

**Synopsis for
PUSH COMES TO SHOVE
BY
OASIS**

Theme: There is a light at the end of every tunnel.

Greg "GP" Patterson had been abandoned as an infant. Throughout the course of his childhood, he was psychologically tortured and physically abused in an Ohio group home. He had learned to equate survival with stealing. The affects of his mental malign provokes him as an adult. *"You're a piece of stinky shit; that's all you'll ever be is shit. Nobody wants a bum, not even your mother."* GP often hears his childhood tormentor's voice echo through his mind each time GP fails at a task. As a husband and parent, GP is determined to be a good father and provider. This goal seems next to impossible with his financial life in shambles.

The Pattersons' 1985 Renault Alliance—a twenty-year-old car—engine stalls for the last time. An hour later, while enjoying a family meal, Rent-A-Center shows up to repossess their furniture—even the dinner table. In an attempt to save her deteriorating family and to ease the strain of their financial ruin, GP's wife, Kitchie, pleads with him to get a "real" job and to pursue his graphic-artist dreams as a side hustle. The next day things don't get any better. While GP is trying to convince National City Bank to grant an extension on his foreclosure date, Kitchie falls victim to a clever con that strips her of their daily earnings, and the last of her hope.

Only days later, the Pattersons are trying to make ends meet by selling GP's artwork on a street corner when Kitchie sees Conrad—the grifter who had swindled her. She wants their money back even it means to use force. The Pattersons land themselves in the county lockup on bogus robbery charges after a public brawl. During their stay in jail, the Pattersons lose it all: their home, their remaining possessions, and their children are now in a group home—the same one GP had been abused in as a child.

GP's best friend is a dangerous lesbian who always has a get-

rich-quick scheme up her sleeve. When she returns from a boosting vacation and learns that the Pattersons are behind bars, she uses her life's savings to bail them out. A juvenile-court judge refuses to give the Pattersons custody of their children until GP is responsible enough to provide decent shelter in a decent environment for them to live.

GP thinks he's found the solution to his problems when he turns to Squeeze: a ruthless loan shark with a murderous default penalty. GP borrows enough money to fund Jewels's credit-card scam because of the promise of the big pay off. Two of Jewels's nemesis beat her within inches from death and relieves her of the loan money. Instead of the money solving GP's problems, it adds the villainous Squeeze to the equation.

The bogus robbery charges are going to send GP to prison and break his family apart forever. Jewels has other plans, though. When she is discharged from the hospital, she gets Conrad's address from the trumped-up police report and breaks into his home. While invading Conrad's privacy, she discovered that Conrad, in addition to being a grifter, is a pedophile. She burns his child-prostitution and pornography file onto a CD and waits for him to return home. Conrad is attacked by Jewels in his foyer. He offers her a bag of money to spare his life. Jewels threatens to turn the CD over to the authorities if he doesn't drop the charges against the Pattersons.

Although Jewels does give the CD to the cops, Conrad's bag of money wasn't enough to clear GP's debt with Squeeze. However, it was able to buy him some time. That time ran out the next day when Squeeze found out the money was counterfeit. As a result, Squeeze and his henchman kidnap Kitchie. He gives GP 24 hours to pay his debt, plus ransom, or Kitchie will be murdered.

When push comes to shove, GP calls on the survival skills he developed as a child. He and Jewels pull off a brilliant bank heist before the murder deadline. By the novel's conclusion, GP beats the robbery charges after the state refiles them; Jewels is set up by her nemesis and the results lead to her untimely demise; and Squeeze plunges to his death from a penthouse window during the ransom exchange. The entire Patterson family is reunited. GP is able to anonymously repay the bank, and make his family's dreams come true when he signs a million-dollar deal for his artwork.