



Echoes of a Distant Summer

By Guy Johnson

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Echoes of a Distant Summer By Guy Johnson

“You done lived a tough life, boy, and I know I’m part responsible for that. I ain’t askin’ you to excuse me or forgive me. Just know I did the best I knew to do. I was just tryin’ to make you tough enough to deal with the world. To stand tall among men, I knew you had to be strong and have yo’ own mind.”

“You were preparing me for war, Grandfather.”

Guy Johnson, the author of the critically acclaimed debut *Standing at the Scratch Line*, continues the Tremain family saga.

Jackson St. Clair Tremain hasn’t spoken to his grandfather King in nearly twenty years. Disgusted by the violence and bloodlust that seemed to be his grandfather’s way of life, Jackson chose to distance himself from King and live a simpler life. But now King is gravely ill, and his impending death places Jackson’s life—as well as those of his family and friends—in jeopardy. Reluctantly, Jackson travels to Mexico to see King. But after a brief reconciliation, his grandfather is assassinated, and Jackson suspects that his grandmother Serena may have had a hand in it. Jackson takes control of King’s organization, and as he does, he reflects on the summers he spent in Mexico as a child and the lessons he learned there at the knee of his strong-willed, complex grandfather.

In *Echoes of a Distant Summer*, Guy Johnson introduces us to a new hero, Jackson St. Clair Tremain, who learns that, like his grandfather, he must be willing to protect those he loves—at all costs.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Set in 1982, this marvelously entertaining sequel to Johnson's well-received first novel, *Standing at the Scratch Line*, continues the mythic saga of King Tremain, a knife- and gun-wielding Prohibition-era Robin Hood. Leaving a bloody trail of corpses from the bayous of Louisiana to New York and San Francisco, King's fight for survival against overwhelming odds offers a deeply affecting metaphor for black America's struggle for dignity and rights in the 20th century. The sequel picks up with San Francisco civil servant Jackson Tremain being summoned to the deathbed of his estranged grandfather, former mob-enforcer King, who has spent the past 28 years exiled deep in Mexico after being framed for the murder of white cops in San Francisco. Jackson flies to Mexico just in time to learn that he is the heir to a \$50 million fortune. Returning to the Bay Area, Jackson learns that contracts are already out on his life from enemies determined to claim the fortune, and soon both he and his girlfriend are imperiled by King's old nemesis, bayou crime patriarch Pug DuMont, who's in cahoots with Bay Area mafiosi. Secret treasure, gang wars, voodoo, illegitimate heirs, damsels in distress in the hands of a lesser writer, this would be cheap pulp fiction, but the gifted Johnson gives sweep and emotional resonance to the action-packed hijinks.

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From Library Journal

Jackson Tremain, a successful and respected urban professional in Oakland, CA, in the early 1980s, is dragged back into a violent world he thought he had left behind when his dying grandfather, the legendary African American mobster King Tremain, summons him to his hideout in Mexico for a final meeting. Jackson learns that control of his grandfather's enormous financial empire will pass to him, but only on the condition that he first settles the score in a family feud stretching back 30 years. Jackson initially resists, but when thugs capture his elegant girlfriend, Elizabeth, he quickly remembers the lethal skills his grandfather taught him years before and swings into action. Johnson's sprawling narrative jumps back and forth from the 1950s to the 1980s, providing a capsule history of postwar Oakland. Partly an African American version of *The Godfather*, with a similar body count, this sequel achieves the high standard of page-turning readability as the first volume in the saga, *Standing at the Scratch Line*. For all public libraries. Edward B. St. John, Loyola Law Sch. Lib., Los Angeles

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From Booklist

King Tremain is dying in his stronghold in Mexico and wants to see his grandson and heir once more to transfer his wealth, his power, and his vendettas. Finally giving in to his grandfather's manipulations after 20 years of estrangement, Jackson Tremain makes the journey from San Francisco. Their reunion triggers old emotions and sparks in Jackson and a reluctant admiration for the old man, a hustler who has amassed an enormous fortune and powerful enemies, overcoming the restrictions typically suffered by black men of his generation. When Jackson's girlfriend is taken hostage by his grandfather's enemies, Jackson discovers that the old man's ruthless instincts lie just below the surface. He enlists the aid of a multicultural array of friends and allies in a bloody and dangerous rescue mission to Mexico. This is a fast-paced saga of violence, revenge, and redemption that ranges across three generations, and across the U.S and Mexico. *Vanessa Bush*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kelli Ross:

The ability that you get from Echoes of a Distant Summer is a more deep you looking the information that hide inside words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but Echoes of a Distant Summer giving you thrill feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the idea because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this specific Echoes of a Distant Summer instantly.

Carmen Flood:

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Victor Hubbard:

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David Trudeau:

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