

from "Grace Notes"

I grow utterly absorbed, as I age, by two things: love, thorough or insufficient, and grace under duress.

Only those two. Politics, religion, money, ambition, they fade and are subsumed, consumed, eaten by these two vast and endless subjects: love and grace.

Those are the only things we will take to our graves, the only things that will be on our lips as we die, the only things that will be in our pockets as we walk to the country of the blessed – Tir na nOg it was called by my Irish people before me, the country of the always-young, where death has no dominion.

We love or do not love, we love well or badly, our friendships are a form of love, our enmities a form of not-love, missing love, weak love.

And grace under duress: what else is there?

– *Brian Doyle*

SPECIAL THANKS

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LASTING GRACE:

*a Celebration of the **Life & Work** of*

Brian Doyle

THURSDAY: 7:00 p.m.
September 21, 2017

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1126 Southwest Park Avenue
Portland, Oregon

SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)

KIM STAFFORD'S family has been sharing festive meals with the Doyles since the kids were small, often seasoned by the latest in Mary's art and Brian's writing.

ROBIN CODY is BD's drinking buddy who says *Mink River* and *Martin Marten* will echo and shiver through the Great North Wet for a really long time.

KATHLEEN DEAN MOORE and Brian Doyle had what Brian called "a brother and sister thing," falling "immediately into laughing and probing, two minds intent on shoving hearts forward using stories like oars." What a joy, what an honor, to have been able to "stare into each other's brains for a second, grinning."

MARCUS COVERT became one of Brian's associate editors in 1999, when he and Amy Shelly decided to sneak him onto the UP public relations staff and worry about telling their boss later. The ruse worked, and for the next 18 years Marcus had the privilege of working with Brian on the finest university quarterly magazine ever. They were known to chortle helplessly any time Marcus called Brian his "boss."

MELISSA MADENSKI'S best Doyle memories: spontaneous meetings in the coastal town where I lived, watching Brian watch his boys play basketball, crossing paths at the local grocery. Chance conversations and storytellings connected us, humor the thread that held it together.

JESSE LANGE: At Red Hills Provincial Restaurant in 2004, Jesse waited on Brian and Mary for one of their epic wine-country anniversary trips – and promptly led them to a bottle of Domaine Drouhin Pinot noir. A friendship quickly ensued and, after a yearlong interview and eventual book *The Grail*, more dinners, laughs, and of course Pinot noir.

CHIP BLAKE: In 1993, a friend of Chip Blake's told him that he knew of a writer in Portland, Oregon, who might be a good match with *Orion*, the magazine Chip edited. Twenty years later that writer, Brian Doyle, had written more *Orion* stories than any other writer, and also offered Chip a gracious editorial hand with his "Preambles" to each issue of the magazine.

JOHN ORR worked with Brian for 24 years at the University of Portland, where the two of them coordinated the Schoenfeldt Distinguished Writers Series. As well, they argued over what was the greater sport (Orr – baseball; Doyle – basketball), the merits of Robert Louis Stevenson, and whether Brian was fined for using too many periods or was just simply allergic to them.

KATIE YALE started her correspondence with BD as an intern at *Orion* magazine, and their shared love of wonder, writing, and otters kept it going for years. She has spent the last several months pouring over BD's bountiful essay cache for a forthcoming collection of his very best non-fiction.

BARRY LOPEZ: Brian and I shared an ethic. He brought to its sharing a ferocious belief and eloquence, and so was a kind of lighthouse for me.

ANA MARIA SPAGNA is one of the many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of writers who considered Brian an inspiration, a mentor, an avuncular guide, a kindly correspondent, a keen editor, a fellow traveler, and a friend.

BOB PYLE and Brian Doyle often read and signed books together, and also laughed, Springsteened, drank, supped, drank, raved, and laughed some more. Mary and Thea tolerated us both and we all loved one another.

LAURIE KELLEY was Brian's boss for nine years at the University of Portland. He showed up on time every day and even attended staff meetings. (His father had advised him, "Keep your day job.") Laurie and Brian got along famously after she realized he did not take kindly to any sort of editing or criticism of *Portland* magazine. She kept any comments to herself, and a wonderful partnership was born.

HOB OSTERLUND knew BD as a teacher, friend, editor, mentor, colleague, humor promoter and radical co-conspirator for the resurrection of hope.

JIMMY WATTS: Alongside a shared friendship with David James Duncan, Brian and I both have sons born with broken hearts – Wet Engines that amaze and leap and weep and seep and wonder and ache and always endlessly Love.

PATTIANN ROGERS: I first met Brian over 20 years ago. As our paths crossed often, we eventually became good friends, gave readings together, worked together, and kept in touch like souls communicating through joking emails, giving ourselves and each other new names ... just last year Brian called himself "a small wizened Gnarled Potato" and I signed my email, "Shrunken Cast-Away Bee-bitten Apple Core." Bittersweet remembrance.

DAVID JAMES DUNCAN and BD were good friends until 2010. But when BD sent DJD the draft of *Mink River*, they opened up the hood, tuned its engine together till it purred, looked up at each other, and discovered they'd graduated from friendship to full-on brotherhood.