



Astonishingly effective...a gripping, spooky historical novel, based on true events, told in a way that closely resembles real life, [yet] full of the unknown and unknowable...They create another, entirely credible world, which is what America used to be all about. *Deep Creek* is highly ambitious and compelling, much more complex than it might appear from paraphrase. The dual authorship of this novel may have something to do with the fact that it's twice as good as it might have been otherwise. — Carolyn See, *Washington Post* (Named a **Best Novel of 2010**)

"The roundup of serious writers who have written Westerns [since 1960] is impressive: Larry McMurtry, Cormac McCarthy, E. L. Doctorow, Thomas Berger, Charles Portis, N. Scott Momaday...and, this year, *Deep Creek* by Dana Hand, a grim and fascinating fictional account of the actual slaughter of Chinese miners in 1870s Idaho."

— Allen Barra, *The Daily Beast/Newsweek*

The best piece of Old West historical fiction I've read since Wallace Stegner's *Angle of Repose*. It deftly mixes fact and imagination, richly evoking a real time and place, as it tells a compelling story of people wrestling with the dark and tragic side of the frontier. — Donald Worster, author of *Dust Bowl* and *Under Western Skies*

[An] engrossing look at racial prejudice and the settling of the West...an insightful look at how Chinese and Indians became the targets of rage & violence. — *Publishers Weekly*

Dramatically, even lyrically...the authors elegantly weave an engaging, thrilling, lively narrative of how and why the gang murdered...effortlessly wrapped in a backdrop of the growing Wild West, with self-serving land deals, nefarious connections between powerful men and the rustlers, the precariousness of frontier justice, and pervasive racism against the Chinese. A splendid read. — William Wong, *San Francisco Chronicle*

Deep Creek derives its power from a story of three good, if complex people, drawn into a mystery both deeper and darker than they can imagine. As with real life the novel is not tied up neatly in a package, and justice is not so much served as attempted...The novel covers a time period from June of 1887 to August of 1892 but echoes the difficult history of the Asian immigrants to the American West through much of the 19th and the first half of the 20th Century. The ending of the book is a perfect touch of ironic justice, one that might have come from Jack London at his best. It echoes that and Traven's *Treasure of the Sierra Madre* and brings a fine book to a perfect close. And the writing is simply beautiful...This one is something special, with some of the power of works by Ivan Doig and Jim Harrison as well as a compelling mystery and solid detective work by its three protagonists. It goes on a



small shelf of powerful novels of the West such as those by Willa Cather, Mari Sandoz, Frederick Manfred, and Wallace Stegner. Once you read it, you won't forget it. — David L. Vineyard, *Mystery*File*



For those who love stories about well-developed characters, *Deep Creek* provides a host of them. Joe himself is a refreshingly offbeat Western hero: stalwart and resourceful, yes, but also willing to ask questions first and shoot later. Lee Loi also proves a bundle of compelling contradictions, but for me the book's "Most Memorable Character" award goes to Grace Sundown...a virtual embodiment of the multiple influences that make up the West—and, by extension, all of the United States. To say nothing of her smarts, daring, sly sense of humor, cussed independence and indomitable sense of self. She's definitely one to ride the river with—even a river as treacherous and haunting as the Snake River that flows, like a bloodline, through *Deep Creek*. — Carol Cling, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*

At times in the historical thriller *Deep Creek*, it's tough to tell who must overcome the harshest ostracism to crack the case: Lee Loi, a private investigator whose Chinese heritage closes doors despite his Yale degree; Grace Sundown, an alluring half-native mountain guide with a mysterious past; or Vincent, the stubborn, maverick small-town judge torn between a comfortable life and his gut convictions...Their efforts to outwit a series of coldblooded villains provides readers the chance to walk in the footprints of those relegated to the margins of history...We see how America, then as now, struggled with its diversity—of heritage, of faith, of class and of morals. A compelling romance, fascinating context and well-crafted characters. — Karen Gaudette, *Seattle Times*

Dana Hand's debut novel, a powerful and thorough indictment of the racial discrimination rampant in the late 19th century, takes its name from a site on the Snake River where over thirty Chinese gold miners were slaughtered...The Snake River Country is depicted as magnificent yet brutal, in both appearance and temperament, and the spare, visceral prose brilliantly evokes its harsh nature. Likewise, the characters, among the most courageous and original to be found in Western fiction, don't reveal their secrets until they're good and ready. — Sarah Johnson, editor, *Historical Novels Review*



Dana Hand is the pen name of Will Howarth and Anne Matthews.
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