

HELL AT THE BREECH

Tom Franklin's collection of short stories, *Poachers*, won the Edgar Award for its title story and was named Best First Book of Fiction by *Esquire*. In *Hell at the Breech*, Franklin crafts a mesmerizing tale of historical fiction about a brutal real-life feud that took place in 1890s Alabama.

Sheriff Billy Waite finds himself at the center of a whirlwind of violence after the murder of local merchant and aspiring politician Arch Bedsole. To avenge Bedsole's death, a band of down-and-out farmers form the "Hell-at-the-Breech" gang. As tensions escalate among the white farmers, black sharecroppers, and rich landowners, the innocent and guilty alike are drawn helplessly toward a final, blood-soaked confrontation.

Hell at the Breech is based on incidents that occurred near Franklin's childhood home. A sterling reading from narrator Larry Pine is the perfect complement to this stunning novel.

"Arguably the most extraordinary first novel to come out of the South since Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain*."—**Orlando Sentinel**

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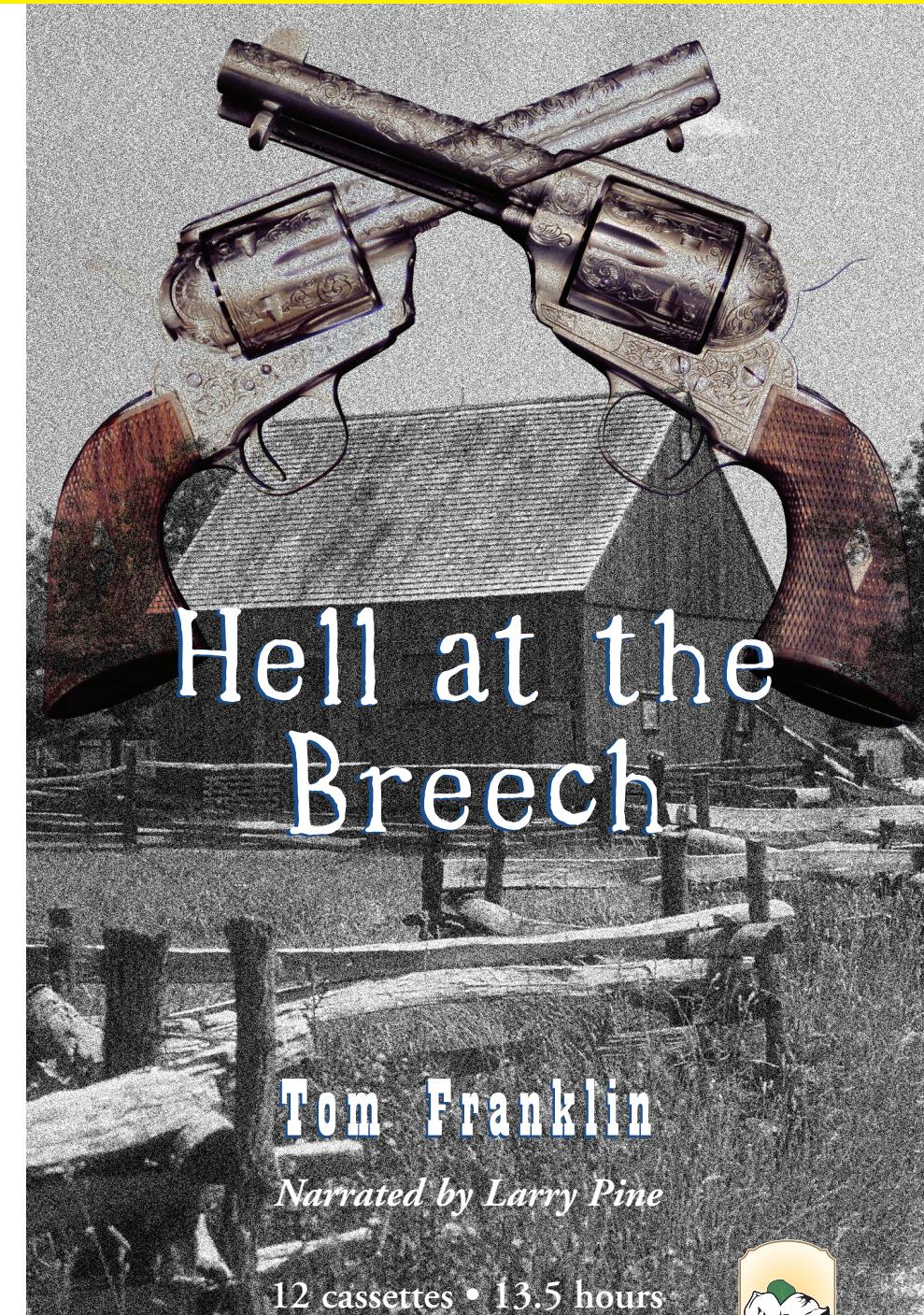
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BY TOM FRANKLIN



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