

MEET THE AUTHOR

Novelist Jim Lynch. Photo from Wikipedia.



Jim Lynch spent his youth exploring Puget Sound with his sailing family. He graduated from the University of Washington in 1985 and began a newspaper career that took him to Alaska, Washington, D.C., Spokane, Portland, and Olympia. Along the way, he wrote for *The Seattle Times* and *The Portland Oregonian*, and won several national journalism honors, including a George Polk Award for environmental reporting (with Karen Dorn Steele) in 1995, and the Livingston Young Journalist Award in 1996. Drawing on his fascination with the bays and tidal flats of the Puget Sound, he wrote his first novel, *The Highest Tide*. That debut novel won the 2006 Pacific Northwest Bookseller's Award and was adapted and produced by Book-It in the spring of 2008. *Border Songs* is inspired by Lynch's work as a journalist covering the politics, environment, geography, and people along our northern border. Both novels have been published in many languages; a film of *The Highest Tide* is in development. Jim Lynch lives in Olympia with his wife, Denise, and daughter, Grace.

“ As a reporter, I'd spent time studying the western end of the U.S.-Canadian border, that nonsensical line that tries to follow the 49th parallel from Minnesota to the Pacific. The line overgrows and the two countries are often divided by nothing more than a drainage ditch or nothing at all. I spent time along the border after 9/11 and saw what it was like on both sides after the U.S. Border Patrol tripled its forces.

These quiet farmlands had turned into a prime battlefield on the war on terror AND the war on drugs. I started to see provocative material and comic potential. I also soon found myself inventing characters on both sides of the line, including a young, dyslexic 6-foot-8 Border Patrol agent obsessed with birds, and *Border Songs* took shape.

Jim Lynch quote from: www.jimlynchbooks.com



Kellan Larson in *The Highest Tide* (2008). Photo by Erik Stubaug.