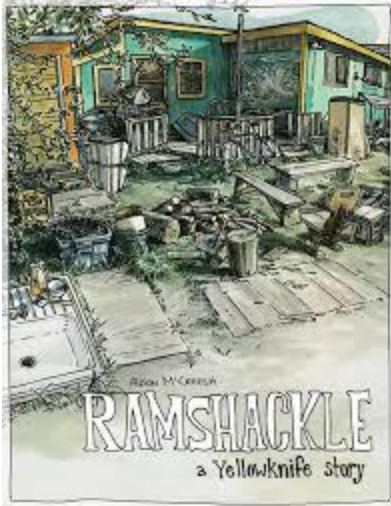


SPOTLIGHT



The Northwords Writers Festival is coming up on June 2-5 and once again they have a very exciting lineup of national and local talent. One of the local creators that I am very much looking forward to seeing is Alison McCreesh.

McCreesh is quickly becoming one of our most well-known and respected artists and has also begun making her mark in the book community as an illustrator. Having partnered with Miranda Currie (*Anna and the Bear*), Andrea Leask (*Ty & The Fly*), and Libby Whittall Catling (*Twelve Days of Christmas in Fort Reliance*), her skills are immediately obvious. She has a wide range of styles but always seems to choose the right one to complement the levity of the story, and you can

easily tell the amount of time she puts in simply observing. There are scenes in *Ty & The Fly*, for instance, that could be used as a study of dog anatomy in motion.

However it was with *Ramshackle*, McCreesh's graphic memoir of settling in Yellowknife, that proved she also has the writing skills to match. Once again those observational skills are put to good use, but equally appreciated is her honesty. Not shying away from self-deprecation or of opinions that perhaps would change overtime or that others would not necessarily share, there is a brave charm in *Ramshackle* that only the better memoir writers achieve. The end result is a poignant look at Yellowknife life; one that is simultaneously unique to McCreesh but familiar to anyone who has chosen to move here.

- John Mutford, Public Services Librarian