



No Return: A novel of the Canadian election that vanished in Muskoka's backwoods

Gordon Aiken

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Canadians took politics seriously in the years following Confederation and Gordon Aiken's novel about pioneer Muskoka and the fledgling nation's capital shows why.

Unique events in the Dominion's second election, in 1872, inspired Aiken to write about Muskoka's returning officer, Richard Bell, who refused to declare Liberal candidate A.P. Cockburn elected, even though he got the most votes. Consequent ground-breaking events included Bell's summons to give an accounting of himself to the House of Commons, the first and only time an MP would be elected to parliament by members of the Commons itself, and reforms in Canadian election law including introduction of the secret ballot.

Privately published as *Returning Officer* in 1982, and long since out of print, this Blue Butterfly edition is re-titled *No Return*. Completely reset and redesigned, with added maps and period photographs, this new edition also features J. Patrick Boyer's afterword, "Gordon Aiken's Quest and the Genesis of *No Return*."

The political intrigues woven into Gordon Aiken's rich tale of local and national affairs from 140 years ago will resonate with readers today, if its essential plots and human ambitions were simply updated by new technology and a fresh cast of characters to re-enact timeless dramas of mismatched lovers, a local judge fighting the newspaper editor, lumber barons playing both sides to keep their timber licences, and contractors changing political sides to win road jobs (or what today are termed "infrastructure projects").

Aiken, Member of Parliament for the same district a century later, wrote with deep understanding about Muskoka and its people and acute knowledge of parliamentary politics. *No Return* tells of one man's struggle to support his chosen party, maintain his independence, confound his enemies, and hold his family together under duress.

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Charlotte Ramsey:

This book untitled No Return: A novel of the Canadian election that vanished in Muskoka's backwoods to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, this is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retailer or you can order it via online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this e-book from your list.

Edda Allen:

No Return: A novel of the Canadian election that vanished in Muskoka's backwoods can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing No Return: A novel of the Canadian election that vanished in Muskoka's backwoods nevertheless doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one among it. This great information may draw you into brand-new stage of crucial considering.

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