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May 1996 bring you fine health,
peace to the world.

Best wishes in
this holiday season

Betty Baldwin Joseph

Original design by Mary Ann Perkins



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With best wishes for the holiday season and the new year.



12-17-95



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Hi dear Ivan + Carol –

I'm at my son's in Boise for Xmas. He's in respiratory research, his wife is an MD. They just read Your Heart Earth and commented that your mom must have had congestive heart problems, not really asthma. The weak heart would back fluid into the lungs and that would cause a cough, which would seem like asthma. Nothing could be done, wherever you lived.

Hope to see you 2.

Warm regards + good wishes. Ruth Kirk

Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Doig
17021 10th Ave NE
Seattle
WA 98177

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RON FRANSCELL
1001 Clarion Drive
Gillette WY 82718

Telephone 307.682.9306 x110
Fax 307.686.9306

December 17, 1995

Mr. Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Avenue NW
Seattle WA 98177

Dear Ivan:

I need your help, Ivan. I am very near the end of my first novel, and I am beginning to search for an agent. As I thought about writers I knew and writers who worked in a similar vein, you immediately came to mind ... and was a little abashed at being so presumptuous about my own work. Nonetheless, I've everything to gain by asking you this favor.

The novel is called "Angel Fire." My unfinished manuscript recently won the 1996 Literary Fellowship from the Wyoming Arts Council. One of three distinguished judges, Pushcart Prize- and Flannery O'Connor Award winner Melissa Pritchard, said this about "Angel Fire": *"Ron Franscell ... has powerfully and precisely delineated a sense of place and evoked the lifelong, passionate and necessary relationship between two brothers. From their first tender and innocent surveyings of the map of the world as they know it, from the top of West Canaan's water tower, to their more chastened adult perceptions of a much larger, dismayingly complex world, to the fragile hope implied in their eventual reunion to return to Source ... Ron Franscell's dramatic, impressively crafted narrative promises us an important novel of haunting and mythic proportions ..."*

As I might have already written to you, Ann and I have returned home to Wyoming, where I am the editor and publisher of a daily newspaper in the northeastern part of the state. By way of writing background: At 38, I've won more than my share of journalistic writing and editing awards, all the way up to the prestigious Associated Press Managing Editors' Freedom of Information Award (an honor previously awarded the New York Times for the Pentagon Papers and the Washington Post for its Watergate coverage.) Twice, I've led projects that were submitted for Pulitzer Prizes, but I haven't won one ... yet. So I am a storyteller by profession and by nature, and one of my inspirations was meeting you in Sheridan back in 1980 as you brought "This House of Sky" to readers.

"Angel Fire" is a story I've long wanted to tell, but never put to paper until now. I believe deeply that it is a provocative story comprising most of the elements that give it commercial potential in print and perhaps even film. It is a hero's journey, a tale of two brothers' separate, painful odysseys back to the small Wyoming town where they grew up. It's about the "resurrection" of one man presumed dead for 23 years after the Vietnam War, and another who's dying a different kind of death. It's about how we seek equilibrium: Memory and time, winter and summer, loss and homecoming, pain and redemption.

A lyrical tale set in a small town, "Angel Fire" blends some of the current sensibilities of "The Shipping News" and "Snow Falling on Cedars" with the familiar comforts of "To Kill a Mockingbird." West Canaan, Wyoming, and its surroundings are a metaphor for what is fundamental about life, especially in the West. In a way, it reflects the stories men have told for millennia, the stories that bind us together, the stories we tell our children.

I'm a professional. I understand and respect deadlines. Every day, I am reminded of the role an editor plays in improving writing. I write because I want to tell a story, not because I have to. And I am willing to do whatever it takes to breathe life into "Angel Fire."

The favor I am asking may be very simple or very difficult for you: I seek your referral to an agent. At one time, yours was Liz Darhansoff , I believe, and once you're satisfied that "Angel Fire" is worthy of your recommendation, I'd be much indebted to you if you'd merely urge her (or your current agent) to take a look at my work. As a literary novel, it fits Darhansoff & Verrill's specialty, and Liz clearly has had experience with finding publishers for modern literature set in the West.

Ivan, your referral could only help, but I don't expect you to lend your name to support me if you're not satisfied it's for a good reason. I have included a synopsis of "Angel Fire" and the first few chapters. I can send more if you'd like, but I don't want to bog you down. I respect your opinions, so if you cannot recommend it in good faith to Ms. Darhansoff (or any other agent whom you deem appropriate), so be it. One develops a thick skin in my business.

Over the years, I have appreciated your books more than you know. I hope that on your next journey through Wyoming, you'll find time to visit us here in Gillette for a bottle of wine and a steak dinner under the big sky of the "next to the last best place."

Let me know the best way to proceed. We first-timers need all the help we can get.

Happy holidays and best regards,

Pam

22 Dec. '95

Dear Ron--

There's no way this won't seem disappointing, but that's part of the writing life, too. Two main things, as to why I can't pan out as you'd hoped on this. The first is that I never read other writers' stuff in manuscript, for a ton of reasons but at least one of them philosophical--I think writers asking other writers for advice/judgment on a piece of work is like lawyers asking other lawyers for a medical diagnosis; ie., the proper advisor is the doctor, the editor. The second thing is that, far from having a magic wand with Liz Darhansoff, the couple of times in the distant past when I've passed friends' work along to her haven't clicked at all; indeed, those muddied my necessary professional relationship with her, and I think probably actually hurt the chances of the friends' work. I guess agents are agents because they have agently skills, and at least in my case with Liz, her "This guy is a buddy of my writer and that's why I'm getting this" detector goes into action. I <u>can</u> tell you, as one reporter to another, that Liz does have her own method of scouting writers, often signing them on when they've come to the attention of a perceptive editor such as Shannon Ravenal at Algonquin, and maybe Emilie Buchwald at Milkweed is now in that same league; indeed, I was put in touch with Liz by an editor, after my first two books. So, about all I can tell you, Ron, is that the writing is what has to get the attention of editor or agent; I see no reason why, if you have confidence in your manuscript sample, you shouldn't begin submitting it to editors or agents on your own. Or if you feel the writing needs more work, then maybe a stint at a writing program, under somebody whose stuff you respect? All good luck with this, and excuse the unparagraphed haste of this--I am trying to deal with the copy-edited manuscript of my own next book, get ready for a long trip, and have some Christmas too. I hope you're wintering well in Gillette.

regards,

Ivan

"Cheryll Aimee Barron writes with the wicked good humor of an anthropologist attuned to a tribe who swirl a mysterious fluid in a glass and declare it playful but hardy. Her vivacious portrait of the Napa Valley reminds us that the American West can be as rarefied and heady as as wine."

Box 727,
Fall River Mills,
California 96028.
January 16, 1995.

Dear Mr. Doig,

Lee Goerner asked me to remind you that he wrote to you about the bound galleys enclosed roughly three months ago.

I first spoke to Lee when he telephoned to introduce himself. As exciting as it was to have sold my book, the biggest thrill of the conversation was his mentioning that he was your publisher.

I learned about you from two passionate devotees of your work — a pair of computer scientists from the north of England married to each other. As I told Lee in that memorable chat, I study your sentences, sometimes, with absolute fascination. Getting to the end

of the best of them is like having ridden through open country absorbed by one surpassing vista after another but — at your destination — being clueless about how you got there!

I hope that reading my book does not prove too much of an imposition. I wish the galleys were even cleaner for you — am suffering over some printer's gremlin changing "Valle Grande" to "Valley Grande"; the Bertolucci film "1900" to "1990"; "torpefying" to "torpifying"..... The biggest source of irritation, though, is the removal of section breaks — in the many places where these coincide with the start of a new page.

Thank you for giving permission for this package to be sent to you. It means a great deal to me.

Sincerely, Cheryll.

(BARRON)

(916) 274 5805
Box 727
Fall River Mills,
California 96028.

March 3, 1995

Dear Mr. Doig,

Never have I seen two sentences that had anything to do with me carry so much freight. Never was a scribbler more grateful — or delighted.

I read what you had to say about Dreamers of the Valley of Rocks and felt as if one of those faces on Mount Rushmore (Jefferson's) had winked at me.

Thank you; and thank you again!

Warmly, Cheryll.

324 E. 41st Street, #603C
NYC 10017
February 11, 1995

Dear Ivan,

You may have heard, winter finally came to Nueva York. For about a week. Still, it always pays to be cautious about these things, so I'm heading off this week to Louisiana. LSU needs an editor-in-chief, I still need work, so maybe something can be worked out.*

Otherwise, it's the free-lance life: lots of books in Spanish for gringo publishers, a few in English to edit, the odd book review for the LA Times...Not a full regimen but I somehow am seldom bored. And I haven't gone to a meeting since I don't remember when.

Did the Scribner people ever send you Cheryll Barron's book? I don't exactly have a raging correspondence with them and sometimes still get curious about the books that are starting to come out.

Hope you and Carol are well and flourishing.

Best,

Lee

* The Texas singer Guy Clark as a song called "Baton Rouge" that goes (in part) "It was a Texas girl that broke my heart/Then she tore my truck apart/I'm gonna get me another in Baton Rouge."

2 March '95

Dear Lee--

Just now managed, in a winter when everyone I know needed a blurb, to do one for Cheryll Barron.

I hope LSU worked out okay. At this end of the cosmos, I turned in about two-thirds of my Fort Peck manuscript to S&S and was visited by my new editor there, Becky Saletan. So far so good, on both.

Carol sends regards. Me, too.

324 E. 41st Street, #603C
NYC 10017
March 7,1995

Dear Ivan,

Glad to hear that you could do something for Cheryll Barron, though I have considerable sympathy for you receiving all those requests for help. And I know she must be pleased as well.

I don't know yet what to say about LSU. It was certainly more pleasant there in February than NYC. On the other hand, there is June,July,August in the South to think about. Besides its being a university press. And not having done any fiction lately, though they do seem willing to re-consider. It's all so different from what I know and am used to. And,as you might imagine, that is both an attraction and grounds for hesitation. (How many writers or people in publishing do you know who are happy with the state of the so-called industry?)

Good news to hear that you've made such progress with the novel. I mean, that seems like you're just churning along. And Becky Saletan is a pretty good, that is, smart and hard-working, editor. So far, so good, indeed.

Best to you and Carol.



RON FRANSCELL
1001 Clarion Drive
Gillette WY 82718

Telephone 307.682.9306 x110
Fax 307.686.9306

December 26, 1995

Mr. Ivan Doig
17021 Tenth Avenue NW
Seattle WA 98177

Dear Ivan:

You've certainly heard the story of the young optimist who, upon finding a Christmas stocking full of horse manure, exclaims: "There must be a pony in here somewhere!" That kind of optimism serves a young writer well, too.

Your advice about writers, editors an agents couldn't have come from a source I respect more. Thank you. With your thoughts in my mind, I'll continue to look for a way to make this project work. Publishing cannot be much different today than it was when you were beginning: There are bogs and inspirations and muddles and setbacks and little joys around every corner. I'm just trying to get the to next corner. If I succeed, you'll be able to read "Angel Fire" in a finer form than my manuscript.

Again, thanks for taking time to respond. Yes, I was a little disappointed, but it passes rather quickly these days. Nothing worth doing is easy, and there's simply no time to get too disconsolate. I keep thinking, "There must be a pony in here somewhere!"

Hoping your holidays were the best ever,

Ron Franscell

August 5, 1995

Mr. Ivan Doig
17021 10th Northwest
Seattle, Washington 98177

Dear Ivan Doig:

I have read all of your stories.

I am a new writer, and would be honored if you would take the time to read a couple of mine.

Thank you,

Patrick Hanlon

29 Aug. '95

Dear Patrick Hanlon--

I do wish you all good luck, and hope to read your work in published form one day. But I never read other people's work-in-progress; I think that should be strictly a matter between writer and editor, or writing instructor--about all one writer can tell another is, Hey, if I'd been writing this I'd have... And that's not helpful to the individual formation of a style, and to finding one's own route in the writing life.

regards,

Ivan Doig

1647 White Pines Court, Naperville, Illinois, 60563



P.O. Box 9 / Newbury VT 05051

GROUCHO MARX

Dear Ivan Doig: My friend and fellow poet Linda Bierds gave me your address, as I'd asked her to do. I just wanted to tell you how much This House of Sky and Heart Earth have meant to me, how much (even if inobtrusively) they influenced my own recent memoir. Thank you for your life and work.

Regards, Sydney Lea

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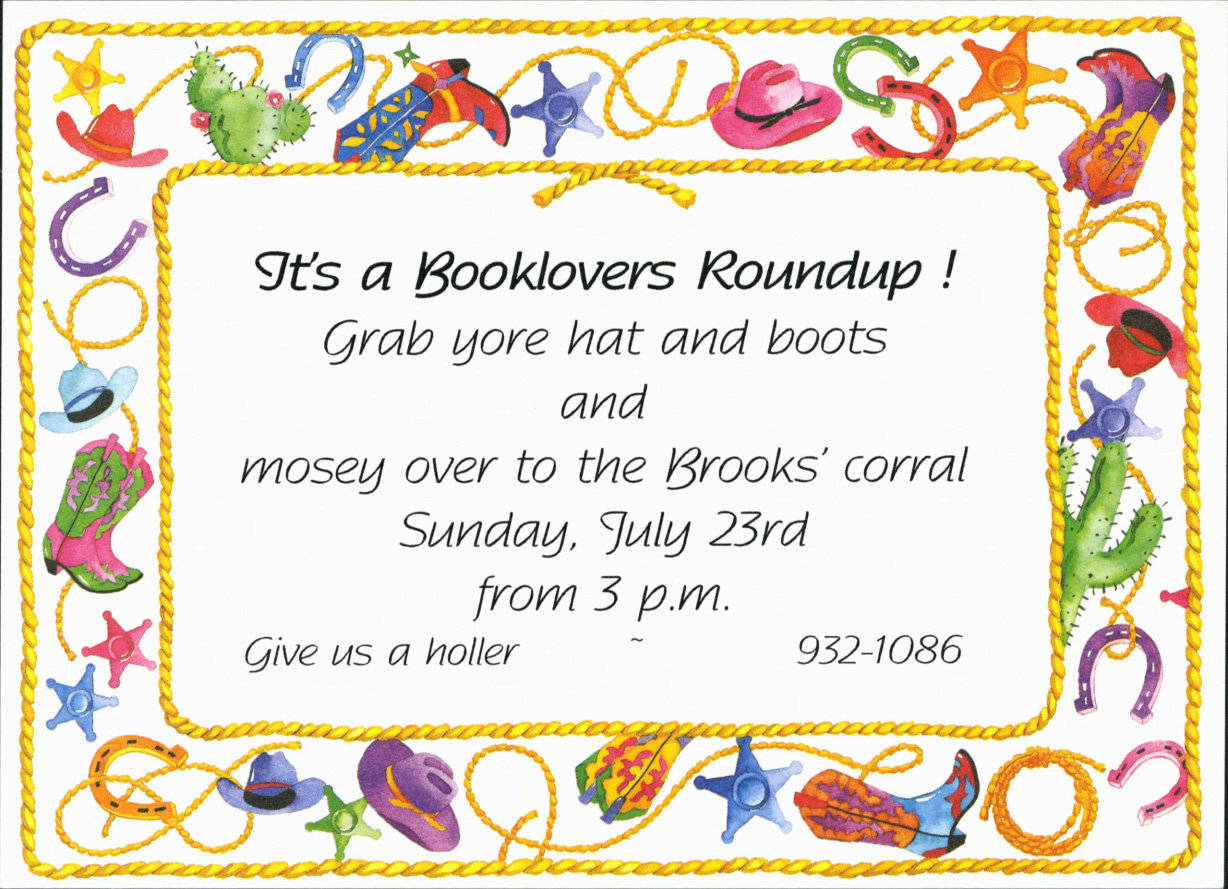
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Ivan Doig

17021 10th Ave NW

Seattle WA

98177


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Grab yore hat and boots
and
mosey over to the Brooks' corral
Sunday, July 23rd
from 3 p.m.
Give us a holler ~ 932-1086

[Seattle, WA. June 27, 1995]

Haven't seen you in
ages, Dear. Do come to
the party, lots of your
bookstore friends coming
be here

Yours truly [Brooks]

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COLORS BY DESIGN

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Seattle, WA 98105
Byricks@aol.com
(206) 524-4260

July 2, 1995

Ivan Doig
17021 10th NW
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig:

Thanks for calling. Your comments were quite helpful, especially at this early stage of my first book. Best wishes on your current project. I look forward to seeing it on the shelves.

Sincerely,

Byron Ricks

13 June '95

Dear Richard & Beverly--

The MacArthur!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallll$_{e}$$_{e}$$_{e}l_{u}$$_{u}$$_{u}$$_{u}$ujahhh...!

Richard White
&
Beverly Purrington
151 NW 60th
Seattle 98107

13 June '95

Dear Patty--

Big congrats on the MacArthur!
Somewhere tonight Raymond Chandler
and Wally Stegner are grinning together.

Prof. Patricia Nelson Limerick
Dept. of History
U. of Colorado at Boulder
Campus Box 234
Boulder CO 80309-0234

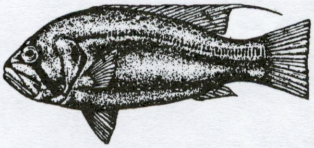
AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



Ivan Doig
17021 10th Avenue NW
Seattle
WA 98177
U.S.A.

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TIM WINTON

26 May, 1995

Dear Ivan,

Hope you and Carol are thriving. Just a note to let you know that I'm reading at Elliot Bay Books on 8 June and I'd love to say hello by whatever means possible. It was very damned nice of you to write something for *The Riders*. It's so nice to get a puff from someone you truly respect.

Anyway, hope to say hello a little closer to your Heart Earth this time.

Best, Tim.

MARCY COTTRELL HOULE
New Moon Farm
16600 N.W. Gillihan Road
Portland, Oregon 97231

March 11, 1995

Dear Mr. Doig,

It's been a while since I last saw you -- I believe it was a booksigning at the Oregon Historical Society, where I sat next to you. Perhaps I will see you at this years PNBA in Spokane.

I know you are very busy, but I wondered if ya might possibly be able to write a short review of my newest book, titled "The Prairie Keepers". I think the book would be of interest to ya. It's based in the Willamette in Northwestern Oregon -- in a landscape locally known as

the "Zumwalt Prairie". The 200 square
mile Zumwalt is one of the last of the
native, wild prairies remaining in the West.
The book deals with the issue of ranchers,
wildlife, grazing ... It's also about a
community of people, and an issue that divides
them ... one that has the potential to
put an end to an ecosystem and a life-style
that is rapidly vanishing throughout the West.

I appreciate your consideration.

I hope I see you at PNBA — ☺

15 March '95

Dear Marcy--

Excuse the postcard, but I wanted to get a reply off to you before I go out of town next week. The review situation is that I've had to give up doing reviews until I get done with my own next book, the biggest and most demanding I've ever tackled. Let me suggest at least 2 people, though, whom your publisher would do well to send copies of the book to, for word-of-mouth purposes if nothing else. Rich Landschneider of Enterprise, who (as you maybe know?) runs the Fishtrap conferences @ Wallowa Lake; and Richard Maxwell Brown, one of the foremost Western historians and a recent Fishtrap participant (Brown's address: 1850 E. 27th, Eugene OR 97403). Sorry I don't have more of a magic wand I could wave... All best wishes with the book.

Sheila S. Bender
128 North 82nd St. Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 783-6888 (206) 784-7023 Fax
SBender1@AOL.com

February 3, 1995

Dear Ivan,

I have a contract with Dell Publishing in New York to edit a book called *The Writer's Journal.* I am looking for 40 Contemporary American writers in all genres who not only keep a writer's journal but would be willing to contribute a short excerpt for this book along with some comments on how they came to keep a journal and how they use it. Literature students at American colleges and universities as well as writing students and lay writers are the expected audience for this book intended to introduce literary figures and something of their methods. There is an honorarium of from $50 to $100.00 available from my advance for permission to publish the excerpt and your comment in the book. Audio, translation, and lst serial rights will not be marketed without your permission and written consent.

I would like to know if you would be interested in contributing to this book. I would need the journal excerpt and comments by May 1, 1995. I have enclosed a self-addressed stamped postcard on which you can respond by March 1. If you would like to participate, I will contact you about whether you would prefer to write your commentary or dictate it to me in an interview.

I am a Seattle poet, essayist, reviewer and playwright who has taught writing since 1981. This book will be my third in the area of writing books. My first was *Writing in a Convertible with the Top Down*, Warner Books, 1992, co-authored with Christi Killien. My second is due out this March from Writer's Digest Books and is entitled, *Writing Personal Essays: How to Shape Your Life Experiences for the Page*. In 1991, Duckabush Press in Washington State published a volume of my poems, *Love From the Coastal Route*. I have had my plays produced by Youth Theater Northwest in Washington State.

I have a Masters of Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Washington, and as a student, I was always captivated when authors spoke about their journals. The personal comments of writers I admired were inspiring and useful. I hope that will be the flavor of my book, and that its readers will learn of writers they hadn't yet heard of and of journal keeping methods they might consider adopting.

I very much look forward to hearing from you. If you have a writer to suggest I contact, I would love to hear that, too.

Sincerely,

Sheila Bender

Questions I will want your commentary to answer: When did you start keeping a journal? What are your habits in keeping it? How has the particular excerpt you contributed for this book shown up in your published writing or been helpful to it? Who influenced you in keeping a writer's journal? Whose published journals have you read and how did they affect you? What lessons or suggestions might you have for those who want to keep a writer's journal?

15 Feb. '95

Dear Sheila--

Sorry, nothing to declare, journalwise.

Carol sends hi. Shoreline is in the process of choosing a new prez, and actually seemed to choose the best 3 finalists out of an almost-final 5.

Good luck with the book.

Jack Cady
P.O. Box 872
Port Townsend
WA 98368

1/3/95

Dear Ivan,

I've never properly thanked you for your endorsement of Inagehi. It meant (and means) a lot to have a fellow writer of your stature take the time to help out. I can only promise that I will pass such grace on, as I am able, to other writers.

Please accept the enclosed as a very small but sincerely felt 'thank you'.

28 Jan. '95

Dear Jack--

Been deep in the writing and down with a cold (sometimes simultaneously), so a belated thanks for passing along the signed copy of SWEET.

The Carols see each other occasionally on the Shoreline campus, according to reports I get, and so I guess we're all going along okay doing what we do, huh?

all best,

206 385 1670

John Marshall
Photography

12/29/94

Dear Ivan,

I am hoping this letter gets to you. I tried to figure out how to reach you through the Seattle phone book, but couldn't. Apparently you have an unlisted number to ward off the interruption of unsolicited calls from raptured readers. I am one of them.

I just last night finished RIDE WITH ME MARIAH MONTANA, and I am in a serious state of withdrawal, as the characters became like real people to me, and now we have gone our separate ways. I would like to meet Mariah, if only she existed in real life. As you can see by my stationary I am a photographer. Perhaps you have seen one of my two coffee table books of photography: IDAHO and WASHINGTON.

I read THIS HOUSE OF SKY, DANCING AT THE RASCAL FAIR, ENGLISH CREEK, and SEA RUNNERS. I relate very strongly to your Montana stuff. I was born in Nevada, and went to a one room country school in the high desert country of Harney County, Oregon for the first three grades. My father was the wildlife biologist there in the 1950s. I lived around people who were cattle ranchers, and find a comfortable familiarity in your books.

I now live on the east slope of the Washington Cascades in the upper Wenatchee Valley among people who raise fruit for a living. I have a few fruit trees and a garden patch myself. At any rate I have to declare that you are my favorite author, and I just wanted to let you know what a powerfully grip your books have on me practically from the first page. Perhaps some day we will meet.

Sincerely

John Marshall

John Marshall

10200 High Street • P.O. Box 438 • Peshastin, WA 98847 • (509) 548-5168

28 Jan. '95

Dear John Marshall--

Your letter wended through Penguin's offices in only a month, a modern record; you're right, I do stay holed up, as incognito by phone and otherwise as I can, to get the writing done--spending the rest of this year finishing up my biggest novel yet, for instance. But it's really gratifying to hear good words about Mariah from an actual photographer. I watched photogs at work--particularly a friend of mine who shoots for the Seattle Opera and Rep Theater--for about 4 years to sop up stuff to make Mariah.

Speaking of shooters, yes, I know your books, and think I may have had some of your work on a calendar in front of me, one year? Been a long while since I've been in the direction of Wenatchee, but let's see if we can coffee up together whenever I next get over around Peshastin. Meanwhile, all good luck with your own work.

Jan. 11, 1994

Ivan Doig
17021 10th Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Ivan,

Thanks for your wonderful and generous response to "Northwest Passage." I don't know of any writer who carries more weight and respect in our part of the country, and I'm sure it will help the book. You're being quoted on the back cover, along with Jonathan Raban, Craig Lesley and Bill Lang at the Center for Columbia River History.

One of these days I hope to meet you. Looking forward to your future work.

Sincerely,

Bill Dietrich

Bill Dietrich

Robin Cody
5003 SE 34th Ave
Portland, OR 97202

PORTLAND OR 972
PM
4 JAN
1995



Ivan Doig
17021 10th Ave. NW
Seattle, WA 98117

1/4/95

Ivan –

It's time for people I admire to say something nice about my Columbia River book. I asked Knopf to send you a reader's copy, hoping you will have time to give it a look and maybe offer a cover blurb if the spirit moves you.

Thanks!

Robin Cody