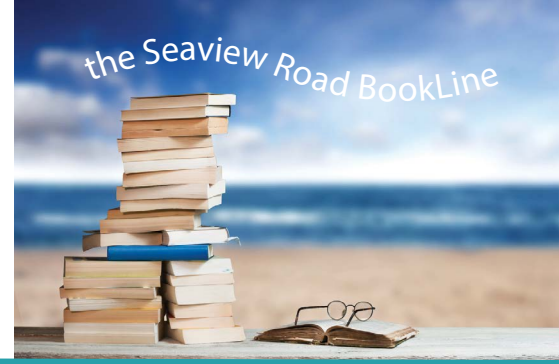
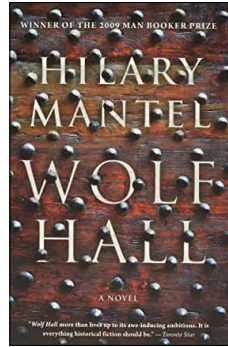


# JUNE 2022 BOOKLIST



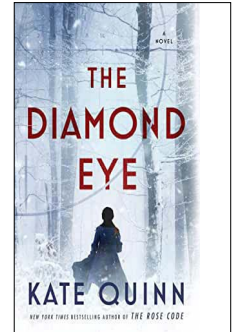
## WOLF HALL by Hilary Mantel

This is great historical fiction (not usually my favourite) which draws you right in to the day and the characters. It's the first in a compelling trilogy, the next two books being, 'Bring Up the Bodies' and 'The Mirror and the Light'. The life journey of Thomas Cromwell (NOT Oliver Cromwell), advisor to Henry VIII, as told by Mantel, is a fascinating read. — *Doranne De Montigny*

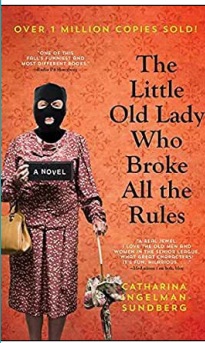


## THE DIAMOND EYE by Kate Quinn

Unforgettable World War 2 story of history's deadliest sniper, Lady Death. Based on a true story. — *Lois Clyde*



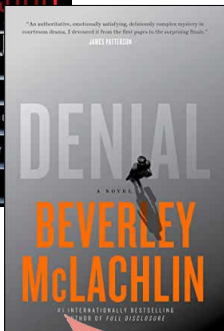
## THE LITTLE OLD LADY WHO BROKE ALL THE RULES by Catherine Ingelman-Sundberg



Five creative and feisty seniors develop a scheme which will enable them to better enjoy their retirement years. They plan to commit a crime to help them escape from the rundown, cost cutting retirement home that keeps them bored, hungry and sedated. Humour, coincidence, connections, and a string of good fortune keep the plot twisting and turning. — *Barb Staton*

## FULL DISCLOSURE and DENIAL by Beverly McLachlin

These novels are mysteries with legal backdrops. Beverly McLachlin was the first woman in Canada to be Chief Justice. — *Doranne De Montigny*



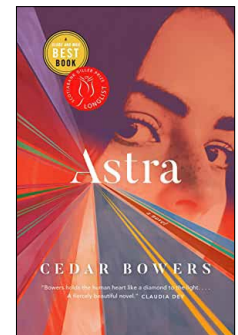
READ MORE!



## ASTRA by Cedar Bowers

'Astra' is the story of a woman born and raised on a remote BC commune. Astra is the axis around which the narratives of the ten people closest to Astra turn. It is a uniquely constructed novel with beautifully elegant prose. It explores what we are willing to give and receive from others and how well we ever really know the people we love the most.

(Available from the library)  
— *Shelly Hollingshead*



**WE WANT WHAT WE WANT**

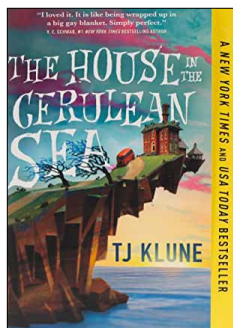
by Alix Ohlin



The book includes thirteen surprising and darkly funny stories of people testing the boundaries of their lives. Publishers Weekly says, “another rich collection full of insights and sticky contradictions ... the depth of her characters are revealed with empathy and precision...more than worth the price of admission.” (Available from the library) — Shelly Hollingshead

**THE HOUSE IN THE CERULEAN SEA**

by TJ Klune



If you are mourning the absence of tolerance and hope in this world of ours, be reassured by this lovely, if fantastical novel. Linus is locked in a lonely life, living with his grumpy cat and his old records in a tiny house. He takes his job as a caseworker overseeing the well being of “orphaned magical youth” very seriously. As our story opens, he is tasked with an inspection of the Marsyas institution, home of the very special, if not extremely dangerous, youth supervised by the enigmatic Arthur Parnassus. Linus’ adventures here teach us much about kindness, family, and the acceptance of our differences. Highly recommend. — Lesley Bird

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Thanks to everyone who submitted to The Booklist. The Seaview Road Bookline comes out once a month; the next submission deadline is August 20th — will send out a reminder a week beforehand. I’m also interested in articles that feature works of a particular author or that focus on a book series — one per issue — first submitted, first printed. Fiction only, please. Poetry is welcome. [seaviewbreezenews@gmail.com](mailto:seaviewbreezenews@gmail.com)  
 HAPPY SUMMER READING, EVERYONE!

POETRY CORNER

**MOONLIGHT, SUMMER MOONLIGHT**

by Emily Jane Brontë

‘Tis moonlight, summer moonlight,  
 All soft and still and fair;  
 The solemn hour of midnight  
 Breathes sweet thoughts everywhere,

But most where trees are sending  
 Their breezy boughs on high,  
 Or stooping low are lending  
 A shelter from the sky.

And there in those wild bowers  
 A lovely form is laid;  
 Green grass and dew-steeped flowers  
 Wave gently round her head.

**THE SUMMER I WAS SIXTEEN**

by Geraldine Connolly

The turquoise pool rose up to meet us, its slide  
 a silver afterthought down which we plunged,  
 screaming, into a mirage of bubbles. We did  
 not exist beyond the gaze of a boy.

Shaking water off our limbs, we lifted up from  
 ladder rungs across the fern-cool lip of rim.  
 Afternoon. Oiled and sated, we sunbathed,  
 rose and paraded the concrete,

danced to the low beat of “Duke of Earl”. Past  
 cherry colas, hot-dogs, Dreamsicles, we came  
 to the counter where bees staggered into root  
 beer cups and drowned. We gobbled

cotton candy torches, sweet as furtive kisses,  
 shared on benches beneath summer shadows.  
 Cherry. Elm. Sycamore. We spread our chenille  
 blankets across grass, pressed radios to our ears,

mouthed the old words, then loosened thin  
 bikini straps and rubbed baby oil with iodine  
 across sunburned shoulders, tossing a glance  
 through the chain link at an improbable world.

## Vancouver's Bill Richardson pays tribute to Canadian writer Mavis Gallant in her centenary year

(from the *The Next Chapter: Q&A*, CBC Radio, submitted by Shelly Hollingshead)

Vancouver writer **Bill Richardson** has an intriguing summer project: he's spending the season reading and writing about the work of Canadian short story writer Mavis Gallant.

Richardson, a longtime contributor to CBC Radio and the author of several books, is revisiting Gallant's work through his online Substack newsletter **Oh, MG: My Mavis Gallant Centennial Diaries**. He plans to keep posting his daily reflections on her enduring literary legacy until Aug. 11, 2022, which would have been Gallant's 100th birthday — and happens to be his own birthday, too.

Gallant was a Canadian-born writer who lived in France and died in 2014 at the age of 91. Her more than 100 stories, most published in *The New Yorker* over five decades beginning in 1951, have influenced generations of writers and earned her comparisons to Anton Chekhov, Henry James and George Eliot.

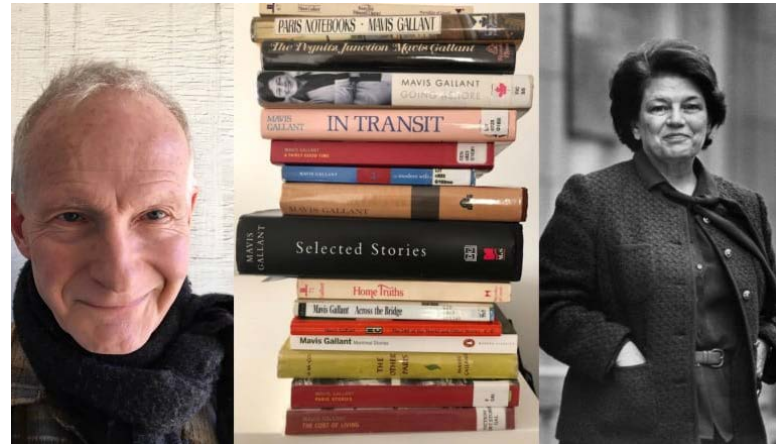
Richardson spoke with **Shelagh Rogers** about why he wanted to pay tribute to Gallant through his own writing to mark the short story master's centenary.

### **Shelagh Rogers: What is it about Mavis Gallant's work that makes it such a touchstone for you?**

Bill Richardson: I've always enjoyed her writing since I started to read her, probably in the late '70s, early '80s. I think like a lot of people, I began to read her with the publication of 'From the Fifteenth District.' It wasn't her

first anthology of stories published in Canada, but it was the one that made her kind of explode into Canadian public awareness.

I think what I liked right away were the things I still like. Apart from anything else, she's a wonderful ironist — she's just one of the



Through daily posts on Substack, Vancouver writer and broadcaster Bill Richardson, left, is marking what would have been Canadian short story master Mavis Gallant's 100th birthday this year. (Submitted by Bill Richardson, Ian Barrett/The Canadian Press)

funniest writers you will ever read. Which isn't to say that anyone would hurry to call her a humorist, but she's so sharp in her observations.

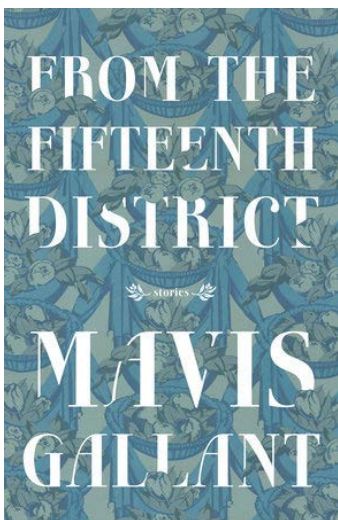
And then there's the themes of dislocation and disenfranchisement that she deals with. I don't know of anybody who has written more beautifully about children who find themselves in the hapless care of feckless adults.

So the fascination is in part with the writing itself — the themes that she deals with, the luminosity of her expression. But then there's the other part — which is her as a person, because her life was so extraordinary.

**Apart from anything else, she's a wonderful ironist — she's just one of the funniest writers you will ever read.**

**In the May 29 installment of your Substack diary, you put up a picture of the inside flap of a Mavis Gallant book that you borrowed from the library — and it's inscribed. How did that come about?**

I had borrowed this copy from the Vancouver Public Library that was inscribed "To Don" from Mavis — that's it, no surname, no indication of who Don might be; couldn't be a more common name. So I took a picture of it and put it up on the Substack.



And lo and behold, the next day, a note comes through from a guy named Don Davis, who said he went to a Mavis Gallant reading in 1989 and she signed it for him. When he was downsizing, somebody else bought it, and eventually it made its way to the VPL.

But the extraordinary thing about it was that of all the Dons in the world, this particular Don happened to be paying attention to the Substack, and we ended up having lunch a couple of days ago.

For all those years, he had kept the pen Mavis Gallant had used that he'd given her to sign the book. And when we met for lunch, he gave me the pen.

**But one of the things that's really fascinated me is her genius for friendship. She met people and she didn't let them go.**

***I love the interplay in your diaries between your life and Gallant's work — how much fun is it to imagine what Mavis might do?***

She was such an interesting study. I don't think she was somebody who would much like to give advice. She did publish some diary excerpts in certain places, including *The New Yorker* — this is the diary she kept during a time of great ferment and excitement, but great poverty.

In New York, she had a crooked agent — she'd been selling stories to *The New Yorker*, but the agent hadn't been sending along the money, so she was totally broke. She was living in very, very reduced circumstances in Madrid. At one point in the diaries, she's selling off her clothes — and she says, "Never buy cheap clothes' was the only piece of advice Mummy ever gave me."

So I don't necessarily think actively, "What would Mavis do in this situation?" But she was certainly not afraid to speak her mind.

***I had the chance to interview her. People would say she didn't suffer fools, but I believe if she was offered the respect she deserved, it was very easy to be with her.***

When first meeting her, a lot of people took away the impression of somebody who was cold or alienating or



Mavis Gallant in Montreal, circa 1981. (Canadian Press)

frankly, snobbish. And I can understand well enough how that might be — she came from quite bohemian circumstances and her childhood was very fractured.

But one of the things that's really fascinated me is her genius for friendship. She met people and she didn't let them go. If they were willing to reciprocate, she stayed in touch with all kinds of people, so floating around out there in the world are thousands and thousands of letters.

She was a hugely social creature — she was always out and about; she was always travelling. That she managed to do so much, and for all of that to have such a high quality, is absolutely amazing.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

To subscribe to Bill Richardson's online Substack newsletter **Oh, MG: My Mavis Gallant Centennial Diaries**, go to: <https://substack.com/profile/3913804-bill-richardson>