Monday Night Sweet & Greet

The Pie & Whiskey edition of this post-Feast dessert party will introduce attendees to twenty authors who promise good conversation and company at the end of a long day. The relaxing environment will feature a wide variety of authors and styles and a wealth of new books to tantalize your dessert palate. Dessert will be provided and the full JB’s lineup will be accessible at the Lounge bar. The Sweet & Greet is sponsored by our good friends at Sasquatch Books.

James Beard Award-winning food writer Danielle Centoni presents 80 recipes from some of Stumptown’s most popular bars and restaurants in Portland Cooks (Figure 1/IPS). From unassuming cafes to late-night cocktail bars, Centoni covers the incredible variety of Portland’s food scene, but always with the home cook in mind. Danielle Centoni’s food writing has been featured in many publications including Fine Cooking and Seattle Magazine; she is the co-author of three cookbooks and contributor to many more.

Rufus the pig returns in Kim Griswell’s new picturebook Rufus Blasts Off! (Sterling). Rufus dreams of traveling to the moon and beyond, and just can’t believe that the space center has a “no pigs in space” rule. He may not be perfectly suited for life in a space capsule, but he certainly is perfect for a very special mission on Mars. This is the third Rufus tale from Ashland writer Griswell, who has spent many years developing and editing children’s books for Highlights and Boyds Mills Press.

The softly surrealistic illustrations of Portland artist Elizabeth Haidle perfectly imagine the tragic-comic story in I, Parrot (Catapult/IPS), a graphic novel written by Deb Olin Unferth. Daphne is a single mother willing to risk everything to regain custody of her son, even if means asking for help from the wayward love of her life. And there is, of course, the matter of the forty-two endangered parrots. Elizabeth Haidle, a freelance artist based in Portland, is also an editor for and regular contributor to Illustoria magazine.

A starred PW review calls Peter Brown Hoffmeister’s Too Shattered for Mend ing (Knopf Young Readers/PRH) “a gritty, complicated drama” with a cast of characters both real and complex. Gavin “Little” McCardell is just trying to keep it all together after his big brother is arrested and his grandfather disappears, until a local sheriff’s deputy threatens to prosecute him if he doesn’t help the cops find his grandfather. Hoffmeister is the author of the critically acclaimed YA novel This Is the Part Where You Laugh, and teaches high school in Eugene, OR.

Author Bruce Holbert grew up in the shadow of Grand Coulee, and he returns to that landscape in his new novel Whiskey (FS&G/Macmillan). At the heart of the story are brothers Andre and Smoker whose lives have been shaped by the violence and turmoil of their childhoods, but who remain fiercely loyal to each other. A graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, Bruce Holbert has published fiction, nonfiction and poetry in a number of literary journals, and is the author of two previous novels, including the Washington State Book Award winner The Hour of Lead.

Chibi Samurai Wants a Pet (Sasquatch/PRH), Sanae Ishida’s second book in the Little Kunoichi series, follows Chibi on his quest to find the perfect pet. Chibi wants what his friend Kunoichi has – the companionship of her pet ninja bunny – so he tries many, many different creatures, both real and mythological, only to find that the right pet was with him all along. Seattle artist Sanae Ishida’s whimsical watercolor illustrations are the perfect way to introduce very young readers to Japanese culture.
Dark magic flows through Alex Kahler’s *Runebinder* (Harlequin Teen/Harper-Collins), the first book in a new post-apocalyptic fantasy series. Tenn is one of the Hunters fighting against the Howls, the once-human monsters that have overrun the world, and he must learn to harness his magic against the dark if civilization has any chance of survival. Alex Kahler has taught circus in Amsterdam and Madrid, gotten madly lost in the Scottish wilderness, drummed with Norse shamans, and published several other fantasy novels for young adults.

Editors Kate Lebo and Sam Ligon serve up a unique anthology in *Pie & Whiskey: Writers Under the Influence of Butter & Booze* (Sasquatch/PRH). Drawn from original works of numerous writers at the Spokane and Missoula literary events known as Pie & Whiskey, the pieces collected here are all based on prompts that include the words pie or whiskey or both. The result is a heady mixture of stories, poems and even recipes from the likes of Jess Walter, Kim Barnes and Anthony Doerr. Kate Lebo and Sam Ligon are both authors in their own right; both live in Spokane.

Portland is known as one of the best cities on the planet for craft distilleries, and Karen Locke’s new guidebook *High Proof PDX* (Overcup Press/SCB) is the perfect companion for anyone looking to tour and taste around the Rose City. From histories to hang-over cures, Locke covers the high proof alcohol scene thoroughly, including tips on enjoying the liquors and how to prepare before you tour, as well as offering recipes for you to make great cocktails at home. Karen Locke’s writings on food and drink have appeared in regional and national publications for over a decade.

Being a teenager in a small town is never easy, especially if you really want to experience something more and go somewhere more exciting. In *The Ocean in My Ears* (Ooligan Press/IPS), the debut young adult novel from Meagan Macvie, high school senior Meri Miller faces that quandary. Should she stay, because that’s expected, or should she go, even if she’s not ready for the world beyond her backyard? Meagan Macvie was born and raised in Alaska, and now lives in Olympia.

Christopher Meades is sure to make it onto book club lists this fall with his new novel *Hanna Who Fell from the Sky* (HarperCollins). Set in a secluded community, Hanna is the story of one girl led to question all she knows of the world, faced with a choice between her fate and her will. Erika Swyler, author of *The Book of Speculation*, calls Hanna “Beautiful and delicate, … a powerful meditation on how we define ourselves, the gift and cruelty of faith, and the redemptive act of storytelling.” Christopher Meades lives in Delta, British Columbia.

Traditional Russian cuisine meets Portland foodie sensibilities in *Kachka* (Flatiron/Macmillan) by chef Bonnie Frumkin Morales. Drawing on her roots as the daughter of immigrants from Belarus, Morales celebrates traditional Eastern European dishes, while giving them a modern twist to reflect the Northwest emphasis on fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Bonnie and her husband opened Portland’s Kachka restaurant in 2014, instantly earning national acclaim from sources such as *Bon Appetit*, *The New York Times*, and *Zagat’s*.

Most people have no idea goblins live in the woods around the small town of Bellwater, Washington—but some are about to find out. Seattle writer Molly Ringle’s young adult novel *The Goblins of Bellwater* (Central Ave./IPG) tells of four young people tangled up in the snares of the goblins, with ancient obligations, terrifying enchantments, and a very human sense of romance. Molly Ringle is the author of several previous novels, and is proud to have won the grand prize in the 2010 Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest with one (intentionally) terrible sentence.
Australia-born Emily Suvada makes her debut as a young adult writer with *This Mortal Coil* (Simon Pulse/S&S), the gripping story of a devastating plague and the girl who might be humanity’s last hope in stopping it. Seventeen-year old Catarina is a hacker, but in an age when humans carry implants to change their genes, that means more than mainframes and firewalls. Cat is going to need all her hacking skills, plenty of courage, and maybe help from someone she is not sure she should trust. Emily Suvada currently lives in Portland.

Elizabeth Cotton was only 11-years old when she wrote “Freight Train”, one of the most famous folk songs of the Twentieth century. Laura Veirs introduces young readers to this remarkable musician in *Libba: The Magnificent Musical Life of Elizabeth Cotton* (Chronicle). Accompanied by the lovely illustrations of Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, Veirs’ simple and lyrical text makes for a powerful portrait of a folk icon. Portland-based singer songwriter Laura Veirs is a long-time Cotton fan. *Libba* is her first picture book.

From Kesey Award-winning novelist Willy Vlautin comes *Don’t Skip Out on Me* (HarperCollins), a tough but moving story about Horace, a young half-Piute, half-Irish ranch hand determined to make a name for himself as a champion boxer. Horace’s quest takes him from the quiet mountains of Nevada, first to Tucson, then Mexico, and finally to the seedy side of Las Vegas. Willy Vlautin is the singer songwriter with the band Richmond Fontaine, and author of several acclaimed novels including *Lean on Pete*.

Ex-British secret service agent Lane Winslow returns in Iona Whishaw’s *An Old, Cold Grave* (Touchwood/IPS) when the skeleton of a small child, buried nearly forty years, turns up in a village root cellar. Police Inspector Darling, already busy with another case, asks Lane to find the identity of this long-forgotten child, and investigate the matter of their death. Whishaw’s mystery series, set in interior British Columbia right after WWII, will appeal to readers of Maisie Dobbs and Maggie Hope. Iona Whishaw lives in Vancouver, B.C.; this is her third Lane Winslow novel.

Sixteen-year-old Genie just wants to concentrate on getting into a top-tier college, until she discovers that she is actually a celestial spirit powerful enough to smash the very gates of heaven with her bare fists. That changes everything. Bay Area writer F. C. Yee’s great teen mash-up *The Epic Crush of Genie Lo* (Abrams) draws from Chinese folklore and mixes teenage angst with plenty of humor as Genie’s best-laid plans for her future come unraveled. *The Epic Crush of Genie Lo* received starred reviews in *PW*, *Kirkus* and *School Library Journal*.

Everything chocolate is covered in *Chocolatology* (Microcosm/IPS) by Angel York and Darin Wick. Beautifully illustrated and filled with history, lore, science and lots of recipes, Chocolatology offers something for everyone, from the armchair gourmand to the unrepentant chocoholic. Angel and Darin first thought about chocolate together when they visited the chocolate section of their local food co-op and spent several hours pondering ways to make information about the food supply chain more accessible.

Oregon writer and serial adventuress Diana Kirk offers no apologies and pulls no punches in her laugh-out-loud collection of essays *Licking Flames: Tales of a Half-Assed Hussy* (Black Bomb Books). Kirk is bold, brassy and possesses a well-developed sense of adventure, and she’s willing to share the details with the world. Sometimes sarcastic, sometimes sentimental, each short piece is like a good, if alcohol influenced, talk with your best girlfriend.