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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*“Push Comes to Shove* brings us back to a time when the stakes were high, the world was dangerous, and everything mattered—perhaps too much.”

– Mary Gordon

# **PUSH COMES TO SHOVE**

A novel by  
**Wesley Brown**

**NEW NOVEL BY ACCLAIMED AFRICAN-AMERICAN WRITER EXPLORES  
ACTIVISTS STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE THE SIXTIES AND BEYOND**

Wesley Brown’s new novel, **PUSH COMES TO SHOVE**, takes readers back to the Vietnam Era, when fear mixed with freedom to create a time unlike any other in US history. Brown’s brilliant, sweeping novel of activism and violence reminds us that years of struggle and personal sacrifice led the way from the Civil Rights Movement to the first black U.S. President.

As the turbulent Sixties draw to a close, NYC police raid the headquarters of Push Comes to Shove—a group of black activists, dreamers, and lovers based in a gritty tenement in Lower Manhattan—and kill Walter Armstead with a shotgun blast to the face. Was he an innocent victim of violent times? Police collaborator? Or both? His death triggers a series of violent reprisals from extremists in the group—from a subway bombing to kidnappings to a showdown in the Black Hills of South Dakota. “As someone who came of age during the 1960’s,” Brown says. “I’ve always been amazed by all the conventional beliefs that were called into question and, for better and worse, the extremes to which people on all sides of these questions were willing to go.”

It’s a turbulent time that Wesley Brown knows well. Brown worked with the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in 1965 and became a member of the Black Panther Party in 1968. In 1972, he was sentenced to three years in prison for refusing induction into the armed services and spent 18 months in Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary. For 27 years, Brown was a much-revered Professor at Rutgers University, where he inspired hundreds of students, including novelist Junot Diaz. He retired in 2007, and currently teaches literature at Bard College at Simon’s Rock. He is also an accomplished playwright.

**PUSH COMES TO SHOVE** is the second book from the Concord Free Press, which publishes novels and gives them away for free, asking that readers make a voluntary donation to a local charity or individual in need. Its first novel, **GIVE + TAKE** by Stona Fitch, generated more than \$40,000 in donations to diverse causes and individuals in need throughout the world. The press creates controversy and inspires praise for its radical rethinking of what a book can be—and its unique, generosity-based business model.

Brown has two previous novels (**TRAGIC MAGIC, DARKTOWN STRUTTERS**) from traditional publishers. Why did he choose the Concord Free Press for his third? “I’m excited by the possibility that the publication of a book could have a direct impact, for the better, on the circumstances of people’s lives,” he says.

Beginning on **May 1, 2009**, Concord Free Press will distribute all 2,000 trade paperback copies of **PUSH COMES TO SHOVE** through its network of independent bookstores and requests via its web site, [www.concordfreepress.com](http://www.concordfreepress.com). It publishes two novels a year—in May and October.



**On *Push Comes to Shove*:**

“There is a gaping hole in fiction about the 60’s, which focuses almost exclusively on the white New Left. Brown has filled it admirably with his thoughtful, gripping novel about the black liberation movement.”

– Peter Biskind

**On Wesley Brown:**

“... one hell of a writer.”

– James Baldwin

“...an important discovery.”

– Ishmael Reed

**On the Concord Free Press**

*“This tiny startup publisher is making waves within the industry by re-conceptualizing the very goals of publishing.” – ForeWord Magazine*