

BOOK RELEASE

*Petitot*, a novel by Susan Haley

13 SEPTEMBER 2013— Gaspereau Press has just released *Petitot* [\$31.95 | 9781554471263 | FICTION], a new novel by Susan Haley. Fresh out of college and reeling from the failure of a marriage that had barely even begun, Marcus takes a teaching job in a tiny northern-Canadian native community. While struggling to grasp his own predicament, Marcus finds himself entangled in much larger community tragedies – the suicide of an aging priest and the death of two young students from exposure. But it is his discovery of the writings of Émile Petitot – a controversial nineteenth-century missionary Oblate priest, linguist and ‘explorer’ – which finally threatens to unhinge Marcus, launching him on an obsessive quest for answers.

In this novel, Susan Haley explores the troubled life and dubious claims of Father Petitot, whose fifteen years beneath the Arctic Circle were punctuated by scandal, delusional behaviour and episodes of outright madness and paranoia – problems which caused him to be shuffled from mission to mission, temporary excommunicated and even forcibly hospitalized by the bishop. Haley’s binocular approach ruptures the normal historical perspective as she attempts to depict Petitot in all his complexity, both through the eyes of his Inuit and Cree contemporaries and through those of Marcus, who sifts through the written records of one man’s life in search for the truth about us all.

Susan Haley’s first two novels, *A Nest of Singing Birds* and *Getting Married in Buffalo Jump*, were made into movies for CBC-TV. Her recent novels include *The Complaints Department*, *Maggie’s Family* and *The Murder of Medicine Bear*. Haley and her partner ran a charter airline in Fort Norman, Northwest Territories, for 15 years. She now lives in Black River, Nova Scotia.

READINGS & EVENTS

YELLOWKNIFE: 16 September 2013 at 7:00 p.m. – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, 4750 48th Street.

CALGARY: 18 September 2013 at 12:00 p.m. – The Red Lodge, University of Calgary’s Native Centre, 402

Collegiate Boulevard NW. ¶ 19 September 2013 at 7:30 p.m. – Pages Bookstore, 1135 Kensington Road, NW.

SASKATOON: 20 September 2013 at 7:30 p.m. – City Perks Coffeehouse, 801 7th Avenue N.

Book launches are being scheduled for Halifax and Wolfville, NS. For more information, contact Trina Grant-Adam at Gaspereau Press ([trina@gaspereau.com](mailto:trina@gaspereau.com))



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