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## **DAMAGED**

**by Helen Webster**

A charismatic preacher arrives in a fictional small town in western Alberta. He and his wife and brother-in-law set about establishing their own church, an alternate religion, and very soon have many willing worshippers who are assured by the preacher that they are a chosen and privileged group.

He and his family are skilled recruiters of new adherents and are experts in sophisticated techniques of manipulation and persuasion, more commonly called brainwashing. They are able to induce the members of their congregation to become totally, or almost totally, dependent on their spiritual leader for most of their major life decisions.

His cult-like dogma is opposed by one young woman who sees the damage being done to the people in her small town by the preacher's ever-increasing domination. She is baffled and frightened by what she sees happening to her mother and step-father and her friends, and along with her younger brother, publicly resists the power and control exerted by the man who insists upon being known as the Prophet. Their resistance will end in tragedy.

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Writer and artist, Helen Webster lives in the coastal community of Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. Built around a beautiful harbour on the east coast of Vancouver Island, this small city has historical ties to the Hudson's Bay Company, the backdrop against which the three novels of her Canadian Historical Trilogy are set. See *MEDICAL MAN*, *TRADER'S SON*, and *COMPANY WIFE*.

Helen and her husband have raised a family in Nanaimo, and they enjoy all the pleasures of living by the sea. Every few years, Helen travels back to her birthplace of Drumheller, a prairie town in Alberta, Canada, and both her writing and painting reflect her upbringing under the vast prairie sky.

Helen's intimate knowledge of Drumheller and the surrounding prairie informed her telling and added a deep layer of veracity to her fourth book, *A QUESTION OF INTENT*, which placed the reader front and centre in a real court case involving horrific abuse of a little girl.

For more information on this book, go to [www.helenwebster.ca](http://www.helenwebster.ca)

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