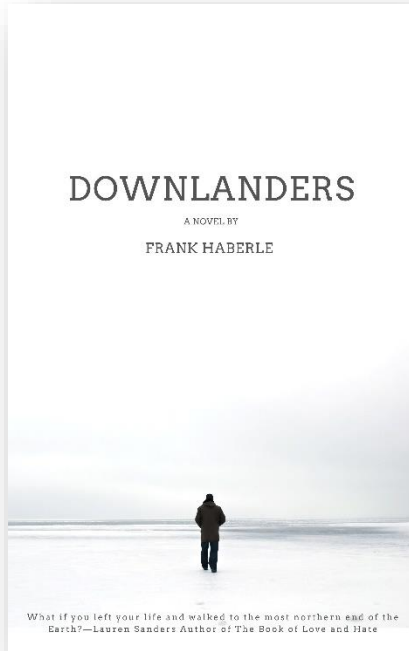




PRESS RELEASE
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DOWNLANDERS

a novel by Frank Haberle

Flexible Press

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“Grizzletown, a place built from panic and the blood of men stripped of their dignities, is both real and imagined, a place mythical in its beauty, desolate and haunting.”

—**Esther Alix, author of the *Stories of Gabriel*.**

“Frank Haberle’s lively storytelling and vibrant language highlight this unlikely quest into the wilderness you won’t soon forget.”

—**Vincent Wyckoff, author of the *Black Otter Bay* mystery series**

A new book from author Frank Haberle (*Shufflers*), **DOWNLANDERS** tells the story of five disillusioned young people who escape the trappings of sedentary urban lives and take off for the Grizzle Peninsula—a 1,200 mile expanse of steep mountains, impenetrable forest and jagged coastline, and is reputed to be “last great wilderness adventure.”

The Grizzle Peninsula exerts a powerful pull for people looking to commune with nature, escape a dicey situation, or simply leave civilization behind.

Ernie is one such young person, and with his sort of girlfriend Eva, off they go to the wilderness. Soon their relationship is more than strained: Eva seeming stays around for lack of a better plan while Ernie dreams of more than a few ice cold beers.

Chief runs out of luck in the city and needs to get away. Far away. But Chief is the architect of his own problems, and the farther he goes, the more trouble seems to be catching up.

On a whim, Danny follows a woman to the Grizzle Peninsula. Theoretically she's doing some surveying work, but that turns out to be a bust. Luckily, he lands on his feet with a job as a forest service park attendant.

Fiona Gallagher is similarly lost. A crash course in being a game warden seems to offer her direction. Unfortunately, that direction points her to teaming up with Danny and chasing Chief across the Grizzle Peninsula.

At the tip of the Grizzle Peninsula lies Grizzletown, once a fishing village with a packing plant or two, now off the grid and cut off to the world by a volcano and indifference. It is here that all five of their fates will be decided.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Downlanders is Frank Haberle's second book; his first novel, *Shufflers*, is about minimum wage transients during the Reagan era. Over the last 20 years Frank's short stories have been featured in multiple collections and they have won awards from Pen Parentis (2011), Beautiful Loser Magazine (2017) the Sustainable Arts Foundation (2013) and the Rose Warner Prize for Fiction (2021). Frank is a volunteer workshop leader for the nonprofit NY Writers Coalition. He lives in Brooklyn and works in The Bronx. More about Frank's writing can be found on his website www.frankhaberle.com.



MORE ADVANCE PRAISE

"The Grizzle Peninsula is just like it sounds...an off-the-grid wilderness haunted by a long-forgotten war, bushwacked by escaped criminals and lousy with bears. It's a perfect place to find yourself or lose yourself, to run from the law, or work for the law. Complete with a chatty travel guide, this is a book of great humor and everyday poetry. This is a book with a big beating heart at the center of this frigid, fearful world."

—**Lauren Sanders, author of *The Book of Love and Hate***

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going. This is the war cry of those fearless enough to venture into the Grizzle Peninsula, an area way up north, where the main employers are fishing boats, canneries, and the pipeline. Some intrepid (or desperate) "downlanders"—people from the Lower 48—are determined to try their luck here. Never an easy place to live, the Peninsula remains as uninviting as ever, and the question becomes, who will make it and who won't? Frank Haberle's novel answers these questions by bringing us into a wilderness where success is measured by how long one can survive."

—**Thaddeus Rutkowski, author of *Tricks of Light***