



Finding Edward A Novel by Sheila Murray

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Shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award

Cyril Rowntree migrates to Toronto from Jamaica in 2012. Managing a precarious balance of work and university he begins to navigate his way through the implications of being racialized in his challenging new land. A chance encounter with a panhandler named Patricia leads Cyril to a suitcase full of photographs and letters dating back to the early 1920s. Cyril is drawn into the letters and their story of a white mother's struggle with the need to give up her mixed race baby, Edward. Abandoned by his own white father as a small child, Cyril's keen intuition triggers a strong connection and he begins to look for the rest of Edward's story.

As he searches, Cyril unearths fragments of Edward's itinerant life as he crisscrossed the country. Along the way, he discovers hidden pieces of Canada's Black history and gains the confidence to take on his new world.

Reviews

"In lucid, scintillating prose, suffused with mystery and everyday magic, Sheila Murray delivers one of the most penetrating dramas of Black experience in all of Canadian literature. This tale of a lonely Jamaican student enrolled at Ryerson University follows his obsession with the life of a struggling Black boy in Depression-era Toronto. A parallel portrait of two Black bi-racial men, *Finding Edward* expands to enfold a sweeping history of Blacks in Canada. This beautiful, necessary novel will become a touchstone."

– Donna Bailey Nurse, author of *What's a Black Critic to Do?*

"Sheila Murray's debut novel *Finding Edward* is a significant literary work that gives a voice to the voiceless and infuses the present with a previously unrecorded past, bridging much of the black experience in twentieth century Canada, from Africville to the lumber camps of British Columbia."

– Mason Haigh, *Rebel Women Lit*

"Powerful"

– *Open Book*

The Author

Sheila Murray's short fiction has been published in various literary journals including *Descant*, *The Dalhousie Review*, and *The New Quarterly*. *Finding Edward* is her first novel. Murray is an advocate for social justice and climate change response and currently works as project director with CREW (Community Resilience to Extreme Weather). She was born in St. Albans, England and now lives in Hamilton, Ontario.



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