



BOOK RELEASE

Cricket in a Fist Naomi K. Lewis

Fiction
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Debut Novel *Cricket in a Fist* Explores How Memory Shapes Us

Cricket in a Fist debuts as the first full-length novel by Canadian author Naomi K. Lewis, winner of the 2007 *Fiddlehead* Prize for Fiction. In seven moving narratives, Lewis reveals the importance of memory and self-identity through the perspectives of four generations of a secular Jewish family. Unspoken memories of the Holocaust and other personal tragedies emerge through unintentional acts of abandonment, guilt, and vengeance — themes that resonate with mothers, daughters, and sisters universally — as the women seek to heal pain or emptiness and find that “forgetting” has its own disturbing price.

In the novel, wildly successful self-help author J. Virginia Morgan preaches healing through “willing amnesia,” while her youngest daughter, 13-year-old Jasmine, angrily plans a vengeful confrontation with her mother after nine years of abandonment. Jasmine enlists the help of her estranged sister, 24-year-old Agatha, who is also herself lonely and alienated.

About the Author

Naomi K. Lewis was born in England, moved to Washington, D.C. when she was three, and then moved to Ottawa when she was seven. She lived there until she was twenty-three, earning her BA in English from Carlton University in 2000. After three years in Toronto, she went to the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton. She received her M.A. in Creative Writing in 2005, and then moved to Alberta, where she now lives in Calgary. Lewis is currently the Associate Editor for *Legacy*, Alberta’s heritage, arts and culture magazine. She also teaches creative writing at Metro College, and business and academic writing at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. “The Guiding Light,” a selection from this manuscript, won the 2007 *Fiddlehead* Prize for Fiction.

Accolades

“In her passionately felt first novel, Naomi K. Lewis explores how the Holocaust distorts the lives of surviving generations. *Cricket in a Fist* asks difficult questions about personal freedom and the long arm of the past.” — Martha Baillie, author of *The Shape I Gave You*

— more —

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“*Cricket in a Fist* lays a handful of fingers on what goes wrong when we are young. There’s a whole family of trouble here, and Naomi K. Lewis gives voice to it all – smartly structured, tender, and candid first novel.” — Michael Winter, author of *The Big Why*

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Goose Lane Editions is a small, lively company based in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on the beautiful Saint John River. The company is Canada’s oldest independent publisher and specializes in Canadian fiction, poetry, and non-fiction by the best established and emerging authors. Recent honours include: the 2007 Best Atlantic Published Book (for *Bruno Bobak: The Full Palette*, edited by Bernard Riordon), the Danuta Gleed Award (for *Eyehill* by Kelly Cooper), the Governor General’s Award for fiction (for *Elle* by Douglas Glover), an Independent Publishers’ Book Award for poetry (for *The Drunken Lovely Bird* by Sue Sinclair) and the very first Carlo Betocchi International Poetry Prize (Florence, Italy) to be earned by non-Italian (for *High Marsh Road* by Douglas Lochhead).

Contact Information

For review copies, author interviews, or publication excerpts please contact Susan Baker at sbaker@gooselane.com or call (888) 926.8377.

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— 30 —

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