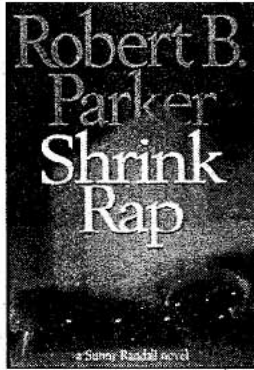


CRIME

MARGARET CANNON



Shrink Rap, by Robert B. Parker, Putnam, 290 pages, \$35.99

Old Spenser hands are going to read this précis — a PI is hired to protect a famous author and murder happens — and think it's a gender-switched version of *Looking for Rachel Wallace*. There are many similarities, but that was one of Spenser's finest, and this isn't even close to Parker's early work. It also stars Sunny Randall, no Spenser. Sunny is a smart and gutsy woman who earns her living protecting those who pay. She is a dog-lover and carries a large, well-lit torch for her ex-husband, the scion of a Boston mafia don. The plot has famous romance novelist Melanie Joan Hall stalked by her ex-husband, a nasty psychiatrist.

Hating Gladys, by Leona Gom, Sumach Press, 272 pages, \$16.95

Gladys Pratt is an unforgettable villain: greedy, selfish, cruel and totally without feelings. Hating her is easy. She is, in fact, such a demi-

KIDS

SUSAN PERREN

Canadian Women Invent!, Annie Wood with Fani Evagelou and Catherine Farquharson, Inventive Women Inc., 80 pages, \$15.95, ages 12 and up

Do women invent? That's the question posed in this book's foreword and answered in successive chapters. The question is posed because, as the authors state, "Female Inventors are absent from our imagination." This book moves across Canada profiling a diverse collection of creative women and their inventions, from computer software that predicts iceberg drift to native women in the North who invent or improve technologies used in making clothes and cooking.

Salmon Creek, by Annette LeBox, illustrated by Karen Reczuch, Groundwood, 48 pages, \$16.95, ages 4 to 8

Karen Reczuch's lovely and luminous watercolour illustrations animate this story of a salmon's life cycle, painting the natural world of sun-dappled streams, sea coast and river rapids in tones of blue, green and grey. Sumi the salmon's story is told in free verse, a fine, organic medium for a life journey propelled by primordial memory. Sumi's own first memories are of "water over stones/ the scent of creek/ darkness so complete/ she could barely imagine/ another world larger/ tan the egg case enclosing her." Her end, after a life partly lived as a creature of the sea, is in the creek where she was born.

PAPERBACKS

H. J. KIRCHHOFF



Saboteurs: Wiebo Ludwig's War Against Big Oil, by Andrew Nikiforuk, Macfarlane Walter & Ross, 283 pages, \$22.99

Nominated for a Governor-General's Award, *Saboteurs* tells the story of Wiebo Ludwig, leader of a religious farming commune in northern Alberta, and his battles against both the provincial government and the province's gas and oil industry. Ludwig led legal and civil actions trying to halt the industry's pollution, primarily sulphur gas emissions, which he and his family (and many environmentalists) blame for widespread illnesses and miscarriages in the area. Then there came a spate of guerrilla actions against the oil companies, including bombings, and the death of a 16-year-old girl who was shot while joy-riding on the Ludwig farm. This is a superb — and passionate — summing-up of a complicated situation.

Little Horse of Iron: A Quest for the Canadian Horse, by Louisa...