Customer Neil Smith takes a photo of Elliott Bay Book Co., which opened Wednesday at its new location, 1521 10th Ave., on Capitol Hill. He’s sending the photo to his girlfriend. Smith says he misses the quaintiness of the previous Pioneer Square store, “but I’m glad the floors still creak,” he said.

Checking out
Elliott Bay’s new digs

4/15/10
by Melissa Allison
Seattle Times business reporter

Elliott Bay Book Co. opened Wednesday at its new home on Capitol Hill, in an old truck-repair facility that is slightly smaller than its former store in Pioneer Square, but seems larger.

The spacious feel comes partly from the new store having no used-book section, something that took up about 10 percent of Elliott Bay’s old space, and partly from a floor plan so open that most parts of the store can be seen from any other part.

Elliott Bay retained some of its old-school charm with wooden floors and beams, and the same cedar bookcases it had in Pioneer Square.

A couple dozen customers explored the new store at 1521 10th Ave. at lunchtime on Wednesday, many locating their favorite sections and taking pictures.

Neil Smith, one of the picture takers, said he needs time to adjust to the new space.

“I miss the old quaintness, but I’m glad the floors still creak,” he said.

Another picture taker, Hien Nguyen, liked the expansive floor plan and skylights.

“I like it a lot better than the old place. I thought it was crowded with

WEB EXTRA
See a gallery of photos from the bookstore’s opening at seattletimes.com/business/technology

The new store opened Wednesday and a couple dozen customers visited at lunchtime, many locating their favorite sections and taking pictures.

Grand-opening party

A block party to mark the bookstore’s opening is being thrown by the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, with a band, hand massages and face painting by The Aveda Institute and food for sale by local eateries including Oddfellows Cafe, Molly Moon’s Homemade Ice Cream and Rancho Bravo’s taco truck.
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nooks and crannies,” he said.

Joe Baird, a customer since 1985, is concerned that it will not attract tourists and downtown shoppers like it used to.

“It seems like this area is going to favor students and people who live in the surrounding area,” he said. “Before, most people on a journey downtown would stop by Elliott Bay.”

Bookstore owner Peter Aaron expects more customers on Capitol Hill, especially in the evening.

Elliott Bay’s busiest time of day in Pioneer Square was from noon until midafternoon, and it was practically dead at night, he said.

He already notices more people taking evening strolls near the new store.

“There’s a dense residential population base that was completely lacking in Pioneer Square,” Aaron said.

He also likes the parking situation, which includes a lot one block south of the store. It costs $5 for two hours, but customers who spend $20 will be reimbursed $4.

There is handicapped parking under the bookstore, next to a room for author readings that holds 200 people rather than the former room’s capacity of about 150.

Elliott Bay Café, better known as EBC, remained in the basement of the bookstore’s Pioneer Square location and will open a second cafe inside the new store in a couple weeks, Aaron said.

The bookstore’s new next-door neighbor is EveryDay Music, which vacated 1600 Broadway — the building with the Jimi Hendrix statue in front — to make way for Blick Art Materials. The Chicago-based art-supply shop will hold a grand opening with music from Emerald City Soul Club beginning at noon on April 22.
< Talton
FROM A14

OVERHAUL BILL
WOULDN'T PREVENT
WAMU DISASTER

Trouble areas spared

They also failed to protect it that summer from the short selling by which the Wall Street boyz profited from helping to start a bank run.

Obviously Wamu had a healthy core banking unit that could have been kept as an independent institution. Instead, regulators opted for more consolidation, letting the well-connected Jamie Dimon at JPMorgan Chase snap it up at a bargain price.

I'm not optimistic, but this double-standard of the rescue applied during the Great Panic would be a useful line of questioning when regulators testify Friday.

Still, Killinger built Wamu into a dreadful case study of much that is wrong in finance: incentives for risky, unsustainable growth; deterrents against those who warned about shoddy lending practices and risk; merger lust without the

them to investors, making big money. Regulators allowed Wamu to reach that "Oh, my God" moment in the movie "The China Syndrome." And Wamu directors failed the most basic tests of corporate governance.

Funny, they're all doing fine. So are the big banks and shadow-banking outfits with the insatiable appetite for risky mortgages to package as candied snacks for gullible investors.

And so, too, are the rating agencies that stamped these swindles as healthy and wholesome.

Washington Mutual's shareholders, many average people who had invested out of loyalty to the Northwest, lost everything.

In Seattle, a major headquarters was wiped out, along with thousands of jobs and economic devastation that moved out in concentric circles (vendors, lawyers, CPA firms, advertising, etc.) that have yet to be counted.

Wamu's collapse is a big factor behind downtown retailing troubles as well as the office-vacancy rate. Seattle is no longer a major financial center, and the brain drain is real and serious.

Regulated, opaque and where much of the mischief originated.

(To go further, I'm sure some hedge funds and other players wouldn't touch Wamu debt back in the day, but average investors didn't have that heads up to calamity.)

Derivatives, another prime driver of the financial collapse and many of which were worthless once the roulette wheel stopped, are also unlikely to be truly regulated or, in appropriate cases, outlawed.

Compensation overhaul gets a bare nudge. So the incentives for executives to be dumb and go for short-term growth, whatever the dangers to the institution and the economy, will remain.

Similarly, real corporate governance change, which would give average shareholders power and even split the jobs of chairman and CEO, won't happen.

Watching the executives alternately squirm and sit dumbfounded, with thought bubbles that said, a la Bugs Bunny, "Think fast rabbit!," one other thing became clear. Banking has become far too complex. Dangerous. Bizarre.
And another.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mary Gleysteen [mailto:maryg@eagleharborbooks.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 2:19 PM
To: Saletan, Rebecca
Subject: Re: work song

Just sent this to indienext
Customers have been asking for a sequel to Whistling Season, Ivan Doig’s most popular book at our store to date, and here it is! Morrie, the clever, dapper, enigmatic and totally endearing school teacher finds himself in Butte in 1919, just as the miners’ union

and Wobblies are having it out with the Anaconda Copper Company. Doig introduces wonderful new characters in what we can only hope will be the second book in a new Montana trilogy.

Mary Gleysteen
Eagle Harbor Books

Mary Gleysteen wrote:

thanks so much!

Saletan, Rebecca wrote:

Hi Mary,
Great to get your note. We’ll send a couple more copies out to you pronto.
Becky

-----Original Message-----
From: Mary Gleysteen [mailto:maryg@eagleharborbooks.com] Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 5:16 PM
To: Saletan, Rebecca
Subject: work song

hi Rebecca,

We are big fans of Ivan Doig’s. He’s read at our store numerous times and we are squabbling over the only arc that was in the white box. Whistling Season has been on our staff rec shelf since it debuted. Could you send us a couple of more pretty please? 5 of us have signed up to read the single copy we have.

Thanks!
More lovely response from booksellers.

From: Cheryl McKeon [mailto:cmckeon@thirdplacebooks.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 10:52 PM
To: Saletan, Rebecca
Cc: McNierney, Patrick
Subject: Work Song

Dear Rebecca – Here is my review of Work Song, which I’ll be sending off to Indie Bound. I was pleased to get an ARC from Patrick McNierney. It’s been awhile since I finished a novel, closed the book, and just sat with a contented smile. I am a big fan of Ivan’s work, but I sincerely believe that even first-time readers will be happy with his new book. Best, Cheryl

Ivan Doig loves his characters; one senses that he sees a glimmer of virtue even in the rascallion thugs who lurk so effectively in his newest novel, Work Song. Ten years after leaving Whistling Season’s Marias Coulee, Montana, where he’d reinvented himself as a schoolteacher, Morrie Morgan arrives in Butte at the height of the post-WWI copper mining boom – and its labor strife. Doig quickly invites us to embrace his protagonist and Butte’s colorful population, and we soon feel part of their lives, as we have with the Montanans he’s given us in his 12 previous works. The subplot of an homage to classic literature is worth the read; one is tempted to visualize an Ivan Doig novel on the library shelves of Butte.

Cheryl McKeon
Third Place Books
Book Club Coordinator
Children's Events
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(206) 366-3333 (main store number)
Island's home away from home turns 40

Middle age is an achievement for Eagle Harbor Book Company.

By DENNIS ANSTINE
Staff Writer

So what's so great about a neighborhood bookstore, especially one that doesn't even sell a cup of coffee?

That's a question best answered, perhaps, by Mary Gleysteen, an employee for half of the 40 years Eagle Harbor Book Company has inhabited Winslow Way.

"I've always thought of it as a refuge," she said a few days before the Bainbridge institution will celebrate its 40th birthday on Sunday.

"What's wonderful about my job is that I get to do what I love - talk about books with people who read all the time. I love our customers because we share what I think and care about. Books. And I get to pass on information that they're eager to get. It's an exciting place for me."

Gleysteen lives in Kingston, "but I feel like I live here. It's home."

In fact, the inner warmth of this particular bookstore's environment, whether it emanates from the interior's soft, inviting color tones or the employees' receptive, helpful decorum, attracts readers like plump pillows fronting a fire on a cold winter's day.

"We're doing some things right, I know, because people come in here all the time and tell us how happy they are that we're here," said owner Morley Horder, a Northwest-born romantic who bought the store on a whim 12 years ago when he learned it was for sale. "I realized in a moment that I had to do it because the bookstore was a community treasure. Now, I just feel like I'm a caretaker for the next owner."

It is not easy to remain viable, he admits, operating a small-town business with a tiny profit margin and constant pressure coming from the Internet and brick-and-mortar competitors with 200,000 titles on their shelves.

"It can be a struggle, so you need a lot of payback from it," he said. "I work with a lot of incredible people who think they've got a dream job. That's good. But most of all, we realize we're providing a community service here. The bookstore..."
Council to decide on means to recruit manager

By NAT LEVY
Staff Writer

Next week, the City Council will decide whether or not to employ a search firm to find the next city manager, a step that represents the beginning of a process to find a permanent replacement for Mark Dombroski, who resigned his post last October.

At Wednesday’s study session, the majority of council favored hiring a search firm over recruiting candidates in-house. Part of the reason for that, said Mayor Bob Scales, is that the city currently is without a human resources director, the person normally in charge of such a search.

A search firm proves a more expensive recruiting option, but interim Deputy City Manager Stan McNutt said using a search firm will attract superior candidates. Hiring an outside service to recruit candidates brings in more than just the people who are looking for a job in city management, McNutt said.

McNutt said both he and interim City Manager Lee Walton have been recruited to cities almost entirely through search firms. “We have almost never been seeking an opportunity in our careers,” McNutt said. “We were sought out by a search firm to make those changes.”

The job of finding a temporary replacement came easier to the council. During the process of negotiating with a search firm, Walton emerged as a primary candidate. A former city engineer with the city, Walton had experience on Bainbridge. Walton brought along McNutt, who he worked with in several changes of government and formations of new cities.

Throughout their time at the city, McNutt and Walton have worked to implement the change of government that voters passed overwhelmingly last year. McNutt, whose contract was set to expire at the end of January, was recently extended until the end of March while he worked with the council on installing new protocol for the council-manager form of government.

Should the council decide to use a search firm, it will then spend time choosing a firm for the job. “In my experience, selecting a search firm is almost as important as selecting the job candidate,” Scales said.

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Bainbridge Island

BUSINESS

CONTINUED FROM A1

is just another way to give back to a community that's special. I can't think of a better way to spend my life."

Horder spent 20 years working for nonprofits so his sense of community was naturally transferred to his community bookstore, but he was prepared to buy the store.

"I wouldn't have done it if the store hadn't been on Bainbridge Island," he said. "It was clear that it was all about Bainbridge Island because of the location and the demographics. I'd lived here long enough to know the bookstore was already an institution and we just had to meet the challenge of making sure we are serving the community's needs and keeping up with the business."

By twice doubling the size of the store during his ownership, Horder has kept up -- at least on a small scale -- with his competitors by ensuring that customers are served. With that in mind, the store has increased its Internet presence and has done more community surveys aimed at having customers express their needs. Horder thinks it has helped bring more people into the store.

"We have 35,000 books on our shelves, and we can get most book orders filled the next day through our wholesalers," he said. "The business is always changing and we study the trades to keep us ahead of those changes."

Horder said publishers are beginning to reverse the big-store trend somewhat with the realization that there is now a growing market for independent booksellers.

"At trade shows I've attended during the last year," he said, "more publishers are saying the smaller stores do a good job showcasing their books. They are beginning to listen to what we need rather than ignoring us as being second-tier. They need us, which gives me hope."

While the store continues to showcase local and regional authors because of the community's interests in such books, its inventory remains diverse enough to draw many top authors to Bainbridge Island for readings.

"We've been lucky to bring in some great authors by buying directly from publishers rather than from wholesalers," Horder said. "They seem to like how they're treated and that's led to us getting some bigger names. It's a big deal to come all the way from the East Coast, but people like coming here."

Gleysten was the store's primary events coordinator until recently when another employee took over the task.

"I guess it fell on me when somebody discovered I had Ivan Doig's phone number in my address book," she said. "We get some good writers here because they like Bainbridge and they like our audiences," she said. "They like the basic knowledge of the people attending and the fact they ask good questions. We have a very diverse population, less insular than it used to be. And they're nice, which most writers really like."

Another draw is an increasing number of registered book groups on the island, now numbering about 50.

"The reading group phenomena has grown huge," Gleysten said. "It's amazing. I'm seeing my second generation of readers coming through now, with some infants when I first started now going away to college."

Still, Horder and staff (12-15 now and a total of 73 during the last 12 years) have to keep on top of the business because of the small profit margin.

"It's just trickier than it used to be because you have to watch every book closely," he said. "You can't make any mistakes ordering because it's all about cash flow. Publishers want to be paid immediately, so you have to pull a book sometimes faster than you'd like to give it a chance to sell."

But he is optimistic about the future because, despite the current infatuation with digital learning, he is hopeful that people still enjoy the experience of submerging themselves one-on-one into books. He likes to believe that the written word has not been hard-wired over many millennia into the psyche of human beings.

Meanwhile, he and his caring, well-read staff will continue to do what they do best: serve their customers.

"We have a really good staff," Gleysten said. "There's good teamwork now and the staff represents a microcosm of the community."

She gives Horder credit, too.

"His management style is very collaborative and he gives us a lot of room to express ourselves and offer new ideas."

Horder has worried about the store's future, but he remains positive.

"We will be here, by God, or whatever it takes," he said. "I don't think this community will let it fail because it is very important to it. And we won't let the community down."

Another 40 years? Sure, why not.
**BASKETBALL**
CONTINUED FROM A16

Burris came up with a block down the floor, and Jimmy Baggett drew another three-point play for the 69-54 lead.

Even though Lakeside sank four three-pointers in the last three minutes of regulation, the Spartans made 10 of their last 13 free throws, holding on for the 80-70 victory.

The Spartans were 21-of-32 from the line on the night, with Bell scoring eight of his 14 points from the charity stripe.

The Lions shot 40 percent, and were 15-for-36 from behind the arc.

Bainbridge was 28-of-46 (60 percent) from the floor and attempted just seven threes.

Korsak finished the night with 13 points on five-of-six shooting, and was five-for-five from the free throw line.

Baggett had six points, four assists and three steals. Burris added eight points on three-of-eight shooting and five rebounds.

The winner of Saturday's game will earn the fifth seed at the SeaKing District tournament while the loser will take the sixth seed.

The Spartans will begin district tournament play on the road on Tuesday.

**Girls lose to Holy Names**

The fourth-seeded Bainbridge girls fell to second-ranked Holy Names (19-2) 61-16 in the Metro League playoffs Wednesday, and faced second-seeded Cleveland (13-6) Thursday at Ballard High School.

The Spartans (10-11) will host a SeaKing District playoff game as either the third or fourth seed from the Metro at 7 p.m., Tuesday. Bainbridge will play either Bishop Blanchet (12-10) or Lakeside (12-9) Tuesday. The winner of that game will be decided Saturday.

Bainbridge lost to Lakeside 53-41 Jan. 20 and defeated Bishop Blanchet 73-68 Feb. 3.

The Spartans are 7-2 at home this season, with their only home losses to Cleveland and Lakeside.

Sophomore Hannah Depew led with five points against Holy Names and Micki Johns added three.

Sophomore Chris Bell went three-for-three from the floor with 14 points and three assists in Bainbridge's 80-70 win over Lakeside Wednesday.

**SPORTS ROUNDUP**

**Diving Club**
The Bainbridge Island Diving Club opened the season in British Columbia in January. In the girls 14-15 age group, Kittle Cooper dove in her first Junior Olympic-style meet and scored 164.20 points with seven dives on one meter springboard for a seventh-place ribbon and 139.70 points for seven dives on three meter springboard earning a seventh-place ribbon again. Shannon Englebrecht earned two second-place ribbons with scores of 230.15 on one meter and 191.05 on three meter.

In the 12-13 boys age group, Coleman Mitchell scored 175.40 on one meter with six dives and 128.45 on three meter with six dives for two second-place finishes.

Lilla Paul and Koki Kresser competed in the girls 16-18 age group. On one meter, they placed second and third with scores of 226.00 and 201.20 for eight dives. They followed up with first-and-second-place finishes in the three-meter event with scores of 201.40 and 191.50, respectively.

Georgina Milne won two blue ribbons in the 10-11 girls age group. Milne placed first using six dives on both springboards with scores of 160 on one meter and 157.17 on three meter, setting new team records in her age group. The previous records were set by Mairead Gately in 1993.

**Gymnastics**

Bainbridge placed sixth at the SeaKing District meet with 142.45 points and advances seven gymnasts to the 3A state championship.

Junior Adrienne Palay and senior Talla Weiss qualified for all-around competition. Palay placed 10th all-around with 32.75, with a season-best 8.7 on vault.

Senior captain Katie Mathews placed second in the floor exercise with a score of 9.4, and advanced to state on bars, beam and floor. Mathews came in 10th all-around.

Rachel Kaminer placed seventh on bars with a 7.0 and will also compete in the event at state. Palay and Weiss tied for 13th with scores of 6.6.

On beam, Palay placed 11th with an 8.7 while Mathews took 13th with a score of 8.475.

Kaminer and Palay placed 11th and 13th on floor, respectively.

Gymnasts march in at 9 a.m. today and the Spartans will begin their floor exercise rotation at 9:40 a.m.

Finals will begin at 11:20 a.m. Saturday.

Bainbridge state qualifiers (in order of rotation):

- Floor: Weiss, Laura Brinklin, Grace Allen, Palay, Mathews, Kaminer
- Vault: Palay, Weiss
- Bars: Weiss, Kaminer, Mathews, Palay

Beam: Mathews, Eva Fazzini, Palay, Weiss

**Wrestling**

Bainbridge placed 11th at regionals with 48.5 points and advances two wrestlers to the State Classic XXII at the Tacoma Dome this weekend.

Competing at 112, sophomore Alec Grewe was pinned in his first match, but won his next two contests to place fourth.

Grewe competed in last year's Mat Classic in the 103-pound weight class.

Junior Corey Touchette – wrestling at 160 – recorded a technical fall in the first round. Touchette lost his second match but won the next two to finish third.

Freshman Weber Coryell – wrestling at 145 – lost by technical fall in his first match, but went on to record a fall in his second match. Coryell then defeated fellow Spartan Brenden Henesey for fifth place. Coryell will be an alternate to the Mat Classic.

Henesey, a senior, placed sixth at 145. Senior Evan Jahrman placed sixth in the 152-pound weight class, and freshman Darius Taylor-Jones also placed sixth wrestling at 215.

Wrestlers weigh in at 8 a.m. today, and the first session will begin at 10 a.m. The second session will take place from 4:30 p.m.

The third session, which includes matches for third through eighth place, will take place from 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Saturday. Championship matches begin at 5 p.m.
Michael, good morning--Sure, have the U B&N do what's best for the signing. And if none of the other stores (except Edmonds) wants a Saturday mid-day, that's fine with me, I'm glad to have the day off.

Another topic: Monday and Tuesday I'll be on the Des Moines speaking gig, pretty much out of touch, so if you need to reach me, today and tomorrow is best.

Thanks,

Ivan

On Apr 15, 2010, at 7:31 AM, Barson, Michael S wrote:

Ivan and Carol -- Just so you know, we went over prospective dates with the national events person for barnes & Noble, and she said that their University store could only do either July 7 or 8, a Wed. and a Thursday evening. The store was not optimistic about a weekend event in July. That being the case, may we book one of these dates with them now?

Thanks,

Michael

-----Original Message-----
From: carol doig [mailto:ccdooig@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 9:29 AM
To: Barson, Michael S
Cc: Saletan, Rebecca
Subject: refining the book tour

To spare you and Matthew from re-inventing the wheel, I got on the phone with old acquaintances at the handful of suburban and out of town bookstores beyond your priority Seattle ones to find out what time of week would best serve each of them for a signing, and asked them to pencil in those dates for us until they hear from you. Here's how the tour could shape up with those stores added to the prime ones you've been talking to, if this looks OK to you:

June 29 -- Third Place, and June 30 or July 1 Elliott Bay, as you've arranged.

July 5-15 -- University BookStore and the UVillage B&N can be fitted in as you think best. If possible, Eagle Harbor on Bainbridge Island, which often provides a strong signing, should also go in this time period.

July 17 -- Saturday 11 a.m. to noon at Edmonds Bookstore. This is our easiest signing, 10 minutes from our house, a suburban store with a very loyal clientele. This time of day coincides with the town's Saturday market. Contact: owner Mary Kay at (425) 775 2789.

July 20 -- Village Books, Bellingham. This one needs firming up pronto because of the overnight reservation needed: Channel Lodge: (360) 466 1500. Room in order of preference: 110, 109, 111. (Can you tell we've been doing this for awhile?)

Nan, the superb events planner at Village, has penciled in this
From: carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: refining the Doig book tour
Date: April 12, 2010 12:33:43 PM PDT
To: "Barson, Michael S" <Michael.Barson@us.penguingroup.com>

Hi, Michael-- Glad my little round-robin of phone calls to old familiar bookstores panned out OK. You're right, I figured you'd want to expend the July 10-11 weekend on one of the priority stores. Onward, eh?

All best,
Ivan

On Apr 12, 2010, at 6:36 AM, Barson, Michael S wrote:

Wow -- you don't kid around, Ivan!! I think I am going to ask you to also organize the rest of my year, beginning tomorrow, because I don't feel that I'm fully capable. At least, not the way "you" are.

OK, Matthew and I will organize these visits as you describe below... And I take it we are free to use the weekend of July 10-11 as needed, since you have left it alone here.

All best,
Michael the Awestruck (that's my epithet henceforth)

-----Original Message-----
From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 9:29 AM
To: Barson, Michael S
Cc: Saletan, Rebecca
Subject: refining the book tour

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July 20 -- Village Books, Bellingham. This one needs firming up pronto because of the overnight reservation needed: Channel Lodge: (360) 466 1500. Room in order of preference: 110, 109, 111. (Can you tell we've been doing this for awhile?)

Nan, the superb events planner at Village, has penciled in this date for us, and can get maximum play in the store's newsletter, the
12 April ‘10

Dear Neenah and Noah—

It was a pleasant mental nudge recently to hear Noah’s voice on All Things Considered, which in turn reminded me of gladly crossing paths with Neenah at Politics and Prose the last time I shepherded my one-room schoolteacher to the East Coast. I thought you might like to see what’s become of him since he left the Marias Coulee schoolroom. Can’t tell yet if the publisher is going to tour me as far east as Washington, D.C. when the book comes out at the end of June, but if so, I hope we can fetch up and catch up a bit.

Best wishes,
Thanks for the update, Carol, and for moving so quickly on the pictures. By the way — Michael Barson, Matthew Venzon — 2 publicists for the price of one! I think it’s Michael who wants the report, though.
All best,
Becky

From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 9:58 AM
To: Saletan, Rebecca
Subject: Re: Ivan Doig the Video

Ivan will FedEx the photos early next week, after he’s had a chance to review what I’ve culled. You did return the Butte pix, some of which will pingpong back to you.

Ivan had a good day in Portland. He liked the head Penguin and all the other Penguins. Alan Walker said the convention will meet in Seattle in two years, and he’d be pleased to have Ivan attend.

Ivan signed about 75 ARC’s for attendees and liked the geographical spread. Matthew Barson wanted a report, and Ivan plans to call him later today.

Happy weekend.

Carol

On Mar 25, 2010, at 7:16 AM, Saletan, Rebecca wrote:

Two or three dozen, so we have a little room to pick and choose? Best if Ivan is NOT in all of them, actually — it shouldn’t look like a vacation slide show. Landscape, mining apparatus, etc., is great. Do I still have the ones of Butte you sent or did I send those back?
All best,
Becky

From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 10:12 AM
To: Saletan, Rebecca
Subject: Re: Ivan Doig the Video

Yes, it’s a first! I’ll be happy to cull some photos, which will be a combination of black-and-white and color prints, along with some old-fangled slides, if that will work.

Do we know about how many they’d like to see? And would it be ok to include some of Montana scenery sans Ivan?
From: "Saletan, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Saletan@us.penguingroup.com>
Subject: RE: Ivan Doig the Video
Date: March 25, 2010 7:16:23 AM PDT
To: carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>

Two or three dozen, so we have a little room to pick and choose? Best if Ivan is NOT in all of them, actually – it shouldn't look like a vacation slide show. Landscape, mining apparatus, etc., is great. Do I still have the ones of Butte you sent or did I send those back?
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Becky

---

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Do we know about how many they'd like to see? And would it be ok to include some of Montana scenery sans Ivan?

As I write this, he's on his way to the airport for the Portland gig.

Best, Carol

---

On Mar 24, 2010, at 11:07 AM, Saletan, Rebecca wrote:

Hi Carol (and Ivan),
I know Ivan is headed to Portland tomorrow so no rush on this, but our wonderful marketing folks would like to make a promotional trailer for WORK SONG – an Ivan Doig first, I bet – using images, music, and quotes. Do you all have photographs we might use for this purpose? We're thinking Montana landscape primarily – doesn't need to be limited to this book as the video will also talk about Ivan's other books and long association with Montana. I'm wondering whether you've collected such on your travels and would be able to lend them to the effort.
All best,
Becky

Rebecca Saletan
Editorial Director, Riverhead Books
375 Hudson Street
New York, NY 10014-3657
212 366 2908
212 366 2922 (fax)
DATE: Thursday, March 25  
CITY: PORTLAND, OR

Travel Information: You have a reserved e-ticket on the following flight:
8:34 AM Depart Seattle Tacoma aboard United
Airlines #6815
9:22 AM Arrive Portland
E-Ticket Locator #: P88H6S

Ground Transportation: 9:30 AM PICKUP: Portland media escort Kevin Sprager (Cell Phone #: 503-504-3813) will be holding a copy of WORK SONG when he meets you at gate security to bring you to your event.

Contact: Kevin Sprager
503-288-9126 HOME
503-504-3813 CELL
kewesplayhouse@gmail.com

Note: Kevin will assist you throughout the afternoon, and will take you to the airport after the event.

10:15 AM arrival
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Booth Signing

PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 2010 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Oregon Convention Center
Exhibit Halls A & B
777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Portland, OR 97232

NOTE RE ARRIVAL: Dominique Jenkins (CELL: 347-607-2886) of PGI Academic Marketing will meet you at the exhibitor registration table with your exhibitor badge at 10:30 AM, and take you to Penguin's booth (#1206).
NOTE RE EVENT: This event will be held from March 23-27. The PLA National Conference is the premier professional development event for public librarians, public library workers, trustees, friends, library vendors, and others with an interest in public libraries. PLA 2010 will provide opportunities to learn new ideas, share success stores, hear best practices and form networks from across the county and around the world. Special events include a discussion panel with Nancy Pearl, and keynote speeches from Nicholas D. Kristof and Sarah Vowell.

DATE: Thursday, March 25  (continued)
CITY: PORTLAND, OR

PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 2010
NATIONAL CONFERENCE (continued)

Contact: Dominique Jenkins
347-607-2886 CELL
HYPERLINK
"mailto:Dominique.jenkins@us.penguingroup.com"
Dominique.jenkins@us.penguingroup.com

Secondary Contact: Alan Walker
212-518-8934 CELL
HYPERLINK
"mailto:Alan.walker@us.penguingroup.com" Alan.walker@us.penguingroup.com

Travel Information: You have an e-ticket reservation on the following flight:

#2642

2:30 PM Depart Portland aboard Alaska Airlines
3:20 PM Arrive Seattle Tacoma
E-Ticket Locator #: EKRJCA
Riverhead Books Contacts:  WORK SONG By Ivan Doig

Michael Barson
206-200-4143 (cell)
212-366-2547 (office)
201-953-1998 (cell)
Matthew Venzon
212-366-2558 (cell)

917-373-6308 (cell)
Dear Alan--

I just wanted to say thanks for dealing me in on the Public Library Association conference. The *Work Song* ARCs seemed to be a big hit, and according to the comments while I was signing, your Book Buzz encomium really grabbed people's attention. I've told Becky Saletan and Michael Barson the geographic spread of those who came by during the busy hour I spent was especially gratifying--Arkansas and Tampa and Vermont and a lot of other places, plus maybe the first book I've ever signed to someone in Yonkers. I appreciate the great job you and Dominique and the rest of the booth crew did for me and the book; I hope to pitch in with you again.

You mentioned visions of the Butte library that so entranced Morrie, I believe; here's a look at it. Alas, gone, but not forgotten if we have anything to do with it, hmm?

All best
Sorry, Carol. Let's try again -

Matthew

---

From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 4:00 PM
To: Venzon, Matthew
Subject: Re: PLA schedule

Helo, Michael. Your message came through, but without an attachment. Want to try that one again?

Thanks. Carol

On Mar 17, 2010, at 12:48 PM, Venzon, Matthew wrote:

Hi, Ivan - I'm attaching a slightly updated schedule for PLA here. As discussed, Dominique will meet you at 10:30 instead of 10:45.

Best,
Matthew

---

From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 5:38 PM
To: Venzon, Matthew
Subject: Re: PLA schedule

Ivan says that 10:30 ought to be a comfortable time, if that works for Dominique. Much obliged.

Carol

On Mar 12, 2010, at 1:14 PM, Venzon, Matthew wrote:

Thanks, Ivan. We'll make sure Kevin has your cell phone number.

Dominique tells me that it's usually not neccessary to sign books in rapid succession at the booth, since most of the librarians like to spend a few minutes chatting. But if you feel more comfortable getting some out of the way early, it's no problem for her to meet you with galleys to presign. Your flight gets in at 9:22, and the convention center is only about twelve miles from the airport. Would you like her to plan to meet you around 10:15 or 10:20?

Thanks
Matthew

---

From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 1:00 PM
To: Venzon, Matthew
Subject: Re: PLA schedule

Thanks, Matthew. Looks good. If you haven't already done so, please provide Kevin Sprager with my cellphone number: 206-200-4143 and let Dominique know I'll want to sign up most of the ARCs ahead of the booth signing, to spare my hand. Should she meet me at the registration table earlier than 10:45?

Best
Ivan
Flap/Backad Copy

Work Song

Ivan Doig

Elaine—one small addition to the bio; the rest of the copy looks fine, thanks.

[Front Flap]

"If America was a melting pot, Butte would be its boiling point," observes Morrie Morgan, the itinerant teacher, walking encyclopedia, and inveterate charmer last seen leaving a one-room schoolhouse in Marias Coulee, the stage he stole in Ivan Doig's The Whistling Season. A decade on, Morrie is back in Montana, this time in the copper-mining capital of the world, which is enjoying a jittery post-World War II heyday.

But while the riches of "the richest hill on earth" elude Morrie, once again a colorful cast of local characters and their dramas seek him out: a look-alike-sound-alike pair of retired Welsh miners; a streak-of-lightning waif so skinny he is dubbed Russian Famine; a pair of mining company goons; a comely landlady propitiiously named Grace; and the eccentric ex-rancher who runs the public library, his whispered nickname a source of inexplicable terror.

When Morrie crosses paths with a lively former student, now engaged to a fiery young union leader, he is caught up in the mounting clash between the ironfisted mining company, radical "outside agitators," and the beleaguered miners. And as tensions above ground and below reach the explosion point, he finds a unique way to give a voice to those who truly need one.

[Back Flap]

[IVAN DOIG PHOTO]

IVAN DOIG was born in Montana and has worked as a ranch hand, newspaperman, and magazine editor. The author of twelve previous books, including the classic memoir This House of Sky, he has been a National Book Award finalist and has received the Wallace Stegner Award and a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Western Literature Association, among other honors. He lives in Seattle.

Jacket Design tk
Jacket photograph tk
Photograph of the author © 2008 by A. Wayne Arnst

Praise for Work Song

"Butte is by far the most colorful town in Montana, a kaleidoscope of culture, commerce and copper mines, the perfect palette for an artist like Ivan Doig. Work Song doesn't just hum along—it's rich authenticity echoes and resonates."

—Jamie Ford, author of The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet
“The most tumultuous, quirky, and fascinating city in the American West of the last century has finally found a storyteller equal to its stories. Ivan Doig brings to life the core of humanity, and a hell of cast, amidst the shadows and sorrows of Butte, Montana -- a city that could say it never slept well before New York made a similar claim.”
—Timothy Egan, author of The Last Hard Time and The Big Burn

Praise for The Whistling Season

“When a voice as pleasurable as his evokes a lost era, somehow it doesn’t seem so lost after all.”—Washington Post Book World

“Doig is in the best sense an old-fashioned novelist: You feel as if you’re in the hands of an absolute expert at story-making, a hard-hewn frontier version of Walter Scott or early Dickens. The landscape and characters are vivid, the prose flawless, and like the earlier masters, Doig imbues each scene ... with deep emotional understanding and a sense of possibility and personal adventure.”—O, the Oprah Magazine

“What Doig does best: evoke the past and create a landscape and characters worth caring about. ... It’s lovely storytelling, whether you’re in Montana or New York.”
—USA Today
Right you are, Matthew. Go ahead and book United. Alaska pulled its 8:30 flight between blinks.

My date of birth is June 27, 1939. Drivers license name is Ivan Clark Doig.

Thanks

Ivan

On Feb 24, 2010, at 1:54 PM, Venzon, Matthew wrote:

Hi, Ivan -

One thing to clarify here: The 8:34 AM flight departing Seattle is on United, while the 8:00 AM flight is Alaska. So I think we'll have to pick one or the other. The flight departing Portland at 2:30 is Alaska.

Also, could you please let us know your date of birth and your name as it appears on your drivers license or passport? We'll need both in order to issue the e-ticket.

Thanks, and apologies for all the back and forth on this. Please let me know if you'd like me to give you a call -

Matthew

From: Barson, Michael S
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 4:05 PM
To: 'carol doig'
Cc: Venzon, Matthew; Soule, Amanda; Plata, Glory; Saletan, Rebecca
Subject: RE: Ivan Doig Travel for 3/25 to Portland

Very good, we will do it the way you suggest, Ivan, and arrange for cars both coming and going for Portland's airport. The 8:30 am flight should be plenty good enough, and then the 2:30 pm back home.

In terms of Third Place Books – that sounds really good, but we have to first deal with the fact that WORK SONG won't be on sale until June 29! So visiting them on the 26th is somewhat less than ideal... Do you think there's any chance she would be open to doing this event just a few days later? I'd hate to have you right there with a big audience and not be able to sell the new book...

Best,

Michael

From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 3:51 PM
To: Barson, Michael S
Subject: Re: Ivan Doig Travel for 3/25 to Portland

Michael, hi

Let's book Alaska/Horizon both directions, since they run what amounts to a shuttle. I can get the 8:30 a.m. outbound (and if I'm early, climb aboard the 8) and then catch the 2:30 p.m. on return.
Ivan, my apologies – I read your "July 26" date as "June 26". Of course there is no problem with your seeing them on 7/26 for a second event, the first hopefully set right around the 6/29 pub date for WORK SONG.

Best,
Michael

From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 3:51 PM
To: Barson, Michael S
Subject: Re: Ivan Doig Travel for 3/25 to Portland

Michael, hi

Let's book Alaska/Horizon both directions, since they run what amounts to a shuttle. I can get the 8:30 a.m. outbound (and if I'm early, climb aboard the 8) and then catch the 2:30 p.m. on return.

And I'll need rides to and from the Portland airport. My cell number is (206) 200-4143 -- and I use it only on the road.

Another topic: I got word yesterday that Lake Forest Park, the upscale suburb where Third Place Books is located, has chosen The Whistling Season as its community read this summer. Cheryl, Third Place's book club coordinator, needs me for a "conversation" appearance, and she shrewdly figures if we do it on July 26, Whistling Season readers may be enticed to pick up Work Song as well. I penciled in that date with her, if that's OK with you. I know we want to do an early Work Song reading/signing at Third Place, but this would be a gig of another kind, three or more weeks down the line; if Wendy and Cheryl are OK with me twice in a month, I think we ought to let 'em sell books doubly, huh?

Best,
Ivan

On Feb 24, 2010, at 8:21 AM, Barson, Michael S wrote:

Ivan – We have found an 8:34 outbound flight, United 6815 from Seattle to Portland for the morning of the 25th that arrives at 9:22 am – that seems safe enough, yes? (there's also a 9 am that gets in at 9:50, but that seems to be cutting it a bit close...)

And then for your return, we have either a 2:30 return flight or a 3:30, both Alaska Air... Which would you prefer?
Michael, hi

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And then for your return, we have either a 2:30 return flight or a 3:30, both Alaska Air... Which would you prefer?  

Many thanks,  

Michael

---

Depart 08:34a SEA -- Arrive 09:22a PDX --> Depart 02:30p PDX -- Arrive 03:20p SEA
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Use our [Currency Converter](#) to estimate the exchange rate on a fare.

### 2 Select Second Flight or view Complete Roundtrips only

From: Portland, OR (PDX) To: Seattle (SEA) on Thu, Mar 25

Sort flights by: [Prefer Alaska/Horizon: ]

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Hi, Ivan. I agree, we don't want to bump into Turow. I will investigate to see what other slots are open, though it's doubtful that there is a time when absolutely nothing else is scheduled. I had been told that you wanted to try catching a flight back at 230 or so, which if so gives us a window of either 10 or 11am, most likely. Or perhaps 1pm, if we opt for a flight closer to 4pm for your return.

So I will try to get word back to you tomorrow, or, failing that, Monday.

Best,

Michael

---

From carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>
To Barson, Michael S
Sent Thu Feb 18 17:54:23 2010
Subject Re: Invitation for Ivan Doig at PLA, Portland OR -- March 25, 12-1pm

Michael, hi--

Huh uh, that noon slot competes with Scott Turow's luncheon speech and also a talk by Young Adult author Virginia Foerster Wolff. Let's have me in the booth when we're more likely to get some traffic, or just next to the one you're in. And would a 1pm work?

Best wishes,

Ivan

---

On Feb 17, 2010, at 12:59 PM, Barson, Michael S wrote:

Dear Ivan,

The PLA in Portland would like you to come to do a booth signing for us of the WORK SONG galleys for the attending librarians. Their best open slot is at noon. So we could fly you out in the morning and bring you back to Seattle as soon as it concludes at 1pm, unless you'd care to stay longer. Please let me know if this is of interest as soon as you can.

Many thanks,

Michael

---

From Jenkins, Dominique
To Barson, Michael S
Sent Wed Feb 17 11:51:04 2010
Subject Re: Ivan Doig at PLA, Portland OR -- March 25

Hi Michael,

Per our conversation, please let us know if Thursday, March 25th from noon — 1pm works as a signing time for Ivan at PLA.

Dominique
He is on the schedule for March 25th from 11 a.m – Noon.

Thank you!
Dominique

---

Very happy to make this work for you, Ivan! We will look into flights and run the choices by you – maybe something around 8 or 830 am? And then a 2:30 return should be doable, unless you want to linger a bit.

Best,
Michael

---

Michael. hi--

11 a.m. it is. Thanks for your effort on this.

Best,

Ivan
Very happy to make this work for you, Ivan! We will look into flights and run the choices by you – maybe something around 8 or 830 am? And then a 2:30 return should be doable, unless you want to linger a bit.

Best,
Michael

From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 11:16 AM
To: Barson, Michael S
Subject: Re: Booth signing for Ivan Doig at PLA, Portland -- March 25, 11 am-12 noon

Michael. hi--

11 a.m. it is. Thanks for your effort on this.

Best,
Ivan

On Feb 22, 2010, at 8:06 AM, Barson, Michael S wrote:

Dear Ivan and Carol,

We have two new options for you to consider. On that same date of March 25, you could have the 11 am booth signing slot, which I am told is not scheduled against any major competition. Or, instead, you could come in the afternoon prior, March 24, which is the opening day of the PLA. The free slot that day for a booth signing is 4 pm, which I know is later than you preferred. But I wanted you to be aware of it regardless.

Best,
Michael

From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 5:54 PM
To: Barson, Michael S
Subject: Re: invitation for Ivan Doig at PLA, Portland OR -- March 25, 12-1 pm
From: "Barson, Michael S" <Michael.Barson@us.penguin.com>
Subject: Booth signing for Ivan Doig at PLA, Portland -- March 25, 11 am-12 noon
Date: February 22, 2010 8:06:50 AM PST
To: carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>
Cc: "Salten, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Saliten@us.penguin.com>, "Venzon, Matthew" <Matthew.Venzon@us.penguin.com>

Dear Ivan and Carol,

We have two new options for you to consider. On that same date of March 25, you could have the 11 am booth signing slot, which I am told is not scheduled against any major competition. Or, instead, you could come in the afternoon prior, March 24, which is the opening day of the PLA. The free slot that day for a booth signing is 4 pm, which I know is later than you preferred. But I wanted you to be aware of it regardless.

Best,

Michael

From: carol doig [mailto:cddoig@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 5:54 PM
To: Barson, Michael S
Subject: Re: invitation for Ivan Doig at PLA, Portland OR -- March 25, 12-1 pm

Michael, hi--

Huh uh, that noon slot competes with Scott Turow's luncheon speech and also a talk by Young Adult author Virginia Euwer Wolff. Let's have me in the booth when we're more likely to get some traffic, or just not spend our time and money, OK?

Best wishes,

Ivan

On Feb 17, 2010, at 12:59 PM, Barson, Michael S wrote:

Dear Ivan,

The PLA in Portland would like you to come to do a booth signing for us of the WORK SONG galley for the attending librarians. Their best open slot is at noon. So we could fly you out in the morning and bring you back to Seattle as soon as it concludes at 1 pm, unless you'd care to stay longer. Please let me know if this is of interest as soon as you can.

Many thanks,

Michael

From: Jenkins, Dominique
From: carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Jamie's blurb
Date: February 16, 2010 12:34:44 PM PST
To: "Saletan, Rebecca" <Saletan@us.penguingroup.com>

Becky, hi--
Huzzah for Jamie! And for you, for persevering with him. I'll drop him a note of thanks.

Carol and I go to Portland tomorrow and Thurs. A ritzy suburb there, Lake Oswego, chose Whistling Season as its community read—the public library gave away 800 copies and the bookstore has sold another 200. I give a talk tomorrow night, 600 soldout tix. Should you absolutely need to reach me before Fri., try the cell phone—(206)200-4143.

All best,
Ivan

On Feb 16, 2010, at 6:49 AM, Saletan, Rebecca wrote:

Dear Ivan and Carol —
Jamie came through!
Best,
Becky

From: Jamie Ford [mailto:Jamie@jamieford.com]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2010 8:31 PM
To: Saletan, Rebecca
Subject: Re: Ivan D

Hi Becky,

How's this?

Butte is by far the most colorful town in Montana, a kaleidoscope of culture, commerce and copper mines, the perfect palette for an artist like Ivan Doig. WORK SONG doesn't just hum along—it's rich authenticity echoes and resonates.

Thoroughly enjoyed it,

Jamie

On Feb 2, 2010, at 12:16 PM, Saletan, Rebecca wrote:

Hi Jamie,
I have a little extension on flap copy so if you can still squeeze it in I could wait till Feb 17 ... Sorry to keep pushing but I really really would love to have your comment on this.
All best,
Becky
Michael, hi--

Huh uh, that noon slot competes with Scott Turow's luncheon speech and also a talk by Young Adult author Virginia Euwer Wolff. Let's have me in the booth when we're more likely to get some traffic, or just not spend our time and money, OK?

Best wishes,

Ivan

On Feb 17, 2010, at 12:59 PM, Barson, Michael S wrote:

Dear Ivan,

The PLA in Portland would like you to come to do a booth signing for us of the WORK SONG galleys for the attending librarians. Their best open slot is at noon. So we could fly you out in the morning and bring you back to Seattle as soon as it concludes at 1 pm, unless you'd care to stay longer. Please let me know if this is of interest as soon as you can.

Many thanks,

Michael

From: Jenkins, Dominique
To: Barson, Michael S
Sent: Wed Feb 17 11:51:04 2010
Subject: Re: Ivan Doig at PLA, Portland OR -- March 25

Hi Michael,
Per our conversation, please let us know if Thursday, March 25th from noon – 1 pm works as a signing time for Ivan at PLA.

Dominique
Conference Schedule

For detailed program information, click here.

**Tuesday, March 23**

- Various
- 8:00am - 5:00pm Registration
- 9:00am - 5:00pm Preconferences

**Wednesday, March 24**

- Various
- 9:00am - 1:00pm Preconferences
- 8:00am - 6:30pm Registration
- 10:30am - Noon Nancy Pearl Event
- 2:30pm - 4:00pm Open General Session
- 4:00pm - 6:30pm Exhibits Opening Reception
- 6:00pm - 7:30pm New Member Reception

**Thursday, March 25**

- 7:30am - 5:30pm Registration
- 9:30am - 6:00pm Exhibits Opening
- 8:30am - 9:45am Program Slot 1
- 9:45am - 10:30am Exhibits No-Conflict
- 10:30am - 11:45am Program Slot 2
- Noon - 1:45pm Author Lunches
  - 2:00pm - 3:15pm Program Slot 3
  - 3:15pm - 4:30pm Exhibits No-Conflict
  - 4:00pm - 5:15pm Program Slot 4
  - 6:00pm - 8:30pm Author Publishers Association Dinner

**Friday, March 26**

- 7:30am - 4:00pm Registration
- 9:30am - 4:00pm Exhibits Opening
- 8:30am - 9:45am Program Slot 5
- 9:45am - 10:30am Exhibits No-Conflict
- 10:30am - 11:45am Program Slot 6
- Noon - 1:45pm Author Lunch
  - 2:00pm - 3:15pm Program Slot 7
  - 3:15pm - 4:00pm Exhibits Closing Reception
  - 4:00pm - 5:15pm Program Slot 8
  - 5:30pm - All Conference Reception

**Saturday, March 27**

- 8:00am - 10:00am Registration
- 8:30am - 9:45am Program Slot 9
- 10:15am - 11:30am Program Slot 10
- 11:45am - 1:00pm Closing Session
- Afternoon Tours
Jamie, hi--

Becky Saletan passed along the blurb you nobly did for *Work Song*. Big, big thanks; I know it’s a hassle to deal with those requests, particularly when you’re trying to get your own stuff done. I hope the next book going well and will get up there in the stratosphere with *Hotel*.

As for me, I’m through with Butte for a while—whew; it’s really the Constantinople of the Rockies, for us Golden Triangle folks—and am working on the second of a two-book contract for Becky. Looking forward to crossing paths with you, somewhere on the bookstore trail.

All best,
For planning the Portland trip, Becky, here are some first thoughts:

A Horizon flight at 7:30 am is scheduled to arrive at PDX at 8:20. I'd need a literary escort or a rep to get me to the convention center.

That would put me at the convention center about an hour later, where I could be at the booth until lunchtime.

I'd like to get a return flight which leaves at 2:30.

I hope this fits what Alan Walker wants me to do.

Ivan
Recky/Barbara
- keynote speech
- tea/grenn & book
- boots signing (by Recky)
Public 10 a.m. - until 7 March
March 25 - booth # Plant Conservation
late afternooon - come early & sign
1 kg print & RRCs

Note
- mid winter AHA in San Diego

Jamie is harassed

2:30

Turner 12-1:45

8:30-9:45 3:45 run North
10:30-11:45 9:30
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Use our [Currency Converter](#) to estimate the exchange rate on a fare.

2 Select Second Flight or view Complete Roundtrips only

From: Portland, OR (PDX) To: Seattle (SEA) on Thu, Mar 25

Sort flights by: Prefer Alaska/ Horizon

Display all Flights

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- Return Flight: [Choose Flight]

Taxes & Fees:
- Total for 1:


Page 2 of 3
## Available Flights

Amounts are quoted in U.S. dollars per person, one way, and subject to change without notice until held or purchased.

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Hi, Ivan and Carol,
Just wanted you to see this lovely response to the ARC from a bookseller – the first of many, I expect.
All best,
Becky

Becky,
I just finished reading an advance copy of Ivan Doig's Work Song and I'm taking you up on your invitation to share my thoughts on the novel.

It's been a long time since I've read a work of fiction that didn't contain one or more of the following; multiple murders and/or suicides, drugs, cell phones, teenage angst, cheating spouses, international intrigue, state of the art electronics, the walking dead, and anything to do with a cosmopolitan lifestyle. All I can say is "What a relief!"

I enjoyed all the characters, but my favorite was the book's hero Morrie Morris. Mr Doig captured a man of the world, part bon vivant, part scholar, and a dash of a worldly rogue. What a great recipe for an unforgettable character.

I already have several customers in mind who will enjoy this title.

Bob Boyd
Steve's Books and Magazines
2612 S Harvard
Tulsa, Okla 74114
You bet, Ivan. We figured that would probably be your disposition on this one, and your argument makes a lot of sense. I hate taking trips that involve plane changes, tiny planes, or both.

Best,

Michael

---

Michael and Matthew, hi--

Re Durango: sorry, no go. Given the medicinal constraint on me that we talked over in the conference call, I have to continually parse what I can best do for Work Song, and judging by the past, art festivals and bookfests with their laundry list of other attractions aren't our best shot. (Particularly, like Durango, bless its heart, where there's a lot of puddlejump flying to get there and not much of a population when you do.) Let's expend me on solo events or big gatherings of influential folks like ALA insofar as we can, okay?

All best.

Ivan

On Feb 5, 2010, at 7:20 AM, Barson, Michael S wrote:

Ivan — As discussed.

Libby Cowles [mailto:libby@mariasbookshop.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2010 3:50 PM
To: Lewis, Deb
Subject: Ivan Doig?

The program staff at our local library is interested in inviting Ivan Doig to Durango next fall to be the keynote speaker for a week-long Showcase of the Arts festival. Do you have any information you can share with me about his touring schedule, his publicist, whether he charges a speaker's fee, etc? We just unpacked the box with Work Song in it...same day they just sent the request my way! Good timing, I'm hoping.

Many thanks and hope you're well.

Libby Cowles
Community Relations Manager
Maria's Bookshop
960 Main Avenue, Durango, CO 81301
970.247.1438
libby@mariasbookshop.com
Michael and Matthew, hi--

Re Durango: sorry, no go. Given the medicinal constraint on me that we talked over in the conference call, I have to continually parse what I can best do for Work Song, and judging by the past, art festivals and bookfests with their laundry list of other attractions aren’t our best shot. (Particularly, like Durango, bless its heart, where there’s a lot of puddlejump flying to get there and not much of a population when you do.) Let’s expend me on solo events or big gatherings of influential folks like ALA insofar as we can, okay?

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Many thanks and hope you’re well.

Libby Cowles
Community Relations Manager
Maria’s Bookshop
960 Main Avenue, Durango, CO 81301
970.247.1438
libby@mariasbookshop.com
www.mariasbookshop.com
Say just enough.

Michael J. Matthew
52 yrs old
press kit materials &c. prior - get job

Michael:
- no big tour anyway
- cities
- tailor to: wait

secure - Alan Walker

- Win -

Costco - problem for stores rather than benefit
- SW deal w/ them

Pavella's

5 - multiple stores, media

visit in Sept. - Durango
January 2010

Dear Reviewer/Editor:

Over the course of more than four decades and a dozen books, Montana native Ivan Doig has been anointed “a presiding figure in the literature of the American West” (New York Times), and his work deemed “a national treasure” (USA Today). A National Book Award Finalist and winner of a Wallace Stegner Award, Doig is celebrated for his vivid evocations of the full sweep of the Western experience, with stories and characters whose significance and appeal reach far beyond regional and generational boundaries.

In his new novel, WORK SONG (Riverhead Books; June 29, 2010; $25.95; ISBN: 978-1-59448-762-0), Doig returns to what may be his most popular character ever, Morrie Morgan, last spotted leaving a one-room schoolhouse in rural Montana in 2006’s The Whistling Season. A national bestseller, The Whistling Season was hailed as “flawless” (O, The Oprah Magazine), “evocative” (The New Yorker), and “luminous” (The Seattle Times), and selected as a New York Times Editors’ Choice and a Washington Post Book World Best Book of the Year. Now, in WORK SONG, the charmingly bookish Morrie Morgan is drawn back to Montana a decade after he left, lured by “the richest hill on earth,” the copper-mining city of Butte in its post-World War I salad days. But while Butte’s pecuniary riches remain out of reach, Morrie becomes acquainted with a wealth of colorful characters—a street urchin so skinny he’s called Russian Famine; a lovely widow propitiously named Grace; a pair of beefy company goons; and his rancher-turned-librarian boss, whose very nickname seems to make the locals quake. When Morrie happens onto a former student—the vivacious Rabrab, whom readers also met in The Whistling Season—and her charismatic union leader fiancé, he soon finds himself caught up in a clash between the tyrannical mining company, radical outside agitators, and the beleaguered union.

With all the old-fashioned storytelling, distinctive prose, and knack for memorable characters that have marked Doig’s illustrious career, WORK SONG brings to life one of his most fascinating historical settings to date—diverse, thrumming, volatile Butte at its climactic moment, a city and an era that ultimately played a vital role in shaping America’s industrial future. Rich in many of the ingredients that brought readers to The Whistling Song, but with its own undertow of circumstance, humor, and drama, WORK SONG is a sweeping American tale from the writer the San Francisco Chronicle calls “the reigning
master of new Western literature,” who “sees a place in all our minds, not just those who live in and write about the West.”

**Ivan Doig** was born in Montana and has worked as a ranch hand, newspaperman, and magazine editor. The author of twelve previous books, including the classic memoir *This House of Sky*, he has been a National Book Award finalist and has won numerous awards. He lives in Seattle.

We’re pleased to share with you this impressive new work a seasoned writer whose rich career only grows richer with each book. We hope you enjoy it and will consider it for prominent review and feature coverage. Please don’t hesitate to be in touch with any questions or to arrange an interview with **Ivan Doig**.

Sincerely,

Michael Barson  
Co-Director of Publicity

Matthew Venzon  
Associate Director of Publicity

212-366-2547 TEL.  
Michael.Barson@us.penguinrandomhouse.com

212-366-2558 TEL.  
Matthew.Venzon@us.penguinrandomhouse.com

-over-
WORK SONG
By Ivan Doig

Praise for Ivan Doig’s The Whistling Season:

“When a voice as pleasurable as [Doig’s] evokes a lost era, somehow it doesn’t seem so lost after all.” —The Washington Post

Book World

“[Doig’s] writing is as well crafted as the best carpentry. The Whistling Season does what Doig does best: evoke the past and create a landscape and characters worth caring about….It’s lovely storytelling, whether you’re in Montana or New York.” —USA Today

“Doig is in the best sense an old-fashioned novelist: You feel as if you’re in the hands of an absolute expert at storymaking, a hard-hewn frontier version of Walter Scott or early Dickens. The landscape and characters are vivid, the prose flawless, and like the earlier masters, Doig imbues each scene and his spacious story with deep emotional understanding and a sense of possibility and personal adventure. The Whistling Seasons is a book that strives for more than beauty, which it achieves: It reaches for joy.” —O, The Oprah Magazine

“Luminous…Doig has given us yet another memorable tale set in the historical West but contemporary in its themes and universal in its insights into the human heart.” —The Seattle Times

Morris Morgan hasn’t set foot in Montana since he made his colorful exit from small-town Marias Coulee a decade earlier in Ivan Doig’s bestselling novel, The Whistling Season (2006). But now, Morrie—inimitable teacher, walking encyclopedia, and mustachioed charmer—steps off the train in Butte, Montana, the copper mining capital of the world, in hopes of securing some of the riches of the “richest hill on earth” for himself.

It’s 1919, and postwar Butte is in its wild heyday, a teeming metropolis with all the order of a gypsy camp, full of foreign accents and cosmopolitan vices, and dominated by the behemoth
copper mining company Anaconda. While the treasures of Butte elude him, Morrie finds happy employment at the surprisingly well-stocked Butte Public Library, and a comfortable room at a boardinghouse run by the prettily dimpled young widow Grace.

But just as Morrie is beginning to settle in to his new life, an encounter with a former student—the exuberant Babar from *The Whistling Season*, now engaged to a fiery young union leader—leads him into the center of a rough-and-tumble labor dispute between the Anaconda mining company, the radical “Wobblies” labor agitators, and the moderate mine unionists. Forced to take sides, Morrie aligns himself with the latter, and his formidable store of knowledge and rousing powers of persuasion prove him to be a valuable asset for the union—as well as a source of suspicion for Anaconda and their intimidating company goons. “If America was a melting pot, Butte seemed to be its boiling point,” Morrie observes, and his conflicted relationship with the mercurial Grace, along with disturbing revelations about his employer—the former rancher-turned-librarian Sam Sandison—only turn up the heat. As tensions reach the point of combustion, Morrie will turn to the power of music and language to give a voice to those who most need it.

Bestselling and award-winning author Ivan Doig's latest is a feat of storytelling that reunites readers with Doig's most popular character, the beloved fount-of-knowledge Morrie Morgan, while bringing to vivid life the wildest moment in the history of one of America's seminal cities, when post-World War I tumult and rapid industrialization made America “less a nation than a continental nervous condition.” Populated with a colorful cast and executed with the rich language and unexpected wit that are Doig’s trademark, *WORK SONG* (Riverhead Books; June 29, 2010; $25.95; ISBN: 978-1-59448-762-0) is a definitively American novel from the author the *Chicago Sun-Times* calls the “premier writer of the American West.”

**About the Author:**
Ivan Doig was born in White Sulphur Springs, Montana, the grandson of homesteaders and the son of ranch workers, and grew up along the Rocky Mountain Front, the dramatic landscape that has inspired much of his writing. A former ranch hand, newspaperman, and magazine editor, Doig holds a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University, as well as a Ph.D. in history from the University of Washington. He is the author of twelve previous books of fiction and non-fiction, including the highly acclaimed memoir *This House of Sky*, a finalist for the National Book Award. His most recent novel, the national bestseller *The Whistling Season*, was named a *New York Times* Editors’ Choice and a *Washington Post Book World* Best Book of the Year. He has received a Wallace Stegner Award and a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Western Literature Association, among other honors. Doig lives in Seattle.

## WORK SONG
By Ivan Doig
Riverhead Books
Publication Date: June 29, 2010
ISBN: 978-1-59448-762-0
Price: $25.95
Michael Barson  
Co-Director of Publicity  
212-366-2547 TEL.  
Michael.Barson@us.penguin.com

Matthew Venzon  
Associate Director of Publicity  
212-366-2558 TEL.  
Matthew.Venzon@us.penguin.com

-continued on next page-

-over-
Hi Ivan and Carol,

Here are some draft press materials for the book. I've made a few changes and you may of course make more. We'll talk about the Q&A in the Thursday call along with everything else. (Michael's and Matt's titles are on the pitch letter, by the way.)

All best,

Becky

<<Doig-QA CLEAN.doc>> <<Doig-pitch CLEAN.doc>> <<Doig-release CLEAN.doc>>

From: Venzon, Matthew  
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2010 3:34 PM  
To: Saletan, Rebecca  
Cc: Barson, Michael S  
Subject: Doig Press Materials

Becky -

I'm attaching the materials we'll eventually be sending out with Whistling Season galleys. We'll talk to Ivan about the Q&A when we have our call on Thursday. And once you've looked everything over, we'll send on to Ivan for his review.

Matthew

Doig-QA CLEAN (36.0 KB)  Doig-pitch CLEAN (31.0 KB)  Doig-release CLEAN (35.5 KB)
Answers to WORK SONG Conversation questions

1. With his golden tongue and quicksilver mind, Morrie has turned out to be such a treasure for a writer that I figured it would be a mistake not to welcome him back onto the page. After his performances of mental magic in the one-room schoolhouse of The Whistling Season, countless of the readers who made that book a runaway hit remarked to me, “Oh, I wish I’d had a teacher who could talk like that.” It seemed only natural for such a compelling voice to take over the telling of this next story. By now, I’m not sure which of us is the ventriloquist: Morrie or me.

2. In its copper heyday, Butte and its “richest hill on earth” were unique; more than a mining town, it was the largest city of the northern Rockies, straining to be cosmopolitan, with mile-deep mineshafts directly beneath its busy streets. The place saw itself as self-made, tough, and proud—never short on attitude; as Morrie notices, when people say they’re from Butte, their chin comes up an inch on the word.

   Why 1919? It was a time full of trouble, always a lure for a novelist. The period just after World War One was terrifically contentious in America, with labor strife, fear of domestic Bolshevism, and government and Wall Street suppression of dissent. Butte with its mineral wealth and rock-hard miners, many of them foreign born, was a crucible of all that. It’s a setting where characters hear the big questions of life in their sleep, in the round-the-clock workings of the mines on the famous and infamous hill.

3. Writers endlessly have called Butte in its smoky industrial heyday “the Pittsburgh of the West,” but Morrie and I prefer to dub it “the Constantinople of the Rockies” because it was such a colossal mix of peoples. Hard-rock miners from several nations came seeking some of the best wages in the world on that “richest hill,” and in blood-bound habit they formed their own neighborhoods—Dublin Gulch for the Irish, Meaderville for the Italians, not be confused with Centerville for the Cornish, Finntown self-explanatory, and so on. This simmer of nationalities inevitably added to the heated labor atmosphere of the time.

4. To me, research is like that dark mysterious hill that stands over Butte and its great era—I know valuable stuff is there, but it takes a lot of digging.

   On the large scale, I take great care that my characters and their circumstances are subject to the laws of historical gravity—in this novel, the bootleg bottle in a coat pocket at an Irish wake is a Butte fact of life a year before national Prohibition because Montana had voted itself dry, for instance.

   The finer details, what I call the slow poetry of fact, simply have to be gathered one by one, like nuggets. This meant spending time in Butte, traipsing around to the old mine sites—in near-freezing weather, in June!—to find what my characters would have experienced nearly a century ago, such as the phone booth-size elevator that plunges Morrie to the blandly named “thirty hundred level”—i.e., three thousand feet beneath the surface of the earth. The crystalizing details I seek are often in some obscure record of the past—where Google doesn’t go, or at least hadn’t gone yet when I was doing my research. One of my best finds began with a single photo at the bottom of a pile in a historical archive. I had gone through many, many photos showing miners at work and people of the time in their downtown clothes, but this one picture with nobody in it caught my imagination. It featured the Butte Public Library of the time, a wonderful architectural show-off—a gray granite extravaganza with arched doorways and a balcony and a peaked tower like a castle. Just the kind of place, I knew at once, where Morrie would go to consult the city directory for some job worthy of his unique talents and fall in love with “the finest book collection west of Chicago.” A visit to the current Butte library brought forth a file folder of yellowed newspaper clippings which showed what the old library looked like inside—and as if that wasn’t enough, the librarians took down from the wall a framed photo of the glorious old Reading Room and duplicated it for me.
5. A novelist with as many books as I’ve written—now a full round ten—has to be a kind of troubadour, and troubadors have always known that songs brighten a story. And inventing the songs that are the anthems of my characters’ lives gives me one more way to stretch the craft of writing toward the areas where it mysteriously starts to be art. That is, the territory that my friend Norman Maclean said was the secret of writers like him and me, the poetry under the prose—rhythm, word choice, lyrical intent premeditated.

6. You bet, some of the songs in the novel are from my non-piano keyboard. Which ones, I’m not saying, as music is best when it has a little mystery to it.

   The process? What can I tell you—it’s magic. More seriously, a song develops from some rhyme or turn of phrase that catches my imagination. It is much like writing poetry, which I’ve also done for some of my books, except for a more pronounced rhythm. The syllables in a line have to be counted to make the right beat—and they have to be the right syllables to create musicality.

7. There’s a whole list of songwriters I admire, especially of the Broadway sort, but let me single out one virtuoso performance. Not long ago I attended a revival of *The Music Man* and realized that virtually every song in the show, different as they are from one another, hums on and on in our national memory. Hats off to Meredith Wilson.

8. The library’s wondrous book collection provides Morrie “the wealth of minds down through all of recorded time,” and in particular, the inspiration at a crucial point of the story to take a risk as immortal writers do, to “set sail on the winds of chance.”

9. To me, language—the substance on the page, that poetry under the prose—is the ultimate ‘region’, the true home, for a writer. Specific geographies, sure, but out beyond, galaxies of imaginative expression. We’ve seen both exist in William Faulkner’s postage stamp-size Yoknapatawpha County, in Ismail Kadare’s *Chronicle in Stone* of a nowhere little Albanian city tossed back and forth with the dice of war, in Roddy Doyle’s hilarious heartbreaking rough beasts of dialogue in his Barrytown trilogy of the Dublin slums, in Nadine Gordimer’s fearlessly particularized stories from a land of “laws made of skin and hair”, South Africa under the apartheid regime. If I have any creed that I wish readers, necessary accomplices in this flirtatious ceremony of reading and writing, will take from my pages, it’d be this belief of mine that writers of calibre—the ones whose footsteps I try to follow in—can ground their work in specific land and lingo and yet be writing of that larger country: life.

10. Morrie is slicker than I am, more dapper, more rogush, more an intellectual jack-of-all-trades. And I don’t carry a set of brass knuckles.

11. I always have book ideas cooking, and the next one is about a bachelor saloonkeeper with a past, “the best bartender who ever lived,” and his incurably curious son, set in the 1960s.

   But will the reading world hear more from Morrie? Like him, I’d never say never.
Ivan
My pleasure. Now if you could get me of those lovely volumes from the glorious vault of the butte public library...

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 21, 2010, at 5:09 PM, carol doig <cddoig@comcast.net> wrote:

Tim, hi--

I owe you mightily for the great and grand blurb on Work Song. Beer! An underground tour, perhaps even led by our own abiding dude Zoreich! (I'm assuming you've heard that Frank Z. has been hired to oversee the 3 doz. underground tour guides--best-paying job of his life, he says.) In any case, many thanks for the look at the book, as I know what a chore blurbs add up to. I hope all is well with thee and the Big Burn--all best to Joni, too.

Hugs and tickles,
Ivan
We're set for a phone call with publicity at 4 pm next Thursday (1/25). Michael Barson will be on the call, also Mathew Venzon, who will be working with Michael on the book. And I'll be there too.

Tim Egan's email address is nytegan@gmail.com.
Tim, hi--

I owe you mightily for the great and grand blurb on Work Song. Beer! An underground tour, perhaps even led by our own abiding dude Zoretich! (I'm assuming you've heard that Frank Z. has been hired to oversee the 3 doz. underground tour guides--best-paying job of his life, he says.) In any case, many thanks for the look at the book, as I know what a chore blurbs add up to. I hope all is well with thee and the Big Burn--all best to Joni, too.

Hugs and tickles,
Ivan
Dear Doigs,
See this very good comment from Tim Egan. I'll shorten a little for jacket copy but I really like it. I sent it on to Jamie Ford with a nudge as well.
When you are back in Seattle, let's arrange a phone chat with Michael Barson from our publicity department so you at least start to have a voice to put with that entity. I know they are starting to get various requests for you, Ivan, and will probably want to hear from your own mouth the kinds of things you are willing and not so willing to do.
Best,  
Becky

---

From: Timothy Egan [mailto:nytegan@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010 2:16 PM
To: Saletan, Rebecca
Subject: a note on Ivan Doig's book

Hey, Becky--

Thanks for sending along Ivan Doig's latest, WORK SONG, which I've just finished, and really enjoyed. You may quote me thusly if you wish:

With WORK SONG, the most tumultuous, quirky, and fascinating city in the American West of the last century has finally found a story teller equal to its stories. Just as Dashell Hammett mined the Richest Hill on Earth for an early novel, Ivan Doig brings to life the core of humanity, and a hell of cast, amidst the shadows and sorrows of Butte, Montana -- a city that could say it never slept well before New York made a similiar claim.

Hope you're prospering at Riverhead. I've been lucky to find a great and sympathetic talent in your friend Andrea at HMH.

Cheers,
Tim
January 27, 2010, 6:18 pm

iCountry News

By TIMOTHY EGAN

Timothy Egan on American politics and life, as seen from the West.

Tags:

authors, books, iPad, publishing, steve jobs

The maestro has spoken. The all-powerful Oz has come and gone. Behold: after a buildup so big it makes the State of the Union speech look like a rebranding of Grape Nuts, Steve Jobs has descended from the mountain with a tablet. The written word is safe — for now — with him.

The Apple chief executive, who famously said he had no interest in developing an electronic reader because "people don’t read anymore." is now betting the next lifestyle-changing product, in part, on readers.

Will he save publishing by weaning people from a perfectly adequate 500-year-old technology, the book? Will he save newspapers by making gray print look cool again? Does the rollout of the iPad mark the end of the giveaway culture that has been poison for American journalism and book-lovers?

Looking to Steve Jobs for the answers is asking too much of one man, even one known for guiding some of the wildest horses of Web into the safety of his gilded corral. He called the tablet he unveiled Wednesday “a truly magical and revolutionary product.” In bare terms, it’s a big iPhone, allowing people to carry all their movies, tunes, books, magazines, newspapers and the Web itself in something that still won’t fit in a coat pocket, and will not withstand beach sand.

For now, let’s look at what it means for book culture — the lifeboat that is American literacy, storm-tossed
and lost at sea in the new century.

I live in Seattle, a place recently touted, again, as America’s most literate city. Seattle is also home to Amazon.com, the nation’s biggest online retailer. Last Christmas Day, Amazon sold more e-books for its Kindle reader than regular books. A first. This happened just days after Laredo, Tex., a city of nearly a quarter-million people, shuttered its last standing book store, becoming the first metropolis of that size to be barren of books sold the old-fashioned way.

Amazon’s triumph and Laredo’s loss are linked, many would say — the Web robo-seller crushing the quirky corner book store. And it can only get worse, the pessimists have it, with Apple moving aggressively into e-reading with an iBooks reader as part of its sexy and slender tablet.

The traditional book, judging by Jobs’s announcement, and a recent eulogy of sorts by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, is headed for that cultural compost pile of long-playing albums, Kodachrome film and boxy computers nicknamed Hal.

This raises two issues: what the loss of book stores does to communities, and what the brave new publishing world will mean to authors and readers.

The last outpost of books in Laredo was a second-tier chain store selling the usual ghostwritten celebrity tell-alls, branded fiction and political screeds for people who need more empty calories in their one-sided cable news diet. But if Denver were to lose Tattered Cover, or Portland lose Powell’s, or Washington, D.C., lose Politics and Prose, it would be like ripping one lung from a healthy body. These stores are cultural centers, shared living rooms; no virtual community on the Web, or even a well-run library, can replace them.

The good news, the recession shows, is that most of the iconic independents will survive. The creaky-floored, coffee-scented, musty redoubts will be retreats for people like the book-loving hero of Ivan Doig’s “Work Song,” an upcoming novel.

“Down any aisle,” Doig writes, “Stendhal or Blake or Wharton or Cather or Shakespeare or Homer or any of the Russians waited to share words with me, their classic sentences in richly inked typefaces as if rising from the paper.”

The second issue concerns compensation, as writers face a conundrum that musicians have long been struggling with.

I can’t pass by the headquarters of Amazon, a glorious 1932 Art Deco fortress, without hearing the voices of so many in Manhattan publishing circles who think of it as a Temple of Doom. But an e-book sold for Amazon’s Kindle brings the author the same royalty as a hardbound book. The iBooks will not be much different. So what’s the big deal?

Publishers believe that Amazon, by selling books on Kindle for $9.99, are willingly losing money to condition the public into buying books for far less than a $25 hardbound, ultimately forcing authors to earn less money. My fellow Seattleite, the magical writer and National Book Award winner Sherman Alexie, stirred up a storm last year when he called Kindle “elitist,” for its $259 price. The iPad will cost twice that, at the low end.

Alexie owes his rise out of poverty, he says, to the surfeit of cheap books floating around the Indian reservation where he grew up in Eastern Washington. Books saved his life.
“I’m not even remotely a Luddite,” Alexie says. But he is afraid that once Apple and Amazon become the primary sellers of books, through devices he calls “a series of high-priced and pretty bookshelves,” it will further imperil authors. And he could be right: there were 9 million illegal downloads of copyright-protected books in the closing months of 2009, according to the Association of American Publishers.

That’s 9 million books pirated. Where would the brilliant Robert Caro be — certainly not with enough of an advance to sustain a 30-years-and-counting, multiple-volume opus on Lyndon Johnson — if publishing were left to the whims of the electronic market? So goes the argument.

In the end, whether books come on clay or wrapped in vellum, whether they are as ornately illustrated as “The Book of Kells,” or as plain as a city directory, I have to place my trust in readers. Tactile readers, e-readers: Save us all! Never give up on the power of the written word, no matter the form, and hold its gatekeepers accountable.

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Next post For Wall Street, Tough Talk, but Weak Reforms By WILLIAM D. COHAN
March 2010

Dear Reviewer/Editor:

Over the course of more than four decades and a dozen books, Montana native Ivan Doig has been anointed “a presiding figure in the literature of the American West” (New York Times), and his work deemed “a national treasure” (USA Today). A National Book Award Finalist and winner of a Wallace Stegner Award, Doig is celebrated for his vivid evocations of the full sweep of the Western experience, with stories and characters whose significance and appeal reach far beyond regional and generational boundaries.

In his new novel, WORK SONG (Riverhead Books; July 1, 2010; $25.95; ISBN: 978-1-59448-762-0), Doig returns to what may be his most popular character ever, Morrie Morgan, last spotted leaving a one-room schoolhouse in rural Montana in 2006’s The Whistling Season. A national bestseller, The Whistling Season was hailed as “flawless” (O, The Oprah Magazine), “evocative” (The New Yorker), and “luminous” (The Seattle Times), and selected as a New York Times Editors’ Choice and a Washington Post Book World Best Book of the Year. Now, in WORK SONG, the charmingly bookish Morrie is drawn back to Montana a decade after he left, lured by “the richest hill on earth,” the copper-mining city of Butte in its post-World War I salad days. But while Butte’s pecuniary riches dangle out of reach, Morrie becomes acquainted with a wealth of colorful characters—a street urchin so skinny he’s called Russian Famine; a lovely widow propitiously named Grace; a pair of beefy company goons; and his rancher-turned-librarian boss, whose very nickname makes the locals quake. When Morrie happens onto a former student—the vivacious Rabrab, whom readers also met in The Whistling Season—and her charismatic union leader fiancé, he soon finds himself caught up in a clash between the tyrannical mining company, radical outside agitators, and the beleaguered union.

With all the old-fashioned storytelling, distinctive prose, and knack for memorable characters that have marked Doig’s illustrious career, WORK SONG brings to life one of his most fascinating historical settings to date—diverse, thrumming, volatile Butte at its climactic moment, a city and an era that ultimately played a vital role in shaping America’s industrial future. Rich in many of the ingredients that brought readers to The Whistling Song, but with its own undertow of circumstance, humor, and drama, WORK SONG is a sweeping American tale from the writer the San Francisco Chronicle calls “the reigning master of new Western literature,” who “sees a place in all our minds, not just those who live in and write about the West.”

-over-
Ivan Doig was born in Montana and has worked as a ranch hand, newspaperman, and magazine editor. The author of twelve previous books, including the classic memoir This House of Sky, he has been a National Book Award finalist and has won numerous awards. He lives in Seattle.

We’re pleased to share with you this impressive new work a seasoned writer whose rich career only grows richer with each book. We hope you enjoy it and will consider it for prominent review and feature coverage. Please don’t hesitate to be in touch with any questions or to arrange an interview with Ivan Doig.

Sincerely,

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WORK SONG
By Ivan Doig

Praise for Ivan Doig’s The Whistling Season:

“When a voice as pleasurable as [Doig’s] evokes a lost era, somehow it doesn’t seem so lost after all.”
—The Washington Post Book World

“[Doig’s] writing is as well crafted as the best carpentry. The Whistling Season does what Doig does best: evoke the past and create a landscape and characters worth caring about….It’s lovely storytelling, whether you’re in Montana or New York.”
—USA Today

“Doig is in the best sense an old-fashioned novelist: You feel as if you’re in the hands of an absolute expert at storytelling, a hard-hewn frontier version of Walter Scott or early Dickens. The landscape and characters are vivid, the prose flawless, and like the earlier masters, Doig imbues each scene and his spacious story with deep emotional understanding and a sense of possibility and personal adventure. The Whistling Seasons is a book that strives for more than beauty, which it achieves: It reaches for joy.”
—O, The Oprah Magazine

“Luminous…Doig has given us yet another memorable tale set in the historical West but contemporary in its themes and universal in its insights into the human heart.”
—The Seattle Times

Morris Morgan hasn’t set foot in Montana since he made his colorful exit from small-town Marias Coulee a decade earlier in Ivan Doig’s bestselling novel, The Whistling Season (2006). But now, Morrie—inimitable teacher, walking encyclopedia, and mustachioed charmer—steps off the train in Butte, Montana, the copper mining capital of the world, in hopes of securing some of the riches of the “richest hill on earth” for himself.

It’s 1919, and postwar Butte is in its wild heyday, a teeming metropolis with all the order of a gypsy camp, full of foreign accents and cosmopolitan vices, and dominated by the behemoth copper mining company Anaconda. While the treasures of Butte elude him, Morrie finds happy employment at the surprisingly well-stocked Butte Public Library, and a comfortable room at a boardinghouse run by the prettily dimpled young widow Grace.

-over-
But just as Morrie is beginning to settle in to his new life, an encounter with a former student—the exuberant Rabrab from *The Whistling Season*, now engaged to a fiery young union leader—leads him into the center of a rough-and-tumble labor dispute between the Anaconda mining company, the radical “Wobbly” labor agitators, and the moderate mine unionists. Forced to take sides, Morrie aligns himself with the latter, and his formidable store of knowledge and rousing powers of persuasion prove him to be a valuable asset for the union—as well as a source of suspicion for Anaconda and their intimidating company goons. “If America was a melting pot, Butte seemed to be its boiling point,” Morrie observes, and his conflicted relationship with the mercurial Grace, along with disturbing revelations about his employer—the former rancher-turned-librarian Sam Sandison—only turn up the heat. As tensions reach the point of combustion, Morrie will turn to the power of music and language to give a voice to those who most need it.

Bestselling and award-winning author Ivan Doig’s latest is a feat of storytelling that reunites readers with Doig’s most popular character, the beloved fount-of-knowledge Morrie Morgan, while bringing to vivid life the wildest moment in the history of one of America’s seminal cities, when post-World War I tumult and rapid industrialization made America “less a nation than a continental nervous condition.” Populated with a colorful cast and executed with the rich language and unexpected wit that are Doig’s trademark, *WORK SONG (Riverhead Books; July 1, 2010; $25.95; ISBN: 978-1-59448-762-0)* is a definitively American novel from the author the *Chicago Sun-Times* calls the “premier writer of the American West.”

**About the Author:**
Ivan Doig was born in White Sulphur Springs, Montana, the grandson of homesteaders and the son of ranch workers, and grew up along the Rocky Mountain Front, the dramatic landscape that has inspired much of his writing. A former ranch hand, newspaperman, and magazine editor, Doig holds a master’s degree in journalism from Northwestern University, as well as a Ph.D. in history from the University of Washington. He is the author of twelve previous books of fiction and non-fiction, including the highly acclaimed memoir *This House of Sky*, a finalist for the National Book Award. His recent novel, the national bestseller *The Whistling Season*, was named a *New York Times* Editors’ Choice and a *Washington Post Book World* Best Book of the Year. He has received a Wallace Stegner Award and a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Western Literature Association, among other honors. Doig lives in Seattle.

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Accolades for
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Praise for The Whistling Season:

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— O, The Oprah Magazine

"Along with his much praised, incantatory gifts for evoking quintessentially American prairie life and history, the National Book Award finalist brings…a bushel and peck of irresistible characters, each so full of spunk, wit, ambition or sheer orneriness that not one of them will lie down on the page and sleep for a moment."

— Los Angeles Times Book Review

"You can see the evidence of [Doig’s] experience in his new novel: its gentle pace, its persistent warmth, its complete freedom from cynicism—and the confidence to take those risks without winking or apologizing. When a voice as pleasurable as pleasurable as his evokes a lost era, somehow it doesn’t seem so lost after all."

— The Washington Post Book World

"Doig offers a gentle appreciation of the secrets beneath the surface of everyday life, set against a Western landscape that is described in concrete detail."

— The New Yorker

"As well crafted as the best carpentry. The Whistling Season does what Doig does best: evoke the past and create a landscape and characters worth caring about."

— USA Today

- over -
"Doig is at his best...The Whistling Season is one of those novels that sets its own stage in the opening pages, promising unique characters, poetic passages and memorable scenes. And, perhaps, more than in any of his previous volumes, Doig delivers."

- Rocky Mountain News (Denver)

"What a pleasure it is to sink into this story, which is told with old-fashioned sentences (simple but elegant, and ready to charm you with what they have to say) and old-fashioned storytelling prowess."

- The Arizona Republic

"A deeply meditated and achieved art."

- The New York Times Book Review

"A paean to the sheltering world of local, rural schooling...by turns evocative and unsettlingly anachronistic."

- The Boston Globe

"The Whistling Season won me over on the first page...The prose positively sings in this elegy to the one-room schoolhouse and the kind of community it once fostered."

- Minneapolis Star Tribune

"[Doig] is masterful at portraying the emotional complexities of family and community through the eyes of a precocious youngster...The stalwart American virtue of a common public education for all comes through heroically in this novel."

- The Seattle Times

"The Whistling Season is a book to pass on to your favorite readers: a story of lives of active choice, lived actively."

- Rick Bass, Publishers Weekly

"This is [Doig's] best novel since the marvelous English Creek...[The Whistling Season] has all the charm of old-school storytelling, from Dickens to Laura Ingalls Wilder...An entrancing new chapter in the literature of the West."

- Booklist, starred review

# # #

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A conversation with

IVAN DOIG

author of WORK SONG

Q: WORK SONG is a return to the story of Morris Morgan, one of the central characters of your bestselling 2006 novel, The Whistling Season. What compelled you to return to this character and his story?

A: With his golden tongue and quicksilver mind, Morrie has turned out to be such a treasure for a writer that I figured it would be a mistake not to welcome him back onto the page. After his performances of mental magic in the one-room schoolhouse of The Whistling Season, countless of the readers who made that book a runaway hit remarked to me, “Oh, I wish I’d had a teacher who could talk like that.” It seemed only natural for such a compelling voice to take over the telling of this next story. By now, I’m not sure which of us is the ventriloquist: Morrie or me.

Q: Why did you choose to set the novel in 1919 Butte? What is it about this city and this era that fascinated you?

A: In its copper heyday, Butte and its “richest hill on earth” were unique; more than a mining town, it was the largest city of the northern Rockies, straining to be cosmopolitan, with mile-deep mineshafts directly beneath its busy streets. The place saw itself as self-made, tough, and proud – never short on attitude; as Morrie notices, when people say they’re from Butte, their chin comes up an inch on the word. Why 1919? It was a time full of trouble, always a lure for a novelist. The period just after World War One was terrifically contentious in America, with labor strife, fear of domestic Bolshevism, and government and Wall Street suppression of dissent. Butte with its mineral wealth and rock-hard miners, many of them foreign born, was a crucible of all that. It’s a setting where characters hear the big questions of life in their sleep, in the round-the-clock workings of the mines on the famous and infamous hill.

Q: At one point in the novel, Morrie says, “If America was a melting pot, Butte seemed to be its boiling point.” What does he mean by that?

A: Writers endlessly have called Butte in its smoky industrial heyday “the Pittsburgh of the West,” but Morrie and I prefer to dub it “the Constantinople of the Rockies” because it was such a colossal mix of peoples. Hard-rock miners from several nations came seeking some of the best wages in the world on that “richest hill,” and in blood-bound habit they formed their own neighborhoods – Dublin Gulch for the Irish, Meaderville for the Italians, not to be confused with Centerville for the Cornish, Finntown self-explanatory, and so on. This simmer of nationalities inevitably added to the heated labor atmosphere of the time.

-over-
Q: The book is rich in historical detail, from the vernacular its characters speak to the labor politics to the baseball rivalries. How much research did the book require? What were some of your best “finds” and where did you happen on them?

A: To me, research is like that dark mysterious hill that stands over Butte and its great era—I know valuable stuff is there but it takes a lot of digging. On the large scale, I take great care that my characters and their circumstances are subject to the laws of historical gravity—in this novel, the bootleg bottle in a coat pocket at an Irish wake is a Butte fact of life a year before national Prohibition because Montana had voted itself dry, for instance. The finer details, what I call the slow poetry of fact, simply have to be gathered one by one, like nuggets. This meant spending time in Butte, traipsing around to the old mine sites—in near-freezing weather, in June!—to find what my characters would have experienced nearly a century ago, such as the phone booth-size elevator that plunges Morrie to the blandly named “thirty hundred level”—i.e., three thousand feet beneath the surface of the earth. The crystallizing details I seek are often in some obscure record of the past—where Google doesn’t go, or at least hadn’t gone yet when I was doing my research.

One of my best finds began with a single photo at the bottom of a pile in a historical archive. I had gone through many, many photos showing miners at work and people of the time in their downtown clothes, but this one picture with nobody in it caught my imagination. It featured the Butte Public Library of the time, a wonderful architectural show-off—a gray granite extravaganza with arched doorways and a balcony and a peaked tower like a castle. Just the kind of place, I knew at once, where Morrie would go to consult the city directory for some job worthy of his unique talents and fall in love with “the finest book collection west of Chicago.” A visit to the current Butte library brought forth a file folder of yellowed newspaper clippings which showed what the old library looked like inside—and as if that wasn’t enough, the librarians took down from the wall a framed photo of the glorious old Reading Room and duplicated it for me.

Q: While song plays a prominent role in this novel—even making its way into the book’s title—it has also made an appearance in many of your previous books, from the Scandinavian drinking song in The Sea Runners to the old Scottish ballad in Dancing at the Rascal Fair to the homesteaders’ song in The Whistling Season. Why has song been so consistently present in your work?

A: A writer with as many novels as I’ve written—now a full round ten— has to be a kind of troubadour, and troubadours have always known that songs brighten a story. And inventing the songs that are the anthems of my characters’ lives gives me one more way to stretch the craft of writing toward the areas where it mysteriously starts to be art. That is, the territory that my friend Norman Maclean said was the secret of writers like him and me, the poetry under the prose—rhythm, word choice, lyrical intent premeditated.

Q: Did you write any of the songs that appear in the novel, or were they all preexisting? If you did write any of them, what is your process of writing a song? How does this compare to writing poetry (a form you also have a rich background in) or prose?

A: You bet. Some of the songs in the novel are from my non-piano keyboard. Which ones, I’m not saying, as music is best when it has a little mystery to it. The process? What can I tell you—it’s magic. More seriously, a song develops from some rhyme or turn of phrase that catches my imagination. It is much like writing poetry, which I’ve also done for some of my books, except for a more pronounced rhythm. The syllables in a line have to be counted to make the right beat—and they have to be the right syllables to create musicality.

Q: What songwriters do you admire? What period of songwriting inspires you most?

A: There’s a whole list of songwriters I admire, especially of the Broadway sort, but let me single out one virtuoso performance. Not long ago, I attended a revival of The Music Man and realized virtually every song-

-continued on next page-
in the show, different as they are from one another, hums on and on in our national memory. Hats off to Meredith Wilson.

Q: Much of the book plays out against the backdrop of the Butte library, where Morrie works. What is the role of literature in the novel?

A: The library’s wondrous book collection provides Morrie “the wealth of minds down through all of recorded time,” and in particular, the inspiration at a crucial point of the story to take a risk as immortal writers do, to “set sail on the winds of chance.”

Q: You grew up in Montana, which has provided the setting for much of your work. Yet you’ve said that you don’t consider yourself a “Western” writer. Why not?

A: To me, language—the substance on the page, that poetry under the prose—is the ultimate ‘region,’ the truth home, for a writer. Specific geographies, sure, but out beyond, galaxies of imaginative expression. We’ve seen both exist in William Faulkner’s postage stamp-size Yoknapatawpha County, in Ismail Kadaré’s *Chronicle in Stone* of a nowhere little Albanian city tossed back and forth with the dice of war, in Roddy Doyle’s hilarious heartbreaking rough beasts of dialogue in his Barrytown trilogy of the Dublin slums, in Nadine Gordimer’s fearlessly particularized stories from a land of “laws made of skin and hair”, South Africa under the apartheid regime. If I have any creed that I wish readers, necessary accomplices in this flirtatious ceremony of reading and writing, will take from my pages, it’d be this belief of mine that writers of caliber—the ones whose footsteps I try to follow in—can ground their work in specific land and lingo and yet be writing of that larger country: life.

Q: You seem to share some of the interests that you have instilled in your character, Morrie—a love of literature, of course, of music, and of teaching and speaking. How much of yourself, if any, do you think there is in Morrie?

A: Morrie is slicker than I am, more dapper, more roguish, more an intellectual jack-of-all-trades. And I don’t carry a set of brass knuckles.

Q: Have you decided what you will write next? Is there more to come from Morrie Morgan?

A: I always have book ideas cooking, and the next one is about a bachelor saloonkeeper with a past, “the best bartender who ever lived,” and his incurably curious son, set in the 1960s. But will the reading world hear more from Morrie? Like him, I’d never say never.

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 Carol cut this?