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THE LESSER BLESSED AND  
ANGEL WING SPLASH PATTERN

poetry, illustrations, and photographs by

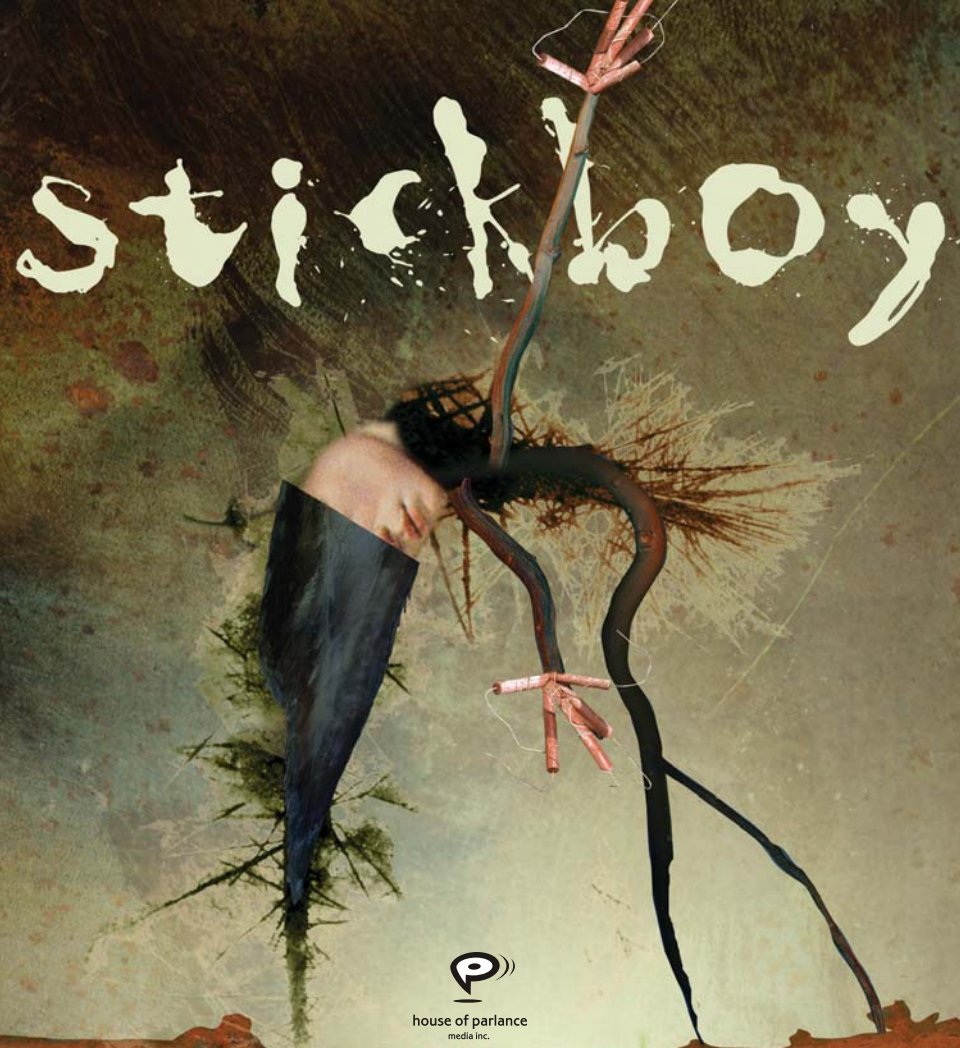
# KINNIE STARR

*how i learned to run*

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# stickboy



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media inc.

House of Parlance Media, Inc.

2008 – 2009

## House of Parlance Media, Inc.

is a trade book publisher and new media company inspired by literary and visual storytelling. We work with traditional and non-traditional authors, writers, artists, and illustrators. From high-quality publishing to electronic media, our product promotes new connections between our artists and their worldwide audiences.

We find emerging talent everywhere. Sometimes, it finds us.

We began our journey in 2005 with the publication of Shane Koyczan's highly praised collection, *Visiting Hours*, which was selected as a Best Book of the Year by the both *The Guardian* and *The Globe and Mail* newspapers. *Visiting Hours* was the only book of poetry to receive both honors.

In 2006-07, we packaged Avril Lavigne's *Make 5 Wishes*, a two-volume, full-colour graphic novel for Random House, NYC. The first volume was a nominee in the American Library Association/YALSA's Great Graphic Novels category, and was an ALA/YALSA Popular Paperback for 2008.

These are all pretty good things. So, we decided to keep going...

In Spring 2008, we introduced *Avril Lavigne's Girlfriend: Sleight of Hand...and Heart*, which was written by Gail Simone and illustrated in full-colour by Vancouver-based Nelson Garcia. This title is the second installment in our Avril Lavigne graphic novel series geared toward 10-15 year olds. Avril Lavigne is the creative consultant for *Girlfriend*, so this title also has the full backing of both her and her team. It's sure to grab the attention of both Avril and graphic novel fans.

Our edgy and exciting Fall 2008 list includes spoken-word superstar Shane Koyczan's ambitious first YA novel in verse on a timely and important topic: bullying, as well as a lovely—and intense—poetry collection from award-winning musician and artist Kinnie Starr, who is also the illustrator and photographer for her work.

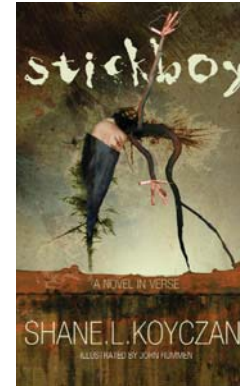
In 2009, Ed Roberston of the Barenaked Ladies will put an amazingly fresh spin on the old-fashioned picture book, which will be illustrated by renowned tattoo artist Matt Reed (that's right, a tattoo artist). We'll be debuting fresh and insightful poetry collections from Shane Koyczan and Mike McGee, spoken-word artists extraordinaire. And we're introducing Joanna Karaplis, who will take "Once Upon a Time" to whole new level with her very grown-up and very fractured fairytales.

So be sure to check in with us from time to time: [www.houseofparlance.com](http://www.houseofparlance.com). You never know what you might find...



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Shane Koyczan is electrifying...this is a writer who will break your heart then heal it." —Val McDermid, author



*Stickboy* is Shane's very first novel...but certainly not his last.

ISBN 978-0-9738131-6-6  
\$22.99  
192 pages  
Rights available: World  
(excluding Canada)

## *Stickboy: A Novel in Verse* by Shane. L. Koyczan

Illustrations by John Rummen

Shane. L. Koyczan's new novel in verse is narrated by a boy who, after enduring years of bullying by his classmates, finally snaps and becomes a bully himself. The title is a reference to both the old "sticks and stones" saying, and the narrator's feelings of being made of sticks of dynamite waiting to explode. And it reminds us that although we can assume any role—bully, victim, or passive observer—ultimately, we must each choose where we stand...

With cyber-bullying on the rise, this is truly a timely and important book. *Stickboy* is sure to ignite lively debate and discussion about bullying in our society—and what we can do about it.

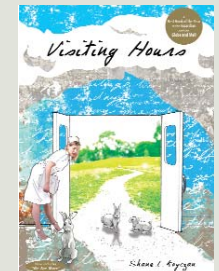
**About Shane:** He has brought audiences to their feet in New York, Edinburgh, Sydney, Auckland, and Los Angeles. He won both the US Slam Poetry Championship, the Canadian Spoken Word Olympics, and he has been featured on BRAVO television, NPR, BBC, CBC, and ABC (Australia) radio.



*Visiting Hours* is Shane. L. Koyczan's critically acclaimed, award-winning, first collection of poetry, which was the only work of poetry selected by both *The Guardian* and *The Globe and Mail* for their Best Books of the Year lists. *Visiting Hours* also includes "We Are More," a poem commissioned by the Canadian Tourism Commission and performed nationwide to standing ovations.

ISBN: 978-0-9738131-0-4  
\$19.99  
120 pages

Rights available: World (excluding Canada)

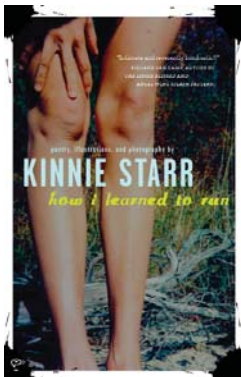


"...raw and feral talent..." —The Globe and Mail

"...edgy...enchanted..." —The New Yorker

"...by the end of the book Starr's ripples become torrents in the cultural pond."

—Spirit Magazine



ISBN: 978-0-9738131-3-5

\$19.99

112 pages

B & W illustrations and photographs throughout.

Rights available: World (excluding Canada)

## How I Learned To Run by Kinnie Starr

Includes illustrations and photographs by Kinnie Starr

From talented artist Kinnie Starr comes a beautifully rendered—and oft-times haunting—collection of poetry. These poems evoke, provoke, sing and scream. Kinnie has mastered the art of making words live and breathe; her words are not soon forgotten.

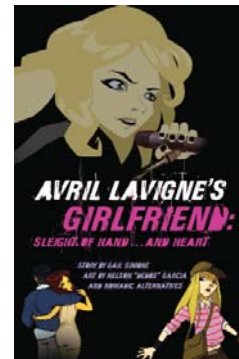
Kinnie incorporates her own photographs and illustrations into *How I Learned to Run*, while up-and-coming book designer Mauve Pagé adds to the essence of each poem with her a unique and visually stunning design. The result is an unexpected visual and literary journey that perfectly suits Kinnie's savvy and style.

**About Kinnie:** She has written and produced four albums, she's been nominated for a Juno Award, performed in Cirque du Soleil's *Zumanity* in Las Vegas, opened for Nelly Furtado and Alanis Morissette in Japan and performed at the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. And now she's adding author to her amazingly diverse list.

*How I Learned to Run* is Kinnie's first collection with House of Parlance Media, Inc.

"...you'll be surprised by what a blend of Japanese animation and alternative comics can do." —The New York Press

"...a must-see..." —www.multiply.com



ISBN 978-0-9738131-5-9

\$10.99

92 pages

Full-colour illustrations throughout.

Rights available: World (excluding Canada)

Ages 12-up

## Avril Lavigne's Girlfriend: Sleight of Hand...and Heart by Gail Simone

Illustrated by Nelson "Dedos" Garcia and Nomadic Alternatives

The hand is quicker than the eye, but the heart...?

Every girl in school wants Dylan Ki: he's cute, cool, and really sweet. Sweet enough to get Layla, the richest and hottest girl in school. But there are a lot of things about Layla that Dylan doesn't know. Like how vicious she is to anyone who doesn't laugh at her jokes, wear designer labels or do *whatever* she says—for starters.

That *anyone* just happens to be Marta, who has the wrong clothes, wrong friends, and lives on the wrong side of town. Marta doesn't really have anything against Layla—other than the fact that she's out to get her for no real reason. But Marta has a few secrets of her own. Secrets that could make Layla extremely unhappy.

Can Marta make Dylan see the truth about his girlfriend?  
Does the whole thing really matter that much the Marta anyway?

You bet.

Inspired by Avril Lavigne's hit single "Girlfriend," from her smash album, *The Best Damn Thing*, this is a story of a girl who wants a boy who's too good for the girlfriend he's got.

**About the Creators:** Gail Simone is a multiple award-winning author of comics and animation. She has written for the critically acclaimed *Wonder Woman* comic book, and has previously distinguished herself as a fan favourite with much-loved runs on *Birds of Prey*, *Gen 13*, *Deadpool*, *Villains United*, and DC Comics' flagship title, *Action Comics*.

Nelson "Dedos" Garcia is the creative director of Nomadic Alternatives Productions, and is a multi-award-winning illustrator, animator, and muralist currently producing concept art for the video game industry.



Don't worry. We're cooking up a few more amazing titles. They're not quite ready to serve, but we thought you might like a little taste...

### *The Black Eye Will Be Worth It* by Shane. L. Koyczan

Shane's latest collection packs the very same punch and intensity as *Stickboy* and *Visiting Hours*—but his words continue to grow and morph into something exciting and provocative.

**\*\*Also included:** previously performed but unpublished poems, as requested by fans ("Grandma's Got It Going On," "Crickets Have Arthritis," and more...).

*The Voice of a Giraffe* (provisional title) by Ed Robertson, illustrated by Matt Reed  
Giraffes don't make sounds...or do they? Some people say their necks are too long or that they don't have vocal cords or that they just choose not to join in with the rest of the sound-making world. But, the super-curious (and super-determined) Leah Thinnova wants to know the truth about whether giraffes can be heard. Especially since she's been told that's she's silly for believing that there is a chance the elegant-necked creatures might actually have something to say...

From Ed Robertson of the Barenaked Ladies and renowned tattoo artist Matt Reed comes a fresh and funny take on the traditional picture book that is sure to be enjoyed by all ages!

### Untitled YA Fairytale Collection by Joanna Karaplis

*Once upon a time? Perhaps.*

*But these aren't your conventional fairytales. They've been fractured and rebuilt for a whole new generation of teen readers.*

*You might laugh. You might cry. But one thing's for sure:*

*You'll never forget these stories...*

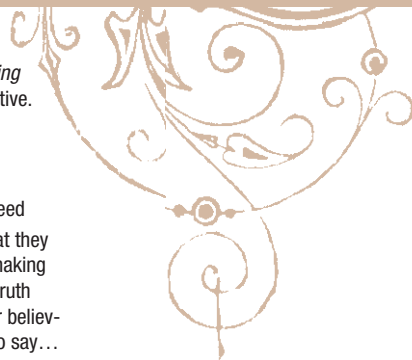
Joanna Karaplis makes her YA debut with a clever, funny, and very grown-up take on some tried-and-true fairytales. The first volume will bring three favourites into the 21st century and features illustrations by fresh, talented new artists. Young adults will love these short story collections...so will adults. But what about Snow White, Cinderella, and Beauty (minus the Beast)? Yeah. We're pretty sure they'll like them, too.

### Untitled Poetry Collection by Mike McGee

House of Parlance has the honor of publishing Mike's very first funny, fabulous, out-there, serious, heartfelt, and honest poetry collection, which is sure to be a hit with his fans...both old and new.

Mike McGee is a well-known international spoken word artist, performer, comic, and slam poet. He has performed at venues across North America, and was one of the first Americans to have a spoken-word performance at the University of Paris-Sorbonne.

In 2006, McGee was named Individual World Poetry Slam Champion. His "stand-up poetry" has been reviewed in *Writer's Digest* magazine, and his work has been featured on NPR, HBO, and the CBC.



## Ordering information:

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