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'One of the greatest literary crime novels you will read in your lifetime'
DONALD RAY POLLOCK

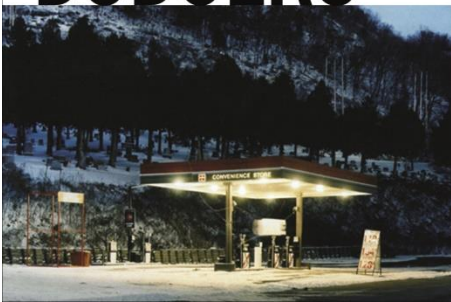
DODGERS

BILL BEVERLY

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DODGERS



For fans of THE WIRE, GEORGE PELECANOS and CLOCKERS, *Dodgers* announces the arrival of an exceptional new talent. This gripping literary thriller, with an ensemble cast, fuses a moving, coming of age story with a meditation on the very nature of belonging.

When fifteen year old East, a low-level lookout for a Los Angeles drug organisation, loses his watch house in a police raid, his boss recruits him for a very different job: a road trip – straight down the middle of white, rural America – to assassinate a judge in Wisconsin.

Having no choice, East and a crew of untested boys – including his inscrutable, trigger-happy younger brother, Ty – leave the only home they've ever known. Setting off in a nondescript blue van, with a roll of cash, a map and a gun they shouldn't have, this amateur crew embark on a life-changing odyssey into the unknown.

Along the way, the country surprises East. The blood on his hands isn't the blood he expects. And he reaches places where only he can decide which way to go – or which person to become.

An intense, dangerous thriller delivered with a poignancy that will break your heart, *Dodgers* is *the* American road trip for our times. From the mean streets of south LA to the hinterlands of the American Midwest, the pared down, raw prose of Beverly's incredible debut will keep you spellbound, shocked and thrilled to the very last page.

PRAISE FOR DODGERS

'Dark, edgy and riveting and, for all that, deeply, humanly serious, *Dodgers* is white knuckles for the mind.'

Robert Olen Butler

'A wickedly good amalgam of the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Clockers* that stands firmly on its own as a remarkable debut. A harrowing road trip into the heart of America that will shock you, move you, and leave you marvelling at its desolate poetry.'

Richard Lange

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: BILL BEVERLY was born and grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He studied literature and writing at Oberlin College, including time in London studying theatre and the Industrial Revolution. He then studied fiction and pursued a Ph.D. in American literature at the University of Florida. His research on criminal fugitives and the stories surrounding them became the book *On the Lam: Narratives of Flight in J. Edgar Hoover's America*.

He lives with his wife and daughter in Maryland, and teaches American literature and writing at Trinity University in Washington D.C. He collects beer cans.

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PRAISE for DODGERS

'Not only is the fast-paced and masterfully plotted *Dodgers* one of the greatest literary crime novels you will read in your lifetime, Bill Beverly has also created, in the teenage boy, East, one of the most unforgettable and heartbreaking characters ever encountered in American fiction.'

Donald Ray Pollock, author of *Knockemstiff* and *The Devil All the Time*

'*Dodgers* is a wickedly good amalgamation of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Clockers* that stands firmly on its own as a remarkable debut. A harrowing road trip into the heart of America that will shock you, move you and leave you marvelling at its desolate poetry.'

Richard Lange, author of *Angel Baby* and *This Wicked World*

'*Dodgers* transcends genres. Its main character East, is part Kerouac's Sal Paradise, Part Wright's Bigger Thomas, and even part Salinger's Holden Caulfield. The hero's journey is an American story.'

Ernesto Quinonez, author of *Bodega Dreams*

'A terrific novel, urgent, thrilling and dangerous from start to finish. In East, Mr Beverly has created a character who stays in the mind after the book is finished, an Odysseus straight out of Compton. His venture into the unknown lands of the American Midwest has a classic, mythic shape and scope. And the writing throughout is lovely, economical and exact. You could read this for the sentences alone.'

Kevin Canty, author of *Into the Great Wide Open*

'The sentences will snare you, and the story keeps you hooked – a thrilling cross-country journey that takes on the poetry and resonance of myth.'

Adam Sternbergh, author of *Shovel Ready* and *Near Enemy*

'In *Dodgers*, Bill Beverly delivers with honesty and empathy as he takes us into the hope-killing shadow of LA's street-level drug kingdom. His prose are a perfect match for young East's life-altering journey; spare, clear-eyed and with the cutting edge of flint. Beverly leads us into the heart of a young man molded by circumstance and, much as Richard Price's *The Whites*, gives us a view that will change the way you look at the world.'

Susan Crandall, author of *Whistling Past the Graveyard*

'Bill Beverly's wild and auspicious debut takes off from page one and never lets up. *Dodgers*, a kind of modernized and urban take on Theodore Weesner's *The Car Thief*, is lightning quick and world-wise, full of pitch-perfect dialogue and criminal misadventure. Most importantly, it's a lot of fun.'

Tom Cooper, author of *The Marauders*