

BOUNDARY WATERS

WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER

POCKET BOOKS

New York London Toronto Sydney

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—Margaret Coel, author of *The Ghost Walker* “Cork O'Connor is the kind of character that will haunt your imagination long after the story ends.”



PRAISE FOR WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER AND *BOUNDARY WATERS*

—*Publishers Weekly* “Krueger follows up his sure-handed debut with an equally effective second thriller featuring former Chicago cop, now former local sheriff Cork O’Connor and his adventures in the warm-spirited little town of Aurora, Minnesota.... Krueger’s writing [is] strong and bold yet [has] the mature mark of restraint.”

—*City Pages* (Minneapolis) “Page-turning.... Any reader with an affection for the Northwoods will appreciate Krueger’s vivid imagery, which blends Indian culture and lore, backwoods adventuring, fish-out-of-water outsiders, and hearty locals whose yokel quotient is kept refreshingly in check.”

—*The Midwest Book Review* “The return of Cork O’Connor should elate fans of Native American mysteries. *BOUNDARY WATERS* will remind readers of *The Treasure of Sierra Madre*, except placed in the icy north. Avarice, violence, and survival rule the action-packed story line that requires gloves because the bitter cold can be felt emanating from the pages. Cork remains a fine character as he struggles with his feelings for his estranged spouse, and the recurring support cast add local color and depth to the plot. The remaining players propel the tale forward to its climactic clash. Krueger is quickly attaining star status with his O’Connor series.”

—*Murder By the Bye, Mysterious News from Murder by the Book* (Portland, OR) “Both *Iron Lake* and *BOUNDARY WATERS* are atmospheric, explore issues of tribal and town culture, and are rich in characterization.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* “Cork remains a sprightly, intriguing hero in a world of wolves, portages, heavy weather, and worrisome humans....”

**PRAISE FOR IRON LAKE, WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER’S FIRST CORK
O’CONNOR MYSTERY**

—*Booklist* (starred review) “Krueger’s debut offers wonderful characters ... realistic details and political deals do not slow a tense, fast pace punctuated with humor and surprise in a book that is sure to appeal to fans of Nevada Barr and Tony Hillerman.”

—Jeremiah Healy, Shamus Award-winning author of *The Only Good Lawyer* and *Spiral* “As deep and wonderful as the Minnesota forest from which the story springs ... even the most minor characters are fully—almost perfectly—drawn.”

—David Housewright, Edgar Award-winning author of *Penance* and *Dearly Departed* “An explosive brew.... A truly remarkable first novel; read it with someone watching your back.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* “Minnesotan Krueger has a sense of place he’s plainly honed firsthand in below-zero prairie. His characters, too, sport charm and dimension.... This first-timer’s stamina and self-assurance suggest that O’Connor’s got staying power.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review) “A fresh take.... Krueger makes Cork a real person.... And the author’s deft eye for the details of everyday life brings the town and its peculiar problems to vivid life.”

—Stephen Greenleaf, author of *Past Tense* “*Iron Lake* is as powerful as a Minnesota blizzard.”

—Margaret Coel, author of *The Ghost Walker* “Cork O’Connor is the kind of character that will haunt your imagination long after the story ends.”

Books by William Kent Krueger

Iron Lake

Boundary Waters

Purgatory Ridge

The Devil's Bed

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BOUNDARY WATERS



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For Diane, a promise kept; and for my parents, Marilynne and Krueg, who taught me not to be afraid to adventure or to love.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My thanks first and foremost to the Anishinaabeg. In this book, I have relied heavily on their rich storytelling tradition, if not the stories themselves. The Iron Lake Band of Ojibwe is not real. However, I hope that the spirit with which I rendered these people captures respectfully the courage and integrity of the real Anishinaabeg.

As always, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the members of the mystery writing group that calls itself Crème de la Crime: Carl Brookins, Julie Fasciana, Betty James, Michael Kac, Joan Loshek, Jean Miriam Paul, Betsey Rhame, Susan Runholt, and Anne B. Webb. Without their suggestions and their blessing, this book would not be.

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For their guidance in the ways of a county sheriff's office and of search-and-rescue operations in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, I am grateful to Chief Deputy Mark Falk and Judy Sivertson of the Cook County Sheriff's Department.

Because anonymity was requested, I will refrain from identifying the helpful source of much of the information concerning the reality of the policies and procedures of the FBI.

In that clean, well-lighted place called the St. Clair Broiler, in the early hours before dawn, this book was written. If you're ever in St. Paul, drop by for a cup of coffee and an earful from the regulars and to say hello to Jimmy

Theros and Elena and the staff. They'll treat you well, I promise, even if you don't tell them Kent sent you.