

The Anansi Reader: Forty Years of Very Good Books



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In 1967, then-unknown writers David Godfrey and Dennis Lee founded a small press they grandly named "The House of Anansi," after an African trickster spider-god. Their goal was to publish groundbreaking new Canadian work in three core genres: literary fiction, poetry, and topical nonfiction. Forty years later, Anansi is not only going strong but enjoying a fascinating creative renaissance, bolstered by both its important backlist and its renewed commitment to seeking out the best new writers and ideas to publish alongside its established ones. Assembled by award-winning writer Lynn Coady, *The Anansi Reader* features excerpts from ten of the best books from each decade of the existence of the press, for a total of 40 entries. Samples from Lynn Crosbie's *Queen Rat*, Northrop Frye's *The Educated Imagination*, and Kevin Connelly's *Drift* are among the treasures included. In a thoughtful coda, Coady shows readers the future with selections from seven exciting works-in-progress coming from Anansi in the next two years.

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