



VERBATIM

*An Interactive Reading
with Canadian author Jeff Bursey*

"An action should never be placed in the category of political virtue which is opposed to virtue in general," Goethe announced to Eckermann. His words would be alien to the politicians and bureaucrats who populate *Verbatim: A Novel*, a hilarious and scathing exposé of parliamentary practices. As the government of a fictional Canadian legislature lurches from apparent disaster to seeming success, followed by the sulphuric whiff of scandal and incompetence, the opposition parties move from impotent bitterness to hijacking the legislature in order to gain power. Dirty tricks, vicious insults, and parliamentary procedures are some of the methods members use to best represent their constituents. Then there is the infighting about petty matters within the staff of the legislature, focusing on Hansard--its recording division--as bureaucrats emulate their political masters. In *Verbatim: A Novel* the parliamentary system's supposed dignity is further stripped away as Bursey reveals how chaotic and mean-spirited the rules behind the 'game' of politics are, and how political virtue corrupts everyone.

Jeff Bursey is a Canadian novelist, short story writer, playwright and literary critic whose first book, Verbatim: A Novel, came out with Enfield & Wizenty in October 2010. His reviews and articles can be read in a variety of publications published in Canada and the US, and online.

Jeff's homepage is available at www.jeffbursey.com. Watch one of his readings at www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvYe_q9392E.

**TUE, OCTOBER 22, 2013
9:40am – 11:10am, ROOM 328**

Organized by Dr. Florian Freitag

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