

"The best of Marty Gervais' work creates an engaging tension between the ordinary surfaces of life and the underlying pathos..."

- The Globe and Mail

Reno

by Marty Gervais

Baseball...a small town...the Detroit Tigers of the 1950's... the dreams of a young man. Each night, this boy tunes into the radio broadcasts of the Detroit Tigers. His hero is Reno Bertoia, the Tiger's third baseman.

The drama is that Reno Bertoia leads the American League in hitting and the question is - can he keep ahead of the legendary batting champion, Ted Williams?

The boy begins to write letters, numerous letters, to Reno Bertoia hoping to receive a much-coveted autographed picture of his hero. But he does more! He also changes his name to "Reno". When not listening to Detroit Tigers baseball, the young "Reno" finds other radio stations to tune into and starts writing more letters to movie stars, writers, evangelists and even politicians in both Canada and the United States.

The young man is confined to live in an attic, in a town in Northern Ontario. He has polio. And, over time, his confined living space becomes an extraordinary celebrity gallery, full of black and white photos of the people with whom he has corresponded.

Reno Bertoia, the inspiration for this novel, was, indeed, a baseball player with the Detroit Tigers and the old Washington Senators. He hails from Windsor and crosses the border to Detroit from time to time to watch his beloved Tigers.

Reno, Marty Gervais' first novel, won third place in the popular international 3-Day Novel Writing Contest in 2001. He is a poet, historian, novelist, journalist, and the former Book Editor of the Windsor Star. He is the winner of the prestigious Harbourfront Festival Prize and numerous newspaper awards. He has published four books of poems with Mosaic Press, to be now: *new and selected poems, 1989-2003* (2003), *The Science of Nothing*, (2000), *Tearing into a Summer Day*, (1996), and *Playing God*, (1994)

"...for him, the act of making a poem or telling a story is act of faith, so that observances of the commonplace become moments of transcendent epiphany and insight, rather than merely journalistic jottings or diaries."

-The Oxford Companion to Canadian Literature

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