

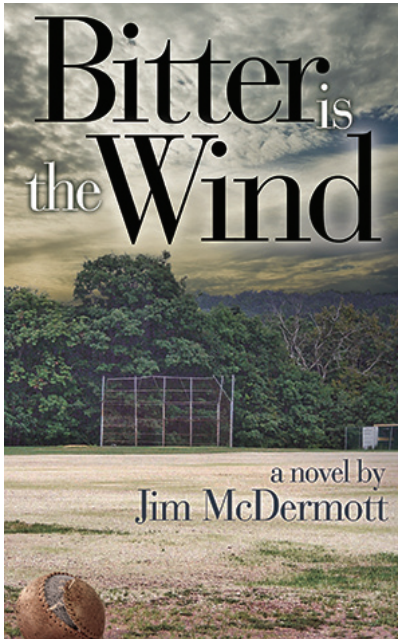
Bitter Is the Wind
A Novel by Jim McDermott

CONTACT: Scott C. Davis, Cune Press

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Hardback \$24.95
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Cune Press (Seattle)

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Do Americans live in a land of freedom and equality where people with vision, brains, and a strong work ethic can have rewarding lives? Or is ours a society where well-being, dignity, and independence are reserved for a narrow elite?

Bitter Is The Wind is a coming of age novel that traces the lives of George Johnson, Jr. and his father from the rural blue collar landscape of upstate New York in the 1970s to the halls of Wharton Business School and the heights of Wall Street. After a family tragedy strengthens their familial bond, the Johnsons contend with assembly line monotony, unfulfilled dreams of baseball stardom, and they learn what it means to be tempted, trapped, jailed—and ignored by a seemingly uncaring God.

First time novelist Jim McDermott opens a window on the American working class and its aching desire for financial security, recognition, and respect. His characters confront a modern world with limited possibilities, ambiguous mores, and authorities who seem devoted to keeping the brightest and most talented members of the underclass on the other side of town. *Bitter Is The Wind* deconstructs the American dream.

“A pungent slice of working-class life in 1970s America, as well as a deeply-affecting father-son story. *Bitter is the Wind* reminded me how hard it’s always been to achieve success for those who weren’t handed it on a silver platter.”

—Stephen Fife, author of *The 13th Boy* and
Dreaming in the Maze of Love-Grief-Madness

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"Bitter Is the Wind is an absorbing novel, the story of two working class men, father and son. It is a meditation on the purpose of work, the meaning of freedom, and the satisfactions of parental sacrifice.

Shaken and mentally trapped by his mother's death in a traffic accident, young George Johnson makes a series of mistakes, lashing out against his fate. Thanks to his native intelligence and his father's loyalty, he escapes a background of poverty and limited options, only to discover that "success" does not necessarily guarantee freedom.

A compelling tale of American aspiration and accomplishment told from the perspective of characters customarily deprived of opportunity, working folk whose lives and voices are rarely presented in first rate fiction."

—Frederic Hunter, author of *The Girl Ran Away* and
A Year at the Edge of the Jungle

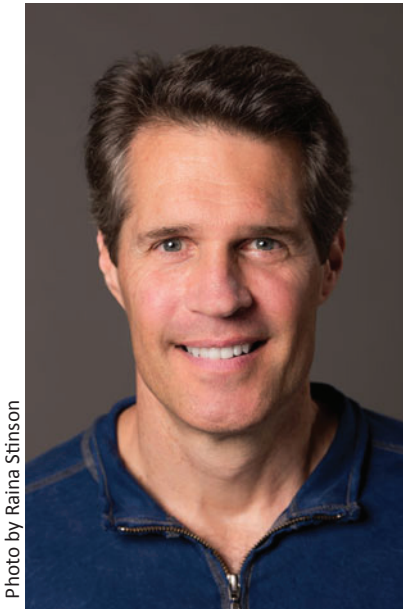


Photo by Raina Stinson

Jim McDermott is a nationally recognized business litigation attorney based in Portland, Oregon, where he lives with his wife and two daughters. He has worked on an assembly line and also represented multi-national corporations. *Bitter is the Wind* is his first novel.



Cune Press (from "cuneiform") is an independent book publisher based in Seattle. Last year we celebrated our 20th anniversary. We rely on volunteer editors and artists. Our specialties are: "West Coast Writers" as well as "Syria & the World."

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