

***Too Close to the Falls* author Gildiner 'seduces' in print**

"It's really embarrassing to admit, but I forget why I killed my husband." So begins *Seduction*, the most recent book by York alumna Catherine Gildiner (MA '76, PhD '83), published in February 2005 by Random House of Canada.

It's an intriguing first line - but then Gildiner is good with stories. Her first book, the memoir *Too Close to the Falls*, was a hit with both critics and the reading public when it came out in 1999, sitting on the *Globe & Mail's* best sellers list for 72 weeks. A story of her childhood in Lewiston, N.Y., *Too Close to the Falls* tells the tale of Gildiner's early years, when she was diagnosed as "hyper" as a child and sent to work full-time in her family's drugstore.

LEFT: Catherine Gildiner



"I'm a bit of an Irish story teller," says Gildiner, "so once at a party I told a childhood tale about how I'd worked full time from the age of four delivering drugs with a Black delivery car driver and how we'd been trapped in the snow overnight. Someone at the party told me to write the story and send it to a publisher. So I quickly wrote up the tale and then mailed it in on a Friday. On the following Monday I received an advance cheque in the mail with a yellow post-it attached which said "finish it". Not wanting to give back the cheque, I finished the book."

Gildiner's latest book, *Seduction*, is a change of pace from her first. A novel in which two ex-cons are hand-picked to investigate the director of the Freud academy, *Seduction* is both an intriguing detective thriller and an exploration of the relationship between the works of Freud and Darwin. And with graduate degrees in English literature and Psychology and years of experience as a clinical psychologist, Gildiner is well-positioned to write a truly "psychological" thriller.

"I have always been interested in the history of science and the interaction between theory, personality and the social context of the theorist," says Gildiner. "The idea of '*objective knowledge*' has always seemed to me to be an oxymoron."

"Freud was a biologist until he was over 40 and then he turned to psychology. Darwin, on the other hand, was a biologist until his later years and then he became a psychologist. I wanted to explore in what way these two men are mysteriously related."

Seduction is already doing well with critics. A review in the Feb 14th issue of *Time* magazine says: "There are enough twists, turns and identity shifts to keep you guessing. And Gildiner's fictionalization of Freud's life and motivation is at times tantalizing. Like a dream, it makes you question what's real and what's imagined."

Despite the good press, Gildiner isn't resting on her laurels. She has been touring across Canada with the latest book, making stops in Calgary, Vancouver, Montreal, and Toronto. Although some authors seem to resent book-tours as too demanding, Gildiner embraces them as opportunities to reach out and connect with her audience.

"You know you can sit in your room and write books if you want and never see anyone who reads them, other than your small circle of friends," she wrote recently in the *Toronto Star*. "The joy of the book tour is in getting out there and meeting people who are unlike you. The magic happens in realizing we all have enough common experience to share an emotional moment brought alive by a simple printed word. That, for an author, is a moving experience."

For more information on Catherine Gildiner and her upcoming appearances, visit: <http://www.gildiner.com>

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