

This is a story about young people confronting the world they've been handed by the generation before. With society's rapidly changing take on recreational drugs, social media, dating, climate change, #MeToo and gender, there's a lot to grow into. Individual values and ethical standards are up for grabs. At the centre of the novel is Milton Rose, a nineteen-year-old Winnipeg college student. He's an introspective, sensitive young man, whose personal life is frustrating and confused. In the spring of 2019, Milton is living on his own, having been raised by his grandparents. Only now is he coming to terms with his mother's tragic death when he was a toddler. As the novel begins, Milton and his friend Tina Lindell are working at a downtown cinema, where two starkly different events occur. First, Milton submits a paper to a Banff film festival competition, where he wins a prize. Not long after, Tina is victimized by the disgusting sexual advances of their creepy boss. Determined that the man will be held responsible, Tina convinces Milton to give false supporting evidence to police. As they await the outcome of the police complaint, Milton, Tina, and Tina's boyfriend drive out to the film festival in Banff, to collect Milton's prize. There, Milton's world converges with the world of two young drifters from Florida, Shane Williams and Arlene Pratt. The two have been restlessly moving from place to place, waiting tables in Orlando, Miami and Saint Petersburg, eventually becoming small-time criminals, engaging in credit-card fraud. Their film festival scam jeopardizes Milton's prize money. Back at home, Tina's sexual harassment case meets with considerable difficulties, as Milton tries to move on with his own life.