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For Immediate Release

**Essential workers' strike stops right-wing wage suppression plot in new novel
And the hero finally learns how to make a romantic commitment**

Paul Mäkinen, hero of a new novel about a general strike, can't make a romantic commitment to his close friend, Karen, the smartest, kindest, strongest woman he's ever met. She's deeply in love with Paul, but that terrifies him. He has no idea why. So he tries to keep their relationship platonic.

Despite himself, he falls ass-over-teakettle, deeply in love with her. But his anxiety overpowers his feelings and immobilizes him. In a series of riveting therapy sessions, written in consultation with a licensed psychotherapist, Paul gradually, painfully starts figuring out the root of his problem.

He discovers his libido lives in a different world, where anger, insults, humiliation and pain arouse him. He wonders if he's crazy, but his therapist leads him to the reason, step by step. Shows him how, by literally dancing and talking with dozens of women, he can get to the root of his problem. And literally dance himself – and some of them – to a better place.

When Paul finally does purge every trace of his problem from his psyche, he finally can make a heartfelt, public commitment to Karen. He manages to do this while the two of them organize and lead a successful citywide general strike.

At one point, when Karen is convinced her life is a total disaster, Paul comforts her:

Wailing louder than a wounded she-wolf, Karen, sitting on my lap, tried to talk, couldn't. I rocked her gently; she curled herself into a ball. Arms around her, I wanted to create a safe, sheltered space for her.

"You need to protect her," I said to myself. "But from what? She's as strong as you, physically. A better fighter than you, by far. A lot smarter than you. But her feelings – that's it! You never knew anyone with emotions that strong. That's what you have to protect! Her feelings! Her hopes! Her ambitions! Because there are men in this world who will try to squash her just because she's a woman."

"I think we need to tell stories like this to help men rethink their perspectives on the friendship aspect of sex and romance, and figure out why it's so common for men to be afraid of commitment," Yale says. "So I've made it an essential part of *The Real Paul Makinen?*"

The second book in the award-winning series, Shingle Creek Sagas, *The Real Paul Makinen?* was a Finalist in the Pirate's Alley Faulkner Society 2018 Novels-in-Progress Contest. The *Midwest Book Review* August 10, 2022 issue calls it a "...vividly represented...thought provoking...story that is unusually rooted in a sense of time, place, and community..."

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To download your review copy of *The Real Paul Makinen?* eBook, or for an author bio, photo, book synopsis, and a fact sheet about *The Real Paul Makinen?* please go to <https://davidryale.com/newsroom>.