

Ivan Doig archive
MEDICAL
with the literary file Journey

No estimate of Ivan's achievements as a writer would be complete without consideration of what he accomplished after he had been diagnosed with a fatal disease.

In the eight years left to him after he began treatment for multiple myeloma in January 2007, he wrote four successful novels despite severe side effects and despite all of the time involved with medical procedures.

There is documentation of those years, as well as a file I didn't know about: Journey.

In it he muses across events and people from Robin Williams to Chekov to an obituary of Claude Levi-Strauss which tackles "the world's greatest mystery: the possibility of not being, the burden of mortality."

He describes myeloma as "The waiting room of Hell furnished with side effects." Another 5 x 8 file card contains this line: "I turned into a human pill bottle." There is much else.

What he intended with all this can be glimpsed by two possible titles: Living With It, and Next.

This is a book not written: of the ^{Great} ~~Divide~~ Divide file in the fiction section.

Ivan was far from being out of ideas. He had them in spades. What he ran out of was time.

Carol Doig
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