



# The Water Knife

By Paolo Bacigalupi

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## WATER IS POWER

In the near future, the Colorado River has dwindled to a trickle. Detective, assassin, and spy, Angel Velasquez “cuts” water for the Southern Nevada Water Authority, ensuring that its lush arcology developments can bloom in Las Vegas. When rumors of a game-changing water source surface in Phoenix, Angel is sent south, hunting for answers that seem to evaporate as the heat index soars and the landscape becomes more and more oppressive. There, he encounters Lucy Monroe, a hardened journalist with her own agenda, and Maria Villarosa, a young Texas migrant, who dreams of escaping north. As bodies begin to pile up, the three find themselves pawns in a game far bigger and more corrupt than they could have imagined, and when water is more valuable than gold, alliances shift like sand, and the only truth in the desert is that someone will have to bleed if anyone hopes to drink.

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## **The Water Knife By Paolo Bacigalupi Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**An Amazon Best Book of June 2015:** Three very different characters—an orphaned Texan teen marooned in Phoenix; the “water knife” Angel from Las Vegas who will break any law he needs to in order to pave the way for his boss to gain the water rights she wants; and journalist Lucy Monroe, who has adopted drought-decimated Phoenix as her own—thrust Bacigalupi’s near-future tale through violence and betrayal toward a blockbuster conclusion that could well be one of the best endings of the year. Murder and torture are everyday events in dusty Phoenix, which is loosely controlled by a sociopathic crime lord, a Chinese construction company that’s offering the only jobs in town, Californian interests, and Las Vegas’ shadowy water knives—former criminals and ex-military who enforce the water rights bought or extorted by their powerful boss. When a rumor surfaces of water rights so senior that they would trump all existing rights and give Phoenix a chance to bloom instead of continue its rampant slide into death by drought, the race is on to find the rights, and no one will survive unharmed. Bleak, troubling, and at the same time deeply hopeful as Bacigalupi’s complex characters define and defend their loyalties, *The Water Knife* delivers a final scene as unexpected as it is satisfying. --*Adrian Liang*

Review

**“[A] fresh, genre-bending thriller. . . . Reading Paolo Bacigalupi's richly imagined novel *The Water Knife* brings to mind the movie *Chinatown*. Although one is set in the past and the other in a dystopian future, both are neo-noir tales with jaded antiheroes and ruthless kingpins who wield water as lethal weapons to control life—and mete out death. . . . Bacigalupi weaves page-turning action with zeitgeisty themes. . . . His use of water as sacred currency evokes Frank Herbert's *Dune*. The casual violence and slang may bring to mind *A Clockwork Orange*. The book's nervous energy recalls William Gibson at his cyberpunk best. Its visual imagery evokes *Dust Bowl Okies* in the Great Depression and the catastrophic 1928 failure of the St. Francis Dam that killed 600 people and haunted its builder, Mulholland, into the grave. . . . Reading the novel in 93-degree March weather while L.A. newscasts warned of water rationing and extended drought, I felt the hot panting breath of the desert on my nape and I shivered, hoping that Bacigalupi's vision of the future won't be ours.” —Denise Hamilton, *Los Angeles Times***

“Bacigalupi's characters are engagingly unpredictable, and his story blasts along like a twin-battery Tesla. *The Water Knife* is splendid near-future fiction, a compelling thriller—and inordinately fun.”—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*

**“A noir-ish, cinematic thriller set in the midst of a water war between Las Vegas and Phoenix. . . . Think *Chinatown* meets *Mad Max*.”—NPR, *All Things Considered***

“These days are coming, and as always fiction explains them better than fact. This is a spectacular thriller, wonderfully imagined and written, and racing through it will make you think—and make you thirsty.” —**Lee Child, author of *Personal***

“An intense thriller and a deeply insightful vision of the coming century, laid out in all its pain and glory. It's a water knife indeed, right to the heart.” —**Kim Stanley Robinson, author of *Aurora***

"Anyone can write about the future. Paolo Bacigalupi writes about the future that we're making today, if we keep going the way we are. It makes his writing beautiful . . . and terrifying."—**John Scalzi, author of *Lock In***

**"*The Water Knife* is an noir-tinged, apocalyptic vision of the near-future: What will the world be like, and how will we live in it? Bacigalupi already seems to live there. Once I started, I couldn't put it down."** —**Kelly Link, author of *Get in Trouble***

**"A fresh cautionary tale classic, depicting an America newly shaped by scarcity of our most vital resource. The pages practically turn themselves in a tense, taut plot of crosses and double-crosses, given added depth by riveting characters. This brutal near-future thriller seems so plausible in the world it depicts that you will want to stock up on bottled water."**—***Library Journal*, starred review**

**"The frightening details of how the world might suffer from catastrophic drought are vividly imagined. The way the novel's environmental nightmare affects society, as individuals and larger entities—both official and criminal—vie for a limited and essential resource, feels solid, plausible, and disturbingly believable. The dust storms, Texan refugees, skyrocketing murder rate, and momentary hysteria of a public ravenous for quick hits of sensational news seem like logical extensions of our current reality. An absorbing . . . thriller full of violent action."**—***Kirkus***

About the Author

**PAOLO BACIGALUPI** is a Hugo, Nebula, and Michael L. Printz Award winner, as well as a National Book Award finalist. He is also a winner of the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award, the John W. Campbell Award, and a three-time winner of the Locus Award. His short fiction has appeared in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, and *High Country News*. He lives with his wife and son in western Colorado, where he is working on a new novel.

[www.windupstories.com](http://www.windupstories.com)

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Aaron Marks:**

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open as well as read a book called *The Water Knife*? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have various other opinion?

**Alfred Leahy:**

The book *The Water Knife* has a lot info on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of

profit. The book was authored by the very famous author. The author makes some research prior to write this book. This particular book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after scanning this book.

**Shirley Pedro:**

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this The Water Knife guide written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who read the book. Written with good manner for you, leaking every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still hesitation The Water Knife as good book not simply by the cover but also with the content. This is one guide that can break don't assess book by its include, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

**Matthew Haley:**

On this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to have a look at some books. On the list of books in the top checklist in your reading list will be The Water Knife. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking upward and review this publication you can get many advantages.

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