

A candid, fascinating look into addiction and the justice system from the ultimate insider



# MICHAEL BRYANT

## 28 Seconds

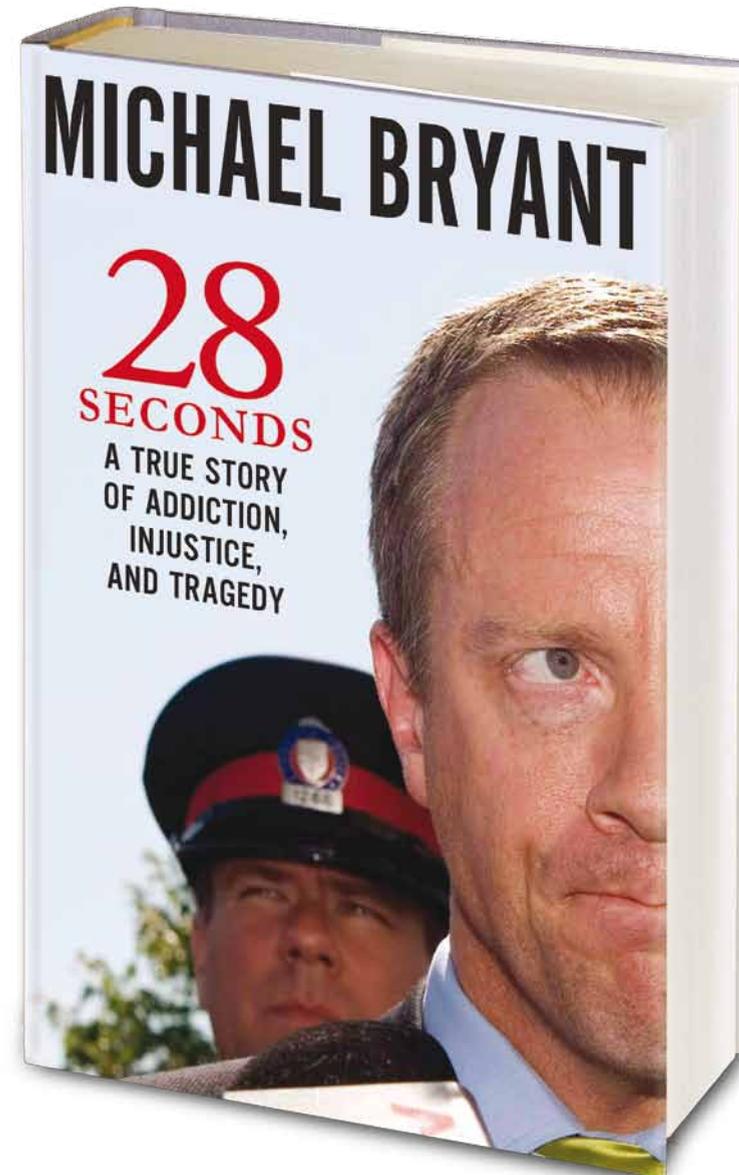
A True Story of Addiction, Injustice, and Tragedy

A night that began with a dinner to celebrate his twelfth wedding anniversary ended in a jail cell for Michael Bryant. He was charged with dangerous driving causing death and criminal negligence causing the death of cyclist Darcy Sheppard. Ironically, he had helped write the legal test for the same charges sixteen years earlier.

Bryant, as Ontario's attorney general, was the man responsible for administering 500,000 criminal charges every year in that province. He now faced prosecution by the same justice system. The charges were eventually dropped, but nothing could undo what had happened to Sheppard—or Bryant.

In *28 Seconds*, Bryant chronicles the fateful aftermath of that late-summer evening in August 2009. He looks at the realities of the adversarial court system and a prison system filled with addicts and the mentally ill, speaking publicly, for the first time, of personal challenges and his own battle with some of the very demons shared by Darcy Sheppard.

**MICHAEL BRYANT** was Ontario's youngest attorney general. A Harvard-trained lawyer, he was a Liberal member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 1999 until 2009. He also served as minister of Aboriginal Affairs, minister of Economic Development, and government house leader. He is currently a visiting professor at Osgoode Hall Law School.



### SALES

The incident involving Darcy Sheppard and Michael Bryant was front-page news and a source of significant controversy  
*28 Seconds* offers the never-before-told personal story of the events leading to Sheppard's death and the aftermath  
It also includes behind-the-scenes revelations about Bryant's most popular and controversial political work  
A portion of the proceeds will go to the Pine River Foundation

### MARKETING

Strict embargo  
Major first and second serial excerpts  
National publicity campaign  
Author events in Toronto, Vancouver, and Victoria  
Online marketing and promotion at Penguin.ca

We were stopped across from the Chanel store on Bloor Street. Susan was chatting away, but I wasn't listening. Something was wrong. I had no idea where that crazy cyclist had gone, but I feared his return. I was peering past her at the mirror on her side, the curbside, where I expected he might appear.

The light turned green. I started to drive forward. Something entered my peripheral vision on the left.

The man on the bicycle breezed by, swung at my face, then swerved in front of our car and stopped. I hit the brakes. The old Saab stopped and stalled.

The man pivoted around to confront me. He growled and glared. Soon he would throw his Kryptonite bicycle lock at me (and miss).

"Now what are you gonna do?"

The twenty-eight seconds had begun.

EMBARGO  
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