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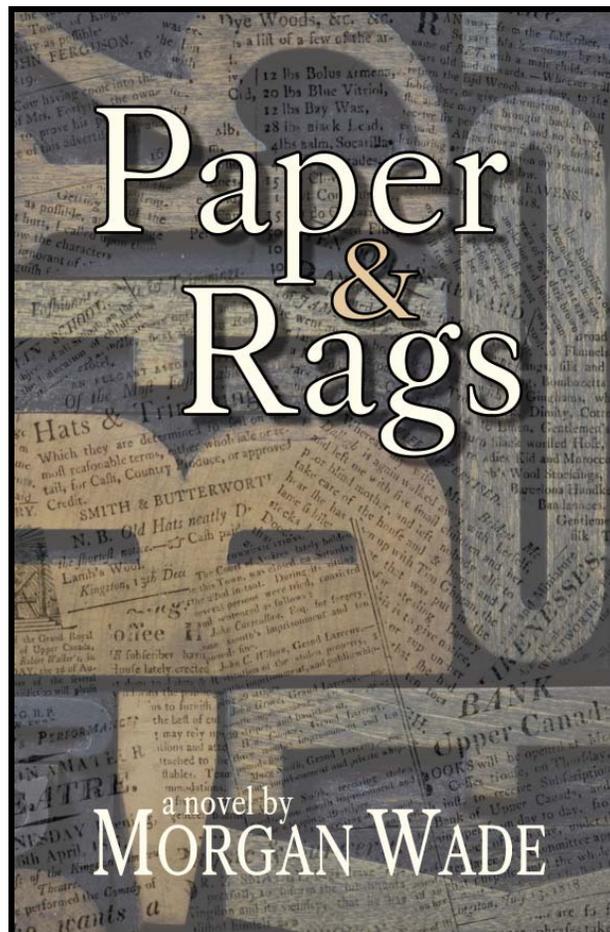
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Blurbs:

66 Words

If one can't reinvent oneself in the colonies, then where? Dr. Creedence Scriven wants only to bestow his sartorial splendour and to tell his story. It is the same for the other misfits. Opening a print shop seemed the only remedy. To buy the press, that most handsome instrument, they sacrificed everything, including the clothes from their very backs. But you mustn't cross the elegant extracts.

109 Words

Dr. Creedence Scriven arrives in Kingston, leaving behind a whiff of scandal. He is determined to reinvent himself and if that can't be done in the colonies, then where? It is the same for the other misfits. Jeremy Castor, uncomplicated and sweet, one step ahead of starvation. Amelia Spafford, seeking that rarest of female commodities; to be taken seriously. Lilac Evans, a physician in a whore's frock. They all want to write their stories, to express their truths. But it is the lies and insinuations of the coward Opprobrious that get published in the Gazette, the only broadsheet in town. Opening a competing print shop seems the only remedy.

249 Words

Paper and Rags follows the stories of many of the characters first introduced in *Bottle and Glass* as they struggle to make lives for themselves in post-war Kingston. As the War of 1812 comes to an end, Jeremy Castor is cast adrift amid the unforgiving turmoil of the frontier. To survive, he must navigate a society that is rough yet highly structured. The town suffers a painful recession and political reform simmers. Despite a paper shortage, broadsheets proliferate. Class warfare is waged daily in their pages. Jeremy manages to get into the good graces of an ambitious deacon, a lion of the establishment, but it's unclear how long his benefaction will last.

Along the way, Jeremy meets three strong, beguiling women. Lilac Evans strives to escape her indenture to an abusive tailor by practicing medicine on the sly. Amelia Spafford, widowed from an enforced marriage to a colonel many decades her senior, vies to preserve her inherited estate from lotharios and swindlers. Lenore, wife of absent Major Stokes, wishes for a child and fights her loneliness by seeking chance meetings with Jeremy. As they struggle to find meaning and sustenance, the four become entwined with the mysterious Creedence Scriven, a wealthy doctor. Scriven hides a shameful secret. In the end, he and the others must sacrifice their very clothing to make the paper that will see their truth in print. Still, the discovery of Scriven's secret and its publishing in the local Gazette changes all of their lives forever.

Reviews:

"In, *Paper and Rags*, the excellent sequel to Morgan Wade's previous novel, *Bottle and Glass*, Wade zeroes in, with razor-sharp focus, on Kingston's historical past, creating memorable characters in a story rich with wit and compassion."

Helen Humphreys
– award-winning, best-selling novelist,
author of *The Evening Chorus*,
Afterimage, and *Coventry*.

"A delightful picaresque, with a Dickensian cast of characters that rouse into life the ragtag world of a new Canadian town."

Marilyn Simonds
– author of eighteen books,
including the creative nonfiction classic, *The Convict Lover*,
a finalist for the Governor General's Award.

"With his impeccable research and rich imagination, Wade transports the reader via literary time machine back to the seedy beginnings of colonial Upper Canada in the early 19th century. A binge-worthy story with an unforgettable cast of characters!"

Brett Christopher
– award-winning actor and director,
Managing Artistic Director of
Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque, Ontario.

Synopsis:

Creedence Scriven, an indifferent doctor and aspiring playwright, is found in the company of a young, male drug addict and is accused of sodomy. Scriven insists the charges are false, claiming that he was at the opium den only in his capacity as a physician at the behest of the boy's mother. For the sake of propriety, Scriven's father decides that he must leave for the relative obscurity of the colonies, threatening to cut off his substantial annuity if he refuses. When Scriven lands in Kingston in 1818, he is the town's best dressed man. He is determined to remake himself.

Shortly afterward, Rupert Spafford arrives in Kingston, also from England. He has read of Scriven's indiscretions in the English papers — gossip spreads like plague in the colonies. Spafford has come to Kingston intent on wresting the Willowpath estate from Amelia, his dead uncle's widow and heiress. His plan of seduction, however, is complicated by the fact that Amelia is already romantically involved.

Jeremy Castor, Amelia's paramour, is the nominal business manager of her fledgling glassworks. He suspects that Amelia keeps him on out of obligation because he freed her from her abusive husband, Noble Spafford, by challenging the old Colonel to a pistol duel. He worries that, with the old Colonel out of the way, he is now superfluous. Amelia, an ambitious and determined young woman, seems quite capable of making the glassworks succeed without him.

Lilac Evans, an old friend of Jeremy's, has fled her apprenticeship to the lecherous tailor Owen Stevens and has returned to the streets, preferring them to Stevens' clutches. Soon after her escape, she is brought up on charges of prostitution. That same evening, Jeremy encounters Dr. Scriven surrounded by

a group of aggressive street kids. He rescues the doctor and they become friends. Days later, in market square, they find Lilac in the stocks. Jeremy persuades Scriven to promise her a position as his nurse, upon her release, appealing to the doctor's sense of Masonic virtue. For his part, Jeremy agrees to help organize the Freemason's new school for the indigent.

Rupert Spafford launches a more complex scheme, claiming to be in possession of Noble Spafford's most recent will, one that promises the Willowpath estate to him, not to Amelia. Jeremy, Rupert, and Amelia meet to discuss the situation at a local tavern, the Bottle and Glass. To Jeremy's consternation, Amelia flirts shamelessly with Rupert. Evidently, she aims to keep Willowpath at any cost. Scriven drags a disgruntled Jeremy away from the Bottle and Glass. They cross town and retrieve Lilac from the slum. She is thin from her thirty days in jail, but when she sees the disorganized state of Scriven's office, Lilac is delighted. She knows where she is needed.

As Lilac settles in, Scriven is paid a visit by his friend Lenore, wife of Major Stokes. Jeremy also knows Lenore, having billeted at her cottage as a marine under the Major's command. At present, her husband is fighting alongside Bolivar in New Granada. Lenore is lonely and she greets Jeremy with affection.

In a private moment with Lilac, Lenore worries that she will never have a child. Lilac tells her that she may know of a treatment for her possible infertility.

As Lilac becomes a fixture at the doctor's office and Jeremy and Lenore become reacquainted, Amelia hosts Rupert at Willowpath. In an intimate moment, at the height of a sultry thunderstorm, Rupert tells her that he knows she and his uncle didn't consummate their marriage and claims to have the proof that will void her will.

Jeremy tries to regain his standing with Amelia, both romantically and professionally, but it seems she is avoiding him, preferring the company of Rupert. Jeremy finds himself spending more time with Lenore. When he reads in the paper the notice announcing the marriage of Amelia to Rupert, he is disconsolate. He rushes to Lenore's cottage and spends the night. Later, he resigns his position as business manager of the glass works. He will need to get by on a teacher's wages.

Part one of the book ends at the wedding of Rupert and Amelia. At the ceremony, Lenore confides to Lilac that her remedies have worked: she is pregnant.

Part 2

Part two begins with Lenore leaving for her sister's home in New Haven to stay for an indefinite time. Scriven hosts an evening of the Headstrong Club with special guest Robert Gourlay, the notorious reformer, speaking on truth and censorship. For months, Gourlay has been goading the province's most influential establishment figures. Kingston's Christopher Hagerman ambushes Gourlay in the street, striking him with a bull whip, while the town magistrate looks on. When Scriven and Jeremy protest they make for themselves powerful enemies.

Jeremy receives letters from the Anglican rector of York, lion of the establishment, warning him against supporting Gourlay. The influential clergyman could veto his teaching position, the only thing keeping Jeremy from destitution.

Lenore returns from New Haven and posts a notice in the Gazette claiming that a foundling has been left on her front step. Jeremy doesn't realize the child is his.

Rupert returns to Willowpath from the cock fights, drunk. He demands that Amelia consummate their marriage. She rebuffs him.

The establishment have their revenge on Scriven when they post an anonymous notice in the Gazette that Lilac, a known prostitute, continues to be in his employ. Over the preceding months, Lilac has revived Scriven's moribund practice with her knowledgeable, evidence-based approach and friendly bedside manner. Now, with the publication of her indiscretion, no respectable citizen of Kingston dares to visit the doctor's office. Lilac offers to leave. Scriven refuses.

Two members of the establishment have purchased the Gazette, the town's only paper. Scriven and Jeremy submit many letters and articles, urging forgiveness of Lilac and demanding a retraction of the slander she has suffered. They urge free speech regarding Gourlay. None of their letters are published. Instead, Scriven's enemies strike again. They post a notice about the English scandal he has come all this way to avoid. His pleas to tell his side in the paper are rejected. He is on the verge of ruin.

Scriven decides his only hope is to buy his own printing press and publish the truth. He invests everything he has in the necessary equipment and staff. Jeremy, Lilac, and Lenore pitch in. They prepare the first

edition, gather subscriptions, and write the copy. Then they discover there is a paper shortage, orchestrated by Scriven's rivals.

Scriven receives a letter from his elder brother back home: his father has learned that the scandal has been exposed once again. Lord Robert Scriven disowns him. Scriven's print shop must succeed or he too will be destitute.

The group decides they will make their own paper from rags. Scriven contributes his entire wardrobe, including all his finest shirts, trousers, and cravats. The night before publication a drunk mob breaks into the print shop and destroys the press. Distraught, Scriven leaves the shop with his only remaining possession, the pages of his nearly finished play. He ends up at Lilac's old shack in the slum. He finishes writing the play, and titles it *Bespoke Bespeaks*. It is mid-winter and in the draughty shack Scriven is freezing. Eventually he is forced to cut and fold the pages of the play into makeshift clothing. It isn't enough.

Lilac intercepts a letter to the editor that accuses Lenore of having an illegitimate baby, possibly with Jeremy. Lilac sacrifices herself by claiming that the baby is hers, an unwanted consequence of her previous profession. She stops by her old shack on the way out of town and discovers Scriven, frozen to death. Before she leaves for good, she makes sure that Scriven is given a proper funeral.

Again, Rupert Spafford returns to Willowpath from the cock fights, drunk. He has won a packet. In a celebratory mood, he forces himself on Amelia. The next morning she brings him a hang-over cure laced with laudanum. She encourages him to meet his drinking companion at the ice fishing hut. He is reluctant. She cajoles him. He ventures out on to the rotten ice, dazed from the opiates taking affect, and he falls through. She raises no alarm.

Jeremy is removed from his teaching position by the school board, deemed too radical to instruct the young, impressionable minds of the district's working class. Amelia has secured Willowpath once again. She also retains Rupert's sizeable windfall from the cock fights. Her purse strings freed, she invests in the establishment of a new press, with Jeremy as her editor. When the Freemasons put a time capsule behind the cornerstone of the new county courthouse, Jeremy manages to include a copy of Scriven's completed play, *Bespoke Bespeaks*.

News is brought from Bolivia that Major Stokes has been killed in action. After an appropriate amount of time, Lenore remarries, taking Jeremy as her husband. Together, they adopt the foundling.

Author Bio:

Morgan Wade's first novel, *The Last Stoic*, edited by Helen Humphreys, was long-listed for the ReLit Prize. *Bottle and Glass*, also edited by Helen Humphreys, was featured in the Kingston Writers Fest 2016. In conjunction with Theatre Kingston, Morgan adapted the novel into a site-specific, immersive play that ran through five sold out shows in October 2016. Audience members followed the story through the streets and pubs of Kingston, walking and drinking along with the characters. His short stories and poems have been published in Canadian literary journals and anthologies, including, *The New Quarterly* and *The Nashwaak Review*. Morgan attended the Humber School of Writing and worked with mentor Michael Helm. In the spring of 2017 he collaborated with the Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque to develop a new script for the Sunset Ceremonies at Fort Henry. He lives in Kingston, Ontario.