



Praise for *The Price of a Bargain: The Quest for Cheap and the Death of Globalization*

Published by McClelland & Stewart (Canada, 2009) and Palgrave Macmillan (USA, 2009) with forthcoming editions in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea (2011).

From Alberta's tar sands to China's factories, from Las Vegas to the Arctic Circle, a single question emerges: can we survive the bargain?

A Globe and Mail Best Book, 2009; nominated for the Wilfred Eggleston Award for Nonfiction, 2010

"In a **masterful** blend of facts and metaphors, Laird tells a story of bargain retailing that is interesting in its own right. . . . **evocative** . . . Laird lays bare the cost of those bargains in compelling detail." — *The Globe and Mail*

"Gordon Laird is a reporter of rare skill and extraordinary thoughtfulness, and he has fixed his keen eye on one of the most crucial questions of this young, tumultuous century: the true cost of things." — Chris Turner, author of *The Geography of Hope*

"**Gritty and entertaining** . . ." — Andrew Nikiforuk, author of *Tar Sands*

"**An alarm call, but not alarmist.**" — *Kirkus Reviews*

"In grab-you-by-the-lapels stories, Laird tells you the real cost of your got-it-for-nothing storegasm." — Greg Palast, author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *Armed Madhouse* and *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*

"Thorough, **informed and relevant** . . . Neither shrill nor self-absolving, Laird quietly questions where we've been and where we're headed." — *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*

"[Laird] plots a direct line from our bargain-hungry hands to disasters such as Alberta's tar sands, human-rights abuses in China and our hollowed-out economy." — *Canadian Geographic*

“A **provocative**, well-researched, and **illuminating** tour of the forces shaping our consumer culture.” — *Triple Pundit*

“Laird [is] a Calgary-based author who specializes in the really big picture. ... Hundreds of little bargains amount to a pay raise for the average working-class household. The trouble is, it cannot last and anyone with even an entry-level knowledge of economics should know that.” — Neil Macdonald, *CBC News*

“A **dizzying but very readable plunge** into the kaleidoscopic crazy kwilt of the modern consumer economy” — *THIS Magazine*

“A valuable contribution to the continuing debate on global trade, its impact, and its future.” — *Literary Review of Canada*

“Will high prices save us? Do we have the capacity for change? Yes or no, **the journey is fascinating.**” — *GreenLiving Canada*

“An eye-opener. Buy one for yourself and one for your favourite MP or MLA. Governments, most of all consumers, need to read *The Price of a Bargain*.” — *The Calgary Herald*

“Laird's book is a **fine piece of reportage** on a world where the economy's collateral damage includes oil spills and the poisoning of China's (and other developing nations) working poor; the low wages and illegal labor practices of Wal-Mart leading to the ultimate collapse of a system based on minimizing costs, high volume sales and low profit margins; and a world where debt is the cornerstone of the economy. It is, to paraphrase Laird, a system that represents capitalism in its ultimate creative and destructive capacity. Most likely, it is also our future.” — *Counterpunch*