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RELEASE

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THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

The case of a boy missing for 40 years explodes into the present in *BAD MOON*, Todd Ritter's second novel featuring Perry Hollow, Pa., Police Chief Kat Campbell.

On the same night that Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, 10-year-old Charlie Olmstead jumped on his bike to see if he could get a better look. It was the last anyone ever saw of him. After Perry Hollow Police Chief Jim Campbell found Charlie's bike caught in a creek above a waterfall, he assumed the boy had been swept away. So did everyone else — except Charlie's mother.

Years later, Eric Olmstead — a famous author and Charlie's brother — has come back to Perry Hollow to bury his mother and fulfill her last request: Find his brother. To do so, he goes to the current police chief and his former sweetheart, Kat Campbell. It isn't long before they discover that his mother thought Charlie was kidnapped, and that locating him was her secret obsession. While she never found him, she did uncover clues suggesting he wasn't the only boy to vanish into thin air.

BAD MOON, Todd Ritter's excellent follow-up to his acclaimed debut, tells the haunting story of a small town that found lies easier to believe than the truth.

About Todd Ritter:

Todd was born and raised in rural Pennsylvania to a bank teller mother and a father who dabbled in taxidermy. He grew up among *Bambi*-esque forests and wide-open fields right out of the crop duster scene in *North by Northwest*. Fittingly, his two major influences are Walt Disney and Alfred Hitchcock.

An editor and journalist for more than 15 years, he began his career as a film critic while attending Penn State University. He now works for the business section of *The Star-Ledger*, a three-time recipient of the Pulitzer Prize and New Jersey's largest daily newspaper. In the interim, he has interviewed celebrities, covered police standoffs and even written and edited obituaries.

Hailed as a "fresh new voice in fiction" by bestselling author Lisa Unger, Todd's first mystery, *DEATH NOTICE*, was published in 2010 by Minotaur Books. *BAD MOON*, the second in the Perry Hollow series, will be released on Oct. 11, 2011.

Todd lives in New Jersey, where he enjoys writing and thinking up of new ways to kill people. Visit his website at www.toddritteronline.com.

Praise for *BAD MOON*:

“(It) draws you in irresistibly and doesn’t spit you out till the very end, your head spinning with surprising revelations.”

— *Kirkus Reviews (starred review)*

“Compelling....Readers will find themselves ensnared by this unusual tale of love, loss, enduring pain, and betrayal.”

— *Publishers Weekly*

“Ritter sets the scene using the moon landings as the basis for a succession of crimes and keeps the reader guessing about the final outcome. His fully developed characters complement the flawless pacing.” (4.5 out of 5 stars)

— *RT Book Reviews*

Praise for *DEATH NOTICE*:

“Part whodunit, part thriller and wholly dazzling.”

— *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*

“Engaging.... Ritter treats his main characters — sympathetic, believably vulnerable people—with respect.”

— *Publishers Weekly*

“A small-town procedural with a superb plot and characters that have an echo of real people in a bad situation. ... A great debut.”

— *Crimespree Magazine*

“A bizarre, twisted mystery that the reader won't be able to easily forget after finishing the last pages.”

— *Gumshoe Review*

"With *DEATH NOTICE*, talented newcomer Todd Ritter takes readers on a rollercoaster ride of thrills and chills. Set in the small Pennsylvania town of Perry Hollow, the book captures the essence of small town life. The cast of characters, particularly Chief of Police Kat Campbell, are memorable and shine in their roles. The crimes are brutal with vivid details readers of crime fiction will happily devour -- and beg for more. Ritter has conceived a mystery that will remain in your memory long after you finish the book. Just don't read it when you're alone."

— *Linda Castillo, bestselling author
of *PRAY FOR SILENCE**