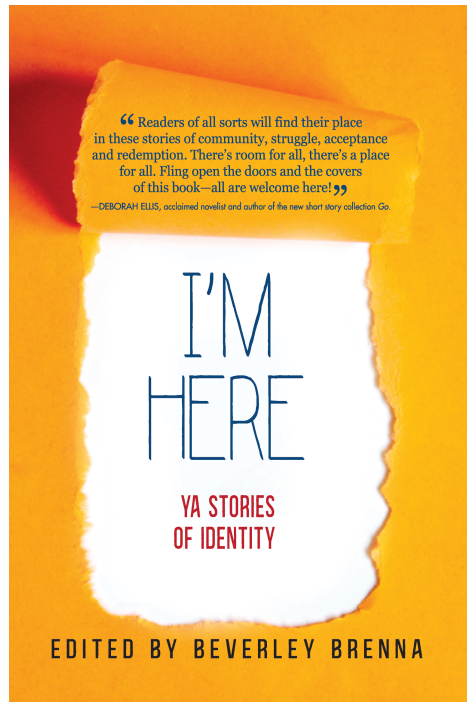


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Contact: Sarah Miniaci
Director of Publicity – Sutherland House Books / Red Deer Press
E: sarah@sutherlandhousebooks.com | T: 647-464-8029

I'M HERE: YA Stories of Identity

Edited by Beverley Brenna



Publication Date: **November 25, 2025**

ISBN: **978-0-88995-774-9**

Price: **\$21.95 CAD**

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Nineteen Canadian Voices. One Powerful Declaration: “I’m Here.”

In *I’m Here: YA Stories of Identity*, acclaimed author and editor Beverley Brenna brings together nineteen original short stories from writers across Canada, each exploring what it means to define — and redefine — who we are.

From newcomers to seasoned authors, these voices span a range of genres, including realism, speculative fiction, historical adventure, and contemporary mythology. Each story captures a moment of transformation, belonging, or discovery, reflecting the complex tapestry of teen identity in contemporary Canada.

“Readers of all sorts will find their place in these stories of community, struggle, acceptance, and redemption. There’s room for all, there’s a place for all. Fling open the doors and the covers of this book—all are welcome here!” — Deborah Ellis,
acclaimed novelist and author of *Go* and *The Breadwinner* series

In her introduction, Brenna likens the short story form to “a moving walkway”-- something that carries readers forward, lingering in their imagination long after the last page.

The result is an anthology that celebrates difference, resilience, and the power of storytelling to connect and transform.

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The Undertakers – Dennis Allen

State of Being – Simone Garneau

How to Be No One – Beth Goobie

Design – Sylvia Gunnery

Sad Cat – Madeleine Hart

Mental – Charise Jewell

A Spare Room – Alice Kuipers

Reading the Field – Patricia McCowan

The Plowman – Lynn McGonigle Clarke

Right Defense – Jean Mills

The Bellstead Kittens – Ann Margaret Oberst

Comfortable Morsels – Patricia Robertson

Iron Icarus Rising – Ziggy Schutz

The Lodestone – Brian Slattery

She Is – Kelly Stewart

Ancestration – Michael F. Stewart

Here Me Is – Colin Thornton

Saving Prometheus – Maureen Ulrich

Accidental Athlete – Carleigh Wu

Highlights

- **A celebration of Canadian YA voices**, featuring nineteen new stories from coast to coast
 - **Themes of identity, transformation, and belonging**, expressed through multiple genres
 - **Ideal for educators, librarians, and readers aged 12+** seeking meaningful, diverse, and contemporary YA fiction
-

About the Editor

Beverley Brenna is a writer, editor, and scholar of children's literature based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Her work has been shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award and recognized by the Canadian Children's Book Centre. With *I'm Here*, Brenna continues her lifelong commitment to amplifying diverse young voices and celebrating the stories that shape us.
