



BOOK RELEASE

The Push & the Pull

Darryl Whetter

Fiction
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When a Ride is Not Just a Ride
How a Bike Trip Becomes an Odyssey

“Now, every aching moment of now, his bike trip is a cabinet shuffle. Any desire must now win approval from the legs. To want is to sweat. Any desire is a weight.”

In his highly anticipated debut novel, Darryl Whetter – one of Canada’s finest prose stylists – finds the heroic transition from youth to manhood on the (in)famous TransCanada Highway.

Andrew Day embarks on a journey by bicycle from Halifax, NS, where he has abandoned his Masters degree, to Kingston, ON, and his childhood home. En route, memories dominate his thoughts; his life with his father, the betrayal of his mother when he was young, the fascination of bisexuality that cycling awakens, and his relationship with his girlfriend Betty.

As he travels, Andrew sloughs off his fears, material goods, and attachments. In episodes of intensifying violence, he leaves the highway and rides the back roads under the cover of night. Encounters with death and desire shake his confidence, but by the time he arrives home, he has stripped down to what he knows he needs and wants.

Whetter writes with compelling intensity of athleticism and degeneration, isolation and community, the weight of desire and the joy and anguish present in all things. *The Push & the Pull* is a not-to-be forgotten journey from one of Canada’s most exciting new novelists.

About the Author

Darryl Whetter is the author of *A Sharp Tooth in the Fur*, named by *The Globe and Mail* as one of the top 100 books for 2003. His stories have appeared in *Best Canadian Stories '05*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Prism International*, *broken pencil*, *filling station*, *Zygoté*, *Exile*, *The Danforth Review*, and *The New Quarterly*. He is a regular guest on CBC Radio’s *Talking Books* and a frequent contributor to *The Globe and Mail*, the *Vancouver Sun*, the *Toronto Star*, and the *Chronicle Herald*.

— more —

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Accolades

“Darryl Whetter's *The Push & the Pull* is a brash, vibrant, melancholy, sexy and finally uplifting book about a mesmerizing father, the son who can't tear himself away, and the women who make them grow up. Whetter is intoxicated with language. He writes like a dream in a quick, urbane and witty style. His women are gorgeous independent creatures; his men are large and infuriating; and when love happens it's explosive, passionate and grand. A lovely first novel.” — Douglas Glover, author of *Elle*

“Brilliant. Darryl Whetter's style gleams like a rare and fresh metal. Here, in a ride we haven't seen taken, is a daunting, all-terrain, solo journey to the heart.” — Bill Gaston, author of *Midnight Hockey*

About Goose Lane Editions

Goose Lane Editions is a small, lively company based in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on the beautiful Saint John River. The company is Canada's oldest independent publisher and specializes in Canadian fiction, poetry, and non-fiction by the best established and emerging authors. Recent honours include: the 2007 Best Atlantic Published Book (for *Bruno Bobak: The Full Palette*, edited by Bernard Riordon), the Danuta Gleed Award (for *Eyehill* by Kelly Cooper), the Governor General's Award for fiction (for *Elle* by Douglas Glover), an Independent Publishers' Book Award for poetry (for *The Drunken Lovely Bird* by Sue Sinclair) and the very first Carlo Betocchi International Poetry Prize (Florence, Italy) to be earned by a non-Italian (for *High Marsh Road* by Douglas Lochhead).

Contact Information

To schedule an interview with the author or to request an excerpt for publication, please contact Susan Baker at sbaker@gooselane.com or call 888.926.8377.

Review copies of *The Push & the Pull* by Darryl Whetter are available by request. High res cover files are available at http://gooselane.com/gooselaneeditions/?page_id=6

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