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P. O. Box 20153, New York, NY 10011 Tel 212.620.4080

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For Immediate Release

WHISKEY REBEL: A Novel

By Jeffrey Dunn

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Contact: Jane Wesman

jane@wesmanpr.com

or

Andrea J. Stein

andrea@wesmanpr.com

About Jeffrey Dunn's Writing:

"A riveting unfolding of past traumas and joyful celebration of nature and renewal."

– Kirkus Reviews writing about *Wildcat*

"The novel's blending of the ordinary and the extraordinary, the mundane and magical, is ambitious, playful, and at times challenging . . . Four unique souls' beautifully penned adventures in Olympic Peninsula." – BookLife writing about *Radio Free Olympia*

**WHISKEY REBEL, NEW LITERARY FICTION BY JEFFREY DUNN
EXPLORES THE ESSENCE OF FREEDOM**

**Set in the High Desert of Washington State, Dunn's Latest Novel Paints a
Riveting Portrait of Characters Left Behind by the American Dream**

Novelist Jeffrey Dunn is known for his lyrical prose and the palpable sense of place in his writing. His forthcoming novel, **WHISKEY REBEL** (Izzard Ink Publishing, May 2025), continues in this tradition with a story about identity, friendship, and the essence of freedom — and the arduous journey to attain it. The book's narrator, drifter Punxie Tawney, quickly draws readers into the rugged landscape of Washington State's high desert, while introducing a cast of quirky characters who have been battered by the past and left behind by the American dream.

Punxie paints a rich portrait of his childhood, raised by a librarian mother and an alcoholic, logger father. Somewhat adrift, he joins the army and is severely wounded in Iraq, before returning to his home state of Washington, where he finds himself alone, after the death of his parents. He then tries his hand at prospecting for gold, when he meets Hamilton Chance, a barefoot drummer with a burning desire to live out his ancestors' dream of distilling tax-free whiskey—a powerful metaphor for the need to chart one's own path. The two join forces and set up camp in Moses Coulee, a canyon walled in with basalt cliffs.

"The place where, and I swear this to be true, the rattlesnakes lie out in sage leaf bikinis,"

Punxie explains.

More

Along the way, three other “seekers” join their quest, all of whom are searching not only to heal their own trauma but also to find their own brand of freedom: “Sam the Man,” the Native American who speaks eloquently about his ancestors being stripped of everything; Cherry, a diner waitress who endured the foster care system; and Loyalhanna, Cherry’s friend and survivor of abuse. Through this motley crew, Jeffrey Dunn demonstrates both the universal need for freedom and the variety of forms it can take.

WHISKEY REBEL also provides a frank glimpse into issues that have hit hard in America’s communities, especially a dark sense of hopelessness. “I understood all I needed to know, the finality of it all,” Punxie says, following the suicide of a high school classmate. Punxie additionally describes feeling betrayed by the military’s “Be All You Can Be!” slogan when the only thing his military experience has been given him is brain trauma. “If this were the portal to the American Dream, I couldn’t find the light switch. I still felt like I was in the dark,” he writes.

Throughout, Dunn lovingly describes this remote area of Central Washington — from the unique statue in front of the Wenatchee Library where Punxie and Hamilton do their research, to the otherworldly landscape of Moses Coulee. Dunn also dives deep into the fascinating history of the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794, the first rebellion against the United States of America, only five years after the signing of the Constitution.

Ultimately, **WHISKEY REBEL** is a picaresque novel reverberating with profound insights. Dunn’s latest work will captivate readers, challenging them to ponder the American Dream and the true meaning of freedom.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jeffrey Dunn, author of **WHISKEY REBEL**, is a critically acclaimed writer and award-winning teacher. His works of cultural fiction include the Washington State Book Award-nominated *Radio Free Olympia*; *Dream Fishing the Little Spokane*; *Wildcat, An Appalachian Romance*; and his poetry collection *Hubcap Collection Plate*. His Ph.D. in English literature and cultural studies laid the foundation for his 41-year teaching career focused on student learning issues and implementing educational programs at local and national levels. Based in Spokane, Dunn is a history miner who roams the woods whenever possible. His essays can be found on [Medium](#). His website is www.jeffreydunnspokane.com.