

The original opening lines for
Lasting Impressions written in 1990.

CHAPTER ONE

The three hearses drove sombrely up the dirt roadway. Trailing closely behind was a procession of over one hundred cars. Their headlights turned on, broadcasting to the world that death is just a breath away for everyone us.

Today's funerals are more than a simple reminder of mortality. They have stirred up far more emotion than any other event has in Lasting, since the Great Depression hit. Political scandals; sex scandals; criminal scandals; all pale in comparison to what had just hit this small town. The problem is no one is certain how this type of occurrence could have happened to them.

Three bright teenagers. Three bright futures. Three stark ~~suicides.~~ *deaths.*

"Who is to blame?", was the most common question asked in the past week. "They all seemed so . . . well . . . normal. Didn't they?"