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## **JETSON'S JOURNEY: A Novel**

By Brock Alston

In Brock Alston's debut novel, **JETSON'S JOURNEY**, readers are introduced to Michael Smith, a loving though flawed husband and father of two. A devoted family man who has always carried all of life's burdens himself, he never allows longtime wife Amber or anyone else to get close enough to share any of the weight. In the two years since their 7-year-old daughter was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, the Smith family's savings have been gutted, and now the San Francisco tech executive has just been let go from his job.

Though always well intentioned, Michael's poor fiscal management led to a series of white lies, which then turned into months of more serious lying. He marvels at how quickly his entire life, including his marital circumstances, can change. As tensions crescendo in the Smith household, desperate times require desperate measures, and Michael has no choice but to seek financial help. Unfortunately, he turns to a loan shark.

The one bright spot in the family's life is the adoption of a striking black Labrador Retriever named Jetson. Seventy-five pounds of brown eyes, muscle, and unbounded joy, he reminds the family that second chances do exist.

Alston deftly interweaves life's simpler moments with an intense, deeply felt story celebrating human resilience. From serious illness to financial collapse, and from grief to the consequences of a desperate decision, Alston offers readers a propulsive novel that ultimately finds its heart in a small town called Franklin, Tennessee, where Michael—accompanied only by Jetson—begins the patient, ordinary work of rebuilding a life. With gut honesty, **JETSON'S JOURNEY** elevates the universal experience of loving a dog to an art form, and pleasantly becomes a portrait of the place that takes him in.

Brock Alston is a debut novelist whose work explores what we choose, what's chosen for us, and what is asked from us in return—careers, homes, the small interior things we surrender before we notice they're gone—and whether something deeper waits on the other side. He began writing **JETSON'S JOURNEY** before his own move from the Bay Area to Franklin, Tennessee—what started with a job loss slowly revealed itself as something closer to a calling. He lives in Franklin with his wife, Alison, and a very real dog named Jetson, whose spirit he wrote this book to keep alive on the page long after Jetson is gone from this earth.

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