

Interior Design Brief

Title: *Three Sides Water*

Author: Peter Donahue

Pages: **TBD (approx. 400)**

Trim Size: 5.5" x 8.5"

Genre: Literary Fiction

Description

In three short novels, award-winning author Peter Donahue explores the lives of three different individuals at tumultuous points in history, painted against the backdrop of Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Like the Peninsula itself, each novel is both separate and connected, unique to itself yet part of something larger. Marguerite struggles with the emotional aftermath of sexual assault amidst the mysticism and still-untamed wilderness of the 1920s. Avery navigates life as a "delinquent" in Fort Worden Treatment Center while wrestling with racial tensions and explorations of gender identity in the politically-charged 1960s. In the present day, Chris wonders about his own identity, struggling to separate his authentic self from the persona his grandmother so carefully crafted for him. These characters, defined by both place and period, attempt to reach beyond these constraints to find enduring meaning in their lives.

In his newest work of literary fiction, Donahue deftly explores themes of gender identity, racial tensions, juvenile delinquency, compulsion, and infidelity. Amidst three significant cultural movements in American history, from post-WWI hardships to the Vietnam-era "summer of love" to present-day economic recovery, these themes are firmly rooted in a sense of place and unapologetically challenge what it means to authentically love and live.

Main Themes

- Search for identity; coming to terms with one's identity
- Connection to place and regionality (Olympic Peninsula)
- Tumultuous historical eras ('20s, '60s, today); connection between place and time period
- Social issues: *juvenile delinquency, sexuality & gender identity, sexual assault, race relations, infidelity*

Setting

- "On Rialto Beach": rocky, pebble-y beach with tidepools. Forest nearby. River nearby.
- "At Fort Worden": juvenile detention center with several buildings. Forest & mountains nearby. Brief visit to Seattle: Pike Place, World Fair (1970).
- "Out of Shelton": small logging town (lots of trees). Also in Seattle, residential; jazz bar.

Audiences

- Adult readers of literary historical fiction
- Older readers of YA fiction (women [and men!] age 18-25)
- Readers of contemporary fiction
- Readers interested in addressing social issues
- Readers of history or historic time period books
- Readers interested in jazz period (Bing Crosby nostalgia)

Key Visual Elements

- See [Cover Design Brief](#).
- Should include a visual representation for each of the three stories.
 - "On Rialto Beach" potential objects: planchette; sketchbook & pencils; tidepool

- “At Fort Worden” potential objects: donuts; sock with “Avery” written on it; red bandana; map of the trail they hike
- “Out of Shelton” potential objects: jazz instruments, e.g. saxophone or microphone; trees & forest
- Could also depict the scenery present in each story; see *Setting*, above.
- Another choice: using small icons or images under the titles of the stories

Internal Design Elements

- Comprised of approximately 400 pages, broken into three separate novels; start stories on the recto page
- Cover and interior need to be cohesive—consider setting, major themes
 - Cover pages for each of the three stories should also be cohesive/in the same style
 - Need to separate stories with some white space
- Typographic choices that reflect the literary fiction genre while not being too “old,” such as Baskerville
 - Consider modern drop caps, small caps, different font (not all at once!) for opening line of each story
- Consider placement of page numbers and story title in folios
- *Avoid* depictions of water

Timelines

- Deadline for applications is **October 23 by 9 a.m.**
- Designer should be ready to begin reading the manuscript and check-in with preliminary planning by **October 30**
- Deadline for this project is **November 30**