



BIO:

Michael Patrick F. Smith is the author of *The Good Hand: Work, Brotherhood, and Transformation in an American Boomtown* which was released on Viking Press, a division of Penguin Random House in February 2021.

The New York Times relates that Smith's "perspective is a morality, and a relief in a world quick to dismiss, quick to divide and quick to believe that American work is now only about collecting data and selling knowledge...Smith wrote a book that should be read."

Kirkus writes "This is the book that Hillbilly Elegy should have been: a white-hot, fiercely argued case for rural working people in the face of their economically brutal lives."

The Atlantic calls it "beautiful, funny, and harrowing."

The LA Times writes that "The Good Hand is a rambling honky-tonk of a book, with the soul of a songwriter and the ache of a poor white boy who grew up rough. It is big and it is pretty and it is amazing."

Smith performs and releases music under the name The Good Hand. As a singer and guitar player, he has shared the stage with folk luminaries such as Ramblin' Jack Elliott. The audio book edition of *The Good Hand* contains recordings of seven original songs as well as incidental

music composed by Smith. Several plays he has written, including *Woody Guthrie Dreams* and *Ain't No Sin*, have been staged in Baltimore and New York.

Smith has worked as an actor, a bartender, junk hauler, furniture mover, book store clerk, contractor, guitar player, receptionist, event producer, driver, theater director, office temp, stage hand, waiter, security guard, set fabricator, legal assistant, grocer, oil field hand, and writer.