

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award for most distinguished informational book for children

“Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon,” written by Catherine Thimmesch, is the 2007 Sibert Award winner. The book is published by Houghton.

Three Sibert Honor Books were named: “Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement,” written by Ann Bausum and published by National Geographic; “Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea,” written by Sy Montgomery, photographs by Nic Bishop and published by Houghton; and “To Dance: A Ballerina’s Graphic Novel,” written by Siena Cherson Siegel, artwork by Mark Siegel and published by Simon & Schuster/Richard Jackson (hardcover) and Simon & Schuster/Aladdin.

Andrew Carnegie Medal for excellence in children's video

Author/illustrator Mo Willems and Weston Woods Studios, producers of “Knuffle Bunny,” are the 2007 Carnegie Medal winners. The DVD is based on Willems’ book “Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale” and is performed by Willems, his wife Cheryl and their daughter Trixie. It is directed and animated by MaGiK Studio, with music by Scotty Huff and Robert Reynolds.

Mildred L. Batchelder Award for the most outstanding children’s book translated from a foreign language and subsequently published in the United States

Delacorte Press is the winner of the 2007 Batchelder Award for “The Pull of the Ocean.” Originally published in France in 1999 as “L’enfant Océan,” the book was written by Jean-Claude Mourlevat and translated by Y. Maudet.

Two Batchelder Honor Books also were selected: “The Killer’s Tears,” published by Delacorte Press, and “The Last Dragon,” published by Hyperion/Miramax.

Alex Awards for the 10 best adult books that appeal to teen audiences

“The Book of Lost Things,” written by John Connolly and published by Simon & Schuster/Atria

“The Whistling Season,” written by Ivan Doig and published by Harcourt

“Eagle Blue: A Team, A Tribe, and A High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska,” written by Michael D’Orso and published by Bloomsbury

“Water for Elephants,” written by Sara Gruen and published by Algonquin

“Color of the Sea,” written by John Hamamura and published by Thomas Dunne.

“The Floor of the Sky,” written by Pamela Carter Joern and published by the University of Nebraska

“The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game” written by Michael Lewis and published by Norton

“Black Swan Green,” written by David Mitchell and published by Random House

“The World Made Straight,” written by Ron Rash and published by Henry Holt

“The Thirteenth Tale,” written by Diane Setterfield and published by Simon & Schuster/Atria

May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture recognizing an individual of distinction in the field of children's literature, who then presents a lecture at a winning host site

David Macaulay will deliver the 2008 lecture. Macaulay’s work varies from the Caldecott Medal-winning “Black and White” to the satiric fiction of “Motel of the Mysteries.”

(more)

Recognized worldwide for the high quality they represent, ALA awards guide parents, educators, librarians and others in selecting the best materials for youth. Selected by judging committees of librarians and other children's literature experts, the awards encourage original and creative work. For more information on the ALA youth media awards and notables, please visit the ALA Web site at www.ala.org/mw07winners.

ROOTS

(Continued from Page 7)

the history of roots music and the cultural process that made America the birthplace of more music than any other place on earth. The week will immerse teachers of all disciplines in the study of music and its unique place in America's culture and identity. The Institute is not for music teachers alone. Teachers from all disciplines are invited to learn how they may use roots music to teach and



Alan Jabbour

interpret history, literature, and other subjects. Scholars so far committed for the IHC's 2007 summer institute include noted folklorist Alan Jabbour (Washington, D.C.). After receiving his Ph.D. in 1968, Jabbour taught English, folklore, and ethnomusicology at UCLA, served as Head of the Archive of Folk Song at the Library of Congress 1969-74, became director of the folk arts program at the National Endowment for the Arts 1974-76, and director of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress 1976-99. He has published widely on topics related to folk music, folklore, and cultural policy. Since his retirement, he has turned enthusiastically to a life of writing, consulting, lec-

turing, and playing the fiddle.

Another scholar is Idaho folksinger and Grammy Award-nominee Rosalie Sorrels, who has traveled across the United States for more than five decades telling stories, singing songs, and recording music worth preserving.

A third scholar is music journalist and blues scholar Robert Santelli, curator of the Smithsonian *New Harmonies* exhibit, former director of Seattle's Experience Music Project, and now of Los Angeles working on a new music museum project.

Successful applicants will receive room and board, texts, and optional college credit. In addition to receiving the primary texts, teachers also will receive a photocopied compilation of related essays and articles recommended by the presenting scholars. Teachers will be selected before May 1 and sent materials to read in advance of the institute.



Rosalie Sorrels

Teachers interested in more information about the institute should visit IHC's website at www.idahohumanities.org or contact the Idaho Humanities Council at (888) 345-5346. **The application deadline is April 1, 2007.** For other questions, teachers may contact IHC Fiscal Officer Cindy Wang at (208) 345-5346, or cindy@idahohumanities.org. ♦

Thanks to your help, we did it!

Since 2002, the IHC has waged its most aggressive fundraising campaign ever, and with your help we met our goal! With help from a Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and tremendous support from friends of the humanities statewide, the IHC has raised \$1 million for its *Endowment for Humanities Education*.

This endowment will offer a sustainable source of funding for IHC's annual, weeklong summer institutes, humanities workshops, and other programs for Idaho elementary and secondary teachers. IHC's summer institute program is just one of several major IHC programs that bring the humanities to the Idaho public. IHC's summer institutes help not only the many Idaho teachers who attend, but their students as well. Idaho students directly benefit from the knowledge gained and lesson plans their teachers develop at summer institutes.

Thank you for helping IHC meet one of its most ambitious challenges! ♦

What Are You Reading?

In each issue of *Idaho Humanities*, several readers tell us what they've been reading and what they recommend.

Reader: Bob Youde
Occupation: Retired university administrator and faculty, McCall
Books: *Turkish Reflections: A Biography of a Place* by Mary Lee Settle, and *A Song for Satawal* by Kenneth Brower



Unpacking boxes from previous moves is like visiting a comfortable used-book store, rediscovering lost favorite reads and a few books you never got around to but kept anyway. Two of my current old/new re-reads are *Turkish Reflections* and *A Song for Satawal*.

History and cultures are shaped in blunt and subtle ways by geography. Traditions, values, housing, meals, travel, folklore, all reflect lives wrested from hard rocks and tidal pools, guided by the stars. Settle traveled throughout Turkey in the early 70's and late 80's seeking the roots of the Turkish identity. Brower travels carefully through Yap and the Micronesian islands, awed but inspired and reassured by the ease with which the modern islanders carry on eons of traditions shaped by nature and the sea, vaguely comfortable with newness in their land. Ghosts and spirits, science and sorcery, satellites and star paths, make for rich cultures.

Neither book is a travel guide, but both use travel as an observational vantage point to seek understanding and respect for the old and the new.

Reader: Fran Bahr
Occupation: English Instructor, North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene
Book: *Enduring Love* by Ian McEwan



One of my best sources for great novels is Denise Clark, NIC librarian and reader extraordinaire. This work, in particular, kept me up 'till the wee hours. *Enduring Love* begins with Joe Rose and his wife Clarissa on a romantic picnic in the English countryside but quickly devolves into a horrifying experience

when they witness a downed hot air balloon dragging a man across a field while his terrified son remains trapped in the carrier. Rose sprints to the balloon, only to witness another rescuer lifted high into the sky and then plummet to his death. This incident initiates a bizarre turn of events. Another witness to the tragedy, Jed Parry, shares a brief "meeting of the eyes" with Joe Rose at the scene, triggering an obsession with Rose defying all reason. With inexhaustible resolve, he stalks Rose, writing multiple three and four page love letters, hanging around his apartment entrance, planning how he will tell Rose's wife that she must leave, and growing threatening. Meanwhile Rose, a logical scientific journalist, becomes increasingly unhinged by Parry's attentions and memories of the accident. Author Ian McEwan explores guilt and the meaning of love in this highly suspenseful novel.

Reader: Kay Merriam
Occupation: Free lance writer, Pocatello
Book: *The Whistling Season* by Ivan Doig



Ivan Doig can paint verbal pictures of events and situations so poignantly that the reader enters into whatever he is describing.

Reading *English Creek*, I could smell the saddle leather and feel the tension as horses labored up a steep, narrow trail in Montana's rugged mountains. In *This House of Sky*, I could visualize the sweep of blue and the flocks of sheep in Montana. These are minute examples, but they convey the depth of his understanding of nature and the human condition.

In *Whistling Season*, Doig has returned to his wonderful descriptions. A father and three sons, alone in the wild Montana of 1909, hire a housekeeper who advertises, "Can't cook, doesn't bite." The compassion she, along with her "brother," brings to the lives of these four males expands the possibilities of their character development with richness and poignancy. *The Whistling Season* is worthy of standing beside Doig's early literary achievements.



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2007 Alex Awards

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), has selected 10 adult books that will appeal to teen readers to receive the 2007 Alex Awards. The awards, sponsored by the Margaret Alexander Edwards Trust, were announced at the 2007 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, January 19-24, and will appear with full annotations in the March 1 issue of Booklist magazine.

The 2007 Alex Awards are:

- Connolly, John. *The Book of Lost Things*. \$23.00. Simon & Schuster/Atria. (0743298853).
- Doig, Ivan. *The Whistling Season*. \$25.00. Harcourt. (0151012377).
- D'Orso, Michael. *Eagle Blue: A Team, A Tribe, and A High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska*. \$23.95. Bloomsbury. (1582346232)
- Gruen, Sara. *Water for Elephants*. \$23.95. Algonquin. (1565124995).
- Hamamura, John. *Color of the Sea*. \$24.95. Thomas Dunne. (0312340737)
- Joern, Pamela Carter. *Floor of the Sky*. \$16.95. University of Nebraska. (0803276311).
- Lewis, Michael. *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game*. \$24.95. Norton. (0393061239).
- Mitchell, David. *Black Swan Green*. \$23.95. Random House. (1400063795).
- Rash, Ron. *The World Made Straight*. \$24.00. Henry Holt. (0805078665).
- Setterfield, Diane. *The Thirteenth Tale*. \$26.00. Simon & Schuster/Atria.

The Alex Awards were created to recognize that many teens enjoy and often prefer books written for adults, and to assist librarians in recommending adult books that appeal to teens. The award is named in honor of the late Margaret Alexander Edwards, fondly called "Alex" by her closest friends, a young adult specialist at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. She used adult books extensively with young adults to broaden their experience and enrich their understanding of themselves and their world.

In addition to selecting titles for the Alex Awards, the Alex Committee presents a program at the ALA Annual Conference. The 2007 program will take place in Washington, D.C., Saturday, June 24, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and will highlight how to booktalk the Alex winners to young adults.

The 2007 Alex Awards Committee is: Chair Terry Beck, Sno-Isle Libraries, Wash.; Angela Carstensen, Convent of the Sacred Heart, New York, N.Y.; Priscille M. Dando, Robert E. Lee High School, Fairfax County, Va.; Jennifer Jung Gallant, Elyria Public

ENTERTAINMENT

BOOK NOTES

Dan Webster

Annual limerick contest looking for a theme

It's mid-January, which should have all those interested in clever word play thinking one thing.

Limericks contest.

Yes, just as St. Paddy's Day is rolling inexorably toward us, the 10th-annual Spokesman-Review contest is slowly approaching. And, as always, we urge all of you with senses of language – particularly when matched with rhythm, humor and style – to participate.

That especially includes all you teachers who are trying to drum the lessons of language into the minds of your students, no matter their age.

But first we have to have a theme. We do this for a couple of reasons.

One, we're an Inland Northwest publication, so why not celebrate that fact by writing about it?

Two, it's the best way to make sure that entrants are working hard to come up with original work.

So ... any ideas? From our first contest in 1998, which had writers opining on the general topic "life in the Inland Northwest," we've tackled such other region-themed subjects as news events and newsmakers, the new millennium, area landmarks, GU's basketball team and even an Inland Northwest guide to celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Send me your suggestions. E-mail them to danw@spokesman.com, or

send them by post to: Dan Webster, The Spokesman-Review, 999 W. Riverside Ave., Spokane, WA 99210-1615.

Our tentative schedule at this point is to begin accepting entries by Feb. 5, then cutting it off March 12. We'll set up a special e-mail address for the contest. We're also planning on doing a public reading at Auntie's Bookstore for all those whose work we run in the paper. Tentative date: March 16.

More awards

Jess Walter may have lost out on the National Book Award, but his novel "The Zero" was one of six books given 2006 awards by the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association.

Walter, a former Spokesman-Review reporter who won an Edgar Award for his novel "Citizen Vince," was joined by: Portland poet David Biespiel, editor of the poetry collection "Long Journey: Contemporary Northwest Poets"; Seattle novelist Ivan Doig for his novel "The Whistling Season"; Montana author David James Duncan for his book "God Laughs & Plays: Churchless Sermons in Response to the Preachments of the Fundamentalist Right"; British Columbia children's author Iain

Lawrence for "Gemini Summer"; and co-authors Greg Mortenson (Bozeman) and David Oliver Relin (Portland) for "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time."

To get more information, go online at www.pnba.org.

Vandal with a handle

The Moscow, Idaho, bookstore BookPeople passed on word that University of Idaho creative writing student Lucas Howell ("The Lonely Crowded West") had two of his poems printed in the November issues of Poetry. For a short feature on Howell, go online at www.uidaho.edu/feature. Or to read his poem "Primitive Roads," go to http://poetrymagazine.org/magazine/1106/poem_178745.html.

Reimagining Austen

Coeur d'Alene author Pamela Aidan will present the third segment in her "Fitzwilliam Darcy, Gentleman" trilogy, "The Three Remain," at two different area locations over the next week. See reader board below for specifics.

Aidan's books, which use Jane Austen's novel "Pride and Prejudice" as a basis, have attracted good reviews, and "These Three Remain" is no different.

"The storied romance of Fitzwilliam Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet (they of 'Pride and Prejudice') reaches its conclusion in the strongest entry in an already impressive trilogy," wrote a reviewer for Publishers Weekly. "As ever, Aidan keeps her narrative taut and her characters conflicted. Fans of the series won't be disappointed; the uninitiated will be hooked."

Color the rainbow

Children between kindergarten and third grade are invited to get literary, thanks to KSPS Public Television and the "Reading Rainbow" show. The 13th-annual "Reading Rainbow" Young Writers and Illustrators Contest, which gives children the opportunity to write and illustrate and original story, will begin accepting applications on Monday.

Deadline is March 15.

Go online at www.kspns.org to learn more or call (509) 354-7800. To pick up applications in person, go to 3911 S. Regal St.

The writer's block

On Sacred Grounds, the coffee, tea and bookshop, is starting up a writers' group. The store is at 12212 E. Palouse Highway, Valleyford.

Space is limited, but there's no fee

to join. Meeting times will be negotiated. Call (509) 747-6294 for more information.

Book talk

- Dark City Mystery Book Club ("Just One Look," by Harlen Coben), 7 p.m. Monday, Auntie's Bookstore, Main and Washington. Call (509) 838-0206.

The reader board

- Pamela Aidan ("These Three Remain"), reading, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Auntie's Bookstore; signing, 2 p.m. Saturday, Borders Books, 450 W. Wilbur Ave., Coeur d'Alene. Call (208) 762-4497.

- Kathleen Finley ("Prayers for the Newly Married"), reading, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Auntie's Bookstore.

- Poetry slam, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Caterina Winery, 905 N. Washington St. Call (509) 328-5069. Note: Sign-up for poets wanting to read begins at 6:30 p.m.

- Mark Matthews ("Smoke Jumping on the Western Fire Line: Conscientious Objectors During World War II"), reading, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Auntie's Bookstore.

- Nolan Lewis ("Clouds Are Always White on Top: Flying the Box the B-17 Flying Fortress Came In"), signing, 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Auntie's Bookstore.

Library, Ohio; Betsy Levine, San Francisco Public Library, Calif.; Charli M. Osborne, Oxford Public Library, Mich.; Victor Schill, Harris County Public Library, Tex.; John Sexton, Ashland Branch Library, Ore.; Karlan Sick, New York, N.Y.; and Gillian Engberg, Booklist, Chicago. Administrative Assistant: Judy Sasges, Sno-Isle Libraries, Wash.

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Star Tribune best of 2006 fiction and nonfiction

STAR TRIBUNE BEST OF 2006 FICTION AND NONFICTION

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"The Yacoubian Building," by Alaa Al Aswany (Harper Perennial, 272 pages, \$13.95). Frank and hilarious soap opera set to an Arabic beat.

"Fun Home," by Alison Bechdel (Houghton Mifflin, 240 pages, \$19.95). Unflinching art-and-prose memoir of growing up and coming out.

"The Whistling Season," by Ivan Doig (Harcourt, 345 pages, \$25). Muscular and poetic paean to life in a one-room schoolhouse.

"Oracle Bones," by Peter Hessler (HarperCollins, 492 pages, \$26.95). Engaging study of ordinary people struggling to find their way in the new China.

"All Aunt Hagar's Children," by Edward P. Jones (Amistad, 399 pages, \$25.95). Captures the struggles of ordinary black people with decency, humanity and affection.

"Gate of the Sun," by Elias Khoury (Archipelago, 539 pages, \$26). A poignant and realistic portrayal of the Palestinian experience.

"The Road," by Cormac McCarthy (Knopf, 244 pages, \$24). Harrowing and affecting tale of the power of paternal love.

"The Light of Evening," by Edna O'Brien (Houghton Mifflin, 296 pages, \$25). Bravely enters the fraught terrain of mother-daughter relationships.

"The Book of Dave," by Will Self (Bloomsbury, 496 pages, \$24.95). Horrifying and enthralling dystopia of present and future England.

"Blood and Thunder," by Hampton Sides (Doubleday, 480 pages, \$26.95). A powerful history of the taking of the West and the subjugation of the Navajo.

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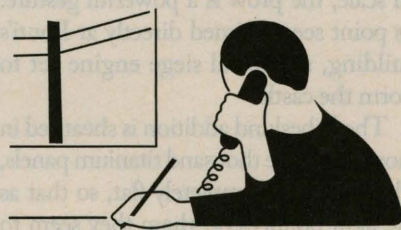
BRIEFLY NOTED

American spy, diplomat, and lover, into the Versailles Treaty negotiations, the Weimar Republic, the rise of Fascism, and just about everything else that happened in Europe and America. The Budd series was disdained by American literary intellectuals, but it prospered as an easy course in modern history for young people. By the forties, Sinclair the fiction writer had become the precursor not of a serious left-wing novelist like E. L. Doctorow but of James Michener, Herman Wouk, Howard Fast, and other well-paid authors who did their homework and spun out historical tales at satisfyingly interminable length. Devoted to his wife, who was often ill, Sinclair lived in California as a semi-recluse through the forties and fifties. When John F. Kennedy was elected President, groups of idealistic students rediscovered Sinclair, and he became, during Kennedy's term and Lyndon Johnson's, an active campus speaker—the old troublemaker, born thirteen years after the end of the Civil War, entertaining students in their “tight-fitting blue denim pants and long hair.” He died in November, 1968, at the age of ninety. All that faddish dieting had kept him alive into the Age of Aquarius.

Most of Sinclair's fiction no doubt deserves to molder in the book barn. But the influence of “The Jungle” may still be seen in investigative journalism and in such books as Susan Sheehan's “A Welfare Mother” and Jonathan Kozol's “Rachel and Her Children,” which use the resources of fiction to chronicle the lives of people who have dropped to the bottom of American society. Sinclair's ideas didn't go away, either. The union hall may be nearly empty, but his desire for an alternative world within American capitalism has borne fruit in such nonprofit organizations as food co-operatives, day-care centers, and public radio and television. His personal habits of non-stop opinionizing and self-serving rant find their natural heir in the blog. His austere citizenly dedication inspired the young Ralph Nader, who has acknowledged the debt. His obsession with health and physical culture prefigured our own. He was one of the great American squares, exasperating and tone-deaf his entire life. But an ethical man tugs at us from the grave more persistently than merely successful men, who have gone to a quieter form of rest. ♦

Special Topics in Calamity Physics, by Marisha Pessl (Viking; \$25.95). The first hundred pages of this wildly idiosyncratic debut novel are a blizzard of obscure bibliographical references, apocrypha, Capitalized Words of Import, and nouns coerced into being verbs (a pen is not twirled but “triple-lutzed”). If the author seems overexuberant, her pyrotechnics nonetheless suit her narrator, a hyper-literate teen-ager named Blue van Meer, the daughter of a lady-killing professor and (shades of Nabokov) an amateur lepidopterist who died young. Blue chronicles her senior year in high school, when she is Svengalied by a clique of louche, privileged kids, united in their obsession with a mysterious film teacher. “Everyone is responsible for the page-turning tempo of his or her Life Story,” Blue's father warns her. She takes his words to heart, and her mesmeric tale, even at its most over-the-top, feels true to the operatic agonies of adolescence.

The Whistling Season, by Ivan Doig (Harcourt; \$25). Set in 1909 in rural Montana, this evocative novel records, in measured bursts of illumination, what happens when Oliver Milliron, the widowed father of three boys and in need of a housekeeper, answers an ad placed by Rose Llewellyn, a charmer whose claim “Can't Cook But Doesn't Bite” proves true. Her erudite brother Morris, along for the ride, takes over the local schoolhouse and animates it with passionate teaching. Doig offers a gentle appreciation of the secrets beneath the surface of everyday life, set against a Western landscape that is described in concrete detail: a field is ready for plowing “when you can't see the frost on the ground by the light of the first full moon after the equinox”; a mixture of snow and dirt is called “snirt.”



The Wonga Coup, by Adam Roberts (PublicAffairs; \$26). In March, 2004, Simon Mann, an Eton-educated former S.A.S. officer, was arrested in Zimbabwe after trying to load five tons of automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades onto a plane carrying mercenaries. Mann was about to fly to Equatorial Guinea, a tiny, derelict former Spanish colony that is now the third-largest oil exporter in sub-Saharan Africa. His plan was to depose the country's dictator, Obiang Nguema, and replace him with his rival Severo Moto, an exiled priest living in Madrid. In return, Mann expected to receive a large “splodge of wonga” (schoolboy slang for a wad of money) and millions more in government contracts. Roberts's account dutifully traces the paper trail of this “rent-a-coup,” which implicated associates including the son of Margaret Thatcher. He also offers a sharp portrait of modern mercenary culture, whose members are “as familiar with company law, bank transfers and investor agreements as with the workings of a Browning pistol.” Mann's plan, Roberts notes, was modelled on Frederick Forsyth's 1974 novel “The Dogs of War,” itself a fictional version of an earlier plot.

The Human Voice, by Anne Karpf (Bloomsbury; \$24.95). Karpf, a British journalist, notes that, while speakers of Tzeltal, in Mexico, have more than four hundred words describing such vocal traits as “talking very slowly, as if sad,” English has a comparatively small number of such terms. Believing that this indicates considerable indifference to vocal matters in Western culture, Karpf presents an omnium-gatherum of data from every science that has ever bumped into the vocal cords. Karpf's study lacks focus but includes provocative insights, including the speculation that Al Gore and John Kerry have both been hampered by “a lack of vocal charisma.” The most fascinating chapters show how infant development is voice-guided, and the importance of voice in gender politics: over the past fifty years, women's voices have been getting lower, apparently because “women who talk like men gain in status, but men who talk like women risk ridicule.”

MILE-HIGH

After the World Trade Center furor, Daniel Libeskind moves on.

BY PAUL GOLDBERGER

Daniel Libeskind's architectural career has had an unusual trajectory. He went from being a theoretician whose highly academic designs were so obscure that most people couldn't understand them to being a celebrity architect whose work is dismissed by many of his peers as too crowd-pleasing. The transformation began with the Jewish Museum in Berlin, which he designed less as a home for artifacts than as a de-facto Holocaust memorial, using architecture to produce a sense of discomfort. The building, which opened in 2001, drew well over half a million visitors a year, and Libeskind discovered the allure of popular acclaim. When he won the competition to design a master plan for the reconstruction of the site of the World Trade Center, in 2003, he cloaked his familiar angular shapes in patriotic rhetoric. But, as reconstruction has moved forward, his plan has been compromised almost out of existence, and his continued attempts to claim ownership of the project have sometimes made him a figure of fun in the press. All the buildings at Ground Zero have been assigned to other architects, and very few of Libeskind's ideas will be visible.

In Denver, however, Libeskind's ideas are becoming very visible indeed. His new building for the Denver Art Museum, which opens this fall, is his first American work to be completed. It's already so popular in Denver that Libeskind was invited to construct a pair of condominium buildings and a hotel next door, and to design a neighborhood plan for a "cultural district" surrounding the museum. Marketed as the creations of "world renowned architect Daniel Libeskind"—whose face is all over the brochures—the apartments are among the highest-priced condos in town. Such success is a reminder of the fact that second-tier American cities have often proved more willing to take architectural risks than supposedly sophisticated cities like New York. In giving Libeskind the

freedom denied him in New York, Denver is taking a risk: Does Libeskind have the ability to design a building that will exert the magnetic pull of an icon and still work well as a museum? And can he set out a plan for an entire neighborhood, as he tried to do in New York? Libeskind's new Denver Art Museum is an eruption of hard-edged rhomboids that suggests gargantuan quartz crystals. This is a bold building, and it is neither an inaccessible theoretical work nor a brazen piece of entertainment, but somewhere in between.

The building, officially called the Frederic C. Hamilton Building, is technically an addition to an eccentric structure by Gio Ponti, an Italian architect best known for designing the Pirelli Tower, in Milan. Ponti's museum is a forbidding, fortress-like block, clad in a million triangular tiles of reflective gray glass, with what looks like castellation along the top. The only Ponti design that ever got built in America, it's an earlier example of Denver's adventurousness, but when it opened, in 1971, not everyone was pleased: it was described as "an Italian castle wrapped in aluminum foil." Ponti's building is an all but impossible structure to add to, so Libeskind didn't really try. He just did his own thing next door, juxtaposing his crystalline forms with Ponti's sternly rectilinear style. The two buildings are connected by a glass-covered bridge across the street that separates them. The bridge itself is somewhat perfunctory, but above it Libeskind daringly extends one triangle of the building over the road like the prow of a ship. An origami fold, blown up to monumental scale, the prow is a powerful gesture: its point seems aimed directly at Ponti's building, a colossal siege engine set to storm the castle.

The Libeskind addition is sheathed in more than nine thousand titanium panels, which are not completely flat, so that as the light bounces off them they seem to

ripple gently, as if the building were covered with a thin film of liquid. Since none of the exterior walls are perpendicular to the ground and each surface slopes at a different angle, at any moment the sun strikes each of them differently, making some sections seem richly textured while others appear to have no texture at all.

As a purely sculptural feat, this building is a thrilling affirmation of the idea that museums can be art works as well as merely containers. It is also willful and arbitrary, and wildly self-indulgent. Some people will praise Libeskind for creating the most exciting place in downtown Denver since the exuberant Gilded Age atrium in the lobby of the Brown Palace Hotel, and others will denounce him for creating a building that appears to put an architect's love of certain shapes above any commitment to the functions that a museum is supposed to serve. They will both be right.

How do you display art in such a building? Not easily, and not entirely successfully, but a lot better than you might expect. Like Frank Lloyd Wright at the Guggenheim, Libeskind has designed a building that never recedes into the background but that is surprisingly sympathetic to certain kinds of art. His angular spaces—in which walls slope inward or outward, many ceilings are raked, and every corner becomes a slanting line—are full of energy, which may be why they work best with big contemporary works. In the largest of the temporary exhibition galleries, the architect's determination to ignore conventional notions of rooms and galleries seems to make common cause with bold, large-scale works by artists like Damien Hirst, Matthew Richie, and Takashi Murakami. Elsewhere, Libeskind's design makes for bizarre challenges: a wall that slopes away, like the side of a pyramid, has been used to display textiles—the effect is winning, if faintly reminiscent of a fashion boutique—and, in another gallery, a huge striped painting by Gene Davis is hung from a wall that slopes the other way. The canvas dangles in space as the wall recedes behind it.

But most of Libeskind's walls are empty, since there really isn't much to be done with them. The task of making surfaces that you can actually hang paintings on has gone, instead, to Daniel Kohl, the

encies are a constant imaginative, allegorical accompany the title "ing Order" from 1984, then some ancient re- by a sultan, and "The 1993, set in China. r of the 2005 Man al Prize, now spends s and Tirana. He had etting his works pub- Albanian dictatorship oks finally translated 40 languages, the riter's vivid portraits rnement are beginning and dated. But they his a major voice in international letters.

d"

paralleled life of explo- of the few people to d woodpecker, calling big bird." He visited ne was addressed as Swahili for "Mr. Bird." ellanic penguins in Ar- bee-eaters in Botswa- n the Pribilofs. Yet he hington, D.C., and at For Peterson, nature were all around, be- time and trouble to

also a born storyteller. is fun to read, insight- ally evocative. In the great naturalist John e, "Indeed, nature- is to us in books, fails it does not send us to ll Things Reconsid- meets Burrough's ing its readers to grab go outside to become d with the natural

By contrast, in British historian David Cannadine's hands, Andrew Mellon feels somewhat muted, except when closing a deal, when he could be "startlingly assertive."

Once he got hold of a business, Mellon didn't just integrate vertically — investing in supply chains and buying up raw material suppliers — but horizontally, too, aggressively establishing partnerships and buying out competitors.

In 24 months in the early 1900s, Mellon leapfrogged from being "a small-scale, private banker" to "a major financier and businessman, hungry for action and eager to intervene." In short, he was one of this country's first turn-around artists.

For all his success in business, Mellon's personal life was an unmitigated disaster. His only marriage — he was 43, she was 19 — ended in scandal and divorce, and he was a "distant and forbidding father."

Ultimately, what saved Mellon from utter gloom was his love of fine art. Cannadine writes beautifully about his friendship with Frick, and how the latter tutored the former on the art of loving great paintings.

Over time, Mellon acquired some of the most important works of Botticelli, Raphael and de Goya, among others. And in the end, he gave his entire collection to the people of the United States, establishing the National Gallery.

Franklin Roosevelt, the New Dealer whose trust-busting had cost Mellon big money, accepted this unprecedented gift. The two met for the second and last time on New Year's Eve of 1936 to consummate the handover.

"What a wonderfully attractive man the president is," Mellon said. "I came through it much better than I expected to."

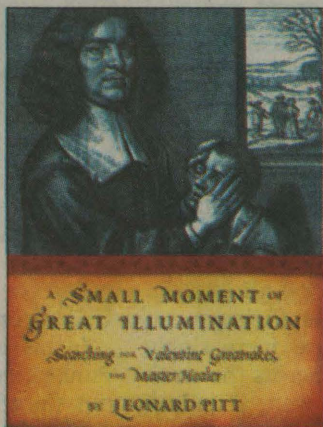
The same could be said of Mellon and Carnegie in these two terrific books.

John Freeman is president of the National Book Critics Circle.

deafness and a form of tuberculosis "the king's evil," he achieved a seat at drew the attention of King who brought him to England. Intly wealthy, he never charged for

red method was a kind of laying ds, sometimes vigorous, and the t of energy through the body. Eye- counts of his ministrations are not le.

Small Moment of Great Illumina- a digresser of the first rank, gam- gh Greatrakes' life and legend, e reader with a light hunger for e subject.



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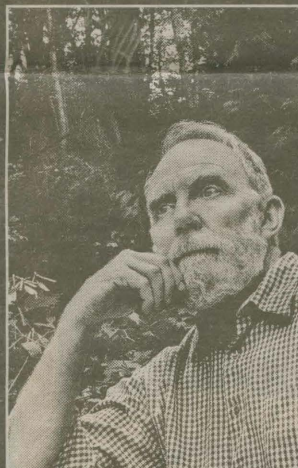
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BOOKS

BEST BET



IVAN DOIG

The beloved Seattle spinner of memorable yarns, best known for a Northwest classic titled "This House of Sky," returns with a new novel set in his native Montana. Doig discusses "The Whistling Season" Thursday at The Elliott Bay Book Co.

Pressed for success? Finder's latest thriller probes what it takes to win in business

BY JEFF AYERS
Special to the P-I

Sales executive Jason Steadman wants to promote himself but lacks the ability to be ruthless enough to succeed. When he befriends a former Special Forces officer named Kurt, Jason finds his career suddenly taking off in Joseph Finder's latest, "Killer Instinct" (St. Martin's Press, 401 pages, \$24.95).

Finder combines page-turning thrills with a realistic examination of success in the corporate world. Speaking from his home in Boston, Finder, 47, discussed his latest endeavor.



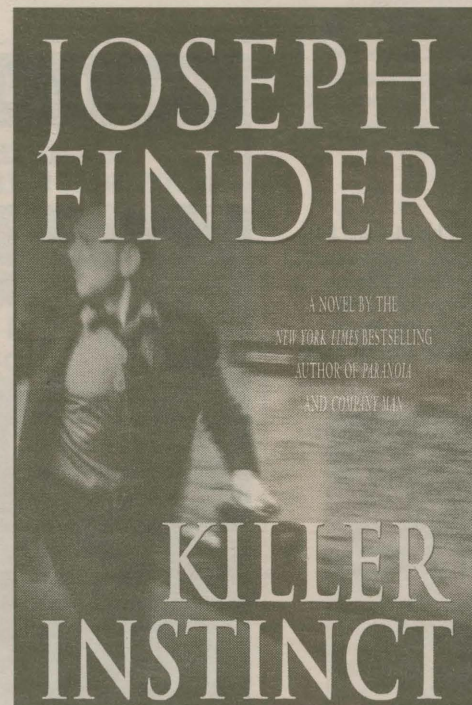
Finder

"Every time I'd go into a corporate executive's office, I'd see a shelf of books – self-help or leadership books about making it in business. Some of these books advocate a real hard-line, Machiavellian approach. And one day I thought, 'What if someone actually followed that advice literally? What if one of these books came to life?'"

Although Finder had written a few earlier books, it wasn't until he started examining corporate America that he reached the best-seller list with "Paranoia" and "Company Man."

"Believe it or not, I started writing 'corporate' thrillers entirely by accident. 'Paranoia' began as a conventional spy novel – except with a twist: it involved corporate espionage. I first got the idea from a friend of mine in the CIA who told me that the Agency was quite interested in efforts to spy on American corporations. A light bulb went on over my head."

He continued, "Most writers know nothing about the corporate world. That's why you see so few thrillers set there. But this is a



COMING UP

JOSEPH FINDER

WHAT: Discusses "Killer Instinct"

WHEN / WHERE: Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., Seattle Mystery Books, 117 Cherry St., 206-587-5737; Wednesday, 7 p.m., Third Place Books, 17171 Bothell Way N.W., 206-366-3333

place in which a vast majority of us spend most of our working hours. It's a place of ambition and intrigue, friends and enemies, vicious politics and close friendships, ambition and paranoia – everything. It turned out to be a great setting for a thriller."

Finder has never worked for corporate

America, so how does he research this life? "Mostly by interviews. . . . I notice things that people who work in this world no longer see or hear. So I talk to a whole range of people, from CEOs and CFOs all the way down to the lowest level, a broad range. And what I find is that, since I'm writing fiction, people tell me things they would never tell a reporter for The Wall Street Journal or The New York Times. . . . I get a degree of candor that journalists never get."

Finder portrays a corporate world where ruthlessness is integral to business success. "Poker players have killer instinct when they show no mercy when someone else's money is at the table. You've got to show no compassion. In business, it's that strong will to win no matter what the cost is to other people."

Corporate-spying technology looms ominously in "Killer Instinct" as characters glean secrets through true-to-life security methods. Do companies go too far in following their employees?

"I don't think corporate security in most companies goes as far as the U.S. government does – take a look at what the National Security Agency is doing, collecting everyone's phone bills, with all sorts of personal data. But the capability is there for great abuse, when it comes to corporate security. They can read our e-mail and monitor our instant messages. They know where we are at any point. Most companies, fortunately, are too busy, too overwhelmed and understaffed, to be Big Brother. But the possibility is always there. We've just got to remind ourselves that nothing we say or do or write at work is truly private."

Finder's next thriller is set in the aerospace industry – in a company resembling Boeing. "It's a fascinating world, and it'll be a novel that I think a lot of people in the Seattle area will find intriguing."

When not writing, Jeff Ayers works for Seattle Public Library. He can be reached at jeff.ayers@pacifier.com.

'Persepolis' author's delayed visit now seems fortuitous

Sometimes postponements and disappointments can pay off in unexpected rewards. That surely has been the case as the Washington Center for the Book at the Seattle Public Library attempted to mount the eighth edition of its much-copied community-wide reading program, now called "Seattle Reads."

On tap for a round of March appearances in Seattle was Marjane Satrapi, the young Iranian artist and writer whose pair of "Persepolis" graphic memoirs became surprising international sensations. But Satrapi's impending French citizenship postponed the March dates and a second scheduled set of events in Seattle also had to be postponed.

Satrapi finally arrives in Seattle next week and the timing of her visit suddenly seems fortuitous. Questions about the fledgling nuclear program in Iran have put that



Satrapi

country in a spotlight, creating interest even in the distant Northwest. A recent visit here by Shirin Ebadi, the Nobel Peace Prize winner from Iran, underscored that with a packed house at Town Hall.

Chris Higashi, program manager at the Center for the Book, has endured the disappointments of Satrapi's two postponed visits and now is greatly encouraged as her time in Seattle nears.

"I think we are seeing increasing numbers of Iranian Americans at related events here," Higashi says. "Her visit provides an opportunity for people to have a dialogue with those in the Iranian community. This really seems like another 'Seattle Reads' where in-

terest is swelling in the community beyond just our reading groups."

Satrapi's "Persepolis" books also have been in the forefront in the dramatic rise in the popularity of the graphic novel, which is likely to draw more interested readers to her varied appearances here.

Marjane Satrapi's events are: Wednesday, 7 p.m., at the Lake City branch, Seattle Public Library, 12501 28th Ave. N.E.; Thursday, 12:30 p.m., auditorium, Building N-201, Bellevue Community College, 3000 Landerholm Circle S.E.; June 2, 11 a.m., Erickson Theatre, Seattle Central Community College, 1524 Harvard Ave.; June 3, 11 a.m., Columbia branch, Seattle Public Library, 4721 Rainier Ave. S.; June 3, 2 p.m., Ballard branch, Seattle Public Library, 5614 22nd Ave. N.W. Information: 206-386-4650.

– John Marshall

books

BEST BET



DIANE MAPES

The savvy freelance chronicler of Seattle singledom discusses the insights and delights of life on the hunt, as related in her helpful new guidebook, "How To Date in a Post-Dating World." Mapes appears at a 21-and-over event Thursday at Ten Mercer restaurant on Lower Queen Anne.

Doig returns to his Montana roots and spawns his best novel in years

BY JOHN MARSHALL
P-I book critic

Ivan Doig is a Northwest literary treasure, solid, dependable, productive. But publishing flash and dash never has been associated with this longtime Seattle resident who may be the region's quietest master of historical storytelling, someone often overlooked or at least taken for granted because most of his work is set in his native Montana.

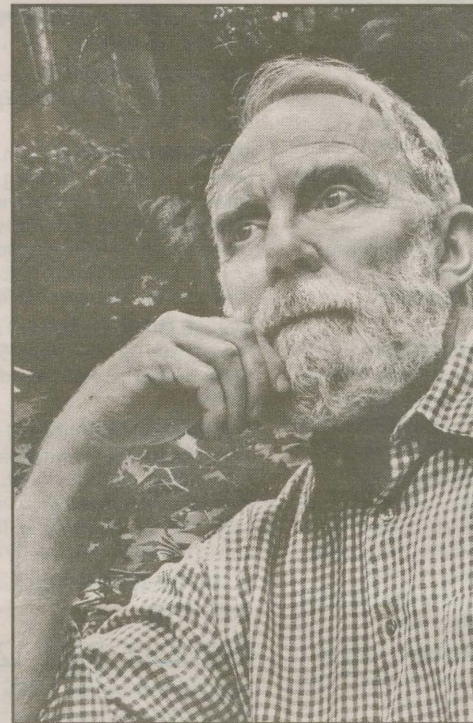
All the 66-year-old Doig has done at the writing trade is craft resonant work year in and year out, from his pioneering memoir, "This House of Sky," which has become a Western classic, to such fine novels as "English Creek." Eleven books now carry the Doig byline, which has come to guarantee real characters, heartfelt humanity and faithful evocations of time and place.

Doig adds to that important legacy with his engaging new novel, "The Whistling Season." This enticing Montana-set story represents a welcome return for the legions of Doig fans, but also a most suitable introduction for those readers tardy in their discovery of this writer's considerable charms and talents. "The Whistling Season" may not break any new Doig ground, but it does showcase some of his best work in recent years.

At the center of this 20th century yarn is that once-beloved institution – the one-room schoolhouse – so crucial in its day to the very fabric of rural community life. The novel alternates between 1910, when one-room schoolhouses are a vital component in Montana life, and 1957, when the state's superintendent of public instruction must decide their ultimate fate.

In the sort of parallel that ignites and delights Doig's imagination, the man making that fateful decision, Paul Milliron, is himself a product of a one-room schoolhouse. And his 1957 decision, faced when the ominous Soviet Sputnik satellite circles the globe, harkens back to a celestial event in 1910, the return of Halley's comet that took place during the pivotal seventh-grade year in Paul's schoolhouse days.

He and his two younger brothers are fac-



MARION EITTLINGER

Ivan Doig paints an evocative portrait of 1957 Montana with "The Whistling Season."

BOOK REVIEW

THE WHISTLING SEASON

By Ivan Doig. Harcourt, 345 pages, \$25

ing a daunting prospect as the novel opens. It is a year after their mother has died and their father has decided that perhaps he should employ a housekeeper for their chaotic, all-male farmhouse. A Minneapolis woman's ad in the local Montana newspaper has spurred the widower's housekeeper idea with its headlined promise of "Can't Cook But Doesn't Bite."

Rose Llewellyn is a startling vision of grace and loveliness when she steps off the

train at Westwater, but this widow comes with unexpected baggage – a brother in tow, this erudite and dandified city gentleman named Morris Morgan who aims to see what kind of work he can do in Marias Coulee.

Semicomic farm jobs follow for him, as Rose goes about her Herculean cleaning labors for the Millirons, but the sudden departure of the local schoolmarm, smitten by the charms of a traveling evangelist, suddenly results in Morgan becoming her most unlikely replacement. His rookie teaching methods are dazzlingly unconventional, but still strike a chord with his charges, especially Paul Milliron whose latent, unchallenged talents blossom under Morgan's tutelage, which includes private lessons in Latin.

"The Whistling Season" unfolds at an amiable pace, alternating between glimpses of the Milliron family's transformation with a woman in their midst again, young Paul's coming-of-age in both emotional and intellectual ways and the fluid group dynamic and animated high jinks at the schoolhouse. Not all days are halcyon on Montana's western front, with a trapper father providing menacing evil and a major farm accident threatening to alter family life forever, but this is a novel of hope, not despair.

Doig's plot has its predictable, even a bit trite elements. Of course, a widow and widower spending so much time under one roof has the perfect makin's for r-o-m-a-n-c-e. Of course, two mysterious big-city strangers who find refuge in the distant West must be lugging some big secret from their past.

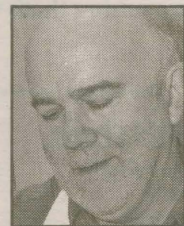
Yet Doig's evocative portrait of times and people overcomes such shortcomings. He writes at one point, "Life somehow smoothed out, under that brightening cloud of comet tail." His new novel works a similar magic.

Doig discusses "The Whistling Season" at 7 p.m. tonight, University Book Store, 206-634-3400, and at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Third Place Books, 206-366-3333.

P-I book critic John Marshall can be reached at 206-448-8170 or johnmarshall@seattlepi.com.

Editor cooks up a delicious tale of life in the high-cuisine world

British soccer hooligans may be nowhere near as intimidating as Italian masters of the kitchen, as Bill Buford has learned from personal experience.



Buford

Buford is a legendary editor, first at Britain's Granta magazine and later at The New Yorker, whose first book in 1992 chronicled his gonzo sojourns among Brit soccer

hooligans ("Among the Thugs"). More than a decade later, the 51-year-old writer returns with "Heat" (Alfred A. Knopf, 315 pages, \$25.95), reportage of other hazardous encounters, this time in the cutthroat world of high cuisine.

"Heat" grew out of Buford's New Yorker profile of Mario Batali, the Seattle native who has gone on to become a supernova of the Big Apple culinary scene as well as the Food Network cable channel. Buford spent six months in the frenzied pressure cooker of Batali's signature Bab-

bo restaurant, doing the culinary dirty work in the name of research, including time as the denizen of the stove inferno otherwise known as "line cook."

But Buford, who admits to a streak of mania in his life and work, did not stop there. The food bug had bitten so hard that he spent another six months working at the side of Dario Cecchini, a Tuscan butcher of outsized talent and ego renowned throughout Italia.

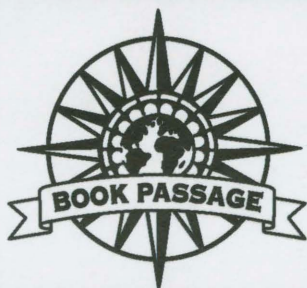
Further education under the tutelage of another culinary genius resulted for the writer who

had once considered himself a decent home chef as well as a world-class bon vivant.

"Heat" carries a hefty subtitle: "An Amateur's Adventures as Kitchen Slave, Line Cook, Pasta-Maker and Apprentice to a Dante-Quoting Butcher in Tuscany." But what Buford has truly concocted is a zesty feast for appetites of all kinds. Salute!

Bill Buford discusses "Heat" at 7:30 p.m. Monday at The Elliott Bay Book Co., 101 S. Main St. 206-624-6600.

– John Marshall



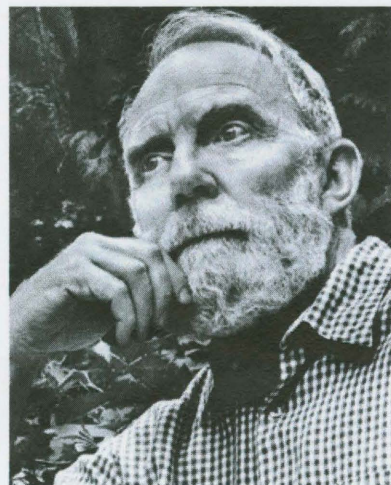
BOOK PASSAGE

Presents

Ivan Doig

Tuesday, June 6
1:00 pm

Ivan Doig talks about **The Whistling Season** (\$25.00). Doig tells the story of a widow from Minneapolis and her brother—soon to become the new teacher in a tiny Montana community in 1909. *Publishers Weekly* says “the sheer joy of word choices, phrases, sentences, situations, and character bubbling up and out, as fecund and nurturing as the dryland farmscape the story inhabits is sere and arid. . . . a book to pass on to your favorite readers: a story of lives of active choice, lived actively.”

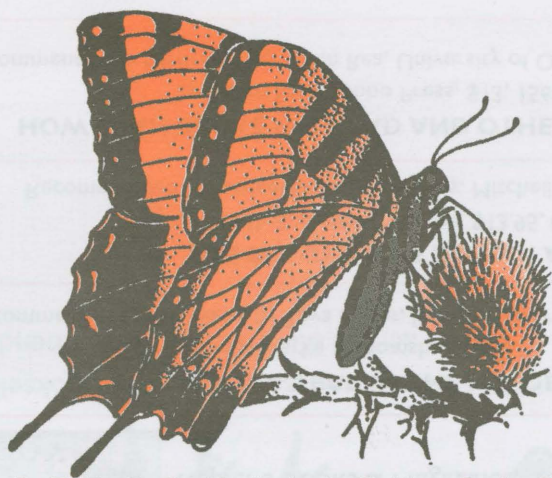


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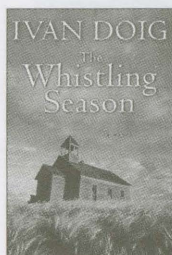
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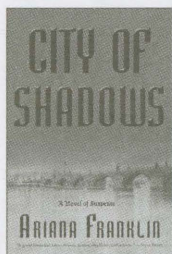
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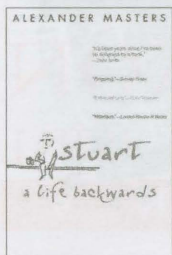
THE WHISTLING SEASON: A Novel, by **Ivan Doig** (Harcourt, \$25, 0151012377) "Doig has given us a wonderful novel of a widowed father and his three sons living on the Montana frontier in 1909 who hire a housekeeper from Minnesota. Memorable characters and a vivid portrayal of how a one-room schoolhouse unifies a rural community are just some of the facets of this flawlessly crafted novel."

—**Stephen Grutzmacher, Passtimes Books, Sister Bay, WI**



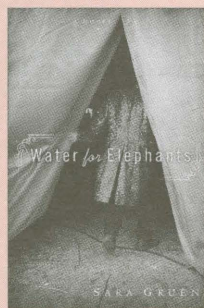
CITY OF SHADOWS: A Novel of Suspense, by **Ariana Franklin** (Morrow, \$24.95, 0060817267) "Germany after World War I was a country of strong emotions and beliefs, where many were caught in the crossfire. Franklin's story conveys fear, passion, and greed, and includes a tantalizing Russian thread, a scam, and a serial killer woven into the plot. Gripping."

—**Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA**



STUART: A Life Backwards, by **Alexander Masters** (Delacorte, \$20, 0385340001) "Alexander Masters discovers a homeless man named Stuart parked on the fringe of society. Over the course of many encounters, Stuart reveals his life story in a deeply disturbing, lucid, and profound way. Often funny, at times painful, this is ultimately a revelation about how it feels to be lost and found."

—**Geoffrey B. Jennings, Rainy**



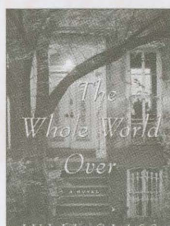
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FUN HOME: A Family Man, by **Alison Bechdel** (Mariner, \$16.95, 061847794) "A memoirist/author of 'Watch Out for Me' tells a story in this graphic novel about an iconic patriarch." —**Maeda Al**

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An intimate tale under the West's big sky

The Boston Globe

By Gail Caldwell | June 18, 2006

The Whistling Season

By Ivan Doig
Harcourt, 345 pp., \$25

However inaccurate or inconclusive the grouping may be, we tend to equate the idea of Western literature with the place itself: big sky and inclement weather, a sparse human population trying to withstand nature's nonchalant cruelties. There are other trials as well: The adversities of poverty or ill health take on an even harsher cast when they're measured against miles and miles of empty space. Time, too, has to buckle and bend under all that sky -- beholden to early mornings and long winter nights, or blizzards or lonely disasters that can stop the clock altogether.

The Western novel, accordingly, moves with a particular interior momentum we tend to overlook in view of the genre's other dramas. Wallace Stegner's fiction epitomized this notion, what with his languid, generous stories as big as the country they tried to lasso and reveal. Ivan Doig has long been beloved as a Montana writer; his 1980 memoir, "This House of Sky," helped fix the landscape of the modern West in the contemporary American imagination. "The Whistling Season" is his 10th book, an autumnal work in a long writing career, and it feels almost radically old-fashioned -- a testament to a way of life as sweetly gone-but-familiar as railway stations and the Waltons.

The narrator of the novel is a middle-aged man named Paul Milliron, a superintendent of schools in mid-century Montana looking back to his childhood -- an interior country shaped by loss and huge vistas and the chance circumstances of any life. So the year of the story itself is 1909, in a little place called Marias Coulee, where 13-year-old Paul and his two little brothers live with their recently widowed father. Oliver Milliron is a taciturn, loving man, a dryland farmer trying to take care of his own land, plow the fields next door, and get his boys educated. When they see a newspaper posting of a widow in Minneapolis seeking a housekeeping position -- "Can't Cook But Doesn't Bite" -- its no-nonsense humor appeals enough to Oliver for him to overlook the fact that a cook is what they need. So here comes Rose Llewellyn, stepping off the train "at memory's depot" as Paul looks back on the education she brought them all.

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"The Whistling Season" takes its title in part from Rose's remarkable temperament. She whistles softly while she cleans the dust-ridden farmhouse from top to bottom, then induces her tag-along brother to scrub down the filthy chicken house for free. Brother Morrie, with his dandy wardrobe and his propensity for Latin, showed up on the same train, and the pair turn out to have just about everything Marias Coulee needs -- while Rose remakes the Milliron boys' spartan male lives, Morrie takes on their education. The one-room schoolhouse of the town has gone through several teachers in five years, each leaving for the easier prospect of marriage, and Morrie, with his University of Chicago pedigree and his infinite curiosity, seems superior to all his predecessors. Within no time he has all his charges -- from first-graders to hulking boys on the verge of 16 -- engaged in spelling bees and Newtonian physics, learning a tailor-made curriculum that will serve them well and even save them.

Because this novel is in many ways a paean to the sheltering world of local, rural schooling, Morrie can't help being its star. He protects the class bully from his father, a loathsome wolf trapper with the remarkable name of Brose Turley, and he probably changes the boy's life when he gives him reading glasses. He sees in Paul a scholar waiting to be born, and begins tutoring him in Latin every afternoon -- a language that Paul remembers "gave my mind a place to go, and to make itself at home for a good, long while." Morrie is made even more exotic by the traits that don't match his fancy clothes and high ideas: When Turley shows up at the schoolroom looking for trouble, Morrie quietly reaches into his pocket, and out comes a hand wearing brass knuckles.

So life is more eventful than you might imagine in turn-of-the-century Montana, what with its fine skies and whistling housecleaners and renegade teachers, and Doig tells a tale that can warm on you with the same gradual insistence as Morrie and Rose. The narrative voice is by turns evocative and unsettlingly anachronistic. Looking back on his youth, Paul remembers that "Winters were the tree rings of homestead life, circumferences of weather thick or thin, which over time swelled into the abiding pattern of memory." Yet this same voice can sometimes sound fussy and dated in its narrative earnestness (where characters "exult" instead of speak), pedantic on its diatribes about education. Best to leave such excesses to Morrie, who has the style to pull it off as well as the mystery to counterbalance it.

And there is indeed a mystery inside "The Whistling Season," gratifying in its eventual revelations but oddly hollow in its resolution. This problem, too, bears traces of the old-fashioned Western -- a world where men were men and where the shadows disappeared at high noon, even if the menace behind them never really went away.

Gail Caldwell is chief book critic of the Globe. She can be reached at caldwell@globe.com. ■

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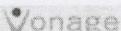
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
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His house of sky

The dying West lives on in Ivan Doig's works

By Diana Jordan

"I AM BY PERSONALITY, but also by training, a person to whom details are sacred," Ivan Doig tells *The Connection*. "The telling detail, the crystallizing detail ... those are vital to me, to the stories I've been telling." This is noteworthy in a journalist turned memoirist turned novelist.

For decades Doig has been jotting down details, poignant observations, intriguing phrases and words with a particular flair into 3-by-5-inch notebooks he stuffs into the well-worn front pockets of his shirts, later weaving them lyrically into magazine articles, two memoirs and eight books of fiction, to date.

Despite his austere upbringing on Montana ranches, "my eyes were in love with words early on," Doig says. He had a clue his path would take a different direction from his classmates and fellow ranch hands during his junior year in high school, when he dropped out of Future Farmers of America and instead took typing and Latin.

The memoir for which Doig is most known, *This House of Sky*, this month's book buyer's pick, was years away yet, but the budding journalist came of age early. He credits the experience of being the "only child around adults—on ranches or the people I was living with in town to go to school while my father and grandmother were working and cooking on ranches—and I think it set the knack for standing back and eavesdropping with my eyes, [and] fed into my ultimate imagination as a writer."

As for his fiction, the latest of which is *The Whistling Season*, "I make up my characters and my plots as wholeheartedly as I can." Challenged recently to count the number of characters in his fiction, Doig figures he's approaching 450, and he has dossiers on each—what they look like, how they speak, how they wear their hats.

"I'm a writer in every pore of my being," says Doig, who now lives in Seattle. He applauds his good fortune of marrying Carol, another graduate of the Northwestern University School of Journalism, 41 years ago. Happily for him, she was willing to take a steady job, as a professor, while he began his career as a newspaper journalist, then as a freelance magazine writer. Doig credits his wife for inspiring him: "Strong women are in my work."

Casting about for freelance topics in the late '60s—and with Carol's support—Doig was pro-

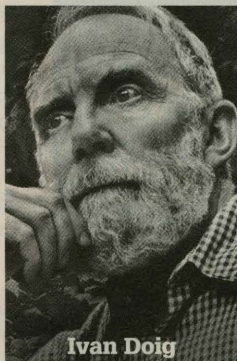
pelled by two strong notions. First, he sensed that his father and grandmother were a vanishing breed. He dubbed his family "lariat proletariats," never far enough up in the world to own land, only to work it. So he pulled out his tape recorder and let his dad tell his stories and his grandmother let loose her "river of proverbs."

"You could tell, even then, that that generation, born on a homestead and growing up cowboying and shepherding and general ranch work—that was vanishing, it was already vanishing," he says, "and I could feel it vanishing from beneath me by the time I was a summer ranch hand in Montana, piling bales of hay and doing other farm and ranch chores. Mechanization was going to do us in."

At the same time, another force propelled Doig to write his family's story: Watergate. It was a time, he rails, that "every Nixonian co-conspirator, indicted or otherwise, was getting a book contract." He wanted to show the world that "there are stories of common, more honorable families and individuals in this country who also deserve to have their own books." *This House of Sky*, his debut book, which was published in 1980, was a hit, praised for its unique brand of storytelling.

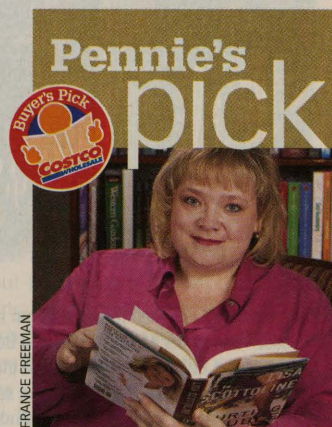
While writing, Doig says, he faces the corner of the room and reads passages aloud—an old broadcast journalist's trick—to hear how the rhythm sounds. He wants his books to have a lyrical expression while they tell a story. He also wants his readers to take away "the sense that the human story and the family story can be told in loving language that is also an art." **✎**

Diana Jordan (www.dianajordan.net) interviews authors for TV, the Web, radio and print.



MARION ETLINGER

Ivan Doig



FRANCE FREEMAN

Pennie's
pick

Pennie Clark Iannicelli
Costco Book Buyer

ORIGINALLY published in 1978, Ivan Doig's memoir—and this month's pick—*This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind* was immediately hailed as an example of masterful writing. I don't hesitate to call it an American classic.

Doig begins his story on his sixth birthday and leads readers through his youth in rugged Montana as he's raised by his father and grandmother—among shepherders, ranchers and denizens of small-town saloons.

He explores how the landscape and early familial bonds can't help but shape people as they grow and begin their search for love, family and independence.

Doig's *This House of Sky* is available in most Costco warehouses and at costco.com. **✎**

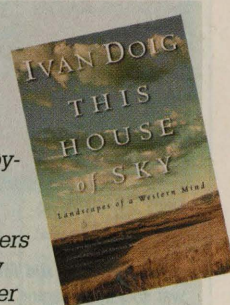
Signed book giveaway

COSTCO HAS 10 signed copies of Ivan Doig's *This House of Sky* to give away.

To enter, print your name, membership number, address and daytime phone number on a postcard or letter and send it to: *This House of Sky*, The Costco Connection, P.O. Box 34088, Seattle, WA 98124-1088; or fax it to (425) 313-6718.

No purchase is necessary.

Entries must be received or post-marked by midnight, August 1, 2006. Void where prohibited. Employees of Costco and their families are not eligible. Winners will be notified by mail. One entry per household.

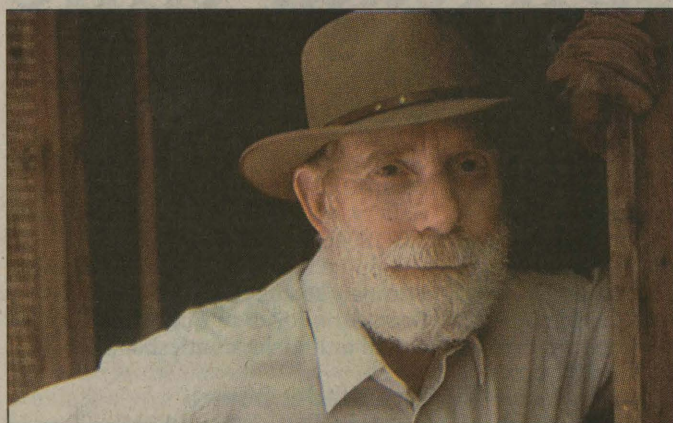


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ONLINE BONUS! News about scheduled book signings at Costco and a book giveaway can be found in "Book Look," only in the July Online Edition at costco.com under "Costco magazine."

ENTERTAINMENT

Doig brings his talent for the past to Spokane



IVAN DOIG

Ivan Doig's new book has been summed up as "a deeply meditated and achieved art."

BY DAN WEBSTER

Staff writer

Ivan Doig is a shepherd of the past.

The 11 books he has written so far are, for the most part, studies of Montana that range from the earliest homesteaders of the late 19th century ("Dancing at the Rascal Fair") to a road-trip homage to the 1989 statehood centennial celebration ("Ride With Me, Maria Montana").

Yet all of the books, including "The Whistling Season" – his most recent novel, and the one he will read from Monday at

If you go

Ivan Doig will read from his novel "The Whistling Season" (Harcourt, 345 pages, \$25) at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Auntie's Bookstore, 402 W. Main Ave.

Auntie's Bookstore – tackle themes that are as old as history itself.

Doig writes of family. He writes of love, both between people and that of rancher/farmers for their land. He writes of loyalty and

obligation and independence and pretty much every concept that constitutes the way we see the American West, past and present.

And he writes about specific moments, of particular occurrences and the effect both have on his characters. As he admitted in a recent phone interview, "I like to (work) things off events that affect the laws of gravity in people's lives."

Timing is of particular importance to "The Whistling Season." Each of its bookend dates marks an astronomical event of the 20th century: The book opens just six months

before Halley's Comet appeared in April 1910.

But the narrator, Paul Milliron, tells the story from the perspective of his character in 1957, which was when the former Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first satellite to orbit the Earth.

In 1909, Paul is 13 and one of three brothers being raised by a widower who changes all their lives by answering a curious newspaper ad placed by a housekeeper looking for work.

The ad says simply, "Can't Cook But Doesn't Bite."

See **DOIG, D5**

PRODUCER FULFILLS JOHNNY CASH'S WISH TO RECORD LAST ALBUM TO DEAL WITH WIFE'S DEATH



Showtime joins the mob scene

'Brotherhood' reminiscent of 'The Sopranos'

BY ALAN SEPINWALL

Newhouse News Service

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

In Showtime's latest attempt to be competitive with HBO, we get ... a mob show.

One in which a character suffers depression and is urged to seek therapy. One in which the lead mobster has a strong-willed mother. One in which a hitman attends AA meetings.

But in fairness to "Brotherhood," which premieres tonight, a lot of the similarities are superficial at best (the depressed character never actually sees a shrink).

And to some "Sopranos" fans, the ways in which "Brotherhood" does resemble their favorite show – or at least their perception of it – may earn the newcomer some goodwill.

Shot in and around Providence, R.I., with the same affection and sense of place that the Essex County, N.J., locations give to the adventures of Tony and Paulie Walnuts,

frail to buy groceries anyplace else. He also dispenses the occasional bit of vigilante justice and tries to support alcoholic sidekick Pete (Stivi Paskoski) in his attempt to stay on the wagon.

There are echoes of not only "The Sopranos," but the "Godfather" films and every story of rival brothers dating all the way back to Cain and Abel – and to the true story of James "Whitey" Bulger, a notorious Boston gangster whose brother William was once the head of the state Senate.

But if you're of the school of thought that there are only a half-dozen or so basic stories out there and what matters most is the execution, then "Brotherhood" does a strong job of transcending its familiar roots.

On TV

"Brotherhood" premieres tonight at 10 on Showtime (premium cable channel 576 in Spokane, 226 in Coeur d'Alene).

The excellent performances are led by Clarke, a relative unknown from Australia. Tommy always seems to be doing a mental calculus

about what will most benefit both himself and his district, and Clarke makes the sight of a character just

DOIG

Continued from D3

"The book really started with 'Can't Cook But Doesn't Bite,' " Doig said. "That popped in my head one day, and I suppose I began thinking, 'What if somebody answered an ad that said that and who could it be?'"

From there, Doig introduces us to characters who will become important to the book's plot: Rose, the housekeeper, and her brother Morris.

Paul, who is hungry to learn, will be particularly affected. With the teacher of the one-room schoolhouse having taken off with an itinerant preacher, Morris assumes her duties.

"We all know the story of 'Elmer Gantry,'" Doig said. "Those guys were often crooning the 'Song of Solomon' as a kind of advance to the local ladies. So I thought, 'OK, why don't we have his frumpy teacher run off with the

preacher. It'll give the kids something to say: "Did you hear? Teacher ran off with the preacher?"' And that opened up the school for Morrie to come in and really get things going."

As author Rick Bass wrote about Morris in his review for Publishers Weekly, "The verve and inspiration that he, an utter novice to the West, to children and to teaching children, brings to the task is told brilliantly and passionately, and is the core of the book's narrative, with its themes of all the different ways of knowing and learning, at any age."

At the other end of the story, looking back at all that has occurred, 60-something Paul is now superintendent of Montana's schools. And, to his sorrow, he is faced with making financial decisions that will profoundly affect the very educational system that nurtured him as a boy.

Yet what is most notable about "The Whistling Season" is

not so much what happens but how Doig describes it.

"Doig's writerly ambition is less in plotting than evoking, and it is his obvious pleasure to re-create from the ground up – or the sky down – a prior world, a prior way of being," wrote Sven Birkerts for The New York Times Book Review.

The result, Birkerts summed up, is a novel that, in the end, is "a deeply meditated and achieved art."

Carrying a June 1 publication date, "The Whistling Season" is already in its fourth printing.

"The book is a national best seller among the independent stores, the BookSense people," Doig said, a note of curiosity sounding in his voice.

Which just goes to show: Doig may have the power to capture the past, but he's as clueless as anyone about the vagaries of the publishing future.

"Frankly, I'm quite surprised by this one," he said with a laugh. "Beats hell out of me."

BENJAMIN NEWS GROUP & HARCOURT
PUBLISHING INVITE YOU TO SEE

Ivan Doig

at a book signing of

Whistling Season

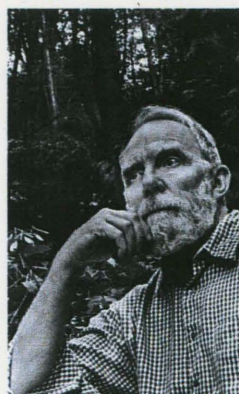
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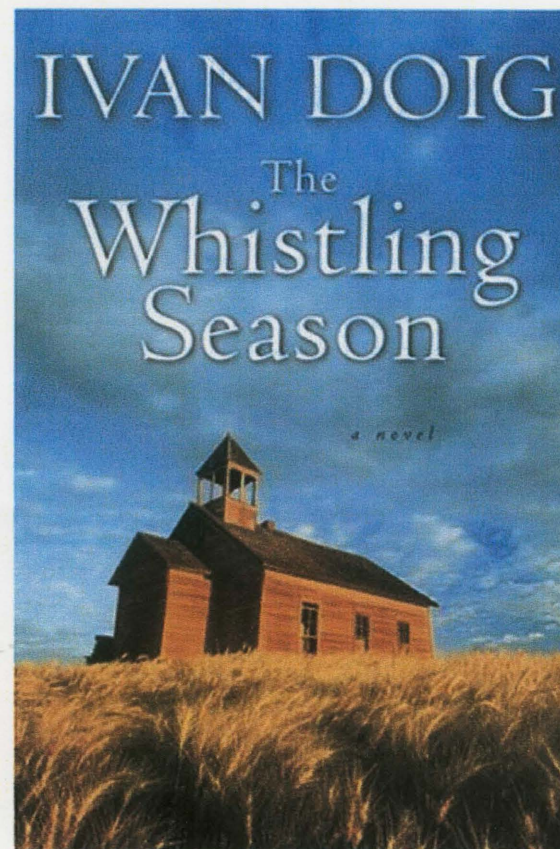
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Ivan Doig credit: Marion Ettlinger



Ivan Doig - is the author of ten previous books. Seven are novels, including *English Creek* and *Dancing at the Rascal Fair*, and three are nonfiction, including the highly acclaimed memoir *This House of Sky*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award. A former ranch hand, newspaperman, and magazine editor, Doig holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Washington. He lives in Seattle.

Missoulian

E2

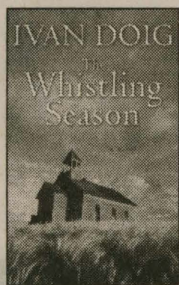
Sunday,
July 9, 2006

Book Life

'With one day's reading, a man may have the key in his hands.'

— Ezra Pound (1885-1972)

Doig's 'Whistling Season' a gentle read



Review

"The Whistling Season,"
by Ivan Doig
(Harcourt)

By DALYNN NICKELL
for the Missoulian

It is 1909, and Paul Milliron is a 13-year-old seventh-grader in Marias Coulee, Mont. He is the oldest of three boys, who, along with their father, are coming to terms with the recent death of their mother. Together the family decides to hire a housekeeper to look after them. When Rose Llewellyn arrives on the train from Minnesota, they are shocked to find her unannounced brother, Morrie, has come to stay as well.

Ivan Doig's latest novel, "The Whistling Season," is the story of Paul's 13th year, with all its excitement, its accomplishments, its schoolyard tussles and their ensuing punishments, and its day-

Meet the author

Ivan Doig has two readings and signings scheduled for western Montana. See Book Dates below.

to-day banality. It is narrated mostly by 13-year-old Paul and occasionally by the adult Paul has become.

Paul Milliron in 1957 is the state superintendent of schools for Montana. He is visiting the homestead where he grew up because he is in the area, charged with closing the Marias Coulee School and other tiny one-room schoolhouses and consolidating them to conserve money. In the era of the Russians launching Sputnik, his mind is drawn back

to his childhood, the year Halley's Comet came through town.

"The Whistling Season" is a gentle read and gorgeously written. From the hauntingly beautiful title straight through the book, Doig's love affair with language is a joy to behold. When Paul begins after-school lessons in Latin he is thrilled, and the playfulness of the prose makes it clear that the author himself has greatly enjoyed every word he's written or read.

This love of language and sense of poetry as prose is clearly Doig's goal. As he states himself on his Web site, www.ivandoig.com, he wants "to write it all as highly charged as poetry." This, he states, has been his intention from the first book he wrote in the '70s, and he is certainly succeeding.

The complication, however, is that the poetry seems to come at the expense of plot. "The Whistling Season" seems, at times, little more than a well-penned laundry list of the things Paul Milliron did and saw in seventh grade. The transitions in age of the narrator are never fully explained, and occur so infrequently in the book as to be abrupt and confusing.

Though there are a few bits of intrigue and a couple of plot twists in the book, their outcomes are clear from the outset, leaving little drama to draw the reader along.

What the author does accomplish impeccably is a melancholy yearning for the days of innocence when metal detectors had no place in schools

and locker-searching, bomb-sniffing dogs didn't even exist. He invokes in the reader a distant memory of life at a simpler, healthier pace – even if that memory is not the reader's own. Although not many events take place there – and when they do, as the reader you've seen them coming for half the book – Doig creates a place in time that's crisp and clear and welcoming enough that you'll be begging to go there, to stay longer.

For longtime fans of Doig's writing, or for those interested in discovering why he is considered one of the Northwest's great living wordsmiths and a celebrated son of Montana, "The Whistling Season" should serve as an easily digestible and enjoyable read.

fo·li·o folio (fō'leō)

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JULY 2006

Month Events

★Details Inside★

July 7th • 7:00 pm

Swain Wolfe
Reading & Signing
THE BOY WHO INVENTED
SKIING

July 8th • 10:30 am

S Matt Read
Demonstration
RUBB-ORIGAMI

July 11th • 7:00 pm

Ivan Doig
Reading & Signing
THE WHISTLING SEASON

July 17th • 7:00 pm

Dan Bessie--REELING
THROUGH HOLLYWOOD
Jeanne Johnson
STARLINGS IN THE PARK

July 20th • 7:00 pm

Karen Fisher
Reading & Signing



Missoula is a special place this month for music and books

Farmers markets, First Friday, Out to Lunch, and Downtown Tonite bring people to Missoula all summer long, but this month The International Choral Festival brings the world to our doorstep. Be sure to buy your Festival buttons and attend all the choir performances.

In addition, this month F&F has a great line-up of visiting authors. All scheduled to avoid a conflict with the Choral Festival! Swain Wolfe joins us on First Friday to read from his new memoir. Ivan Doig has a new book set in Montana, plan to hear him on July 11th. Then James Lee Burke will read and answer questions on July 25th.

To complete the month, Bresnan and C-Span are bringing the BookTV Bus to Missoula the end of the month! There's never a dull moment in the Missoula summertime.

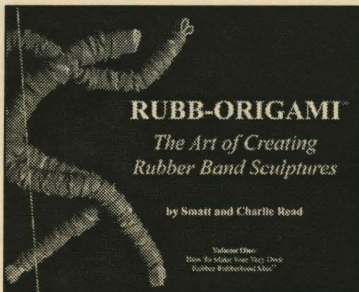
Things Happen Here!



SWAIN WOLFE Reading & Signing Friday, July 7th 7:00 pm

THE BOY WHO INVENTED SKIING

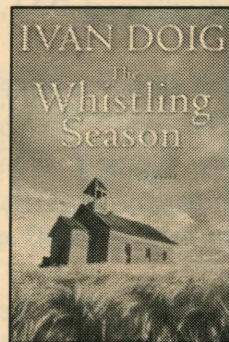
Swain Wolfe spent his childhood in magical places, exploring the mesas and tunnels of his father's tuberculosis sanatorium in Colorado and later his stepfather's six-thousand-acre ranch on a horse named Joe. Nature was his mirror, allowing him to escape his parents' failing marriage, his father's despair, and his mother's brutal second marriage. Later he discovered he could immerse himself in work as he had in nature. He learned to work with draft horses, worked in lumber mills, led a forest fire crew, and cut timber. But it was mining thousands of feet below the earth's surface that changed his life.



S MATT READ Demonstration Saturday, July 8th 10:30 am

RUBB-ORIGAMI

What is Rubb-Origami? Similar to regular origami, the art of paper folding, Rubb-Origami is a craft using ordinary rubber bands to make an extraordinary piece of art. By bending, looping, and wrapping the rubber bands with special techniques, a variety of sculptures can be made.



IVAN DOIG Reading & Signing Tuesday, July 11th 7:00 pm

THE WHISTLING SEASON

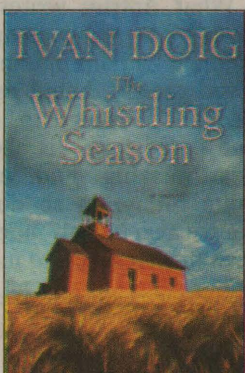
"Can't cook but doesn't bite." So begins the newspaper ad offering the services of Rose Llewellyn to widower Oliver Milliron in the fall of 1909. So to the reader goes to a time when one-room schoolhouses were the hub of the community and homesteaders were taming the West.

This is pure Montana magic as only Ivan Doig can deliver!

Local Scene

Current best-sellers at
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157 Winslow Way E.,
Bainbridge Island,
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1. The Whistling Season

Ivan Doig

2. Three Cups of Tea: One
Man's Mission to Fight
Terrorism and Build Nations
One School at a Time

Greg Mortenson

3. The One Percent Doctrine

Ron Suskind

4. Stumbling on Happiness

Daniel Gilbert

5. Twelve Sharp

Janet Evanovich

Paperback

1. Sea Changes

Bill Branley

2. Mountains Beyond
Mountains

Tracy Kidder

3. A Sudden Country

Karen Fisher

4. The Devil Wears Prada

Lauren Weisberger

5. Stories to Solve: Folktales
from Around the World

George Shannon

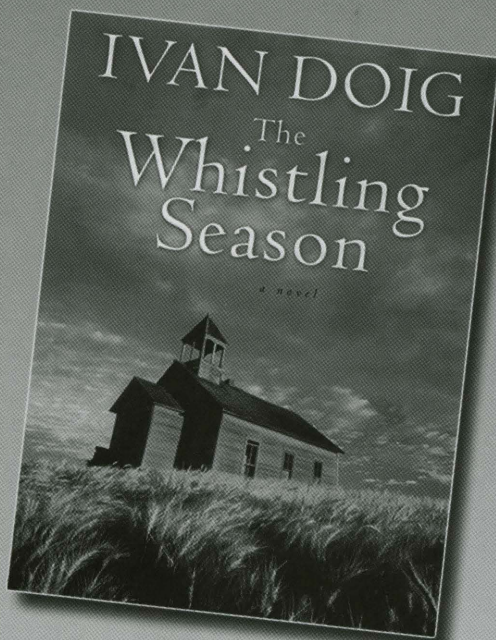
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IVAN DOIG

8pm, Saturday, July 22, 2006
Alberta Bair Theater



Reserved tickets \$15, \$10, students \$5, available at the ABT Box Office. Call 256-6052
The reading is sponsored in part by the Billings Gazette and the YMCA National Writer's Voice National Reading Tour.



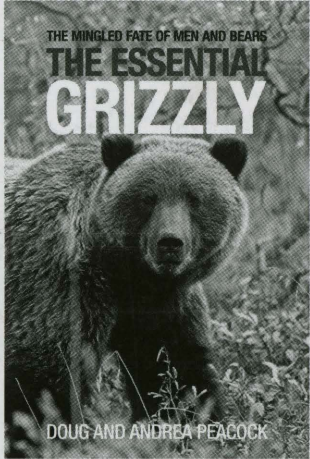
The Writer's Voice

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Ivan Doig will read from his newest novel *The Whistling Season*.

“Can’t cook but doesn’t bite.” So begins the newspaper ad offering the services of an “A-I housekeeper, sound morals, exceptional disposition” that draws the hungry attention of widower Oliver Milliron in 1909. *The Whistling Season* is a paean to a vanished way of life and the eccentric individuals and idiosyncratic institutions that nourish it. Doig is the author of ten previous books, including the *This House of Sky*, and the novels *Prairie Nocturne* and *Dancing at the Rascal Fair*.



4TH ANNUAL HIGH PLAINS BOOKFEST

Dozens of regional writers will again converge in downtown Billings July 21-23 for the BookFest. The annual event will coincide with the Clark Days on the Yellowstone events which will feature several Lewis and Clark scholars.

Schedule at www.downtownbillings.org

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“The difference between fiction and reality? Fiction has to make sense.”

— Tom Clancy

Best-Sellers

The *Wall Street Journal's* best-seller list reflects nationwide sales of hardcover books at more than 2,500 retailers:

Hardcover fiction

1. **Twelve Sharp.** Janet Evanovich. St. Martin's Press, \$26.95
2. **Danse Macabre.** Laurell K. Hamilton. Berkley, \$25.95
3. **Can't Wait to Get to Heaven.** Fannie Flagg. Random House, \$25.95
4. **Beach Road.** James Patterson, Peter de Jonge. Little, Brown, \$27.95
5. **The Husband.** Dean Koontz. Bantam, \$27
6. **Coming Out.** Danielle Steel. Delacorte, \$20
7. **Black Order.** James Rollins. William Morrow, \$24.94
8. **Book of the Dead.** D. Preston, L. Child. Warner Books, \$25.95
9. **Baby Proof.** Emily Giffin. St. Martin's, \$23.95
10. **At Risk.** Patricia Cornwell. Putnam, \$21.95
11. **Cover of Night.** Linda Howard. Ballantine, \$25.95
12. **Terrorist.** John Updike. Knopf, \$24.95
13. **Water for Elephants.** Sara Gruen. Algonquin, \$23.95
14. **The Devil and Miss Prym.** Paulo Coelho. HarperCollins, \$24.95
15. **Blue Screen.** Robert B. Parker. Putnam, \$24.95



Hardcover nonfiction

1. **The One Percent Doctrine.** Ron Suskind. Simon & Schuster, \$27
2. **Marley & Me.** John Grogan. William Morrow, \$21.95
3. **Godless.** Ann Coulter. Crown, \$27.95
4. **Mayflower.** Nathaniel Philbrick. Viking, \$29.95
5. **The World is Flat.** Thomas L. Friedman. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$30
6. **Cesar's Way.** Cesar Millan, Melissa Jo Peltier. Harmony, \$24.95

Secrets of time and place

Novel set in the homesteading era gives author plenty of room to explore

By ELLEN FAGG
The Salt Lake Tribune

The headline of a housekeeper's position wanted ad, "Can't cook, doesn't bite," became the spark that ignited Ivan Doig's popular new novel, *The Whistling Season*, which focuses on a turn-of-the-century homesteading family during the year the skies are lit up by Halley's comet.

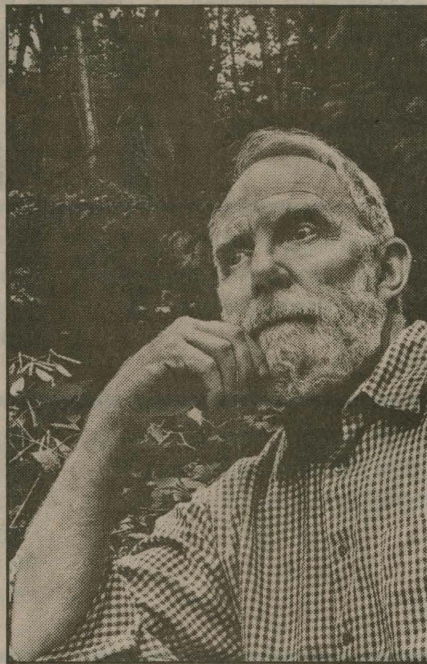
"I should say I went through 50 years of rural newspapers' classified ads, but it just popped into my head," says Doig, a Montana native transplanted to Seattle, in a phone interview during his book tour through Montana.

Just published last month, the book has already been returned for a fourth printing and is on track to outsell the author's last four books, according to Michelle Blankenship, publicity manager for Harcourt. *The Whistling Season* appears to be one of the summer's breakout books, thanks to the attention of booksellers and strong reviews, including *The New York Times*, where Sven Birkerts lauded Doig's book for its "quiet and unassuming" tone, and deeply meditated language.

"It's the best book he has written for years," raves bookseller Betsy Burton of The King's English. "It's nostalgic without being sentimental, and it's real. I think he writes about reality as we all experience it."

The book is narrated by Paul Milliron, the Montana superintendent of public schools who, during the educational frenzy that follows the 1957 Soviet launch of the Sputnik satellite, returns to visit the one-room schoolhouse he attended. As the administrator considers the fate of the state's smallest schools, he's caught up in memories of his seventh-grade year, when he learned Latin and astronomy from his eccentric teacher, the brother of the family's new housekeeper.

Just as the fictional narrator returns home, Doig's 10th book marks the 67-year-old writer's return to familiar fictional territory. He was raised in rural Montana, which is the homeland for



The Whistling Season is the tenth book by author Ivan Doig. It is on track to outsell his previous four books.

such novels as *English Creek* and *Dancing at the Rascal Fair*, as well as the memoirs *This House of Sky* and *Heart Earth*.

As a historian, Doig finds fertile fictional ground in the homesteading era, how it attracted Americans to make a new life for themselves in the West. In *Whistling Season*, Rose, the housekeeper who upturns the Milliron household, and Morris, her mysterious brother who becomes the schoolmaster, move to Montana after being outsmarted by their lives in the Midwest.

In the novel, the narrator's life is marked by the bookends of two heavenly events, the extraordinary sight of Halley's comet as well as the intellectual weight of Sputnik's launch. Yet *Whistling Season* is also grounded by its exploration of the childhood obsession with secrets, as the writer pulls rabbit after rabbit from the hat of the book's plot. "Secrets interest me philosophical," Doig says, "but I wanted those se-

Italian idyll

• Ivan Doig offers a free reading from his new novel, "The Whistling Season," at 7 p.m. Friday on the patio of the King's English Bookstore, 1511 S. 1500 East, Salt Lake. For information, call the bookstore at 801-484-9100.

crets to pile up and up, particularly on the narrator, Paul. I wanted the momentum, the pacing of that."

Thanks to the grounded nature of the book's fictional world, the story offers a keyhole inside the community of a one-room schoolhouse, where younger kids learn from overhearing the lessons of their elders. And one of the book's central episodes, where a state inspector visits Paul's school to administer standardized tests, seems freshly relevant, nearly 100 years later, in a No Child Left Behind educational era.

Doig is often categorized as a Western regional writer, like such contemporary Montana writers as William Kittredge, Dee McNamer and Rick Bass. Yet he'd rather be known for his attention to language than his attention to a particular place. For an explanation, he returns to a quote from the poet William Carlos Williams: "The classic is the local fully realized, words marked by a place."

Over the course of seven novels, the writer has created a constellation of about 360 fictional characters, some of whom might be reintroduced to play a role in another of his books. "That's pretty much all I've wanted to do," says Doig, a former ranch hand, newspaper writer, editor and university-trained historian. "Besides having a good marriage and a decent place to live, I've wanted to work with the language and tell these stories."

Contact Ellen Fagg at ellenf@sltrib.com or 801-257-8621. Send comments about this story to livingeditor@sltrib.com.

3 Books about murder and mayhem

Book reviews in brief by Anne Stephenson, *The Arizona Republic*

Darkness & Light

John Harvey, Harcourt, \$25

Even if you haven't read the previous books in the Frank Elder series, you'll learn a lot about the retired Nottingham policeman just by listening to his prickly conversation with his ex-wife or by watching him agree, at the start of this novel, to leave his cottage by the sea and look for a missing woman. Her worried sister has asked for Frank's help, so he makes some inquiries but doesn't get far before the sister's body turns up. She has been killed in the same manner as a woman murdered eight years before, in a case Frank never solved. Now he finds himself working as a consultant with some of his old friends in the police department as they reinvestigate the first murder in hopes of solving the second. It's a satisfying look at the twists and turns of police work, through a man who can't quite leave his former life behind.



Triangle

Katharine Weber, FSG, \$23

Weber's novel is a suspenseful, intelligent and wildly imaginative story inspired by the Triangle Shirtwaist fire of 1911, which killed 146 New York City factory workers,

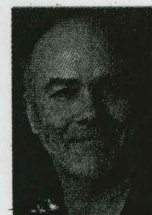
TBR: Inside the List

DEADLINE POET: Calvin Trillin's new book of "deadline poetry," "A Heckuva Job: More of the Bush Administration in Verse" (Random House), enters the hardcover nonfiction list this week at No. 13. The book is Trillin's fourth to make the Times list in hardcover — "Remembering Denny" had a six-week run in 1993, "Messages From My Father" appeared for one week in 1996, and his previous book of verse, "Obliviously On He Sails," was a five-week best seller in 2004. The title of Trillin's new book derives, obviously, from a Hurricane Katrina moment. Trillin writes in his introduction: "Brownie, you're doing a heckuva job! From the moment President George W. Bush uttered that phrase — to Michael Brown, the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency — we knew that it would be attached to his presidency forever, in the way. The only thing we have to fear is fear itself" is attached to the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was instantly recognizable as quintessential George W. Bush: the nickname, the Deke-house bonhomie, the blithe disregard for the obvious fact that Michael Brown... had demonstrated stunning ineptitude in a job for which he had no qualifications. What tied it all together was 'heckuva,' that preppy-on-the-range locution that conjures up just-folks but doesn't offend the sensibilities of fundamentalist Christians." Appearing on the "Today" show recently, Trillin told Campbell Brown that he's filled with nostalgia for the first Bush administration. "I mean, people like Brent Scowcroft, I really feel terrible saying anything unkind about him as he was dozing through those meetings, because he's the one who said that going to Baghdad to depose Saddam Hussein would make us an occupying power in a hostile country. I now think of him as my ally, my compadre, my homey."



Josi Jowell
Calvin Trillin

THE CHARISMA OF FOOD: Bill Buford's cooking chronicle, "Heat" (Knopf), continues to sell well — it's No. 12 on the hardcover nonfiction list this week. In a recent telephone interview, Buford said that the thing that surprised him most on his book tour was "probably the irritation in San Francisco with anyone from New York and the East Coast. It's a food city and it's proud of being a food city and they don't necessarily want to be told about Mario Batali, this great New York chef." When I asked him about the current boom in food writing, Buford said that until now it "has been a niche thing, like writing about airplane tires or computer software or snowboards. But I think people have recognized a need for food writing that acknowledges everything food can be about. One of the great charisms of food is that it's about cultures and grandmothers and death and art and self-expression and family and society — and at the same time, it's just dinner." DWIGHT GARNER



Gasper Tringale
Bill Buford

Best Sellers

FICTION			NONFICTION		
This Week	Last Week	Weeks On List	This Week	Last Week	Weeks On List
1			1		
2			2		
3			3		
4			4		
5			5		
6			6		
7			7		
8			8		
9			9		
10			10		
11*			11		
12			12		
13			13		
14			14		
15			15		
			16*		

Rankings reflect sales, for the week ended June 24, at almost 4,000 bookstores plus wholesalers serving 50,000 other retailers, statistically weighted to represent all such outlets nationwide. An asterisk (*) indicates that a book's sales are barely distinguishable from those of the book above. A dagger (†) indicates that some bookstores report receiving bulk orders. Expanded rankings are available at The New York Times on the Web: nytimes.com/books.

Editors' Choice

Other recent books of particular interest

- CROSS COUNTRY**, by Robert Sullivan. (Bloomsbury, \$24.95.) Part memoir, part rumination on the great American road trip, by a veteran of some 30 drives across the United States.
- THE DIN IN THE HEAD: Essays**, by Cynthia Ozick. (Houghton Mifflin, \$24.) Ozick's latest collection focuses on the state of the novel.
- RADICAL INNOCENT: Upton Sinclair**, by Anthony Arthur. (Random House, \$27.95.) A biography of the socialist author of "The Jungle," who also ran a strong race for California governor in 1934.
- BY A SLOW RIVER**, by Philippe Claudel. Translated by Hoyt Rogers. (Knopf, \$23.) This novel's hero is a French policeman troubled by memories of World War I and a child's murder.

- LOST HEARTS IN ITALY**, by Andrea Lee. (Random House, \$23.95.) Lee's first novel in more than 20 years follows a young American woman to Rome, and into a destructive affair.
- ENGLISH, AUGUST: An Indian Story**, by Upamanyu Chatterjee. (New York Review, paper, \$14.95.) A civil servant tries to find himself in this "slacker novel," first published in India in 1988.
- THE WHISTLING SEASON**, by Ivan Doig. (Harcourt, \$25.) In 1909, a Montana widower and his family are started when the city woman he hires as a housekeeper brings her brother along.
- NEW AND COLLECTED POEMS, 1964-2006**, by Ishmael Reed. (Carroll & Graf, \$25.95.) Poetry of politics and diversity, suffused with humor.

- VOYAGE OF THE TURTLE: In Pursuit of the Earth's Last Dinosaur**, by Carl Safina. (John Macrae/Henry Holt, \$27.50.) A conservationist's account of the endangered leatherback turtle and some of the people trying to save it.
 - VIRGINITY OR DEATH! And Other Social and Political Issues of Our Time**, by Katha Pollitt. (Random House, paper, \$13.95.) Essays culled from Pollitt's columns for The Nation.
 - PIECE OF MY HEART**, by Peter Robinson. (Morrow/HarperCollins, \$24.95.) Two crimes, decades apart, are linked by rock music in this mystery, set in Yorkshire.
- The full reviews of these and other recent books are on the Web: nytimes.com/books.

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which in essence, as the plot develops, works against what my main character has been trying to do, which is further education in his home county."

Of course "The Whistling Season" called for research. "Research is a man-made glacier," Doig noted.

Over the years he has never thrown away any historical research. His files are well organized and complete.

When he is stuck for dialogue as he is writing, he picks up one of his notecards on dialogue. He refreshes himself on the cadences of the era.

He does the same for scenes. In fact, for this book, he got his best descriptions of a one-room schoolhouse by referring to notecards he wrote for himself in 1983.

It was in 1983, at a book signing, that he met a man who had been to a reunion for three one-room Montana schools. The man offered Doig a copy of the program from the reunion.

The reunion had taken place in 1976. Doig leafed through the program and found it listed the addresses of the graduates. He wrote to 40 of them, asking what their schools looked like and what went on inside. People wrote back.

Of course the time period they described was the 1930s, 20 years after the scene Doig wanted to set in "The Whistling Season." Still, Doig knew which aspects of the one-room school would have remained constant.

One of the things that wouldn't have changed, he figured, was what kids did for fun. He got his scene of the backward horse race from a letter from one of the women who went to the reunion. She wrote that, when she was young on the Montana prairie, she and her sister often raced home while riding their horses backward. Anything for a little excitement, she said.

The memories he collected from the reunion group became a lasting bonanza, Doig said. Of course the memories of his own childhood are also a bonanza when it comes to describing Montana.

Doig grew up on a ranch. He once wrote this autobiography: "Born in White Sulphur Springs, Montana, in 1939 . . . the red-headed only child, son of ranch hand Charlie Doig and ranch cook Berneta Ringer Doig (who died of her lifelong asthma on my sixth birthday). . . ."

"Doig is a graduate of Northwestern University where he received a bachelor's and a master's degree in journalism . . . he also holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Washington. . . ."

Being a historian gives him a long view. But being a journalist is also good training for a novelist, Doig said. Working on newspapers in Illinois he was surrounded by men who had been war correspondents. To see them write an article in 15 minutes is to know, "Yeah, this is perfectly possible," he said. So Doig writes quickly. But he is not so interested in speed that he doesn't revise and rework. Still, he said, "I can't see where any book I've ever written would have come out any better by taking much longer."

As he settles into his 12th book, Doig seems to have reached a comfortable stride.

► If you go

What: Ivan Doig book reading and signing

Where: The King's English Bookstore, 1511 S. 1500 East

When: Friday, 7 p.m.

How much: free

Phone: 484-9100

Web: <http://kingsenglish.booksense.com>

SEPARATION NOTICE

The following items have been removed from Box 67, Folder 13, Collection 2602, for oversize storage elsewhere.

Items Removed:

Photograph: # 4038 was removed from series 2-Books & other writings, subseries 14-The Whistling Season (2006). Image was relocated to series 8-photographs, subseries 3 photographic prints.

Material has been placed in Box 162, Folder 12, Collection 2602

Location information is available from the Special Collections Staff.