

“Teensy’s Daughter” is a story I wrote in the winter of 2010 about a man who is haunted by the girlfriend who perished at his hand. Yet unlike other stories I had written, after I finished the piece the characters remained with me. The more I sat with them, the more I discovered, and by the summer of 2011 I realized that I had begun a novel-in-stories.

*Teensy’s Daughter* follows two decades of people in the fictional town of Ingleside, Indiana, as they are forced to give up their livelihood as farmers. When an amusement park—Glory Days—is erected on ground that once nurtured corn and beans, the townspeople’s attachment to the land is threatened and in some cases severed. The pageantry of the park ushers in dark times. This change is experienced most intimately through the characters of Teensy and his daughter Luann. Teensy, like most of the people in this town, loses his farm, but his connection to the land endures. He struggles to make sense of his place in a community no longer interested in what once was. Through it all Teensy attempts to transcend this uncertainty and sudden malice amidst his disintegrating relationship with his daughter.