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For Immediate Release

General strike puts low-wage workers on first steps to utopia in new novel

In a new novel that tackles income inequality head-on, two teens help a 1970s Midwestern blue collar community lead a general strike that triumphs over a right-wing conspiracy to suppress wages, deny free speech, and undermine civil rights.

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...”

The Real Paul Makinen? does a deep dive into union organizing, and paints a loving portrait of the lives of low-wage essential workers and grassroots activists. While fully considering the outsized obstacles the Shingle Creek neighborhood faces as it strives to create a community that works for ordinary people, it is filled with optimism. And full of unusual strike-winning strategies, like turning scabs into staunch union supporters, and finding a legal way to remove and cart away unsafe railroad tracks.

But they’re not just picketing during their strike. They’re hard at work finding money and know-how to found their own businesses, from a supermarket to a huge daily newspaper to a construction company. And they’re also busy building a culture of kindness that knits their community tightly together. By the end of the novel, they realize their goal is to build a utopia, and while their achievements are impressive, they still have a lot to learn and huge challenges ahead.

“These days,” author David R. Yale says, “authors write utopian novels once in a blue moon. And essential workers, as well as activists for economic, class, social, racial, gender, and climate justice are also ignored in contemporary American fiction, which is often numbingly dystopian.”

Yale rushed this book into production in just three months, because, “For all of us, our democracy is threatened. And for women, minorities, people of color, and LGBTQ folks, health, safety, survival, and personhood are on the line in the fall 2022 election. The themes, ideas, strategies, tactics, and insights in this epic story need to be part of the national discussion leading up to election day.”

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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>.

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