Hi Ivan,

THUNDER is #7 on the Mountains & Plains bestseller list and #4 in the Pacific Northwest, and the BARTENDER'S TALE paperback is #3 there, too! Congratulations! So glad to hear your events are going so wonderfully, as well.

Best,
Lily

From: Romig, Arianna M
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:52 PM
To: Cardia, Alexandra; Einhorn, Amy; Freeman, Katharine R; Held, Ivan; Kloske, Geoffrey; Martin, Jynne L; Minnich, Sara; Morrissey, Jake; Nyren, Neil; Perclasepe, 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 8, 2013

Eight Regional Indie Bestseller Lists for the sales week ended Sunday, September 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/130911ne.txt

Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130911si.txt

Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers Association (MPIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130911mp.txt

Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association (PNBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130911pn.txt

The Heartland Independent Bestseller List (GLIBA and MBA combined):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130911mw.txt

Southern California Independent Booksellers Association (SCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130911sc.txt

Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130911nc.txt

New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association (NAIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130911na.txt
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.

### Hardcover Fiction

1. **How the Light Gets in**
   - Louise Penny, Minotaur, $25.99, 9780312655471

2. **The Cuckoo’s Calling**
   - Robert Galbraith, Mulholland, $26, 9780316206846

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

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

5. **A Dance With Dragons**
   - George R.R. Martin, Bantam, $35, 9780553801477

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

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

8. **Love, Dishonor, Marry, Die, Cherish, Perish**
   - David Rakoff, Doubleday, $26.95, 9780385535212

9. **The Bone Season**
   - Samantha Shannon, Bloomsbury, $24, 9781620401392

10. **Gone Girl**
    - Gillian Flynn, Crown, $25, 9780307588364

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

12. **Inferno**
    - Dan Brown, Doubleday, $29.95, 9780385537858

13. **Bad Monkey**
    - Carl Hiaasen, Knopf, $26.95, 9780307272591

14. **The Silver Star**
    - Jeannette Walls, Scribner, $26, 9781451661507

15. **We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves**
    - Karen Joy Fowler, A Marian Wood Book/Putnam, $26.95, 9780399162091

*Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are Northwest bestsellers that are not on the national IndieBound bestseller list.*
10 questions with Ivan Doig
Butte 'still grabs imagination' of author

Aug. 30, 2013 | 2 Comments

1. At 70 with the "The Bartender's Tale," you hit the New York Times best-seller list for the first time. Did that change the experience of writing this book?

Ivan Doig: Not in the writing. We'll see if it smoothed the way anyway, and it might. This book has gotten some winks of attention in New York City, which didn't happen before I landed on the best-seller list. It doesn't help the writing, which is still day by day, word by word. The pressure is always the same, and it's always mine on myself. I'm still doing so many words a day, so many days a week, and making those words the best I can find. I've never had pressure from a publisher or editor for any of these books telling me, if you shape it this way it will help. I've always just turned in the manuscript, and then there's usually very few changes.

2. How did the nature of a trilogy influence where you took character Morrie Morgan's story?

ID: I have an unintentional Morrie trilogy here. I put him as one of the three main characters in "The Whistling Season." Morrie tags along with Rose the housekeeper. Once he got on the page, Morrie did take on a life of his own. Readers respond to him as the schoolteacher, saying "Gosh, I wish I had a teacher like him." That showed me I had a character worth bringing back.

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There is continuation of the characters in the two Butte books. Here in “Sweet Thunder,” I was bringing back familiar characters, but Morrie’s got to encounter a couple allied with the Anaconda Co. I’m going to make them bigger than life, and the newspaper people, too. The editor has a green eyeshade, and editors did wear green eyeshades at the time. He’s going to be iconic with that. The bootleggers have classic names like Smitty and Ralphie.
Woohoo!!!

#2 Pacific NW
#9 Mountains and Plains
Go, Ivan!

Eight Regional Indie Bestseller Lists for the sales week ended Sunday, August 25, 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/130828ne.txt

Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130828si.txt

Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers Association (MPIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130828mp.txt

Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association (PNBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130828pn.txt

The Heartland Independent Bestseller List (GLIBA and MBA combined):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130828hw.txt

Southern California Independent Booksellers Association (SCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130828sc.txt

Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA):
http://www.bookweb.org/sites/default/files/regional_bestseller/130828nc.txt
Hi Ivan — I hope you had a lovely weekend! How was your event at Edmond’s? The reading was promoted nicely in the Edmond’s Beacon last week as well as in The Everett Daily Herald over the weekend!

Your feature in the Helena Independent Record also ran over the weekend. You can see the full piece here: http://helenair.com/entertainment/yourtime/sweet-thunder/article_fd4fed6-0bb5-11e3-a4fd-001a4bcf887a.html

And our dear friend Mary Ann Gwinn keeps adding to our huge pile of Seattle Times support. SWEET THUNDER is at the top of her list of recommended Fall books, and she also makes mention of it in her roundup of must read books by Northwest authors: "Finally, Ivan Doig’s “Sweet Thunder” has already been published, but I’m looking forward to the further adventures of Morrie Morgan, teacher, editor and troublemaker in 1919 Butte, Montana."

I heard that our travel agent was in touch with you this morning regarding the San Francisco hotel reservation. I’m so glad that worked out, and I’ll make sure you to send you an updated schedule with that information this week. Until then, onward to tomorrow’s appearance at Third Place Books!

Best,
Glory

Glory Anne Plata
Publicist | Riverhead Books
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New York, NY. 10014
212-366-2575 Tel. / @glory_anne
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"I was thrilled to crack open Ivan Doig's newest novel..." says Jocelyn.

The lure of the American West, this time in the form of a quirky bequest, once again draws Morris Morgan to that "Richest Hill on Earth" and the brawling city of Butte. Morrie and his bride, Grace, alight back into the cauldron of trouble between miners and the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, the Wall Street giant that has made Montana its fiefdom. As sure as day follows night, Morrie's manifold talents as a wordslinger, spoken and otherwise, are tapped by the fledgling union newspaper, the Thunder, enlisting his "walking encyclopedia" knowledge not only to write hilariously scathing editorials under a pen name against Anaconda and its kept press, but as the newsroom "morgue" of information. ("Hey, Morgie, who invented the guillotine?")

With its rush of deadlines and journalistic cast of unforgettable characters amid the clatter of typewriters and jangle of telephones, the novel at one level is a love song to daily newspapers, where author Ivan Doig begins his writing career. At another level, Sweet Thunder is a domestic romp of Shakespearean proportions, with the confusions of identity as Morrie, Grace, a pair of aged miners with a penchant for
"I wanted to recover my body. My real desire was to..."

"An arresting fiction debut... With insightful..."

TC Tidbit: Cormac McCarthy Has A New Film Coming Out...

"It's a knowing, touching, and entertaining page-turner..."

"Quick's use of flashbacks, internal dialogue, and..."

TC Tidbit: Business Cards of Famous Literary Charna...

"This book isn't for everyone, but for some (like..."

"Juan Gabriel Vasquez is a considerable writer. Th..."

TC Tidbit: Charles Baxter: How I Write

Margaret N. Was Profoundly Moved By This Debut Now...

Eric B. Is Recommending...

TC Tidbit: Henrietta Lacks Is In The News Again

Jocelyn Has Two Thumbs Up For Appet's Latest Book...

Two Debut Writers To Pay Attention To

TC Tidbit: 25 Essential Works of LGBT Non-Fiction

Cathy calls this, "a brave and honest memoir."

"In a book that should be required reading for all..."

TC Tidbit: Why Stephen King Spends ‘Months and Ev..."

"There are some sentences and paragraphs so smart..."

Meet The Author TONIGHT!!!

TC Tidbit: A Local Customer With A Novel Idea

"Brilliant. Written with deep insight and in sewer?..."

"Mad Men for the literary world." --Junot Diaz

TC Tidbit: What Does Your Summer Reading Say About..."

"Part odyssey, part ancestral mystery and part sea..."

"Sicha vivisects the student-loan crisis, finance..."

TC Tidbit: Book Burning in History

Judy B. Is A Champion Of This Book

Wendy S. Is Recommending

TC Tidbit: How To Drink The Summer Away (In Front..."

"Sophie Hannah has been messing with my mind for y..."

The research in this book is expressing themselves in Welsh, and the titanic book-mad librarian, Sam Sandison—aka “the Earl of Hell”—all inhabit a Horse Thief Row mansion threatening to fall down over their ears.

In yet another sense, this novel is a high-spirited, inventive, but historically acute portrait of a conflicted America roaring into the Twenties with Gilded Age antagonisms and Red Scare jitters still on its mind. Through it all, with mortal consequences looming if he slips up, Morrie must use his wits to elude the precipitous situations that somehow seek him out and chase him.

While masterfully fresh in its approach, this third in the trilogy of tales featuring the nimble wordsmith adds, to the compassionate resolution of The Whistling Season and its one-room school and the redemption anthem of Work Song and its polygamy community of miners, a bold declaration of identity and coming to grips with the who we—as American, as individuals, and as lovers of treasured books—are and wish to be.

**Jocelyn Says:**

"I was thrilled to crack open Ivan Doig’s newest novel to find not only has he brought me back to his beloved Montana, he has allowed two of my favorite Doig characters to lead the way."

Set in 1920, odd circumstances return newlyweds Morrie and Grace to the rough and ready town of Butte. Morrie’s love of words leads him to the position of ghost editor at the brand-new union newspaper aptly named Thunder. With the aim of breaking the stranglehold the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. has on the local miners Morrie’s editorial arrows hit home more often than not. Doig braids the miner’s story, Prohibition (with it’s inevitable bootleggers), and Morrie and Grace’s personal life together effortlessly. Ivan Doig’s love affair with Montana continues."

---

**Reaction:**

*funny (0) interesting (0) cool (0)

---

**No comments:**

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BOOKS

Book review: "Sweet Thunder," by Ivan Doig, filled with rich characters

By Sandra Dallas
Special to The Denver Post

POSTED: 09/18/2013 12:01:00 AM MDT

Toward the end of "Sweet Thunder," the novel's protagonist, Morris Morgan, calls 1920s Butte, Mont., "This tortured, boastful, inventive, grudge-ridden, wise-cracking city built not upon bedrock but copper ore."

He continues, "Gray waste heaps lay like nightmare dunes that knew no shifting sands, inert forever. Glory holes gaped at random in what bare ground remained on the steep hillside. Up top, the gallows frame of the Muckaroo mine reared against the sky ... like strange spawn of Eiffel's Parisian tower."

A love-hate relationship with place runs through Ivan Doig's books as if it were a character. Indeed, Butte, with its gamblers and plungers, its union strife and corporate greed, is very much a character in a book that is filled with an abundance of rich characters.

Principal among them is Morris Morgan, a witty and urbane bibliophile and crusader with a streak of larceny. Montana native Ivan Doig, author of 11 novels and three nonfiction works, introduced Morgan a few novels ago. Now Morgan is back, returned from a year-long, round-the-world honeymoon to find that a Butte woman has just left him for someone else. In "Sweet Thunder" (http://www.tatteredcover.com/book/9781594487342) he finds the bibliophile's passion renewed.

"Sweet Thunder" by Ivan Doig (I)

Morgan, who has gone through his ill-gotten gains, finds a job with the "Thunder," an upstart union-backed newspaper as an editorial writer. His job is to take on the town behemoth, the omnipresent Anaconda Co., and he does it with a will.

In fact, Morgan's editorials are so incendiary that they raise the hackles of the Anaconda-owned "Post," which recruits its own editorial powerhouse, a man known as Cutthroat Cartwright. The two writers spar over union wages, property taxes and eventually a company lockout that threatens Butte itself.

Meanwhile, Grace discovers her husband is not what she has thought and moves out, leaving Morgan to run the mansion on his own with the ever-critical Sandison. And then there is the threat of Chicago gamblers with a murderous grudge against Morgan for cheating them years before. He fears that with Cartright's help, they will discover that Morgan lives in Butte. If they do, his life is worthless. Little wonder Morgan always carries a pair of brass knuckles in his pocket.

Morgan is only one of a set of endearing characters. Grace is his match, not just beautiful but smart. And there are the others—Sandison, both inspiration and thorn-in-the-side; Cartright, the face of Anaconda; Jared and Rab, a union man turned politician and his wife. There's the de rigeuer crusty newspaper editor and an irrepressible newsie named Russian Famine. (In Butte back then, virtually everybody had a nickname.)

Still, it is Butte itself, a tough-fisted city of plungers and promoters, bootleggers and union workers, sharpeners and window men and crooked boxers, that binds the story together. Doig re-creates one of America's legendary cities and fills it with characters to match.
Ivan Doig’s Book Bag: Five Favorite Books on the American West

by Ivan Doig  |  Aug 20, 2013 4:45 AM EDT

Ivan Doig, the great chronicler of the Montana landscape, whose new novel is Sweet Thunder, picks his favorite books on the American West.

The American West as Living Space

By Wallace Stegner

Once when I asked a prominent historian what he thought of the many writings by Stegner, novelist and English department star at Harvard and Stanford, about the background and the West, he didn’t hesitate: "He hits the nail on the head every time, damn him." This trio of essays, a mere 86 pages of text delivered as a set of university lectures, is a marvel—composed nearly 30 years before fracking, pine beetle kill of forests from Colorado to British Columbia, unprecedented fire seasons with suburbs on the front line—of exploring his great theme of the country west of the rain-halting 98th Meridian, the clash of its ecologies and its cultures.

Monte Walsh
By Jack Schaefer

Not Shane? Why? Schaefer’s lesser-known but more valid western novel is big, long, gabby with ranch dialect that sounds just right to my bunkhouse-trained ears, and is our best portrait of the cowboy as drifter and what happens to him when he slows down and the times catch up with him. Made into a pleasurable movie starring Lee Marvin—worth seeing just for Jack Palance as a good guy.

The Legend of Colton H. Bryant
By Alexandra Fuller

I surprised myself in listing this one, hidebound as I am against the blurring of non-fiction and fiction. But Fuller manages to mix real reporting and pumping of sources with dialogue reconstructed from before she was on the scene, to tell a heck of a story of a ranch kid turned oilfield roustabout, his off-the-wall buddies, and the wife and family that tried to contain his unsprung behavior. Contemporary and heartbreaking, as is the author’s portrayal of a Wyoming selling itself and its people for oil and coal.

Fools Crow
By James Welch

"Now that the weather had changed, the moon of the falling leaves turned white in the blackening sky and White Man’s Dog was restless." The late James Welch, himself Blackfoot and Gros Ventre, wonderfully transports us back to a tribal time in the very first sentence. Jim and I were close friends and maybe the only writers who grew up in proximity to the rough Blackfoot Reservation town of Browning, Montana. Perhaps because of the tribal toughness he hung around then, he never employed the softened term "Native Americans," and Fools Crow is a powerful epic of the time—1870—when Indians were Indians, in their proud but doomed effort to keep their way of life and in the purview of advancing whites willing to massacre to stamp it out.

Bless Me, Ultima
By Rudolfo Anaya

This Southwestern classic is lyrical and often enough mystical in evoking the coming of a very old woman thought to be a curandera, a miracle worker who could heal the sick with herbs and remedies, in the upbringing of an impressionable 7-year-old Chicano boy, and how beautifully they clicked. Pause often in this one to hear
Anaya's lovely prose roll through your ears: "When she came the beauty of the llano unfolded before my eyes, and the gurgling waters of the river sang to the hum of the turning earth.

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A third-generation Montanan, Ivan Doig grew up along the Rocky Mountain Front, the dramatic landscape that has inspired much of his writing. A former ranch hand, newspaperman, and magazine editor, with a Ph.D. in history to boot, Doig is the author of 15 previous novels, most recently Sweet Thunder and The Bartender's Tale, and three works of nonfiction, including his classic first book, This House of Sky. He has been a National Book Award finalist and has received the Wallace Stegner Award, a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Western Literature Association, and multiple PBNA Awards, among other honors. He lives in Seattle.

For inquiries, please contact The Daily Beast at editorial@thedailybeast.com.

TAGS: Books, Montana, United States

PREVIOUS
Nathaniel Philbrick's Book Bag

BOOK BAG

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The Best of the '80s

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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 shepherders 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 "outsize 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?UTFS=%E2%9C%93&SEARCH%5BQUERY%5D=9781594487347)

http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/books/2013/08/21/ivan-doig-sweet-thunder/2681011/
Hugs and tickles to USA Today one more time. I've always had pretty good luck there, and will never forget the flight on the English Creek booktour when my mugshot topped a rave review and I sat at the back grinning as passengers lifted their USA Todays to fold 'em to the book page and my mug kept popping up all over the plane.

Don't know about you all, but I like the possible pull quote, "a remarkably solid and prolific novelist in the tradition of Wallace Stegner...the writing and characters are delightful."

Anyway, how great to have this one in the bag. Two days now until I actually get out and sell books by hand, in "adorable" Edmonds, to cop your phrase, Becky.

All best,
Ivan

From: "Glory Plata" <Glory.Plata@us.penguin.com>
To: cddoig@comcast.net, "Rebecca Saletan" <Rebecca.Saletan@us.penguin.com>, "Lily N Rudd" <lily.rudd@us.penguin.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 4:29:01 PM
Subject: RAVE USA Today review!

Hi Ivan - Your USA Today review just posted and it's an absolute rave! Bob is a true fan and gives endless praise for SWEET THUNDER.

http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/books/2013/08/21/ivan-doig-sweet-thunder/2681011/
A crusading journey in a restive miniature

In his epic new novel, Ivan Doig places Morrie Morgan

'Sweet Thunder'
by Ivan Doig
Riverhead Books, 320 pp., $27.95

Reviewed by TIM MCNULTY
Special to The Seattle Times

In his newest novel, Seattle author Ivan Doig returns to gritty, historic Butte, Mont., the “Pittsburg of the Rockies” and the setting for his popular 2010 novel, “Work Song.” Happily, Doig brings back his earlier cast of memorable characters from that novel, including Morrie Morgan, the elegant and erudite former schoolteacher/librarian with a shady Chicago past, and Sam Sandison, a fearsome former ranch baron with a weakness for rare and expensive books.

It is 1921, and a tenuous truce between Butte’s beleaguered mine workers and the all-powerful Anaconda Copper Mining Company is in shambles. The company is at its peak of postwar production, having mined $200 billion in copper ore from Butte Hill to wire America for electrical power. Anaconda and its Wall Street principals hold the burgeoning city and its surrounding state firmly in its political grip. And Butte’s hard-strapped miners are being squeezed for the slim gains their union was able to secure.

Morrie is called upon to put his verbal acuity to work as editorial writer for the “Butte Thunder,” the scrappy newspaper of the miners’ union. When a Thunder-sparked campaign threatens to impinge on Anaconda’s profits, the company brings in its own word-slinger for its house organ, a re-riding, union-busting journalist fresh from the Chicago labor wars. Doig, who holds a Ph.D. in history, is at his best in his historic novels, and he unspools the compelling tale among the clutter of typewriters and the “sweet thunder” of printing presses. Readers get a revealing glimpse of old-time advocacy newspapering at its most passionate. “Representation is one thing,” writes Morrie on a page one editorial, “colonial domination is another. Anaconda has made Montana the Congo of America.”

AUTHOR APPEARANCES

Ivan Doig

The author of “Sweet Thunder” will appear at these area locations:

- At noon Saturday at the Edmonds Bookshop (425-775-2789 or edmondsbookshop.com).
- At 7 p.m., Aug. 27 at Third Place Books in Lake Forest Park (206-366-3333 or thirdplacebooks.com).
- At 5:30 p.m., Sept. 7 at the University Book Store in Seattle (206-634-3400 or ubookstore.com).
- At 7 p.m., Sept. 10 at Parkplace Books in Kirkland (425-828-6546 or parkplacebookskirkland.com).
- At 7 p.m., Sept. 17 at Village Books in Bellingham (360-671-2626 or villagebooks.com).
- At 7 p.m., Sept. 24 at the central branch of the Seattle Public Library (206-386-4636 or spl.org).
- At 6 p.m., Oct. 24 at Town Hall Seattle as part the Litcrawlf.org/seattle/
in the middle of labor strife

The stakes are raised when a union negotiator is killed in a suspect mine explosion; there is an assassination attempt, and a visitation from Morrie's past puts his recent marriage (and tentative future) on the rocks. A工作 lookout by Anaconda further increases the pressure on Morrie and the struggling mine workers.

With his safety at risk, Morrie contemplates hopping the next train out of town. But Butte and its denizens have grown on him. "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."

Fortunately, it seems much the same with Dog and Montana. The author has returned to his native state in twelve of his fifteen books, all to marvelous effect. In "Sweet Thunder," Dog also draws on his newspapering past. The heady smell of ink, newsprint and tobacco smoke fairly lifts from the pages.

Friendship, loyalty, love, politics and the pitched labor wars of the early 20th century all come to bear on this epic tale. The pace quickens and surprises ensue as the narrative spins to its high-wire close.

Dog may be finished with Butte for a time, but I wouldn't be surprised if we see more of these characters in a future novel. Sam Sandison, the Montana settler turned ranch baron, turned rare book collector, mentions his intention of writing a memoir.

That would be yet another Montana book worthy of Dog's prodigious talents.

Tim McNulty is co-editor of "Notes from Disappearing Lake, the River Journals of Robert Sund" (Pleasure Boat Studio).

BEST-SELLERS

As reported by Publishers Weekly

Hardcover fiction
1. The Cuckoo's Calling, Robert Galbraith
2. Inferno, Dan Brown
3. First Sight, Danielle Steel
4. And the Mountains Echoed, Khaled Hosseini
5. The English Girl, Daniel Silva
6. Second Honeymoon, James Patterson and Howard Roughan
7. Hidden Order, Brad Thor
8. The Highway, C.J. Box
9. The Ocean at the End of the Lane, Neil Gaiman
10. Bombshell, Catherine Coulter

Hardcover nonfiction
1. Zealot, Reza Aslan
2. Happy, Happy, Happy, Phil Robertson
3. Lean In, Sheryl Sandberg
4. This Town, Mark Leibovich
5. The Duck Commander Family, Willie and Korie Robertson
6. Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls, David Sedaris
7. Life Code, Phil McGraw
8. Jerusalem: A Cookbook, Yotam Ottolenghi
9. Keep It Pithy, Bill O'Reilly
10. Shirley Jones: A Memoir, Shirley Jones

LOCAL SCENE


Fiction
1. Where'd You Go Bernadette, Maria Semple
2. Beautiful Ruins, Jess Walter
3. The Orchardist, Amanda Coplin
4. Search Party, Valerie Trueblood
5. How Should A Person Be?, Sheila Heti

Nonfiction
1. Zealot, Reza Aslan
2. I Wear the Black Hat, Chuck Klosterman
3. Wild, Cheryl Strayed
4. Let's Explore Diabetes With Owls, David Sedaris
5. The Boys In the Boat, Daniel James Brown

Lives in the balance around the corner.
Hi Ivan –

Happiest of publication days to you and to Sweet Thunder! I wanted to make sure you saw your Daily Beast book bag piece, which is online now:

Here also is a terrific post about the book on Tattered Cover Bookstore’s official blog:
http://tatteredcoverbookstore.blogspot.com/2013/08/i-was-thrilled-to-crack-open-ivan-doigs.html

I’ll send you an updated version of your tour schedule later this afternoon, Ivan. I’m just waiting for one or two travel details from our agent.

Best,
Glory

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**Book buyers' picks**

**FICTION**
*The Secret Keeper*, by Kate Morton. My goal is to let as many people as possible know what a powerful writer Morton is. If you haven’t read her yet, this book is a great place to start. During a party, 16-year-old Laurel Nicolson escapes to her childhood treehouse when she spies a stranger approaching the family’s farm. She sees her mother, Dorothy, talk to the man, and before the day is over, Laurel witnesses a shocking crime. Now, 50 years later, the family is gathering for Dorothy’s 90th birthday. Realizing that this may be her last chance, Laurel searches for answers to the questions that still haunt her.

—Beth Alley, inventory control specialist, books

**NONFICTION**
*The Bartender’s Tale*, by Ivan Doig. In the poem “Sea Fever,” John Masefield writes, “All I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by.” Were I to pen a similar bit of poetry, I imagine a time when LEGO bricks won’t hold a special place in my heart. I loved them as a child, and to this day I ooh and ah over the fabulous things people can and do make with them. This book is a perfect example, as it is filled with instructions to build everything from Las Vegas’ Mandalay Bay Hotel to Shanghai’s Pearl Tower. To build on the fun, the book includes construction tips and two pull-out posters of different global landmarks.

—Scott Losse, inventory control specialist, books

*Foods That Harm, Foods That Heal Cookbook, from Reader’s Digest*. This year I’ve made it a priority to get away from my desk during lunch hour and go for a run or hit the gym. That change has led to a more active interest in what I eat. This cookbook takes the information from *Foods That Harm, Foods That Heal* and puts it into an easy-to-use guide and cookbook. The first part lists nearly 150 healing foods, the second part consists of more than 250 recipes and the third part lists ailments and the foods to either eat or avoid for that particular condition.

—Chris Burns, inventory control specialist, books

**Mad for magazines**

A CLASSROOM IS a great place to learn, but other opportunities to pick up new ideas for everything from cooking and baking to crafts and cameras are all around. One favorite source for inspiration is the glossy pages of magazines.

Here’s a look at some of the magazines you’ll find in your local Costco warehouse this month. (Although it’s only August, most of these will be the September issues.)

*Cuisine for Two* is a 200-page advertisement-free flipbook packed with ideas for meals for two. The *Cuisine for Two* side offers complete, restaurant-quality menus, while the other side, *Cuisine Tonight for Two*, features quick and easy recipe ideas.

Mastering a new recipe is a great feeling. The September issue of *Food Network Magazine* includes features on making everything from breakfast-cereal brittle to popcorn cupcakes and perfect pesto to homemade sodas.

Who needs baking school when *Fall Baking* from *Better Homes and Gardens* shows cooks how to make cobblers in an iron skillet and New York–style soft pretzels? Not to be missed is the section on pizza cookies and another with pie recipes for holiday gatherings.

Available in late August, *Taste of Home Ultimate Halloween* has party menus for kids and adults, along with costume and craft ideas. Put together with DIYers of all skill levels in mind, volume 8 of *Somerset Home* has features on how to upcycle old furniture and how to embroider your own place mats and tea towels. Additional articles show how to turn croquet mallets into a coat rack and how to add a touch of creativity when arranging your space.

The September issue of *HGTV Magazine* offers 50 ideas for updating a kitchen and tips for planting tulip bulbs in time for a colorful spring bloom. Jonathan and Drew Scott from the TV show *Property Brothers* weigh in on which materials they do and don’t like for home remodels and renovations.

Maybe your education goals boil down to mastering the camera you purchased from Costco this year. *The Ultimate Canon SLR Handbook* has more than 200 pages (and a video disc) to help you get the most out of your Canon camera. This “bookazine” includes tutorials, a Canon Workshop course and a section on improving pictures by using Canon’s free image-editing software.

—Stephanie E. Ponder

**The Costco Connection**

Magazines are available—at a minimum 30 percent discount—in most warehouses.
Hi Ivan – Here’s an early review from the NYJB. The reviewer has her quibbles with Sweet Thunder but gives it an overall very positive review, calling it “an entertaining story at a high intellectual level.” Nice!

Also attached is an updated pre-pub schedule for you, which now includes the KUOW studio contact information. I’m checking in with some KUOW hosts about any radio opportunities for the dates you’re already scheduled to be there, but it looks like most want to hold off until closer to publication or afterward. Will keep you updated on that in the coming weeks!

Best,
Glory

REVIEW FROM ADVANCE READING COPY

_Sweet Thunder_ by Ivan Doig
Riverhead Books
August 20, 2013
1594487340
978-1594487347
320 pages

Review by Carolyn Haley

There have been many charming rogues through literary history, and Mr. Doig brings us another one: Morrie Morgan (nee Llewellyn), a gentleman opportunist and trouble magnet. He’s been a rambler and a gambler, a boxer and a teacher among other disparate occupations. Now in _Sweet Thunder_ he finds his ideal employment as an editorial writer for an upstart newspaper, the _Thunder._

Readers already in love with Morrie from previous books in the series will have no trouble jumping into his new escapades with him. New readers may be more hesitant, since he starts off by lying to his brand-new wife long before we know he has reason to.

Once she catches on to his checkered past and the fact he married her under a false name she dubs him “a chameleon on a barber pole” and packs her bags.
This gives Morrie two problems. The first is professional: As a silver-tongued editorialist he’s charged with battling the huge Anaconda Mining Company in a long-standing dispute with the miners’ union that will seal the fate of his beloved Butte, Montana. This war is conducted through competing newspapers against an editorialist of equal mastery.

The second problem is personal: After gallivanting about recklessly for all his life, accumulating troubles that chase him from state to state (“a gazetteer of risky occurrences”), and never having a satisfying and enduring love affair, he must win back his wife by facing up to the responsibilities of employment, property, and relationships for the first time.

While the book isn’t truly “madcap” or “screwball” it has an undertone of these, which makes it hard to take Morrie seriously until late in the story. The two-pronged plot problem settles down to: Can a chameleon change his stripes? and Can the David of Butte take down the giant of Anaconda by slinging words instead of stones?

Things keep going wrong so fast that readers have good reason to doubt.

Morrie is assisted in escaping his misadventures by friends who are delightful while being cliché. Readers who like their characters to be caricatures will love this cast. Mr. Doig has a gift of making oddballs believable and lovable, as well as a gift for capturing place and personality in deft strokes.

Unfortunately, he has trouble with run-on sentences in dialogue. Lines like “‘That trunk of yours got sidetracked somewhere between Frisco and here, I’d say,’ he cheerfully proffered the claim check” keep wrinkling the otherwise silken fabric of the narrative.

These will stick in the craw of grammarians, but if they can overlook the style, they will find enough clever observations, interesting situations, and thought-provoking themes to satisfy diverse tastes.

The book’s best moments come when Morrie goes back to his pedagogic roots. Until those scenes, it’s hard to believe he was ever a teacher. It’s also hard to believe he was ever a librarian until he starts quoting books. At the Thunder, he “warmed to the task of walking encyclopedia,” demonstrating immense and esoteric knowledge that gets him out of every scrape.

So if you forgive Morrie his foibles and have a tolerance for the absurd then Sweet Thunder will deliver an entertaining story at a high intellectual level. It will also take you to 1920s Montana when big forces were “dancing as one in a Rocky Mountain outpost where copper
and blood mingled, all in the dance called America.”

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August 1, 2013
Library Journal
SWEET THUNDER
By Ivan Doig

Morrie Morgan is back, accompanied by our favorite loopy characters from Doig’s acclaimed Whistling Season and Work Song. It’s 1920, and after a whirlwind honeymoon, Morrie and wife, Grace, return to Butte, MT, where despotic power resides under one mighty thumb, the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. Morrie and Grace start life in an outsized mansion, thanks to their benefactor and new boarder Samuel Sandison, cattle king, vigilante, and city librarian. To pay for the upkeep, Morrie begins working for a start-up newspaper, Thunder, backed by Jared Evans, leader of the mine workers and now a state senator. Writing salty, hard-nosed editorials, Morrie wages battle on behalf of the miners for fair wages and safe working conditions with the rival Post, Anaconda’s mouthpiece. But big trouble follows Morrie. He’s mistaken for the local bootlegger, the Chicago gambling mob sends a thug to shoot him, he’s up against a muckraking journalist imported from Chicago by the Post, and his beloved Grace leaves him when she discovers his Chicago past. But Morrie remains steadfast in his mission. VERDICT With a master storyteller’s instincts and a dollop of wry humor, Doig evokes a perfect landscape of the past with a cast of memorable characters. A treasure of a novel.—Donna Bettencourt, Mesa Cty. P.L., Palisade, CO
Hi Ivan – We wanted to send you this absolutely terrific review from Publishers Weekly! That’s three outstanding pre-pub reviews for Sweet Thunder. Library Journal got in touch yesterday to let me know their review will run in the August issue, so I should have that for you within the next couple of weeks.

Best,
Glory

Butte, Montana in the 1920s meant Anaconda Copper Mining Company squeezing the town, its residents, and the land for everything they’ve got. Doig (The Bartender’s Tale) brings back the charismatic Morrie Morgan, a walking encyclopedia prone to trouble last seen in 2010’s Work Song, in this stirring tale of greed, corruption, and the power of past sins. After a yearlong honeymoon with his wife, Grace, Morgan and his new bride reluctantly return to Butte when they inherit one of the town’s mansions, which they’ll share with irascible librarian Sam Sandison. Recognizing Morgan's proficiency as a wordsmith, the union men who want to see Anaconda gone start an independent newspaper. Morgan pens the opinion column in the Thunder under the pseudonym Pluvius. But not only is Anaconda not going down without a fight—the company's own paper, the Butte Daily Post, enlists famed Chicago reporter Cedric "Cutlass" Cartwright to counter Pluvius—Morgan's somewhat unsavory past comes back to haunt him, putting great strain on his marriage. Doig’s attention to detail, both historical and concerning characters of his own creation, is as sharp as ever. Long-time fans will recognize familiar names from previous novels and readers both seasoned and new will fall under the spell of Doig's Big Sky Country.
http://publishersweekly.com/978-1-59448-734-7#path/978-1-59448-734-7

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Hi Ivan – Another terrific pre-publication review, this time from Kirkus! My favorite parts: "...the marvelously atmospheric portrait of the bygone newspaper trade and an engaging cast of characters sketched with the author's customary vigor" AND "...welcome evidence that Doig, in his 70s, is more prolific and entertaining than ever." The review itself will be available online July 2 (in print July 15).

Congrats!
Glory

Morrie Morgan returns (Work Song, 2010, etc.) to again confront the evil Anaconda Copper Mining Company, as well as several unwelcome reminders of his checkered past.

Just back in Butte after a yearlong honeymoon with Grace, who’s temporarily given up her boardinghouse but not her suspicions that her irrepressible spouse isn’t much of a provider, Morrie needs to find a job fast. Not only has he nearly run through his winnings from a savvy bet on the fixed 1919 World Series, but he has an expensive mansion to maintain; wealthy cattleman-turned-librarian Sam Sandison hands over his home in an upper-crust neighborhood sardonically known as Horse Thief Row with the proviso that Morrie has to pay for its upkeep. So Morrie goes to work as the editorial writer for a new newspaper funded by the miners’ union to counter Anaconda’s propaganda for unfettered capitalism. Many, many complications ensue—this is Doig’s most elaborately (and occasionally improbably) plotted novel—but they are less interesting than the marvelously atmospheric portrait of the bygone newspaper trade and an engaging cast of characters sketched with the author’s customary vigor. Among the familiar figures are careworn union leader Jared Evans, devising strategy from his new post as state senator; and the semireformed street kid known as Russian Famine who leads Morrie to a gut-clenching climax high atop the mineshafts’ towering headframes. Unscrupulous but gifted columnist Cedric “Cutthroat” Cartwright, recruited from Chicago by Anaconda to bandy editorials with Morrie, makes a colorful addition who gets a highly satisfying comeuppance. It’s mostly a lighthearted romp, right down to the striking likeness to Montana’s “number one bootlegger” that enables Morrie finally to make sure the Chicago mob won’t dare come after him. Yet Doig also quietly conveys the injustices and cruelties of American history, particularly in the realistically depressing and temporary resolution of the union’s struggle with Anaconda.

An enjoyable change-up from The Bartender’s Tale (2012) and welcome evidence that Doig, in his 70s, is more prolific and entertaining than ever.
Not only does Doig continually sing the praises of libraries and books in personal appearances, he writes about them, too. This is his third historical novel featuring Morrie Morgan, con man turned librarian (How often does one get to use that phrase?) and now crusading journalist. The setting, as in Work Song (2010), is Butte, Montana, and the theme is once more labor strife, with the Anaconda Mining set against the seemingly overmatched miners’ union—until Morrie, recently returned to Butte with his bride, Grace, enters the fray in the guise of editorial writer for an upstart left-wing paper that strives to expose the chicanery of the mining company. Think Shane but with dueling journalists instead of gunfighters. The rival newspaper, mouthpiece for Anaconda, brings in a hired wordsmith from Chicago (Jack Palance at the typewriter) to trade linotype punches with Morrie. There are plenty of personal stories on the sidelines (Morrie’s marriage, doings at the library), but this time the focus is on hot type and the role journalism played in a rowdy western town. A stirring tale given a melancholic edge by the fading influence of print newspapers in our very different modern world.

HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Doig’s fiction may not always hit national best-seller lists, but it is perennially popular in libraries. This one will only increase his reputation as a librarian’s favorite.

— Bill Ott
Thanks so much, Carol! Will keep this in mind when I start gathering travel and lodging details later this month.

Also wanted to pass along some lovely news! Booklist will give SWEET THUNDER a terrific review in their July 1st issue. I've attached the full review here, but here's a nice pull quote for your website: "A stirring tale given a melancholic edge by the fading influence of print newspapers in our very different modern world."

All best,
Glory

-----Original Message-----
From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 5:01 PM
To: Plata, Glory
Subject: San Francisco accommodations

Hello, Glory.

Ivan, in his orderly way, has told me I'd better make a decision on a San Francisco hotel. (He's usually right about these things.) Then yesterday we saw friends who were just in the city. They reminded us about the America's Cup competition, so I looked it up. The races are supposed to end a few days before we arrive, but....

Ivan then thought about the possibility that the baseball team might make the playoffs. These events are in the parts of the city we want to stay in, and also provide best access to Book Passage at the Ferry Building.

So for use whenever you can book for us, please consider the Argonaut, a Kimpton hotel in an area where we can get out and around on foot, when we're not being escorted. (We've usually stayed at the Stanford Court, but that's not a good walking venue.)

We'd prefer a top (4th floor) room with two beds and a full bay view. Let's go for early arrival, say 1 p.m. This is in an old cannery building, we know that part of town, and it looks like the best choice. I've joined their loyalty program, #103275057, for whatever good it might do.

Best,
Carol

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

Sweet Thunder.
Doig, Ivan (Author)
Wow, hits all the right notes!

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**From:** Plata, Glory  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2013 3:24 PM  
**To:** 'carol doig'  
**Cc:** Saletan, Rebecca; Rudd, Lily N; 'Liz Darhansoff'  
**Subject:** Library Journal Pre-Pub Mention

Hi Ivan – The first pre-pub mention for SWEET THUNDER just landed in my inbox, this one from the lovely Barbara Hoffert at *Library Journal*:

I'm cheating a bit, since this wrap-up to the Morrie Morgan trilogy, begun with *The Whistling Season* and continued with *Work Song*, has a late August on-sale date. But news of the book just surfaced (it actually catalogs in the fall). In 1920s Butte, MT, Morrie becomes chief editorialist for the newly hatched Butte *Thunder*, which is taking on the powerful Anaconda Company. Septuagenarian Doig has been writing admired books for decades but lately seems to be breaking out, with mentions in *New York* and *V Magazine* and activity on the *New York Times* best sellers lists. Great expectations for this work, somewhat autobiographical as Doig has worked on newspapers himself.  
Good stuff and more to come!

Best,  
Glory

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212-366-2575 Tel.  
Twitter: @glory_anne
From: carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Luca's college
Date: April 26, 2013 1:17:01 PM PDT
To: Wendy Smith <smith.wendy@earthlink.net>

Well, we ALMOST gained Luca for the Northwest, but we're delighted he's found the fit he really likes. Don't take this to mean you can't ever venture West to our diggings again.

Our news as usual is book, book, book. Nice development last week when Booklist chose The Bartender's Tale as one of the 10 best works of historical fiction. As I told my agent when she remarked on the company I'm in, there, just hangin' with my homies -- Hilary Mantel, Mario Varga Llosa, Colm Toibin, Joyce Carol Oates -- in the Nobel schoolyard. As if. Meanwhile, we got another great cover for the next one, Sweet Thunder (successor to Work Song; Morrie returns to Butte!), and ARCs go into the world in a couple of weeks. Life speeds on!

Congratulations to Luca, and his well-traveled parents.
All best,
Ivan and Carol

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On Apr 26, 2013, at 6:44 AM, Wendy Smith wrote

Hi all,

Forgive the mass email, but it's the quickest way to inform the many friends who helped us in Luca's college search and asked to be kept up to date about the results. He's decided on Skidmore College. We had an informative second visit to Reed, and Portland is a delightful city, but Luca realized that Skidmore's program is more in line with what he's looking for in terms of classes and distribution requirements. Plus there was that indefinable gut feeling: Skidmore just felt right. His parents can now admit that Reed seemed rather far away, and we're relieved that he will be closer at hand in lovely Saratoga Springs.

Thanks to all of you for your assistance and counsel. You helped ease our way in an inherently stressful process.

Affectionately,
Wendy
In the winter of 1920, a quirky bequest draws Morrie Morgan back to Butte, Montana, from a year-long honeymoon with his bride, Grace. But the mansion bestowed by a former boss upon the itinerant charmer, who debuted in Doig’s bestselling The Whistling Season, promises to be less windfall than money pit. And the town itself, with its polyglot army of miners struggling to extricate themselves from the stranglehold of the ruthless Anaconda Copper Mining Company, seems—like the couple’s fast-disappearing finances—on the verge of implosion.

These twin dilemmas catapult Morrie into his new career as editorialist for the Thunder, the fledgling union newspaper that dares to play David to Anaconda’s Goliath. Amid the clatter of typewriters, the rumble of the printing presses, and a cast of unforgettable characters, Morrie puts his gift for wordslinging and his font of self-taught knowledge to work. By navigating a series of perils and taking advantage of a fortuitous case of mistaken identity, he manages to win victory for the miners and to secure lasting love for himself in this romp of a story that brilliantly captures an America roaring into a new age.

Praise for The Bartender’s Tale

“The perfect book for your bedside table.”
—Associated Press

“The rewards of The Bartender’s Tale… remain very great and extremely rare.”
—The Washington Post

Praise for Work Song

“Not one stitch unravels in this intricately threaded narrative… infectious.”
—The New York Times Book Review

“If you were looking for a novel that best expresses the American spirit, you’d have to ride past a lot of fence posts before finding anything as worthy as Work Song.”
—Chicago Tribune

A third-generation Montanan and a former ranch hand, newspaperman, and magazine editor, IVAN DOIG is the author of fourteen previous books, including the classic memoir This House of Sky. He has been a National Book Award finalist and has received the Wallace Stegner Award. He lives in Seattle.
A beloved character brings the power of the press to 1920s Butte, Montana, in this latest from the best storyteller of the West.
Black and White and Read All Over

An essay by Ivan Doig

Five or six of us from the editorial page were bunched for lunch in Rango's Bar and Grill, virtually an annex of our downstate Illinois newspaper, The Decatur Herald & Review. Keeping with tradition, we'd crowded into the corner booth, where we liked to squeeze interviews out of political candidates, and conversation ricocheted in usual directions—civil rights marches, graft in the statehouse, the strike at a local factory—until one of us caught the words from the TV behind the bar: "Dallas... shots fired..."

The scramble back to the office and the rush to put out an extra about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, that November day in 1963, were my initiation into newspapering at its most vital: as the first draft of history. I was fresh from Montana bunkhouses and the U.S. Air Force, and the job as an editorial writer was my first in journalism. I gave it all I had, blazing away at the typewriter in that grandest of inkslinger's goals, to write faster than anyone who was better and better than anyone who was faster. Not even the big stories that tended to break on my Saturday-night stints as wire editor—the Valdez earthquake in Alaska and the death of Pope John XXIII, yards of copy unendingly unfolding out of a row of Teletype machines—did me in, quite.

As it turned out, my newspapering career did not go on—a magazine job and a woman named Carol lured me to Chicago and a lasting change in my writing life—but I never lost touch with newspapers themselves, those blessed black-and-white-and-read-all-over repositories of history, and sometimes even literature, on the run. In my time as a freelance writer my byline appeared in The New York Times, Chicago Tribune, The Denver Post, and Los Angeles Times, as well as the Seattle dailies where Carol and I settled in our journalism-related careers. Perhaps it is small wonder, then, that my character Morrie Morgan in Sweet Thunder, as ever seeking his destiny and employment worthy of his talents, is drawn to a newspaper job in the rough-and-tumble mining city of Butte. That he, like me, becomes an editorial writer with blazing speed and a burning penchant for comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable is simply, well, something extra.

Sweet Thunder
August 2013