



SHORT FICTION
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Derek Hayes

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THE MALADJUSTED

DEREK HAYES

These urban, commuter-friendly stories capture quirky events in satisfying ways. Their dark undertones and sharp-witted ironies employ familiar settings such as apartments, lofts, studios and city streets, but use unusual and unexpected urban moments as backdrops to outré characters and their given idiosyncrasies.

Some of Hayes' characters are on the social fringe, such as the mentally challenged narrator of the title story who finds his way through urban life with the aid of his seventy-year-old neighbour and the possibilities inherent in a game of chess. Some obsess privately, such as the protagonist in "The Runner" who becomes neurotically repulsed by the hair follicles on his girlfriend's upper lip, while others, like the proven street ball "cager" of the story "In the Low Post" stews over his eroding prestige and control on the inner-city basketball court.

Edgy, smart and unpredictable, Derek Hayes' stories bend linear story-telling, and shift the narrative voices with such an energetic frequency that readers will want to go back again just to see how he does it.

"Derek Hayes is a talented new writer from Canada worth keeping an eye on." — Martin Amis, author of *is* the author of eleven novels, most recently *The Pregnant Widow*, the memoir *Experience*, two collections of stories and six collections of non-fiction.

"A spare style that focuses so much on what the narrator sees—Hayes puts the reader right into the scene . . . The material is very strong. I found myself engaged . . . and got involved with the characters and the situations and it felt like things built as each story progressed." — Alan Cumyn, author of the novel, *Losing It*

Although DEREK HAYES has been writing professionally for ten years, he is new to the Canadian literary scene. He lives in Toronto, ON.



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