

The Water Knife



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Reviews

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(Dr. Jarrett Bednar)

THE WATER KNIFE



Knopf/BOMC. 1 Cloth(s), 2015. hard. Book Condition: New. Water is both life and power, in this near-future thriller from the Hugo, Nebula, and Locus Awardwinning author of *The Windup Girl*; Nevada and Arizona skirmish over their shares of the dwindling Colorado River while California watches, deciding whether it should just take the whole river for itself. Angel Velasquez is a Las Vegas water knifedetective, assassin, and spywho "cuts" water for the Southern Nevada Water Authority and its ruthless boss, Catherine Case. When rumors of a game-changing water source surface in Phoenix, Angel is sent south, where he encounters hardened journalist Lucy Monroe and young Texas migrant Maria Villarosa, and the three hunt for answers that evaporate as the heat index soars and bodies begin to pile up. When water is more valuable than gold, alliances shift like sand, and the only truth in the desert is that someone will have to bleed if anyone hopes to drink."[A] fresh, genre-bending thriller. Paolo Bacigalupi's richly imagined novel *The Water Knife* brings to mind the movie *Chinatown*. Although one is set in the past and the other in a dystopian future, both are neo-noir tales with jaded antiheroes and ruthless kingpins who wield water as lethal weapons to control lifeand mete out death. Reading the novel in 93-degree March weather while L.A. newscasts warned of water rationing and extended drought, I felt the hot panting breath of the desert on my nape and I shivered, hoping that Bacigalupi's vision of the future won't be ours."LATimes"While Bacigalupi's environmental message could not be more powerful, it's neatly embedded in a nonstop action plot, full of murders and betrayals, that should satisfy thriller readers who didn't even think they cared about these issues."Chicago Tribune 376.



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