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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