



BOOK RELEASE

Mnemonic *A Book of Trees* Theresa Kishkan

Nature
ISBN 13: 978-0-86492-706-4 pb
978-0-86492-706-4 e
\$19.95 / 260 pp / 5.5 x 8.5 / pb
Pub Date: October 2011 (Canada)
November 2011 (U.S.)

Warm, imaginative, and thoroughly original, novelist and essayist Theresa Kishkan intertwines the mysteries of trees with the defining moments in life in a stunningly original memoir. For Kishkan, trees are memory markers of life, and through the pages of *Mnemonic: A Book of Trees* she explores the presence of trees in nature, in culture and in her personal history.

Naming each chapter for a particular tree — the Garry oak, the Ponderosa pine, the silver olive, and others — Kishkan draws from various strands of mythology from classical and contemporary sources to blend scientific fact with natural history and the artifacts of human culture, exploring Kishkan's personal past within a botanical/historical context. What takes place among the trees is a life — childhood, young womanhood, marriage, the building of a house, raising children, writing books. Scholarly and archival material informs the botanical observations, evoking her sense of the landscapes of her past being that are in some ways adjacent and beneath their contemporary counterparts. These landscapes are like transparencies, one overlaid another, memory serving to shift the focus so that one sees all that a place has been, with both depth and a sense of loss.

Never pedantic, always accessible, *Mnemonic* reveals — through one woman's relationship with the natural world — how we all have roots that intertwine with the broader world, tapping deep into the rich well of universal themes. In the words of Pliny the Elder, "Hence it is right to follow the natural order, to speak about trees before other things . . ."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Theresa Kishkan is the author of eleven books of poetry and prose. Her essays have appeared in *Memewar*, *Dandelion*, *Lake*, *Contrary*, *The New Quarterly*, *Cerise*, and many other magazines and been nominated for the Pushcart Prize, the Relit Award, the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, and the Hubert Evans Prize for Non-Fiction. Her collection of essays, *Phantom Limb*, won the first Readers' Choice Award from the Canadian Creative Non-Fiction Collective in 2009. An essay from *Mnemonic* won the 2010 Edna Staebler Personal Essay Prize.

AWARDS

Winner, bp Nichol Chapbook Award, 1992
Finalist, Pushcart Prize, 1999.
Finalist, Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, B.C. Book Prizes, 2005.
Finalist, Hubert Evans Award for Non-Fiction, 2008.
Winner, First Annual Readers' Choice Award, Creative Non-Fiction Collective, 2009.
Winner, Edna Staebler Personal Essay Prize, 2010.
Finalist, Pushcart Prize, 2010.
Finalist, National Magazine Award, 2011.

— more —

Corey Redekop, Publicity & Promotions
Tel (506) 450 4251 / Toll free 1 (888) 926 8377
credekop@gooselane.com www.gooselane.com

PREVIOUS ACCLAIM

“There is a richness of feeling in Kishkan’s writing, a blend of clear-eyed observation and reflection that makes *Phantom Limb* a true pleasure to read.” *Geist*, on *Phantom Limb*

“The clean, slow burn and earthly sensibility of a fine whisky. Sip carefully or drink freely. Either way, you’ll soon find yourself under Kishkan’s spell.” *Quill & Quire*, on *Man in a Distant Field*

CONTACT INFORMATION

For review copies, author interviews, or publication excerpts, please contact Corey Redekop at credekop@gooselane.com or call (888) 926.8377.

High-res book cover and author image files are available at www.gooselane.com.

Corey Redekop, Publicity & Promotions
Tel (506) 450 4251 / Toll free 1 (888) 926 8377
credekop@gooselane.com www.gooselane.com