



## **Double Karma** **A Novel by Daniel Gawthrop**

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*Personal secrets and complex political histories come face-to-face on a battleground in Karen province, Burma.*

Curiosity about his father's homeland sends American photographer Min Lin to Burma to immerse himself in its culture and build his portfolio. But it's 1988 and pro-democracy activists are trying to overthrow the military regime. Min gets caught up in the movement after falling in love with one of its leaders. When he's arrested, Min flees to the jungle and, joining the rebels, comes face-to-face with a Burmese army captain who looks exactly like him. After an explosion kills his double, Min awakes in a hospital misidentified as a hero of the regime, causing him to pose as the dead soldier for his own survival.

Escaping in 1990, he returns to the US, building a new life on his growing understanding of his homosexuality, when he learns a secret about his family's history in Burma. Motivated by this knowledge decades later, Min decides to return to Burma – now Myanmar – to document a new wave of religious persecution and ethno-nationalism. Still haunted by the events of '88, and knowing his ex-girlfriend is being released from prison, Min must come to terms with his past while seeking the truth about the double he met on a battlefield a lifetime ago.

### **The Author**

Daniel Gawthrop is the author of five non-fiction books including *The Rice Queen Diaries*, which was shortlisted for a ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award and an Independent Publishers Award, and *The Trial of Pope Benedict*. He has worked as a freelance writer and journalist in Vancouver, London, and Bangkok, where he was a sub-editor for *The Nation* newspaper. During a leave of absence from the Canadian Union of Public Employees, where he was hired as a communications representative in 2004, he spent several months living and working in Burma to prepare for writing his debut novel, *Double Karma*. He and his Burmese husband, a native of Karen State, live in New Westminster, British Columbia, traditional Coast Salish territory of the Qayqayt First Nation.

### **Praise for previous works:**

*The Rice Queen Diaries:*

"A graceful narrative. ... entwined with an alluring roué's decadence (think of Henry Miller scribbling in Paris or Joe Orton's diary entries from Morocco) and stimulating traveller's inquisitiveness (in the manner of Pico Iyer, George Orwell and Edmund White)."

– *Vancouver Sun*



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