

# The Day Before Tomorrow

## by Monique Britten

### EXCERPT

#### Chapter 1

*August 1979*

Juliette can see for eternity in the cerulean sky and, in that moment of quiet wonderment, she feels an unexpected rise in her spirit – her awareness is unencumbered by thought, rapt with being alive.

The window is halfway down, George's finger on the wheel.

The road, patched and re-patched before them, cuts the countryside in half. Juliette watches the prairies pass by like a motion picture: green wooded foothills, whimsical corn fields as tall as men, harvested clearings, dense undeveloped thickets, jagged and uninviting. She pictures what the land would look like from a skydive – tiled with russet, emerald, goldenrod, and their van, the size of a beetle, inching along with a destination in mind.

The dashboard starts its rattle again. George gives it a good swift thump. “Now stay that way,” he says and swings out to pass a truck. There is no shortage of honeybees this year, judging by the bounty of wildflowers competing from beneath shale and rock. Showy blossoms of bergamot, tall and dignified, ecstatic to have burst from the ether into here and now.