

# Kudzu

By Anna Rose Woodliff

Greetings,

I have written a horror feature which takes place deep in the Mississippi wilderness. You may be familiar with the leafy vine known as Kudzu that takes over everything in its path. It is quite eerie to behold and is both the inspiration and title of my story.

Kudzu is about an African American family living in an old house on the precipice of a great expanse of Kudzu. The father, David Green, is a deputy sheriff who is haunted still by his father's disappearance when he was 14, the same age his daughter Avery is now.. Avery has her own demons as she struggles with panic attacks and severe social anxiety. Her only friend is Annie Carver, daughter of the town preacher. But when Annie's parent's call David in a panic, the Green family becomes increasingly concerned. A notorious serial killer, Dan Carney, is on the run and was reportedly seen yesterday in a white Corolla driving down Highway 49, prompting county wide road blocks. David finds Carney's car sunk in a river near the Carver property, right before Annie's body is found, slaughtered.

David and several other teams start a wide ranging search party to find Dan Carney in the wilderness. But it becomes clear that there is something far more sinister going on. An evil force lurks in the Kudzu, with an ancient bloodlust driving it to kill . In a terrifying progression of events, both FBI and civilian teams are slaughtered, and the predator is after David next. After discovering Dan Carney's dead body, David realizes he is in immediate danger. As he runs with Annie's father, John Carver, he falls and is badly injured. John Carver hides David and sacrifices himself to draw the Demonic Spirit away. David's wife Joyce, their 17 year old son Tristan, and older family friend, Claire, enter the Kudzu wilderness to rescue him. But it is the shy and anxious Avery who saves the family at the last minute. Using her love of music and her sensitivity, Avery combines a knowledge of resonant frequency with the prayers of the spiritual sage Claire and destroys the evil spirit.

This is a suspenseful action-packed story full of mystery. The audience may guess there is more going on than just a missing fugitive, but they are kept in the dark as to what. The rustling of the leaves foreshadows something evil hiding out of sight. A low rumbling noise causes Avery and others emotional distress when the Demonic Spirit is close, but the sound is experienced rather than audibly heard. I grew up in Mississippi as a preacher's daughter and I wanted to incorporate the prayers and Christian faith of my upbringing with new scientific discoveries involving energy and frequency. At its heart, this is the story of a family who feels run down by an unfair world and how they overcome all odds to defeat the monster that nobody else could. Through harrowing circumstances, they find the power that was within them all along. David

finds his late father's baseball cap right before Dan Carney's dead body is discovered. He realizes that his father did not abandon them; he was killed by whatever demonic force lay rest below the vine. David has been holding on too tightly to control out of fear of losing another loved one. Now, he must learn to surrender and let go. Avery learns there is nothing wrong with her- she is not weak or broken, and being sensitive is ultimately her greatest strength.

The theme of Kudzu is connection. We feel it in the dense air of Mississippi summer and the deep vibrational noises that permeate the air when the demonic spirit is nearby. The family is connected to the land, to the history of the land, to the energy of the land. The prayers of our ancestors lay a path for the steps we take today. Death and rebirth are an essential part of a connected universe. And love is the ultimate power that overcomes the old to create the new.

For reference, I would say Kudzu is sort of Predator (1987) meets Signs set in the religious world of the deep south.

Please check out my tumblr as a visual aid. [www.kudzumovie.tumblr.com](http://www.kudzumovie.tumblr.com)

Thank you for your time and have a wonderful day!