*We need a book cover design (front and back cover) for a novel called "Drifting Too Far from the Shore" by Niles Reddick.*

*The novel is funny and evokes small town South through the thoughts and adventures of an elderly widow named Muddy. It deals with tragic Southern history, gospel songs, Southern food, family, growing older and beliefs.*

*Items that are symbolic representations for the story could possibly include: patchwork quilt (it brings the main character comfort, allows her to “drift” into sleep, is symbolic of the past and represents family, and is something* that will survive her and is handed down to the next generation.) antique convertible (Nash or T-bird), nature (pines, peaches, flowers), news articles (the main character has collected all these stories from the newspaper) the shoebox she keeps them in, or even an old man falling off a toilet.   
  
The front cover should have space for a blurb, and the back cover for several blurbs and a description, as well as the ISBN and publisher logo.

Description 1:  
Readers will fall in love with Muddy (Charlotte) Rewis, a sassy, yet reserved 70-something Southern female who has a cane and ain’t afraid to use it. She believes she is in her "last days" and longs to reunite in heaven with her deceased husband, Claude. But when Muddy’s grandson shoots out her elderly neighbor's front window, a old friendship is renewed - and troubling mysteries irresistibly revived.  
  
"Chock full of humor, *Drifting too Far From the Shore* is a beautiful story that makes you feel like you have been transported back to small town America." - Winston Groom, author of Forest Gump  
  
About the author:

Niles Reddick’s collection *Road Kill Art and Other Oddities* was a finalist for an Eppie award, his novel*Lead Me Home* was a national finalist for a ForeWord Award, a finalist in the Georgia Author of the Year award in the fiction category, and a nominee for an IPPY award. His work has appeared in anthologies*Southern Voices in Every Direction* (Iris Press) and *Unusual Circumstances* (Pocol Press) and has been featured in many journals and literary magazines including The Arkansas Review: a Journal of Delta Studies, The Distillery, Southern Reader, Like the Dew, The Orange Willow Review, The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature, The Pomanok Review, Corner Club Press, Slice of Life, Deep South Review, The Red Dirt Review, Faircloth Review, New Southerne*r,* and many others.

**Description 2**

Readers will fall in love with Muddy (Charlotte) Rewis, a sassy, yet reserved and moderate, 70-something Southern female who has a cane and ain’t afraid to use it. She believes she is in her "last days" and longs to reunite in heaven with her deceased husband, Claude.

Because she is preoccupied with death, historical and tragic news events gravitate to her. The victims are connected to her own life either directly or indirectly: Cassie Harris, the pregnant black female who was lynched in the 1920s, the Hispanic migrant workers who were beaten and killed for their cash from drug crazed criminals, or Hank Holloway, a third grader who was sent to the Florida School for the Boys, where boys for over a hundred years were beaten, raped, and in some cases, killed (tragic stories based on non-fiction accounts).

While each chapter is named for a country gospel song, which was inspired by a particular rendition and is also woven into the fabric of Muddy's story, *Drifting too Far from the Shore* is also chock full of humor like when Muddy’s grandson shoots out her front window, the bullet whizzing across the street and blowing out Fred Stalvey’s front window. When the local policeman shows, Fred has fallen off the toilet and knocked himself out, but everyone thinks he’s been shot. This incident sets the stage for a renewed friendship for the Muddy and Fred. The novel ends on a positive note with Muddy saying: “I don’t believe I would’ve changed a thing if I had a chance to do it all over again.”

The audience would primarily be middle aged to senior readers but would certainly appeal to anyone who likes rural life, country gospel songs, and ethical, salt of the Earth characters who remind us of ourselves and our own daily lives.