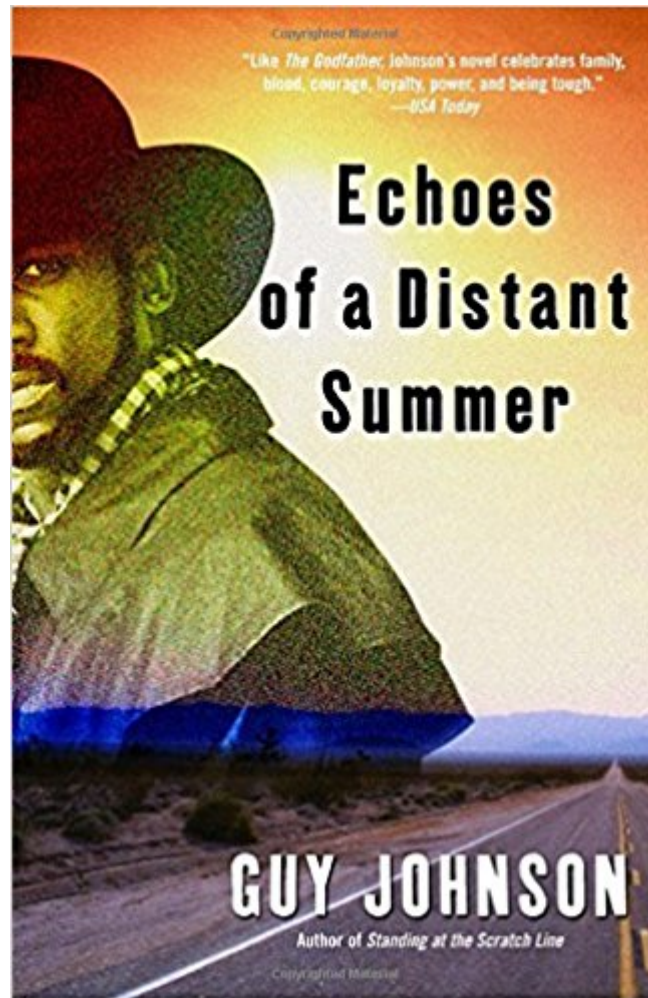




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# Echoes Of A Distant Summer



## Synopsis

“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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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 Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A must read, great American saga by a gifted novelist. Action, adventure, suspense and romance is contained within these pages. Echoes of a Distant Summer entrances and delights the senses.

Written using great descriptive prose, the story wraps you in a world that almost suspends belief. I can hardly wait for the next installation.

King Tremain...he is a BAD boy ! Jackson Tremain...he too is a BAD boy ! This book together with Standing At The Scratch Line, for me, was as exciting as The Count Of Monte Cristo, which is my all time favorite book. And believe me I have read some great books. Adventure novels are just one of my many interest in literature. And if you have a broad interest in books you will truly enjoy these two companion books. After reading each book I wondered how much was true [from his grandfather's stories he had heard] and how much was from Mr. Johnson's amazing writing skills. As I sit and write this brief review of this book I read a few months ago I still can only think...WOW...what an adventure. I can only hope Guy Johnson has another great story to tell.

I don't know how Maya can keep so silent about the great writing skills of her only child -- her son, Guy Johnson. I couldn't wait to read this 2nd part of his saga of the life and line of King Tremaine. I want so much to ask Tyler Perry to make this book and Part 1, "Standing at the Scratch Line" into an action movie so blacks the world over can see a black Superman-Spiderman-Al Capone all rolled into one hero. This is a GREAT read -- full of suspense and action. In all of my reading, Johnson is the first writer I've found who writes action novels. If you read Pt 1, you won't be able to wait to read Pt 2. I've read all of Maya Angelou's books, I've enjoyed them all, and wish to take nothing from her skills as a writer, but her son is simply a MUCH greater writer than his mom. She should be a very proud mom!

This is the second time I've read both of Guy Johnson's books. To say I enjoy reading his books is an understatement. I have recommended his books and am looking forward to the day he continues the story with a trilogy. This entire story would make one check of a movie - on par with the Godfather.

Do we have to get find and send a director to Guy Johnson with a plane full of actors... someone get this to the big screen! If Tyler Perry can commercialize Madea, I am confused why we can't have these books made into a movie. Heck, I have someone willing to do it! Let's face it, the world isn't a perfect place and less than perfect personalities bring out some interesting public discourse (Black women made Madea). Not all our inspirational people are noble God fearing and pious so why should our make believe "larger than life" folk be any different. One reviewer examined the historic

accuracy of the book. While being a noble observation it misses the point that Black Folk, African Americans ...and for that fact Americans and the world need to be able to tell the truth in real historic events let alone the fictional stories. Further, in bring on a sense of Black Folk place in this world, there is still much to do with dismantling the ridiculous vision of the timid, unlearned, unpatriotic, lazy, morally bankrupt Black Male that American has underwritten for all these hundreds of years. How long will these perpetuate? Answer: Until Black Folk change these images and begin telling their own stories... one by one; fiction and non-fiction alike. Lord knows, currently there aren't enough Black Historians to undo the less than honest works of the legions of half-truth historians America has seen and not enough Jewish historians to care (much Black is written by our Jewish friends). These stories will, like the lies that preceded them, go a long way toward gaining a foothold on the destiny of human kind everywhere.. not just Black Folk! Our destiny is tied together and human kind will never be whole nor great until nobody is allowed to be viewed as "less than."

AMAZING BOOK, KEPT ME ON THE EDGE OF MY SEAT THE ENTIRE TIME. WOULD READ AGAIN!

There are no perfect books but this book touched me in so many different ways it's hard to explain! I first read it in hard back and had to read it again in digital. Excellent read for our your men who are lost and without family! Thanks Mr. Johnson for sharing your vision!

The only reason I'm giving this book 4 stars instead of 5 was because it wasn't quite as good as the prequel. It came very close but I thought that the book before this one was a little better. This was definitely a book that I had a hard time putting down. Every time i would pick a stopping point in the book. Yet when I got there it would be another exciting part of the book and I just had to find out what happened. This is certainly a book that makes it hard to get any work done no matter where you are. Although I'm not sure if that's a good thing or a bad thing. Lol

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