



Hello Ivan, and Carol -

I'll be looking forward to
Ivan's new book - and will hope to
see you during the coming year. I
don't travel to Seattle as often since
Aunt Sylvia moved back to Montana (she is
96 and still reading Newsweek and
complaining about the war.)
We're all fine here

in spite of budget woes at
Vladak - my kids are doing
well. No snow, but the old
May your Christmas
be filled with promise
and blessed
with peace and joy.
ranch kid doesn't mind a bit.

Love.

Mary

"Madonna and Child"
by Sandro Botticelli

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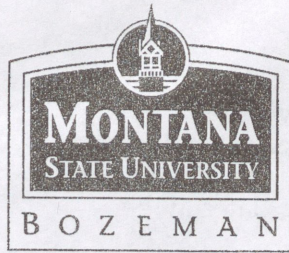
11 June '04

Dear Mary--

A copy of WRITING HER OWN LIFE just came, and it looks nifty. Thanks for having the UO Press pass one along. It's timely as the dickens--I don't know if I've told you a one-room school (circa 1910) figures large in my next novel. Anyway, with the publication of the book, hail to Imogene, hail to Sylva, hail to your mom, hail to all the Welch and Hogeland women. And while I'm at it, congrats on the forthcoming Western Literature Association honor.

All is fairly calm here, we're holed up in Seattle for the summer and perhaps beyond while I write. Come see us sometime.

Best from Carol, too.



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Telephone (406) 994-3768
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March 24, 2004

Dear WLA members and friends:

I am pleased to announce that plans for the 39th Annual Western Literature Association meeting in Big Sky, Montana are well underway. Our conference theme this year is "Nature and Culture in the North American West." As 2004 WLA President, I would like to invite you to submit abstracts for papers and sessions for the conference, which meets September 29 to October 2 in the Huntley Lodge at Big Sky Resort. Because of the early date of our annual meeting, I want to alert you to this year's deadline for abstracts, which is June 1, 2004.

Meeting for the first time in Montana, this year's WLA Conference will provide a distinctive opportunity for participants to examine the contested identities and natures of the North American West. The year 2004 also marks the beginning of the bicentennial observation of Lewis and Clark's travels across the American West. As a way of engaging this event, the conference will feature panels addressing the literary, political, and cultural aspects of the expedition. In particular, Dr. Jeanne Eder, Director of Alaska Native Studies at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, will chair a session that addresses indigenous responses to the Lewis and Clark expedition.

The 2004 Distinguished Achievement Awards will honor noted authors Mary Clearman Blew and Thomas King, both of whom will give readings at the conference. Mary Clearman Blew is one of Montana's most widely known authors and has written many award-winning books, including *All but the Waltz: A Memoir of Five Generations in the Life of a Montana Family*; *Balsamroot: A Memoir*; *Bone Deep in Landscape: Writing, Reading, and Place*; and *Sister Coyote*. The highly celebrated Native American writer Thomas King is author of a number of books, including the novels *Medicine River*; *Green Grass, Running Water*; and *Truth and Bright Water*. He is also author of a new collection of essays, entitled *The Truth About Stories*.

This year's Keynote Address will be delivered on Wednesday night by Professor Lee Clark Mitchell of Princeton University. Professor Mitchell is the author of *Westerns: Making the Man in Fiction and Film*, *The Photograph and the American Indian* (with Alfred L. Bush), *Witnesses to a Vanishing America: The Nineteenth Century Response*, and *Determined Fictions*. In addition, the conference will feature several Montana writers, including Diane Smith, author of *Letters from Yellowstone*, winner of the Fiction Award from the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association and *Pictures from an Expedition*, winner of a 2002 Montana Book Award. Also reading at the conference is Judy Blunt, author of *Breaking Clean*, a best-selling memoir that earned Blunt a 1997 PEN/Jerard Fund Award and a 2001 Whiting Writers' Award.

In addition to the usual panels, plenaries, and readings, WLA participants will have the opportunity to visit a number of local sites near the conference venue. Yellowstone National Park is about an hour's drive from Big Sky Resort. The field trip late Saturday morning will take conference attendees through the west entrance of Yellowstone and will return to Big Sky Resort in the early evening. Other field trips include Wednesday and Sunday morning and afternoon outings to local sites in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, sponsored by the Big Sky Institute

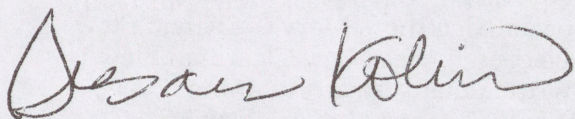
for Science and Natural History, which is affiliated with Montana State University. The Big Sky Institute offers seasonal field trips that promote science-based knowledge related to natural ecosystems and the human communities that depend on them. The field trips will be available through on-line reservations. Watch for more information about these outings later in the summer.

I've negotiated a special conference rate at Big Sky Resort, with single rooms starting at \$99 plus tax. The resort itself is located about an hour's drive from the Bozeman Airport, which is serviced by a number of major airlines. Direct flights to Bozeman are available from Minneapolis and Detroit via Northwest Airlines, from Seattle via Horizon/Alaska Airlines, from Salt Lake City via Delta Airlines, and from Denver via United Airlines. Some conference participants may wish to rent a car at the Bozeman Airport. Others may wish to take a shuttle to Big Sky. Arrangements for the shuttle can be made directly with Karst Stage Shuttle Service. More information about the shuttle and other conference details will be available over the next few months at the conference website (www.usu.edu/westlit).

As a final note, please be aware that the early meeting date for this year's conference means that other deadlines also have been pushed forward. (Most ski resorts in the Rocky Mountains close for the season in early October!) Conference registration, hotel, shuttle, and field trip deadlines will come earlier than usual, so be sure to check the dates listed on the July mailing for those times.

I look forward to putting together the final details for the 2004 conference in Big Sky, Montana and to the arrival of your paper and panel abstracts on June 1st. Please be sure to contact the conference website (www.usu.edu/westlit) or e-mail me (kollin@english.montana.edu) if you have any additional questions about this year's meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan Kollin". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Kollin" clearly distinguishable.

Susan Kollin
WLA President



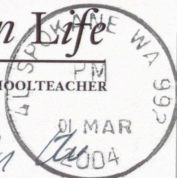
Writing Her Own Life

ELCH, WESTERN RURAL SCHOOLTEACHER

MARY CLEARMAN BLEW

Writing Her Own Life

IMOGENE WELCH, WESTERN RURAL SCHOOLTEACHER



Thanks so much for this
wonderful book, Ivan -

But, Mary

*"In a finespun mesh of lines, this book sifts
the lives of two extraordinary women:
Imogene Welch, determined diarist, and her
niece Mary Clearman Blew, who with rare
imagination and insight fills in the spaces of
life between the ink of those diary pages."*

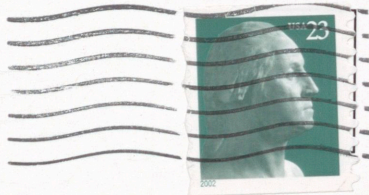
IVAN DOIG

author of *This House of Sky*

\$29.95 Cloth • 0-8061-3581-6

272 pages • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 • 12 b&w illus.

UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA PRESS



Ivan Doig

17277 15th Ave NW

Seattle

WA 98177

741 Sherwood Street
Moscow, Idaho 83843
October 10, 2003

Dear Ivan,

I don't know when I'll see you next, so I'm writing to tell you that I finished reading *Prairie Nocturne* last night and was absolutely blown away by it. I think it's the finest book you've written—I can't say enough about the characters—Wes is great, and Susan Duff is wonderful, but Monty in particular is so beautifully developed as someone who gradually matures and understands himself and his world that I'm still carrying him in my head as someone I know and care about.

For me, of course, part of the pleasure of *Prairie Nocturne* was meeting old friends like Angus and Adair, and I thought the elegy for Scotch Heaven was one of the most moving passages in the book. I did want to tell you that in the mid-seventies I went out to Fort Assinniboine with a group of theater people who wanted to look over the old stage and see whether it would be possible to mount a production there. We decided that it wasn't—it was so far from town, and also so small and dilapidated, much smaller than you describe it, so I'm wondering if perhaps there was once a larger auditorium. However, I felt an amazing sense of recognition when Susan and Monty first visit the stage at the fort—that sort of walking-on-my-grave feeling—partly because of that long-ago visit and mostly because of the evocative writing.

The Mose story—I found myself going over it from a craft point of view, thinking of all the ways it could have gone wrong within the main narrative, and yet it's just right—couldn't be done differently.

You'll think I'm running on in a very un-Montana fashion, and it's true that I seldom get so carried away. But I can't think of a novel that's given me such pleasure in a long time, and I wanted you to know.

Please give Carol my love—

Mary



University
of Oklahoma
Press

Marketing and Sales

4100 28th Avenue N.W.
Norman, Oklahoma 73069-8218
Fax: 405-364-5798
Web: www.ou.edu/oupres

June 10, 2003

Ivan Doig
17277 15th Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig,

In the Spring of 2004, the University of Oklahoma Press will publish Mary Clearman Blew's *Her Own Woman: How a Montana Girl Found her Footing Farther West*, the newest addition to the Press's Literature of the American West series.

Since we at the Press—and Blew herself—are certain that your support would create interest in this work, we'd be most grateful if you'd be willing to examine the manuscript and write a brief endorsement that summarizes, in your view, the novel's merit and importance.

Your endorsement may be used on the book's jacket as well as in other promotional materials, including catalogs, press releases, and advertisements. Space limitations may require that the statement be abbreviated, but editing would not alter your intended meaning.

Please let me know whether or not you'd be interested by contacting me via phone, fax, or email. Don't hesitate to get in touch with me should you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda".

Amanda Sutton

Copywriter/Publicity Assistant

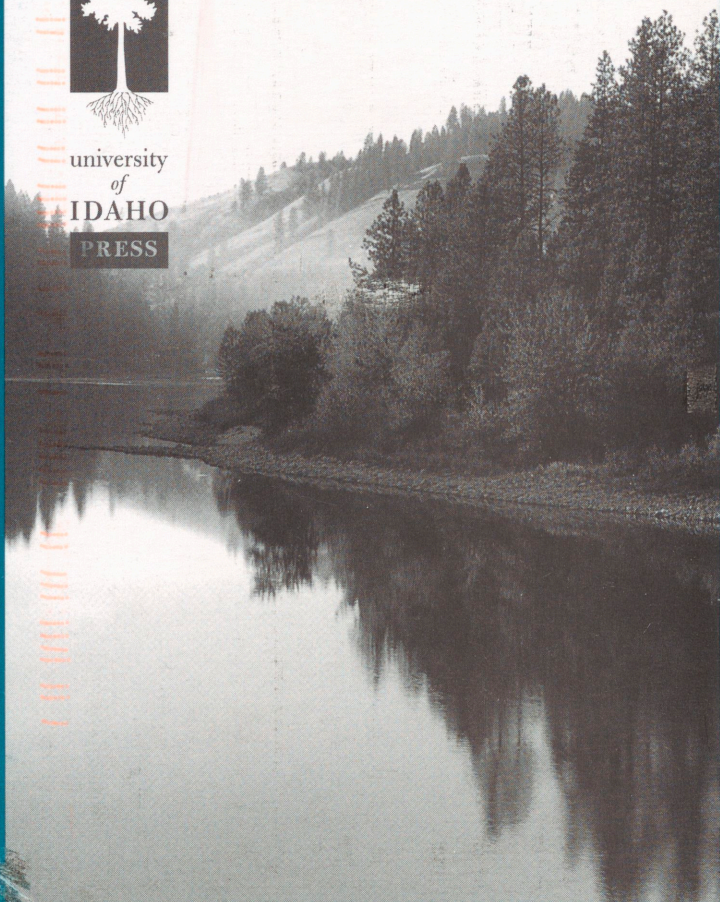
asutton@ou.edu

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Avon Dory



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of
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PRESS



WRITTEN ON WATER

ESSAYS ON IDAHO'S RIVERS

edited by Mary Clearman Blew

August 1, 2001
ST. BROOKANE WA 982
2001

A belated thanks for
the lovely dinner and conversation. I'll
enjoy thinking of you both in your home
filled with light and reflections of water.

I hope we'll meet again soon - and
don't let the cranes get the
better of you!

MARY CLEARMAN BLEW is a winner of the 1992 Pacific Northwest
Booksellers Award and is a professor of English at the University
of Idaho.

November 2000

\$14.95 paper

ISBN 0-89301-224-6

University of Idaho Press

Cover photograph courtesy of Carlos Schwantes

Love,
Mary

Ivan and Carol Daig
17277 15th Ave. N
Seattle
WA 98177

20 USA

Ring-necked Pheasant



Mary Clearman Blew

Mary Clearman Blew

All Best
the Waltz

May, 1942

A Memoir of Five Generations
in the Life of a Montana Family

Balsamroot
A Memoir

Mary Clearman Blew

Lambing Out
& Other Stories

Mary Clearman Blew

“Her pages make
your breath catch
in recognition.”

—Ivan Doig

• All But the Waltz; A Memoir...

ISBN: 0-8061-3321-X

• Lambing Out & Other Stories

ISBN: 0-8061-3323-6

• Balsamroot; A Memoir

ISBN: 0-8061-3322-8

By Mary Clearman Blew

Paperbacks \$12.95, each

*Note how they're taking Ivan's
name in vain! I surely do
appreciate it. Hope to see you
both in 2001.*

Love.

Mary

University of Oklahoma Press

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12/21/00

HAPPY
"WHO-LIDAYS"
from the
U.S. Postal Service



*Mr and Mrs. Ivan Drig
17277 15th Ave N
Seattle*

WA 98177

55177+3246



There are hard-used lives in the stories of Mary Clearman Blew, and she plies them for us with the unmistakable surety of someone who's been there, who knows the ground under these people and the barbwire harp of fence between them and any horizon. Her voice is true, steady, unflinching.



T H E L Y O N S P R E S S

May 18, 2000

Mr. Ivan Doig
17277 15th Avenue N.W.
Seattle WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig:

I'm pleased to enclose a bound galley of Mary Clearman Blew's *Sister Coyote*, which The Lyons Press will publish in July. In both her nonfiction and her fiction, Mary has written about the people and the land of the West in a truly original voice. This new collection of short stories features a diverse cast of characters who are confronted with tremendous moral choices arising out of everyday events.

I'm sure you must be inundated with requests for quotes, but I hope you'll find time to read *Sister Coyote* and, if you have any comments, will allow us to use them on the jacket. Needless to say, a quote from you would go a long way towards bringing the book to a wider audience.

Sincerely,

Enrica Gadler
Editor
Gadlertlp@aol.com



SEASON'S
GREETINGS





Hi Joan and Curt. so good to hear from you. I'd misplaced your
new address so was especially glad to get your card. Congratulations
on Mountain Time. I hurried out to get my copy and will try
to remember to bring it to Big Sky for an autograph. My
essay, Bone Deep in Landscape, came out in October, and a
collection of fiction is due in July. The girls are flourishing,
and my older daughter and her husband have bought the vet
clinic in Colton, so I see the grandkids often. Aunt Sylvia

is finally giving up her home in Bellvue and will
move back to Montana this summer to be near her
niece! executor. She cherishes your brother

Love,

Mary



PPX 641-3

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Designed by Chris Purcell

115 - 110th Pl. SE

Bellevue, WA.98004

April 29, 1996

Dear Ivan,

I can't tell you how surprised and pleased I was to find your new book in my mail box. Thank you for the kind words of your autograph and especially "for in a way, Ervin too". This book would have meant more to him than I can find words to tell you. My great regret is that he did not live to read this very fine book about the building of the Ft. Peck Dam. For me reading it brought back many memories.

With heartfelt thanks for your gift of the book and the three years of your life you gave to its writing.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Noel



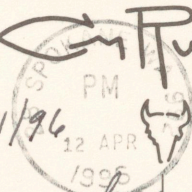
"Bronc to Breakfast"

by Charles Marion Russell

On Display in Helena, Montana
Montana Historical Society
Mackay Collection

CM Russell

4/11/96



post card



Hi Ivan - You can see from
the card that I've been in Great
Falls recently. Thanks for the
book - I'll be diving into it -
and Aunt Sylvia will be thrilled.

Ivan Drig

17021 10th Avenue NW

Seattle, WA 98177

Best.

Mary



December 11, 1994

Dear Ivan and Carol,

Note my new address - finally got my move accomplished. Phone is (208) 882-1389. Rachel is settled in school and I am thankful not to be commuting. My aunt Sylvia spent Thanksgiving with me, and we're both looking forward to the Fort Peck move.

Quiet moments, warm memories...
May these be yours at Christmas.

Love,

Mary

THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS
by Edward Willis Redfield

Philadelphia Museum of Art
Given by The Art Club of Philadelphia



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RES. PHOTO



[Marey Blew, Moscow, ID]

December 27, 1995

Dear Ivan and Carol,

I worked on grades before Christmas cards, hence the late date. No snow here yet, but frost and fog. We had a lovely Christmas dinner with friends in Lewiston, 14 at table. Visited Elizabeth and her husband at Thanksgiving, toured her vet clinic in Okanagen. Took Aunt Sylvia along. She was full of stories about Grandma and can hardly wait for Ivan's new novel - nor can I! I just keep

pounding away on mine. Hope your book tour leads our way.

*What blessed peace
is Christmas.*

Love,

Mary

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EMERY BLEW, LEWISTON, ID.

September 18, 1923

Dear Ivan,

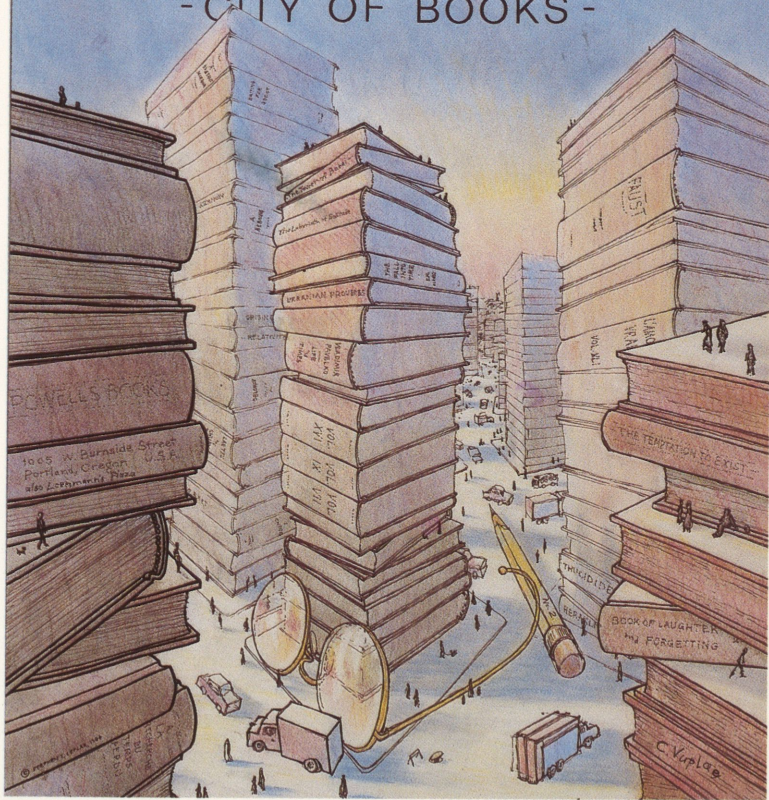
This is a fan letter. I've just finished reading Heart Earth and loved it - what a wonderful piece of work, what a vibrant evocation of a woman who chose life, whatever the consequences -

Burneta comes through for me as one
of the strongest characters in recent
writing, and I cherish having met
her in this way. There are passages -
her day of sheepherding on horseback,
comes to mind - that I know I'll
return again and again. Poignant,
stark - I know I'm sounding
effusive. but I did want you to
know how much I was moved by
Heart Earth.

Best,

Mary Blue

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Portland, Oregon 97218
(503) 249-1950

Hi Ivan - Everywhere I go, people
tell me about the lovely things you
said about me at Fuchting - hope to see
you and Carol before the summer is over.
But, Many Blues



Ivan Doig
17021 10th Av. NW
Seattle
Washington 98177

29 July '94

Dear Mary---

Fishtrap was pretty interesting, and all the writers acted like grownups, but I wish you'd been there to help Alvin Josephy and Richard White and we try to steer some of the sessions out of the emotional deeps.

One notion that took over was that we're all suffering post-traumatic stress syndrome from World War Two; well, I dunno, I just thought the Doigs were short of land, stock, ready cash... Anyway, about getting together; Carol and I will be in Moscow on Sept. 21, when I talk (in celebration, I gather) on the occasion of the U of I's provost's retirement. It'll be hectic--we're coming up from Riggins or somewhere the previous night--but I hope the three of us can draw a quiet breath together sometime that afternoon or evening. Will be in touch. Hope the bookstore touring has been okay.

all best,

March 18, 1993

Dear Ivan,

Thanks for the note and the review, which as it happened I'd see, but nice to know I'm being thought of. Seems forever since I've seen any of the Montana crowd - hope to see Bill and Annick next week in Missoula, and have corresponded a time or two with Larry as an essay I'm supposed to be writing. Life has been a series of hurdles and dashes - hope to do better this summer. Much love to Carol.

Thanks again,

Mary

Mary Cleaman Blew



[Marcy Blew, Lewiston, ID]

October 14, 1991

Dear Ivan,

Thank for the note - I have not yet seen the Washington Post review, but the people at Viking say it is as strong as a review can be. I expect they'll be sending it along. I do want to thank

you for the support, and not only for the review, but for the steady presence over the years.

I'm looking forward to Bozeman.

Best to Carol.

Sincerely,

Marcy

VASE OF FLOWERS

George C. Lambdin, American, 1830–1896

Oil on canvas; 16 x 12 inches; 1873

Bequest of Maxim Karolik

© 1990 MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

64.458 09.90



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12/19/91

Dear Ivan and Carol,

Wintry rain and fog, but so far no snow, though the commuting students say the highways are icy. I'm looking forward to the end of this semester. It got away from me some time this fall and I never caught it again - now I can hope for a few peaceful weeks of work. Thanks again for the great review - I keep thinking of Lois Welch's comment when I get others that enthuse but don't get the point about recent writing in the West.

A very warm greeting
sent to wish you and yours
much happiness at Christmas
and throughout the year.

All best,

Mary Blew

May 13, 1985

Dear Ivan,

Thanks for the picture; it really brings back a pleasant afternoon.

I had a wonderful time at the Montana Library Association talking about This House of Sky. It is going to be the hit of the "Let's Talk About It" series. Reading it again carefully and then discussing it for two hours made me realize

all over again what a really fine
achievement it is. I'm glad I
had the opportunity to participate.

Please give my best to Carol.

Sincerely,

Mary Blue

August 15, 1984

Dear Ivan,

Sorry to hear you can't make it to Havre this year; however, we'll hope for a visit in 1985. As I told Dean, with a little advance notice, the funds can be gathered from here and there, and the college would be delighted to sponsor you.

I'm looking forward to reading your new book. Dean has high praise for it. Also I got around to reading Winter Brothers this last year and found it powerful and moving. It was the last book my father read before he died.

Lambing Out is being mailed under separate cover. Either I'm not meant to be a novelist, or novels aren't meant to be written during brief intervals in the midst of my daily work--in any case I've pretty much gone back to short fiction and also some work for the Montana Myth Conference, which I think is the Helena meeting you refer to.

Please give my best regards to Carol, and I'll continue to hope for an Evening with Ivan Doig at Northern Montana College in 1985.

Sincerely,

Mary Blew

October 14, 1988

Dear Susan,

Thanks so much for the blurb. I really appreciate it. Hope to get a chance to see you and Carol again one of these days. Idaho is turning out to be a good place for me, though I still occasionally feel homesick.

The Montana Anthology is being launched from the Eliot Bay Bookstore on December 9, and the

whole editorial board will be there. Maybe see you then?

Thanks again,

Mary Blus

