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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FERGUSON–AREA HISTORICAL NOVEL EXAMINES INTERSECTION OF RACE & VIOLENCE

Critics are comparing new novel to Toni Morrison, Gabriel García Márquez & August Wilson

LOS ANGELES, CA—Set in East St. Louis (**13 miles from Ferguson**), **AMERICUS** examines the recurrent intersection of race and violence in the region. The past offers insight into the present.

The recent shooting of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown has engendered a national conversation about the intersection of race and violence in America. Brown's death has exposed how race colors perception. Awaiting the St. Louis County grand jury's decision about Brown's killer, officer Darren Wilson, a **new poll of St. Louis County citizens found 72 % of white residents** think Wilson should not be charged with a crime and **71% of black residents** think he should be charged. If the grand jury (9 whites, 3 blacks) votes along racial lines, officer Wilson walks free.

Using **powerful storytelling**, **AMERICUS** examines the historical underpinnings of how race colors perception—especially when perception contributes to a violent story. **The stories we tell, tell us about ourselves.**

Inspired by **Egyptian mythology** and young America's coming-of-age story, **Michael Datcher** (author of **New York Times Bestseller** and **TODAY SHOW Book Club Selection Raising Fences**) reveals the lives of rambunctious **identical twins and rivals Asar and Set Americus**. After Set contracts **vitaligo** (a skin disease that **fades body pigmentation** in patches), he goes from family favorite to stare-provoking freak. A dangerous one. Skin tone colors perception.

On the back cover, critics and authors agree that **AMERICUS** is a compelling exploration of race and violence in America. Critic P. Gabrielle Foreman writes, "**AMERICUS** is a story of the monsters that emerge from the monstrosities of American history. With this novel, Datcher joins **August Wilson** and **Toni Morrison** as an American storyteller."

Critic Eugene B. Redmond says, "America [undergoes] rites de passage in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. **Datcher's novelistic authority** includes ... some passages that are reminiscent of **Gabriel García Márquez** and **Toni Morrison**."

New York Times bestselling author **Eric Jerome Dickey** writes, "Through powerful storytelling and compelling characters, Datcher weaves an American Story that makes you think deeply about the story of America."

Published by a German publisher, AMERICUS hits European and American bookstores, Wednesday, October 1, 2014.

This mythical Egyptian story offers insight into modern America—by looking back into America's past.

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