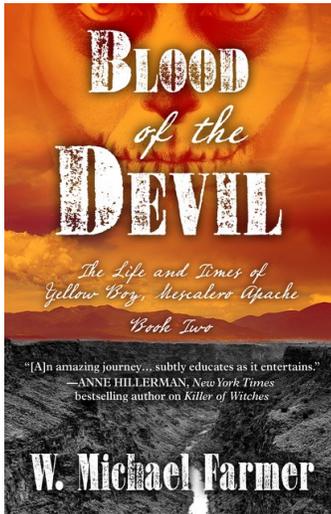


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## ***Blood of the Devil: The Life & Times of Yellow Boy, Mescalero Apache***

by W. Michael Farmer  
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"*Blood of the Devil* is an important book, casting the light of understanding on a people often portrayed as evil. The action never stops. The characters are human with a little different outlook than our own, shaped by their environment and outrageous fortune. I grew up among Apaches, and Michael's characters feel like old friends. The author catalogues an important era of transition and change."

—Doug Hocking, author of *Tom Jeffords: Friend of Cochise* and *Mystery of Chaco Canyon*

### **Media Contact**

Tiffany Schofield, Senior Editor  
Five Star Publishing  
Tiffany.Schofield@cengage.com  
Office: (207) 861-7536

## **W. MICHAEL FARMER RELEASES SECOND BOOK IN HIS TRILOGY ON THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A MESCALERO APACHE BLOOD OF THE DEVIL**

*Blood of the Devil* continues the story of Yellow Boy, a Mescalero Apache caught between two worlds, that of his People and that of the White-Eye, granting readers entry into Apache culture in a distant era. The book opens as Yellow Boy and his friend Beela-chezzi return disappointed to the camp of Juh. They have destroyed Sangre del Diablo's compound and freed his slaves, but Sangre del Diablo, the giant mongrel Comanche witch who paints his face to look like a skull and raids villages for scalps and slaves, has escaped. Soon, a messenger brings news of the witch, and the chase is on. Yellow Boy fights Sangre del Diablo twice in this book, and Farmer does a phenomenal job of relating how real, historic events impacted the Apaches and their culture while weaving the story.

When the threat of Victorio is gone, Yellow Boy and his band return to the Mescalero Reservation in the spring of 1881, and Yellow Boy joins the tribal police. He makes all of his decisions based on what he feels is best for his People, including his decision to become a scout for Al Sieber to help in General Crook's 1883 Sierra Madre Campaign to return Apaches living in Mexico, including Geronimo's band, back to San Carlos. Yellow Boy's main task is to protect the life of Tzoe, Crook's main scout, who knows where to find Geronimo. Sieber fears Tzoe will be killed if any of his scouts wish to keep the Chiricahua and Mimbrenño Apaches from being found. Along the way, Yellow Boy speaks with Geronimo and receives a prophecy from him regarding an Indah boy, and then, on the return to San Carlos, Yellow Boy discovers the new camp of Sangre del Diablo, and in time, destroys the witch.

In the years that follow, Yellow Boy fights a shape-shifting witch, grieves the loss of his daughter, and takes his wife's sister as a second wife. Traveling between the reservation and a Sierra Madre Apache camp to spend time with both wives, he frequently stops to visit his friend, Rufus Pike, all the while understanding that he is now fighting an even greater threat—the threat that the white man's culture will encompass and obliterate Apache culture. At Rufus' ranch, Yellow Boy learns that yet another challenge lies ahead when his Power sends him a dream of an Indah boy and his father who are ambushed on the White Sands of New Mexico. His Power tells him to rescue the boy, and Yellow Boy realizes his dream is related to Geronimo's prophecy years before.

### **About the Author**

**W. Michael Farmer** was a Western Writers of America Spur Award finalist for Best First Novel in 2006 and a New Mexico Book Award Finalist for Historical Fiction in 2007. His last novel, *Killer of Witches* won a Will Rogers Medallion Award and was a finalist in two different categories, historical fictional and adventure-drama, for the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards. His latest novel, *Blood of the Devil*, is available for presale on Amazon. Now retired, Farmer resides in Smithfield, VA. W. Michael Farmer is available for interviews and speaking engagements and may be contacted through his website at [www.wmichaelfarmer.com](http://www.wmichaelfarmer.com) or at (757) 334-0428.



Photo by Carolyn Keen

**W. Michael Farmer**

## AUTHOR BIO

Born in Nashville, **W. Michael Farmer** grew up outside of Goodlettsville, Tennessee, in the Union Hill community. As a boy, he says, he was a great fan of Western movies and novels and spent his spare time making tipis from fifty-pound feed sacks, making bows and arrows, and “running half-naked through the woods” playing Indian games.

As a young man, he attended the University of Tennessee where he earned a B.S. in Engineering physics, an M.A. in physics, and a Ph.D. in physics.

After working as a senior scientist at SAI (now SAIC) and Spectron Development Labs, Farmer joined the faculty of the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) as a professor of physics and conducted research in the measurement of atmospheric aerosols and in military countermeasures to electro-optical weapons sensors. While at UTSI, he also served as an advisor to NATO for the U.S. Army.

Farmer continued his research on atmospheric aerosols after joining Science and Technology Corporation in Las Cruces, New Mexico, where he directed the operation of the U.S. Army’s Atmospheric Optics and Data Library. He learned much of the rich history of the Southwest while living in Las Cruces for nearly fifteen years.

Although a physicist by training, as an author of fiction he has published short stories in five anthologies, won awards for essays at the Christopher Newport University Writers’ Conference, and published essays in magazines. Farmer now lives and writes in Smithfield, Virginia.

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*Life of Yellow Boy, Mescalero Apache 1860–1951* won a Will Rogers Medallion Award and was a finalist in two different categories, historical fictional and adventure-drama, for the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards.

W. Michael Farmer is available for speaking engagements and may be contacted through his website at [www.wmichaelfarmer.com](http://www.wmichaelfarmer.com), or you may contact him directly at (757) 334-0428.



Photo by Carolyn Keen

**W. Michael Farmer**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: You have a career in physics. Why did you decide to write Western fiction?**

Michael: When I lived in New Mexico, doing research at White Sands, I learned the story of the Albert Fountain and his son Henry, which is one of the great mysteries of the Old West. It left a lot of questions: Why would Fountain choose to take his young son across the desert when he'd had his life threatened? I decided I'd try to write out a few pages, maybe 20,000 words to try to sort out what happened. It forced me to research the history. The more I wrote, the more questions arose, and before I knew it, I'd written a fairly long novel and had a satisfactory story, at least to my mind, that matched the historical facts surrounding the case. I decided that I really enjoyed writing. It was an unexpected pleasure.

**Q: On your website, I saw an Oakley Hall quotation: "The pursuit of truth, not facts, is the business of fiction." What does that quotation mean to you?**

Michael: While I was reading Oakley Hall's book *Warlock*, I was struck with the idea of how you can find truth with a lie. After I read his book, I understood what he was talking about. He was saying that in any situation you have different levels of truth. Fiction addresses emotional truth. If you want to get to the truth of a situation, the best you can do is write a fictional version that matches the facts as close as you can. This is one step away from creative nonfiction. In my work, I'd written papers all the time, but I'd never written fiction. I decided to self-publish that work, so that it would be like an education in publishing. I learned about marketing, and I was astounded to when my first novel became a finalist for Best Western Novel in 2006.

**Q: Which authors have most influenced you as a writer?**

Michael: Thomas Mann, Carey C. Johnson, and Larry McMurtry. After I began my technical career, I might have read a novel or two a year, if that often. I went to London and found Mann's book *Joseph and His Brothers* in a bookshop. I read it over the course of a year, and when I finished it, I couldn't stop reading books. I went from reading a novel or two a year to one to two per month, maybe more. To this day, I still remember how Mann wrote certain scenes, and I try emulate him in my work. Carey C. Johnson was a historical fiction writer who wrote westerns and was meticulous in his research, very prodigious in what he wrote. I consider McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* the penultimate Western novel.

**Q: Do you have a set routine you use to get your writing done?**

Michael: I write for two to three hours in the evenings and full days on the weekends. To get started, I read what I wrote on the previous day, and that gets me going. I think about plot points. When I decide to do a story, there's an emotional arch to the story, a beginning, middle, and end. In the beginning, a problem is presented; in the middle, the problems is resolved; and in the end, the story is brought to a satisfactory conclusion. I know where I want to go with a story, but the plot points are about

how I get there through the action. How do I best tell the story? Yellow Boy was a creation I had to come up with in order for Henry Fountain to survive in that first novel. I try to get better and keep raising the bar a little bit every time I write.

**Q: What is your best advice for someone who wants to be a writer?**

Michael: Rule one: Don't write unless you have to. Rule two: Read at least as much as you write. Rule three: Write every day. Rule four: Revise, revise, revise.

**Q: If I write a book, will you read my book and help me get it published?**

Michael: I would love to have time to help all of my fans with their writing. Unfortunately, I cannot do this. Your writing is between you and your editor/publisher.

**Q. When you start a new story, do you outline your plot in advance or create the story as you write?**

Michael: On my first book, I tried to write two-page outline, which was very coarse, but by the time I was about a quarter into the outline, the story had changed. What I've learned is to think of the story in large blocks of scenes and let it develop as I write.

**Q. How long does it generally take you to write a novel?**

Michael: My first novel took about three years. The last one I did in less than a year. I spend a lot of time on research because the historical facts behind the scene in the story are, in fact, characters in the story, and I want to get that stuff right.



Photo by Carolyn Keen

**W. Michael Farmer**

## **Synopsis of *Blood of the Devil: The Life and Times of Yellow Boy***

Yellow Boy and his friend Beela-chezzi return to the Apache stronghold of Juh in the eastern Sierra Madre after destroying the compound of the witch Sangre del Diablo (Blood of the Devil) and freeing the women and children held there as slaves. This is a hollow victory for Yellow Boy because Sangre del Diablo and two of his Comanche warriors escape. Near exhaustion, Yellow needs time to recover from the journey and the torture he has endured. However, when a rider comes into camp with news that Sangre del Diablo has killed the slaves that were freed, except for one baby girl, and that he is heading to the camp of Elias to join the men who escaped with him, Yellow Boy is anxious to go after the witch. Juh has his adopted son, Kitsizil Lichoo' to guide Yellow Boy and Beela-chezzi to the camp of Elias.

When Elias denies knowing anything about Sangre del Diablo and says no Comanches are in his camp, Yellow Boy and his friends leave the camp and watch from a high ridge, where they see Elias talking to a warrior, who then rides east. They follow the rider to a small hacienda outside Casas Grandes, where they spot the witch and his men.

Yellow Boy follows Sangre del Diablo, who heads east toward the Rio Grande. Along the way, Sangre del Diablo ambushes Yellow Boy, but only manages to kill his horse. He then escapes riding east. Yellow Boy follows on foot, finds Sangre del Diablo resting at a waterhole, and attacks him. Yellow Boy kills the witch's black stallion, but Sangre del Diablo escapes. On foot, they continue toward the Rio Grande, each looking for a chance to kill the other.

Near the river, Yellow Boy makes a mistake, and Sangre del Diablo shoots him in the left side, just below his ribs. Though seriously wounded, Yellow Boy follows Sangre del Diablo and shoots him when they exchange fire. Near exhaustion and bleeding from his wound, Yellow Boy sees Sangre del Diablo go face down in the river, but just before Yellow Boy passes out, he sees the witch stand and stagger into the trees on the far side.

Yellow Boy awakens next to a fire, his wound cauterized and covered with a healing poultice. He looks into the face of his boyhood friend, Kah, who had left the Mescaleros to ride with Victorio. Kah helps his friend return to Juh's stronghold, where Yellow Boy learns his wife, Juanita, is pregnant with their first child.

Juanita has her baby, a girl they name Kicking Wren. When the threat of Victorio is gone, Yellow Boy believes the Army will end its occupation of the Mescalero Reservation. In the spring of 1881, Yellow Boy and his small band of Mescaleros return to the reservation.

Yellow Boy joins the tribal police force. When Al Sieber, Chief of Scouts, visits the reservation and learns of Yellow Boy's extraordinary marksmanship, he recruits him to help in General Crook's 1883 Sierra Madre Campaign to return San Carlos Apaches living in the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico back to San Carlos. On the return to San Carlos, Yellow Boy discovers the new hacienda and camp of Sangre del Diablo. Back at Mescalero, he enlists the help of Beela-chezzi, Kah, and Yibá and gets a pass for them to return to Mexico. Along the way, they stop to see their old friend, Rufus Pike, who decides to come with them.

Sangre del Diablo's hacienda is empty when they arrive. On a hunch, Yellow Boy and his men check Elias's camp. There, they learn the witch has raided the camp and gone south to raid Indian and Mexican villages for scalps and slaves. High on the ridges above the Rio Piedras Verdes, Yellow Boy and his warriors spot Sangre del Diablo and his prisoners on the river canyon trail. They get ahead of them and set up an ambush. In the fight that ensues Yellow Boy is nearly killed before he kills Sangre del Diablo. A short gun battle follows as Yellow Boy and his friends finish off Sangre del Diablo's band. They then guide the women and children to the camp of Kitsizil Lichoo', where there are warriors in need of wives and children.

After Yellow Boy and his warriors return to Mescalero, the government decides to move the Jicarilla Apaches to the Mescalero Reservation. Neither Apache group is happy about the move, and friction between them creates much work for the tribal police. That winter, Yellow Boy is angered to learn that a stranger has approached a group of children and, after asking which is the child of Yellow Boy, has given Kicking Wren a carved owl. She accepts it, being too young to realize it is a symbol of death in Apache culture. She describes the man to Yellow Boy and notes that he has three long scars on one hand. When she shows him where she met this man, he follows his tracks until he loses them, circles around, expecting to find them again, but finds only the tracks of a cougar.

Soon rumors of a witch that is believed to be able to take the shape of a cougar begin to circulate on the reservation when cattle are killed by a cougar. Though Yellow Boy isn't sure he believes this story, he tracks and kills the cougar with the help of a warrior named No Foot. He then finds the cougar's carcass has three long scars without any fur on its left front leg. Before he can return to his camp, Yellow Boy learns Kicking Wren is very ill. He rushes back, but there is nothing he can do. Kicking Wren dies in his arms.

Later, because his wife Juanita is desperate to have another child, Yellow Boy agrees to take her sister Moon as his second wife, but Moon is troubled by nightmares about an earlier time on the reservation. Yellow Boy takes Moon to live in the camp of Kitsizil Lichoo' to keep her dreams away. He shares his time between his wives in Mescalero and Mexico. Traveling back and forth, Yellow Boy often stops for a visit with his friend, Rufus Pike. One night at Rufus's ranch, Yellow Boy has a dream in which a young white boy and his father are ambushed in the desert, and his Power tells him to help this boy.

Three years later, high in Baylor Pass in the Organ Mountains, Yellow Boy sees the ambush take place, just as he saw it in his dream, and he realizes this is the boy his Power told him to save.

## Blood of the Devil Information Sheet

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