



Galahad Porter

Best of the Blog

Issue 5

June 13, 2017

Welcome to Galahad Porter Best of the Blog 5!

If you follow me on Facebook, Twitter or on my blog at galahadporter.com you are pretty well up to date. For those who live by email alone, I have created this PDF file to bring you some edited highlights of the website section 'The Blog'. I try to publish this every 3 months or so, fitting in with publication milestones.

In this special *At Reception* pre-launch edition of the newsletter we reproduce the book cover, with its history, and discuss the problems with naming characters! I've also added a couple of items written earlier this year relating to the copy editing process you may find of interest!

At Reception now available to pre-order!

At Reception is in the final proof reading stage before printing. Matador, part of Troubador Publishing Ltd, will publish and market the book with release planned for September 2017.

You can pre-order the book for delivery worldwide direct from the publishers at:

http://www.troubador.co.uk/book_info.asp?bookid=4552

Alternatively, other online and high street stores may allow you to pre-order the book.

For online retailers such as amazon.co.uk, foyles.co.uk, and waterstones.com search 'Galahad Porter' and it should lead you to *At Reception*.

If you pre-order from a high street bookshop you may need to give the retailer the book ISBN: 9781788032711.

The ebook version of *At Reception* will be made available in the leading ebook formats.

Full details of how to buy *At Reception* will be issued nearer to the time of publication.

At Reception cover revealed!

The book cover for *At Reception*, incorporating original artwork by artist Dave Hill (see davehillsart.co.uk), was released in April 2017.

It is used in the advance information data provided to the book industry. This is sent out well before publication and used, for example, by online retailers to create a web page for the book. It is also used for the press release that is distributed to the media. See the article below for a little more on the story behind the cover design!

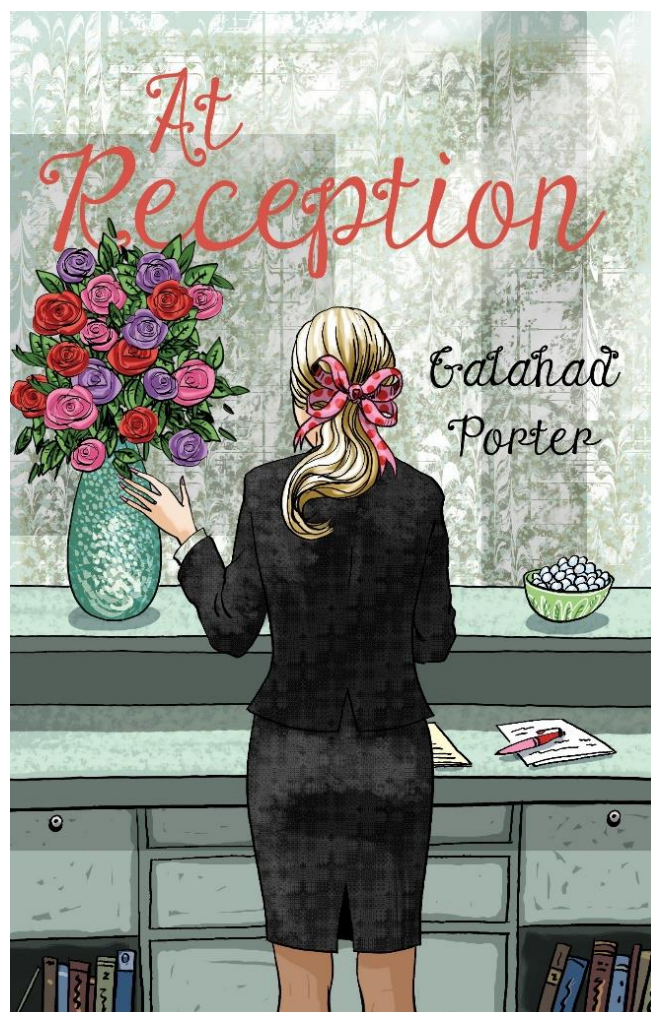


Image © Dave Hill 2017

Imagination and artwork! (first published 8/4/2017)

What was your favourite piece of school artwork? Surely you made one thing that got put up on the wall at school, or at home on the fridge, something you were really proud of?

In my case I got an 'A' for a pencil and watercolour drawing of a sliced tomato. I had moved to a new class. My 'creative' reputation conveniently left behind, the teacher seemed excited. I think she thought I had real talent. Alas the next two pieces of 'art' showed a rapid decline in ability, she seemed to lose interest in me, and I later gave up art at school!

Try to imagine Sally, the receptionist in my forthcoming debut novel *At Reception*. What does she look like to you? See www.sallyatreception.com for help.

Until today her internet image was a crayon drawing that I made. It was my take on a child's picture of Sally, which appears in a scene in the story.



**Original sketch of Sally by Galahad Porter
Image © Andrew David Porter 2016**

However, it's now time for a professional.

The book cover is important for getting people interested in what you have written (along with the 'blurb' that goes on the back). For *At Reception* I have commissioned artist Dave Hill to create the artwork for the cover. I was so impressed with his draft sketch of Sally, her pink and red spotty bow standing out, that I decided to release part of the drawing as a bit of a teaser ahead of the book cover release. The sketch will also be used in some promotional materials.

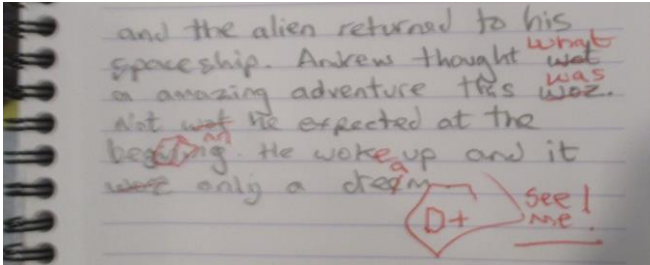


**Dave Hill's first draft sketch of Sally.
Image © Dave Hill 2017**

Just when you think it's safe... (first published 19/2/2017)

You know those childhood mornings, don't you? The ones where you are dreading the English class at 9.50am. You know the time exactly, it's burnt itself deeper and deeper into your mind. You gave in your two page story a couple of days ago, and now you are waiting for the teacher's red pen to smother the pages with corrections. You put your heart and soul into the dramatic storyline. But the school only cares about spelling and grammar, creativity is suppressed, no marks for that! Last time the teacher said 'I've only highlighted the worst offences'. You've spent the last few days worried sick that you spelt beginning with one 'n'. You have no copy of what

you wrote, it's in your exercise book, so there was no way to calm your nerves. One 'begining' would mean having to write out 'beginning' 50 times or more, it's a very long word to get wrong. To crown it all, the absolute fear of getting anything less than a c- in a big red circle at the end. That meant a bad day would get worse when you got home.



Finishing a novel does not end there. *At Reception* is now in the hands of the copy editor. In a few weeks I will get my novel back. I am as nervous as ever. One morning I'll wake up and see the publishers email. I'll stare at it, frozen, as if facing a closed door in a horror film. What will it reveal? I'll probably leave it until later, not feeling up to the stressful task of opening a surely painful message. Eventually curiosity, driven by a deepening sense of dread, will get the better of me. 'Please read the attachment', it will say. Just think the worse, then it can only get better, can't it?

The next steps....an update! (unpublished, written in March 2017)

I received the copy-edited version of *At Reception*, and there were a lot of grammatical corrections, as well as the usual list of expressions repeated too frequently. It took me over a week to go through everything and make sure I was happy for it to go for typesetting - mainly because I had to reread everything carefully again, which threw up a few more overlooked errors. Finding an error gets you excited, it means there are less embarrassments when it's published. But there's no smoke without fire, and you start to worry how many more are lurking that you haven't caught!

An interesting point is the semi-colon (;). Something like 200 were inserted into the text. Whilst grammar purists will say they should be there, they are pretty ugly, and a comma (,) does a similar job. Do I hear an 'oh no they don't coming....'? I've replaced them all by commas or changed the sentence structure. So; don't write to

me saying I am missing some semi-colons; I know it!

The manuscript has gone for typesetting. It will be professionally proofread, then I'll get a final read through before it goes to print.

Meanwhile, I am awaiting the latest design for the cover. It's a difficult decision whether to use stock photos for the cover or have totally original artwork created. It's all a matter of how it looks and how long it will take. The cover is important in selling a book, not just to the reader but the trade too, and so it's important to get it right.

My next task is to provide input into the marketing plan.

'Err....' I hear you about to interrupt, what about writing the trilogy?

I took a short holiday after I submitted the original manuscript. Since that ended it's a struggle finding time to get typing, but my list of ideas is growing nicely, and I have made some progress.

One thing I will give a 'heads up' about is a possible second novel of a similar type to *At Reception*. I am currently focusing on writing the opening chapters of the trilogy (although a prequel might possibly be released after the trilogy). In the event demand for *At Reception* justifies it, some of these scenes could be re-written to create another novel written in first person, but based on a different character. However, this is not a priority at this time.

Your invitation to meet the stars of the future! Otherwise known as the pain that comes with the creation of fictional characters! (first published 12/6/2017)

I'd like to introduce you to some of the fictional characters you will meet in my forthcoming novels. But, in order to appreciate them, I need you to try solve this apparently simple problem first:

Think of an English language surname, then add Miss to the front. Now search on your web browser. Repeat this until you do not get a school teacher listed on the first two pages of the search! Fortunately, I don't have a school teacher in my novel, but I do have someone who Sally in *At Reception* thinks has the personality of a headmistress with cane whacking tendencies!

You would think Brandon, whilst well known, would not be a popular first name. Try Brandon followed by any English language surname in your search engine until you don't find anyone with that name on the first page of your search. You will see under 'images' quite a few sports players! Fortunately Brandon prefers bars to playing sports! He is one of the main stars of the thriller trilogy, and makes a cameo appearance in *At Reception*.

By this stage you will be getting frustrated, maybe you gave up on both of the above! So, can you imagine the problems I had when I made a rod for my own back by foolishly calling a character John! He is a lead character in *At Reception* and plays a significant role in the first of the trilogy books.

In writing fiction you obviously cannot use a name that is registered as a trade mark, and that's easy to check online. You do well to keep away from any name associated with a celebrity or sports personality, they can be very touchy over their names, and web browser search rankings are useful for checking who's 'in'. BUT the main thing is, you want your lead characters to have a name NOT used by anyone else. And that's the hard bit. I've been searching for suitable names for a long time. You will therefore not be surprised that the dog I refer to in my blog from 29th November 2015 (see www.galahadporter.com/the-blog/2015) still has only a 'working name'! I need to take some advice before releasing it, and I still haven't settled on a species yet! Fortunately it is not the handbag dog that appears in *At Reception*, alas that dog's name has just had to be ditched and I have to get a new one asap as the book proofs are soon to go to the printers!

So, after a frustrating struggle, Brandon became Brandon Menston, and John is unveiled as John Shedfield. I have updated the website by adding profiles of some of the fictional characters I have created for *At Reception* and the forthcoming trilogy. The profiles are very brief, but will get filled out over time, especially around the time of book launch. See www.galahadporter.com/characters.

Note that all the characters created by Galahad Porter are fictional and not based on any living, dead or fictional person or character. Any similarities to such are purely coincidental.


The At Reception press release issued! (first published 4/5/2107)

The press release for *At Reception* was issued in early May this year. To see the full text or download a copy visit www.galahadporter.com/latest-news.

Final word.....

Just because the novel is basically finished doesn't mean there will be a lot of time for the trilogy. There's marketing, interviews, promotional programs and a launch party guest list for *At Reception* still to do!

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