



- Search
- Register | Login
 Edit Profile | Logout
- Front Page
- NEWS**
- Local News
 - State News
 - National News
 - Statesville's Most Wanted
 - Sports
 - Weather
 - Hurricane Center
 - D.C. Dateline

Bad Credit Home Equity **NexTag**

Comparison Shopping for Products, Mortgages, Travel, Cars & More

News

[Printer-Friendly Version](#)

[Email this Story](#)

- FEATURES**
- Photo Galleries
 - Diversions
 - Games
 - Health
 - Movie Listings
 - Opinion
 - Submit a Letter to Editor
 - TV Listings
 - Movie Listings
 - Obituaries

- CAROLINA CLASSIFIEDS MARKETPLACE**
- Search All Ads
 - Place Your Ad Online
 - Newspaper Ads
 - Premier Business
 - CarSeeker
 - HomeSeeker
 - CareerSeeker

EXTRAS

- ABOUT US**
- Media General Sites
 - Advertising
 - Contact Us
 - Subscribe

Native son finds success writing thrillers

By Chyna Broadnax
 Record & Landmark
 Thursday, August 4, 2005

At first glance, Blake Crouch gives the impression of a soft spoken and immensely intelligent 26-year-old man.

But don't be fooled by the reserved exterior. This Statesville native has another dimension to him, a side capable of spewing out dark and thrilling words.

That is just what he has done in his latest book.

Just weeks ago, Crouch released his second book, "Locked Doors," a sequel to his successful first novel, "Desert Places."

Even though Crouch, the son of Clay and Susan Crouch, is not quite a newcomer to the book world anymore, he is still thrown aback by his accomplishment.



Blake Crouch of Statesville has released a book which mentions this area of road in Statesville.
 Rebecca Koenig/rkoenig@statesville.com
 Record & Landmark

The 2005
NISSAN
350Z

"It's surreal seeing my book all done, published and finalized," he said.

"I'm fascinated with the darker side of man's nature and that's why I write suspense," said Crouch, who now lives in Colorado.

The new book picks up on the story of a suspense novelist who in the first book was framed for a series of murders when bodies were unearthed on his lakefront property. So now he does what he must, fleeing to the extremes of northwest Canada. Once there, though, he realizes that everyone he loved in his former life is being stalked and murdered.

Book comes home

Writing the book was quite a task for the self-proclaimed workaholic.

"I can write about three or four hours at a time because my writing is so intense," he said. "I don't like leaving a sentence until it's the best way it can be."

And he admits that his creative process may be a bit different from others.

"To get characters names I sometimes look in the phonebook for ideas. There's no rhyme or reason to when I get ideas."

Crouch said he drives himself crazy trying to find ideas.

"Ideas come when I am relaxed and I have to stop thinking about things," he said.

In "Locked Doors," a lot of ideas come from his time spent in Statesville.

In the book he mentions a dead end in his parents cul-de-sac, and Lake Norman.

Other parts of the state are mentioned, too.

"I knew I wanted to write about the Outer Banks ... because it's a spooky place," he said.

Finding 'a home'

Knowing all about the tedious process of writing a novel hasn't deterred Crouch.

"You have to love writing and be willing to put your work out there," he said.

For months, he said he searched for a publisher to release his first book. In seven months he went through 80 agents.

"You have to be almost insane to put yourself through shopping for publishers."

And the whole process was one discouragement after another.

"But in the end good writing will always find a home," he said.

Praise and talent

Crouch said he has been writing stories ever since he can remember and partly attributes his story telling skills to those around him.

"I was blessed to have people encourage and foster my interest in writing."

One of those in his corner is his mother, Susan.

"I've always thought he had a really good writing style. I enjoy the way he describes things," she said. "The things he is able to turn out is amazing."

His wife of seven years, Rebecca, is also astonished at his talent. "It makes life very interesting to be reading along and find little snippets of your life in the book," she said.

"Even though he's my husband, I'm still excited about his imagination."

Other non-related people have raved about his work, including top author Pat Conroy, who said his first book was "deeply disturbing and troubling, but hard to put down." Publisher's Weekly was more to the point: "Crouch shows real talent."

Crouch knows that having an imagination is important for what he does.

"It's strange, the way I come up with stuff. I have a crazy and demented imagination which makes life more interesting."

"But it's great when your dream becomes a reality."
