

SYNOPSIS

Tyler Texas by Patrick S. Norman

Henry Jackson is an African-American man who grew up in the Jim Crow South of Mobile, Alabama during the 1950's and 60's. He has struggled, but runs a small business and quietly makes a life for himself and his family. In 1968, he is drafted and spends the next two years in Vietnam and Cambodia. He befriends a white man named John O'Hare and quickly become best friends.

During a fire fight in Cambodia, his friend John is killed and dies in his arms. At the same time back home, Henry's family dies tragically in a house fire and his life is left in tatters. After the funeral of his family, he decides to travel across the country to visit his sister. While passing through Richland, Mississippi he encounters two powerful racists, then inadvertently witnesses a man being hung at a Klan meeting. Infuriated, he methodically kills the two men responsible.

After leaving Mississippi, Henry stops in Tyler, Texas to check on his friend John's family. He reaches the ranch, but is saddened to find it in disrepair and its occupants confused and rudderless. He slowly develops friendships, meets different people and helps John's family put together the pieces of their shattered lives.

Unknown to Henry, a group of angry men figure out that it was Henry who killed the two Mississippi men. They slowly track him down, only to be caught at the last minute by Henry's new friends of Tyler Texas. In the end, after helping the community and John's family, Henry finds peace himself.