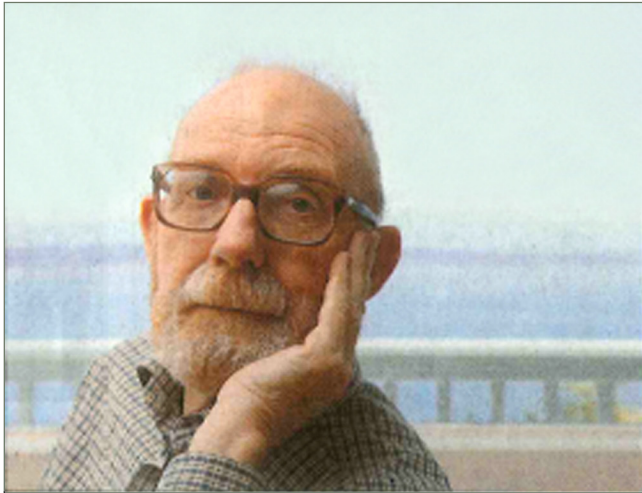


**BOOK REVIEW**



KEN LAMBERT McClatchy Newspapers

an Doig returns to Montana for his latest novel.

## A modern WESTERN

### 'Work Song' is satisfying read

is of Butte and Anaconda then the copper mining and smelting centers of a burgeoning U.S. economy. This is the unfamiliar ban West, with immigrant groups that had left their countries to do this nation's hard work, particularly underground — the Irish, Welsh, Cornish and by 1919 Ukrainians. (In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Butte had the second-largest Polish population outside Poland.)

Readers of *The Whispering Season* will be happy to reacquire themselves

with its engaging protagonist and first-person narrator, Morris (Morrie) Morgan, an itinerant school teacher, University of Chicago-educated polymath and all-around charmer. (It's not necessary to have read the earlier novel, as *Work Song* artfully provides all the essential details.) The name, of course, is simply one of Morrie's disguises, for he's a fugitive twice over.

In the intervening 10 years, Morrie has traveled the world and now has drifted back to Montana, partly in hope of recharg-

### Work Song

**Author:** Ivan Doig.  
**Publisher:** Riverhead.  
**Pages:** 278.  
**Price:** \$25.95.

ing his finances in Butte. Unfortunately, the railroad's loss of Morrie's trunk means he has arrived in town carrying only a single satchel, leading people to speculate.

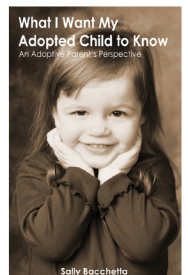
Morrie is hired as a "cryer," the funeral home's official representative at the nightly wakes held by its mostly Irish clientele. Soon he moves on to a position in the town library, working for bibliomaniacal ex-rancher Sam Sandison, who the locals (for reasons they won't discuss) call the "Earl of Hell."

Before long, Morrie encounters an ex-student of his, now herself a teacher, and her fiery fiancé, leader of the local miners' union. They quickly enmesh Morrie in the never-ending struggle with the company. Before the story resolves itself in a comprehensive but somewhat breakneck conclusion, the significance of the title will become clear, and Sandison — who turns out to be a man with a terrible secret and a stricken conscience — will come to play an unexpected, deeply satisfying role.

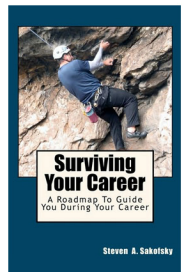
Doig, however, is too good a novelist to insist that those subtexts do more than whisper for themselves, and that tact makes *Work Song* a pleasure to read. □

### SPOTLIGHT ON AUTHORS ROCHESTER WRITERS

**What I Want My Adopted Child to Know: An Adoptive Parent's Perspective** by Sally Bacchetta (iUniverse, \$13.95). A revealing look at adoption from a parent's perspective, this book is a great reference for adoptive parents and adoptees as well as anyone considering adoption. More than 100 adoptive parents were interviewed to compile the informative and touching chapters that include "You Are Not Different Because You're Adopted" and "I Would Do It All Again." The author is a twice-adoptive parent herself, along with her husband, Dennis. Bacchetta, a freelance writer and author, lives in Webster.



**Surviving Your Career** by Steven Sakofsky (CreateSpace, \$18.95). This career guide offers a "roadmap" of potential hazards and advice for mitigating risks along the course of the 40-plus years of your working life. With 22 rules to follow to keep you on the path to your goal, your career can be rewarding and challenging. Sakofsky, a consultant who has worked in industry for 41 years, lives in Fairport. □



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