

The Last Straw

This is the story of a man's peculiar descent into madness. Rayner Pazatsky is a typical prairie man, forty-six years of age, born and raised in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. He has lived in Winnipeg since his mid-twenties, making a modest living as an accountant, while chalking up a long record of jarring disappointment in his search for true love. Beginning in the spring of 2005, three life-changing events follow in quick succession. Rayner's father dies. Then he inherits a junior hockey team from a neighbour. Then his wife Jennifer walks out on him, leaving a four-year-old son Flynn behind. For Rayner, this is the last straw. He begins to unravel. After a lifetime of failed relationships and love gone wrong, he's not getting up off the mat this time. And then, amazingly, it happens to him. The perfect woman. The perfect relationship. Genuine peace and contentment. How? Why? Is it simply because he has given up, stopped striving? Because he has learned so much from his other relationships? Is it blind luck? Is it karma? Or has he really discovered the answer?

In a novel filled with humour and hockey stories, you'll meet a motley cast of characters who all helped to bring Rayner to where he is in the winter of 2007-2008: His first love Connie Lusiak, a savvy high school classmate. His new-age girlfriend Donna, who's into yoga and health-foods. Jennifer, the talented and beautiful chartered accountant he marries. Harry Maitland, the stressed-out owner of a learning centre, who hires Rayner as a part-time tutor. Wes Melnyk, Rayner's neighbour, an old-timer who has spent his life in hockey, playing in the minors as a young man, owner of the Winnipeg Maroons in current times. Brian Lord, Rayner's best friend, a lawyer who looks like a cross between Lanny MacDonald and John Cleese. Michael Grove, the coach of Rayner's hockey team, a Newfie who tells the best stories ever. Lenette Evers, the woman of Rayner's dreams; sexy, brilliant and funny. Eve Meyerman, his friend and kindred spirit, who owns a fleet of limousines. And Rayner himself, an everyman destined to discover the secret. How to find the perfect woman.