



25 November - 9 December

Hello readers!

As an author, reader, Canadian and lover of libraries, I am beyond thrilled to have *Going to Beautiful* selected for Together We Read-Canada. What better than a country-wide book club to bring people together for a positive, uplifting, entertaining purpose? Imagining readers from across Canada sharing in this experience brings me great joy.

I believe all writers should ask themselves one question: Why do I write? It may sound like an easy question, but I guarantee you it is not so easy to answer. I knew I wanted to write as a young boy growing up in rural Saskatchewan. I had plenty of ideas but nowhere for them to land, no fertile soil for them to take root in. I did not know my WHY. In my case, it would take decades to even begin formulating an answer. Today, I have much greater clarity. My WHY is this:

*I write to tell stories about underrepresented people and underrepresented places in a way that is both accessible and (hopefully) entertaining.*

*Going to Beautiful* fits the bill perfectly. It was a book written during a turbulent time, one shared by the world. My hope was that this story might act as a bit of tonic, a light after the dark days of the pandemic. At its core, *Going to Beautiful* is a mystery novel. At its heart it's a book about people. The characters you'll meet in *Going to Beautiful* are people who are underrepresented in contemporary Canadian crime fiction, living life in a place underrepresented in the same way. They include a gay celebrity chef, a transgender best friend, a nonagenarian nun, a Chinese café owner, a gaggle of Ukrainians, most of whom are 55+ living in rural Saskatchewan...in winter!

In the time since *Going to Beautiful* was published, I have been heartened to learn that although these people and places may be underrepresented in the books we typically find in the mystery section of our libraries and bookstores, they are well represented and beloved in the lives and hearts and memories of readers from around the world. As the famous quote claims: "*There is more that unites us than divides us.*"

The most common question I've had about this book is: "Where is Beautiful?". Many readers have claimed it as a place they know. All of them are correct.

I hope you enjoy your time *Going to Beautiful*.

Anthony Bidulka