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## Book Review: 'River Stone' by JB (John) Winsor

**Coming home again: Montana drama crackles with suspense**  
By **Bette Erickson** For the Camera  
Posted: 11/13/2011 01:00:00 AM MST

Writer, businessman, and founding director of the University of Colorado's ATLAS Institute, JB (John) Winsor's new self-published novel "River Stone," is a story to savor. Readers who enjoy tales involving family secrets, betrayal and love won't be disappointed.

"River Stone" deftly balances the messy pulls of romance, family drama and 21st century business ethics.

Winsor has created a likeable male protagonist, Justin Thatcher, a successful partner in a Manhattan buyout firm. Although at the pinnacle of his career, Thatcher's life is devoid of meaning. He has no time for relationships, and he's divorced and estranged from his 11-year old son, William.

The story quickly builds momentum when Thatcher's



Boulder author JB (John) Winsor.

rancher father dies when his car veers off one of Montana's high mountain roads. The Harvard-educated son is in a tricky spot, because his father physically abused him as a child and he swore he'd never return to Montana.

And when he does, Thatcher's long-alienated brother Cody accuses him of returning to their father's funeral merely for the inheritance.

Soon after the funeral Thatcher learns his first and only true love, Sara, gave birth to his now 20-something year old son. On the trip back to Montana, Thatcher's Manhattan-bred younger son accompanies him and quickly becomes enthralled with the ranching lifestyle and his Uncle Cody and Aunt Linda.

From that setup, "River Stone" bristles with enough suspense and ambition to keep the pages turning. In the short span of two weeks or so Thatcher unravels guarded family secrets, battling betrayal and deceit. Following a harrowing experience in the wilderness, he comes to the bittersweet, life-changing

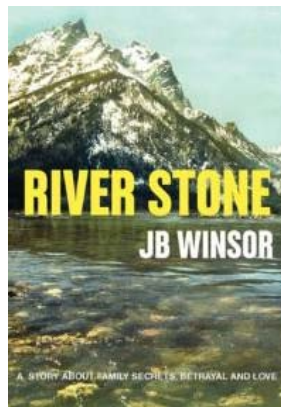
realization he is not the man he thought he was.

Winsor is a polished writer who delivers a winning combination of the literary and commercial. The author absorbingly engages readers, particularly toward the end of the lively story.

His past work includes "Love of the Hunt" and " [The Wolf](#)," both books with strong outdoor connections. "River Stone" is no exception, offering satisfying twists and crisp, smart dialogue. While interesting characters don't often get the stories they deserve, the cast of this accomplished novel includes believable -- and i.e. not always likeable -- people.

Read more about the inspiration for River Stone and the author's work at [jbwinsor.com](http://jbwinsor.com).

Bette Erickson is the author of *Best Boulder Region Hiking Trails* (Westcliffe Publishers, \$19.95). Contact her at [bette\\_erickson@hotmail.com](mailto:bette_erickson@hotmail.com).



"River Stone" by JB Winsor. Boulder Digital Publishing, \$28.95



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