

# IN THE HILLS™

A magazine of country living in the Headwaters region

## The Year in Books: 2020

Our annual review of new books by local authors and illustrators.

November 24, 2020 | [Tracey Fockler](#) | [Arts](#)

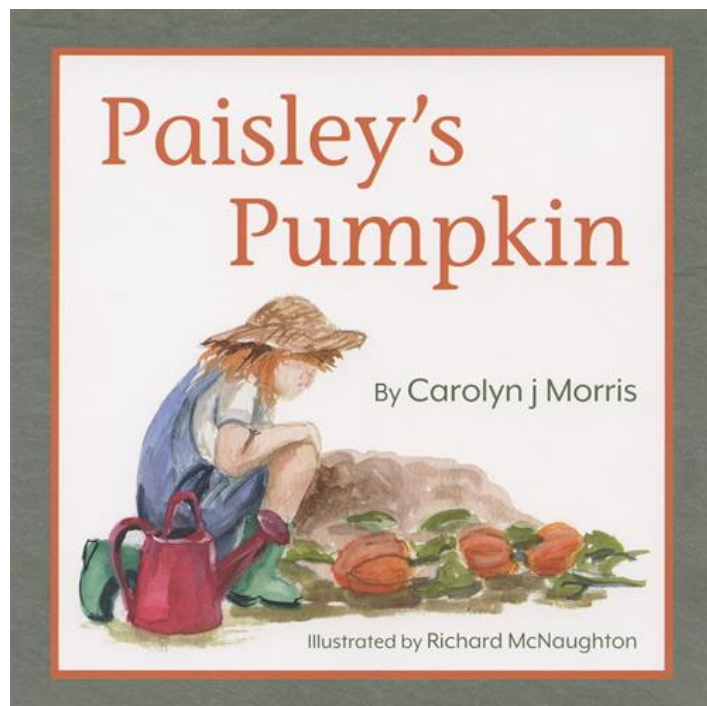
Ahhh, books. They entertain, educate and – especially useful in times like these – transport us to new and exciting places beyond words and beyond the four walls surrounding us.

Your garden may be put to bed for the winter, but feel the vicarious thrill of sinking your hands into fertile earth with *Minding the Garden*, Brian Bixley's memoir of his 50-year campaign against the fickle gardening gods. Leave the real world completely behind and dive into the mind-bending landscapes of Rudolf Kurz's *Bizarre* and Gail Prusky's *The Secret Life of Doris Melnick*. Feel the exhaustion and heartbreak of helping Syrian refugees clamber onto a rocky shore in Greece in Steven Heighton's *Reaching Mithymna*. Or slake your need for a satisfying rant by dipping into Harry Posner's finely honed poems in *Blue Is Bigger Than Brown*.

Teens are invited to disappear into Shelley Peterson's new Jockey Girl mystery, *The Jagged Circle*, while the wee ones will enjoy the excitement of growing a massive pumpkin in Carolyn j Morris's *Paisley's Pumpkin*.

So find a cozy spot, snuggle in and let a book take you away.

And please shop local bookstores for your good reads. The small businesses of Headwaters need your support!



### Paisley's Pumpkin

by Carolyn j Morris illustrated by Richard McNaughton

Young Paisley is delighted to find a pumpkin plant sprouting in the farm's compost heap. Nurturing the seedling throughout the summer, she soon has an entire pumpkin patch. One of the pumpkins grows so big it might just win a ribbon at the fall fair!

*Paisley's Pumpkin* is a wonderful addition to Carolyn j Morris's series of children's picture books about rural living. And as always, Richard McNaughton's lovely watercolour illustrations bring the gentle stories to life.

Carolyn j Morris lives in Beeton, while Richard McNaughton lives in Grey County. (Railfence Books, 12.95)