

BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE FURY*

# SHANE GERICKE



# TORN APART

"A high-rev, page-turning thriller."

- Jeffery Deaver





**TORN APART**

# Praise for *Torn Apart*

"A high-rev, page-turning thriller that offers a searing look at the very thin blue line separating good and evil. Set in a sharply observed Midwest, *Torn Apart* features one of the best heroines to come along in years, Detective Emily Thompson, whose dedication to her job throws her into a deadly cat-and-mouse game against complex, fleshed-out villains, some driven by good, some by evil, but all intent on leaving plenty of carnage in their wake." - Jeffery Deaver

"*Torn Apart* will keep you turning the pages so fast, you won't even notice that half the night's already gone. Shane Gericke knows how to tighten the screws and keep the fear and tension building." - Tess Gerritsen

"A no-nonsense thriller, action-packed and explosive. A real page-turner!" - Erica Spindler

"Beautifully drawn characters, sharply observed detail, and exceptional writing. Has the impact of a large-caliber handgun fired at point-blank range." - Douglas Preston

"One of those scary rides through criminality that can melt away a fifteen-hour flight. The scenarios (trust me on this) will haunt you for weeks." - John J. Nance

"An A-grade thriller. Shane Gericke is the real deal." - Lee Child

"Cross James Patterson with Joseph Wambaugh and you get Shane Gericke." - Roy Huntington, *American Cop*

"A first-rate cops-and-psychos novelist. . . His plucky heroine

evokes the spirit of Thomas Harris's Clarice Starling." - *Publishers Weekly*

"A shotgun start, an Indy 500 wild ride, and an explosive finish." - *RT Book Reviews*

"Gericke is an expert in providing suspense with horror, surpassing that of a Stephen King or Dean Koontz." - *Who Dunit Mystery Review*

Other Books by Shane Gericke

*The Fury*

*Blown Away*

*Cut to the Bone*

For Jerrle, whose smile makes the sun seethe with jealousy  
And to Mark Becker, who left us much too soon

Sometimes you eat the bear.  
Sometimes the bear eats you.

Old saying

# 1

Midnight

November 18

Black River Falls, Wisconsin

Thunderbolts attacked from the rioting sky.

Most zigged. Some zagged. One ripped a spectacular Z-for-Zorro that stained the storm clouds mildew green. Homes ignited on each side of Interstate 94. Cyclonic wind punched the worn cargo van dangerously close to the flooded-out median.

"Could be worse!" Cancer shouted from the back.

"How's that?" Gemini said from the wheel.

"Could be snow."

A gasoline tanker roared by in the fast lane, throwing a hurricane of water. The van's wipers sputtered across the windshield like a failing heart, trying to keep up. A wolf pack of semis pursued the gas man, throwing their own hurricanes. The van jittered and jigged, then skittered and slid.

The teenager screamed from the back.

"Shut up," Gemini snapped feeling his nuts tighten as he white-knuckled the van through the exploding water.