



For Immediate Publication

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The Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association is proud to announce the winners of its **2008 Book Awards**, which were selected by a committee of independent booksellers from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. The committee chose the following six books from nearly 200 nominees, all of which were written by Northwest authors and published in 2007.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
by **Sherman Alexie** of Seattle, WA
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
hc: 9780316013680

Returning To Earth
by **Jim Harrison**, who spends part of his year in Paradise Valley, Montana
Grove Press
pb: 9780802143310

Tree of Smoke
by **Denis Johnson** of Northern Idaho
Farrar, Straus and Giroux
hc: 9780374279127

Dancing With Rose: Finding Life in the Land of Alzheimer's
by **Lauren Kessler** of Eugene, OR
Viking
hc: 9780670038596

The God of Animals
by **Aryn Kyle** of Missoula, MT
Scribner
hc: 9781416533245

Bad Monkeys
by **Matt Ruff** of Seattle, WA
HarperCollins
hc: 9780061240416

2008 Book Awards Party

PNBA is also excited to announce that we will celebrate these authors at an exclusive reception for PNBA members at the **Heathman Hotel** in Portland on the evening of Saturday, March 29, 2008.

PNBA will provide more information about this event in the coming weeks. Media interested in attending the event should contact the PNBA office.

2008 PNBA Book Award Winners
Publicity Information and Bookseller Comments

About Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association

The PNBA is a non-profit trade association that supports independent bookselling, literacy, and free speech in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. Each year since 1965, the Pacific Northwest Book Awards have celebrated exceptional books written by Northwest authors.

The Pacific Northwest Independent Bestseller List, a weekly list of the bestselling books in the independent bookstores of our five-state region, can be reprinted for free in any publication. For information about the list, contact PNBA. See this week's list at www.pnba.org.

About the Award-winning Books

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by **Sherman Alexie**

In his first young adult novel, Sherman Alexie hilariously and heartbreakingly chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one unlucky but resilient boy trying to rise above the life everyone expects him to live on the Spokane Indian Reservation.

Returning To Earth by **Jim Harrison**

"Life and death; family and friends; past and future -- Returning to Earth covers the full range of human experience as the reader shares a journey with a Michigan man of Finnish and Native American ancestry. Told as four stories, each with a different central character, Jim Harrison deftly explores how we all search for redemption." --PNBA Awards Committee

Tree of Smoke by **Denis Johnson**

"Instantly compelling, Tree of Smoke is, at its core, a novel about the Vietnam War and the people, places, and history that were forever changed because of it. Like the war itself, the storylines dart and weave and are only truly understood as they connect themselves in the end." --PNBA Awards Committee

Dancing With Rose: Finding Life in the Land of Alzheimer's by **Lauren Kessler**

"Lauren Kessler confronts the confounding disease that took her mother as only a journalist could -- she becomes a caregiver at an Alzheimer's facility. By turns brutally honest, compassionate, and instructive, Kessler finds grace, humor and unexpected connections with the patients and the caregivers." --PNBA Awards Committee

The God of Animals by **Aryn Kyle**

A breathtaking debut novel about a girl growing up amid a dying way of life on a horse ranch in small-town Colorado, The God of Animals beautifully captures familiar themes of the West: families, horses, love, death, class and weather. As novelist Andrew Sean Greer says, it's "a perfect read."

Bad Monkeys by **Matt Ruff**

Matt Ruff wins his second PNBA Award with this page-turning, psychological thriller full of funhouse twists and turns. Bad Monkeys is, as Neal Stephenson says, "Fast. Wicked. Scarily clever and equally fun for those who like thrillers and those who don't."