

**Catherine Bush**

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"a novel of intense psychological and philosophical depth the kind of book  
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—*Newsweek*

# THE RULES OF engagement

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NARRATED BY  
WENDY VAN RIESEN

"Compelling and provocative."  
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Catherine Bush

## The Rules of Engagement



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Catherine Bush' Arcadia Hearne fled Canada for Britain a decade ago after witnessing two learners combat a duel over her in a Toronto ravine.s riveting novel The Rules of Engagement explores the guidelines that govern both love and warfare. A conflict expert with London' However when her globe-trotting sister, Lux, persuades her to provide a package to a Somali exile in London, Arcadia is normally pressured to confront the hidden violence of her previous and to embrace the harmful realities of her present.s Centre for Contemporary War Research, the reclusive 31-year-aged shields herself from any type of risk, intimate or geo-political. Wendy Van Riesen captures the emotional pressure and intellectual rigour of the tautly built literary thriller about love and apathy in the era of Rwanda.



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Fascinating and elegant The Rules of Engagement is an excellent novel, written in icily beautiful language, precise in its observations and the psychological advancement of its narrator, Arcadia Hearne. In fact Guidelines of Engagement is not a literary thriller, but a emotional novel which contains thriller-like elements. Her tale, and how she finally addresses her past and handles issues in the present, is exciting and well-informed. To the novel's credit, the info about world conflicts and War Studies (Arcadia's area of expertise) doesn't exist and then be a metaphor -- it provides tremendous significance in the narrative itself, and lends the everyday occasions of the story a global perspective. That is a tremendously worldly reserve, a book which expects a smart and conscious reader, but which is certainly by no means oblique or obtuse. The duel would seem to be the ultimate in passionate gesture, but Catherine Bush's style is therefore delicate that the reader doesn't know why the college students are duelling. As days gone by and present converge, the novel becomes truly fascinating -- it's fun to try to second-guess Bush and figure out where everything is normally leading, as in a mystery story. But right here, the mystery and

suspense lies not really much in the plot as in the character, for by the finish we've come to value Arcadia and her fate. The Rules of Engagement is definitely a page-turner, beautifully written. Catherine Bush has provided us a good story that will cause you to think about the character of love and battle, of bravery, cowardice and risk. Peter van Beek M. As the novel unfolds, we learn, over time, about why she still left, and what she has performed in London. She still left because two of her lovers acquired a duel over her. The pain of the results of the duel was as well overwhelming for her, so she fled, escaping to London. Bush's usage of war metaphors to build up a love story may seem a bit apparent once the set-up becomes obvious, but simultaneously it's all odd more than enough to stay consistently interesting, and none of the conclusions strike you over the head. Bush tells the tale, playing concepts of love and war against one another. It's wonderful food for thought. There exists a revelation towards the end of the novel--almost blink and you've missed it--that you won't get out of your head. maybe if i'd attempted reading various other dreck it could have looked better. Enjoy. shudder. reading the author's distinguished education upon the back cover is also rather dismaying. The story of Arcadia's past is handled deftly and woven into the present-day events with great skill. The consequences for Arcadia -who watches the duel- are the central thematic preoccupation of the Rules of Engagement. After the duel she flees to London and there she has to cope with her traumatic past. It is also a lot of fun to go through. In an abstract method violence and risk are the novel's structural co-ordinates. This One COULD KEEP You Thinking THE GUIDELINES of Engagement is the perfect novel. I felt really involved with this book, since it deeply speaks to the major questions in existence. Arcadia Hearne is usually a Toronto native living in self-imposed exile in London. A. Literary reviewer, HN-Magazine, The Netherlands godawful its dullness is only surpassed by its pretentiousness. what a waste. i just finished eggers' "heartbreaking work of staggering genius" before reading ROE. it certainly drove home how lame this book was in comparison. I highly recommend this one. At the center of this literary thriller is usually a pistol duel, fought in Toronto between two students who may or might not be contending for the love of Arcadia Hearne. all that larnin' and that is the best she can do? IT's more than just a page-turner, it's literature Rules of Engagement by Catherine Bush is a skillfully written, splendid novel, which a reader won't easily forget.

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