

MEET THE AUTHOR SERIES

Robert Chursinoff
author of *The Descendants*

Thursday March 30, 2023

Live in person at 7:30pm • \$25 plus GST

Seven years after a brutal encounter with the Hells Angels, two former lovers, Jonah Seeger and Ruby Samarodin, return to their Doukhobor religious community in the mountains of British Columbia to heal and start new lives. Jonah is a twenty-five-year-old from a disgraced family, and now injured and battling PTSD from his time as a Marine. Ruby, practically Doukhobor royalty, is a rock star with a substance use disorder.

Jonah finds his mother, Sharon, still struggling with an eating disorder stemming from her terrorist upbringing in the Doukhobor splinter sect known as the Sons of Freedom. Ruby returns to Sasha, the young son she abandoned, and to her overbearing mother, Virginia, a pious pillar of the community raised to loathe the Sons of Freedom.

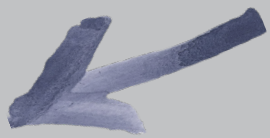
After a heartfelt reunion between Jonah, Ruby, and Sasha, they learn that a murderous Hells Angel, Clinton Pritchard, is still obsessed with revenge for the damage Jonah caused years earlier. But when Ruby confronts Clinton about their terrible past, Clinton's brother Swanny Pritchard must choose whether to side with his brother or turn against him. Jonah and Ruby unwittingly draw their family into a final confrontation with the Hells Angels that will test long held, pacifist Doukhobor beliefs.

Robert Chursinoff was born and raised in the Doukhobor community of southeastern British Columbia. He draws inspiration for *The Descendants* from his upbringing and his years spent drumming for Grammy-nominated duo Tegan and Sara, Australian pop star Ben Lee, the Be Good Tanyas, Juno-nominated performer Kinnie Starr, the Belle Game, and many others. His writing has been published in the literary journal *Blank Spaces*, the anthology *Just Words Volume 4*, and online in *Vice*, *Nowhere Magazine*, *Upworthy*, and *Matador Network*. As a scriptwriter, he has worked on dozens of Red Bull Media House documentaries and series. He lives in Vancouver, BC, on the traditional, unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Coast Salish peoples with his partner, their daughter, and their dog.

The Descendants captivated me from the first page and never let up. Only a touring musician and a Doukhobor could depict both subjects with as much authenticity as Chursinoff has. Riveting, poignant, memorable, Chursinoff's debut will do for the Doukhobors what Miriam Toews has done for Mennonites.

— Sara Quin, New York Times bestselling author of *High School* and member of indie-pop duo Tegan and Sara

To register, please send us an email at lyceum@christiannehayward.com or visit christianneslyceum.com/meet-the-author.



Copies of *The Descendants* are available for sale at the Lyceum.

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