

Dear Readers,

If you're thinking of buying one of my books, first, thank you! Second, please consider purchasing your book from your local independent bookstore. If you don't know of a place to go, visit the website [IndieBound](#), which will locate a place where you can shop OR let you order online from an independent store. Remember that independent shops can order almost anything for you, and if you pick it up at the store you'll never need to pay for shipping!

Here's a list of great reasons to support an Independent Bookstore, borrowed with permission from one of my favorites, Wellesley Booksmith in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

## **1 You help support local author programs**

Indies bring authors to the store, library, and your local schools at no charge, supporting authors and encouraging readers.

## **2 You embrace what makes us unique**

Indies choose the books and gift items we carry based on our first-hand knowledge of your needs and your interests. We carry a wider array of products because we look for those unique titles and gift items you won't find elsewhere. By choosing to support locally owned businesses, you're helping to maintain the diversity and distinctive flavor of your community.

## **3 You nurture our community**

We know you, you know us! Locally owned businesses build strong neighborhoods by sustaining communities, linking neighbors, and donating to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains. Spending locally makes sure your tax dollars are put to work right here. Locally owned businesses create more jobs locally and often provide better wages and benefits than chains do.

## **4 You help the environment**

Local stores help to sustain vibrant, compact, walkable town centers, which are essential to reducing sprawl, automobile use, habitat loss, and air and water pollution. Buying from a local business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and less packaging.