



"What I so like about *Perfume River* is its plainly-put elegance. Enough time has passed since Vietnam that its grave human lessons and heartbreaks can be—with a measure of genius—almost simply stated. Butler's novel is a model for this heartbreaking simplicity and grace." RICHARD FORD, winner of the Pulitzer Prize

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# PERFUME RIVER

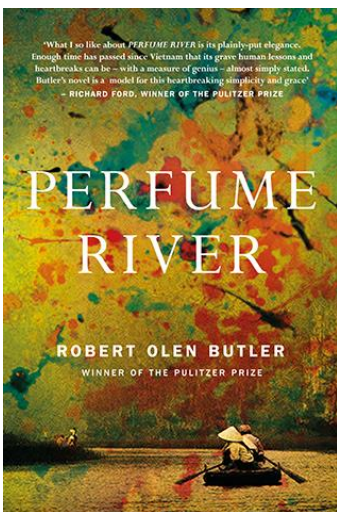
## ROBERT OLEN BUTLER

### WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

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PUBLISHED 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016 • NO EXIT PRESS • £14.99 Hardback • ebook available

*BROTHERLY LOVE, FAMILY TIES AND THE LEGACY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ARE EXPLORED THROUGH A PORTRAIT OF A SINGLE NORTH FLORIDA FAMILY.*



Robert Quinlan and his wife Daria teach at Florida State University. Their marriage, forged in the fervour of anti-Vietnam War protests, has become timeworn, with the couple trapped in an existence of morning coffee, separate offices and solitary pursuits. Within his marriage, the cracks remain below the surface, whereas the divisions in Robert's own family are more apparent. He has almost no relationship with his brother Jimmy, who became estranged from the family as the Vietnam War intensified.

Events over the course of one week bring the two brothers back into contact after decades. William Quinlan, Robert and Jimmy's father, a veteran of World War II, is coming to the end of his life and aftershocks of war ripple across all their lives once again when Jimmy refuses to appear at his father's bedside.

Further tumult - caused by a disturbed homeless man whom Robert at first takes to be a fellow Vietnam veteran - turns out to have a shattering impact not just on Robert, but on his entire family.

Poignant and devastating, *Perfume River*, is a tour de force from a Pulitzer Prize-winning author at the very height of his powers.

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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Robert Olen Butler is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Good Scent From A Strange Mountain*, five other short story collections, sixteen novels, including the Christopher Marlowe Cobb historical crime fiction series published by No Exit Press and a collection of wry vignettes, *Severance/Intercourse*. He has twice won a National Magazine Award in Fiction, has received two Pushcart Prizes and in 2013 he won the F.Scott Fitzgerald Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature. Reminiscent of his character Christopher Marlowe Cobb, Robert Olen Butler trained as an actor, worked as a reporter, went to war, and engaged in intelligence collection. He now teaches creative writing at Florida State University.

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ROBERT OLEN BUTLER WILL BE IN THE UK FOR PUBLICATION AND IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

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