buffalo) (1974–2023).

Trent Fox, was an esteemed member of the Wesley First Nation, Stoney Nakoda Nation. His academic research focused on the history of his People and development of the Îethka

language. His research lives on in this book.



Valentina Fox, Îyâ Sa Wîyâ (Red Mountain Woman). Valentina Fox is a member of the Wesley First Nation, Stoney Nakoda Nation. A great-grandmother, grandmother, and mother, she is also a counsellor and Elder at Nakoda Elementary School. A former Certified Nursing Assistant

(Practical Nurse), she earned her undergraduate degree in First Nations counselling later in life. She is a passionate advocate for the retention of the Îethka language.



For more information go to DURVILE.COM



"Language is the mind, spirit, and soul of a people. Every effort must be made to protect, preserve, promote, and practice our Indigenous languages."

 Verna Kirkness, Cree scholar of Indigenous language

#### **UpRoute** Imprint of Durvile Publications

LCO013000 / Indigenous Peoples in the Americas

Indigenous Spirit of Nature series ISBN: 978-1-990735-11-0 *E-book and audiobook also available* Book release date, June 2024

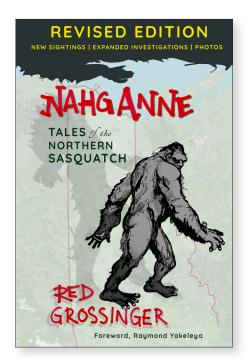
6" x 9" | 144 Pages | colour art and photos \$37.50 in Canada, \$29.95 in US

Authors and Artist/Photographers are from the Stoney Nakoda First Nation, Mînî Thnî, Alberta.

For media contact:

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"Most Yukoners are respectful of Grossinger's openmindedness. And for those who aren't, he doesn't space much time."

—YUKON Magazine: North of Ordinary

**UpRoute** Imprint of Durvile Publications OCC029000 Phenomena SOC062000 Indigenous Studies

The Spirit of Nature Series, Raymond Yakeleya, *editor NEW EDITION* ISBN: 978-1-990735-49-3 (pbk) *Also available as ebook and audiobook* 

Book release date, March 2024 6" x 9" | 320 Pages | Illustrations and Photos \$37.50 in Canada, \$29.95 in US

Red Grossinger lives in Whitehorse, Yukon.

For media contact: Lorene Shyba | 403 818-4808 | lorene.shyba@durvile.com

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## NAHGANNE

## Tales of the Northern Sasquatch

**REVISED EDITION** 

## BY RED GROSSINGER

Foreword: Raymond Yakeleya

Illustrations: Rich Théroux

A NEW EDITION! New to this edition is a revised preface, a new section of Sasquatch sightings, signs, and occurrences, and new photos of footprints and other evidence.

For as long as humans have been around the North, the activities of bipedal, forest-dwelling, hirsute hominoid entities have been observed in many places, but only a few people have taken the time to share their stories of coming in contact with them. This book presents activities occurring in the North such as sightings, strange vocals, the discovery of large human-like footprints, strange animal reaction, and weird tree events. Embedded within are snippets of history and insights into the First Nation Peoples of the North. Author Red Grossinger takes on the role of investigator, meticulously analysing the reports he has received, providing readers with detailed accounts of these intriguing encounters and phenomena.



### ABOUT RED GROSSINGER

Red Grossinger is a Huron Métis born and raised in Quebec. He is a decorated military officer, now retired from the Canadian Army after 30 years of service with NATO and the UN around the world. Red is an avid outdoorsman

and an open-minded Sasquatch enthusiast who has been roving about the Yukon since 1980. Red has acquired an intimate knowledge of the North, which he has used to analyze the many Sasquatch related reports presented in this book.



For more information go to DURVILE.COM

## **GODDESS ALPHA**

## **Directions Home**

## WRITTEN AND STITCHED BY JESSICA THEROUX

• • •

Goddess Alpha: Directions Home is a textile compendium of embroidered images and stories about goddesses, beginning with Artemis, the virginal hunter, and progressing to the ostentatious Eos, the goddess of dawn, and Hecate, the healer. It concludes with Xihe, the mother of ten Suns (sons) who take turns bringing light to Earth, and the Zorya sisters, who are responsible for watching over the beast in the sky to prevent it from devouring the universe. Each of the 26 goddesses provides guidance on homing in on our direction in life, as well as on how to creatively undertake tasks of invention and inspiration. Furthermore, the stories of these goddesses lead to insights that help us discover our own soulful nature and the profound truths residing within our innermost being.

## ABOUT JESSICA THEROUX

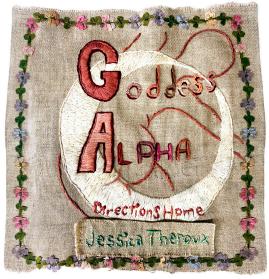


Within *Goddess Alpha*, Jessica Theroux skillfully entwines her own personal journey with meticulous historical research and a spiritual connection to prominent goddess figures. Through her mastery of embroidery, watercolor, oil painting, and ceramic sculpture,

she delves into the mystical realms of the feminine divine, shining a light on the power that resides within every cherished and often overlooked creature on our planet. In a recent TedX talk, she explored the significance of love in our collective journey of (re)creating the world.



For more information go to DURVILE.COM





"Jess offers us a fierce, wild, brave, delicious, and loving insight into the goddesses and into ourselves.

—Winslow Eliot, PhD, metaphysician, and author of *Be Still*.

### **UpRoute** Imprint of Durvile Publications

OCC036050 Goddesses

The Every River Lit Series ISBN: 978-1-990735-44-8 (pbk)

Book release date, May 2024

8.5" x 8.5" | 128 Pages | Full Colour illustrations \$37.50 in Canada, \$29.95 in US

Jessica Theroux lives Calgary, Alberta

For media contact:

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The lands where our studios stand are a part of the ancient homeland and traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations, as places of hunting, travel, trade, and healing. The Treaty 7 Peoples of Southern Alberta include the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai of the Niisitapi (Blackfoot) Confederacy; the Dene Tsuut'ina; and the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley Stoney Nakoda First Nations. We also acknowledge the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta. We honour the Nations and Peoples, as well as the land. We commit to serving the needs of Indigenous Peoples today and into the future.





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