

ALONG FOR THE DRIVE



Hart Hanson is a critically acclaimed television writer known for his shows *Bones*, *Backstorm*, and *The Finder*. He recently wrote an adrenaline packed adventure that puts life, love, and family on the line called *The Driver*.

The Driver is Hart Hanson's debut novel. The story puts you in the driver seat as Michael Skellig, an ex-ranking officer of the U.S. military with a . Skellig is a self-employed Limousine chauffeur that is tasked with picking up a skateboarding rap star, Bismarck Avila. On the night of the job there is an attempt on the Rapper's life, but as fate had it Mr. Skellig was there to save the young star's life. This unintentionally gives Avila the idea to blackmail Skellig into being his driver until the ones after him are stopped. Skellig is thus forced into employment but the longer that he is employed the more he realizes that Avila is not as innocent as he seems and he is not the only one in danger. Skellig's association with Avila puts Michael's friends in harm's way. Skellig's team consists of three veterans that keep him grounded. There is Tinkertoy who is the mechanic for the limos and is a very withdrawn person because of her war experience, Ripple a Paraplegic stoner coping with his humanity and loss of limbs, and Lucky the smooth talking Afghan ex-hostage negotiator that has served alongside Michael. This band of rag tag vets are the ones Mike cares for the most and trust the most. Together they must protect their necks and find who is after Avila.

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The Driver is a non-stop thrill ride that has you entertained throughout. Utilizing his experience as TV show creator Hanson hones his ability to write dialogue. The characters interactions amongst each other are very much relatable and genuine. Their witty banter and common lexicon grounds the story. Hanson does a great job by bringing in pop-Culture references of today to improve upon the commonality. Each character that you meet has their own

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panache that makes them fun. Though Hanson is able to bring fun to the novel there is a level of underlying tension. With his words Hanson is able to make you feel the need to question your morality as you endeavor on the journey with Mike. You become enthralled in the way insanity and PTSD shapes the actions/mannerisms of the protagonist. The mental tribulation that the characters individually deal with shows how Hanson quietly challenges humanity's view on mental health. The way mental illness awareness is seamlessly written speaks volume to him as an author. Even with such profound undertones the story is very digestible for someone that casually reads. There is a little bit in it for everyone making it a good read for any adult looking for a cool and fun experience.

Luis Rodriguez is a producer, songwriter, poet, and aspiring writer. He is very much involved in his community and seeks to give back to where he is from. He sees himself owning an entertainment corporation in the future that he hopes sparks innovation in the youth.