



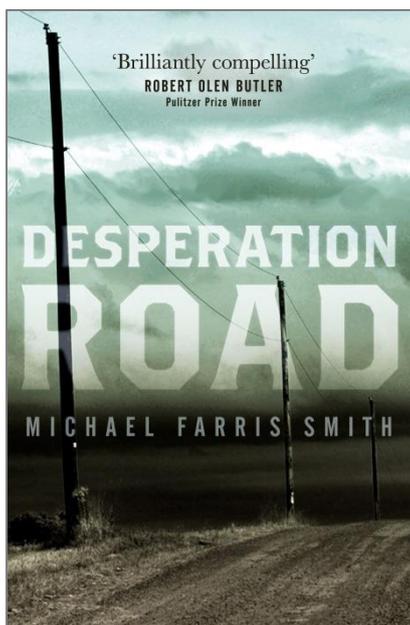
NO EXIT PRESS

DESPERATION ROAD

MICHAEL FARRIS SMITH

23rd February 2017 · NO EXIT PRESS · £14.99 · HARDBACK

A haunting and devastating novel by a remarkable new talent
'Brilliantly compelling' ROBERT OLEN BUTLER



For eleven years the clock was ticking for Russell Gaines in Parchman Penitentiary. Now he's completed his sentence, Russell believes he's paid his debt. But when he returns home, he discovers that revenge – alive and kicking – surrounds him.

Meanwhile, a woman named Maben and her young daughter trudge along the side of the interstate. Despairing and exhausted, Maben spends their last few dollars on a room for the night in a lonely roadside motel, just so her little girl can get some sleep. But events spiral and that night ends with the murder of a police officer. As the dawn breaks, the destinies of Russell and Maben collide and Russell Gaines is forced to decide whose life he will save—his own or those of the woman and child.

Written in powerful, lyrical prose, *Desperation Road* is a story of troubled souls bound by a secret that stretches over the years and across the land. It's a secret that never abates, no matter how they try to escape it.

"Desperation Road is an elegantly written, perfectly paced novel about a man and woman indelibly marked by violence. Characters who would be mere stereotypes in a lesser writer's hands are fully realized, and we come to care deeply as they attempt to create a better life for themselves. An outstanding performance."

Ron Rash, NYT bestselling author of *Serena* and *The Cove*

"Anchored by prose that is both poetic and brutal, *Desperation Road* is a gorgeous and violent book. But don't be fooled by the title. Michael Farris Smith's novel teems with the honest and believable humanity that only the bravest writers dare to search for in the most troubled souls."

Ivy Pochoda, author of *Visitation Street*

"Michael Farris Smith taps into the rhythm of a world I know, and he does it so well, with such ease, that it's almost like I'm living it instead of reading it. His anti-heroes teeter always between the drag-out skids and sweet redemption, and they create a beautiful, true tension that makes this novel burn and thrum in your hands."

Jamie Korngay, author of *Soil*

"Rife with violent beauty and incredible grace."

Wiley Cash, NYT bestselling author of *A Land More Kind Than Home* and *This Dark Road to Mercy*

"One of the best writers of his generation... [DESPERATION ROAD] may very well be his best work."

Tom Franklin, NYT bestselling author of *Crooked Letter*, *Crooked Letter* and winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize

MICHAEL FARRIS SMITH is a native Mississippian who has spent time living abroad in France and Switzerland. He is the recipient of the 2014 Mississippi Author Award and has been awarded the Mississippi Arts Commission Literary Arts Fellowship, the Transatlantic Review Award for Fiction, and the Alabama Arts Council Fellowship Award for Literature. His short fiction has twice been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and his essays have appeared with *The New York Times*, *Catfish Alley*, *Deep South Magazine*, and more. He lives in Columbus, Mississippi, with his wife and two daughters.

For more information please contact SUE AMARADIVAKARA, PR COLLECTIVE
sue@prcollective.co.uk / 07786 626492 / 020 7635 3877 / @SueA1001