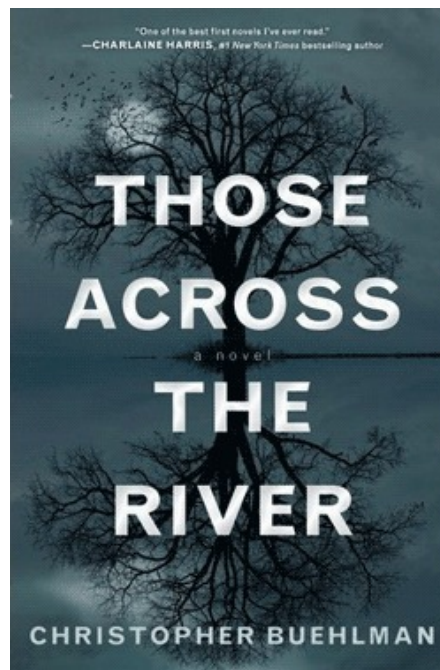




Those Across the River

Christopher Buehlman

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Failed academic Frank Nichols and his wife, Eudora, have arrived in the sleepy Georgia town of Whitbrow, where Frank hopes to write a history of his family's old estate-the Savoyard Plantation- and the horrors that occurred there. At first, the quaint, rural ways of their new neighbors seem to be everything they wanted. But there is an unspoken dread that the townsfolk have lived with for generations. A presence that demands sacrifice.

It comes from the shadowy woods across the river, where the ruins of Savoyard still stand. Where a longstanding debt of blood has never been forgotten.

A debt that has been waiting patiently for Frank Nichols's homecoming...

Those Across the River Details

Date : Published September 6th 2011 by Ace (first published 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Christopher Buehlman

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Mystery, Fantasy, Historical, Historical Fiction, Paranormal, Thriller

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From Reader Review Those Across the River for online ebook

Mike (the Paladin) says

[werewolf (hide spoiler)]

Megan says

Oh, we fell in love! And Eudora looks like a Sphinx. She is Sphinx-like. Like a Sphinx, she is. And we sweat! It is so hot that we sweat, and we make love a lot. Like, A LOT. *LOTS*. And we get sweaty. Like the sweaty Negroes. There are Negroes about and sometimes I suck up to the Negroes, and sometimes the Negroes make me feel awkward. And sometimes, kinda racist. While I sweat with my sexy sphinx-like Eudora. And The Great War messed me up, and The States War messed everybody up, and there is a sad dark secret across the river, like the malignant shame of racism, or the soul sucking horror of war. Plus, (view spoiler)

Lou says

Francis Nichols inherits a house and its possessions from his departed Aunt in Whitbrow. But this comes with a stark warning from her to sell the property and keep the money and not to live there. She warned him that bad blood lies in that dwelling and the place will smell out what's in you and claim you for it's own.

Something insidious is gathering attention from across the river. One by one people go missing and turn up dead. This story is a good old chiller of an intriguing tale of something in the woods mysterious. There is going to be some hunting as the towns folk try to stand their ground instead of running. Once I passed halfway of this story I was totally gripped and it became a real page-turning story, I really did not expect it to be that kind of horror was really enjoyable ride. The main protagonist and his partner should have never came to this town as his Aunt advised, 4as the town's future looks bleak. They are about to reap the bad seeds they have sowed as the produce show their faces.

[Review also here](#)

Panagiotis says

Ήταν τ?λειωσα το Between two fires του Buehlman, ε?χα πει πως σ?γουρα θα διαβ?σω ?λα του τα βιβλ?α. Τ?τοιος Ήταν ο ενθουσιασμ?ς μου και τ?τοια η βεβαι?τητα πως ε?χα βρει ?ναν συγγραφ?α που θα αγαπ?σω. Που θα τον τοποθετ?σω δ?πλα στους ?λλους δυο που ?χω μ?σα στην καρδι? μου.

Είναι κρ?σιμος ο αριθμ?ς των αγαπημ?νων συγγραφέων: πρ?πει να ε?ναι αρκε?ντως μικρ?ς για να δικαιολογε? τον τ?τλο αυτ?ς της ιερ?ρχησης. Πρ?πει ?μως να επιτρ?πει στον αναγν?στη μια ασφ?λεια π?ς σε μια ε?λογη χρονικ? συχν?τητα θα διαβ?ζει βιβλ?α που καλ?πτουν πλ?ρως τις αναγνωστικ?ς του αν?γκες. Επ?σης, καλ? θα ε?ναι να πρ?κειται για ζωνταν?ς συγγραφε?ς, αλλι?ς να ?χουν αφ?σει π?σω τους μια τερ?στια εργογραφ?α.

Ο Buehlman με το?το εδ? το βιβλ?ο εισ?ρχεται πανηγυρικ? στην κ?στα των λ?γων, συμπληρ?νοντας την τριαρχ?α της προσωπικ?ς μου κορυφ?ς. Μεταφ?ρει τον αναγν?στη στην Αμερικ? της κρ?σης, μετ? το ?λος του Α' Παγκοσμ?ου πολ?μου. ?που ο πρωταγωνιστ?ς, ?νας ιστορικ?ς ακαδημα?κ?ς, μαζ? με την συμβ?α του, βρ?σκουν καταφ?γιο απ? το παρελθ?ν, σε ?να σπ?τι στην ?παιθρο της Τζ?ρτζια, σε μια μικρ? π?λη. Ο τρ?πος που κλιμακ?νεται το μυστ?ριο και ακολο?θως ο τρ?μος που κατοικε? στα δ?ση εκε?νης της περιοχ?ς, ε?ναι ?χι μ?νο υποδειγματικ?ς για το ε?δος, αλλ? ξεφε?γει απ? τα ?ρια και τις συμβ?σεις του ε?δους. Δεν εντ?σσεται σε κ?ποιο γνωστ? ε?δος η γραφ? του και αυτ? τον κ?νει ξεχωριστ?. Εμ?να στο νου μου ?φερε τ?σο σ?γχρονους ?σο και κλασικ?ς συγγραφε?ς. Πρ?πει δε να λατρε?ει τον Sloane. ?σως επικοινων?ν με κ?ποιον τρ?πο μ?σα απ? τον σχεδ?ν ?ναν αι?να που τους χωρ?ζει και ο Buehlman σ' αυτ? το βιβλ?ο συνεχ?ζει την σ?ντομη αλλ? σπουδα?α κληρονομι? του συγγραφέα των ασ?λληπτα εξαιρετικ?ν δ?ο ιστορι?ν του The Rim of Morning. Γιατ? ?χει κι αυτ?ς ?ναν τρ?πο να μιλ?ει για πρ?ματα παρ?ξένα και σκιαχτικ?, δ?χως ποτ? να ξεχν?ει π?ς γρ?φει πρωτ?στως λογοτεχν?α. Δι?βασα δι?σπαρτα σχ?λια που τον συγκρ?νουν με δι?φορους παλι?ς σπουδα?ους Αμερικ?νους, οι οπο?οι δεν ?χουν καμ?α σχ?ση με το λεγ?μενο genre fiction και αυτ? επιβεβαι?νει την γν?μη που σχημ?τισα για τον Buehlman: ε?ναι ?να σπ?νιο ε?δος συγγραφέα, ο οπο?ος αντιμετωπ?ζει μια εγκληματικ? ?γνοια απ? κοιν? και κριτικ?ς, εν? θα ?πρεπε να απολαμβ?νει την φ?μη εν?ς πρωτοκλασ?του δημιουργ?.

Η ευρυμ?θει? του συγγραφέα, οι εξαιρετικο? του χαρακτ?ρες, ο λ?γο μ?τσο αλλ? την ?δια στιγμή αυτοσαρκαστικ?ς πρωταγωνιστ?ς, που με οξ?νοια και μια κλασικ? αντρικ? γοητε?α φ?ρεται και ?γεται, οι ουσιαστικο? δι?λογο? του και ?να γοητευτικ?ς ορθολογισμ?ς που διακρ?νει την αφ?γησ? του (και προδ?δει ?να αμιγ?ς επιστημονικ? μυαλ? αν ?χι ιδι?τητα, του συγγραφέα), μου φ?ρνει στον νου το Gene Wolfe, τον ?ναν απ? τους δ?ο μ?χρι πρ?τινος αγαπημ?νους μου συγγραφε?ς. Π?ση χαρ? λοιπ?ν που αυτ? το βιβλ?ο επιβεβ?ωσε τις προσδοκ?ες που ε?χα ?δη απ? το πρ?το του π?ς επρ?κειτο να αγαπ?σω τον Buehlman και αν?λπιστα μου εμπλο?τισε την πολ?τιμη, βραχε?α λ?στα των αγαπημ?νων συγγραφέων. Για αυτ? το τελευτα?ο και μ?νο, θα π?ρει 5 αστ?ρια.

Θα κλε?σω κ?νοντας μια μικρ? αποτ?μηση: αυτ? τη στιγμ? οι δ?ο απ? τους τρε?ς αγαπημ?νους μου συγγραφε?ς ε?ναι εγκληματικ? ?γνωστοι στο ευρ? κοιν?. Ε?τε τα γο?στα μου ε?ναι βλαμμ?να ε?τε ο υπ?λοιπος κ?σμος μαστ?ζεται απ? χαζομ?ρα, αδικ?α και μια αυθαίρεσ?α στις προτιμ?σεις του - η αξιοκρατ?α ε?ναι χωλ?, ανεπαρκ?ς. Τε?νω να πιστε?ω το δε?τερο. ?πως ?χω ξαναπε? δεν ?χω π?στη στις αρετ?ς της ανθρωπ?τητας, πρ?γμα που αποδεικν?εται ?μπρακτα μ?σα απ? την μικρογραφ?α της εξ?σου ?τακτης και χα?δους αναγνωστικ?ς κοιν?τητας.

Διαβ?στε και στηρ?ξτε καλ?ς συγγραφε?ς! Για να βγαν?ουν κι ?λλα καλ? βιβλ?α και να περιορ?ζονται οι ανοησ?ες. Αυτ?ς που π?φτουν στα χ?ρια των αρχ?ριων και διαμορφ?νουν ολ?κληρες τ?σεις στον κινηματογρ?φο που τις τρ?με στην μ?πα κ?θε χρ?νο.

Sarah says

The only thing worse than a bad book is a book that starts out promisingly good and then goes straight to hell.

What I liked:

The book starts out brilliantly, with a narrator whose speech patterns are spot-on for the time period of 1935. It drives me nuts when historical novels sound as though they're populated by modern actors. The place-building was very well-done, which meant that when a pall started to fall over the small town, the reader really feels it. The ability to make a reader cringe in anticipation is an incredible authorial skill, and I salute Mr. Buehlman for his talent in creating dread.

What began to bring my grade down:

This is a purely personal nitpick, mind, but once the villains turned out to be werewolves, I was flat-out let down. With all the build-up and dramatic tension, I was expecting something more than a hoary old take on the Southern Rou-garous.

What made me want to stomp up and down on this book until it begged for mercy:

Jesus H Christ, the racefail. I was already a little >.> about the repeated use of racial slurs against the black characters in this book, though I realize it is completely historically accurate. It just seems that there's historically accurate, and then there's abusing the privilege. There's a scene where a black man regards the narrator's wife, and the narrator is filled with the urge to shout epithets. So all of this wouldn't have bothered me until...

****MAJOR SPOILERS****

The head villain turns out to be a slave who revolted against his master. And who proceeds to turn and therefore steal and rape the hero's wife. Because there's no weird cultural narratives about black men running off to do bad things to white women, or anything. Of all the opportunities to create a viable and terrifying villain, you go with the slave who turned against his master after years and years of torture? REALLY? And do horrible horrible things happen to the adulteress wife? OF COURSE THEY DO.

It's just so fucking clueless. I mean, you have these black savage characters, but then there's a white man who's ALSO a werewolf, only he's able to control his nature. Someone just needs to hit this book with the clue bat until it goes back to the promise it showed in the beginning.

Ellen Gail says

“But when I make a good [taxidermy] mount I feel like I beat God in a small way. As though the Almighty said, Let such critter be dead, and I said, 'Fuck You, he can still play the banjo.’”

Creepy, unexpectedly funny, and all around a great read.

Look. The woods are fucking scary.

And what's deep in the woods, across the river? Well. That's even scarier.

Christopher Buehlman does a great job of atmosphere. The dread, the southern heat, the creeping badness is all super present. He takes a caring and delicate touch with devolving his characters, intricately carving their personalities before soaking them in blood.

I feel like when I review, I either spoil the plot to fuck-it-all heaven, or say very little about it. For this one, I'll say little, aside from crowing that it's monstrously enjoyable. You get these hints only: infidelity, torture, chompy-chompy, nightmares, SPOOKY TREES, an eccentric taxidermist, guns, racism, and the repeating nature of history and violence.

That's all you get. If you enjoy spooky funny things, just go read it.

That's it.

jv poore says

Ignorance is bliss. Sometimes, "because we've always done it" is the best answer. Some things are better left alone, even when they appear to defy logic. So, when a well-meaning couple move into a odd little town, to embark on a simpler life their efforts to be helpful have quite the opposite effect.

When they question the apparently illogical practice of farmers sending pigs, as offerings, across the river; while times are so tough that the meat of those pigs could sustain several families in town, they set in motion the unimaginable horror that not only ruins their lives, but wipes the small town off of the map.

This creepy tale is well woven. Pulled in quickly, I found myself turning the pages so quickly that I finished this book in one day. This book could make the likes of Dean Koontz, Steven King and John Saul feel the shivers. If you love horror and are looking for something different, this is the book for you!

Char says

Those Across the River is my first Buehlman, but will not be my last. In fact, I downloaded another of his books just now.

I recently got a new phone that came with some fancy earbuds, so I decided to head over to Overdrive and check out an audio from my library, so I could try them out. I saw this book available and remembered that my friend Tressa had just recommended me a book by this author a few days previous. I downloaded **Those Across the River** knowing nothing about it, and I think that was the best way to go in to this story.

Set mostly in GA in the early 1930's, a damaged WWI veteran moves down from Chicago to a house he has recently inherited. In the letter he received about the inheritance he was warned not to actually *live* in the house, but of course, he does so anyway-along with his fiance Eudora. What follows is a well told, atmospheric and creepy story that went in a totally different direction than what I expected. There's nothing

new or extraordinary here, but a well told and atmospheric story is always welcome on my Kindle, (and now on my phone!), and I enjoyed this immensely.

The narrator, Mark Bramhall, was absolutely phenomenal-I loved his Southern accents and voicing-they brought the story alive for me. I will be keeping an eye out for more of his work in the future. As for right now? I'm on to my next Christopher Buehlman book!

I highly recommend the audio of this novel!

José says

Podés encontrar esta y otras reseñas en mi blog.

Uno de los mejores libros que leí el año pasado fue el excelente *Between Two Fires* , escrito por Christopher Buehlman. Por eso este año me propuse leer sus demás trabajos siguiendo el orden de publicación, lo cual me llevó a leer este libro que fue su primera novela.

A primera vista parece ser la típica novela acerca de un pueblito siniestro con una leyenda oscura en el que ocurren cosas extrañas; sin embargo, la originalidad de este libro está en la forma en la que el autor crea el ambiente para desarrollar este cuento de terror.

Buehlman se caracteriza por ambientar sus historias en diferentes épocas históricas y en este caso «Los del otro lado» nos transporta al período de entreguerras, caracterizado por una profunda crisis económica e incertidumbre en la mayoría de los ciudadanos. La forma en la que el autor describe este escenario es fenomenal, pues lo hace a partir de la experiencia de los personajes.

Considero que los protagonistas, junto con el ambiente oscuro y pesimista en el que transcurre la historia, son el punto fuerte de la historia. Tanto Frank como Dora son personajes muy interesantes y leer sus diálogos realmente es como "escuchar" una conversación entre personas que vivieron en esa época.

Frank es un personaje muy original porque es un veterano de la Primera Guerra Mundial que sufre de estrés postraumático. Se podrán imaginar que las pesadillas que sufre Frank como consecuencia de la guerra juegan un papel muy importante en esta historia; me encantó la forma en la cual el terror no solo se encuentra al otro lado del río, sino que también el propio protagonista debe combatir con los demonios que habitan dentro de su cabeza.

Se puede decir que es una novela "lenta" en el sentido de que el terror demora un poco en aparecer. Sin embargo, esto no me pareció malo porque en la primera parte se van acumulando algunos datos oscuros que Frank comienza a averiguar para escribir su libro y recién terminan siendo explicados por completo al final del libro; es como que todo el tiempo sabemos que algo horrible va a suceder, y Buehlman juega con esa ansiedad que nos generan los secretos del siniestro pueblito de Whitbrow.

No puedo decir cuál es el secreto que descubre Frank porque arruinaría todo el libro, solo voy a decir que es una forma bastante original de tratar uno de los temas clásicos dentro de la literatura del terror. Hasta ahora todos los libros de Buehlman que he leído abarcan tópicos clásicos, pero el enfoque que les da es lo que convierten a sus historias en algo único.

Si tuviera que destacar algo negativo de este libro es que hubo momentos en que se volvió demasiado sobrenatural o fantasioso para mi gusto, como que esas partes en particular no encajaron en el resto del libro. De todas formas es un mínimo inconveniente y es imposible darse cuenta de que es la primera novela escrita

por este autor, el ritmo de la historia es perfecto y el final me dejó muy satisfecho.

Calificación 8.5/10

«Los del otro lado» es una novela de muy entretenida y se asemeja mucho a una historia de terror clásica. La originalidad de este libro se encuentra en los personajes y el maravilloso ambiente oscuro y pesimista que se mantiene a lo largo de todo el relato. Es un libro que juega mucho con la ansiedad del lector, la cual es provocada por los diferentes datos que va averiguando el protagonista y que recién son revelados en la segunda mitad de forma espectacular y aterradora.

Christopher Buehlman es un excelente autor y lo recomiendo; por el momento todos sus libros me han parecido brillantes. Lamentablemente este es el único de sus libros que está disponible en español.

Dirk Grobbelaar says

*By and by I slept.
And, alas, I dreamed.*

A singularly lyrical and beautifully written debut novel that creeps right up on you.

It will be dark soon.

The story burns slowly for the first half of the book, but it manages to create an almost unbearable amount of tension. *Those Across The River* just drips with atmosphere. The author works with a standard horror convention here, but by cleverly introducing elements of the Southern Gothic and setting his story in the 1930s, when memories of both the American Civil War and the First World War can be drawn on, he has possibly created a masterpiece.

*I heard the news the next day at the general store.
Friday the thirteenth.
A hard-luck day, all right.*

Some comparisons have been drawn with Stephen King, but I imagine that this is more akin to the works of Peter Straub, especially as far as the pacing is concerned. However, Buehlman does not, with this novel, strive to reach the same scope of such established authors. Rather, he keeps his story fairly lean and tidy, to powerful effect.

Gooseflesh went up my left side as I remembered what had been watching me the last time I was here.

Across the titular river lies the woods. Don't go into the woods. The woods become a character in the hands of Mr Buehlman, and will cause you more than a little discomfort...

And that's not saying anything about those who inhabit the woods. Those across the river.

My parameters of belief were becoming more and more negotiable, and they weren't nearly done stretching.

The degradations, depravity and mayhem of the last third or so of the story stands in **stark** contrast to the measured earlier sequences. Some may argue that this is where the book falls apart. This is certainly where **things** fall apart for the protagonist(s) and I doubt if there would have been a better way to punctuate exactly this. Things do go belly up in more ways than one, and you will squirm a bit before you're through. What

were you expecting?

This was like a temple to madness.

In conclusion: this was, to me, a fine example of Literary Horror with some edgier elements toward the end. I am going to rate it highly. It raises some questions and does not quite answer **all** of them, leaving just enough food for thought...

Noëlibrarian says

I began this book yesterday when I was supposed to be weeding, continued it when I was supposed to be making dinner, and finished it when I was supposed to be sleeping.

At 3 o'clock this morning, I had a terrible nightmare in which someone was eating my feet, and I woke up and tucked my feet firmly under the sheet and was certain that I couldn't fall back to sleep, but I was too scared to stay awake.

I slept horribly, just as Mr. Buehlman intended, the lousy bastard.

Richard says

Sigh . This book had such great potential and loads of missed opportunities.

It follows a couple, Frank and Eudora, moving to a small town in the Depression-era South. Frank has inherited a house and land that stretches back generations and he travels there to write what he hopes to be a bestseller about the violent history of his great grandfather's slave plantation that lies in the mysterious woods across the river. Soon, after arriving, the town is terrorized by...dunh dunh dunh! Those Across The River!

The novel begins in a very similar way to 'Salem's Lot, with no major action happening until about halfway through both books, instead focusing on the going-ons around the small town. But while Stephen King's novel took this time to really get to know the small town so that when the horror happens to the community, it's truly affecting, Buehlman's novel spends a large chunk of its time with Frank's mostly unnecessary dreams about his time in war and the couple's extremely healthy sex life. They literally make hot, sweaty, love every other chapter! Now, I'm no prude; I love sex just like everyone else and would love to have it all day like this couple, but I don't care about reading it when I should be reading about things that truly develop the story. And I may be biased about dream sequences, because I rarely think they work very well in stories, but for the life of me, I still can't figure out what they had to do with the story in any way. I mean, I guess they developed Frank's character a little, but maybe I could've just read one, not FIFTEEN repetitive dreams! Most of those pages that featured sex and dreams could've been used for something more useful.

I won't spoil what lies beyond the river, but the time spent building the suspense was effective and creepy, and once the action kicks off, it's at times very exciting, but eventually, it feels like Buehlman just ran out of steam and couldn't figure out how to finish it. A true, satisfying climax is missing! A great build-up of what lies across the river, and then the potential just peters out. The great character of Martin Cramner has SOOO much potential for interesting ideas and scenes, and nothing much happens with him either! Again, this book really had many chances to be great, and they were either flubbed in the messy storytelling or hijacked by

hot sex or dreams of trench warfare.

Steven Walle says

This is an excellent read. I recommend you do not read it at night, however.

This book is about a man who is haunted by dreams of the war and his wife move down to Georgia where the small town of Witblow stops a long running tradition of "Chacing the Pigs." As soon as this happens, all hell breaks loose. There are scarey things which live in the rhelm between belief and disbelief. I would recommend this to a mature audience.

Strong language and explisit descriptions of sex
Enjoy and Be Blessed.
Diamond

Sara says

If Tennessee Williams wrote horror fiction this is what it would read like. "Those Across the River" is old school horror written by a poet. This is what I want every horror novel to be when I pick it up.

Haunted by a scandalous past Frank Nichols and his beloved wife Eudora have arrived in Whitford, Georgia, where Frank is hoping to revive his nearly decimated academic career by writing a book about his ancestors who once owned a large plantation in the town. Whitford has a great many secrets and some traditions that seem ignorant and downright idiotic to the young couple. As one might expect things do not turn out at all well when they decide to try to change things in this sleepy little southern town. There are things in Whitford that don't like change.

Buehlman spends a terrific amount of time painting the people and the town itself with a wonderfully broad and colorful brush, we come to know these people intimately. Which makes what happens in the final parts of the book so sad and terrifying. I came to care about characters that a less talented author would have treated as set dressing.

Another key to the wonder this book held for me is the passionate, deeply loving relationship between Eudora and Frank. These two absolutely adore each other. They have gone to great lengths to be together and the reader can feel the strength that bond gives them.

Buehlman is also careful to tease his readers very carefully with the mystery that surrounds Whitford. We see early on that something just ain't right here but Buehlman takes his sweet time getting there and the tension is terrific. There are some amazingly gripping scenes in the bayous surrounding the town that made my hair stand on end and all I was reading about was a bunch of men searching through the swamps not knowing what they were even looking for.

For those with weak stomachs? It isn't really until the final pages that things take a turn for the graphic. Its been several months since I read the book and there's still one image that I haven't quite been able to scrub from my brain. But I honestly think that has more to do with the power of Buehlman's word choices and how he crafts the scenes and less to do with the actual moments in the story itself.

I truly loved this book. It was haunting and horribly violent yet romantic and deeply sad. Buehlman is an incredibly gifted wordsmith who's every novel I look forward to snapping up.

Lena says

"WHEN NIGHT CAME down on Whitbrow it came down hard. It came down like an army that had been waiting for the chance to sack and plunder the roost of its ancient foe."

I think I'm going to have to read everything Christopher Buehlman writes. This is horror the way I like it: old monsters in new worlds, well constructed plots, and a shocking lack of pity for his characters or even his readers.

Frank and Eudora are disgraced Yankee educators who made the questionable choice to move down to small town Georgia when Frank's estranged aunt leaves them her house. A house she tells them to sell. A town Frank's mother ran away from at 15. A town near a plantation renowned for its cruelty and infamous end. A plantation owned by Frank's great grandfather.

I could hear the screams coming from miles away...

(view spoiler)
