John Grisham is one of my favorite authors, and I was happy to see this new book on the shelves of Jefferson Carnegie Library. The book starts off “Oh a cold morning in early October of 1966” and is the story of Pete Banning, recently returned from World War II. His family, a boy and his younger sister, are away at college, and his wife has been committed to an asylum mental institution.

He signed his coffee and thought, “Today would be the last day of his life to live it, and he had accepted this. He had no choice.” He went to Glanton, Mississippi and shot the Methodist pastor three times.

Part One of the book is entitled “The Killing,” details Banning’s trial through his death. Part Two, “The Island of Words,” is a flashback to Pete’s time in the Philippines, where he was part of the prisoners that were forced on the Bataan Death March. His wife confirmed that he had been committed and was pronounced dead.

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