

Scorch Atlas

Blake Butler

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*"Blake Butler's **Scorch Atlas** is precisely that — a series of maps, or worlds, "tied... so tight they couldn't crane their necks." Everything is either destroyed, rotting or festering -- and not only the physical objects, but allegiances, hopes, covenants. The sole glimmer of light comes in recollection, as in: "a bear the size of several men... There in the woods behind our house, when I was still a girl like you."*

—Jesse Ball, *The Way Through Doors*.

Dear Tastemaker,

Blake Butler doesn't sleep. It's the only possible way someone so young could amass such an impressive list of publishing credits. From cutting edge journals such as *Fence*, *The Believer*, *Willow Springs*, *Black Warrior Review*, and *Ninth Letter* to the renegade internet journals he helms, like *Lamination Colony* and *HTMLGIANT*, Blake Butler is everywhere. Even his blog betrays a frantic energy barely contained.

This massive output makes his debut novel-in-stories, *Scorch Atlas* (On Sale Date: 9-9-09, \$14.95, black and white illustrations, ISBN 978-0-9771992-8-0, Distributed to the trade by: Publishers Group West) all the more impressive. Blake's attention to every single word of this beautifully decaying, post-apocalyptic book is evident. Each sentence is carefully arranged, and the craft shows. Not only in the writing, but in featherproof books' spine-tingling design. Each page is a hand-made artifact from a desolate future, some with teeth marks or smears of blood, the edges stained a sooty black, all echoing and enhancing the world Blake Butler maps out.

Scorch Atlas leads the reader through 14 interlocking stories set in ruined American locales where birds speak gibberish, the sky rains gravel, and millions starve, disappear or grow coats of mold. In 'The Disappeared,' a father is arrested for missing free throws, leaving his son to search alone for his lost mother. In 'The Ruined Child,' a boy swells to fill his parents' ransacked attic. Rendered in a variety of narrative forms, from a psychedelic fable to a skewed insurance claim questionnaire, Blake Butler's full-length fiction debut paints a gorgeously grotesque version of America, bringing to mind both Kelly Link and William Gass, yet turned with Butler's own eye for the apocalyptic and bizarre.

Witness Blake's destructive powers on the video now online at featherproof.com. Butler destroys his own book by pummeling it, setting it on fire, and chewing it to bits. Which is only the beginning. On his blog he has pledged to eat an entire copy of *Scorch Atlas*, one page a day, documenting the whole thing, until it is gone. Never has a work been so consumed by its author. The hand-destroyed copies are available as a pre-sale special from featherproof books.

We are excited to announce advanced copies are now available for review, and Butler is available for interviews. He'll be touring with Robert Lopez and Samuel Ligon for *Scorch Atlas* in the fall (dates at featherproof.com). We hope you'll consider this debut from one of the strangest sleepless young minds in literature. After spending time in the world of *Scorch Atlas*, you may not be able to fall asleep yourself.

Thank you for your time,
Linus

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*"I am always looking for new writers like Blake Butler and rarely finding them, but **Scorch Atlas** is one of those truly original books that will make you remember where you were when you first read it. **Scorch Atlas** is relentless in its apocalyptic accumulation, the baroque language stunning in its brutality, and the result is a massive obliteration."*

—Michael Kimball, Dear Everybody.

"There's something so big about Blake Butler's writing. Big as men's heads. Each inhale of Blake's wheeze brings streamers of loose hair, the faces of lakes and oceans, whales washed up half-rotten. You can try putting on a facemask made out of old newspaper. You can breathe in smaller rhythms. But you won't be able to keep this man out once you've opened his book. Open it!"

—Ken Sparling, Dad Says He Saw You at the Mall

Blake Butler is the author of *Ever*, a novella from Calamari Press. His work has appeared in *Fence*, *Willow Springs*, *The Believer*, *Ninth Letter*, and many others. He is the editor of *HTMLgiant.com*, *Lamination Colony* and *No Colony*. He lives in Atlanta and blogs at gillesdeleuzecommittedsuicideandsowilldrphil.com

Full press kit, including author photos and book cover, can be found at featherproof.com. Just click on 'press' and scroll on down. Or email us at press@featherproof.com

