

2024 CLARK LECTURE PRESENTED BY KU SOCIOLOGY

WHAT WE'VE BECOME

Living and Dying in a Country of Arms

DR. JONATHAN M. METZL

Long a leading expert at the forefront of a movement advocating for gun reform as a matter of public health, Dr. Metzl has been on constant media call in the aftermath of fatal shootings. But the 2018 Nashville killings led him on a path toward recognizing the limitations of biomedical frameworks for fully diagnosing or treating the impassioned complexities of American gun politics. Increasingly, as Dr. Metzl came to understand it, public health is a harder sell in a nation that fundamentally disagrees about what it means to be safe, healthy, or free. This brilliant, piercing analysis shows mass shootings as a symptom of our most unresolved national conflicts. What *We've Become* ultimately sets us on the path of alliance-forging, racial-reckoning, and political power-brokering we must take to put things right.

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Jonathan M. Metzl is the Frederick B. Rentschler II Professor of Sociology and Psychiatry and the director of the Department of Medicine, Health, and Society, at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Metzl is the award-winning author of seven books including *Dying of Whiteness* and *What We've Become: Living and Dying in a Country of Arms*. He hails from Kansas City, Missouri, and lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

