

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

***Deadbeat Escapement* by John Ledbetter (Vikon Village Books, 2026) | 420 pages | Fiction // Satire
6x9 US Trade paperback (ISBN 979-8-218-94602-9): \$27 | eBook (ISBN 979-8-218-94735-4): \$9**

John Ledbetter excavates the layers beneath American myth in his debut novel *Deadbeat Escapement*, constructing a daring meta-narrative in which the reader becomes the recipient of a classified dossier, one that correlates the buried physical and cultural histories of Los Angeles with the flamboyant life of counterculture icon Vito Paulekas and the lingering shadows of the Black Dahlia and Zodiac cases. Blending fifteen years of rigorous archival and field research with satirical invention and a playfully paranoid voice, Ledbetter refuses easy conclusions and instead hands the reader the tools to investigate for themselves. A working journalist, developmental editor, and filmmaker with a CalArts background, he brings cinematic precision, narrative urgency, and editorial rigor to projects that interrogate how stories shape and often distort our understanding of power, truth, and the past.