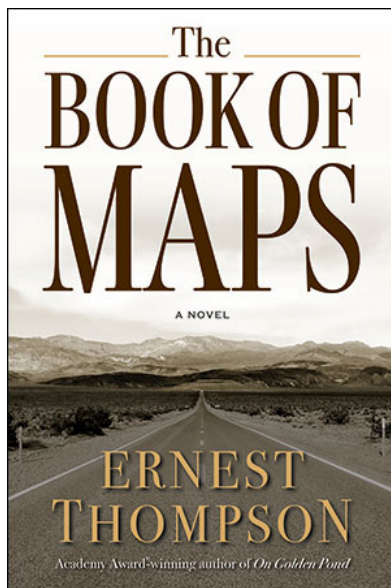


PRESS CONTACT | JENNIFER ROMANELLO | EMI BATTAGLIA PUBLIC RELATIONS
347-668-3022 | JENNIFER.ROMANELLO65@GMAIL.COM

A poignant, deeply moving and hilarious novel about fatherhood, wrapped in a wild road trip across the USA, from the Academy Award-winning creator of *On Golden Pond*

Dear Reviewer / Editor:

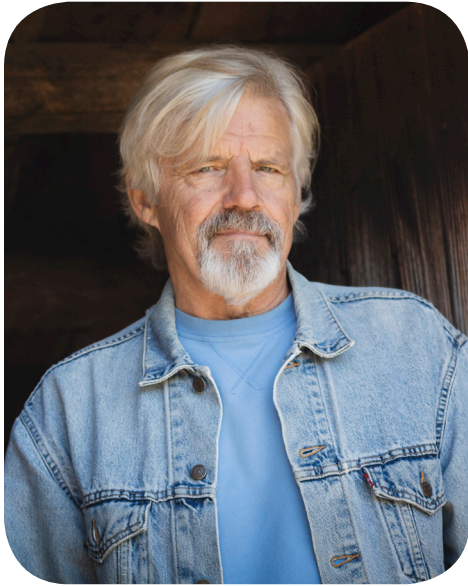
Ernest Thompson is a writer known for capturing complicated relationships between flawed fathers and the children who forgive and love them. In his debut novel, *The Book of Maps* (Global Collective Publishers; October 25, 2022; Hardcover; \$29.99), Thompson focuses on one father's valiant quest to have his ten-year-old son deem him lovable—even after delivering the boy heartbreaking news—over the course of a two-week trek from Los Angeles to New Hampshire.



At age 52, Brendan Ball Tippet is a man scarcely qualified for adulthood, let alone fatherhood. After years of getting by on writing scripts for bad TV series and the occasional movie, his career as a filmmaker is on a steady downslide. His rocky marriage has hit rock bottom. Yet, deserving or not, he still has a chance to prove his worth to his son, Brenlyn. (Brendan gives Lynsay, his soon-to-be ex-wife, all the blame for saddling their kid with that amalgam of a name; he prefers to call the boy Blynk.) As soon as school gets out, Brendan plans to take his son on an adventure, driving across 16 states with a yard sale treasure as their trusty travel guide, also called *The Book of Maps*. Published in 1937, the hefty road atlas promises a world of wonders waiting to be discovered within its yellowing, crumbling pages. But this trip isn't a fairytale—it's a swan song to a family in the final stages of disrepair. Drawing on his gift for remaking reality, Brendan packs the *The Book of Maps*, a store of provisions, a veritable truckload of sports and camping equipment, a satchel full of every story the venerable writer has ever written, and a reluctant Blynk into his wife's Lexus SUV and hits the road, hoping to secure his relationship with his son before finding the perfect, wrong time to tell the boy that he and his mom are getting a divorce.

Set in 2002, at the dawn of the transition into a new millennium, *The Book of Maps* follows Brendan and Blynk on their rollicking journey, state by state. What happens along the way doesn't always go by the book. Before they even make it out of The Golden State, Blynk is nearly washed away by fast-moving rapids, followed, that very night, by a close encounter with a black bear. In Nevada, The Silver State, Brendan, to his son's glee, defies the speed limit, pushing the staid Lexus to flying at 100 miles per hour—a feat that comes in handy in Utah, The Beehive State, when father and son face off against a mean bunch of skinheads. Throughout the trip, adrenaline-rushing brushes with danger are tempered with hilarious detours into local trivia,

vocabulary-building lessons, spirited and bonding stops to play every sport known to man and boy, and, best of all, the pair's adoption of clever aliases. The hijinks remain mostly harmless until Brendan's precious satchel mysteriously goes missing, and they hit Minnesota, The Gopher State, and something truly terrifying occurs. Will Brendan be able to save his son and come out not as a hero but a real, dependable father?



ERNEST THOMPSON won the 1981 Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for *On Golden Pond*, the hit film starring Katharine Hepburn and Henry Fonda based on his play of the same name. In 2001, he directed a live TV version of *On Golden Pond*, starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer. His other notable writing credits include 1969, a film starring Robert Downey, Jr., Kiefer Sutherland, and Winona Ryder; *The West Side Waltz*, which opened on Broadway, starring Katharine Hepburn, and for which he later wrote and directed a television version, starring Shirley MacLaine; and the screenplay for the feature film *Sweet Hearts Dance*, starring Susan Sarandon and Jeff Daniels. He lives most of the year in New Hampshire, close to where *On Golden Pond* was filmed.

At turns humorous, heartwarming, and heart-wrenching, *The Book of Maps* is a tale of adventure and redemption capturing the innocence of 20 years ago, with timeless insights into the challenges of being a father—and what it means to be a decent, grown-up human being. I hope you will get swept up in Ernest Thompson's debut novel and be raring to share it with your audience.

An electronic galley of *The Book of Maps* is available, and I would be happy to send you one.

Looking forward to discussing feature and interview possibilities with Ernest Thompson.

Warm regards,

Jennifer Romanello
Emi Battaglia Public Relations
347-668-3022 | Jennifer.romanello65@gmail.com