Pomegranate

Utagawa Hiroshige (Japanese, 1797–1858)
Chiyogaike Pond, Meguro, 7/1856
Woodblock color print, 36 x 23.5 cm (14⅜ x 9⅛ in.)
© Brooklyn Museum
Gift of Anna Ferris 30.1478.23

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50250
Oct 31

Dear Iven + Carol-

I think you whipped up all the ingredients for a perfect dinner party—great friends, gorgeous atmospheric effects outside your window, wonderful food—and a trove of juicy stories about the

Fondly-
David + Kate

PS I survived the heat—THANK YOU!
Thank You
* Note from copy-editor: Alliteration, the use of the same sound to begin multiple words in a sentence or phrase, should be avoided in excess. Change to: “fun + entertaining with really good food.”

Dear Ivan + Carol—

It was a dark + stormy night, but Chez Doug all was convivial, companionable and, comestible-wise, cracking good. +

Thanks, friends, and see you both soon!

Fondly, David + Kate
The Badgers of Ridgfield + Joseph made out like bandits.

Thanks for another great evening. Gotta clean out & delete all those quotation marks from the opus in progress.

Best,
David & Kate

Dear Ivan & Carol— 11-6-10

The good people of Bozeman had to fly you out, feed you, lodge you & pay you—but WE got to enjoy the two of you for free! With a great cross dinner, piles of the highest gossip, and invaluable literary guidance thrown in. I’d say...
Thank you
Merci
Gracias
Grazie
Dear Iven & Carol-

After our musings on creativity last night, I feel that a humble note is somehow inadequate. At the very least I should compose a song or perhaps arrange for a

neon lit surge to broadcast our thanks to both of you for such a delightful evening—and for being such delightful friends.

So use your imaginations—and conjure more spectacular twinkles thru I can whip up!

Yours, David & Kate
Aug 16

Dear Ivan + Carol-

You two were positively glowing last night-- with health, graciousness, wonderful family stories, and all around good cheer. Was it the weather, the home-grown grub,

Whatever, it was a special evening and we look forward to many more.

Modestly,

David + Kate

the magnificent sunset -- or perhaps the guests?
Violet Dress and Anemones, 1937
Oil on canvas, 73.1 x 60.3 cm
Baltimore Museum of Art Collection (Collection Cone). Photo: ARTOTHEK
July 18

Dear Ivan + Carol,

You two really know how to orchestrate an evening -- summoning breezes off the Sound, timing the sunset to accompany the raspberries, getting the garden to yield up all its colorful bounty at once -- and capping it all off with a gift we'll cherish. Wow, hard to return to reality on Ridgefield Road after a night with you two!

Thanks for all of it.

David + Kate
P.S. The much-maligned James Wood describes "free indirect style" as a narrative mode in which "the author describes the heroine's thoughts with such sympathetic agitation that the heroine seems to be writing the novel. In free indirect style, though narration is still in the third person, the heroine seems to flood the narration, forcing it onto her side."

Old hat, perhaps, for a couple of pros like you two, but neatly phrased, I think.

Jan. 25

Dear Iven + Carol-

A splash of color from a neighbor's garden to remind you that spring will come and all of our yards will be a buzz w/ bees + flowers. Meanwhile, what better way to enjoy the last of January than by feasting on crab, corn + tomatoes w/ dear friends? Many thanks for the goose, the talk and the flowing toasts to the New Era! Aveeet + Goodbye, David + Kate
Dear Ivan and Carol,

Chatted with a waiter today -- in Italian of course -- and was told that my Italian is much better than Rick's, who evidently once ate at the place. Made my day! In short, having a fine time. David + Kate
Ivan & Carol,

I am writing to you as I sit next to the ocean just below Tor House, watching the birds fly and the waves break against Jeffers' coast.

One of Margorie's & my great pleasures in Seattle has been our growing friendship with you two. Thanks for the great support and great walks. We look forward to more adventures.

Warmly,

David
Thank you
Merci
Gracias
Grazie
Dear Ivan & Carol

Whoever coined the expression "what a crock" clearly had never dined chez Doig. Thanks again for great gourds, conversation + enough political heat to burn Obama well into his first 4 years -- let's hope! If all goes well, we'll celebrate here on Nov. 21.

Your pals +

David + Kete
Oct 26, 2007

Dear Ivan & Carol,

Many many thanks for ushering me into my early mid fifties with elegance, style and roast beef. You two really know how to make a budding geezer feel special. I’ve installed my lovely blue whiskey-water-bowl oil vessel with the Russian pottery collection and my First edition of “Dancing” on my nightstand — treasures! See you soon. David.
PRONGHORN

During the heat of the day the pronghorns seem to like to sit where there are small breezes on the prairie ridges. For their safety, the Creator gave them keen sight and speed, rather than camouflage.


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SRM EDITIONS Montrose, CO 81401
March 9

Dear Ivan + Carol—

Movie deals, books on the horizon (new & not so new), a clinched sabbatical (the true meaning of academic freedom) to much to celebrate + cogitate over chez Duis last night. Done with style + pleasure + cinviviality, as always. As always, thanks much to you both. David + Kate

P.S. Don't be shy about trekking up the hill if Cahuco & co. become unbearable!
“Killer Whale Chorus”
by Paul Owen Lewis

Illustration from the book Davy's Dream, a Northwest children's favorite, by author and illustrator, Paul Owen Lewis.
To order your copy of Davy's Dream, call Ten Speed Press at 1-800-841-2665.

Award winning author and artist, Paul Owen Lewis lives in Seattle, Washington and is best known for his works that celebrate the marine wildlife and native art of the Pacific Northwest.

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Thank You
Dear Ivan + Carol-

What luck to have friends like you to feed me, water me + listen to me vent after a long day at the screen. Spuds were first rate -- company the best -- it always is!

Much obliged - much refreshed -- urp-ready for another long pull. Avanti! David
May 13, 2010

Dear Ivan,

Writing a thank you note in response to a thank you note may be taking politeness to extremes, but that was one hell of a rousing pat on the back, kick in the pants, and, dare I say, premature crowning with laurels. I’m touched, I’m moved, I’m proud, I’m inspired — and with the devil bearing down full throttle at my back, I’m returning to work posthaste. But not before taking this precious moment to say I’m truly grateful to have you as a friend (and correspondent).

Best,

[Signature]

David Laskin
18757 Ridgefield Rd. NW
Seattle, WA 98177
Tel. 206-546-8856
E mail d.laskin@verizon.net
Dear David and Kate--

What a great evening, and a grand meal. Perfect way for the grateful Doigs to end the week--big thanks, one more time.

An aside to David, if I may. I wasn’t kidding when I said your great book awaits you, buddy. This story of your family has classic makings, as all those publishers who tried to buy it attested to with their checkbooks, right? What I probably didn’t manage to say cogently enough is that I hope you’ll clear the decks of everything you can stand to, and live with the book until it’s gloriously done. I found with House of Sky and Heart Earth that there simply are dimensions, pathways, personality curlicues that are not necessarily encountered when you’re not writing about your own kin; I’m pretty sure I never would have come up with “the lariat proletariat” if I hadn’t been thinking really hard about my dad’s life as a ranch hand, for instance. So it ends up taking more time and passion than our books without our own bloodline in them, in my experience. I always think back to a wonderful old guy I knew in Bozeman, Merrill Burlingame, who taught history at Montana State practically forever. Merrill heroically scooped in research material for MSU at any chance, most remarkably when he saved the WPA Montana Writers Project files as they were being loaded for the Butte dump, and I resorted to him a number of times for his caches. I remember he once wrote back, in sending me something from his trove, “Here you go. Write like the devil is chasing you.” I don’t know that either you or I needs urging to be productive, but Merrill was right that the devil is always out there, in lots of disguises, trying to get between us and what we’re meant to be doing. Well, enough. Safe travels to Israel and graduations.

All best,
January 5, 2009

Dear Ivan:

Well, you let me coerce you into being my Montana expert – and here’s the price you have to pay for being so compliant. I’m sending along five scattered pages from the opus that deal with Montana – history, weather, landscape, etc. I’d be much obliged if you would cast a quick eye over the prose and alert me to errors, false notes, missed or misrepresented nuances, etc. I think you told me you’re not all that familiar with Chinook, but I’m sure you know what it looks and “feels” like a whole lot better than this city boy.

Can’t thank you enough – not only for this, but for being my daily inspiration down the hill. Somehow it keeps my nose to the grindstone to know that your nose is always there.

Can you believe the weather gods saw fit to dump even more snow on us? Even this weather nut is getting fed up. Basta, as we say in Italian.

Let’s get a drinks/dinner date on the calendar soon. Em back in NYC, Alice landed in Paris a few hours ago – Sarah jets off to London on Saturday. We are the whirling dervishes.

Thanks, pal.

Best,

David
Thank You
Dear Ivan + Carol,

No relaxing shower or long walk was needed to spark the insight that last night was truly a delight. Perfectly grown lettuce (ah, those tents), perfectly grilled chicken -- and of course the perfect hosts.

I'd say we beat the heat in style. Many thanks!

Yours,
David + Kate
Thank You
Feb 15

Dear Ivan and Carol-

Please accept our gratitude for another terrific evening chez Doig—roast beef! blueberries in winter! and the chance to argue about the condition of my wife! from

Couldn't ask for a finer night. Love,

David Kite
Dear David--

Re your high-explosive shell explanation to the reader: I took a look at my buzz bomb situation, on the enclosed ms page, and see that I was able to use sound and point of view (Ben is a military war correspondent, thus a professional observer and writer, but he hasn’t been around a buzz bomb before) to bracket the explanatory material into the story. (I also make use of breaks on the page, but I don’t know if you non-fictioneers stoop to that.) I wondered if the different sounds of artillery shells might help you out. Your dead guy might not have heard the incoming shell, but the surviving soldiers of his unit would have and they might have differentiated that type of bombardment from the shrapnel-shell sort. I have a tickle of memory that a “screaming Mimi” was a WWI term for a certain shell, for instance, although maybe I’m confusing my wars. In any case, from everything I’ve read about guys in the front lines in either war they were very aware, and very slangy, about the kinds of weaponry being used against them. I’ve read somewhere the Marines in WWII ran green troops through a firing range with various Japanese weaponry going off overhead, to familiarize them with the different sounds.

So, just a thought. Looking forward to the Ballard night out.
9 Nov. '09

Dear David--

I don’t know if this is anywhere up your capacious alley, but I’m passing along the enclosed in case it might ever be a useful scrap in your travels or research or whatever. It was sent to me by my history grad school buddy, Mark Wyman (I think you were in touch with him once), whose wife Eva grew up in Chile, her family Jewish refugees there--if I understood Mark right, he and Eva commissioned a Stolperstein to commemorate those of her family who did not escape the Holocaust.

Wyman, like the rest of us, has a book coming out next year--Hoboes: Bindlestiffs, Fruit Tramps, and the Harvesting of the West.

See you around.
Dear Kate and David--

Another enchanting evening--spuds, steelhead, bread straight from the oven, great talk, how do you do it? Thanks so much one more time. Here’s hoping we can all soon celebrate book contracts to the deserving Davids.

David L., you mentioned gardening advice from me, which always begins with me saying to put seeds in the ground. Seriously, I’ll be glad to talk over anything that might have to do with veggies, but here’s a couple of planting dates that have worked for me: peas can be planted as early as Feb. 20 (unless it’s been raining like a sonofabitch for days on end), and Chioggia beets probably better be in the ground by mid-April.

Talk to you soon, I hope.
Dear David--

Saw the list of Washington State Book Award winners and you seem to be in good enough company. Mainly, it’s heartening to see *The Long Way Home* reap some of the honor it greatly deserves. It’s a heroic piece of work, and all of us eternally trying to figure out the intersection of history and literature are indebted to it and you.

Wanted to thank you and Kate, too, for the dessert that topped off the salmon bake so well for us and David and Marjorie. I don’t know if you have talked cairns with him lately, but he was trying to figure out how to “fluff” a chapter or two, i.e. fretting that he had only two thousand words’ worth of material but more space than that. Only belatedly have I thought I should have nudged him not to be thinking like a magazine writer and just bring in the kitchen sink if he has to.

News of Linda and Sydney, whom we had a happy, happy dinner with at Marcello. They had a dandy summer in London, Linda’s at work on a new book of poems, and has had two--two!--accepted at *The Atlantic*. She’s also been chosen the Solomon Katz Distinguished Lecturer, the one big gig UW humanities gives out. She’ll speak about science in her poems, or maybe vice versa, Nov. 15. Can’t wait.

All’s well with us. I’m about to see if Becky Saletan goes for the title *The Bartender’s Tale*, and for that matter, the 400-page tale itself. Hey, we haven’t hassled you lately about a title for your forthcoming opus. *Promised Lands*. No? Ah, well. Anyway, here’s hoping Shakespeare’s quill is tickling you under the chin.

All best,
Dear David--

Double thanks for bringing enough wine to fuel the crowd and the terrific bread besides, the other night. What a great bunch; reticence is no issue, eh? Re the e-books discussion, I thought you might like to see the Authors Guild’s take on the situation, enclosed. Also, the next time we’re together and have a bit of leisure, remind me of a benign kind-of wolf story I have from an experience with the Montana Department of Livestock, where as you’ll hear the Doig name counts for something. I hope you and the ms are thriving. My opus comes back from Becky tomorrow, and we’re in a bit of a wrestle about the title, although my agent has just weighed in on my side for The Bartender’s Tale. Will keep you posted.

Best,
Dear David Laskin—

I'm just now getting untangled from the BUCKING THE SUN booktour, but it's time I thanked you for the Washington Post review— who'd have thought they'd seek out a reviewer from the same zipcode as the writer—and reported that your book on literary friendships was praised in turn, the other day, by a Shoreline College colleague of my wife; the colleague is drawing on your stuff for a session she does on friendships & memory.

Going to be in the lineup at the Ms Bookfest in October? If so, let's be in touch, try to cross paths; hell, maybe even car-pool to it...

I hope your own words are prancing onto the page in fine style.

regards,
Seabright Press

The High Sierra

HORSE CREEK TRAIL
TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST

© 1999 by Tom Killion

The original woodcut print reproduced here was made by Tom Killion in his studio in Santa Cruz, California. Killion uses a traditional Japanese technique, hand carving separate wood blocks for each color, and producing limited edition prints on a hand press.

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K16

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Dear Ivan & Carol—

Many thanks for another memorable evening! First we demolished the ridiculous president—then we demolished the sublime crab. Now fitting to end with the already demolished Mt. St. Helens calorie—Let’s repent soon.

Best, David + Kate
one-page fax to Tim Duggan, executive editor, HarperCollins

Dear Mr. Duggan--

Some words for David Laskin:

"The American prairie has its indelible epics--the luck-charmed journey of Lewis and Clark, the Oregon Trail tales and travails--and The Children's Blizzard adds to our trove of western lore the nearly lost story of a mighty blow of nature. David Laskin’s telling of the immense 1888 blizzard that struck the homestead communities of the Dakotas and beyond is elegant in its research and eloquent in its recountings of prairie dwellers facing impossible weather. This is a haunting book about the odds stacked against the settlers of the American heartland."

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

Best wishes to you and David for the success of the book.

[Signature]
Simon & Schuster and
Elliott Bay Book Company

Cordially Invite You
to a Celebration in Honor of

DAVID LASKIN

Who Will Read from His New Book

A COMMON LIFE

Four Generations of American Literary Friendship and Influence

Reception to Follow Reading
Wednesday, May 25, 1994
7:30 p.m.

Elliott Bay Book Company
1st Street & South Main
Seattle, Washington
Dear Mr. & Mrs. Doig—

I was deep into This House of Sky

when I learned we are neighbors in Innis Arden (we’re at 18757 Ridgefield Rd) and that our babysitter, Jacki Tidland, is a student of Mrs. Doig’s at Shoreline. So leaping off from these coincidences, I have taken the liberty of sending this. Would love to meet you in any case.

Sincerely,
David Laskin
21 May '74

Dear David--

Just a quick line to say it's doubtful Carol and I can make it to your Elliott Bay reading—she's deep into trying to close down her teaching year, I'm on a spate of pages that need to be made for my next book— but thanks for thinking to ask us, and let's see if we can cross paths later on. All best wishes on A Common Life.

regards
I am now certifiably a red-blooded American, 2 pints topping me off. It was an ordeal, much longer than we were prepared for (nobody warned us it'd be 6+ hours) and I don't know if you've ever seen me furious, but Carol arrived from her medical appointment 45 minutes into the process to find me going wild because nothing had happened. Usually I have to coax her down off the ceiling in medical circumstances, so that was quite a switch. Things improved when the paperwork gauntlet was finally done, and the nurses started putting the red stuff in me. Oh man, it was a long time flat in bed with naught to do but a little reading and napping. Consequently, after supper when I had a yogurt for dessert I wondered whether it was mixed or not--and then hoped it wasn't so it would give me something to do!

Carol meanwhile was enfolded in hospitality by Mark and Lou Damborg 10 minutes away, companionship, drinks, grand supper etc., thank goodness.

Today I'm taking it easy, the new blood ought be kicking n so I'll have more energy. Weather has nicened (why isn't that a word to match worsened, huh?) and Carol has gone for a walk. we're looking forward to hyper-crockpotted soup for supper. Thanks humongously for all the chores you did. Hope all is going well with you in the Big Apple. Looking forward to hearing about it when you get back.

Best,
Ivan

On Dec 13, 2014, at 6:11 AM, David Laskin wrote:

Hey Doigs, let us know how it went and how you are. We are at seatac. See you Friday. David

Sent from my iPhone
The case of the sticky last page, eh? Carol and I were saying to each other, David doesn't get it! Mucho relieved that el finale seems right to you.
Hey, we hope it's been a good day in the Windy City. Looking forward to hearing your adventures.

Best,
Ivan

On Dec 7, 2014, at 6:11 AM, David Laskin wrote:

Just found the final page -- stuck to the side of my briefcase. So Donal gets it all -- yes! Amazing how you kept us hanging on that till the end. I was up in the night wondering and worrying about the kid -- now I can sleep soundly (after my grueling day doing dog and pony show in chilly Chicago) knowing the boy is in good hands. So another round of bravi heaped on your worthy head, Ivan! David
David, hi & good sunny morning--

Glad you're back to the good earth of Innis Arden. Ordinarily we'd snap up your chauff offer, but I'm still no ball of fire in the pharmaceutical aftermath, so we'll drive ourselves and be early coming and going, we don't want to crimp your socializing. Looking forward to gabbing with you, though.

Have bent my brain about the Kooser event, which on the one hand I'd love to go to, but on the other, I need to see what I'm in for, back to pharmaceutical life, when the doc goes through my blood readings after we get back from Bozeman etc. Please thank Jane for me and tell her I'm sorry not have made up my mind before now.

See you in a matter of hours.

Ivan

On Sep 12, 2014, at 5:23 PM, David Laskin wrote:

Ivan, howdy pardner. I'm back in the hood -- catching my breath and basking in the sun (even I find this weather hard to resist). Will regale you with stories (such as they are) of the never-ending tour tomorrow night since, yes, we will be there. We were contemplating a 6 PM arrival -- if that suits you two, I'm happy to chauff once again.
I know you're gonna have a blast in Bozeman etc. -- very glad to hear the doc is giving you a medicinal reprieve. Let me know on driving tomorrow. Will be good to catch you both before you fly the coop.
Sunburned but still standing, David

On Fri, Sep 12, 2014 at 3:20 PM, carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net> wrote:

David, hey and hi--

Just real quick, as we're mustering ourselves like crazy for our Bozeman-Yellowstone-Jackson Hole trip. Have lost track of where you are in the hemisphere, but hope you're knocking audiences over backwards in their chairs. If you and Kate happen to alight at David & Marjorie's shindig tomorrow night, we can try to catch up with your doings, OK? All is well enough here, Carol has planned our trip down to the last inch and my fearless doctor is letting me off medications for 2 weeks for it--am starting to feel like a human being again. Talk to you when we can--we're away the 15th to 19th.

vaya con dios, you betcha

Ivan
David, hi--Got through the medical gauntlet after the abbreviated phone conversation--no great alarums there--and I wonder if you could give us quick phone head-up this morn whether you can do us about 20 min. of chores that I shouldn't be putting my back to and I'd like to spare Carol from:

--rolling our recycle bin onto to the street empty, then lugging out a couple of armloads of newspapers etc. which have built up on us during this sonofabitching back episode.

--wheeling our garbage can around the the south end of the garage, where we can cope with it tomorrow for pickup.

--and if you have time, a look at my suffering garden for a dab of (incredibly) watering in coldframes and maybe picking a collander of lettuce for us, depending on how it looks to us.

If you're available, 9:30 -10 or even a bit later would be ideal for us, as we have more Group Health doings this afternoon. Don't sweat it if you're NOT available, we'll make out somehow.

Best,
Ivan
David, good morning. How terrific it is that Wisdom's first reader, world premier on Ridgefield Road, thinks well of it.

Yup, I am deflating, lost five pounds yesterday, still eight or 10 to go. So the elimination medicine and a lot of time on the pot are working. The back is about the same, so I'd dearly appreciate your handling the garbage. We don't have any yard waste.

And how's your cold doing? When you get well enough, come share a conversation.

All best,
Ivan

On Nov 18, 2014, at 4:05 PM, David Laskin wrote:

I started "Wisdom" and a brilliant ray of light pierced my study. I can tell from just 5 pages that this is going to be classic Doig. Hope some of this effulgent light makes its way down the hill to brighten you both. See you Thursday (right?) for garbage haulage. Any change in the back? Did the miracle drugs do the trick and deflate you back to normal?  David
From: David Laskin <laskin.david@gmail.com>
Subject: the good news is
Date: November 18, 2014 4:05:12 PM PST
To: Carol Doig <cddoig@comcast.net>

I started "Wisdom" and a brilliant ray of light pierced my study. I can tell from just 5 pages that this is going to be classic Doig. Hope some of this effulgent light makes its way down the hill to brighten you both. See you Thursday (right?) for garbage haulage. Any change in the back? Did the miracle drugs do the trick and deflate you back to normal?  
David
From: carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: the good news is
Date: November 19, 2014 1:37:40 PM PST
To: David Laskin <laskin.david@gmail.com>

David, hi--

Woohoo. as Donny on the bus would say, lamb stew. We'd love to have it, can you just bring it when you play garbageman?

Am finding some shaggy spots in the ms--things I overlooked while working at warp speed to get a full ms--and the biggest one is a repeated section, pp. 269-296, which can just be tossed. Once I get the ticks off the dog, as Flannery O'Connor called this part of the process, I think I'm still gonna be happy with how Wisdom reads.

Huge hanks for the home care tip. We may resort to it.

All for now. See you, stew-bearing, tomorrow--and big thanks gain.

Ivan

---

On Nov 19, 2014, at 8:30 AM, David Laskin wrote:

Ivan, Glad you are deflating, though that sounds like a rough way to accomplish it. I'll be by tomorrow to do garbage. Last night I made a HUGE lamb stew (rather tasty) -- more 'tovers that we can possibly consume. Shall I bring some by tomorrow? Heat and serve dinner for two, sparing Carol KP. Also, a friend of Kate's who uses Group Health says they have great home care available (at various levels) through something called Family Resource Care, tel. 206-545-1092. You may not need/want this -- but if you do, ask your GH doc about it. I'll call about timing for tomorrow's garbage run. I think the cold is abating, so we can visit a while. David

---

On Wed, Nov 19, 2014 at 7:11 AM, carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net> wrote:  
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All best,
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Bless you, David. We'd love to have the recycle bin returned to its place at the south side of the house. Any old time.

We're waiting now for an expedited MRI appointment, which will take us to Capitol Hill GH once again -- Maybe this afternoon but more likely Monday or Tuesday. Ivan's scheduled a phone visit with his oncologist for next Friday, and a lot of information should be available by then. Meanwhile, I'll run to Northgate GH to pick up a nasal spray that should help healing and strengthen bones. And I'm researching a new twin mattress set for him.

If you have time and we're around, stop for a cuppa or a drink. We're definitely in residence when we're not chasing medical.

Many thanks,
Carol

On Nov 14, 2014, at 9:42 AM, David Laskin wrote:

Hi friends,
Need any help? Heavy lifting? Wheeling garbage cans back to house? Any news from the docs? Keep me posted -- I'm around and happy to lend a hand as needed. Best, David
Ivan-

I knew you are brilliant & accomplished but I didn't appreciate how revered you are! Thanks for making Jeff & me a part of your PT weekend—it was wonderful to have you & Carol there @ our house. Come again soon, and don't want for an inviting.

Love, Linda
Dear Ivan,

Thank you so much for writing to High Country News on my behalf. I would be thrilled to work for them, and I really appreciate your taking the time to help me—those of us who are just starting out need all the help we can get!

I hope all is well in beautiful shoreline, and thanks again. I'll let you know how everything turns out.

Best Wishes,

Emily Laskin
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Cheeky Silly, WA. May 22, 2006

May 22

Dear Ivan and Carol:

Here's a bouquet of Spring flowers to thank you both for a superb Spring evening. I think we had it all—sun, great food, conversation on all things under the sun, and of course the best of company. And the capper—a copy of Ivan's new book with a touching inscription. Only thing missing—a chance to take a pot shot at a crow. Next time!
Dear Ivan & Carol,

NY - Rome - Venice - Tuscany! But first... Costa D'Avorio our favorite place to go for friendship, inspiration, home cooking and literacy chit chat. Thanks again for feeding & waterin us - and for putting up with the Alfred E. Newmnesque smile!

Best - David & Kate
ALMOND TARTLETS

Makes 12 tartlets

For the crust:
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup sugar
1 cup heavy cream
1 egg yolk

In the work bowl of a food processor outfitted with a metal blade, combine the flour and sugar. Run the machine a few seconds. Stir the egg yolk into the cream. With the machine running, pour into the flour mixture and process until the dough forms a ball. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate.

For the filling:
2 8-ounce cans almond paste
2 teaspoons grated orange zest
2 large eggs, beaten with a fork

Cut the almond paste into small pieces and place in the work bowl of a food processor fitted with a metal blade. Add the orange zest and one half of the beaten egg mixture. Pulse to combine thoroughly. Remove to a large bowl and with floured hands knead to make sure no lumps remain. Divide the almond paste mixture into 12 even pieces and shape each into a log 3 1/2 inches long.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Roll out the dough to about 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick and cut into 12 pieces, each 2 x 4 inches. Butter a baking sheet and place the rectangles on the sheet and top lengthwise with an almond paste roll. Combine dough scraps and roll out 1/4 inch thick. With a pie crimper or a knife, cut out 24 strips, each 1/2 inch x 3 inches. Brush some of the remaining egg mixture along the edges of the rectangles. Place two strips crosswise over each almond paste roll about an inch apart. Gently press strip and bottom crust together with your thumb and brush the strips with remaining egg. Trim the edges of the pastries, if necessary. Bake for 25 minutes, or until golden, turning the baking sheet once during this time. Cool on racks. Stored in an air-tight container, these tartlets keep well.

This recipe was adapted for the modern kitchen by food historian Peter G. Rose from the 1685 edition of De Verstandige Kock (The Sensible Cook). www.peterrose.com

Osias Beert the Elder (Flemish, c. 1580-1624)
Dishes with Oysters, Fruits, and Wine, c. 1620/1625
Oil on panel, 52.9 x 73.4 cm
National Gallery of Art, Washington
Patrons' Permanent Fund 1995.32.1
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June 7

Dear Irene and Carol -

We can thank you both for another great night of drinks on the deck, superb dinner and delightful conversation. But there are no words of gratitude sufficiently eloquent to thank you for the book dedication. We

are both so touched, so honored - really speechless.

We can't wait to read "our" book -- and tell the world how pleased and proud we are.

Antisti!

Fondly -

David & Icete
Dear Carol and Ivan,

Thanks kindly for a first rate Thanksgiving filled w/ food, sun, fog, good conversation, and more fog. Marjorie had such a fine that she came home and slept for 12 hours.

We look forward to more weekend walks. Wishing you a happy holiday season.

All the best,

Marjorie & David
The artist combines historic design elements with a contemporary twist to express the significance the horse has played in the Nez Perce (Niimíipuu) culture. They raised all types and colors of horses, but are best known for the Appaloosa. They bred their horses for strength, speed, agility and color.

Nez Perce artist Abraham Yearout.

For more information about the Nez Perce (Niimíipuu) and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Visit: www.fs.usda.gov/npnht

or just read Laskin’s story!

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Thank You
Dear Ivan and Carol

Another working good evening chez Doig - capped by a grand piece of medical news from Ivan. We six have terrific chemistry, don't you think? Banter, gossip, blistering analysis of political idiocy - better company one couldn't find or ask for.
Dear Ivan & Carol—

Another splendid evening chez Ours! Thanks for feeding & watering me & indulging my agonizing over fine points of the opus. My instinct is to write the damn thing & let readers figure out the Meaning! Just think of agonies to come if I try Fiction!? Thanks again! Fondly—

David
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© Card Number Two in Kitchen Panel Series

Count Your Blessings

Celebrate Often

Count Your Blessings

Celebrate Often
Dear Ivan + Cord- 

What an evening!

The view - the cheese - the home-grown meat - the enviable blueberries - the very best company imaginable - all of this and Fort Assiniboine!

Thanks so much -

Best -

David & Kate