

From: "Eric Amling" <eric@dvagency.com>
Subject: FW: for Liz Darhansoff re. IVAN DOIG
Date: December 18, 2012 8:50:12 AM PST
To: "Doig, Ivan" <cddoig@comcast.net>

Hello Ivan,

Here is something for you to consider. Let me know how you'd like to proceed.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Eric

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From: Bert Hitchcock [mailto:hitchwb@auburn.edu]
Sent: Saturday, December 08, 2012 6:13 PM
To: info@dvagency.com
Subject: FW: for Liz Darhansoff re. IVAN DOIG

From: Bert Hitchcock
Sent: Saturday, December 08, 2012 1:53 PM
To: michelle@dvagency.com
Subject: for Liz Darhansoff re. IVAN DOIG

Now a retired professor of English, I trout fish more than I used to but find I'm not able to give up reading and research. My latest little, or not so little, project has me dealing with the work(s) of Ivan Doig; at a minimum it will result in a scholarly conference presentation next year. I am doing all the standard critical research, including looking at Doig's own extensive commentary in print on his books. But....admiring, and wishing to expand his deserved recognition in any ways I can, I would love to be able to have a conversation with him. At the least, I would like to learn exactly how he pronounces his last name!

Many thanks for what I hope may be your sympathetic ear (or eye) on this.

Sincerely,

Bert Hitchcock
Hargis Professor of American Literature, Emeritus
Auburn University

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26 Dec. '12

Dear Bert--

Here are the couple of pieces I mentioned to you in our phone conversation. I see the craft talk transcriptions are somewhat repetitive in spots, but figured you might as well see the full context of each.

One thought that occurred to me after we hung up, re Wolfe:
When I was working on *This House of Sky* and coming up with what I thought was not a very flattering portrait of my early hometown, White Sulphur Springs, I assumed I was letting myself in for Wolfe's experience, that you can't go home again in any kind of comfort after you've written deeply about a town and its people. To my surprise, then and ever since, that has not at all been the case. White Sulphur Springs folks seem to have taken the book to their hearts, to the extent that there is now an annual major-league (Lyle Lovett, Emmie Lou Harris, Rodney Crowell etc.) country music festival, sponsored by a local apparel maker who founded Red Ants Pants--a woman who gets up in front the crowd of 5,000 or so and tells her version of the creation story, that she read this book called *This House of Sky* and decided to move to White Sulphur Springs and start her business. This year, a friend in attendance reported, before his set Rodney Crowell similarly said he was there because he'd read you-know-what.

I find this remarkable, and while I realize Wolfe's fictional treatment of I guess identifiable Asheville folks accounted for a lot of the animosity he met, while I was more journalistically forensic in describing the bars and the town's ferocious drinking and such, I leave it to you as to whether the different reactions might also say something about the South and the West.

Good luck with your research and paper; looking forward to seeing the result.

Best,