ERIC WALTERS

Featured Author Catalogue
Spring 2013
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“Shakespeare only had 24 letters of the alphabet but I have 26, so I should be able to do—at least—as good as him.”

Eric Walters wrote his first book, Stand Your Ground, in 1993. He was teaching a Grade 5 class of reluctant readers and writers and hoped by incorporating his students and their surroundings into the story that they would be encouraged to become involved in literature. He could not have imagined what would follow. He wrote the novel with no intention to have it published—until a student approached him and said, “your book is not as bad as most of the garbage in the library, why don’t you try and have it published.” Walters couldn’t believe when a publisher was actually interested in his novel. He says, “It [Stand Your Ground] started this pattern; often I’ll go away on holiday and when I come back there’s somebody offering me a contract.”
And when I went away on holidays that year, I came back and there was the offer right there.” Walters says it didn’t feel real.

Walters claims he was lucky, “I hear writers talking about how they’ve written five or six books before one got published; that was my first one.” From that first book he now has more than 60 children’s books, published around the world, and has been honoured with near-countless awards. His first 35 to 40 books were written for his classes, and all of his novels marry fiction with fact to create believable and extraordinary stories—also serving as incredible teaching tools.

What accounts for such extraordinary success, this uncommon ability to connect with kids? Walters has three degrees: psychology, social work and education—all of which have aided him in his journey as an author. While each story is unique, Walters, says, two themes emerge consistently:

“One is a sense of belonging—people want to belong somewhere. The second theme is that, whether you’re female or male, you have some power to make changes in your life.”

—CANADIAN MATERIALS MAGAZINE

The boundless energy and commitment that are hallmarks of Walters’ writing are evident in every facet of his life. A former crisis social worker as well as teacher,

Walters now dedicates himself full-time to presenting directly to students across Canada (and including recent tours to schools in Japan and Germany).

He also advocates relentlessly for The Creation of Hope, an outreach program dedicated to helping the orphans of the Mbooni district. He founded The Creation of Hope in 2008; what started with simply one orphan boy has expanded to supporting 250 orphans in a mere three years. Walters contributes the success to good people working on the ground in Africa and to complete transparency; contributors can track where their money is spent on the website.

Eric Walters lives in Mississauga, Ontario, and spends the majority of his time in the company of his wife, children and dogs. As for the Grade 5 class that launched his career—Walters is amazed at how many of them continue to call him to this day.
"Take it as a business—and be prepared to work really hard."

Walters works no less than 60 hours a week. Business and creating revenue is always at the forefront of his mind. Although he loves creating sensational stories, he knows that no matter how good of a writer you may be, you will not be successful unless you promote yourself aggressively. Walters utilizes YouTube as much as he can because he says it reaches an amazing amount of people. He also creates promotional stunts to complement his novels: for example, he staged a flash reading mob for his book *In a Flash* at a high-traffic train station. He also brought live tigers to a book launch; 500 people attended that launch. Clearly his strategy is working: his mass appeal has won him 11 separate children's choice awards and he is the only three-time winner of both the Ontario Library Association's Silver Birch and Red Maple Awards, for which more than 125,000 students vote to determine the winning titles. This commercial appeal has translated into other languages including French, German, Italian, Swedish, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Spanish.

"My wife was sitting up in the kitchen thinking I've lost my entire mind."

Walters has no limits. He will do whatever is necessary to research and promote his novels. Whether that means receiving death threats at a biker bar for *Diamonds in the Rough*, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and trekking across 200km in the Tunisian desert for his latest novels, or enduring a blizzard in shorts and a t-shirt to feel what it'd be like to freeze to death for *Trapped in Ice*. Walters often says the best way to write what you know is to experience it first. Along with his travels and adventures, he teams up with world experts to ensure his novels are factually correct. For *Voyageur*, a book on Pierre Trudeau, Justin Trudeau was Walters' consultant. Once the novel was complete, Justin Trudeau thanked Walters for allowing him to go on one last canoe ride with his father. "For *Run* I ran sections of the TransCanada marathons the way Terry Fox did. I wanted to feel it in my knees as well as in my heart and in my head," says Walters. He embeds pieces of himself in every book he writes.

"I wrote a book in 5 weeks in Europe, no one even noticed."

Part of Walters' success is his ability to multi-task; no matter the circumstance—like a 5-week family trip to Europe—if an idea strikes him, it is developed quickly and the writing is uninterrupted. He says, "It just flows. Writers make this out to be far too complicated—which I try not to say to writers." Walters does not need to isolate himself in order to write and when he promises a book, he is guaranteed to deliver. His ability to write book after book is what has allowed him to have over 60 published works. Walters says, "I'm basically at the point now where I can call a publisher and say, 'I have an idea,' and they'll give me a contract based on an idea. Also in the middle of the appointment they'll say, 'We'll just give you a contract and whatever next comes out we'll have.' I like that a lot." His publishers' faith in him once led them to offer Walters a 10-book deal based on no books.

"People find lots of excuses, I call them obstacle illusions."

Walters finds inspiration for stories every where he turns, "It's unavoidable, it's just unavoidable. I think my wife is at the point though where she just says 'no more ideas right now, no more, you're not allowed anymore ideas.'" He has an idea drawer, which currently holds 31 ideas, stories Walters doesn’t think he’ll ever get the chance to develop because, realistically, something else will come up that will interest him more—but this way, he will never be short an idea. He loves what he does, this isn’t a burden to him it is an indulgence; writing is how Walters relaxes, "It's not a job. If it's going to be a passion, you got to feel good about it." When asked if he will ever retire he says, "Well eventually I'll die, rather than compose I'll be decomposing at that point, but until that point there's no retirement. I love what I'm doing."
The Taming
ERIC WALTERS AND TERESA TOTEN

A powerhouse combination of two powerhouse writers.

Who could harness the sizzle of a Nick and Norah’s Infinite Playlist-style, he-said/she-said dialogue while accepting the challenge of retelling Shakespeare’s The Taming of the Shrew?

Two creative minds at the top of their narrative game: Eric Walters and Teresa Toten. Each voice here is strong enough to balance the other, to take two sides of a famous story and bring it vibrantly to life in a contemporary setting.

Katie likes to believe she’s invisible. Actually, she doesn’t like high-school invisibility, but that seems much safer than being exposed as she is—shy, poor, awkward. So getting up on stage in the school production of Taming of the Shrew should be complete torture (talked into auditioning by her director-friend, Travis, an is-he-gay-or-not, one-man confidence machine).

But as Katie tells it, something totally unexpected happened when she stepped on stage: “My head exploded. I loved it. Acting hit me like a sucker punch and I loved, loved, loved it! ...

Invisible Katie became visible Katharina.”

Evan Cooper is, as they say, another story. He knows just what it takes to get noticed, and he uses every one of the skills he’s honed after years of being the new kid. Like tossing the keys to his father’s high-end Audi to a kid he’s never met, first day of school. “I have insurance for car theft,” he explains to a shocked Danny. “And there’s a full tank.” An abuse of the power that comes with privilege and money? Sure.

But more dangerously, is his romance with Katie another version of the same thing? Or is it the real thing?

Co-author of The Taming, TERESA TOTEN, immigrated to Canada as an infant. She completed her MA in Political Economy at U of T. After her marriage she moved to Montreal, where she wrote and broadcast for Radio Canada International. She has also resided and worked in Ottawa and New York.

She is currently a creative writing specialist with Canada’s Learning Through the Ages Programme, and is the author of the acclaimed “Blondes” series, Me and the Blondes (shortlisted for the Governor General’s Award), Better than Blonde, and Beyond Blonde, and of Piece by Piece: Stories About Fitting Into Canada.

World Rights Available Ex:
Canada English, Doubleday YA
Represented by Marie Campbell
marie@transatlanticagency.com
Powerplay

ERIC WALTERS

Explosive storytelling at its most relevant best.

Cody may have what it takes to eventually have a shot at making his dream come true—becoming a professional hockey player—if only he can harness his skills and contain his temper. What he needs is the right person to help him make the next step. Coach Connors, a man who has helped to build the careers of other NHL players, becomes that person. He offers Cody the coaching, the ice time and the opportunities that can help make those dreams come true. But there’s more to their relationship than simply on the ice. Cody’s world is turned upside down when his coach uses his authority—and Cody’s dreams—to betray his trust and abuse him.

Not every children’s writer has the skills, or the credibility, to tackle such challenging subjects as teen sexual abuse. Not every children’s writer can write compellingly and excitingly about sports, about how they work and how that kind of competition and accomplishment drives boys. Not every children’s writer can listen to former NHLer Theo Fleury talk about his experience of sexual abuse at the hands of his youth hockey coach and decide that kids need to hear this kind of story in a way that they can absorb, relate to, and understand. Not every children’s writer indeed—in fact, maybe only Eric Walters could do this as powerfully as he does in Powerplay.
Shattered

ERIC WALTERS

With a foreword by LGen Roméo A. Dallaire (Ret.), force commander for the United Nations Mission to Rwanda, Shattered is an unforgettable story.

Fifteen-year-old Ian must complete community volunteer service to pass social studies. Choosing to work at “The Club” sounds like fun, until he arrives at what turns out to be a soup kitchen for the homeless. It’s here that he meets Sarge, the pipe-wielding homeless man who saved Ian from a near-mugging. His last tour of duty was as a peacekeeper stationed in Rwanda. What Ian learns from Sarge changes both of them—and begs the question what one person can do to make a difference.

“I had read Shake Hands with the Devil and thought here was a great Canadian hero, General Roméo Dallaire, that no one knew about, a situation we just didn’t know about. I thought it was important for people to know about the Rwanda genocide.”
—Eric Walters

Excerpt:

He stopped in the middle of the small wooden bridge spanning a creek that cut through the park. “Do you know what I think of every time I cross over this bridge?” Of course I didn’t know, but I didn’t think he expected an answer.

I think of bodies. A river full of bloated human bodies, dumped in a river, so thick that they formed a blockage across the river where it went under a bridge. And people had to haul those bodies out, drag them up onto the shore and dump them back into the river on the other side of the bridge to stop that log-jam of human beings from causing a flood. And each time they pulled out a body, another drifted down the river to take its place.

I stared down at the creek. There was a grocery cart embedded in the mud of the bank, and a white plastic bag, caught in the current, twisted and turned as it floated along with the current and then disappeared under our feet. But as Jack stood there, staring down, I knew he hadn’t seen the plastic bag. He was seeing those bodies floating by...He was seeing Hell.

“[Shattered] offers a stimulating read to teens who want to know more about some of the darker hours of world history.”
—CM MAGAZINE

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Canada English, Penguin
German, Kosmos
Film Rights Available
ages 10 +
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National Chapter of Canada IODE
Violet Downey Book Award: Winner 2007
Ontario Library Association White Pine Award: Nominee 2007
Golden Oak Literacy Book Club: Nominee 2007
Willow Award: Nominee 2007
We All Fall Down
ERIC WALTERS

Set in New York City on September 11th, We All Fall Down shows us a teenaged face of the day that changed so many lives.

Today is September 10, 2001, and Will, a grade nine student, is spending the day at his father’s workplace tomorrow as part of a school assignment. Will isn’t excited about it—his father doesn’t even have an exciting job like his best friend, James, whose father is a fireman. Will’s dad works for an international trading company in Manhattan, commuting early every morning from the suburbs to his office on the 85th floor in the south building of the World Trade Center.

In this fast-paced and dramatic new novel by bestselling author Eric Walters, Will discovers a new side of his father during an event that continues to affect the world. As Will’s new teacher says, tomorrow “might be an experience that changes your entire life.”

“Walters captures the first-person perspective on the events inside the WTC with realistic, frightening, and heartbreaking directness.

Walters manages to capture the tenor of that day and builds on our common knowledge of the events to create a novel that is compelling and emotionally wringing.”

—QUILL & QUIRE

“We All Fall Down is...a gripping read from start to finish.”
—CM MAGAZINE

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The Red Maple Award 2007
Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice for 2008
United We Stand
ERIC WALTERS

The spellbinding sequel to We All Fall Down begins on the day after September 12, 2001 in New York City, a day filled with sorrow and doubt. Fortunately Will and his father escaped death, but his best friend James’ father is still missing and might not be as lucky. The city is paralyzed from fear which leads Will on a journey of anguish and self-discovery.

Excerpt:
"You know, I think it was harder watching than it would have been to have actually been there," my mother said.

My eyes opened wide in shock and met my father’s gaze. He shrugged, and his eyes pleaded with me not to say anything. After what we’d gone through, how could she even think that it had been worse for her?

“I know that sounds awful...insensitive,” my mother said. “But I would rather have been there with you two, knowing that you were alive, than been here without you.”

That opened my eyes again. I did understand. At least we knew.

“We called as soon as we could,” my father said. “We just couldn’t call right away.”

We’d left the building just before it collapsed. We were showered with debris, knocked off our feet, and practically suffocated in the cloud of dust that overwhelmed everything and blotted out the sun. That was maybe the scariest part of the whole day. Scary because I’d thought we were finally safe. Scary because my father wasn’t with me at the very moment the tower collapsed, and for a few short seconds—half a minute maybe—I’d thought he was dead. Maybe I could understand what my mother had gone through. And for her it wasn’t a few short seconds. It was hours.

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Film Rights Available
ages 10 +
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The Falls
ERIC WALTERS

Fifteen-year-old Jay Hunter's only life goal is to leave the Falls; living in a blue-collar tourist town is neither exciting nor promising—or so Jay thought. Jay soon learns that his great-grandfather was one of the most famous river men who ever lived, saving people who had jumped into the Falls, even if that meant going over the Falls himself. Unexpectedly Jay finds a new challenge, giving life in Niagara Falls new meaning.

"People in Niagara Falls hate my guts when they read the first little bit, but when they get further they realize the theme is it isn't where you are that matters it's where you're going; and it isn't what's around you that matters it's what's inside of you. The book has characters breaking conventions and understanding you can't be defined by where you live."
—Eric Walters

Excerpt:
Some of the locals didn't like the tourists crowding everywhere. Some of the tourists could be really annoying, but I knew we had to be grateful. If the Falls didn't attract them—and then bore them—people like my mother wouldn't have jobs. She was a blackjack dealer at the casino. So I guess those tourists put food on our table and a roof over our heads. I knew that—and I knew what it was like to have neither. We lived here because those people, those tourists, just kept on coming, day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year...to see some water falling over some rocks.

"Readers will be drawn to his [Jay's] struggles between wanting to have a good time and working toward a better future.

Eric Walters provides readers with some powerful insights into addiction, family relationships and independence in The Falls.

Highly Recommended."
—CM MAGAZINE

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Safe as Houses
ERIC WALTERS

Late one October afternoon, 13-year-old Lizzie Hardy is walking home through the rain with the children she babysits, David McBride and his kid sister, Suzie. She quickly realizes this is no ordinary rainstorm: the river is roiling over its banks. Lizzie gets them to the house, only to watch the rising water encroaching on the backyard. Then the McBrides call to say the roads are flooded and they’re having trouble getting home. The lights go out. The phone goes dead. Within a few short hours, freezing water has invaded the house and is rising fast.

“Vintage Walters...the adventure just doesn’t stop.”
—CANLITFORKIDS.COM

“A suspense-filled story of how three resourceful children trapped alone in a house manage to survive the terrible night.”
—WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Excerpt:
The Van Dyke house began to turn again. The front of the house, the leading edge, was caught in the current while the trailing section was still sitting against the Watson house. Slowly it began to spin. Still spinning, the house moved right alongside with us. The three figures, father and two children, were frozen in the glare of the spotlight. They were so close that I felt I could reach out and touch them, so close that I could talk to them. But even if my words could have been heard above the roar of the river what would I have said to them? Hello. I’m sorry. I wish I could help. Goodbye. Goodbye.
Wounded

ERIC WALTERS

There are too many ways to be wounded.

Marcus and his sister and mother are counting the days until Marcus’ father comes home from Afghanistan. Waiting weeks for a phone call, and with only the occasional email, has been difficult for the family, but they’re ready to celebrate his return. When the big day comes, they’re overcome by happiness and relief that he’s safe, but as the days pass, Marcus begins to feel that there’s something different about his father. He barely sleeps, he’s obsessed with news from Afghanistan, and while at times he seems almost too happy, at other times he’s erratic and aggressive. Marcus knows that post-traumatic stress disorder affects many soldiers, but at first he finds it hard to believe his father needs help, and then when he does think he needs counselling, he just can’t seem to convince his father.

“I’ve had letters from soldiers in Afghanistan telling me how much this book has meant to them. I was at a presentation where a boy came up to me and said, ‘I thought I was alone until I read your book.’ I’ve had a woman email me and say, ‘my husband had post-traumatic stress disorder and he didn’t know it. I made him read your book and he went and got counselling.’ Wounded has had such an interesting impact.”

—Eric Walters

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Canada English, Penguin
German, Kosmos
ages 10 +

Represented by Marie Campbell
marie@transatlanticagency.com
Wave
ERIC WALTERS

Sam and Beth struggle against a terrible crisis to reunite their family.

With his trademark approach to combining real-life events with characters' emotions so real they'll stop your heart and tear up your eyes, Eric Walters explores the nature of family and commitment against the backdrop of a catastrophic tsunami.

Excerpt:
Our taxi slowed down and came to a stop in front of the resort. “It feels like coming home,” my mother said.

“Home for the holidays,” my father agreed. We climbed out of the car and the driver got out and took the bags from the trunk. Instantly there were three bellhops who grabbed them. “I love the smell of the air here,” my mother said.

“I just like the fact that the air is warm.” I rolled up the sleeves on my shirt. The faster I could get into a T-shirt and shorts the better. Actually, a bathing suit would be even better. “Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks!” It was Philippe. He’d worked at the resort for as long as I could remember. “It’s so good to see all of you...but it isn’t all of you. Where is Miss Brooks?” he asked. “Miss Brooks couldn’t come this year,” my mother said. “This is awful!” Philippe exclaimed. “The staff will be so disappointed.” I knew he was, in a way, just being polite. The Thai people had to be the most polite people in the entire world. But he also really meant it. Over the years we’d gotten to know the staff, and they’d gotten to know us. They really worked to make our stay as enjoyable as possible. They didn’t have to work at being friendly, though, because that just came naturally.

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Canada English, Doubleday
German, Kosmos
ages 10 +
Represented by Marie Campbell
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Sketches
ERIC WALTERS

In this painfully honest depiction of street life, talented author Eric Walters creates a compelling story attesting to the healing power of art.

Dana is a fifteen-year-old runaway, fighting for survival amongst the grimy alleys and grungy subway stations of downtown Toronto. After a counsellor of Sketches, a drop-in centre for homeless teens, notices Dana’s graffiti on an underpass Dana finds a place of refuse where she uses art to convey her emotions. While working on a self-portrait, Dana acknowledges the true reason she left home. Will the reality of what her stepfather did to her surface through her artwork or the blade of a knife?

Excerpt:
I reached into my pocket and pulled out the crumpled card. I unfolded it and tried to smooth it out. I guess it was sort of like my invitation to go in. And I realized that was what I really wanted to do. Most of what we did every day we did to survive, to get enough money to eat and a place out of the wet or wind or cold nights. There was hardly anything I did that made a difference or made me feel like I was somebody. Painting that concrete wall with those spray cans was the closest I’d felt to that. Maybe here I could do more.

The kids standing in front of the place ignored me as I walked by. I stopped at the front door. There was a sign: “Sketches is a working studio for street-involved, homeless, at-risk youth. This is a drug-free, violence-free, feel free to play space.” That sounded good to me.

“The cover of this book was taken by a street kid. We gave 14 street kids digital cameras and asked them to take pictures of their world—we got back 14 cameras; every kid returned their camera. We paid the girl who shot the winning photograph as a professional photographer. We also gave her first and last month’s rent and it actually got her off the streets.”
—Eric Walters

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North America English, Viking ages 10 +
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Manitoba Young Readers Choice Award Shortlist
Alexandria of Africa

ERIC WALTERS

Alexandria discovers her own strength during a forced trip to Kenya.

For Alexandria Hyatt having a fabulous life is easy: she knows what she wants, and she knows how to get it. Being glamorous and rich is simply what she was born to be. When Alexandria is arrested for shoplifting, having to drag herself into court to face a judge just seems like a major inconvenience. But before she knows it she’s on a plane headed to Kenya, where she has been ordered to work for an international charity.

Over the course of her month in Africa she will face a reality she could never have imagined, and will have to look inside herself to see if she has what it takes to confront it.

“The book is plot-driven, highly readable, and seems well-researched.”
—CM MAGAZINE

World Rights Available Ex: Canada English, Doubleday Italy, Mondadori Film Rights Available ages 10 +
Represented by Marie Campbell marie@transatlanticagency.com

“Walters deals with the inequities and disparity in children’s lives across the globe in this well-written and funny adventure tale.”
—QUILL & QUIRE

“The subject is compelling and important, and hopefully this novel will serve as a springboard to inspire readers to find out even more about the issues it raises.”
—CM MAGAZINE
Visions
ERIC WALTERS

Robert and Mark, twin brothers, would rather do anything but accompany their scientist mother and her new love interest on an Arctic island expedition. Still coping with the recent death of their father, the trip starts out to be as unbearable as they predicted. But suddenly they are pulled in by the disappearance of the muskox, ghosts and strange human bones. The unexpected turn of events leads the boys on a journey where they not only learn about old Inuit legends but also gain fresh perspectives on themselves and their family.

“I was teaching Grade 6 aboriginal studies, I needed to have a novel for it. So I researched aboriginal stories and Inuit stories, which are eerie, scary, cut off your finger tips and hands sort of stories and I incorporated about eight of those stories into my book.”
—Eric Walters

“Visions, the latest from the prolific Eric Walters, is a complex, multi-layered novel that addresses a number of issues relevant to teens.

Teen readers will be most interested in the supernatural aspects of Visions and the juxtaposition of contemporary horror fiction and Stephen King-type movies with traditional Inuit myths and legends.”
—QUILL & QUIRE
Voyageur

ERIC WALTERS

Brian, his mom, and his sister Jennie leave Manhattan to canoe in Northern Quebec and scatter the ashes of Brian’s father, whose most treasured memories took place at a summer boy scout camp. It soon becomes evident the three of them are unequipped to face the challenges of this trip when Brian nearly drowns but is saved by the experienced action of an elderly man named Pierre. Reluctant to leave the ill-prepared group to proceed alone, Pierre offers to safely guide the family to their destination. The journey causes Brian to face his grief and acknowledge his fears of living without his father. Brian soon forms a friendship with Pierre without knowing just how important Pierre really is.

Excerpt:

Once, long before my sister and I were even born, my father mentioned to my mother that when he died he wanted his ashes scattered at the lake where he’d spent his childhood summers. He was probably just joking around—who ever thinks they’re really going to die?—but she remembered. And now we were paddling our canoes toward that lake.

At the front of my canoe, along with a tent and sleeping bags and supplies piled on top, was the urn holding his ashes. Here we were, just the two of us, riding along together in a canoe. He’d talked about doing that, the four of us going on a canoe trip, but there’s never been time. There was always some deal that needed to be chased down, some client who had to be satisfied, money that needed to be made. Like any of that made any difference now. But anyway, here we were at last, riding together in a canoe, just like he’d wanted...well, maybe not exactly like he’d wanted...not exactly the way anybody would want.

“Prolific, award-winning author Eric Walters has produced a strong, action-oriented story in Voyageur, one which introduces characters who develop believably through the events of the story. His depiction of the disorder a family grief of this magnitude entails is both balanced and thoughtful. Highly Recommended.”

—CM MAGAZINE

World Rights Available Ex: Canada English, Penguin ages 10 +
Represented by Marie Campbell marie@transatlanticagency.com
Royal Ransom

ERIC WALTERS

Jamie, a thirteen-year-old Cree boy, is asked to assist his cousin on a trip he’s leading through Canada’s North. Jamie is flabbergasted to learn Princess Victoria and Prince Andrew, next in line for the British throne, are a part of this group.

Kidnappers interrupt their trip and take the grownups hostage, leaving the children to fend for themselves and escape back to civilization. They are forced to face bears, rapids and the dangers of the wilderness all while the kidnappers continue to hunt them. Jamie and Victoria calmly lead the group to outwit their assailants—but have they reached safety?

“Royal Ransom” is the kind of suspenseful page-turner Walters writes so well. (...) By incorporating references to terrorists, the Internet, and the status of native Canadian people, Walters keeps his story topical and thought-provoking, adding meat to the bones of his ‘roughing it in the bush’ narrative.”
—QUILL & QUIRE

“In this riveting adventure from Eric Walters, young readers will once again find themselves swept away by non-stop action.

Royal Ransom is a grand adventure, and no less so in spite of the fact that it was somewhat predictable. It will hold the interest of reluctant readers while still being engaging enough for more accomplished readers of this genre.”
—CM MAGAZINE

“I had just finished a book and my wife asked me to please take a break before my next book. I agreed and left to drive the kids somewhere. As I was driving, I hear on the news that Prince Charles was coming to town and I wondered what happens to his kids, they don’t want to sit in on these rubber chicken things. What would be a good thing for them to do? I thought, go up north and have an adventure. And so I did stop writing before I wrote this book—for about 45 minutes.”
—Eric Walters

World Rights Available Ex: Canada English, Penguin
ages 10 +
Represented by Marie Campbell
marie@transatlanticagency.com
Black and White
ERIC WALTERS

Thomas and Denyse must overcome the prejudice of others or risk losing their friendship.

Thomas and Denyse have a lot in common. They both love basketball, and sugar on their popcorn. But they have one major difference: Thomas is white and Denyse is black. Some people start making racist remarks when they go out, and their parents warn them of the hardships ahead. They can’t understand what the big deal is, but will the pressure of this relationship break them apart?

“The intent of this well constructed little novel is to animate for adolescents an awareness of the evils and nuances of racism—this in a society in which racial discrimination has perhaps been masked by political correctness, although by no means eradicated. And in that the book achieves its goals with flying colours. Walters is a practised storyteller with a flair for dialogue and a teacher’s instinct for laying out the lesson and driving home the point.”
—CHARLES WILKINS, GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

Excerpt:
He was right. He’d always treated everybody fairly. I’d never heard him, or my mother, ever say anything that was racist about anybody. I couldn’t even imagine him doing that.

“I’m glad you’re okay about me having Denyse as my girlfriend.”

My father looked up. “When did that happen?”

“You mean the girlfriend part?”

He nodded.

“Yesterday. You’re okay with that...right?”

“I saw the pattern of racism in the schools I taught, the whole idea of it. I just wanted to write about it.”
—Eric Walters

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Ricky
ERIC WALTERS

Ricky loves animals—and that’s an understatement. He owns 29 pets and shares close relationships with the animals in his science lab. Ricky is devastated when delinquents break into the school and unjustly kill most of the animals, including Bogart the boa constrictor. Ricky and his best friend Augie immediately devise a plan to raise money in hopes of replacing the animals, making sure their substitute boa constrictor is bigger than the last.

“Ricky is very personal, that’s me, I’m Ricky. It’s based on what really happened to me in Grade 8. Ricky is real, Augie Levi was my best friend back then, Mr. Johnston was my science teacher; very personal. I didn’t write that to be published. I wrote it just to have fun. But my agent asked what I was working on and when she can see it; I said she can’t, no one can, I was writing it for myself. That gets publishers really interested when you say they can’t see something.”
—Eric Walters

“Ricky is an enjoyable story. In a very real way, it helps affirm one’s belief in the basic goodness of mankind, especially in the face of despicable acts. Our young hero and his friend show how small acts of kindness compound to have a bigger and more substantial impact. Young readers will not only enjoy a good story from reading Ricky but also will receive an important message that they too can make a difference.”
—CM MAGAZINE
I've Got An Idea
ERIC WALTERS

Sam has ideas, and some of those ideas have got him and his friend Alex in trouble; but they're nothing compared to the ideas of Twilight Stevens. It isn't long before Twilight, Sam and Alex are on their way to New York City—without their parents or their permission—in an adventure full of rock concerts, thugs and friendship.

“I've Got An Idea keeps readers in suspense and captivates their attention as they continue to read the pages to find out what will happen next. It is an action packed story about friendship, trust and having fun.

Eric Walters is an elementary teacher, soccer and basketball coach, and a crisis worker. These experiences, along with being a father of three children, allow him to write books that are of great interest to juvenile readers. The language and pace of I've Got An Idea are appropriate for the intended audience. Highly Recommended.”
—CM MAGAZINE

Excerpt:
Sam started chuckling to himself. We'd been called a lot of things over the years; dangerous wasn't one of them. But it sure had a nicer ring than “brainy” or “brainiac” or “geekoid,” names we were usually called. After all, Sam was the genius, and I got better marks than anybody else in the school. Actually, I got better marks than Sam most of the time because, unlike him, I always did my homework and handed in assignments. Sam didn't always bother with details like that.

“You shouldn't be so modest, Alex. It's pretty cool to be known as dangerous,” Twilight continued.

“I did that. My friends and I faked a trip with a drop in centre so we could take off for a weekend and we did, so that's what it's based on. It's a story about what happened to me. Except I moved it from Toronto to New York to make it more dangerous.”
—Eric Walters

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Northern Exposures
ERIC WALTERS

Kevin Spreekmeester has just won a photo contest because the judges believe he has extraordinary talent—little do they know Kevin’s winning photo was the result of a shutter glitch and not any special gift. Nonetheless, Kevin’s prize is a five-day trip to Churchill, Manitoba; accompanied by a celebrated wildlife photographer, Kevin will experience photographing polar bears. The biggest prize of all might be that Kevin’s controlling parents and the dullness of school will be left behind. But will he miss the annoyances of home when he’s being chased by a very big, very famished polar bear across the tundra?

“My friend across the street won a photography contest called 'Capture Mississaug' and was sent to Churchill, Manitoba to photograph polar bears, his name was Kevin Spreekmeester. So I made up a character named Kevin Spreekmeester and he won a photo contest and I sent him to Churchill, Manitoba to photograph polar bears; the difference is I made him 14 instead of 40 and I gave him back his hair. My friend was very grateful for that.”
—Eric Walters

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Red Cedar Award: Nominee 2004
Gordo, formally known as Gordon, Stevens has a lot on his plate; new school, making new friends and coping with his parents’ divorce—none of which are making him look forward to a week-long school trip. Despite his reluctance, Gordo must go on this excursion to an isolated island marine teaching station. His problems from home seem small and distant when the marine biologist who runs the school unexpectedly has to leave the island and Gordo’s only link to the mainland—his radio—dies. Gordon finds himself in the middle of an environmental mystery, among other things, testing his every move.

“I wanted to teach my class a unit on whales but I didn’t have an idea, so I asked them to look at newspapers. They brought me back a clipping of 60 stranded pilot whales beached on Fraser Island in Australia. That became the story, it even said ‘stranded’ so I used it as the title. And all I was doing was teaching my kids a unit on whales.”

—Eric Walters

“Grippingly(...)the kids stumble across the majestically tragic sight of seven beached pilot whales. After their initial discovery, they watch in frozen horror as whale after whale purposefully beaches itself. Each kid is tested in a race against time as Walters turns Stranded into a page-flipping summer beach book.”

—QUILL & QUIRE

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The Money Pit Mystery
ERIC WALTERS

Human skulls and 200-year-old treasures—this isn’t the typical family visit. Sam, an amateur magician, is visiting his grandfather in Nova Scotia’s Oak Island for the first time in three years. What he thought would be a mundane trip turned up magic tricks no one saw coming. This unsolved mystery takes Sam and his family to unexplored territory both physically and emotionally.

“Say the words ‘Oak Island’ and your imagination immediately conjures up images of pirate ships, Captain Kidd’s legendary treasure supposedly hidden on the island, and more than 200 years of ghostly goings-on. Eric Walters deftly interweaves some of the best-known stories about these Nova Scotian myths into his exciting novel.

Walters has created a gripping, suspense-filled adventure mystery. And there’s certainly more to The Money Pit Mystery than just action. It’s also a sensitive portrait of a family coming to grips with what may well be the onset of Alzheimer’s disease.”
—QUILL & QUIRE

“It’s a real place, fascinating place, and I just found it an interesting story so I wanted to incorporate it. You can’t go on the island, it’s owned by two people so I did the research and I changed the island dramatically but the concept of the money pit is there.”
—Eric Walters

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Hackmatack Award: Nominee 2002
Camp X
Volume 1

“Camp X started with me discovering the spy camp in Whitby. It was the biggest spy base in North America up to the point. Ian Fleming trained there, Rohl Dahl trained there, it was created by William Stevenson, the man called intrepid, incredible Canadian hero nobody knows anything about, and Ian Fleming has said he wrote James Bond based on what he was taught at Camp X.”
—Eric Walters

Camp X
ERIC WALTERS

It's 1943; twelve-year-old George and his older brother Jack grow agitated during a summer of wartime in Whitby, Ontario, where their mother works at a munitions plant and their father is loyally fighting the Germans. It isn’t long before the boys discover Canada’s top-secret spy camp, the boys soon become a part of the concealed activities of Camp X.

No one is safe from the scrutiny of the camp. The boys begin to suspect townspeople of being spies; asking themselves whether the police chief is patrolling in order to help the enemy. They start to doubt the integrity of Jack’s boss, the leader of the local newspaper, wondering whether his boss is gathering information for menacing reasons.

They boys immerse themselves in the on-goings of the camp, unable to resist the temptation of learning more details. Soon they catch the attention of someone who plans to use George and Jack’s knowledge, but not in favour of the Allies—and not even causalities will stop him.

“Camp X is a page turner, and that, rather than its historical backdrop, is the real strength of the novel. Camp X is an absorbing read that may spark the interest of reluctant young readers.”
—QUILL & QUIRE

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Silver Birch Award 2003
Arthur Ellis Award Shortlist 2003
Camp X
Volumes 2 and 3

Camp 30
ERIC WALTERS

Winner of the Silver Birch Award and the exhilarating sequel to Camp X.

Scarcely recovering from their ordeal in Camp X Jack and George find themselves in Bowmanville, Ontario, where their mother is a clerk in a prisoner of war camp; one which holds captive the highest ranking German officers.

When the boys are offered a job to deliver the camp’s mail after school, they are asked by Canadian agents to be aware of possible escape plans formed by the prisoners. The boys were told the Germans have a loyal obligation to their country to try and escape, no matter the cost—whether it is their lives or the lives of two boys in the wrong place, at the wrong time.

Fool's Gold
ERIC WALTERS

Months have passed since Jack and George’s adventure in Camp 30, they were hoping to return to normal and let the past become a memory. Unfortunately for them someone else has a different plan for them. The boys learn their mother has been kidnapped by three thugs who seem to know the details of their past. It isn’t long before the boys are back on another terrifying ride back to Camp X on a quest for gold—no gold means never seeing their mother again.
Shell Shocked
ERIC WALTERS

New identities won’t help Jack and George avoid trouble as they work as special operatives on the lookout for suspicious activity at an ammunitions plant. It isn’t long before a plot designed by German spies is discovered; now it’s up to the boys to find a way to stop the conspirators before they blow up the plant and everyone in it.

Trouble in Paradise
ERIC WALTERS

George and Jack can’t seem to escape trouble, even by moving to Bermuda they haven’t been able to lose the Nazi agents who are after them. This time the entire family is working for Little Bill and his team of spies on the island, but that doesn’t mean the brothers won’t have secret missions of their own. It is up to the quick wit of the boys to expose Nazi conspiracies and save both their lives and the lives of thousands.
Elixir
ERIC WALTERS

Twelve-year-old Ruth must spend a lonesome summer at the University of Toronto where her mother cleans the Institute of Biological Research. She is soon comforted by friendships with Dr. Banting and his assistant Mr. Best, who are in pursuit of a cure for diabetes. Ruth is devastated when she learns her friends test their research on animals. It isn’t long before protestors situate themselves outside of the institute to fight for the freedom of those animals.

The protest group leader attempts to gain Ruth’s support leaving her to make the difficult decision between her compassion for animals and her devotion to Dr. Banting and Mr. Best.

“When I finished this book, something was wrong and it took me a couple days to realize what it was. I stopped having my conversations with Banting. When I write first person I feel like I’ve got to know the characters. I love the character so much I feel like I lost family that I wasn’t around him anymore. Such a great man [Banting]. brilliant, learning disabled, caring, compassionate, real fighter for the underdog, just a great man.”
—Eric Walters

Excerpt:
He was tall and thin and wore a suit and tie. The suit seemed a little worn. He had a friendly face and little round glasses. My mother told me he worked up on the top floor beside where they kept the animals. I’d been up to that floor only once. It was the hottest part of the entire building, and there was the smell and the noise. Why did they even have dogs up there, and did they ever stop barking?

“The prolific Walters is an old hand at crafting good fiction out of Canadian history, and here he is [in Elixir] carrying out Penguin Canada’s mandate to promote our national stories in their books.”
—QUILL & QUIRE

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E R I C  W A L T E R S

Eric Walters’ fictionalized retelling of Robert Peary’s 1909 expedition to the North Pole aboard the Roosevelt creates a riveting tale of a young cabin boy named Danny and his first time both away from home and at sea. Featuring compelling Canadian characters Robert Bartlett, captain of The Roosevelt (also featured in Walters’ bestselling novel Trapped in Ice) and Matthew Henson, the first African-American Arctic explorer and Peary’s assistant.

“This is classic Walters: a good yarn, plenty of action, lively dialogue, and quirky details drawn from research.”
—QUILL & QUIRE

“Eric Walters is a classic storyteller. His award-winning novels are smooth, clean reads that put ordinary kids in extraordinary situations. The Pole is no exception.

The Pole is a traditional boys’ adventure story, complete with harsh conditions, polar bears, near-drownings and dogsled racing. The action sequences are breathless and exciting. What sets The Pole apart is that, between the action, Walters manages to delve into themes of tolerance, loyalty, justice, and honour, giving The Pole a depth that many adventure stories lack. Highly Recommended.”
—CM MAGAZINE

It’s actually about racism; about the first man who discovered the North Pole not getting recognition because he was black. I wanted to throw some light on that time because historically it’s a 100 years ago but it’s like a million years ago in terms of race relationships. I wanted Matthew Henson to get the credit that he deserved.”
—Eric Walters

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ages 10+
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CLA Book of the Year for Children: Nominee 2009
Trapped in Ice
ERIC WALTERS

Based on unfortunate true events of the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913, this story traps you in a spellbinding voyage surrounded by vicious snow and ice.

After the death of their father, thirteen-year-old Helen and her brother Michael, find themselves on board the Karluk, a ship headed on an Arctic expedition, as it’s the only work their mother can find. Helen has mixed feelings about spending the next six months on a ship while Michael is thrilled to be a part of a real adventure; neither of them could have imagined what was to come. Once the Arctic Ocean begins an early freeze-over the ship is trapped in ice. The captain Robert Bartlett, must use all his nautical knowledge and skill to save his crew and passengers—but will it be enough?

In her diary, Helen records the fate of the crew and her family as they leave the ship in an attempt to reach solid land, encountering shifting ice flows, blizzards and polar bears along the way. Through this testing journey Helen learns new things about her family and about friendship, but most importantly she discovers an astonishing strength within her.

“This one started because I asked my class a question and the question was, ‘can you please name Canada’s first Prime Minister?’ Three wrote down George Washington, two wrote down Abraham Lincoln and one simply put three letters—JFK. I asked if he knew what those letters stands for and he said, ‘I’m not really sure but he makes really good chicken.’ In this country [Canada] we don’t study heroes and I found out about Robert Bartlett and I started writing about Canadian heroes because I want students to know about these great Canadians, these great heroes.”
—Eric Walters

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The Bully Boys
ERIC WALTERS

Based on the true events of James FitzGibbon and The Battle of Beaver Dam, this is an incredible story of a young man’s experience with war.

Fourteen-year-old Thomas Roberts is left to look after the family farm when his father goes to fight for the British army in the War of 1812. Thomas’ brave and quick reactions when encountering American soldiers attempting to rob a local store catch the attention of the war’s most famous officer-Lieutenant James FitzGibbon, leader of the unit called the Green Tigers or “Bully Boys”. Eager to fight for freedom alongside “real” men, Tommy is taken under FitzGibbon’s wing. Tommy soon realizes while war is more fascinating than he ever imagined, it is also more horrifying.

“In Grade 7 you have to teach the War of 1812. I was using the book they told us we were supposed to use to teach it and my kids hated it. They fell asleep during it. So I thought I’d write a better one. The one they fell asleep to, by the way, is the one that won the Governor General Award because it was such a wonderful book and kids hate it because it’s a crappy book. You can put that down too [laughs].”
—Eric Walters

Excerpt:
Whenever Tom felt scared, he would always remember what FitzGibbon had told him. “The difference between a brave man and a coward is not how he feels, but what he does despite those feelings.”

“This straightforward action story takes readers to the centre of some decisive, exciting moments that shaped Canada’s future.”
—QUILL & QUIRE

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Red Maple Award: Nominee 2002
Rocky Mountain Award: Nominee 2002
The Hydrofoil Mystery

ERIC WALTERS

It's 1915 and the First World War has enmeshed Canada. The East Coast faces danger from German U-boats that sink ships and threaten coastal towns. Fifteen-year-old William McCracken is untouched by the terror of the war. He is set in his tough ways and gambles for entertainment.

Although William believes his summer will be loaded with tomfoolery his mother puts an end to it before it even begins and sends William to work with an inventor named Alexander Graham Bell. Bell and his crew hope to create a hydrofoil boat to aid the Allies in defending the coast. Unknowing to the dangers around him, William finds himself in the middle of an unexpected adventure full of peril and mystery.

“‘I was in Nova Scotia in a Graham Bell museum standing in front of one of the remains of the hydrofoil and my kids asked ‘what would you write about here?’ Well it’d have to involve the hydrofoil and there was a plaque on the wall that said it was using it to destroy German submarines, so I think I need to have a spy, I thought. I asked my son to give me something to write on and he brought me back a serviette from the snack bar, and I wrote the outline on the serviette while I was sitting there.”

—Eric Walters