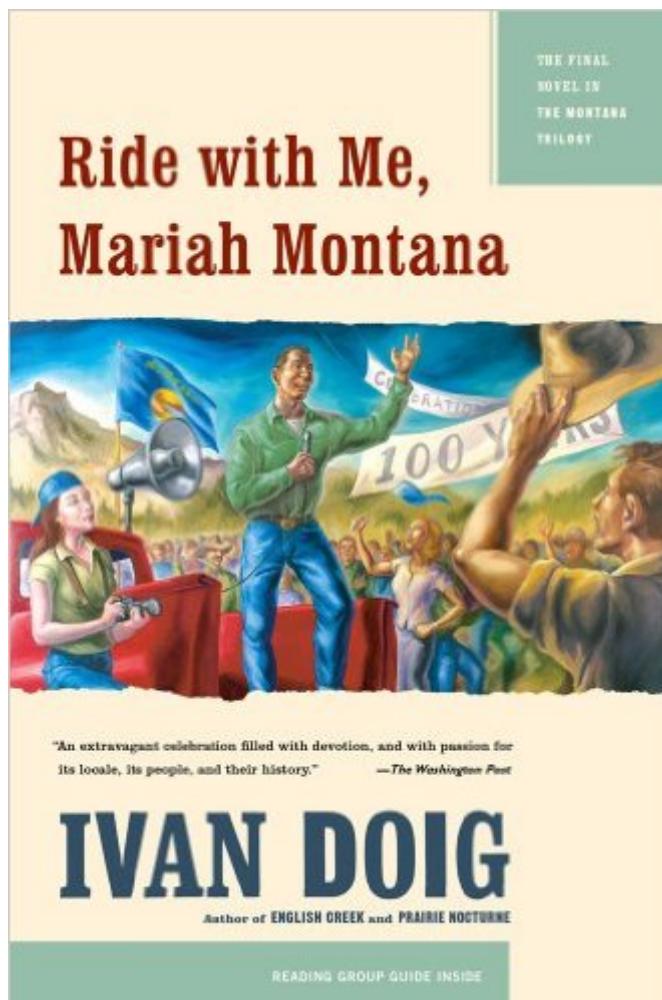


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Ride With Me, Mariah Montana (Montana Trilogy)



Synopsis

This greathearted novel is the finale of Ivan Doig's passionate and authentic trilogy about the McCaskill family and their alluring Two Medicine country along the hem of the northern Rockies. Jick McCaskill, the illustrious narrator of English Creek, returns as the witty and moving voice in this classic encounter with the American road and all the rewards and travails it can bring. Jick faces his family's "and his state's" legacy of loss and perseverance from the vantage point of Montana's centennial in 1989 when his daughter Mariah enlists him as Winnebago chauffeur to her and her ex-husband, the magnificently ornery and eloquent columnist Riley Wright, when their news-paper dispatches them to dig up stories of the "real Montana." Just as the centennial is a cause for reflection as well as jubilation, the exuberant travels of this trio bring on encounters with the past in "memory storms" that become occasions for reassessment and necessary accommodations of the heart.

Book Information

Series: Montana Trilogy

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (58 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #234,981 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Small Town & Rural #3864 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Family Saga #9214 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary

Customer Reviews

I recommend that you read "Dancing at the Rascal Fair" first, before "English Creek," which was written first, and follow with "Ride with Me, Mariah Montana." Great storytelling -- plotting, dialogue first-rate, crisp, and smart. "Dancing" is sort of a late 20th century American Thomas Hardy novel, big, rich, colorful, and in important respects old-fashioned in its aversion to irony and meta-fiction; the three interrelated novels each stand alone, but are greatly strengthened by the connected narrative stream from grandfather through grandson. This is a strong, important work in American

fiction, I think. The books are about family, character, and the land they inhabit and cultivate, and how all are affected by a century of Europeans living in the northern Montana front range of the Rockies. The books are quite moving in an unaffected but profound manner, and the characters, all of them including the most minor bit player, and the scenes leap off the page into memory. The books are not hurt by the fact that the author, Doig, earned a PhD in American History and once worked as a journalist who also published poetry. Everything in each of the books "feels" right and Doig expresses complex thoughts, emotions, and actions with a poet's deep understanding and love of language without ever being sappy or turgid. In "Ride with Me" Jick is turning 65 and is a recent widower. He is not a lost soul, but he is re-evaluating his role in life and his prospects. He is lassoed by his daughter and her ex-husband into a long threesome trip back-and-forth and up-and-down Montana upon the occasion of its Centennial of statehood. This sounds like so little for such a fine book. The three butt heads in ways that all families do, but this is not opera.

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