BOOKS

## Great Lakes thriller-chiller captures people and country

## Iron Lake By William Kent Krueger (Pocket Books, \$6.99)

As this hriller-chiller begins, it is mid-December, and an especially fierce blizzard is harreling down 1 E)

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Mansion out on North Point Road? Krueger, a former logger, con-struction worker and journalist researcher, displays here a real talent for storytelling. In this highly visual tale, with his sure-handed, moethy unadormed proso, he's also a first-rate scenemaker, making this fictional visit to Great Lakes country even more delightul for these of us already iamiliar with the territory. But it is ultimately really Krueger's finely sched, fleshed-out characters that bring this

regional crime novel to life and propel the story forward. By the time readers have con-cluded this "village mystery." they may feel they've experi-enced some face-to-face meetings with a number of Aurors's 3752 clittens. Begin with Aurora shoriff, Corcoran "Cork" O'Connor, whose heritage is part Native-American and part Iriah, and who live ain an almest constant state of conflict. Though not offi-chart's cally the shoriff any struggle by the weak of clilly the shoriff anymore, he's driven to dig up the truth and so chart's cally let go of his old job. Though his marriage is on the chart's not her site of the struggle by the weak so chart's not her site of the struggle by the white sect-tors and shorif anymore, he's driven to dig up the truth and so chart's not her site a seri-ous affair, he seems detarmined to hold on his wife and chill dren. Though he's not religious to hold on his wife and chill dren. Though he's not religious to he sole on the wife and chill dren. Though he's not religious to he so hope to still find answers in prayer and religion. Krueger obviously knows the Great Lakes area in early win-tons. Krueger obviously knows the Great Lakes area in early win-tons.

answora in prayer and religion. Krueger obviously knows the two the calls home scome to find the calls home scome to find the two the calls home scome to find the calls how the two the calls how the calls how the how the how the calls how the how

with some down-and-ditry, under-the-table gambling opera-tions. Krueger obviously knows the Great Lakes area in early win-ter, with its "painful cold ... brit-tie now snow ... breathless clari-ty of ... sky. 'He also is obviously familiar with small towns and fural communities, where doors are left unlocked, and secrets are with his well-chosen words. As do many mysteries, "Iron Lake" contains some unlikely occurrences (for starters, the origor's final secnes fiel a bit superas found lacking the tight superas found alsewhere in the story. But the strengths of "Iron Lake" far outweigh any weak-nees, and will prompt discorning mystery fans to look for his sec-ond novel. "Boundary Waters," now in hardcover. Victoria Dia is a Livonia free lance writer who specializes in

often exciting. His portrayal of Castro is even-handed. He shows a man of dedication, idealiam and unwa-vering energy. But he also shows a man with an outsized and dan-gerous ego, with little concern for the safety of others and with a violent streak. Still, it's hard to wise the obver thet need it near

miss the charm that made it pos-sible for Castro to lead a revolu-

tion and maintain control over 40 years under the most trying

What if Castro had a curveball?

heady concoction of baseball, romance and revolution. Former journeyman catcher Billy Bryan returns to Cuba with his adult daughter, who wants him to come to terms with a long lost love and his peculiar rela-tionship with the famous dicta-tor.

tionship with the famous dicta-tor. The story is told by Billy. How he first meets Castro when stu-dent robels disrupt a Cuban win-tor league game in 1947. Castro shows off his pitching ability to the amazed Billy and the rest of the team. Castro is a young man with overwhelming charisma and arrogance. and arrogance.

and arrogance. But Billy is less interested in Castro than he is in a beautiful photographer-revolutionary, Malena, who is also attracted to him despite his political obtuse-ness **B688**.

ness. Wendel's novel presents a vivid picture of Havana in the late 1940s when it was Sin City for Americane out to lase their inhibitions. It was a place of nightclubs, cesinos, brothels, sailor bars and baseball. It was also a typical Caribbean country where the strotch between rich and poor was vast and unbridge-able.

the years and or the most trying circumstances. The love story is a bit weak, though it provides motivation for a typically non-political baliphay-er, one who is at that point in his modioero carcer when his options are running out and even the minor leagues are question-table. For one brief moment Cas-tro becomes his last ticket to the big show. But Castro has a big-ger show to attend to. Baltimore beat the Cuban All-

mstances.

big show. But Castro has a big-ger show to attend to. Baltimore beat the Cuban All-Stars in the first game, but it took extra innings to do it. The Orioles lost the second match in Baltimore. Cuba still loves its baseball and continues to create great baseball players like Yan-kee pitcher Orlando Hernandcz. Too bad Fidel Castro wasn't one of themi

p.m. at Cranbrook's Brockside School, Five-day workshop is \$450. To receive a catalog, pleaso call (248) 645-3664. AT THE BALDWIN LIBRARY "Let's Taik About It' features a reading and discussion on Kurt Vonnegut'a "Slaughterhouse Five," part of series on books about World War II, at the Library, 300 West Merrill, Birninghem (248) 647-1700.

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1:20:21(5:02)(7:50)( (PG13) (1:00, 4:00) 6:45, 9:30 SLC PUNE (R) (1:30 4:15) 7:00, 9:15, 11:30 PE USUBLIS NO FASS 150, 120, 530, 746, 1000 INF TERMIN (T) 1230, 0, 0, 120, 120, 746, 1000 INF TERMIN (T) 1230, 146, 140, 140, 530, 124, 145, 476, 456, 730, 125, 145, 470, 150 INF DETURING (T) 1250, 1250, 520, 730, 1510 INF TERMIN (T) 1250, 1250, 520, 730, 1510 INF TERMIN (T) 1250, 1250, 520, 730, 1510 INF TERMIN (T) 1250, 1350, 630, 920 Maple Art Theatra III 4135 W. Kupie, West of Telegraph Boomfeld Hills 243-855-9090 (DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!!) TEA WITH INUSSOLINI (PC) (1:35 4:00) 6:45, 9:20 The Catter (1) (1:30 3:45, 3:45) 7:45, 9:45 Life IS BEAUTIFA (PG13) (1:45, 4:30) 7:15, 9:40 Oxford 3 Cinemas LL.C. Empiryhan Theatre 211 S. Wookerd Dowtown Smiryhan Geterhul WF Doetch Ne Fas Issuperents REGNUE TOETEN PROVIDE (25) 64-F3LI AND HAN TOOR YAL, MATTECHD DR ABECCH DR TRANSCHOOL DR ABECCH ALL TELEMORE SALLS Stormate Parties 1.5 Telegraph Sp Like Pd W Set of Telegraph 244-352 e244 Largain Materes Day • Al Show Urd Spm Contracts Show Day Like Show Thay Fri & Sat Ridu ThrASDAY 1025; 1220; 340; 610; 740; 440; 1020 NEVER BEEN KISSED (PC13) 12202; 45; 520; 755; 1040; THE GUT OT FORMELS (PC13) 1120; 145; 445; 723; 943; THE MURIE (R) 1020; 1420; 1 Slar Windhester 1136 S. Rochester Md, Winchester Mal 248-656-1160 No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & 2 rated films after 6 pm ALI TELEPHONE SALE MP A ADDIVISIONAL POLICY DECLAR (PC17) 120, 220, 4-07, 20, 5-30 PC15, 221, 4-70, 9-35 PC15, 221, 4-70, 9-35 PC15, 221, 4-70, 9-35 PC16, 221, 502, 740, 9-35 PC16, 221, 502, 740, 9-35 TEL BALTES (P) 120, 221, 502, 740, 9-55 TEL BALTES (P) 120, 221, 502, 740, 9-55 ADV/274 BEAN RESED (PC11) 120, 245, 503, 740, 9-55 ADV/274 BEAN RESED (PC11) 120, 243, 6-45, 8-55 PC10, 2-20, 4-30, 6-45, 8-55 NP THE MULENT (NC13) 12:30, 130, 130, 230, 400, 430, 445, 710, 740, 925, 950, 10:15 LIFE (R) 1:15, 345, 730, 945 NEVER IEED KISSED (PC13) 12:04, 200 Showcze Protiec 6-12 Web Telegraph Ed. Let size of Telegraph Ed. Let size of 248-354-6777 Bargan Waines Daiy • Al Store Unit 6 pm Continuous Store Daiy Let Store Theor Telegraph Tet Store Theory Telegraph Tet Store Theory Telegraph Telegraph Store Daily Let Store Theory Telegraph Telegraph Store Telegra 11:30, 1:40, 6:00 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU (PG13) 6:30, 8:40 Mpl Theatres Star John-B at 14 Mile 32289 John R. Road 248 SSS-2078 CALL FOR SAURDAY SHOWTHASS <u>\$1.00 Fond Tel \$1.50</u> 313-561-7200 \$1.00 TI 6 pm After 6 pm \$1.50 Ample Parling - Tellord Center Free Jefill on Drinks & Popcom United Artists Theatres Bargain Matiness Daily, for all shows Stating before & OO PM Same day advance tickets available. NV - No VLP, tickets accepted 
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and poor was vast and unorage-able. But Wendel isn't a political writer and that isn't the appeal



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RETREAT FOR WRITERS Cranbrook's annual Retreat for Writers will be July 9-183:30-6:30