Johnny Payne is Director of the Bilingual MFA in Creative Writing at The University of Texas, El Paso. His novels include Kentuckiana (a featured selection of Kentucky Public Television for 2001), North of Patagonia, and The Ambassador's Son. His plays, including The Devil in Disputania and The Serpent’s Lover, have been produced in Chicago and Virginia on both professional and university stages. Payne received his doctorate in Comparative Literature from Stanford University and his MFA from the University of Alabama. Over the past decade, he has consulted and lectured for the State Department and has been an advisor to two U.S. Ambassadors. Currently he is writing Maysville, a novel set in abolitionist Kentucky. His ethnographic fieldwork in highland Peru has recently appeared as the volume She-Calf and Other Quechua Folk Tales.

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