



Zaffre, 2020

## 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.

## Other books by the author

*Tall Oaks*  
*All The Wicked Girls*

# *We Begin at the End* by *Chris Whitaker*

## 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.

#AdventureSociety



## 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...](#)

Follow Chris on twitter: [@WhittyAuthor](#)

[The Wilbur & Niso Smith Foundation](#)