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News Release

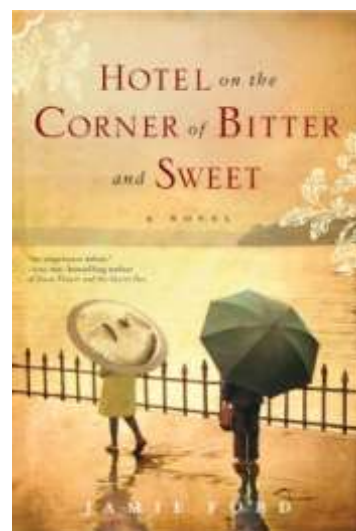
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May 25, 2010

**Jamie Ford to read from and discuss his NY Times bestseller,
“Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet”**

Join author Jamie Ford as he reads from, discusses and signs his New York Times bestselling debut novel, “Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet.” The event will be held at the Olympia Timberland Library after hours on Wednesday, June 9 from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. To hold your spot, pick up free tickets beginning May 26 at the library information desk.

“Hotel” is a story of conflicting loyalties and devotion. Set in Seattle’s Nihonmachi district during the World War II era and today, it tells of Chinese-American Henry Lee, his father, and his first love Keiko Okabe. The story begins with an event that happened in real life: The current owner of the Panama Hotel, once the gateway to Seattle’s Japantown, discovered the belongings of Japanese families, left when they were rounded up and sent to internment camps during World War II. (A Seattle Times article depicts the hotel then and now at <http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/pacificnw/2002/1103/cover.html>.)



As part of the story, Henry witnesses the discovery, which takes him back to the 1940s. Amid the chaos of blackouts, curfews, and FBI raids, Henry and Keiko forge a bond of friendship and innocent love that transcends the long-standing prejudices of their Old World ancestors. Then Keiko and her family are swept up in the evacuations to the wartime internment camps.

Forty years later in the hotel basement Henry, now a widower, begins looking for the Okabe family’s belongings and for a long-lost object. He also searches for a way to bridge the gap between him and his son and to confront the choices he made many years ago.

Ford is an award-winning short-story writer. He grew up near Seattle’s Chinatown, he now lives in Montana. He is the great grandson of Nevada mining pioneer Min Chung, who emigrated from Kaiping, China, to San Francisco in 1865, where he adopted the western name “Ford.” Jamie Ford’s Web site is www.jamieford.com.

The Olympia Timberland Library is at 313 8th Avenue SE, Olympia. For more information, call the library at (360) 352-0595 or visit www.TRL.org.

Timberland Regional Library provides for the information, reading and lifelong learning needs of the Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston county public at 27 community public libraries and 7 library service partner locations. The library system is funded mainly by local property taxes. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library's program may contact the library one week in advance.