

Chadwick Ginther

Author of Mythic Fiction

TAG ARCHIVES: HOLLY HALFTONE

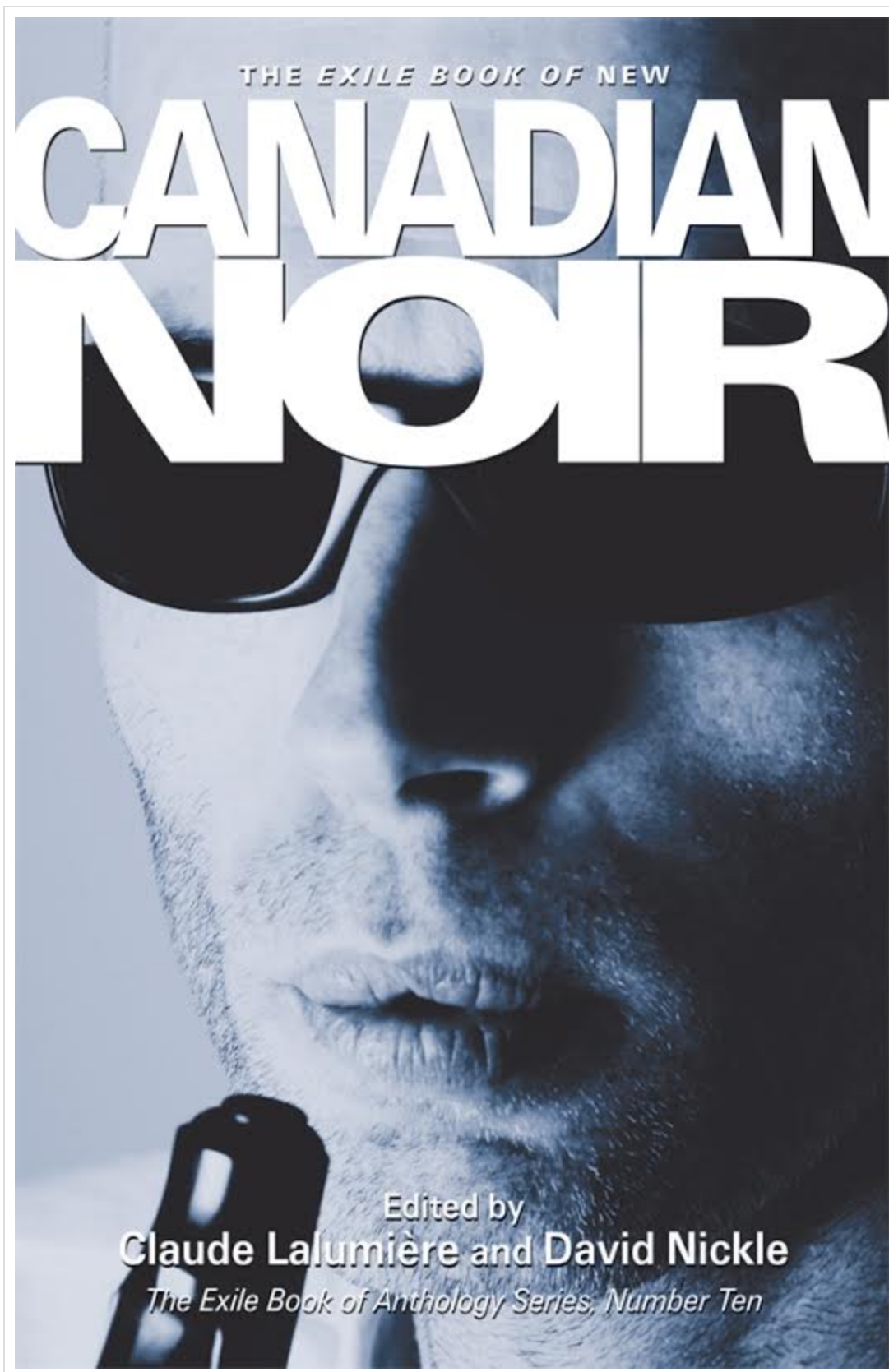
Behind the Scenes of The Last Good Look

Posted on **March 26, 2015**

I've liked crime fiction almost as long as I've liked fantasy. So I'm really chuffed that my story "The Last Good Look" was selected to be included in *The Exile Book of New Canadian Noir*.

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One of my writing mentors was fellow Ravenstone author, **Michael Van Rooy**, who passed away far too soon. You should do yourself a favour and check out his Monty Haaviko crime novels (*An Ordinary*

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(Photo Credit: Janek Lowe for the Winnipeg Free Press)

Michael has always been a huge inspiration to me, but was especially when it came to “The Last Good Look”.

Earlier in my writing career I was selected to be the Emerging Writer-in-Residence at the now sadly defunct Aqua Books. Michael had also been one of the Writers-in-Residence there. While I was writing in my office, which had been his office, and trying to finish up the as-yet-unsold *Tombstone Blues*, I had an idea for a rough-and-tumble troll tough guy.

And so Neelak (Neal to his friends) Trollborn, Wizard of Runes was born. I wrote the first four pages of his story and before long, *Thunder Road* and *Tombstone Blues* had sold to Ravenstone, and so I had to set Neal aside.

But I never forgot him.

When **Claude Lalumière** and **David Nickle** put out the call for submissions I was so excited to have the reason to figure out the rest of Neal’s debut story. He surprised me a lot, Neal did.

Every good noir also needs its femme fatale. Neal found his in one of my coworkers at the time: artist, photographer, and model, **Holly Halftone**.

I’ve probably blatantly stolen someone’s appearance, so I asked Holly if she was okay being written into

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drafting, thinking I'd eventually come up with something I liked better, but nothing else worked as well, and so Holly got to be a double inspiration on that particular dangerous lady.



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(Photo Credit: Alexa Lachuta)

Pretty stoked to have this one in print. I hope you enjoy it.

Fellow New Canadian Noir contributor, Corey Redekop, [interviewed Keith Cadieux and I about our stories](#) (as well as a bunch of the other authors) [over on his blog](#).

It's still a long way off, but the Manitoba boys in the anthology, me, **Keith** and **Corey** [will be doing readings at McNally Robinson Booksellers May 27th](#). I hope I'll see you there.

Write on!

Posted in **Uncategorized** | Tagged **Claude Lalumière**, **David Nickle**, **Exile Book of New Canadian Noir**, **Exile Editions**, **Holly Halftone**, **McNally Robinson**, **Michael Van Rooy**, **Noir**, **Shameless Self Promotion**, **The Last Good Look**