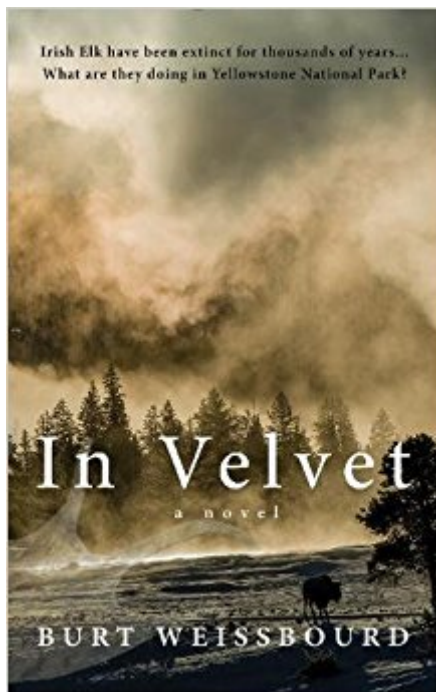


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# In Velvet: A Novel



## Synopsis

The northwest corner of Yellowstone Park is closed for bear management and Rachel, a bear biologist, is discovering some very startling animal behavior—grizzlies denning in June, swans at their wintering grounds in summer, what appear to be Irish Elk, an extinct species, with huge palmated antlers. There are also horrific mutations in the young—elk calves with no front legs, earless bear cubs, and eaglets without wings. What has gone wrong? Why is this area closed? Who's covering up these animal abnormalities in the Park? A non-stop thriller set in some of North America's wildest country, *In Velvet* takes you deep into the hearts of an uncommon bear biologist, a hard case local detective, and a Chicago cop as they take on a corrupt sheriff, a pathological poacher, and a lethal black ops manager to solve this ghastly mystery and restore the natural order in Yellowstone National Park.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Burt Weissbourd is a novelist, screenwriter, and producer of feature films. He graduated from Yale University with honors in psychology. During his student years he volunteered at the Museum of Modern Art in Paris and taught English to college students in Thailand. After he graduated, he wrote, directed, and produced educational films. He began a finance program at Northwestern University Graduate School of Business but left to start his own film production company in Los Angeles. His films include *Ghost Story*, starring Fred Astaire, Douglas Fairbanks Jr., and Patricia Neal, and *Raggedy Man*, starring Sissy Spacek and Sam Shepard, which *The New York Times* called "a movie of sweet, low-keyed charm." He's a voting member of the Academy of

Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. In 1987, he founded an investment company that he still runs. Inside Passage, his first novel, was published in 2013. In Velvet is his second novel. Teaser, the sequel to Inside Passage and the second book in the Corey Logan trilogy, was published in 2014. He lives in New York City.

A bit of a stretch but I enjoyed it.

This story is great, made even better due to the "what if" you start asking yourself. Love the strong characters, the details that are enough without going overboard, and the story itself. You will find yourself reading long into the night to finish.

Very good reading

The book started off delivering some distinct holes which caused confusion in setting up the characters and story line. However, if one looks past these holes, then one can enjoy the story. I always enjoy when a book takes place in my beloved Yellowstone, and for the most part the story was plausible. Better character development would have served this book well, and may any venture into future writing have this taken into consideration.

This lovely novel is set in the Yellowstone National Park. It mixes the serenity of a national animal preserve but underneath the serenity there are a number of unscrupulous characters using the park for their own agendas. Rachel Stanley is a bear biologist who had been tagging and tracking bears for years. She loves her bears and has given many of them pet names. At the start of the story, she makes a grim discovery of the body of a scientist who appeared to have been killed and partially eaten by a bear. She's also upset with the number of animals who were born malformed, she's seen this in a bear with no ears, to a bird missing a wing, to an elk with three legs. Rachel wonders what fluke of nature could be causing this. We also meet Rainey Jackson, he's fly fishing at the start of the story and meets a Chicago cop, Jen Donahue, who's currently on leave. Rainey is a rare character who is totally honest and possesses so many good traits that both Jen and Rachel are drawn to him. We see him try to help others and disregard any possible consequences to himself. There are multiple plots in this complex mystery, from a corrupt sheriff who wants to go into business and sell antlers to a foreigner, to a black ops government agent conducting experiments in the park, to a crazy poacher who thinks the devil is after him and he has to offer sacrifices. Rachel realizes that the

experiments the black ops agent is conducting could be the cause of the deformed animals she's found. The scene when she confronts this agent is most memorable. The reader wants to shout "YES." With both Jen and Rachel attracted to Rainey, we observe a romantic struggle where we want all the characters to succeed and find happiness. The reader follows the characters and it doesn't take long before we see that they are extraordinary. The theme of the novel is good versus evil. There are a few really good people surrounded by another group out for themselves. I was totally satisfied with the story and sorry to see it end. I received a copy of this book in return for my honest review.

In Velvet is a fast-paced thriller set in the mountains of Yellowstone. From the blurb: The northwest corner of Yellowstone Park is closed for bear management, and Rachel, a bear biologist, is discovering some very startling animal behavior—grizzlies denning in June, swans at their wintering grounds in summer, what appear to be Irish Elk, an extinct species, with huge palmated antlers. There are also horrific mutations in the young—elk calves with no front legs, earless bear cubs, and eaglets without wings. What has gone wrong? Why is this area closed? Who's covering up these animal abnormalities in the Park? A non-stop thriller set in some of North America's wildest country, In Velvet takes you deep into the hearts of a hard case local detective and a Chicago cop as they take on a corrupt sheriff, a pathological poacher, and a lethal black ops manager to solve this ghastly mystery and restore the natural order in Yellowstone National Park. The complex plot is also host to a complex and quirky set of characters—from a bear biologist who discovers strange happenings and odd animal mutations, an ex-detective fly fisherman, an ex-Chicago policewoman, and disturbed sheriff to a certifiably crazy poacher, and let's not forget top secret government agency involvement. There's a lot going on in this novel. One thing that disturbed me throughout the story was the rapid point of view changes, many in short, choppy bits. This is just my opinion, but I found many of the head-hops unnecessary and would have enjoyed the story a bit more if the chapters were more cohesive. Despite that, I really liked this book. The descriptions, especially of Yellowstone, were rich and breathtaking. I thoroughly enjoyed Burt Weissbourd's writing style. Although the scientific explanations behind what the bad guys were up to were a bit complex, they were explained in an understandable enough way to enjoy the story without my eyes glazing over. The characters were realistic, unique, and quirky. I enjoyed them all, even the ones I despised. There's a danger when blending multiple plots and subplots, but it was done seamlessly here. This heart-pounding thriller will string you along and bring you right to the edge before reaching a most

satisfactory conclusion. If this were a movie, it's the type that would have me walking out of the theater only able to initially say, "Wow!" I look forward to reading more from Mr. Weissbourd. 4.25 Stars Read more reviews on my website: [...]

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