Dear Mr. Dwiq,

Last Monday afternoon, as I was regaining consciousness after knee replacement surgery, I was welcomed with the most exciting news... that you had written the foreword to my book, Visions & Voices. And what a powerful foreword it is!

Thank you so much. Book goes to print today. I can’t wait to
send you as many copies as you would like.

Thank you again.

I am honored!

Sincerely,

Charlotte

To order cards by Charlotte Caldwell please visit
www.CharlotteCaldwell.com
April 16, 2012

Ivan Doig
17277 - 15th Avenue NW
Shoreline, WA 98177

Dear Mr. Doig:

You so generously have provided and inscribed a first edition copy of Ride with Me, Mariah Montana for an upcoming Montana Land Reliance event. I will be the featured guest at that event. Doug Mitchell, managing director, has given me your address, and I am writing in hopes that you would write a Foreword for my book, Visions and Voices: Montana’s One Room Schoolhouses, a chapter of which is enclosed.

My husband and I are huge fans of yours. My favorite two books are This House of Sky and The Whistling Season, perhaps because they deal with one-room schoolhouse experiences. Should you agree to write a Foreword for Visions and Voices, it would be a perfect fit, and it would also be such an honor for all the Montanans who have contributed to its making.

During the past four years, I have traveled over 12,000 miles in Montana on a quest to find and capture historic one-room schools in each of the 56 counties. I photographed the schoolhouses and the people. I recorded stories about the people’s adventures in these treasured places. I benefited from meeting these folks and hearing their tales and from seeing and absorbing the vast Montana countryside.

The preservation of Montana’s one-room schoolhouses is important, as they are among Montana’s first frontier structures, and full-color photographs of them and the surrounding countryside make a great backdrop to the stories of our history and our culture as told by folks who either attended these schools or taught in them.

I will donate one hundred percent of the net profits from my book to the Preserve Montana Fund, a campaign of collaboration between the Montana
Preservation Alliance, the Montana History Foundation, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This donation will serve to create a challenge grant, earmarked for preservation of Montana's endangered one-room schoolhouses.

*Visions and Voices* is a celebration of the richness of talent, creativity, and productivity of Montanans. It will be a product of Montana—printed, edited, formatted, and distributed by Montana companies.

Richard Moe, President Emeritus, National Trust for Historic Preservation, said it well: "*Visions and Voices* beautifully tells the story of the essential role that one-room schoolhouses played in making Montana the place it is today. In her images of these structures and her interviews with those who spent time in them, Charlotte Caldwell captures an important piece of Montana history that should not be allowed to disappear. Places tell stories, and many of these deeply moving stories evoke echoes of Ivan Doig's marvelous *The Whistling Season*. Montanans of all ages who care about their history should read this book, and people elsewhere who simply like great stories should read it as well."

Mr. Doig, it would be such an honor for all who care about these historic treasures if the Foreword was written by you.

Sincerely, 

Charlotte Caldwell
PO Box 100
Clyde Park, MT 59018
843-425-6062
March 14, 2012

Dear Ivan and Carol,

Notably missing from our mailbox this year — a Doig holidays letter, aimed at bringing all up to date about travels and the like while promoting the next epic. We hope all is well with you, that aforementioned epic is forthcoming, and that any lack of correspondence can be blamed only on the unseasonal Seattle snowstorms of December.

That said, the young (40ish) man we know who is a veep at Seattle Foundation seems to be in line to ascend to the top in the next couple of years—although, as those things go, he may have to leave town for a while (to run a similar operation in a second-tier city) only to return in unexpected (albeit feigned) triumph. We’ll see.

In the meantime his older brother has also moved to Seattle and is the human resources guru for the King County Department of Recreation and something or other. I know that this domain includes the county dump and a large phalanx of unionized garbage truck drivers and helpers.

Both those developments, along with my longtime desire to actually set foot in Montana before I croak, could well bring us back to the northwest one of these years.

For this year, however, our travels will be focused on San Francisco, where our son and his wife are due to deliver their first (and at their ages likely their only) baby on or about July 9. The sonogram predicts it’s a boy. We’ll be in SFO the first weekend in May to host a bridal shower; they are otherwise lacking in friends and family equipped to handle such matters. Then, because of that lack, we have rented a small apartment in the Noe Valley neighborhood, three blocks from where they live, for a total of three weeks—ready to give a hand where needed with a bit of vacationing thrown in.

Please bring us up to date with your doings and welfare. The absence of that letter really has me a bit concerned.

Best wishes as always,
Dear Jerry--

Hmm. The Christmas letter to you got lost somewhere in the vale of good intentions between the alphabetical pinnacle of my checked-off list, where you preside, and the mailbox, it looks like. Better late than etc., I guess. The main whimsical news you'll see is that Amazon junket to Santa Fe, and I'm pretty sure I wrote you this "life is stranger than..." sidebar in the evanescent Christmas communication, so to conjure it up again. During one of the swanky dinners--in an art gallery, no less--I was talking to my fellow novelist Jane Smiley (although she's a Pulitzer ot two up on me) at one corner of the table when I noticed Carol, at the other corner, was going into increasing hilarity with her dinner partner, Larry Kirshbaum, long-time big-league publisher (Time Warner; Little, Brown) who runs Amazon's newly hatched publishing division. What's up, I finally asked; the two of them had been trading Chicago memories until they put two and two together and figured out Larry was one of our Cherubs in '61. Go figure, huh?

Amazon of course was making nice to all of us with a wink and show of ankle, although we didn't see sales pitch of any kind on anybody. The Amazonians are cooler than that, and as best we can tell, they're like China, inevitable. They're expanding like crazy here at Seattle headquarters, 12,000 strong and probably going to build three office towers to hold staff, after having just moved in to an already huge complex. Along with the new Gates Foundation trio of headquarters buildings and Paul Allen's holdings, there's a swatch of Seattle that's a lot like the brain avenue that came along with Microsoft a couple of decades ago. That's old hat to the Boston experience of Next Big Things, I know, but it's interesting to watch. In terms of books, it just seems to me Amazon is inexorably eating the publishers' lunch, and while I'm luckily tucked away under contract (and advances!) with a big outfit like the Penguin Group, I'm not gonna say never about what the Bezos bunch might come up with.

I should get to your natural concern about how the hell we are. Plugging along about the same as when you last saw us, actually. Carol keeps us flying level while I am writing hard. The book mentioned in the Xmas letter, The Bartender's Tale, now has an actual pub date, Aug. 21. I've been done with it since early last fall--the best description of the Penguin Group imprint I'm with, Riverhead, is that it operates like the Red Army in WWII, gathers its forces and at last advances on the territory--and I'm meanwhile working on another Butte book, sequel to Work Song, starring Morrie again. Gonna keep at this until I drop, I guess.

Hey, San Francisco sounds great. I imagine you and Carol are savvy enough about that area to know the Jeffers and Steinbeck country down there at Carmel and Salinas. A nifty Steinbeck museum was being finished when we were there some years ago, and Jeffers' handbuilt Hawk Tower is always an amazement. So have fun, bless you for your concern, and let's keep keeping in touch despite my hamhandedness at it.
Dear Ivan,
Just a quick note to let you know how grateful I am for the blurb you wrote for me about THEFT. It encapsulates so much of what I hope readers will get from this book, and it does so with your usual poetry, grit, and grace. I’ve been a fan of your work for many years, and to have your words on my book now means so much to me. I hope someday we’re in the same location and I can buy you a drink. Thanks again, and all best to you,
BK Loren

http://www.bkloren.com
Dear Ivan,

I was honored to see you'd not only read my new novel but praised it. You are the dean of novelists in the corner of this country that means the most to me. So a thumbs-up from you is as good as it gets for someone like me. I'm looking forward to A Bartender's Tale. And please let Carol know that she'll be picking my titles, too, from here on out.

Thanks & Cheers,

[Signature]

177+3846
Gary L. Fisketjon
Vice President and Editor at Large

Alfred A. Knopf • 1745 Broadway • New York 10019
212 • 572 • 2561 FAX 212 • 572 • 6031
email: gfisketjon@randomhouse.com
dear Ivan -

Thanks so much for your thoughtful note about Tim's novel, which made my day and his, of course.

With every good wish,
Dear Ivan Doig,

I'm hoping I might interest you in having a look at a novel of politics and journalism in Seattle circa the World's Fair and forty years later. We published Jim's wonderful *Border Songs* a few years ago, after his much heralded debut, *The Highest Tide*, but I believe he has taken a big step forward with this new book, which I hope and indeed believe will appeal to you.

With every good wish for the holidays,

[Signature]

Gary
Dear Gary--

Some words for Jim Lynch, a bit hurried and somewhat delayed (book of my own being patted into shape, and as Jim may have told you, this winter he and I are Plutarchs to local Shakespeares who’ve adapted novels of ours to the stage--watch for us on Broadway).

“Often funny and sometimes devastating but always to the point, *Truth Like the Sun* reflects back on the 1962 World’s Fair that put Seattle on the map. With the keen eye of the journalist he was and the nimbleness of the novelist he has become, Jim Lynch provides a thought-provoking fictional portrait of a city on the make and its somewhat tarnished tribe of civic strivers.”

--Ivan Doig, author of *Work Song*

All best luck to Jim and you and the book.

Regards,
Beverly, hi--

Just a quick note to accompany the book, which I figured you and Joan and Marilyn might get a kick out of; share it around somehow, but you’re the recipient as the senior sibling, okay? I met the author/photographer when Carol and I made a quick bookselling trip to Montana, and am greatly impressed with her work.

Also crossed paths with Jay Doig, when he showed up at my Bozeman book signing. He of course looked older, as who of us doesn’t, but to my surprise he spoke of actually visiting us whenever he and Linda come out here to see her nephew. Lot of catching up to do there.

All is okay with us. The Bartender's Tale has been a hit, making several bestseller lists, including the New York Times. Next is a sequel to Work Song, back to Butte and that rascally one-room-school teacher Morrie. You inquired about my ever booktouring to the Denver area, but it’s probably not in the cards any more—the book biz has changed so much, and I’m at a point where the best thing I can do is mostly stay home and write. If Carol and I ever do get to your part of the country, of course we’ll let you know. In the meantime, we hope the trio of you are well and thriving.

All best wishes,
Ivan –

I am scheduled to review “Prairie Nocturne” at the end of April for the Fort Collins Community of Christ Book Club. Consequently I have been digging through my sister, Marilyn’s, treasure trove of book reviews, family photo albums, Doig history and Auntie Anna’s pictures. Since I am into poster presentations (harking back to UCLA Interior Design studies), I have been gathering items to depict the settings and the era of the book. As my sisters bemoan, the review will definitely have a Beverly slant to it.

It has been very interesting re-reading the reviews from 10 years plus ago. Auntie Anna was so amazing in keeping up with the whole family!!!

I will also make a pitch for “Work Song” and “Sweet Thunder.” Is there anything more I should say about your latest project? Looking forward to reading your latest creation!!

The Doig sisters are “carrying on regardless” and keeping ever busy. Joan still hikes the trails and did a bit of snow shoeing this past winter. Marilyn bakes marvelous CARE packages for the grand nephew still in college, but her headaches these past few months have limited her activities drastically. I have just finished the 2nd edition of the cookbook for CSU Womens Association; the first edition earned $2,700 for scholarships. I am the subject for the Behavior Science Department at CSU to determine the effects of TV watching on the aging process of the brain. After a battery of cognizant tests, I have to limit my TV watching by 7 hours a week and then take the same tests again. It was rather enlightening to see how badly the loss of short term memory showed up on the first set of tests. SOB!!!

B Doig

Beverly Doig
Dear Carol,

We were dumbfounded by the book dedication. Now that we have reopened a bit, we are deeply touched. Our friendship prompts so many memories.

Last night was another moment of sparkling summer and salmon.

With heartfelt thanks,

Mark & Lou
Chuck, hi --

I seem to have dropped off the edge of the online world, consequence of really hunkering in on the next Butte novel (1921: Morrie returns to Butte to take nefarious Anaconda as an editorial writer for the union paper, the Doig-created Butte Thunder). That’s at least worked, I’ve nearly got the ms done just as The Bartender’s Tale has entered the world. Right now I’m frantically busy with the booktour, but wanted to get a copy off to you and say thanks for the “Work & Being” essay, grand stuff. Will catch up with you more later.

This book is off to a great start, on five bestseller lists in its first week or so, including the New York Times extended one on-line--35 top sellers rather than the fab 15 in the weekly NYT Book Review--and NPR.org. Carol is getting some of the good stuff linked on ivandoig.com, including a rave from none other than The Daily Beast, Newsweek’s on-line healthier sibling, eh? So the two print veterans in this household are having a pretty good time just now. Here’s hoping you and Francie are well and thriving. (Come to think of it, one of my characters plays games with the name of Francine in this one; pure concidence, honest!).

Best for now,
Sept. 4 ’12

Eric & Jan, hi --

Here’s a book for two of my favorite folks. Carol and I have been wondering (and hoping) how you’re doing. Will catch up with you as soon as we can--for the next some weeks we’re consumed by the booktour.

The book is off to a great start, on five bestseller lists in its first week or so, including the New York Times extended one on-line--35 top sellers rather than the fab 15 in the weekly NYT Book Review--and NPR.org. Carol is getting some of the good stuff linked on ivandoig.com, including a rave from none other than The Daily Beast, Newsweek’s on-line healthier sibling, eh? Today we did an interview on TVW’s (that’s the state government channel, as I savvy it) “Well Read” show (Mary Ann Gwinn is behind that) which will air on Oct. 2, and migrate onto my website right after, I hope, I hope. So the two print veterans in this household are having a good time just now..

Best,
Midge, hi --

I'm saving a bit of packing by shipping your copy of Bartender's Tale this way. Looking forward to catching up with you on the Aunties date, Sept. 18. Would you mind making us early dinner reservations at the Davenport--5 would be good if we want to have a drink before we eat. And can you get me to the Aunties event, and I guess back to the hotel, unless it's a really short walk (I don't remember)? Will need to get there around 6:30 to sign up stock etc. ahead of the 7 PM reading/signing. Give a call or email as to how this all looks to you, OK?

The book is off to a great start, on five bestseller lists in its first week or so, including the New York Times extended one on-line--35 top sellers rather than the fab 15 in the weekly NYT Book Review--and NPR.org. Carol is getting some of the good stuff linked on ivandoig.com, including a rave from none other than The Daily Beast, Newsweek's on-line healthier sibling. Today we did an interview on TVW's (that's the state government channel, as I savvy it) which will air on Oct. 2, and migrate onto my website right after, I hope, I hope. So the two print veterans in this household are having a good time just now. More later when I see you.

Best,
August 17, 2012

Ivan C. Doig  
17277 15th Ave. NW  
Shoreline, WA 98177

Dear Ivan:

Last Thursday night in Kalispell an extraordinary thing happened – thanks to YOU.

What began as a modest dream of mine to accumulate a dozen or so inscribed first-edition books to auction as a mini-collection at MLR’s annual fundraiser became a once-in-a-lifetime and very special collection of books.

I am very thankful for your participation in this collection and frankly in awe of the collective generosity and outpouring of support for open space protection by the larger community of your fellow authors. By the event, more than 50 authors had joined you in providing signed, inscribed books and two Montana newspapers and collectors from across the country had gotten wind of the special nature of this collection.

As you may know, MLR’s event was held at the Arts and Technology Center at Flathead Valley Community College. The books were beautifully displayed and were a feature of the evening’s festivities. I must admit to you, I had some trepidation about watching them go – and hoped they would find a good home.

When it came time for the collection to be auctioned the bidding was swift with the price quickly rising over $5,000. The gavel came down to a roar in the crowd at $8,000 – every penny of which will go to our work protecting Montana’s special places. The winning bidder then called the auctioneer to his side and announced that he and his wife would be donating the entire collection to Flathead Valley Community College to establish a special Montana reading room.

I couldn’t have imagined a more perfect outcome. Your gift was joined with gifts by your colleagues in what turned into a permanent collection that Montana students will be able to enjoy forever. If you think about it, the book collection became much like our work at The Montana Land Reliance – in both cases we worked together to protect something special – perhaps even priceless – for future generations.
With this note, I wanted not only to thank you again for your participation but to let you know how special an event this turned out to be. In fact, after the announcement, two of your fellow authors in attendance told me they would make it a practice to add to the collection at the College with future books – wow.

Thank you – for your gift, for the beautiful words you inscribed, and for your love of Montana. I hope our paths will cross soon and trust in the meantime if I can ever be of service that you will not hesitate to contact me.

Best always,

DOUG MITCHELL
Managing Director

Encl.

Thanks again for your help with Charlotte's book.
Authors team up for land trust benefit

By MARGA LINCOLN Independent Record | Posted: Saturday, June 30, 2012 12:10 am

This year’s Montana Land Reliance fundraiser, “Artists & Authors for Open Space,” gives eloquent and poetic testimony to the importance of their work to preserve important Montana landscapes.

More than 45 authors with Montana connections signed more than 50 first-edition books that will be auctioned as a complete collection at the Aug. 9 fundraiser in Kalispell.

Many of the books include personal messages about MLR’s work to protect Montana’s landscapes.

Now gracing the front window of the Montana Book & Toy Company, the collection is a “who’s who” of authors inspired by Montana’s landscapes. They either live in Montana, own land here or spend time enjoying its open spaces, said Doug Mitchell, MLR managing director. Many of the authors also have conservation easements with Montana Land Reliance.

A book lover, Mitchell was the force behind the idea for this year’s event.

“For 18 years, we’ve been doing fundraisers,” said Mitchell, “mostly related to landscape artists,” so this year, he decided it was time for a new idea.

“It’s a one-of-a-kind collection,” he said, and “a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. And each (book) is inscribed specifically for this purpose.”

The unique collection is displayed in Montana Book & Toy Company’s front window until mid-July.

And it’s growing daily.

Some of the authors will also be attending the Aug. 9 gala at Flathead Community College in Kalispell.

Mitchell’s been deeply moved by the authors’ generosity and eagerness to help with the project, often recommending other Montana writers to join the cause.

A brief sample of the inscriptions include:

-- From poet Paul Zarzyski’s “Tracks”: “First came the land—and then tracks”; and also his
“Wolf Tracks on the Welcome Mat”: “With a wild poetic howl—in praise of the Montana Land Reliance—out into the farthest reaches of the musical universe, the ol’cowpoke cosmos! With gratitude, Paul Zarzyski.”

-- From Judy Blunt’s “Breaking Clean”: “Thanks for helping Montana stay real.”

-- From mountain climber and Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard’s “Climbing Ice”: “Let’s do our best to assure there will be ice to climb in Montana.”

-- From Ivan Doig, who inscribed the title page: “For a worthy soul who loves Montana the way my characters do, in” and drew an arrow to the title, “Ride With Me, Mariah Montana.”

Among other well-known authors represented in the collection are Maile Meloy, Pete Fromm, Thomas McGuane, Richard Ford, James Lee Burke, Hugh Ambrose, Rick Bass, Carl Hiaasen, Tom Brokaw, Brian Kahn and astronaut and Apollo 8 commander Frank Borman.

The collection is limited to living authors, said Mitchell, because it ensures the authenticity of their signatures and inscriptions.

Gathering the inscriptions took Mitchell to ranch kitchens, campus offices and even an auto repair shop to catch up with authors.

“It’s been wonderful,” he said. “I’ve rediscovered some authors, and it’s been fun to meet some authors of whom I was not familiar.”

It’s only fitting that this year’s guest speaker is author Charlotte Caldwell who with, her husband, holds two MLR easements in the Shields River Valley. She will talk about her new book, “Visions and Voices: Montana’s One Room Schoolhouses” and share some of its iconic photo images.

“So many Montana authors reference a sense of place in their works,” said Montana Book & Toy Company owner Jan Peccia, who’s happy to promote Montana authors and MLR: “We see serving the community as a primary goal of our bookstore.”

The MLR auction also offers unique trips in Montana and Costa Rica, as well as original artwork. Those wanting to bid on the collection, but unable to attend the auction, can sign up at the Montana Book & Toy Company for online bidding.

Since 1978, MLR has worked with private landowners to create 773 easements that protect 898,916 acres in 39 Montana counties, Mitchell said. The easements protect significant agricultural land, forests, fish and wildlife habitat and open space.

For more information, call 443-7027 or visit www.mtlandreliance.org.

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If you go

What: “Artists & Authors for Open Space,” a fundraiser for the Montana Land Reliance

When and where: book display at Montana Book & Toy Company, 331 N. Last Chance Gulch, through mid-July; fundraiser Aug. 9, Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell

Tickets: $75 general admission, $50 students

Contact: 443-7027 or www.mtlandreliance.org
MONTANA LAND RELIANCE TO AUCTION OFF SIGNED BOOK COLLECTION FEATURING 50 AUTHORS

Fundraising Project Turns into Rare Author Collection

By Myers Reece, 7-30-12

When Doug Mitchell first started rounding up authors to take part in a Montana Land Reliance fundraiser, he figured he might get 10 to 15 first-edition hardcover books, signed and personalized by the authors.

With the fundraiser coming up on Aug. 9, Mitchell is pleasantly surprised by the response he received — 50 authors have signed on to the project and contributed nearly 60 books to a one-of-a-kind Montana literary collection.

“One thing led to another and the author community is unbelievably generous,” Mitchell said. “This whole idea of open spaces is something they feel deeply about.”

The Montana Land Reliance is the largest fully accredited private land trust in the country, working exclusively in Montana. The trust holds nearly 800 conservation easements that protect almost 900,000 acres.

According to its website, the mission of the Montana Land Reliance is to “partner with landowners to provide permanent protection for private lands that are significant for agricultural production, forest resources, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space.”

The land trust is holding its major fundraising event of the year on Aug. 9 at Flathead Valley Community College. The fundraiser starts at 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Tickets cost $75 for adults and $50 for students, a price that includes dinner from the school’s “fabulous culinary program,” Mitchell said.

The night features an auction. Among the items to be auctioned are 12 paintings donated by Montana artists. The paintings will also be included in a 2013 Montana Land Reliance calendar.

But the centerpiece auction item will be the book collection. Each book is signed with inscriptions by the authors describing what open spaces mean to them. The authors all have Montana connections.

The list of authors includes Rick Bass, Richard Ford, Judy Blunt, Ivan Doig, Thomas McGuane, Carl Hiaasen, Tom Brokaw, William Kittredge and many more. Mitchell said dealers and collectors from around the country have already been inquiring.

The collection can be seen on display at Bookworks in Kalispell up until the Aug. 9 fundraiser.

“It’s become historic in a way,” Mitchell said. “I’m not sure if there’s a collection of living Montana authors who have gotten together and done this. It’s been a great journey.” [End of article]

This article was printed from flatheadbeacon.com at the following URL:
/articles/article/fundraising_project_turns_into_rare_author_collection/28992/

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Tom, hi--

So here 'tis, guy. Remember when it was going to be titled MISS YOU WHEN I'M GONE? Some sneak came out with one titled MISS ME WHEN I'M GONE, and that was that. Actually, I like The Bartender's Tale a helluva lot better, and so do booksellers.

Well, what all will you find. Kids doing bits. Bobbasheely. Shakespeare. Leadbelly singing Doig-written blues. Doig's crystal ball predicting "the much anticipated Chicago revival of The Iceman Cometh", as I had that in the manuscript, oh, 18 months before Brian Dennehy and Nathan Lane strutted them Goodman boards. Anyway, hope you like it. It's got some Latham House in its blood, I think.

How the hell are you? Carol and I are trucking along, could be better, could be worse. I'm still writing at full steam, not far from finishing a sequel to Work Song. Will do a Pacific Northwest booktour for Bartender; something noticeably new this time in the publicity plans is social media, about which I am willfully ignorant and hope to stay that way, but am succumbing to some blog interviews. By the by, my own website a la supreme, ivandoig.com, will have Bartender stuff up by the time you get this book, if you want a peek. Early signs for the opus are good, although how that will translate into people actually laying out money for a book is iffy in these times.

That's pretty much it from here. Stand and deliver sometime--about yourself, about what you think of the book, the state of the world, whatever. Damned if I didn't hear an "All Things Considered" piece about Milan the other other night, where the pastime is sitting around the town square watching the classic cars roll by, eh? You never told me that, Ace.

All best,