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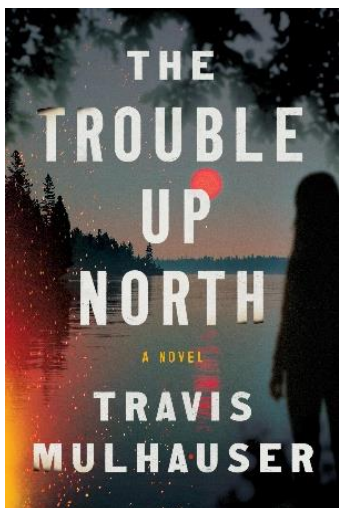
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# THE TROUBLE UP NORTH

By Travis Mulhauser

*"People say we cling to our land, but I like to think it grabs onto us a little bit, too. I like to think we protect each other." – Rhoda Sawbrook*



The Sawbrooks have spent decades criss-crossing the waterways and vast forests between Northern Michigan and Canada to make their way as smugglers. Those hidden routes through the border's nooks and crannies are their legacy, but they no longer pay the bills. The world has changed; the resorts with their fancy clientele are infringing on their space, and the Sawbrooks find themselves deeply fractured, clutching at their past and the last vestiges of a once close family.

Rhoda, the tough-as-nails matriarch, is caring for her dying husband while finding herself bitterly disappointed in her three adult children. The eldest daughter, Lucy, is now a park ranger, working to federally protect the land against her mother's will, while Buckner, the only boy, is drinking his life away. Jewell, the baby of the family, is her mother's last hope but when she tries to save them all in one fell-swoop she becomes ensnared in a crime of escalating proportions. The Sawbrooks will have to contend with the old familial ways and the new shifting world, and face each other – and their pain-filled past – to save one of their own.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Travis Mulhauser was born and raised in Northern Michigan. His novel, *Sweetgirl* (Ecco/Harper Collins), was listed for The Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize, an Indie Next Pick, and named one of Ploughshares Best Books of the New Year. He is also the author of *Greetings from Cutler County: A Novella and Stories*. Travis received his MFA in Fiction from UNC-Greensboro and is also a proud graduate of North Central Michigan College and Central Michigan University. He lives currently in Durham, North Carolina with his wife and two children.

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# PRAISE FOR THE TROUBLE UP NORTH

"Never has a fictional family so subtly mirrored the struggles of our society—addiction, environmental destruction, economic disparities, sickness, ATV's—with such humor and intelligence. Mulhauser brings to mind other lauded Michigan writers—Elmore Leonard in the pitch-perfect dialogue, Jim Harrison in the attentiveness to landscape and wildlife—but *The Trouble Up North*, for a novel so deeply rooted in a place, is as much a state of mind." —**Michael Parker**, award-winning author of *Prairie Fever* and *I Am the Light of This World*

"Simply put, Travis Mulhauser is one of my favorite writers working today. The second you encounter his offbeat, slipstream, and lyrical prose you know that you're reading a disciple of Charles Portis, the kind of writer who always honors his characters with firebrand intelligence, knife-sharp wit, and reckless heart. I drank this novel like a series of shots - one evening of delirious page-turning. Write faster, Travis Mulhauser, the world needs more of your books." —**Nickolas Butler**, author of *Shotgun Lovesongs* and *A Forty Year Kiss*

"Travis Mulhauser has written a gripping novel that explores the enduring bonds that both give us strength and tear us down. *The Trouble Up North* is a heart-wrenching tale of family secrets and turmoil written with a profound sense of place." —**Allen Eskens**, bestselling author of *The Life We Bury*

"A deeply moving tale of family ties—not just the ones we form in the present, but those that stretch back generations. It's also action-packed and laugh-out-loud funny, with characters that leap off the page. I loved it." —**Alison Gaylin**, USA Today bestselling author of *We Are Watching*

"The Sawbrooks are at once totally unique and completely familiar, a family you trust in and hope and hurt for from the very first pages. I wanted to start over as soon as I finished it." —**Drew Perry**, author of *Kids These Days* and *This Is Just Exactly Like You*

"*The Trouble Up North*, with its beautiful evocation of place, and characters that will haunt you in all the best ways, grabs hold of you . . . Propulsive and layered, Mulhauser's novel is an examination of the ways we sacrifice—sometimes everything—for the ones we love." —**Tita Ramirez**, author of *Tell It to Me Singing*

"Mulhauser peppers the action with jaw-dropping twists, but his real strength is in constructing three-dimensional characters whose transgressions feel both plausible and shocking. Readers won't be able to put this down." —**Publishers Weekly**, starred review

"If Bruce Springsteen grew up in Michigan with a well-thumbed library of Elmore Leonard, *The Trouble Up North* might be the book he'd write. Exhilarating, cinematic, and deeply felt, Mulhauser's second novel surpasses the promise of his magnificent debut." —**James Tate Hill**, author of *Blind Man's Bluff*