

OVER THE TRANSOM

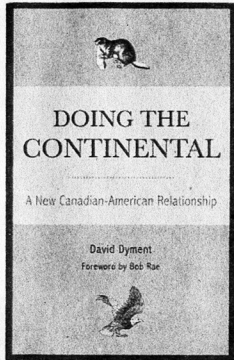
Books by Ottawa-area authors

Doing the Continental: A new Canadian-American relationship

By David Dymont
Dundurn Press, \$19.99

Politics

David Dymont's book seeks to provide insight into the Canadian-American relationship in an era of change. Dymont teaches political science at the University of Ottawa and Carleton, where he is senior research associate at the Centre on North American Politics and Society. A former policy analyst at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, he writes that Canadians must be aware of how little our country is on the mind of the Americans how as they face their own internal and foreign struggles. Despite this, he argues, we should not diminish the role that we play in our dealings with them and the world — specifically looking at the thorny topics of defence strategy, water and energy policies, Arctic sovereignty and a continental community. He argues for a middle way between the approaches of the Canadian "continentalist right and the nationalist left," urging us to shed our "colonial mentality" and play to our strengths as an independent na-



tion respected around the world as we seek to enter with the U.S into an era of hope and renewal.

Luminaria

By Jackie Morris
www.jackiemorris.ca, \$12.95

Young Adult

This Ottawa author's first novel follows the adventures of Alexandra, a soon-to-be 16-year-old who is disenchanted with her neatly-organized princess life in 18th-century Europe. Most particularly, she is unenthused by the prospect of a marriage arranged for her by her parents. An adventure arrives in the form of an elf, who appears in Alex's rooms one day from a land called Luminaria, ac-



cessible to some through mirrors. Discovering Luminaria is in danger of being destroyed, Alex enlists some friends, including Logan, the groundskeeper's son, Heather, Alex's personal maid, the noble-born Richard and Andrew, the smithy's son — and a tame dragon — to help save Luminaria from the evil machinations of SheZor.

Jackson Jones: The tale of a boy, an elf and a very stinky fish

By Jenn Kelly, illustrated by Arian Elsammak
Zonderkidz, \$14.99

Children

Jackson, a 10½-year-old boy who should be in Grade 5 but instead is



in Grade 6, feels small and friendless at his new school and is intent on writing fabulous stories in which he is the hero. But, to his dismay, nothing interesting ever happens to him — until he falls into his very short Great-Aunt Harriett's "very, very, very, very, very, very, very thick hair" where elf Meeka holds hourly tours accompanied by a smelly fish. Meeka takes him to a magical bookstore and an equally exotic cafeteria, then they encounter Meeka's huntress sister, who protects birds from bubble-gum chewing critters called crubbies. In a series of further adventures reminiscent of *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, Jackson learns some life lessons, finds he is no longer friendless and performs a heroic, life-saving deed. The story also has a spiritual edge to it, leavened with mystery, humour and adventure. The book is broken into amusingly-titled chapters (i.e. "No longer the First Chapter;" "A Very Hairy Chapter;" and "In Which This Book Really Begins"). It is not a picture book, though there are apt illustrations.

Kirstin Endemann