

## The Tension Between Societal Expectation and the Individual Collide in the Dramatic New Novel *Turnstiles* by Novelist/Poet Andrea McKenzie Raine



Martin Sourdough is a homeless person who has chosen to turn his back on the corporate, material world; Willis Hancocks Jr. is a barrister, an alcoholic philanderer, and a misogynist; and Evelyn (aka Yvonne) is a prostitute. *Turnstiles* speaks to these social problems through the smaller scope of each character's individual trials. There is a struggle that exists between the need to serve one's own needs and the expectation to participate in the larger social scheme. Martin and Willis are both trying to fit into the world, but on their own terms. They are naïve, searching for an Eden-like state of being. Through a broader experience of personal fortune, misfortune, travel, and social interactions, they each learn to accept their paths and take control of their own destinies.

An empathetic and honest portrayal of human beings attempting to redefine themselves against the friction of idealism's clash with societal expectations, *Turnstiles* is perfect for readers seeking a stirring, dramatic depiction of love, loss, impulse, and consequence.

"A prodigious inheritance from a negligent, departed father, given away on impulse, generates a domino-effect of lives altered, one after another. A fascinating read."

— Pamela Porter, Governor General Award Winner in Children's Literature for *The Crazy Man* in 2005

### About the Author

Andrea McKenzie Raine earned a B.A. in English Literature at the University of Victoria. She has attended the successful Planet Earth Poetry reading series (formerly known as Mocambopo) in Victoria, BC since 1997, and participated in the Glenairley writing retreats led by Canadian poet and novelist Patrick Lane in Sooke, BC. In 2005, she published her first book of poetry, titled *A Mother's String*, through Ekstasis Editions. Andrea lives in Victoria, BC with her husband and two young sons. *Turnstiles* is her debut novel.

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**Author:** Andrea McKenzie Raine

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