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DESPERATE PATHS, A TIMELY THRILLER IN A DIVISIVE ERA

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In an era of #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter, dangerous extremists, and intolerance of opposing views, here comes a thriller that jumps into hot-button issues with both feet. It’s a page-turning mystery set in the ironically named, fictional town of Eden, Illinois. “In the current climate of ‘us and them,’” Diskin says, “I felt the need to step outside my own views for a moment, envision the world through another lens, admit personal bias, and even find a little empathy in the opposition.” Not exactly the typical motivation for a thriller, but this book is primarily about its characters—complicated people who are just trying to survive.

In *Desperate Paths*, a famous black actor is shot within hours of returning to his small, mostly-white hometown in southern Illinois. The investigation into the shooting reveals that the actor had written a screenplay about growing up there, one that could destroy families, careers, and the reputations of some of its beloved citizens. By the end of week, secrets and lies are exposed, a local hero is dead, and another outsider from the same small town sits in jail for the crime, challenging one sheriff’s perception of justice. It’s a shocking tale with multiple twists and turns, in an all-too believable premise.

E. C. Diskin writes binge-worthy page-turners that linger. Rick Kogan of Chicago Tribune and WGN Radio fame, has called her “a thrilling new voice on the literary landscape.” Her biggest hit so far, *Broken Grace*, topped Amazon charts around the world for eighteen months and several blogger must-read lists for 2015 and 2016 by captivating readers with shocking twists that had people talking. *Desperate Paths* will surely do the same.

It’s a thriller that book clubs should devour, chock full of so much controversy and complications that readers will have plenty to discuss as they sip wine, debate who saw what coming, and determine whether various character choices should be praised or condemned. Daniel Palmer, New York Times bestselling author, called it “a riveting, powerfully told story of faith, family and long-buried secrets…[that] I couldn’t read fast enough.” Amy Gentry, author of international bestseller *Good as Gone* called it “tightly plotted…with so many twists…[it’s] as wise as it is thrilling.” Laura McHugh, the award-winning author of bestseller, *Weight of Blood*, called it “shocking, suspenseful, and highly relevant. You’ll be thinking about it long after you turn the last page.”

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