About the Author

Chris Whitaker was born in London and spent ten years working as a financial trader in the city.

He now lives in Hertfordshire with his wife and two young sons.

His debut novel, Tall Oaks, won the CWA John Creasey New Blood Dagger. Chris’s second novel, All The Wicked Girls, was published in August 2017. We Begin at the End, his third, was published in March 2020.

About the Book

“You can’t save someone that doesn’t want to be saved…”

Thirty years ago, Vincent King became a killer.

Now, he’s been released from prison and is back in his hometown of Cape Haven, California. Not everyone is pleased to see him. Like Star Radley, his ex-girlfriend, and sister of the girl he killed.

Duchess Radley, Star’s thirteen-year-old daughter, is part-carer, part-protector to her younger brother, Robin - and to her deeply troubled mother. But in trying to protect Star, Duchess inadvertently sets off a chain of events that will have tragic consequences not only for her family, but also the whole town.

Murder, revenge, retribution.

Other books by the author

Tall Oaks
All The Wicked Girls
Discussion points

- What elements of the novel make it an adventure story? What other genres could it be?

- Cuddy, the prison warden, and Walk, the police chief, discuss morality and how close people can come to crossing the line between 'right and wrong'. Do you think there is a line that once crossed, you can't return?

- Star Radley describes Police Chief Walk, as "all good". Do you think he, or anyone, can be "all good"?

- What do you think the most important traits in a friend would be to Duchess Day Radley? Why?

- Does your opinion of the characters change throughout the book? Discuss Walk, Vincent King and Hal, in particular.

- Author Chris Whitaker has had no 'formal writing training' but has been a reader his whole life. What do you think it is that makes someone a 'good writer'?

- Although British, each of Chris Whitaker’s novels are set in the USA. Do you think We Begin at the End would still work if set in a different country?

Suggested further reading

To Kill a Mocking Bird by Harper Lee
Dodgers by Bill Beverly
Redemption Road by John Hart
The Dry by Jane Harper
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Useful Links

Compulsive Readers: A Quickie with Chris Whitaker...
An Interview with Chris Whitaker in the Bishop’s Stortford Independent: Award-winning crime write happy to...
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