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To Build a Town from Words: The Process of Designing The Diviners

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To Build a Town from Words: The Process of Designing *The Diviners*

Preston Cross

Set in the fictional town of Zion, Indiana during the 1930s, *The Diviners*, written by Jim Leonard, Jr., presents a particular set of challenges and opportunities for the scenic designer. The small town of Zion is not a wealthy one, but it is inhabited by people who try their hardest, in the midst of the Great Depression, to make the most of everything they have. They try not waste any materials that could be repurposed and used again to make something new. This was the main challenge of the design process: how to create a small town that was simple and poor without making it look filthy and rundown.