By DOUG MITCHELL

Another stunner from one of Montana's most treasured fiction writers, a clear-eyed and interesting look at farming pulse crops in Big Sky Country, a moving book of poems from a Helena native, and a Montanan's take on one of the most popular fiction titles in recent years. Montana Magazine contributor Doug Mitchell reviews a pleasingly diverse set of books.

**Sweet Thunder**

Ivan Doig

Read an author Q&A with Sweet Thunder author Ivan Doig

Ivan Doig has done it again. With his newest offering, Sweet Thunder, one of America’s most treasured writers of western literature transports readers to another place and another time. Using just ink and paper, Doig somehow makes us feel a part of the very landscape and era about which he is writing while at the same time telling a story that keeps the pages turning.

And Sweet Thunder is quite a story. Set in early 20th century Butte, Doig’s 12th novel showcases the globetrotting Morrie Morgan as he makes his way back to the mining city. Frequent Doig readers will be familiar with Morgan and will be as delighted as I was to see his return to the page. New Doig readers won’t miss a beat because Sweet Thunder and Morgan require no introduction or previous understanding by the reader.

Sweet Thunder stands alone beautifully as a special work and when combined with Doig’s Whistling Season and Work Song makes a powerhouse trilogy that belongs on the bookshelf of any reader who enjoys the history of the West.

In this offering, Doig plants us smack in the middle of the conflicts between union activists and the mining company high atop and far below the “Richest Hill on Earth.”

Morrie Morgan takes a job as the editorial writer for a new, union-backed opposition newspaper, dubbed “Thunder,” and the battle is on.

I’m betting you can see in your mind’s eye some of the story line, but Sweet Thunder is much more than any other book that tells a familiar story.

I was most taken with the depth of the characters in which Doig invests in the telling of this story. The relationships between, and challenges faced by, characters we care about from the very first page will likely make this book about different things for different readers.

The love story between Morrie Morgan and his wife, Grace, was the thread that most delighted me. He’s not perfect, she’s not perfect and the relationship doesn’t get within the same zip code of perfect. And yet there is something genuine, charming and vulnerable about it that I will long remember.

Worry not though. If that particular thematic element of the book doesn’t sound interesting to you there are countless other treasured threads. Griff and Hoop, Mr. Sandison, and Morgan’s opposing
editorialist “Cutlass” provide compelling drama that found me dragging the book everywhere I went and sneaking a quick read at every opportunity just to see what would happen next. Woven together through the expert hands of Ivan Doig, these threads make *Sweet Thunder* a beautiful tapestry indeed.

**Lentil Underground – Renegade Farmers and the Future of Food in America**

Liz Carlisle


- Read an author Q&A with *Lentil Underground* author Liz Carlisle

It’s amazing what can come from the bottom drawer of a metal desk on Cruse Avenue in Helena. You see, that’s where I pick up advance reader copies of books sent to *Montana Magazine* for consideration as a potential book review. In early November, I swung by the office, left my truck running outside and was given a pile of books that had accumulated in the drawer. I always read the publisher information and at least the first chapter of each book to see if it might be a good fit.

From nearly the moment I began reading *Lentil Underground* I knew this book was a hit in the making. I remember literally, stopping reading – still in the prologue – putting the book down and breathing. This was going to be an important story that would spark a significant discussion about farming and food in Montana and across America.

I devoured the book and went on a search for the author, Liz Carlisle, a native Montanan who I found in Berkeley, California, (now Dr. Carlisle, PhD) where she is a fellow at the University of California. I wanted to know more about the genesis of her research and the roots, if you will, of this landmark book about a group of farmers in Montana who have been at the forefront of the organic farming and emerging pulse crop movement. Carlisle was kind enough to do a lengthy and far reaching interview with me that you can find at [www.MontanaMagazine.com](http://www.MontanaMagazine.com). Our interaction confirmed that in Carlisle and her book we have on our hands something very special.

*Lentil Underground* is a very well researched, expertly written book about how, through the courage and conviction of a few farmers, Montana went from growing virtually no pulse crops two decades ago to being one of the top five largest producers of peas and lentils in the country. It is the story of Dave Oein and his company, Timeless Seeds, and a dedicated group of agricultural innovators who, acre by acre, are changing the very landscape of Montana.
and restaurants have to offer. Helpfully, he even notes hours of operation for the brewery tasting rooms and restaurants.

There are many interesting stories behind the building of several of Montana’s breweries. Nolan and Cathy Smith, along with partner Rob Jrvis, of Philipsburg Brewing Company spent 18 years planning and three years of hard work to bring their dream to a reality. Unique to their brewpub is a refrigerated copper strip that keeps the patron’s beer cold as they sit and sip at the bar – very smart!

Is there such a thing as a “destination brewery”? Beaver Creek Brewery in Wibaux is surely a candidate. It’s the only craft-beer stop on the 600-mile stretch of highway between Fargo, ND, and Billings.

The book is a wonderful resource for beer drinkers who appreciate a finely crafted brew and want to expand their knowledge of this growing Montana phenomenon (and delight their taste buds).

Newhouse lives in Montana and works as a full-time freelance writer, covering a wide variety of subjects. He writes a beer blog, MontanaBeerFinder.com, and is a co-founder of Missoula Craft Beer Week.

- Judy Shafter

**Sweet Thunder**

By Ivan Doig

Published 2013 by Riverhead Books, New York, NY

$27.95 hardcover

After a year-long honeymoon, Morrie Morgan, aka Morgan Llewellyn, returns to Butte — where we last met him in Ivan Doig’s *Work Song*. This time, instead of helping out at the city library, he’s hired as the editorial writer for an upstart daily, the *Thunder*, established to take on the copper collar that encircles the city, courtesy of the all-powerful Anaconda Company.

But even as he writes scathing editorials under the pen name Pluvius, his past threatens to overtake him. He worries that the Chicago mob might catch wind of his whereabouts. After all, Morrie has a death warrant on two counts: throwing a championship wrestling match, and then profitably betting against the Chicago White Sox in the 1919 World Series. To make matters worse, his new wife, Grace, knows nothing of his speckled history; and he’s been mistaken for the infamous local bootlegger, known simply as The Highliner.

Fortunately, the beleaguered wordsmith has a few allies: Sandy Sandison, a mountain of a man who presides over the Butte Public Library, and bequeathed his extra-large mansion to Morrie and Grace; and his friends at the *Thunder*, including union organizer and state senator Jared Evans, editor Armbrister, who “wore a trademark green eyeshade and the expression of a hound dog on a cold trail,” and nimble newsboy Russian Famine.

Together, they take aim at the company mouthpiece, the *Butte Daily Post*. Morrie, with his encyclopedic knowledge of history and literature, is chief wordsmith. His job: “to tear the living hide off Anaconda, day after day.”

He does this deftly, until the company hires its own wordslinger, Cutthroat Cartwright, “the most famous and feared columnist in the savage pages of Chicago journalism,” and someone who just might ferret out Morrie’s true identity.

The word war escalates in pace with efforts to make the Anaconda Company pay its fair share of taxes, and takes a toll on miners, who are locked out from their jobs. At the same time, Morrie’s domestic bliss shatters when Grace discovers her husband is not who he seems, but rather, “a chameleon on a barber pole.”

Expect another spirited romp through the Mining City’s turbulent history from Doig, author of 11 previous novels and three works of nonfiction. Like the irrepressible Morrie, he’s drawn back to “this tortured, boastful, inventive, grudge-ridden, wisecracking city, built not upon bedrock but copper ore, was impossible to banish, like some wayward family member you can’t help but keep in touch with.”

— Kristi Niemeyer
SWEET THUNDER: RELIEVING A PARCHED BUTTE

Posted by: Sean Reichard  August 4, 2014  in Arts, Film & Events, FrontPage, Montana  0 Comments

It's not a long respite Morrie Morgan receives in Ivan Doig's novel reissued this week in paperback, Sweet Thunder. We find him on honeymoon with his wife Grace, living off the gains made betting on the 1919 World Series game—he "intuited" the White Sox would renege on Charles Comiskey—but by Chapter Two he's back in Butte, Montana to assume ownership of a mansion. Soon after acceding ownership of the house, he also accedes a new job, at the request of his friend, union organizer and state senator (according to his calling card), Jared Evans. Morgan becomes the editorialist of the Thunder, a new newspaper aimed at diminishing the Anaconda Mining Company.

Morgan finds the job to be rewarding, sending missives like shots in a fusillade, loaded with Latin, indignation and invocations of Teddy Roosevelt. The tone of his editorials is staunch, yet breezy and almost jocular. He writes with a pseudonym: Pluvius, literally "bringer of rain," the sobriquet of Jupiter, uttered entreatingly by the Romans when Rome was parched.

Butte, Morgan feels, is parched, thirsty for fairer treatment and better wages from the Anaconda currently coiled on the Richest Hill in the World. And it is with this in mind—the back of the book jacket calls the "Thunder" the David to the Goliath Anaconda—that Morgan engages in the fight, and witnesses a few casualties as well as "the gazetteer of risky occurrences."

Ostensibly about the miners fighting to loosen Anaconda's grip on Butte and the state of Montana, Sweet Thunder is also about early 20th century journalism and the making of oneself. The thunder in the title comes from multiple sources. It's the name of the paper, of course, recalled by Morgan from A Midsummer Night's Dream. It refers to the ire of the miners in Butte. It refers back to Morgan himself, as Pluvius.

But it also refers to a surprise that astonishes Morgan at the end of the novel, when he is presented with an announcement he deems a "thunderclap." You'll have to read the book and understand the kind of man Morrie Morgan is to appreciate this particular thunder, but it is an inspired connection, nonetheless.

Sweet Thunder is the third book of Doig's to feature Morgan, who started as a schoolteacher in The Whistling Season out in Big Ditch and found his way to Butte in Work Song, where many of Thunder's characters appeared. He is still quick-witted, rakish and perspicacious, ready with a quote and a joke. But he is also weary, paranoid that he's being tracked by "window men" sent on behalf of "the gambling mob in Chicago" and the Anaconda Mining Company. And he's married now, saddled with the upkeep of a large mansion, which makes his job at the "Thunder" all the more dangerous, taking shots at the most important corporation in the Treasure State.

The book's tone is tinged with familiarity—Morgan carries over the memories and experiences of Butte and its multitudinous personalities from the events of Work Song—and fans of the Morgan series will not
be disappointed. And although this may prove a disadvantage to any reader who hasn’t picked up either Season or Work Song, Sweet Thunder offers enough incentive to the curious reader, perhaps even invites him/her to read it first.

Sweet Thunder also feels like a piece of history, full of recollections beyond the personal. The distance Morgan narrows the novel, discussing the Company and the 1919 World Series and Warren G Harding, among other things, suggests conscious authorship. Of course, Morgan comes across not only as a historian but also a bard, scribe, fount, jester and critic: a walking, dog-eared compendium. A pivot, shifting between talking about goons and quoting ebulliently from the annals of classic poetry. He is a joyous autodidact. He is the first secret to Sweet Thunder’s charm.

The second is journalism. Doig, who earned a B.A. and M.A. in journalism and freelanced, guides Morgan freely into that cigarette-fueled, ink-stained, green-visored milieu. And Morgan reciprocates with a passionate assessment of the profession:

"With its aroma of ink and paper and cigarette smoke and its staccato blurs of writing machines and jingling of telephones, the newsroom was a strangely exciting place where nothing definitive seemed to be happening, yet everything was. A newspaper is a daily miracle, a collective collaboration of wildly different authors crammed into columns of print that somehow digest into the closest thing to truth about humankind’s foibles and triumphs there is, i.e., the draft of history, and no day had yet come when I was not profoundly glad to do my part."

Morgan illuminates much of Sweet Thunder with his words, but his loquacity on the page and among the characters sometimes comes across as too strong. When Morgan is shining brightest, the other characters, the setting, the story just can’t be seen in the glare, a bit of indulgence on the author’s part. Fortunately, Doig doesn’t indulge Morgan enough to blind the reader to the rest of the novel. He is not master to the circumstances of Sweet Thunder, which makes reading the novel all the more interesting.

You can find Sweet Thunder at your local bookstore; you can also order it from Amazon.com here.

HTTP://NEWWEST.NET/2014/08/04/SWEET-THUNDER/
Glory, hi-- Yup, looks like the kind of thing we want--the quote is plenty, whatever else was said, hmm? I think the Billings paper is probably the biggest in Montana, so it's singing to the choir for us in a big way. Huzzah!

Best,
Ivan

On Oct 27, 2014, at 11:31 AM, Plata, Glory wrote:

Hi Ivan – We can’t see the full review due to their darn pay wall, but this looks like another great review from The Billings Gazette. Xx

"An evocative portrayal of one of Montana’s most fascinating places at a significant moment in its history… The story of Butte and copper has, of course, been repeated many times in novels and historical accounts. But history Ph.D. Doig provides unexpected tie-ins…a skillful, experienced storyteller…Doig handles his characters with a light touch…an enjoyable excuse to order up a pasty and revisit early Montana and the “richest hill on Earth.” – Billings Gazette http://billingsgazette.com/entertainment/books-and-literature/sweet-thunder-not-doig-s-best-work-but-still-enjoyable/article_d4a10a11-9369-53f0-8fde-1d11ab08cdd2.html
Well done, Michelle, keep sprinkling that magic dust on those lists.

Best,
Ivan

On Sep 24, 2014, at 9:36 AM, Koufopoulos, Michelle M wrote:

Hi Ivan,

We just received the indie lists for this week and Sweet Thunder is still holding strong, coming in at #13 on the Pacific Northwest list. You can see the full lists below.

Thanks, and I hope you and Carol are having a great week!

All best,
-Michelle

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(212) 366-2454
Michelle.Koufopoulos@us.penguinrandomhouse.com
www.riverheadbooks.com

Eight Regional Indie Bestseller Lists for the sales week ended Sunday, September 21, 2014 may be accessed by clicking on the links below:

New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140924ne.txt

Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140924si.txt

Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers Association (MPIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140924mp.txt

Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association (PNBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140924pn.txt

The Heartland Independent Bestseller List (GLIBA and MBA combined):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140924mw.txt

Southern California Independent Booksellers Association (SCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140924sc.txt
2. This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate
Naomi Klein, S&S, $30, 9781451697384
3. Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Little
Golden Book
Diane Muldrow, Golden Books, $9.99, 9780307977618
4. Astoria
Peter Stark, Ecco, $27.99, 9780062218292
5. World Order
Henry Kissinger, Penguin Press, $36, 9781594206146
6. The Organized Mind
Daniel J. Levitin, Dutton, $27.95, 9780525954187
7. In the Kingdom of Ice
Hampton Sides, Doubleday, $28.95, 9780385535373
8. Grain Brain
David Perlmutter, Little Brown, $27, 9780316234801
9. Preserving by the Pint
Marisa McClellan, Running Press, $23, 9780762449682
10. David and Goliath
Malcolm Gladwell, Little Brown, $29, 9780316204361
11. Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: And Other Lessons from the
Crematory
Caitlin Doughty, Norton, $24.95, 9780393240238
12. What I Know for Sure
Oprah Winfrey, Flatiron, $24.99, 9781250054050
13. Waking Up
Sam Harris, S&S, $26, 9781451636017
14. The Human Age
Diane Ackerman, Norton, $27.95, 9780393240740
15. I Knead My Mommy
Francesco Marciuliano, Chronicle, $12.95, 9781452132914

TRADE PAPERBACK FICTION
1. Gone Girl
Gillian Flynn, Broadway, $15, 9780553418361
2. Orphan Train
Christina Baker Kline, Morrow, $14.99, 9780061950728
3. The Rosie Project
Graeme Simsion, S&S, $15.99, 9781476729091
4. The Ocean at the End of the Lane
5. The Signature of All Things
Elizabeth Gilbert, Penguin, $17, 9780143125846
6. A Tale for the Time Being
Ruth Ozeki, Penguin, $16, 9780143124870
7. Where’d You Go, Bernadette  
   Maria Semple, Back Bay, $14.99, 9780316204262
8. Americanah  
   Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Anchor, $15.95, 9780307455925
9. The Good Lord Bird  
   James McBride, Riverhead, $16, 9781594632785
10. The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared  
   Jonas Jonasson, Hyperion, $16, 9781401324643
11. Beautiful Ruins  
   Jess Walter, Harper Perennial, $15.99, 9780061928178
12. The Redeemer  
   Jo Nesbo, Vintage, $14.95, 9780307742988
13. Sweet Thunder  
   Ivan Doig, Riverhead, $16, 9781594632761
14. Norwegian by Night  
   Derek B. Miller, Mariner, $14.95, 9780544292666
15. And the Mountains Echoed  
   Khaled Hosseini, Riverhead, $16, 9781594632389

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1. The Boys in the Boat  
   Daniel James Brown, Penguin, $17, 9780143125471
2. Unbroken  
   Laura Hillenbrand, Random House, $16, 9780812974492
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   Cheryl Strayed, Vintage, $15.95, 9780307476074
4. The Heart of Everything That Is  
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9. Zealot  
   Reza Aslan, Random House, $18, 9780812981483
10. Lawrence in Arabia  
    Scott Anderson, Anchor, $17.95, 9780307476418
11. Orange Is the New Black  
    Piper Kerman, Spiegel & Grau, $16, 9780812986181
Randall Munroe, Houghton Mifflin, $24, 97805444272996
2. Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Little Golden Book
Diane Muldrow, Golden Books, $9.99, 9780307977618
3. World Order
Henry Kissinger, Penguin Press, $36, 9781594206146
Sam Harris, S&S, $26, 978141561636017
5. In the Kingdom of Ice
Hampton Sides, Doubleday, $28.95, 9780385535373
6. What I Know for Sure
Oprah Winfrey, Flatiron, $24.99, 9781250054050
7. The Happiness of Pursuit: Finding the Quest That Will Bring Purpose to Your Life
Chris Guillebeau, Harmony, $25, 9780385348843
8. Daring Greatly
Brene Brown, Gotham, $26, 9781592407330
9. The Organized Mind
Daniel J. Levitin, Dutton, $27.95, 9780525954187
10. Goodnight Darth Vader
Jeffrey Brown, Chronicle, $14.95, 9781452128306
11. David and Goliath
Malcolm Gladwell, Little Brown, $29, 9780316204361
12. The Roosevelts: An Intimate History
Geoffrey C. Ward, Ken Burns, Knopf, $60, 9780307700230
13. Forgetting to Be Afraid: A Memoir
Wendy Davis, Blue Rider Press, $27.95, 9780399170577
14. The Human Age: The World Shaped by Us
Diane Ackerman, Norton, $27.95, 9780393240740
15. Soldier Girls
Helen Thorpe, Scribner, $28, 9781451668100

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4. The Ocean at the End of the Lane
5. Orphan Train
Christina Baker Kline, Morrow, $14.99, 9780061950728
6. The Signature of All Things
7. Sweet Thunder
Ivan Doig, Riverhead, $16, 9781594632761
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Jhumpa Lahiri, Vintage, $15.95, 9780307278265
9. We Are Water
Wally Lamb, Harper Perennial, $16.99, 9780061941030
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Jojo Moyes, Penguin, $16, 9780143124542
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12. This Is Where I Leave You
Jonathan Tropper, Plume, $16, 9780142181713
13. The Silver Star
Jeannette Walls, Scribner, $16, 9781451661545
14. How the Light Gets In
Louise Penny, Minotaur, $15.99, 9781250047274
15. The Redeemer
Jo Nesbo, Vintage, $14.95, 9780307742988

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4. One Summer: America, 1927
Bill Bryson, Anchor, $16.95, 9780767919418
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David Sedaris, Back Bay, $17, 9780316154703
6. Quiet
Susan Cain, Broadway, $16, 9780307352156
7. The Power of Habit
Charles Duhigg, Random House, $16, 9780812981605
8. The Heart of Everything That Is
Bob Drury, Tom Clavin, S&S, $17, 9781451654684
9. Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth
Reza Aslan, Random House, $18, 9780812981483
10. Behind the Beautiful Forevers
Katherine Boo, Random House, $16, 9780812979329
11. The Old Farmer's Almanac 2015
Old Farmer's Almanac, $7.95, 9781571986368
12. Bad Feminist

http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140917mp.txt
# Paperback Fiction

1. *The Rosie Project*  
   Graeme Simsion, S&S, $15.99, 9781476729091

2. *Gone Girl*  
   Gillian Flynn, Broadway, $15, 9780553418361

3. *The Signature of All Things*  
   Elizabeth Gilbert, Penguin, $17, 9780143125846

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5. *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*  

6. *The Lowland*  
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7. *Sweet Thunder*  
   Ivan Doig, Riverhead, $16, 9781594632761

8. *A Tale for the Time Being*  
   Ruth Ozeki, Penguin, $16, 9780143124870

9. *How the Light Gets In*  
   Louise Penny, Minotaur, $15.99, 9781250047274

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    Jess Walter, Harper Perennial, $15.99, 9780061928178

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    Robert Galbraith, J.K. Rowling, Mulholland, $18, 9780316206853

12. *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*  
    Maria Semple, Back Bay, $14.99, 9780316204262

13. *Acceptance*  
    Jeff VanderMeer, FSG, $15, 9780374104115

14. *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared*  
    Jonas Jonasson, Hyperion, $16, 9781401324643

15. *Americanah*  
    Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Anchor, $15.95, 9780307455925

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*Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.*
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<td>$15.99</td>
<td>9781250047274</td>
</tr>
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Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.
The Pacific Northwest Independent Bestseller List, as brought to you by IndieBound and PNBA, based on reporting from the independent booksellers of the Pacific Northwest.

**Paperback Fiction**

1. Gone Girl  
Gillian Flynn, Broadway, $15, 9780307588371

2. The Ocean at the End of the Lane  

3. The Rosie Project  
Graeme Simsion, S&S, $15.99, 9781476729091

4. The Cuckoo’s Calling  
Robert Galbraith, J.K. Rowling, Mulholland, $18, 9780316206853

*5. Where’d You Go, Bernadette  
Maria Semple, Back Bay, $14.99, 9780316204262

6. Americanah  
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Anchor, $15.95, 9780307455925

7. Orphan Train  
Christina Baker Kline, Morrow, $14.99, 9780061950728

*8. Sweet Thunder  
Ivan Doig, Riverhead, $16, 9781594632761

9. The Signature of All Things  
Elizabeth Gilbert, Penguin, $17, 9780143125846

10. The Good Lord Bird  
James McBride, Riverhead, $16, 9781594632785

11. The Valley of Amazement  
Amy Tan, Ecco, $16.99, 9780062107329

*12. A Tale for the Time Being  
Ruth Ozeki, Penguin, $16, 9780143124870

13. And the Mountains Echoed  
Khaled Hosseini, Riverhead, $16, 9781594632389

14. The Silver Star  
Jeannette Walls, Scribner, $16, 9781451661545

*15. Beautiful Ruins  
Jess Walter, Harper Perennial, $15.99, 9780061928178

*Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.*
THE BOOK MARK | August releases offer great reads

By Joanna Moreno - Columnist
Tuesday, August 05, 2014 3:16 PM

In the wonderful world of books, the new titles released in August herald the approach of the always-exciting, fall book lineup. There is a little something for everyone this month, so have fun.

The Buzz Book: "We Are Not Ourselves," by Matthew Thomas
(release date: Aug. 19, 2014)

After 15 editors at several top-tier publishing houses fought over the rights to this manuscript, Simon & Schuster finally won the prize that is sure to be the major publishing event of the season, and with good reason.

This grand, multigenerational portrait of an Irish-American family is told through Emily Tumulty. Raised by immigrant parents in Queens and filled with dreams of inhabiting a better, higher world, she marries Ed Leary, with the hope he will deliver her there. As life rolls on this idea of better things, bigger houses and domestic bliss give birth and give way to a darkness that threatens it all.

With probing genius, emotional truthfulness and generous heart, this is a work of art that charts the anatomy of the middle class in post-World War II America and introduces us to a significant, new voice in American fiction.

The Local Author Buzz Book: "Sweet Thunder," by Ivan Doig (paperback release date: Aug. 5, 2014)

Ivan Doig elevates language in a way that never fails to astound me. And you’ve gotta love a story where one of the heroes is a librarian.

This is the third book featuring Doig’s loveable, crafty Morrie Morgan. Morgan returns to Butte, Mont., where he ends up taking a job at a fledgling union-backed newspaper that lands him smack in the middle of the labor dispute between the miner’s union and Anaconda Copper Mines. Tensions rise, violence ensues and Morgan must use his wits to elude his past mistakes, while trying to win the war of words between these two factions.

Doig has spun another fine tale, with rich and diverse characters to enjoy.

Ivan Doig will sign books at Queen Anne Book Co. (1811 Queen Anne Ave. N.) on Saturday, Aug. 9, at 1 p.m.


With his signature sarcastic asides, Percy Jackson explains how the world was created, then gives readers his personal take on a who’s who of ancients, from Apollo to Zeus. This volume will have dramatic, full-color illustrations throughout by Caldecott honoree John Rocco and will be as stunning as it is entertaining and informative.

If you know any Percy Jackson fans, this is the perfect book for their collection.


The Nonfiction (Narrative Journalism) Buzz Book: "War of the Whales," by Joshua Horwitz

The culmination of six years of research, this is the fascinating, true story of a field scientist and an environmental lawyer who waged a decade-long campaign to stop a clandestine U.S. Navy sonar program they believed was driving whole pods of whales onto beaches.

Joshua Horwitz does a superb job of showing what happens when principled individuals with opposing missions battle to the end for what they believe in. This book takes you from the Caribbean to the Cold War, from research labs to the depths of the ocean, from weaponized dolphins to the Supreme Court.

This is narrative journalism at its finest and one of the best nonfiction books of the year.

JOANNE MORENO is a community bookseller. To comment on this column, write to QAMagNews@nwlink.com.

Sweet Thunder
by Ivan Doig

Western literature has been called "the Spirit of America," as it tells the stories of people who succeed in lands or circumstances greater than themselves. Often these stories are epic in nature, depicting deep sacrifices and difficult struggles of the characters. Ivan Doig is one of the most recognizable of the "western voices," a storyteller who paints a vivid, realistic picture of what the west was like in grittier times.

Morrie Morgan, who we met in THE WHISTLING SEASON and WORK SONG, makes another appearance in SWEET THUNDER. It is now 1920, and Morrie brings his new wife Grace back to Butte, Montana, after a year-long honeymoon. The couple has inherited a mansion from their old friend, Doria Sandison. The only stipulation is that they provide the now-widowed Sam with a place to live for the rest of his existence, which seems like an opportunity for Morrie and Grace to start a new life together.

"Ivan Doig chronicles the land of Montana (called the Treasure State for good reason) and its colorful heritage by bringing to life the people and struggles that created its enduring greatness."

Butte, nicknamed the "Richest Hill on Earth," is a thriving place. The Anaconda Copper Company is stripping profits from the earth hand over fist, with shifts running around the clock. With its rich mines and snow-capped mountains rising out of the Continental Divide, Butte has a view like no other place. It is also a boomtown, but trouble looms ahead.

The Roaring Twenties is a tumultuous decade for the nation, and Butte is not immune to the political and social unrest. Corporations, politicians and unions are battling over profits, wages, workers' rights and prohibition under the specter of Bolshevism. And Morrie soon finds himself caught up in it all.

"Temptation knows how to find me," says Morrie, a well-intentioned guy who can't seem to keep himself out of trouble. This time, temptation comes in the form of a job offer. When he is approached by his friend and political power player, Jared Evans, and his wife, Morrie agrees to become the editorial voice for a newspaper that is owned by the miner's union. Writing under the pen name "Pluvius," Morrie finds he has a wealth of knowledge and words at his fingertips and the power to use it. In his daily column for The Butte Thunder, Pluvius writes about health and safety issues in the mines, making it a popular paper with the citizens who know well that a worker a week is dying in the mines. When the Anaconda Copper Company-backed Butte Daily Post hires a well-known Chicago reporter to fight back, the war of words begins.
Morrie's questionable past starts to catch up with him. When a trunk of his old belongings shows up, his new bride discovers he is not who he appears to be. Now wondering just who she has married, Grace leaves him. But Morrie's troubles are only beginning.

Life in Butte takes an even tougher turn when the Anaconda Copper Company and the miner's union come to an impasse over wage negotiations. To make matters worse, someone is leaking Morrie's column to the opposition, giving the company paper time to do damage control and undermine Morrie's powerful voice in the community. A case of mistaken identity and the threat of retribution for past sins bring the turmoil to a head, but all is not lost. A handful of heart-wrenching confessions and the integral strength of the community bring the story full circle to a satisfying end.

Many of the characters from THE WHISTLING SEASON and WORK SONG return to create a familiar backdrop in this third novel. With SWEET THUNDER, Ivan Doig chronicles the land of Montana (called the Treasure State for good reason) and its colorful heritage by bringing to life the people and struggles that created its enduring greatness. As anyone from Butte might say, "This story has the same amount of tough as the town and its people."

Reviewed by Jennifer McCord on August 23, 2013

Sweet Thunder
by Ivan Doig

Publication Date: August 20, 2013
Genres: Fiction, Historical Fiction
Hardcover: 320 pages
Publisher: Riverhead Hardcover
ISBN-10: 1594487340
Hardcover Fiction

1. The Invention of Wings  
   Sue Monk Kidd, Viking, $27.95, 9780670024780

2. The Goldfinch  
   Donna Tartt, Little Brown, $30, 9780316055437

3. Dog Songs  
   Mary Oliver, Penguin Press, $26.95, 9781594204784

4. The Signature of All Things  
   Elizabeth Gilbert, Viking, $28.95, 9780670024858

5. The Luminaries  
   Eleanor Catton, Little Brown, $27, 9780316074315

*6. Sweet Thunder  
   Ivan Doig, Riverhead, $27.95, 9781594487347

7. The Ocean at the End of the Lane  

*8. S.  
   J.J. Abrams, Doug Dorst, Mulholland, $35, 9780316201643

9. On Such a Full Sea  
   Chang-Rae Lee, Riverhead, $27.95, 9781594486104

*10. The Rosie Project  
    Graeme Simson, S&S, $24, 9781476729084

11. Aimless Love  
    Billy Collins, Random House, $26, 9780679644057

*12. Hild  
    Nicola Griffith, FSG, $27, 9780374280871

*13. Radiance of Tomorrow  
    Ishmael Beah, Sarah Crichton Books, $25, 9780374246020

14. The Valley of Amazement  
    Amy Tan, Ecco, $29.99, 9780062107312

*15. The Cuckoo's Calling  
    Robert Galbraith, Mulholland, $26, 9780316206846

Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.
Michelle, hello again this year-- Thanks for the heartening PNBA report, it's better than New Year's fireworks!

Best,
Ivan

On Jan 15, 2014, at 9:31 AM, Koufopoulos, Michelle M wrote:

Hi Ivan and Carol,

A (belated) Happy New Year to the both of you! I hope you had a great holiday – it was nice to have a long break, but by the end of it I was definitely ready to dive back into life at Riverhead!

Some good news for the middle of your week – SWEET THUNDER came in at #6 for HC Fiction on the Pacific Northwest indie bestseller list. You can see all the lists below. Thanks!

-Michelle

Eight Regional Indie Bestseller Lists for the sales week ended Sunday, January 12, 2014 may be accessed by clicking on the links below:

New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140115ne.txt

Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140115si.txt

Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers Association (MPIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140115mp.txt

Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association (PNBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140115pn.txt

The Heartland Independent Bestseller List (GLIBA and MBA combined):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140115mw.txt

Southern California Independent Booksellers Association (SCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140115sc.txt

Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140115nc.txt

New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association (NAIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/140115na.txt

Michelle Koufopoulos
Editorial Assistant
Riverhead Books
1. **Dog Songs**  
   Mary Oliver, Penguin Press, $26.95, 9781594204784

2. **The Goldfinch**  
   Donna Tartt, Little Brown, $30, 9780316055437

3. **S.**  
   J.J. Abrams, Doug Dorst, Mulholland, $35, 9780316201643

4. **Aimless Love**  
   Billy Collins, Random House, $26, 9780679644057

*5. **Sweet Thunder**  
   Ivan Doig, Riverhead, $27.95, 9781594487347

6. **The Signature of All Things**  
   Elizabeth Gilbert, Viking, $28.95, 9780670024858

7. **Sycamore Row**  
   John Grisham, Doubleday, $28.95, 9780385537131

8. **The Valley of Amazement**  
   Amy Tan, Ecco, $29.99, 9780062107312

*9. **The Ocean at the End of the Lane**  

10. **And the Mountains Echoed**  
   Khaled Hosseini, Riverhead, $28.95, 9781594631764

11. **The Luminaries**  
    Eleanor Catton, Little Brown, $27, 9780316074315

12. **Doctor Sleep**  
    Stephen King, Scribner, $30, 9781476727653

13. **The Circle**  
    Dave Eggers, Knopf, $27.95, 9780385351393

14. **The Lowland**  
    Jhumpa Lahiri, Knopf, $27.95, 9780307265746

*15. **Hild**  
    Nicola Griffith, FSG, $27, 9780374280871

Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.
1. The Goldfinch  
   Donna Tartt, Little Brown, $30, 9780316055437

2. Dog Songs  
   Mary Oliver, Penguin Press, $26.95, 9781594204784

3. The Signature of All Things  
   Elizabeth Gilbert, Viking, $28.95, 9780670024858

4. The Luminaries  
   Eleanor Catton, Little Brown, $27, 9780316074315

5. S.  
   J.J. Abrams, Doug Dorst, Mulholland, $35, 9780316201643

6. And the Mountains Echoed  
   Khaled Hosseini, Riverhead, $28.95, 9781594631764

7. The Valley of Amazement  
   Amy Tan, Ecco, $29.99, 9780062107312

*8. Sweet Thunder  
   Ivan Doig, Riverhead, $27.95, 9781594487347

9. Aimless Love  
   Billy Collins, Random House, $26, 9780679644057

10. Doctor Sleep  
    Stephen King, Scribner, $30, 9781476727653

11. Sycamore Row  
    John Grisham, Doubleday, $28.95, 9780385537131

12. The First Phone Call From Heaven  
    Mitch Albom, Harper, $24.99, 9780062294371

*13. Hild  

Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.
From: "Koufopoulos, Michelle M" <Michelle.Koufopoulos@us.penguingroup.com>
Subject: Sweet Thunder & Bartender's List holding strong on the indies
Date: December 18, 2013 7:56:25 AM PST
To: "carol doig" <cddoig@comcast.net>
Cc: "Saletan, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Saletan@us.penguingroup.com>

Hi Ivan and Carol,

I wanted to let you know that Sweet Thunder and Bartender’s Tale are both doing wonderfully on the indies – Sweet Thunder came in at #3 in HC Fiction this week on the Pacific Northwest list and Bartender’s Tale came in at #9 for TP Fiction also on the Pacific Northwest list. Thanks, and hope all is well!

Warmly,
Michelle

Eight Regional Indie Bestseller Lists for the sales week ended Sunday, December 15, 2013 may be accessed by clicking on the links below:

New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131218ne.txt

Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131218si.txt

Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers Association (MPIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131218mp.txt

Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association (PNBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131218pn.txt

The Heartland Independent Bestseller List (GLIBA and MBA combined):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131218mw.txt

Southern California Independent Booksellers Association (SCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131218sc.txt

Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131218nc.txt

New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association (NAIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131218na.txt

Michelle Koufopoulos
Editorial Assistant
Riverhead Books
375 Hudson, NYC 10014
(212) 366-2454
Michelle.Koufopoulos@us.penguingroup.com
www.riverheadbooks.com
# Hardcover Fiction

1. **Dog Songs**  
   Mary Oliver, Penguin Press, $26.95, 9781594204784

2. **The Goldfinch**  
   Donna Tartt, Little Brown, $30, 9780316055437

*3. **Sweet Thunder**  
   Ivan Doig, Riverhead, $27.95, 9781594487347

4. **The Valley of Amazement**  
   Amy Tan, Ecco, $29.99, 9780062107312

5. **S.**  
   J.J. Abrams, Doug Dorst, Mulholland, $35, 9780316201643

6. **The Luminaries**  
   Eleanor Catton, Little Brown, $27, 9780316074315

7. **Aimless Love**  
   Billy Collins, Random House, $26, 9780679644057

*8. **And the Mountains Echoed**  
   Khaled Hosseini, Riverhead, $28.95, 9781594631764

9. **The Signature of All Things**  
   Elizabeth Gilbert, Viking, $28.95, 9780670024858

*10. **Hild**  
    Nicola Griffith, FSG, $27, 9780374280871

11. **The Good Lord Bird**  
    James McBride, Riverhead, $27.95, 9781594486340

12. **Sycamore Row**  
    John Grisham, Doubleday, $28.95, 9780385537131

13. **Doctor Sleep**  
    Stephen King, Scribner, $30, 9781476727653

*14. **The Rosie Project**  
    Graeme Simsion, S&S, $24, 9781476729084

15. **The Gods of Guilt**  
    Michael Connelly, Little Brown, $28, 9780316069519

Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.
1. Dear Life
   Alice Munro, Vintage, $15.95, 9780307743725

*2. The Orchardist
   Amanda Coplin, Harper Perennial, $15.99, 9780062188519

3. Where'd You Go, Bernadette
   Maria Semple, Back Bay, $14.99, 9780316204262

4. Beautiful Ruins
   Jesse Walter, Harper Perennial, $15.99, 9780061928178

5. The Round House
   Louise Erdrich, Harper Perennial, $15.99, 9780062065254

*6. Blasphemy
   Sherman Alexie, Grove Press, $17, 9780802121752

7. Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore
   Robin Sloan, Picador, $15, 9781250037756

8. Flight Behavior
   Barbara Kingsolver, Harper Perennial, $16.99, 9780062124272

*9. Two Old Women
   Velma Wallis, Jim Grant (Illus.), Harper Perennial, $14.99, 9780062244987

10. The Orphan Master's Son
    Adam Johnson, Random House, $15, 9780812982626

*11. The House Girl
     Tara Conklin, Morrow, $14.99, 9780062207517

12. The Dinner
    Herman Koch, Hogarth, $14, 9780385346856

13. The Aviator's Wife
    Melanie Benjamin, Bantam, $15, 9780345528681

*14. Mink River
     Brian Doyle, Oregon State University Press, $18.95, 9780870715853

*15. The Bartender's Tale
     Ivan Doig, Riverhead, $16, 9781594631481

Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.
Many thanks, Michelle, for speeding the good news to us. You might share with Becky that booksellers out here say there's no obvious big book this season -- maybe Sweet Thunder can rise to the occasion!

Best,

Ivan

On Dec 11, 2013, at 9:14 AM, Koufopoulos, Michelle M wrote:

Hi Ivan and Carol,

I hope you're both well! I just wanted to let you know that Sweet Thunder is #3 for HC Fiction on the Pacific Northwest bestseller list and Bartender's Tale is #15 for TP Fiction.

Thanks!
-Michelle

Eight Regional Indie Bestseller Lists for the sales week ended Sunday, December 8, 2013 may be accessed by clicking on the links below:

New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131211ne.txt

Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131211si.txt

Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers Association (MPIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131211mp.txt

Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association (PNBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131211pn.txt

The Heartland Independent Bestseller List (GLIBA and MBA combined):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131211mw.txt

Southern California Independent Booksellers Association (SCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131211sc.txt

Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131211nc.txt

New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association (NAIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131211na.txt

Michelle Koufopoulos
Editorial Assistant
Riverhead Books
**The President's Hat** by Antoine Laurain (Gallic)
This entertaining French novel is like a modern game of "Drop the Handkerchief." Francois Mitterand's half felt hat, initially left by the head of state in a Parisian brasserie, proceeds to make its way briefly through a series of owners, each time giving the new and often beleaguered recipient unexpected courage, sudden inspiration and essential new wisdom. It's a delightful tale, cleverly told and in the end quite satisfying. It has won several prestigious awards in France, and I recommend it highly as a light winter read. ~ Ann

**Sweet Thunder** by Ivan Doig (Penguin)
What a joy to dive once more into the Montana of yore with Ivan Doig! We again meet Morrie Morgan as he takes on the big guns of Anaconda Copper in Butte, along with a wonderful cast of salty and delightful characters. It's hard to find a wordsmith who delves into the history of the American West with such sweet prose and storytelling. I love to read Doig out loud just to capture the full impact of his deliciously evocative descriptions and character studies. *Sweet Thunder* booms with triumph! ~ Victoria

**A Child's Christmas in Wales** by Dylan Thomas (New Directions)
Christmas isn't really Christmas without Dylan Thomas's classic. Once the children are bathed and in their pajamas, once the stockings are hung and there's a fire in the fireplace, this is the perfect read-aloud book to make the season complete. ~ Ann

**The Discovery of Middle Earth: Mapping the Lost World of the Celts** by Graham Robb (W.W. Norton)
When stories of the Classical World are told, one civilization looms large, but whose story is left untold. We will never know who the Celts were—their steadfast refusal to commit Druidic knowledge to writing ensured that—but Robb's book allows a greater understanding of them through how they organized their world, and provides a fascinating glimpse of a civilization that once spanned much of Europe. Robb sheds some light on their effects on European human geography and history, despite efforts by the Romans and their successors to erase them. Part travelogue, part historiography, Robb's book is engaging, fascinating, and thought-provoking. ~ Tim

**Eloise** by Judy Finnigan (Redhook)
Cathy begins to have ghostly dreams after her best friend Eloise dies from breast cancer. In these dreams Eloise says she was murdered and that her two daughters are at risk from her unstable husband. Despite nearly destroying her own family, Cathy lurches forward to learn the truth and help her friend rest in peace. Set along the romantic, rain-lashed coast of Cornwall, this debut novel has all the mystery, menace and intrigue of Daphne du Maurier, with a contemporary twist. Moreover, it's a thoughtful meditation on grief, motherhood, family and friendship, and should be devoured by fans of gothic mystery and fiction. ~ Susan, coordinator of the Eagle Harbor Reader's Circle and our Mystery Book Group

**Breach of Trust: How Americans Failed Their Soldiers and Their Country** by Andrew Bacevich (Metropolitan Books)
This pithy treatise diagnoses the ills facing American military culture and rippling out into society. Retired US Army colonel Bacevich draws upon his experiences and those of his son, also an Army officer, who died as a result of military policy. Concise and scathing, it is a fusillade against inept military bureaucracy, examining how an all-professional military succeeded in severing any meaningful link between the American public and its armed forces. The result is a corrupt, inadequate, but hugely profitable military industry, and a citizenry unconcerned with its troops beyond hollow patriotic declarations. Essential reading for any who seek to understand American military policy over the past half-century. ~ Tim

This now-classic novel from 1999 belongs in the top ranks of US American fiction. The work of a master craftsman in heightened storytelling, it revolves around two characters locked in a struggle over a modest Bay Area house: an out-of-luck woman who inherited the house from her father, and a once-powerful couple who has fled Iran with his family. Filled with suspense, the novel hurtles through their intersecting lives, grappling with that question essentially American and profoundly human question: Where is home? ~ John

**Let the Great World Spin** by Colum McCann (Random House)
When I finished this terrific novel, I immediately wanted to read it again, just so I could stay with the characters, along with a Broadway prostitute and her daughter, a young man from Ireland, and a wealthy woman living on the Upper East Side. McCann tackles the diversity of experience, within the setting of New York City, that represents a compelling human panorama. Serving as an arch for these artfully linked lives, and touching them in ways great and small, a man walks on a wire between the Twin Towers. This is a brilliant, exhilarating tale. ~ John

**Bridge of Birds** by Barry Hughart (Random House)
This is one of those novels I will always recommend, even for people who aren't completely on board with the fantasy genre, because it's put together so impeccably. Set in a fantasy of China, and telling a story that starts as a mundane village mystery and escalates to the grandly mythic, the story weaves at least two mysteries together into one neatly seamless plot. Hughart's work is rich without being overwhelming, his tone fairytale-like crossing the border into juvenile, and every time I read this book it evokes just as strong an emotional response as it did the first time. A relatively short read, and more than worth the time spent. ~ Jo

**Miracle in the Andes: 72 Days on the Mountain and My Long Trek Home** by Nando Parrado, with Vince Rause (Three Rivers Press)
What sets this "high mountain adventure" apart from most is that it began as a life-saving mission for survivors of an airplane crash rather than a well-prepared-for journey. Parrado was a young, privileged school boy wearing nothing but a polyester jumpsuit and rugby cleats, and having no provisions for his 72-day ordeal. Through the grueling aftermath of the crash and the horrors that followed, the authors portray a personal process of physical, emotional, and spiritual survival, and have shared this book with loved ones, friends and strangers, conversations that transfixed all who heard them. ~ Vivian

**Plainsong** by Kent Haruf (Vintage)
Why did I wait so long to read this immensely satisfying National Book Award finalist from 1997? Amid the drama of a Colorado community, with all its cruelties and kindnesses, unfolds the intricate connections between main characters: a pregnant teenaged girl, a high school teacher and his young and two aging brothers who ranch outside town. For its deeply grounded storytelling that possesses elegance and authority, I recommend this heartwarming, quietly compelling book to you. ~ John
Best of the Northwest

The Great War: July 1, 1916: The First Day of the Battle of the Somme
Joe Sacco
From the heir to R. Crumb and Art Spiegelman comes a monumental, wordless depiction of the most infamous day of World War I. Printed on fine accordion fold paper and packaged in a deluxe slipcase with a 16-page booklet featuring an essay by Adam Hochschild. $35 W.W. Norton

Sweet Thunder: A Novel
Ivan Doig
A beloved character brings the power of the press to 1920s Butte, Montana, in this latest from the best storyteller of the West. $27.95 Riverhead Books

Home Ground: A Guide to the American Landscape
edited by Barry Lopez and Debra Guarnere
This bestselling, landmark work was hailed by reviewers and booksellers as an homage to landscape and language. Now in a redesigned near pocket-size field guide edition. $18.95 Trinity University Press

Rugged Mercy: A Country Doctor in Idaho’s Sun Valley
Robert Wright
Physician Robert H. Wright’s captivating career, chronicled by his grandson, illuminates frontier medicine and family life as well as the region’s thrilling Wild West past. $26.95 Washington State University Press

Soup Night: Recipes for Creating Community Around a Pot of Soup
Maggie Stuckey
Soup nights are an easy way to bring groups together for a stress-free evening of food and fun. With 99 recipes for soups—organized by season—you’ll start your own tradition in no time. $19.95 Storey Publishing

Ivar’s Seafood Cookbook: The O-fish-al Guide to Cooking the Northwest Catch
from The Crew at Ivar’s, with Jess Thomson
Serving local seafood for 75 years, Ivar’s is one of the most beloved restaurants in the Pacific Northwest. In its first cookbook, Ivar’s serves up 60 favorite recipes along with restaurant adventures and the “finny” sense of humor that have made Ivar’s a regional favorite. $29.95 Sasquatch Books
1. The Goldfinch
   Donna Tartt, Little Brown, $30, 9780316055437
2. Dog Songs
   Mary Oliver, Penguin Press, $26.95, 9781594204784
3. Aimless Love
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10. Longbourn
    Jo Baker, Knopf, $25.95, 9780385351232
11. Just One Evil Act
    Elizabeth George, Dutton, $29.95, 9780525952961
*12. We Are Water
    Wally Lamb, Harper, $29.99, 9780061941023
*13. Sweet Thunder
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*15. Songs of Willow Frost
    Jamie Ford, Ballantine, $26, 9780345522023

Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.
Nice spotlight on Bartender's Tale here …

From: Nelson, Christopher (PGI)
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:29 AM
To: Abrams, Ellen J; Baksh, Bibi; Benincase, Joseph T; Blanco, Bernadette Y; Boughter, Brittany J; Boyd, Matthew; Boyle, Aileen M; Burke, Craig D; De Moya, Winnie; Dempsey, Erin; Fagan, John; Gallagher, Erin; Hirt, Lydia; Howell, Kevin; Janet, Sarah; Johnson, Lisa; Kelly, Lisa; Kempster, Rachel; Kiyan, Juliana M; Lamb, Paul M; Locke, Tracy; Newlin, Shanta; Pascocello, Rick A; Pattison McClay, Ashley; Rosenberry, Eliza G; Sheppard, Nancy; Stamas, Margot; Stark, Kate; Swan, A.R.; Swetonic, Carrie; Weisser, Will; Wilson, Kell; Yamashita, Brianna; Kloske, Geoffrey; Saletan, Rebecca
Subject: FW: Winter 2013-2014 Indie "For Reading Group" List!
Importance: High

See below for picks for Indie "For Reading Group" List for Winter 2013-2014

From: Mark Nichols [mailto:mark@bookweb.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 3:09 PM
To: Shannon, Katya A.; Weyenberg, Trish; Engel, Jackie
Cc: Schurr, Michele A; Nelson, Christopher (PGI)
Subject: Winter 2013-2014 Indie "For Reading Group" List!
Importance: High

Dear Katya, Trish, and Jackie,

As you know, Indie booksellers from coast to coast are strong proponents of all kinds of reading groups, and once again our members have shared lists of the titles that have been most popular with groups in their area in recent months. We have compiled those titles into a national list, and I'm pleased to share with you that the following Penguin Group titles will appear on the Winter 2013 - 2014 Indie "For Reading Groups" list:

"TOP TEN"

# 1 A Tale for the Time Being: A Novel, Ruth Ozeki, Viking, 9780060026630, $28.95; It will also be noted that the paperback edition will be available 12/31/13: Penguin Books, 9780143124870, $16

# 3 Escape from Camp 14: One Man's Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom in the West, Blaine Harden, Penguin Books, 9780143122913, $15

FEATURED TITLES:

* The Bartender's Tale: A Novel, Riverhead Trade, 9781594631481, $16

* White Dog Fell From the Sky, Elinor Morse, Viking, 9780670026401, $27.95; It will also be noted that the paperback edition will be available 12/31/13: Penguin Books, 9780143124436, $16
In addition, for the first time, we are including 6 titles on the Reading Group List that are grouped under the heading "Compelling Reads for All Ages". Included in this group are the following titles published by the Penguin Young Readers Group:

* Between Shades of Gray, Ruth Sepetys, Speak, 9780142420591, $8.99

* Looking for Alaska, John Green, Speak, 9780142402511, $9.99

Congratulations!

Please feel free to share the news in-house, with sales reps, and with accounts immediately. There are 44 titles on the Winter 2013 - 2014 List, and the flyer is in a full-color, four-page tabloid format, with the "Top Ten" titles appearing on the front page, and other titles grouped by subject matter or genre to make it easy for a reading group to make appropriate selections. The Winter 2013 - 2014 Indie "For Reading Groups" flyers will be distributed in the November Red Box mailing, and the announcement of the full list will appear in the October 24th edition of Bookselling This Week.

The current suggested Rate Card for the Indie Reading Group List is attached for your reference.

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns about the rate card or to discuss the level of support with which you are comfortable for any given title.

Many thanks!

As ever,
Mark

---
Mark Nichols
Development Officer
American Booksellers Association
333 Westchester Avenue
Suite S202
White Plains, NY 10604
Main Phone: 914.406.7500
Direct Line: 914.406.7540
Ivan Doig strikes literary lightning with 'Sweet Thunder'

By Bob Minzesheimer, USA TODAY

One of my all-time favorite coming-of-age memoirs — up there with Russell Baker's Growing Up and Frank McCourt's Angela Ashes — is Ivan Doig's This House of Sky.

A finalist for the National Book Award in 1978, it's a tenderly told account of a tough childhood amid the sheepherders and ranch hands of western Montana. Doig, the first in his family to attend college, went on to write editorials for a newspaper, earn an Ph.D. in history and become a remarkably solid and prolific novelist in the tradition of Wallace Stegner.

In his 12th novel, Sweet Thunder (3½ stars out of four), Doig again mines the rich, rugged history of Montana.

It's set in 1920 and 1921 in Butte, home to the Anaconda Cooper Mining Company, which gave new meaning to robber baron as lord of the "richest hill in the world." As Doig writes, "It was as if a section of Pittsburgh had been grafted onto an alpine scene, the power of industry and that of nature juxtaposed."

In real life, Anaconda owned the newspapers in all Montana's biggest cities, a Rocky Mountain capitalist version of the old Soviet-style state-run media.

With a wry sense of history, Doig imagines a newspaper war fought by talented "wordslingers." It matches an upstart union newspaper, The Thunder, against the established Post, tightly leashed by what was called — in history and Doig's fiction — "the Cooper Collar."

The narrator, Morrie Morgan, is a charming, erudite and roguish character from two of Doig's earlier novels, The Whistling Season (2006) and Work Song (2011). With his new bride, a miner's widow, Morrie returns to Butte to become The Thunder's "editorial mudslinger."

In Doig's world, Morgan is one of good guys. If the plot turns into a good-vs.-evil morality play, the writing and characters are delightful.

Morgan describes his editorials as "practically operatic in orchestration," characterizing Anaconda "as the cold-blooded money-grubbing untrustworthy reptilian corporate monster ... this was not time to spare the adjectives."

Subplots swirl around bootleggers, brass knuckles, Teddy Roosevelt's charge up San Juan Hill in Cuba, mining diasters and a winning bet placed on the fixed World Series of 1919. There's gunplay and evocative details, such as the gabardine suits favored by Anaconda operatives: "Blood was more easily sponged off that than softer fabrics."

One of Doig's memorable supporting characters is the director of the Butte Public Library, a former vigilante who's built the finest literary collection west of Chicago. Samuel Sandison is an "outsized bear-like book-loving string-'em-up personality." He says, "I have a reputation to uphold in this damn town," adding with a gleam, "More than one."

If you haven't read Doig before, he can be a bit slow out of the gate. But pity the poor reader with so little patience that he or she can't give Doig 20 or 30 pages to hit his stride on the way to another entertaining slice of hardscrabble history.

GOODREADS REVIEWS FOR SWEET THUNDER
[http://www.goodreads.com/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search%5Bquery%5D=9781594487347]
Hello, Carol and Ivan,
I recently read Ivan's Sweet Thunder which I thoroughly enjoyed. I posted the following review at:

www.Amazon.com search for the title. My handle may be jeh106 or my name

www.GoodReads.com ditto

www.pnba.org From the home page click on NW Book Lovers, then under "browse" click on One Nightstand then search for your title.

Ivan, my wife Madie is on the Board of Endless Opportunities, a Jewish Seniors organization. She volunteered me to contact you about doing a reading and/or talk before their group. I believe the date they are looking at is late February. I have arranged previous author events for them and usuall 50 to 70 people show up. Are you game for something like this?

Here's my review:

"There is an American writer of the U.S. West who lives in Seattle but who grew up in Montana. His name is **IVAN DOIG** and he is a wordsmith of the first rank. I just finished reading his latest tome, **SWEET THUNDER** (ISBN 978-1594487347, hardcover, $27.95), his fourteenth book, three of which are non-fiction. Many if not all are set in Montana during contemporary and historical time periods. I have read a few of them but not all and those have been very happy periods of reading.

**SWEET THUNDER** features Morrie Morgan (Llewellyn) who had a previous appearance in **THE WHISTLING SEASON**. I have not read that book but now I think I will. I can state that it is not necessary to read the books in sequence but it would have been a big help if I had done so.

The year is 1920 as the story opens. Morrie and Grace, his bride of a year, are in San Francisco. There they receive a summons from Morrie's former boss one Sandy Sandison to come to Butte, Montana as quickly as possible. Morrie and Grace had been traveling the
world on the proceeds of a bet that he had made on the outcome of the 1919 World Series (the infamous Chicago Black Sox scandal that nearly killed baseball). The Chicago Mob is trying to find out who made the bet because they lost a lot of money. That is the first of many scrapes that follow Morrie and Grace.

Once they arrive in Butte, the couple finds that Sandy wants to give them his mansion. To support his wife and house, Morrie gets a job on the Miners' Union backed newspaper as the Editorial Editor/Writer. The story documents some of the issues that the Union and Anaconda Copper battled over for years. A little history lesson that is easy to take. When Grace finds out that Morrie has a checkered past, she walks out. There are wonderful glimpses on how newspapers operated in the 1920s. You may even remember what a newspaper was/is.

My recommendation is get a copy of SWEET THUNDER as fast as you can and READ it.

GO! BUY! READ!"

Madie & Jim Harris
4403 248th Lane SE
Issaquah, WA 98029
PHO: 425-392-1662
Glad we’re hanging in there with our 300-pager, with the thundering herd of baggy monsters (Henry James, where are you in these Gilbertian Tarttian times) arriving. See what a succinct novelist I am?

Best,
Ivan

On Oct 23, 2013, at 9:59 AM, Saletan, Rebecca wrote:

#11 PNBA (and Bartender’s tale is #8 in paperback).

From: Romig, Arianna M
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:41 PM
To: Cardia, Alexandra; Einhorn, Amy; Freeman, Katharine R; Held, Ivan; Kloske, Geoffrey; Martin, Jynne L; Minnich, Sara; Morrissey, Jake; Nyren, Neil; Perciasape, Laura; Brooks, Sofia C; Saletan, Rebecca; Stark, Kate; Stein, Elizabeth; Taublib, Nita; Welby, Alexis; James, Casey Blue; Rudd, Lily N; Grinch, Katie; Stein, Sarah; McGrath, Sarah; Delaney, Margaret M
Subject: Regional Indie Bestseller Lists for w/e October 20, 2013

Eight Regional Indie Bestseller Lists for the sales week ended Sunday, October 20, 2013 may be accessed by clicking on the links below:

New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131023ne.txt

Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131023si.txt

Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers Association (MPIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131023mp.txt

Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association (PNBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131023pn.txt

The Heartland Independent Bestseller List (GLIBA and MBA combined):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131023mw.txt

Southern California Independent Booksellers Association (SCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131023sc.txt

Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131023nc.txt

New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association (NAIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131023na.txt
Jim, hi--What a nifty review; a person would think you're veteran in the book biz! Thanks so much. And it was great to see you in Edmonds, right?

As to Madie's request, unfortunately I have to shut down booktour events when I finish with the Town Hall/LitCrawl doings on Thursday--I'll have been at it for two months by then--so I can get on with writing the next book, which is waiting half-done on my desk. I wish I could handle such requests, but there's just not enough of me to go around. Madie might think about getting in her bid with the new U Book Store events person, Eileen Harte, for an off-site event when the paperback of Sweet Thunder comes out next summer, although I can't promise how much I'll be doing for the book then either. In any case, I appreciate the interest and good words--nice to have a book pro on my side--and wish both of you the best.

Ivan

On Oct 21, 2013, at 3:12 PM, Jim Harris wrote:

Hello, Carol and Ivan,
I recently read Ivan's Sweet Thunder which I thoroughly enjoyed. I posted the following review at:
www.Amazon.com search for the title. My handle may be jeh106 or my name
www.GoodReads.com ditto
www.pnba.org From the home page click on NW Book Lovers, then under "browse" click on One Nightstand then search for your title.

Ivan, my wife Madie is on the Board of Endless Opportunities, a Jewish Seniors organization. She volunteered to contact you about doing a reading and/or talk before their group. I believe the date they are looking at is late February. I have arranged previous author events for them and usually 50 to 70 people show up. Are you game for something like this?

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My recommendation is get a copy of SWEET THUNDER as fast as you can and READ it.

GO! BUY! READ!"

Madie & Jim Harris
4403 248th Lane SE
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   Stephen King, Scribner, $30, 9781476727653

7. MaddAddam
   Margaret Atwood, Nan A. Talese, $27.95, 9780385528788

8. Someone
   Alice McDermott, FSG, $25, 9780374281090

9. W Is for Wasted
   Sue Grafton, Putnam, $28.95, 9780399158988

*10. The Rosie Project
     Graeme Simsion, S&S, $24, 9781476729084

11. Doomed
    Chuck Palahniuk, Doubleday, $24.95, 9780385533034

*12. Songs of Willow Frost
     Jamie Ford, Ballantine, $26, 9780345522023

13. The Cuckoo's Calling
    Robert Galbraith, Mulholland, $26, 9780316206846

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Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.
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13. *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*  

14. *Night Film*  
    Marisha Pessl, Random House, $28, 9781400067886

15. *Gone Girl*  
    Gillian Flynn, Crown, $25, 9780307588364

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Still riding high in the Pacific NW -- Sweet Thunder at #8, Bartender’s Tale at #10. And MPIBA just let us know that Sweet Thunder is nominated for the Reading the West Book Award.

Eight Regional Indie Bestseller Lists for the sales week ended Sunday, December 1, 2013 may be accessed by clicking on the links below:

New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA):
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Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/131204nc.txt

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    Martin Cruz Smith, S&S, $25.99, 9781439140215

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<td>Tara Conklin</td>
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Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.
# Hardcover Fiction

1. **Aimless Love**  
Billy Collins, Random House, $26, 9780679644057

2. **The Goldfinch**  
Donna Tartt, Little Brown, $30, 9780316055437

3. **Dog Songs**  
Mary Oliver, Penguin Press, $26.95, 9781594204784

4. **The Signature of All Things**  
Elizabeth Gilbert, Viking, $28.95, 9780670024858

5. **The Valley of Amazement**  
Amy Tan, Ecco, $29.99, 9780062107312

6. **The Luminaries**  
Eleanor Catton, Little Brown, $27, 9780316074315

7. **The Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon**  
Alexander McCall Smith, Pantheon, $24.95, 9780307378415

8. **The Circle**  
Dave Eggers, Knopf, $27.95, 9780385351393

9. **Sycamore Row**  
John Grisham, Doubleday, $28.95, 9780385537131

10. **Longbourn**  
Jo Baker, Knopf, $25.95, 9780385351232

11. **S.**  
J.J. Abrams, Doug Dorst, Mulholland, $35, 9780316201643

12. **We Are Water**  
Wally Lamb, Harper, $29.99, 9780061941023

13. **The Lowland**  
Jhumpa Lahiri, Knopf, $27.95, 9780307265746

14. **Just One Evil Act**  
Elizabeth George, Dutton, $29.95, 9780525952961

15. **Sweet Thunder**  
Ivan Doig, Riverhead, $27.95, 9781594487347

*Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.*
### Paperback Fiction

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Village Bookshelf
THE RETURN TO BELLINGHAM EDITION

For some authors, it doesn't matter how many millions of books they've sold or what sort of glowing critical acclaim they've garnered—they always return to Village Books, ready and willing to share their words with the masses. The following trio of scribes can't stay away from Bellingham, and for that we should be thankful.

J.A. Jance will turn 70 on her next birthday, but that's not stopping the long-time writer from giving her legions of fans more of what they want. This time around, it's a new novel featuring retired Seattle Police Department officer J.P. Beaumont, one of three recurring series of characters and books Jance focuses her story lines on. One might think that since it's her 21st mystery featuring Mr. Beaumont, there'd be no grist for the mill—left—but they'd be so wrong. In Second Watch, the retired detective must deal with visitors from the past, including horrifying memories from the time he spent fighting in Vietnam. The character of Lennie Davis, Beaumont's commanding officer in Vietnam, was based on a high school friend of Jance's, and a recent press release points out that the book "is a mystery, but is also a literary thank-you note to all the people who served during that era—the ones who came back as well as the ones that didn't—and to their loved ones, too." Jance gives back in other ways, too. In the past 10 years, she's raised more than $250,000 for various charities, including the American Cancer Society, Gilda's Club, the Humane Society, the YWCA, and the Girl Scouts. When: 4pm Sun., Sept. 15. Where: Village Books, 1200 11th St. Info: www.villagebooks.com

Reoccurring characters will also make appearances when Ivan Doig reads from his new book of fiction, Sweet Thunder. Doig's historical tale once again takes readers back in time—1919, to be exact—where Morrie Morgan (Whistling Season and Work Song) finds himself back in Butte, Mont. Here, he's the chief editorialist for the Thunder, a new newspaper challenging the "ruthless" Anaconda Company and "its stranglehold on the copper boomtown." It's not long before Morgan finds himself dealing with corporate intimidation, union politics and bootlegging gangsters. Apparently, Sweet Thunder is Doig's most autobiographical novel to date. Besides growing up in Montana—where many of his books take place—he also spent time as a ranch hand and edited small-town newspapers there, making him more than familiar with the landscape he continues to memorialize. When: 7pm Tues., Sept. 17. Where: Village Books.

Although she doesn't have the extensive publishing history of the aforementioned authors, Abbe Rolnick is still very familiar with the workings of Village Books. One reason is that, more than 30 years ago, Rolnick was the first employee owners Chuck and Dee Robinson hired when they opened the now iconic bookstore. She's been busy in the years since left; she had a few kids, was a CEO of a large manufacturing firm, and owned a bookstore and hobby shop in Puerto Rico (where she lived for seven years). These days, she's owns a Robeks restaurant, writes and consults in her spare time and lives with her husband on a 20-acre plot of land in Sedro-Woolley. When she reads from her second book, Color of Lies, later this month, Rolnick will be, like the two authors mentioned above, bringing characters back to life. The book takes place in the Skagit River Valley, and focuses on victims of a toxic waste coverup who must face their "white lies" to halt the perpetrator. If you know Abbe from back in the days she was an employee of Village Books, stop by and say hello. If not, go anyway and support a burgeoning author. When: 4pm Sat., Sept. 28. Where: Village Books.
Esther Olson, Matthew Rehfeldt, Leslie Johnson, Matthew Olson and Pat Nelson perform at the season opening concert of the Bellingham Chamber Music Society Saturday, Sept. 14. Courtesy photo to The Bellingham Herald

CHAMBER MUSIC START

Bellingham Chamber Music Society opens its season with a concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at Whatcom Museum’s Old City Hall Rotunda Room, 121 Prospect St., featuring five regional musicians: bassoonist Pat Nelson, violinists Matthew Olson and Esther Olson, violinist Leslie Johnson and cellist Matthew Rehfeldt.

The program includes works by Reicha and Vaughan Williams. Suggested donation: $20 general, $5 students. For more on the season, see bellinghamchambermusic.org. Details: 360-733-1423.

AUTHOR IVAN DOIG

Seattle author Ivan Doig reads from his latest book, “Sweet Thunder,” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Village Books, 1200 11th St. Admission is free.

The novel is set in 1921 Butte, Mont., with lead character Morrie Morgan, who debuted in “The Whistling Season” and returned in “Work Song,” as the chief editorialist for the Thunder, the upstart newspaper brave enough to challenge the ruthless Anaconda Co. and its stranglehold on the copper boomtown.

A third-generation Montanan, Doig grew up along the Rocky Mountain Front and is a former ranch hand, newspaperman and magazine editor. For more on Doig, see ivandoig.com.

‘ART IN THE PARK’

Jim Dixon’s work (right) is among the pieces on display as the Ferndale Arts Commission hosts Art in the Park, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 14-15, at Pioneer Park on Cherry Street.

Art in the Park will feature 11 local artists, plus performing artists, artist demonstrations, kids’ art activities, food and music. Artists will show and sell their artwork inside the Tillicum House and in the Ferndale Public Library conference room, located next door at 2007 Cherry St. For details on the free event, call 360-410-0118 or see cityofferndale.org.

NIKOLA TESLA TALK

Did Nikola Tesla really invent a death ray? Could he have provided unlimited free energy to the world? Did he really fall in love with a laser-eyed pigeon?

There are many rumors and myths surrounding Tesla, and Virginia writer Bernard Carlson will separate fact from fiction at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15, when he discusses his new book, “Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age.” Carlson will speak at SPARK Museum of Electrical Invention, 1312 Bay St., home to the MegaZapper, one of the largest Tesla coils in the country.

The event is free with museum admission, ($3 adults), and is free for museum members and for kids 11 and younger. A book signing follows. Details: 360-738-3886, sparkmuseum.org.
what’s going on behind the scenes

Novelist Ivan Doig at Village Books Tuesday

As someone who deals in both the newspaper world and the world of books, I found Ivan Doig’s newest novel, “Sweet Thunder,” an absolute delight.

I last interviewed the Seattle author in 2006 for his book “The Whistling Seasons,” and since his lead character, Morrie, makes a reappearance in the new novel, I felt it was time to talk to Doig again. He’s on tour, with a stop Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Village Books, so it was most convenient to email him.

Here is our electronic conversation. He’s 74, by the way.

**Question:** How do you see the role of journalists — you call them “word-slingers” in “Sweet Thunder” — today?

**Answer:** Like so much else, journalistic “word-slinging” has changed over the years, maybe most notably in the almost total decline in the number of cities with rival newspapers.

**Margaret Bikman**

**MORE ONLINE**

To read Margaret Bikman’s full interview with Ivan Doig, see this story online at BellinghamHerald.com

— it’d be hard to find a Thunder and a Daily Post lambasting each other daily, as in my Butte editorial writer Morrie’s time — and in the upsurge of TV talking heads and blogs, most with more mouth than brainwork behind their constant comments.

My wife, Carol, and I are old-school Northwestern University journalism majors, and we both cut our teeth on newspaper jobs, so it’s been heartbreaking to see what’s happened to daily newspapers with the loss of readers, jobs and ultimately papers, such as the Seattle P-I.

We believe the country is much poorer for that, not having responsible, investigative journalism backed up by intelligent, perceptive editing. Certainly newspapering is still honorable work, maybe more so than ever in the onslaught of the profession’s hard times.

**Q:** Would you expand on your comment on your website about the editorial writer’s role of “afflicting the comfortable and comforting the afflicted”?

**A:** As an editorial writer back in the sixties, when civil rights marchers were being met by Bull Connor’s cops with fire hoses in Birmingham, I came to believe then and still do that “afflicting the comfortable and comforting the afflicted” was a natural given role for an editorial page.

In having Morrie take on the domineering Anaconda Copper Mining Co. with his typewriter, I wanted that journalistic role simply tugged into the story, not blaring out loud on the page — as a novelist, you don’t want the preaching to get in the way of the singing.

**Q:** What’s your “trick” of creating such delicious words in your books?

**A:** The “trick” of using the language on the page as I do is to work at it all the time, two to three years per book. While crafting a rough draft, partly on a manual typewriter as a way of feeling the shape of each sentence, akin to sculpting on the computer, I do make a lot of changes as better turns of phrase come to mind.

(Through my decades as a professional writer I’ve always carried a pocket notebook for jotting, if I’m not close to a keyboard.)

When I have perhaps 50 or a hundred pages of manuscript, I have Carol look it over, as she has a great eye for plot and pace, but we agree she doesn’t insist on changes and I don’t necessarily make them — we’re old pros, trusting how the book will shape up by the time I’m done with it.

Some language comes easier when you borrow it from Shakespeare, as I did for the title of this third Morrie Morgan novel. I somehow noticed the line “So melodious a discord, such sweet thunder,” from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” and immediately thought that’s just the kind of thing that would make Morrie go off on one of his “balloon ascensions” of eruptions and end up sorely needing the miners’ union-backed newspaper the Thunder, in rivalry with the Anaconda Co.’s corporately matted Daily Post.

**Q:** Is a journalist compelled to take an editorial stand on say, the coal issue in the Pacific Northwest, or the minimum wage?

**A:** By the standards of the old sacred wall between news and opinion, which I think still should hold, the newspaper journalists — reporters and editors — ought not take a stand for or against. I think the coal terminals or the state minimum wage issue. Their job, as Morrie says it best, is to tell “chapters of the earthly saga, old as the alphabet. Humanity’s never-ending tale of who did what to whom, and when and where, and if told right, how and why.”

The editorial page staff, on the other hand — I’d include columnists here — must make itself heard on such matters of critical importance to the community.

Again, Morrie: “A newspaper without a cause is little more than a tatty sheet of misshapen local and national and whatever social gather.**

See **SCENES**, Page 6

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what’s going on artist profile

Musician Chuck Dingée celebrating his birthday

**Margaret Bikman**

**THE BELLINGHAM HERALD**

Guitarist and singer Chuck Dingée can be seen around Bellingham hosting open mics, and playing with his longtime musical companion Joe Young and with his current pop-rock band, The Walrus.

He turns 60 on Saturday, Sept. 15, and he’s throwing a Virgo Party (open to anyone 21 and older, regardless of Zodiac sign), from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14, at Wild Buffalo. For more on The Walrus, go to tusk-tusk.com.

**Margaret Bikman**

**ONLINE**

Find this weekly Q&A with Whatcom County musicians, poets, playwrights and more online at BellinghamHerald.com /artist-profiles.

**Answer:** I was quite smitten with the Beatles and all I wanted when I was 12 was to play Beatles songs. I saw the Beatles in Chicago that year and got a guitar for Christmas. I took some lessons, but the teacher didn’t want to teach me Beatles, so I quit and learned on my own.

I also liked Simon and Garfunkel and, later, Pink Floyd.

After I graduated from high school, I saw a couple of my friends playing acoustic guitars at a party and I (naively) thought that maybe I could actually play for a living. I had scholarships (in math) for college, and I tried being a student for a while.

But then I dropped out and started traveling around the country with friends, playing music for tips, meals, beer and whatever else.

We called ourselves the Obscure Travelling Band. We landed in Bellingham in 1975 and fell in love with it. After a couple of years, people started asking, “Where are you going to either change the band’s name or leave town?”

In 1977 we got an old school bus and traveled to Colorado and New Mexico, then visited Indiana, where most of us grew up. We went to Gainesville, Fla., for a few years (going back to Colorado for summers).

When the band broke up I moved right back to Bellingham, where I played for many years with Guy Mulford, a fun violinist who died in 2000. I’ve also played in other duos and trios and performed a lot of solo gigs. The Walrus was formed in 1996 (Full disclosure: Margaret that was at my house).

**Q:** What have been some of your jobs/careers not of a musical nature?

**A:** I followed my dad into his business for a while, packaging and selling small. **See PROFILE, Page 6.**
Novelist Ivan Doig at Village Books

SCENES from Page 4

ings and sporting events will fill the rest of the pages.

Q: How do you envision the future of books?
A: As to the future of e-books, online, and "physical books," I'll echo my editor who says those of us trying to "peddle quality literature" will be okay as long as people keep reading book-length works in some form. I must add that from the writer's wallet point of view, the lower royalties that come from usually more cheaply priced e-books are a nasty wage cut.

So is the growing online-generated trend of libraries to provide multiple customers with e-books, instead of actual books the library formerly would have purchased from the publisher, providing the more healthy royalties to writers, whose average income nationwide notoriously is statistically below the poverty line.

Readers' groups could help both writers and bookstores by resolving to buy hardback books for their discussions even a time or two a year; it would only cost each participant about as much as going out for lunch, and surely some book that an author has put two or three years of his or her life into qualifies as a keeper.

Q: What makes you catch your breath, makes you think, when you read fiction, nonfiction, newspapers?
A: In my own reading and, yes, book-buying (if anyone is curious, it runs about a thousand dollars a year in this book-reading household, and we consider every bit of it well-spent), I'll simply speak as a novelist to say what has to hold me is the "fictional substance ... the sounds that come off the page," as the critic Richard Poirier rightly put it.

Right from the first words, this can be a matter of voice — "Mom and Pop were just a couple of kids when they got married. He was eighteen, she was sixteen, and I was three ... " (Lady Sings the Blues," by Billie Holiday), or shear storytelling — "The gate tore at him and he felt its bite deep within and he knew that if they did not make landfall, in three days they would all be dead ..." ("Shogun," by James Clavell) or gusy inventiveness — "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen ..." ("1984," by George Orwell).

And let's not forget humor: in "Sweet Thunder" I devilishly have Morrie run on his otherwise sober editorial page a limerick from an Irish miner, one of the many impromptu anthems of Butte:

"My sweetheart's a mere in the mine,
I drive her with only one line.
On the ore car I sit,
While tobacco I spit,
All over my sweetheart's behind."

Behind the Scenes focuses on the people who make the arts and entertainment world of Whatcom County happen. It appears in Take Five, The Bellingham Herald's entertainment section, each Thursday. Margaret Bikman is the Entertainment News Coordinator at The Bellingham Herald. Contact her at margaret.bikman@bellinghamherald.com or 360-715-2273.

Chick Dingee celebrates birthday

PROFILE from Page 4

items (combs, pens, key rings, etc.) to stores. That supplemented my income for a few years in Milwaukee, and later in Bellingham.

In the early 1980s I got engrossed in reading books by and about Buckminster Fuller. I wrote a song for Buck's 88th birthday, but he died the day after I wrote it, and I never got to send it to him.

In 1986 I moved to Philadelphia to work with the World Game, an offshoot of his office. I travelled all over the world with that organization from 1986 to 1993. I decided then to move back to Bellingham.

I met Kathy Sheehan in Philadelphia and wrote her a song. (Fortunately, she's still alive.) We were married in Philadelphia in 1994 and moved to Bellingham. I started a web design business and still dabble with that, and Kathy and I occasionally do some photography work, too.

Q: What is your take on live music in Bellingham and how does a musician make a living in this town?
A: There are many budding musicians in Bellingham, and that is wonderful. Unfortunately, the pay for musicians in clubs today is about the same as it was in 1975, so if you want to make a living with it, you'll have to play a lot, and especially private parties. And don't play for free, unless it's on your terms.

Open mics are great for getting your feet wet, or for trying out new songs, etc. I hosted an open mic at the Fairhaven Pub for eight years, and I really enjoy helping musicians get started.

Q: What are your plans?
A: I love sailing and hiking around the Northwest, and I enjoy photography, bicycling and hunting wild mushrooms. I am also a big fan of Scrabble and backgammon.

Reach Margaret Bikman at margaret.bikman@bellinghamherald.com or 360-715-2273.
**Class Notes**

**UPDATES**

**MARIE ARANA (W CAS71)**
Marie Arana’s latest book, Bolivar: American Liberator (Simon & Schuster), a biography of 19th century Venezuelan military and political leader Simón Bolívar, was published in early April. Arana (“Two Worlds, Una Familia,” spring 2002), writer-at-large for the Washington Post and senior adviser to the Librarian of Congress, is a guest columnist on the op-ed page at The New York Times. She received the 2009 Alumnae of Northwestern Award. She lives in Washington, D.C.

**ADAM B. BROWN (GBS M07)**
Adam B. Brown of Appleton, Wis., became the conductor of the Fox Valley Symphony Youth Orchestra’s Philharmonia, one of three youth orchestras based in Appleton. The orchestra includes more than 150 middle and high school-age musicians. The Philharmonia performs two concerts a year and conducts a day tour of area schools and businesses.

**BIANCA CHAPMAN (L07)**
Bianca Chapman of Florissant, Mo., joined the law firm Greensfelder, Henkes & Gale in St. Louis as an associate in the litigation practice group. She represents clients in commercial litigation matters, including product liability and mass tort litigation.

**MARCUS HUNTER (G07, 11)**
Marcus Hunter of New Haven, Conn., assistant professor of sociology at Yale University, wrote his first book, Black Citymakers: How the Philadelphia Negro Changed Urban America (Oxford University Press, 2013). The book documents a century of banking and tenement collapses, housing activism, black-led anti-urban renewal mobilization, and post-Civil Rights political change from the perspective of the African American residents of the 7th Ward.

**ELLA MYERS (G07)**
Ella Myers of Salt Lake City, assistant professor of political science and gender studies at the University of Utah, wrote Worldly Ethics: Democratic Politics and Care for the World (Duke University Press, 2013). In the book Myers argues that associative democratic politics, in which citizens join together and struggle to shape shared conditions, requires a world-centered ethos.

**JOANNA SOJKA (W CAS07, GSESP10)**
Joanna Sojka of Des Plaines, Ill., was elected as the alderwoman of the 7th Ward of Des Plaines in April. She works full time as a business and finance administrator for the University of Illinois.

**MATT BOGUSZ (W CAS09)**
Matt Bogusz of Des Plaines, Ill., was elected mayor of the city of Des Plaines in April. At 26 he is the youngest mayor in Chicago’s northwest suburbs. Bogusz, who works as an associate director in advertising at a media agency, has served as alderman of the 3rd Ward in his hometown. He cut his political teeth at Northwestern, serving as executive vice president of the Associated Student Government.

**BILL LORD (G73)**
Bill Lord of Allbritton Communications’ Washington, D.C., ABC affiliate, WJLA-TV, and NewsChannel 8, a local 24-hour cable news channel, manages the Allbritton parent corporate level, and Gabe Brostem of G12 is special assistant to the chairmain, Robert Allbritton. In the photo above, back row, from left, David Chalian (G95), Dave Clark (G70), Gabe Brostem, Jennifer Doren (G76), and Ronnie Heitz (G76). Front row, from left, Whitney Wild (G71), Bill Lord, Terry Fritz and Cally Stodub (G08). Not pictured: Darcas Cohen (G79), Britt McHenry (G79), Melissa Benson (G71), Greg Burnham (G79), Laura McGann (G70), Kathryn Haynie Smith (G70) and Kayley Swell (G70).

**IVAN DOIG (J61, G62)**
The American Library Association’s Booklist selected Ivan Doig’s novel The Bortender’s Tole (Riverhead Books, 2012) as one of the 10 best works of historical fiction for 2013. Doig (“The Writing Life,” fall 1999) has published 15 books, and The Bortender’s Tole was his first on the New York Times best-seller list. Doig, who grew up in Montana, is one of the most celebrated authors of the American West. His most recent work, Sweet Thunder (Riverhead Books), was published in August.

**SETH MEYERS (C96)**
Seth Meyers (“The Good Humor Man,” spring 2008) has been tapped to host NBC’s Late Night. Meyers has spent the past dozen years at Saturday Night Live, where he is head writer and “Weekend Update” anchor. Meyers will become just the fourth Late Night host in the past 30 years. He is expected to take over Late Night from Jimmy Fallon in February. He will continue on Saturday Night Live through the fall season.

**Avigation**

**10s**

**Vivienne So (C08)**
Vivienne So of New York City and Jason Choi (W CAS09) of Englewood Cliffs, N.J., established ZOETIK, a jewelry e-commerce startup that features affordable and hypoallergenic jewelry that’s both simple and elegant. Every month a new and exclusive collection from an aspiring designer is featured on the website.

**JULIE BIELAWSKI (C09)**
Julie Bielawski of Evanston joined the Walgreens Co. last September as divisional project manager in its information technology division. A former Northwestern women’s basketball player, she spent three years working for the WNBA’s Chicago Sky.

**EDDIE GEORGE (KSM09)**
Eddie George of Columbus, Ohio, was named assistant vice president for business advancement at his undergraduate alma mater, Ohio State, in December. He also owns Eddie George’s Grille 27 in Columbus.

**Reunion Weekend**
Oct. 4-6
Class of 2012

**Tessa Burton (FSM10)**
Tessa Burton became executive director of marketing at the University of Chicago Medicine in March. Burton is responsible for marketing, both corporate and service line, market research, publications, interactive strategy and referral development for the University of Chicago Medical Center.
With 'New Tricks,' Ivan Doig Brings *Sweet Thunder* to Indies

*Sweet Thunder*, Ivan Doig's newest novel and 15th book overall, hit bookstores on August 20. Four days later, Doig celebrated the book's launch at Edmonds Bookshop in Edmonds, Wash., with an event that drew close to 100 people. Edmonds Bookshop is just one of many indie bookstores, predominantly in the Pacific Northwest, with which Doig has enjoyed close, longstanding relationships over the course of his decades-spanning career—and with whom he continues to try new ways of promoting and selling his books.

"As a professional writer, I’ve needed a community of booksellers to put my work in the hands of a community of readers," Doig explained. "The inventiveness of indie booksellers has been a great asset throughout my career."

That career began in 1979 with the publication of *This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind* (Harcourt), a memoir of growing up in Montana among a family of ranch hands. The book went on to be nominated for the National Book Award, but even before its publication, Doig began courting area bookstores, "armed with galleys."

"Selling the book to the publisher is only half the battle," mused Doig. "You also have to sell it to the reading public. I operated under the writer's number one rule: no one is getting paid to read your stuff."

The author has consistently supported indies, and many indies have supported him. Together, they've concocted clever ways to promote events and add new twists to the traditional author signing. Prior to the August 20 event, for example, Edmonds Bookshop promoted the launch celebration by running pre-screening advertisements in a local, old-fashioned movie house.
"We had people lined up all around our store, practically out the front door," Mary Kay Sneeringer, owner of Edmonds Bookshop, said. "Every time he has a new novel, Ivan comes by. There's a great, personal touch of remembering names and calling to plan events."

Doig also partnered with Seattle's University Bookstore to do a signing at a retirement community called the Hearthstone, and on September 19 he did the first Skype event of his career with the King's English Bookshop in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"I've been there many times," he said. "The King's English is one of my favorite bookstores. And I would keep going if parts of my body didn't want to get on an airplane anymore."

Doig signed bookplates in advance and sent them ahead to the King's English. During the event, Doig was projected from a laptop onto a big screen, and a chair was placed in front of the laptop. Attendees took turns sitting in the chair and asking Ivan questions, so they could speak to him directly. For his part, Doig read from Sweet Thunder and showed the audience pages from a picture book of a mining camp in Butte, Mont.

"He held picture books up to the camera and showed them to us," recounted Anne Holman, co-owner of the King's English. "He's got lots of really big fans out here; it was a great reading."

In late October, Doig will be kicking off Seattle's second annual Lit Crawl in an event at Town Hall. The event will be the last in the Sweet Thunder tour, which has already been full of firsts for the veteran author.

"My esteemed editor called it 'teaching an old Doig new tricks,'" he said dryly. "I guess I've accepted that pun." — Alex Mutter
From: "Rudd, Lily N" <lily.rudd@us.penguingroup.com>
Subject: FW: Regional Indie Bestseller Lists for w/e September 22, 2013
Date: September 25, 2013 9:52:51 AM PDT
To: <cddoig@comcast.net>
Cc: "Saletan, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Saletan@us.penguingroup.com>

Ivan—see below. THUNDER and BARTENDER’S holding steady on the PNBA! They’re at #3 and #6, respectively.

From: Romig, Arianna M
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 11:07 AM
To: Cardia, Alexandra; Einhorn, Amy; Freeman, Katharine R; Held, Ivan; Kloske, Geoffrey; Martin, Jynne L; Minnich, Sara; Morrissey, Jake; Nyren, Neil; Perciasepe, Laura; Brooks, Sofia C; Saletan, Rebecca; Stark, Kate; Stein, Elizabeth; Taublib, Nita; Welby, Alexis; James, Casey Blue; Rudd, Lily N; Grinch, Katie; Stein, Sarah; McGrath, Sarah; Delaney, Margaret M
Subject: Regional Indie Bestseller Lists for w/e September 22, 2013

Eight Regional Indie Bestseller Lists for the sales week ended Sunday, September 22, 2013 may be accessed by clicking on the links below:

New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130925ne.txt

Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130925si.txt

Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers Association (MPIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130925mp.txt

Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association (PNBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130925pn.txt

The Heartland Independent Bestseller List (GLIBA and MBA combined):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130925mw.txt

Southern California Independent Booksellers Association (SCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130925sc.txt

Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130925nc.txt

New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association (NAIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130925na.txt
Author Ivan Doig to share tips for aspiring writers at LCC

Ivan Doig starts his novels on a typewriter, though he later retypes the prose into his computer.

Ivan Doig is more than happy to speak at a fundraiser for the Longview Library Foundation since libraries have helped him research many of his historical novels, and some of the action in his latest work, "Sweet Thunder," is set in the Butte, Mont., public library during the rollicking 1920s.

"My 12 novels and three nonfiction books all have great breath from libraries, from Butte to Glasgow (Mont.),
Scotland, Juneau and on and on,” Doig said. “The research has taken me to all those places.”

Doig goes so far as to describe librarians as “the bartenders for information. Guys like me show up and try to order up the mix we want.”

Doig is one of the most accomplished writers to visit Longview in recent years. “Sweet Thunder” is the top-selling fiction work in the Pacific Northwest, and his previous works have been popular with reviewers and readers. He’ll speak at 5 p.m. Saturday in the LCC Wollenberg Auditorium.

Doig often is described as one of the leading voices of “Western” literature, though he objects to the label.

“I usually wince at that,” he said. “It’s sort of a sandwich board hung on the author. Saul Bellow didn’t get labeled a ‘Chicago writer,’ and John Updike didn’t get called an ‘Eastern writer.’ I don’t see that we’re distinguished by the sagebrush and people wearing chaps. … I’m at least trying to write about the larger country, life and work and how dreams change and are torn apart. Though my characters may be grounded in Montana, I feel they’re about a larger territory than that.”

Doig, 74, was born in White Sulfer Springs, Mont., to a family of homesteaders and ranch hands. He spent his childhood on ranches and graduated from high school in Valier, Mont. Doig attended Northwestern University, which is known for its journalism program. He received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in journalism, and worked for several newspapers and magazines and for the Forest Service. He later earned a Ph.D in American history at the University of Washington. He lives in Seattle with his wife, Carol, a university English professor.

“Sweet Thunder” is set in Butte in turbulent 1921. The central character, Morris Morgan, is a “wordslinger” who writes scathing editorials for a newspaper that opposes the Anaconda Copper Mining Co.’s dominance of the state. Across town, an Anaconda-controlled paper’s editorialist fights back amid labor disputes at the copper mines. Meanwhile, secrets from Morgan’s adventurous past are catching up with him.

Doig called the novel “a love song to newspapers” and pointed out that his first job out of journalism school was writing editorials. At the time, Anaconda owned all of Montana’s newspapers but one, so Doig left the state to work at a paper in Illinois. He later freelanced for such papers as the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and the Seattle dailies.

He said he and his wife miss the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, which stopped publishing in 2009, though it continues as an online-only news source.

“We think society is worse off for not having as many newspaper voices at it used to,” Doig said. “We came here from Chicago, where there were four papers in the mid-’60s. Looking back I still
think that was the best journalism in the country happening back then because there was this
ercious competition for stories. We feel it all the way to the heart."

Some parts of "Sweet Thunder" ring true, such as descriptions of how about one miner a week
died around Butte in the '20s.

"Butte mines were among the best paying in the world and among the most dangerous because
of how deep they were," he said. And Anaconda's policies contributed to the death toll in what
Doig called "the bloodless tradition of monopoly capitalism. Men's lives didn't count for as much
sometimes as the level of production."

Big corporations still possess a lot of political clout, Doig said, thanks partly to the Citizens United
ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, which threw out restrictions on corporate financing of political
races.

"That has opened up a new realm of political influence that was a bit more under the table in the
old days," he said. The decline of unions is another factor in the influence of companies, he said.

"Sweet Thunder" is Doig's third novel featuring Morris Morgan, who was a school teacher in
previous volumes. "Morris is interesting to write, appealing to create each time," Doig said.
"That's one reason I've gone back to him. And readers demand it. 'Whistling Season' (a 2007
novel that featured Morris as a one-room school teacher) was my bestselling book ever. People
liked him so much I dropped him into Butte."

Though Doig's next novel is set in 1951 and is about a 12-year-old who's shipped to Wisconsin
after a family event, he doesn't rule out another appearance by Morris in a yet-to-be written
novel.

Asked if he worries about the future of novels, Doig quickly replied, "No."

A writer for 50 years, Doig said previous predictions of the novel's demise have proven untrue.
"Last year, we had an absolute bounty of fiction," he said, with many writers a generation or two
younger than him.

"People are always going to want stories," he said. "One enduring form of stories, hundreds of
years old now, is the novel in a lasting form."

More This Day Stories

Library Corner: Doig's stellar work, at a glance

Liven up the lunchbox with these ideas

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Recommendations

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Library Corner: Doig's stellar work, at a glance

Ivan Doig, who in my opinion is one of America's greatest living writers, grew up in Montana and now lives in the Seattle area. He has spent his career writing about the west, past and present and about issues such as the western environment, character and those who call the West home.

Author Ivan Doig to share tips for aspiring writers at LCC
Doig follows in the tradition of the great Western writers (location, not the genre) that includes such luminaries as Jack London, John Steinbeck and Wallace Stegner. The West is a distinct place in the country where immigrants and the descendants of immigrants migrated for land, for riches, and for a better way of life. It is through the words of writers like Doig that the West can come alive in a very real way, for those living here and across the country.

Here are mini-reviews of Doig's books:

"The Bartender's Tale"

I've written about this one before so I won't repeat all that I said, only that it's a wonderfully well-written and moving coming-of-age story about a man and his son in a time of change both on a personal level and in the world.

"Bucking the Sun"

It's the 1930's and in this novel, Doig tells the drama of the Fells family set against the backdrop of a Depression era boomtown and the building of a dam that will change the lives of all those that it touches.

"The Eleventh Man"

Doig gives his portrait of the greatest generation though the eyes of a 1940 Montana championship football team and their impact on the war, and more importantly the war's impact upon them.

"English Creek," "Dancing at the Rascal Fair" and "Ride with Me, Mariah Montana"

This is Doig's much-beloved Montana Trilogy, which is a love story about Montana, and the West, told through the eyes of the McCaskill family.

"This House of Sky" and "Heart Earth"

Doig has poignantly told tales about his family in these two beautifully written memoirs about growing up in Montana and the West. "This House of Sky" was nominated for a National Book Award.

"Mountain Time"

Doig returns to the fertile ground of the McCaskill family in this keen observation on Western life and the ever-increasing battle between progress and the environment and what those both mean.

"Prairie Nocturne"

Another Montana tale, this time from the perspective of a singing teacher, her adulterous lover, and his African-American chauffeur with an amazing voice whom she agrees to train. From Montana and the KKK to New York and the Harlem Renaissance, Doig covers the 1920s.

"The Sea Runners"

Based upon a true story, Doig tells a timeless survivor tale of four men who escape indentured servitude in Russian Alaska and their dangerous journey to Astoria, and freedom.

"The Whistling Season," "Work Song" and "Sweet Thunder"

These three wonderfully well-written and enjoyable novels, including Doig's latest "Sweet Thunder," center around one of my favorite characters, Morrie Morgan. Scholar, teacher, librarian, and whatever else might come around, Morgan, and the always fascinating cast of characters around him, tell another side of Montana's history in the early 20th century -- one you
won't want to miss.

"Winter Brothers: A Season at the Edge of America"

Doig's other brilliant foray into non-fiction provides a magnificent evocation of the Pacific Northwest through the diaries of settler James Gilchrist Swan. Intermixed and fused with his own entries, Doig writes one of the great books about what the Pacific Northwest was and is.

Chris Skaugset is the director of the Longview Public Library. Readers can reach him at chris.skaugset@ci.longview.wa.us.

More This Day Stories

Author Ivan Doig to share tips for aspiring writers at LCC

Flunking school lunches? Psst, here’s a cheat sheet

Liven up the lunchbox with these ideas

Share your recipes in our holiday cookbook

TRENDING OFFERS AND ARTICLES

Approaching Obama scandal could bring shame to the White House not seen since President Clinton.

Rare plant may increase muscle growth 700% -- but is it an unfair advantage?

What happens to your body when you take a free testosterone supplement?

FEMA is scared that people will hoard the #1 MOST critical item in a crisis. [VIDEO]

Recommendations

17 Books You Should Have Read Last Year

(DailyCandy)

Police Blotter: Sept. 23

(The Daily News Online > Home)

Police: WA boy, 4, possibly overdosed on heroin

(The Daily News Online > Home)

Woman injured in three-car collision at exit 39

(The Daily News Online > Home)

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