

9 April '02

Laran Brindle
Associate Publicist
HarperCollins
10 East 53rd St.
New York NY 10022

Dear Laran Brindle--

Some words for Russell Rowland and his forthcoming novel, *In Open Spaces*:

"This heartfelt exploration of the lives and hard times of a prairie ranch family fairly pulses with the intrigues of existence. Russell Rowland has given us a vivid and distinctive piece of homespun to take its proper place in the literary quilt of the West."

--Ivan Doig, author of *Dancing at the Rascal Fair*

I wish you and Russell the best of luck with the book.

Oct. 18, '04

Regards,

Ivan Doig

Dear Russell--Hey, what's going on? Did Harper-Collins never tell you I did a blurb for *In Open Spaces*? Here's a photocopy of it. I did wonder why the hell I had never received a copy of the finished book from them. Anyway, I did like that one just fine, and not only pitched in for you with the blurb but have talked the book up whenever I've had a chance--but as much as I'd like to help again, I'm just swamped in work. If it's any help at all, feel free to use what I said for *In Open Spaces* as a boost for this book. I hope this clears up that I haven't been stiffing you when the galleys etc. came in--I just did what I have to do in the circumstances, steal the time from myself to do the reading and then the blurb if I liked the work and shoot it on in. I hope too that the sequel goes well for you and there's a better history waiting for you with the next publisher.

Regards again,

Ivan

October 13, 2004

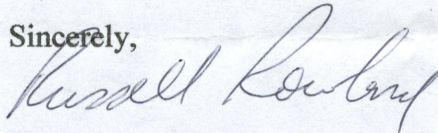
Ivan Doig
17277 15th Ave. N.W.
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig—

I don't know whether you'll remember me, but I first met you at Clean, Well-Lighted Place for Books in San Francisco. I spoke to you then about providing a blurb for my first novel, *In Open Spaces*, and you gave me a card. I've written you a couple of times since then, and had the galleys for that book sent to you a couple of years ago. I promise this will be the last time I contact you unless I hear back from you. My first novel did fairly well, getting a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly* and a nice write-up in the Books in Brief section of the *New York Times Review of Books*.

I love Montana, and the literature from our home state, and in fact, I am going to move back there in the spring. I am not interested in replacing any of the fabulous writers that Montana has produced, including yourself. I have loved your books, and think they do an amazing job of depicting the life of Montana's people. I only hope I can continue this wonderful tradition of great stories that you've help establish. I attended the Montana Festival of the Book a couple of weeks ago, and was sad to see how few of the writers in Montana are actually writing about Montana, especially its rich history. My first book had a lot of similarities to *This House of Sky*, even though I hadn't read that book before I wrote mine. But again, I'm hoping to expand the foundation you have formed. I have finished the sequel to *In Open Spaces*, and my agent at Writer's House is currently shopping it around. If you would consider providing a blurb for *The Watershed Years*, it would be more than an honor. Please let me know if you're willing to take a look at it. If not, I'm sorry to have bothered you. I hope this letter finds you well.

Sincerely,



Russell Rowland
1202 23rd Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94122
(415) 664-2203
rrowrow@comcast.net

9 April '02

Laran Brindle
Associate Publicist
HarperCollins
10 East 53rd St.
New York NY 10022

Dear Laran Brindle--

Some words for Russell Rowland and his forthcoming novel, *In Open Spaces*:

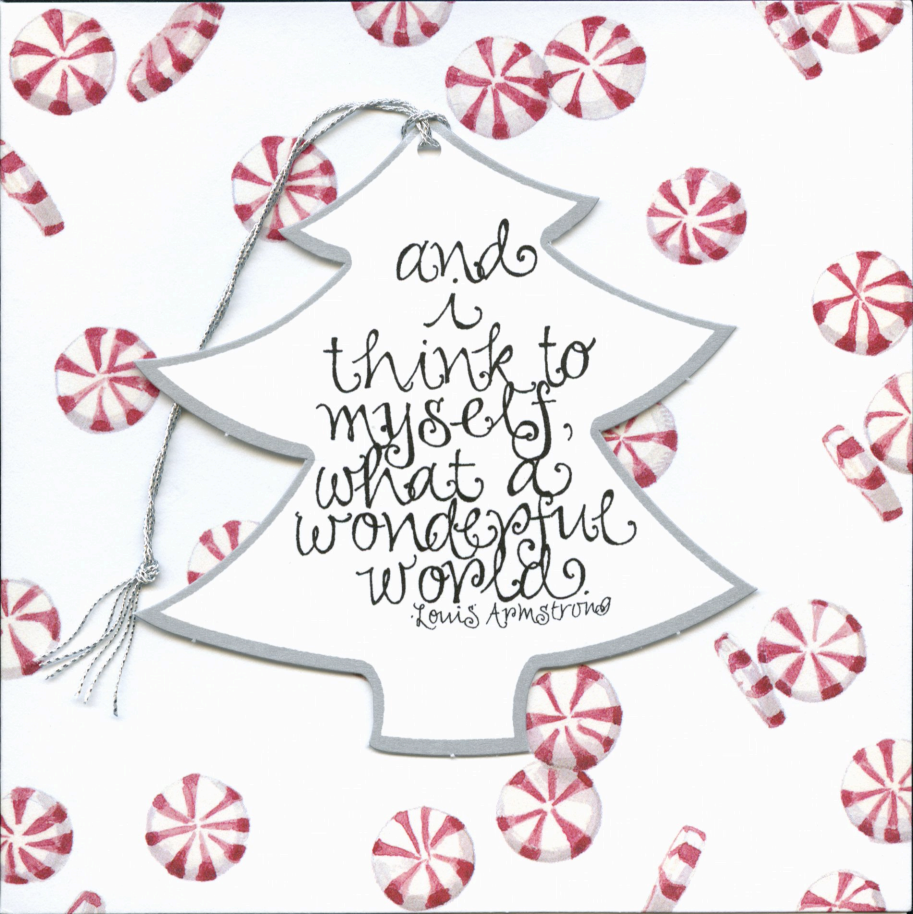
"This heartfelt exploration of the lives and hard times of a prairie ranch family fairly pulses with the intrigues of existence. Russell Rowland has given us a vivid and distinctive piece of homespun to take its proper place in the literary quilt of the West."

--Ivan Doig, author of *Dancing at the Rascal Fair*

I wish you and Russell the best of luck with the book.

Regards,

Ivan Doig



and
i
think to
myself,
what a
wonderful
world.

Louis Armstrong

[Terry Brooks, Seattle, WA, December 18, 2002]

Dear Carol & Joan ~

merry christmas

It would be lovely
to get-together - give us
a call or e-mail -
(206) 932-1086

Mimi 538@earthlink.net

Love, Judith & Terry



ISABELLA



FOR PAPER PRINCE

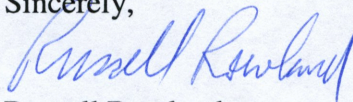
January 30, 2002

Ivan Doig
17277 15th Ave. N.W.
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig—

I hope this letter finds you well. In case my name doesn't ring a bell, I'm the budding novelist from Montana who approached you in Clean, Well-Lighted Place in San Francisco about writing a blurb for my first novel. I'm a second cousin of the Dabneys, who you worked for in eastern Montana. This was probably about two and a half years ago, so as you can probably guess, there's been a few unfortunate delays in the whole process. The book was originally bought by Morrow, and when they merged with Harpercollins, my book got caught up in the shuffle. Since then, I've been assigned to three different editors. The first two left, and each departure brought more delays. Anyway, I ended up with an editor that I'm very happy with, and the galleys are finally done. So I'm having a copy sent to you. And thank you again for agreeing to take a look at this. I know how overwhelmed someone in your position is with similar requests.

Sincerely,



Russell Rowland
1202 23rd Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94122
(415) 664-2203

First in the line of new Perennial Originals.

Advance Praise for *IN OPEN SPACES*:

IN OPEN SPACES is a strong, dark novel, which vividly describes the harsh lives of men and women of a bygone world. Russell Rowland's earnest prose makes his characters entirely human with their dignity, virtues, guilt, desires. The book is charged with dramatic tension -- a joy to read.
— Ha Jin, author of *Waiting*, winner of the National Book Award

Russ Rowland's novel, *IN OPEN SPACES*, is a throwback to the days of epic realism. His bumptious family saga of rural Montana in the first half of the century is sage, humane, and immensely readable.

— C. Michael Curtis, senior editor, *Atlantic Monthly*

March 2002

Dear Colleague:

In the tradition of Cormac McCarthy's *All the Pretty Horses* and Norman McLean's, *A River Runs Through it*, Russell Rowland's first novel, *IN OPEN SPACES* (Perennial; June 7, 2002; \$13.95), is a powerful and accomplished drama set in the prairie of eastern Montana and based on the history of the author, himself a fourth generation Montanan.

When the Arbuckle family learns that their son and rising baseball star, George Arbuckle is mysteriously drowned in a river, devastation threatens to ruin their family and their ranch. His horrific death sets into motion the complex and turbulent story of George's brother Blake, and the rest of the family, as they struggle with loss and attempt to balance the delicate union between man and nature in the unforgiving terrain of the eastern Montana prairie.

Written in Blake's shrewdly observant voice, the story unfolds around choices he is forced to make when suspicions begin to boil around the circumstances of his brother's death. Rowland weaves a fascinating tale of the psychological wars within as well as the fratricides that break a family apart and the redemption that can ultimately reunite them.

As a fourth generation Montanan, born in Bozeman, *IN OPEN SPACES* is loosely based on the life of Russell Rowland's grandparents, who were pioneer ranchers in eastern Montana in the early part of the twentieth century. Rowland earned a BA in Music Education from Pacific Lutheran University and went on to complete a MA in Creative Writing from Boston University. He has worked as a teacher, ranch hand, surveyor, lounge singer and fortune cookie writer. He currently lives in San Francisco, California.

Best regards,

Laran Brindle
Associate Publicist
HarperCollins Publishers
212-207-7453,
laran.brindle@harpercollins.com