



is encouraged to liberate this girl through the style of the illustrations: we are given multiple imaginative perspectives, all painted in vivacious colours. The expressive drawing of the images reveals the judicious touch of an accomplished artist.

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**Louis Riel.** Rosemary Neering. Toronto: Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1992. 64 pp., \$7.95 paper. ISBN 0-88902-214-3.

Of all Canadians, Louis Riel is the most written about. The Riel literature is massive. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that we have yet another volume on the life of this man who has intrigued Canadians for well over a hundred years. Rosemary Neering has produced a very brief biography that is directed at young readers. The sixty-four pages of text includes some three dozen illustrations, so the actual text — divided into fifteen chapters — is very short. The presented Riel is not inaccurate. At the same time we are not given a particularly full Riel. What we get is a totally politically correct and sanitized Louis Riel. Here is a man who represented oppressed Métis and aboriginals. They did no wrong and the white population of Canada rarely did anything right. Young people will not be harmed by reading Rosemary Neering's biography. At the same time they will get nothing approaching a full picture of this enigmatic Canadian.

**Donald Swainson** teaches history at Queen's University. His many publications include "Rieliana and the Structure of Canadian History" in Hartwell Bowsfield, ed., *Louis Riel: Selected Readings*, Toronto, 1988.