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## North Dixie Highway

*Joseph D Haske*

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**Joseph D Haske : North Dixie Highway** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised North Dixie Highway:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A VERY FINE BOOK By Kuemmel Joseph Haske's NORTH DIXIE HIGHWAY is a cogent portrait of a young Midwesterner at the crossroads of his return from military service in Bosnia and the integration of his war experiences with his prior life. The book comprises a compelling blend of interwoven recollections of war, nature, family, and death punctuated by vivid descriptions of rural blue collar blue Americana. The text is prefaced with a quote by Emerson: "They know not well the subtle ways I keep, and, pass, and

turn again," and the intellectual vacillation inherent in this phrasing is echoed in Haske's prose structure, which encapsulates and hovers over a sequence of pointed moments in time, especially relevant for the narrator's psychic development. This is a very fine text with a beauty and clarity reminiscent of the best of American psychological realism. Its connection with current military crises make its investigations even more acute. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thumbs up. Way up. By Calvin Haul North Dixie Highway is a stellar read. The characters are finely developed. Haske's sections shift between generations, interweaving the lives and personal stories of the characters throughout. The book's vernacular is hardcore and spot on. This prose is gritty, poetic, and resonant with a rawness one forges outside the classroom. An engaging read and, on many levels, a surprising conclusion. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Kristen Diehl Thank you.

Weaving multiple storylines with vivid description of characters, Haske's debut novel brings new life and a unique voice to the fiction of rural America. North Dixie Highway is a story of family bonds, devolution, and elusive revenge. When Buck Metzger's childhood is interrupted by the disappearance of his grandfather, several family members and close friends plot revenge on the suspected killer. From remote towns in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, to the Texas/Mexico border, to war-torn Bosnia, Metzger struggles for self-identity and resolution in a world of blue-collar ethics and liquor-fueled violence.

"Joe Haske writes about violence and vengeance that I understand. It may be fueled by alcohol and anger, but it's based on love and loyalty: avenging the dead, defending the living. Few writers today chronicle the landscape of the static poor--those who do dead-end work with no way out--particularly in a rural setting. Daniel Woodrell is one. Chris Offutt is another. With his debut novel, North Dixie Highway, Haske joins those ranks."--Larry Fondation, author of Angry Nights, Common Criminals, Fish, Soap and Bonds and Unintended Consequences "Haske's world is hardscrabble as hell, and if you're like me, you won't want to leave. A favorite diner smells of Clorox and lard, and the truck bed stinks of trash bags full of freshly dipped smelt. But damn if things don't taste good."--Steve Davenport, author of Uncontainable Noise and Overpass About the Author JOSEPH D. HASKE, Chair of English at South Texas College in McAllen, was awarded the 2011 Boulevard Emerging Writers award for short fiction. His work is featured in journals such as Boulevard, Pleiades, The Texas , AleCart, and Fiction International. He lives in Mission, Texas, with his wife, Bertha, and their children, Ferny and Joey.