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"These 15 new stories celebrate the differences between us and our northern neighbor. As in any good noir, poverty, drugs, and despair cloud many of the characters' lives. But even the stories about druggies have a certain *je ne sais quoi*...Whether it's the quirkiness of the characters, the ingenuity of the puzzles, or the big hearts inside some of the darkest villains, noir's different north of the border."

--***Kirkus Reviews***

"American crime fiction fans will welcome the opportunity to sample the short fiction of some worthy Canadian authors."

--***Publishers Weekly***

"Montreal solidifies its reputation as the epicentre for Canadian noir in a strong new anthology."

--***Quill & Quire, Editor's Choice***

"Akashic Books has produced more than 80 city-noir collections, from Atlanta to Zagreb. Toronto has had a turn and Vancouver is in the works. The Montreal edition brings together a bicultural roster of talent by some of the city's best crime-fiction specialists, with tales from the city's many neighbourhoods."

--***Toronto Star, included in Arrivals column***

"The best reason for reading short-story anthologies is to discover new writers. That means searching for talented editors to select the goods and, in this case, John McFetridge and Jacques Filippi have definitely delivered in this elegant collection for the wonderful Akashic city noir series. There are no bad stories here, but there are many standouts...It's worth having this book around for quick reading and rediscovery of old spots in Montreal. It also makes a great little gift for mystery fans, and even those who aren't."

--***The Globe and Mail***

"Jacques Filippi and John McFetridge have assembled an impressive roster of Francophone (most translated by Katie Shireen Assef) and Anglophone writers for *Montreal Noir*...Filippi and McFetridge have done a fine job bringing together stories from across the many sub-genres of mystery: police procedural, thriller, private eye, psychological suspense, and hard-boiled crime...The avid crime fiction reader is sure to find a tale (or six) in *Montreal Noir* to suit their taste."

--***Montreal Review of Books***

Akashic Books continues its award-winning series of original noir anthologies, launched in 2004 with *Brooklyn Noir*. Each book comprises all new stories, each one set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the respective city. Following the success of *Toronto Noir*, the Noir Series explores new Canadian terrain, featuring both English and Francophone authors.

**Brand-new stories by:** Patrick Senécal, Tess Fragoulis, Howard Shrier, Michel Basilières, Robert Pobi,

Samuel Archibald, Geneviève Lefebvre, Ian Truman, Johanne Seymour, Arjun Basu, Martin Michaud, Melissa Yi, Catherine McKenzie, Peter Kirby, and Brad Smith.

From the introduction by John McFetridge & Jacques Filippi:

*Montreal is one of the oldest cities in North America and seems to be in a constant state of flux, changing its personality every few decades. Today, the city has its own language: Franglais (or Frenglish). Maybe the first word spoken in that language was noir...*

Perhaps it's fitting that a collection that brings so many of Montreal's cultures together is noir. Much of the city's literary tradition was defined by the two solitudes and most of the works delved deeply into single neighborhoods...

## Montreal Noir Details

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Author : Jacques Filippi (Editor) , John McFetridge (Editor) , Rob Pobi , Patrick Senécal , Jo Seymour , Howard Shrier , Brad Smith , Ian Truman , more... Melissa Yi , Catherine McKenzie , Samuel Archibald , Michel Basilieres, , Arjun Basu , Tess Fragoulis , Peter Kirby , Geneviève Lefebvre , Martin Michaud ...less

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Fiction, Mystery, Noir, Cultural, Canada, Crime, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

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## From Reader Review Montreal Noir for online ebook

### Maxwell says

This was a fun reading experience because I just recently visited Montreal and picked this book up there. But on their own most of these stories were not that great. I do appreciate that this publisher gives local authors the opportunity to contribute to a collection about their city though. 2.5 stars

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### Agnès Ferniot says

I liked this book. Gave it five stars for its motivating effect on myself to write some short stories. These fifteen stories remind me there are many types of noir. Now I have to find a list explaining the different types of noir.

In my opinion most of these stories are like very gory criminal minds or Mtl mafioso stories. Many gory animal cruelty schticks and cruel child abductions before anyone thought of amber alerts. I can barely read these stories for the gore. They are not so much like Dashiell Hammet, not so much fun to read. In fact, all of them are excruciatingly mentally disturbing.

Yes, each one does evoke Mtl by using recognizable street names and places, although I myself rarely venture east of St. Lawrence Blvd. It is snowing or winter is evoked in many of the stories.

And yes, a few months ago I had noticed some advertising for the Victor Lessard police procedural miniseries I think as a Vidéotron series for subscribers. It looked interesting and made me regret giving up tv. I'll eventually have to get organized with some system or other to view Quebec téléromans in full. They are all awesome productions!

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### Tonstant Weader says

Montreal Noir is a collection of fifteen short stories centered on or around Montreal. Montreal is the center for Francophone Canada and this collection reflects that with a mix of stories written in English and French. It is one of the latest in the outstanding Akashic Noir Series of short story anthologies that takes readers to the cities of the world on a noir world tour.

Editors in these series sometimes go out of their way to include stories that are outside the conventional idea of noir, stretching the boundaries of noir as far as they possibly can. Editors Jacques Filippi and John McFetridge did not. Their stories are faithful to the noir tradition filled with murder, mayhem, and mystery.

There are some stories that will break your heart. The Suitcase Man, The Crap Magnet, and Milk Teeth. There were a couple of stories that were a bit too easy to figure out and Milk Teeth was one, even though it was heartbreaking. There were a couple that attempted misdirection but were too obvious. Other People's Secrets, for example, is pretty obvious and the reveal was not that revealing. Poppa, too, was not surprising, but I still liked the story.

Montreal Noir is a great collection of short stories. There was not one story that I disliked, though some were grim and disturbing. Noir should be grim and disturbing. What made me most happy about this collection was the sure confidence of the editors. Some Akashic Noir editors make an effort to include non-mystery stories. I suppose they want us to understand noir is an aesthetic, a mood, not a genre. But sometimes it feels as though they think genre fiction is lesser fiction and that is wrong. There is nothing lesser about genre fiction so long as the writers of genre fiction write with honesty and integrity, and why would they not?

I received an e-galley of Montreal Noir from the publisher through Edelweiss  
<https://tonstantweaderreviews.wordpress.com>

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### **Catherine McKenzie says**

My first ever short story has been included in this awesome collection!

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### **Erika Mik says**

A few gems in the collection, but rough otherwise.

Read for PopSugar Reading Challenge 2019: A book with a two word title.

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### **M says**

Most of the ten anthologies I have read from the Akashic Noir series have been good, but this one is one of my favorites. The stories feature a variety of protagonists and situations. Who expects to find, among the usual suspects, guys who hunt coyotes for sport in the burbs of Montreal?

Free review copy from publisher through Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

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### **Melisende d'Outremer says**

I read this immediately after "Buenos Aires Noir" and found myself comparing the two.

The stories are slight longer than BA Noir, with a more modern feel. These are stories from the streets, with the crimes more in your face, the violence brutal and ugly.

" ... its unsettling, its subversive, its palpable but its never obvious ..."

Loved every page!

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## **Mélyssa says**

I enjoy this series of collections of noir stories set in specific locations. As this is the only one set in Quebec, I was especially looking forward to reading it. Like in all such short story collections, I enjoyed some stories better than others. Those I enjoyed most were mostly from authors I was already familiar with (such as Catherine McKenzie, Patrick Senécal and Martin Michaud), but I also discovered an author I'd like to read more from in the future, Johanne Seymour.

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## **M J says**

A panoply of somewhat macabre, yet incredibly interesting stories that make the reader feel as if they have stepped into a twilight zone of sorts... jumping from story to story, where you never know if the ending will be a good one or something even more dark, leaving you wondering what happens next.

The cast of characters introduced are as compelling and complex as the stories... taking you on a journey into parts of Montreal that will either entice you to visit or will make you hesitant to book your trip. With this journey, you can turn the page and move on to the next neighborhood if you feel antsy. Don't forget to pack your French dictionary.

My favorite: Journal of an Obsession

Advance Copy Review

<http://www.librarything.com/work/2029...>

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## **Woody Chandler says**

This was one of those instances where I wish that Goodreads would allow us the option of fractions of stars, vice whole stars only. I liked this at about 2.5, but I would not give it a 3.0 so I had to go with the lower option.

Why? It was an uneven entry in the series. The editors begin by telling us that it took longer to assemble this anthology than they had envisioned, but it did not seem like the extra time paid any dividends.

Part 1 was especially disappointing, eliciting reactions from me of "What the f\*\*k did I just read" to "A waste of my time as the writer noodled around like a jazz pianist, accomplishing nothing". These are not how I like to come away from a reading.

Part 2 was much better, but the first story of Part 3 was another let-down. This collection never seemed to gather and sustain the same steam as other entries in the series. Onward to the next one!

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## **Juanita says**

Review: **Montreal Noir** by Jacques Filippi. 10/23/2017

This is a review for early responders of a book of short stories. I have noticed that most books with short stories, some you like and some don't make sense. The first story was a leader. I enjoyed it and I thought the writing style was alright. I liked the traffic controller being challenged by a horrific evil person and thought they suited their creative role. Then moving on to the one about a person being accused of a double murder so he went into hiding...do they find him...? Another story was based on two power mobs competing for the same area for their illegal operations. That could have been a thriller if the author wanted to keep creating.

Two men went into a café, unknown to each other but one man gets paranoid and thinks the other guy is following him. He goes home, goes to bed, has a nightmare and hears a woman screaming...he has a fear of dying. Then there's a plastic surgeon reconstructing a person's chin I believe while another med student watches. The patient is looked up online and the med student thinks he is being cruel to animals. The ending was confusing but the patient never paid for the surgery.

The one with the missing nine-year old missing was disturbing but aren't all stories of that nature horrible. She was bludgeoned to death after a sexual assault. Another story I believe is a fake psychotherapist taking the place of the real therapist who died and is planning on killing the secretary. A grief stricken man carries a suitcase dripping with blood to the cemetery where his wife is buried so they can be together for eternity.

The reader never knows how a short story can end. Sometimes we want more of the story and other times it's just captivates the reader. However, reading these books of short stories you may come across a great writer in the making or an already published author throwing one out there for entertainment. There were some that could have been created into something exciting, some where right on and some the reader may miss the theme or plot....I enjoyed the inspiring challenge of reading something of interest.

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## **Mkb says**

I really enjoyed this! I'm not in the habit of reading short story collections very often, but I think I enjoyed this one more because I did it right – I read one or two stories then took a break, then read another one or two stories, etc. Also, since I got to go to the launch, it was exciting to read the stories written by the people I'd met there. It also is always exciting to read stories set in the city where one lives.

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## **Dave says**

Akashic Noir has published nearly eighty volumes of short stories, each centered around a geographic location, and has another half dozen already in the pipeline. Each volume such as DC Noir, Brooklyn Noir, Los Angeles Noir, Mumbai Noir, features writers familiar with the local terrain, the local flavor, and an editor from that locale. The locations include not just American cities but exotic international locales as well.

The unique aspect to Montreal is that, although it's a North American city, it is both English and French speaking. This volume features writers who write in both of these languages and does a real good job of

capturing the essence of Montreal, including many familiar geographic places therein.

The stories by fifteen different authors exhibit a range of styles and approaches. Few are classic police or private eye procedurals, but all touch some aspect of the darkness, the throat-slitters, the homeless vagabonds, the men hiding on nearly deserted river islands, the perverted television producers (echoing a current scandal), the hoodlums, the desperate, the ones who've all but given up hope, the ones trying to escape, and of course the midget wrestlers. Not all the stories are completely successful, but overall it's a strong and worthy collection.

Thank you to Akashic for providing a copy of this book for review.

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### **Diana says**

MONTREAL NOIR is one of the latest additions to Akashic Books Noir series. Each title is an anthology of stories, each story set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the respective city. (or state, as in MONTANA NOIR)

Each anthology follows a similar format - a map (love the map); a Table of Contents; an Introduction by the editors; and information about the authors - About the Contributors.

The Introduction is an integral part of the anthology - it is written by the editors and sets a tone; a sense of place; some historical context about the city or area/region.

The stories reflect noir qualities - cynicism, fatalism, moral ambiguity - a very bleak, pessimistic view of life. MONTREAL NOIR consists of III Parts with 15 stories.

Contributors include Patrick Senecal, Genevieve Lefebvre, Samuel Archibald, Michel Basilieres, Arjun Basu, Ian Truman, Catherine McKenzie, Brad Smith, Peter Kirby, Robery Pobi, Johanne Seymour, Melissa Yi, Howard Shrier, Tess Fragoulis, and Martin Michaud.

The editors of MONTREAL NOIR are John McFetridge and Jacques Filippi.

Several stories are expertly translated from the French.

Highlights (for me) always include the Introduction and the map.

My reaction to "Such a pretty little girl" was Wow - what a story.

I loved the reference to the music of Les Cowboys Fringants blasting from the speakers at the Bar Saint-Laurent. This reference is from "The haunted crack house". (I quite like this music and have several of their albums. The music reminds me of the tone and atmosphere of Montreal.)

There are 8 chapters in "The joke's on you". A great line on the first page of the story "He never wanted to be a bother, but he was a man worth making a bother for".

Reading "Coyote" made my lips curl in disgust. A great ending for Boss-Man Ben Dubois.

"The Crap Magnet" by Peter Kirby. Just desserts was my comment.

Thank you to Akashic Books for making this 'Advance Reading Copy' available to me.

A great series. A great title. Great Noir.

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### **Vera says**

Another fine noir collection from Akashic Books! These are always fresh and interesting and I always enjoy reading them!

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