

This book has to show the motion of a mind--Jick's.

Last Roof

19 Aug. '80: tell the story of boy's summer with his forest ranger father in first-person--perhaps make it summer of '39--and at end have him shift to his present ~~gr~~ adult voice, telling what has ~~also~~ happened to each of the other characters.

--one plot twist: could have the ranger and son on a mountain trip of some sort across the last of August and first week or so of September; and emerge to find WWII begun. (Floyd, typewriter repairman on First Ave., had that experience while trapping in Wyoming.)

--Characters: a veteran ranger, of the generation older than the boy's father.

--sundry herders on the summer range

--young couple just married?

--a strong, well-delineated mother.

--younger sister or brother? or older?

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Perhaps set the book in the summer of 1939--son accompanying his forest ranger father. Have them on a journey of some sort which carries them from late August past Sept. 1 out of touch with rest of the world; they come out to find WWII begun.

Final section of book switches from third-person to first-person, the grown Howard. Begin it something like this:

"Ve'll be in it in a year," Minnow Friessen said, but it was 2 years, 2 months (etc: whatever the span from Sept. 1 '39 to Pearl Harbor Day)...

Then use this section to tell what became of everyone. ~~Make~~ The narrator became a 19-year-old infantryman...perhaps use variant of Pease story, of self showing up in documentary.

Somewhere in above--early in it--perhaps say the world did not change at once, the summers of '40 and '41 were yet peace for the US, but the people were changing. (One of the shepherders died in summer of '40, for ex; a town merchant--Chick Tilden, for ex--is called up into tank reserves (Ft. Hood, Texas? was ~~R~~ Devoe Swank there?)

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Set it in fictitious town of Gros Ventre, Montana. Local pronunciation something like GROVE ond.

Principal character, boy--forest ranger's son--named Howie. (Mother, when irked: "How-erd.")

possible flashback: Lewis vs the Blackfeet, on the reservation.

possible title: God's Shoestring

--Does Mac handle the dispute with Alec because Beth would break it off forever?

Jick's horizons grow in the course of the book:

ch. 1, his descriptions of the Two country

ch. 2, " " " Gros Ventre

ch. 3, " imaginings of other parts of Montana

If Alec goes off to another Double W¹-owned ranch elsewhere in the state at the end of the summer, mention the place earlier in the book to set it up.

--have Alec visit his parents before going into WWII? Jick is on a basketball trip to Shelby, misses seeing him.

Wisdom Wyngard: shows up in fire crew, gathered off Gt Falls South Side.