

John Quick
123 Any Street
Anytown, TN 37000
000-000-0000
john@johnquickfiction.com

Thriller
69,000 Words
Synopsis

HOMECOMING

Jonathan Wynder is terrified. After leaving home at sixteen, he ran away to Los Angeles with dreams of becoming a huge rock star in his eyes. He worked hard for ten long years, got a band together, recorded an album and went on tour. Once the tour was over, he took a look at the newest Billboard magazine. He should have been overjoyed when he saw the last single from that album rocketing up the charts, but he could only feel dread. He developed a nasty case of writer's block while on tour, and now will have to tell his manager that he has no new material to capitalize on this success, nor does he see any coming any time soon.

His manager insists that Jonathan see a psychiatrist. The man turns out to not be as bad as Jonathan had feared, allowing Jonathan to speak freely. The psychiatrist suggests that with the unpleasant way Jonathan left home and ignored everything that happened there, perhaps he has some skeletons left to bury before he can move on. Jonathan's parents had both been killed in a car accident, and he was estranged from his only sister. Come to grips with this, and he can write again. Unsure about the plan but desperate to write new material, Jonathan begins the journey back to Asgina, Alabama—his forgotten hometown.

Shortly after arriving back home, Jonathan encounters Mary Grange—the one thing about this town he actually missed. Mary is the girl he always dreamed of during school, but never pursued for fear of ruining their friendship. She is also the inspiration for the song that is poised to make him a star. Over dinner, the two realize they still have feelings for each other and begin the relationship they

never had the chance for years ago.

The next day, after a visit from another of his old friends, Jonathan begins trying to clean up the house his parents left him after their deaths. He finds a notebook hidden in his father's closet filled with information about the town. There is also a map inside covered with strange Native American symbols. As he ponders this, he is visited by the ghost of his father who tells him there is more going on in this town than meets the eye, and that Jonathan should dig deeper to find out the answers.

Jonathan's search leads him to Mary's boss, the oldest man in the town. The man tells Jonathan that the town is cursed, and gives him more places to look for information about it. Eventually Jonathan meets James Silverwolf, a Native American who is descended from the Cherokee who lived in the area long ago. Silverwolf confirms the existence of the curse and delivers some shocking news: now that Jonathan has begun looking into the curse, he has seventy-two hours to come up with a way to get rid of it, or he and Mary will be killed by it.

Jonathan calls his friend Jayme in from Los Angeles to help. Once he arrives, Silverwolf takes Jonathan on a spiritual journey in the tradition of his ancestors. The two take peyote, hoping for the spirits to give them a vision of the solution. Jonathan is given a vision that he is told shows what will be, what could be, and what is. From this he develops a possible solution.

The curse says that if you are born in this town, you will die in the town without ever being successful at trying to get away. Jonathan reasons that if he were to somehow be rendered clinically dead outside the town limits, the curse would be broken. He calls his psychiatrist in LA and convinces him to help with the plan. The psychiatrist flies out and refuses at first, until Jonathan explains that without the psychiatrist's help, Jonathan stands no chance of coming back. If he must, Jonathan says he will just shoot himself to get rid of the curse. Blackmailed, the psychiatrist agrees to help.

Jonathan and Jayme break into a local hospital to steal the drugs they will need to pull off

Jonathan's crazy plan. When they return, another visitor has arrived at Jonathan's inherited house—his sister Lisa. The two talk and begin to work out their issues with each other. Their reunion is short-lived however; as Lisa is killed by a lightning bolt as she sleepwalks into a field late that night.

Jonathan knows she has fallen victim to the curse, but is confused since she was not born in Asgina. Silverwolf suggests that perhaps being born in the town is not the catalyst for falling under the dominion of the curse. Instead, perhaps as long as the person is conceived there they are victim to it.

The funeral takes place quickly, and Jonathan knows his time is almost up. That night, the group heads to the outskirts of town to put the plan into motion. Before they get the chance, a tractor-trailer jackknifes, plowing into them, killing Silverwolf and the psychiatrist, and badly injuring Jonathan and Mary. Jayme is spared since he had wandered into the woods to urinate.

Jonathan awakens in the hospital, despondent that the plan didn't take place and confused as to why he was still alive since it didn't. Jayme explains that the curse was broken, just not in a way any of them expected. Mary was pregnant when the truck hit them, causing her to lose the baby. The child, conceived in Asgina, was killed outside the town limits, breaking the curse.

A year later, Jonathan steps off a stage and shares a moment with his new wife, Mary, their as-yet-unborn child, and Jayme. Mary tells Jonathan that his new album just hit number one on the charts. Jonathan is ecstatic. He has given up a lot, but has gained his dream and more happiness than he had hoped for. At long last, he is a success.