

Grant's Station is the short story of a man lost within this world, as well as the spiritual. A tent sitting outside of a small Texas town and his willingness to accept a higher calling cause Jon to search for a place to call home. This search will lead him back to the roots of his youth. Jon finds true love during a quest of redemption on this earth - a love that will last for generations to come.

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Stephen Hobbs

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Chapter Four

Jon's travel during the next four years would take him many places but never Missouri. He was a vagabond and several times, he almost starved to death. A cowboy and cook's helper on a chuck wagon until his misplaced campfire burned the chuck wagon to the ground. He roamed Texas and the Territory of Oklahoma. Never a time did he know peace or happiness, and several times, he pushed the limits of survival.

Jon was leaning on a shovel, as he had one more stable to clean when something in his memory recalled a place called home. He stuck the shovel handle in the pile of horse manure and walked away.

He had no idea where he was and he thought Texas, but he was wrong. Jon was walking hungry and tired. If he only knew how close he was to where his father and mother had tried to build a life, his act of desperation during the following day may have never entered his mind.

Jon out of options and starving, stumbled into a town that seem destined for a better time. Unaware now and not until a decade later would Jon know this was not the town's destiny, but his own.

He had entered the town going the wrong way as west seemed his mortal direction. As if he had been born in, a place where the only direction was west it angered him so to continue being lost.

Jon was dirty and ragged but he found comfort with a family who took him in. Fed, bathed, and clothed the night was a dark cloak and he felt loss in his mind.

STEPHEN HOBBS

He awoke the next morning ill physically as well as mentally and he knew this day could become spontaneous as he awoke in the loft above the stables. He shoveled the stables below for his breakfast seething in his own anger. Once done and his breakfast in hand, he ate it in silence east of town by the cemetery, where he knew he would be alone. He was not alone as he thought, but spiritually he was dead.

Jon can only watch as the people of the village go about their daily lives and his desperation grew to be one of them. However, nothing in his life was stable and had not been since and he paused, as he could not remember such a time. Why could he not belong as others had? Was he always to be an outcast? It was then that Jon's mind broke from reality and things became irrational, his actions were not those of his own but a man who had reached the end of his rope. As he walked down the street, it was Jon but again it was not, as he strode into the bank and reality went very blank within his twisted mind.

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