



Galahad Porter

# Best of the Blog

Issue 6

December 13, 2017

*Welcome to Galahad Porter Best of the Blog 6!*

If you follow me on Facebook, Twitter or on my blog at [galahadporter.com](http://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.

This issue of the newsletter is later than usual as we had the release of the Galahad Porter debut novel *At Reception* in the autumn!

The book covers three days in the life of hotel receptionist Sally. Written in first person, you get to experience everything from her perspective, especially her thoughts. It also contains a reprint of some of my blog articles that came out during the writing process.

Most of my time since the last newsletter has been taken up with marketing and interviews, which form the basis of this issue.

***At Reception now available!***

*At Reception* is now available worldwide as a paperback book and ebook. Full details and links can be found at [galahadporter.com/the-store](http://galahadporter.com/the-store).

Your local online and high street stores should be able to get you the book. For online retailers search 'Galahad Porter' and it should lead you to *At Reception*. If you order from a high street bookshop you may need to give the retailer the book ISBN: 9781788032711.

The ebook version of *At Reception* has been made available in several leading ebook formats.

If your favourite retailer is unable to supply you, you can order the book for delivery worldwide direct from the publishers at:

[http://www.troubador.co.uk/book\\_info.asp?bookid=4552](http://www.troubador.co.uk/book_info.asp?bookid=4552)

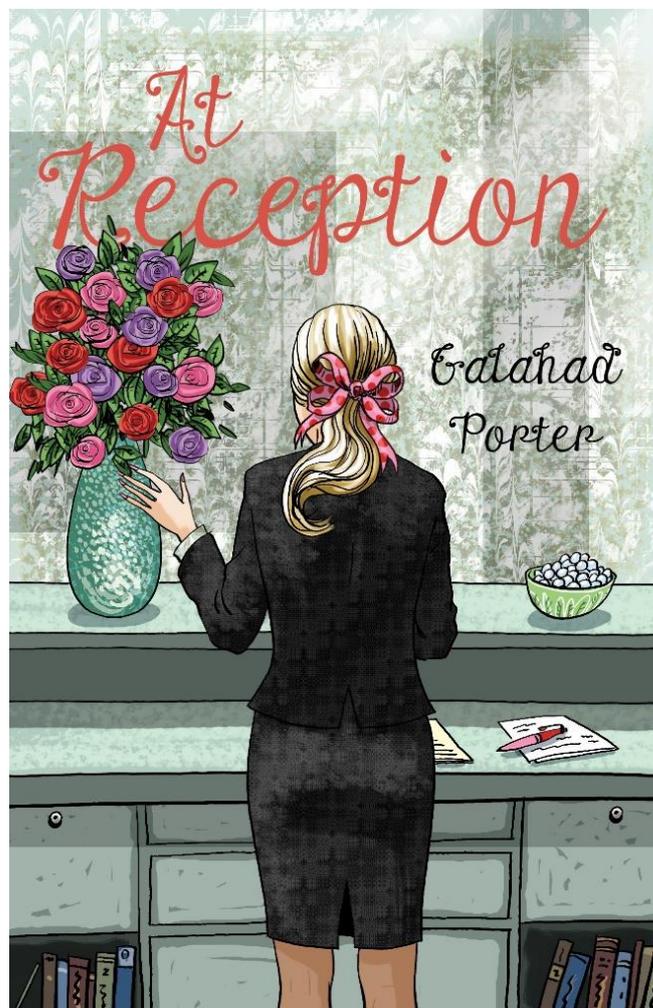


Image © Dave Hill 2017

## ***Reviews of At Reception & Literary Awards!***

At last we have some reviews of *At Reception*!

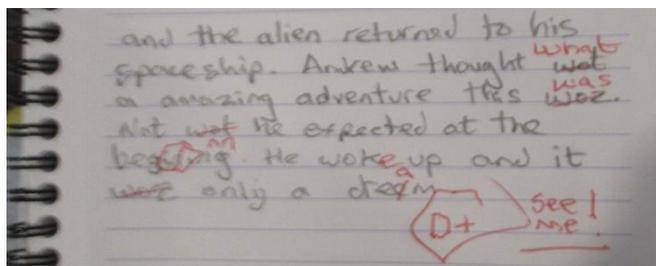
I am pleased to report that my English teachers at school would be not just happy for me, but in shock! See <https://www.galahadporter.com/at-reception/reviews-of-at-reception> for a selection of reviews

Some of the reviews have been very positive. These have encouraged me to submit the book for a number of literary awards, more on this will follow at a later date.

By way of contrast, for those who missed it, it's with pleasure I can repeat my 19 February 2017 blog:

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.

All my blogs are available on the GP website.



### *How negative are you? Take the Sally test! (first published 23/11/2017)*

As *At Reception* is written in an extreme first person style, it is not to everyone's taste! In particular, some people find the attitude of our hotel receptionist Sally to be too negative on everything. As explained in the author's note and blurb, Sally is a very unusual character. Living alone and only confiding in inanimate objects such as her stuffed toy pets, the vase of flowers and large lobby mirror at her work, she suffers her psychological issues on her own. The story covers three days at work during which she opens up to the idea of a human relationship. But is her negativity, in fact, not much different to that of you the reader? If you think not, try this:

Think of a part of your day, especially if repeated several times a week, that only lasts around 30 minutes to an hour. For example, it could be one of the following: getting up first thing on a morning on a work day; your commute to work; getting the kids ready for school; your first 30 minutes after you arrive at your workplace; shopping in the supermarket; watching the daily news on TV.

Now, ask yourself how many times you have a negative thought during that period?

You'll probably start with the major gripes, those you tell people about. I guess you have no more than one or two and not every day.

Then, no doubt, you'll start thinking of a few other issues that irritate you. These are the ones you mutter to yourself about.

Finally you'll start to realise I am also talking about thoughts you not only think but maybe also feel. They are quickly forgotten, and you may not even realise you had such fleeting negative moments. In particular, don't forget the thoughts you have in anticipation of something, eg the train better be on time, which you may repeatedly think several times ahead of the event!

Try running through your 30 minutes in slow motion. Think about how you felt at each exact moment.

How long is your list of whinges now?

A lot of Sally's perceived 'negative attitude' comes in reality from expressing her opinions. How many of your opinions could be seen by someone else as reflecting a negative attitude? Politically correct types may even find a lot of your so called 'positive humour' as negative!

By this stage you may well feel that you are, in fact, more negative than positive...

One point I have made on a number of occasions is that I don't expect the reader to like Sally. I am sure that even your best friends don't tell you everything they are thinking, especially about you. If they did you may not like them so much!

Using extreme first person takes you into Sally's mind, giving you all her thoughts. If you like the sound of that you may enjoy *At Reception*. It's available worldwide through bookstores and online as a paperback and ebook. For links to reviews, a free to read extract, and selected retailers see [galahadporter.com/the-store](http://galahadporter.com/the-store).

## *Interviews with Galahad Porter*

The publication of *At Reception* resulted in a number of requests for interviews etc. These provide background and insight into the novel and the writing process.

Links to a number of these are given at [galahadporter.com/articles-interviews](http://galahadporter.com/articles-interviews). I have also reproduced the Highlights magazine interview at the end of this newsletter.

## *Final word.....*

Just because the novel is finished doesn't mean I'll be entirely focussed on writing the trilogy. Marketing, interviews and advertising programs continue. Potential ongoing future demand from the hospitality industry means promotion of *At Reception* will remain a long term activity.

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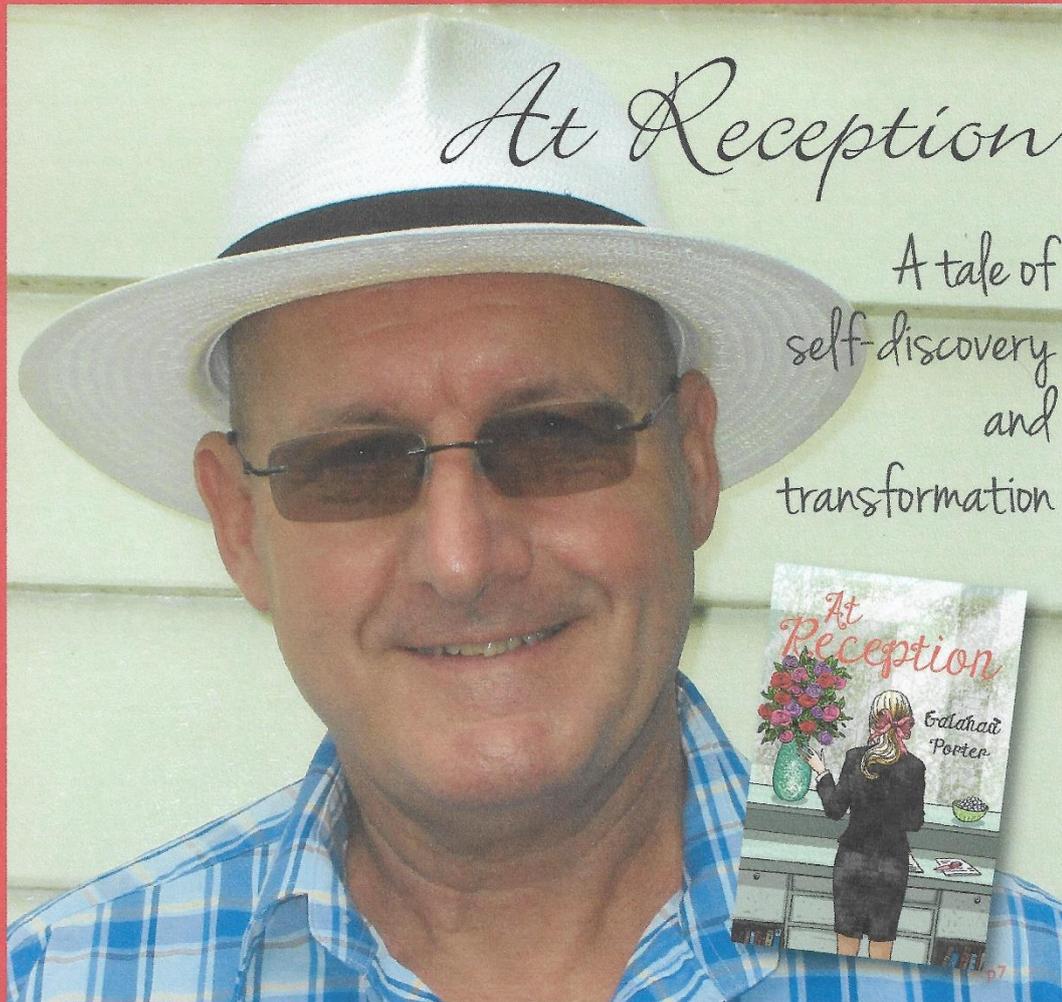
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# INTERVIEW

with

## Galahad Porter Author of *At Reception*

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR BOOK...

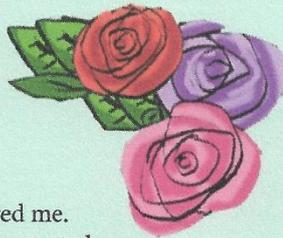
I started writing a thriller trilogy. As it evolved some of the storylines based around a hotel lobby were no longer needed. I decided to rewrite these scenes as a separate novel. Written in first person, from the perspective of Sally a hotel receptionist, it allows the reader to see inside the mind of people they normally take for granted.

### TELL US ABOUT THE SUCCESS YOU'VE HAD SO FAR...

I wrote a couple of non-fiction investment books a few years ago, one with Karen Beynon. As they were targeted at the business market it's hard to judge how 'successful' they were. For a debut novelist how many copies of your first print run you sell shouldn't be the only factor. Building a reputation and core fan base is what counts. If your second book does well, sales of your first title may get a useful lift.

### WHAT BOOKS OR AUTHORS HAVE MOST INFLUENCED YOU?

'Under Milk Wood' by Dylan Thomas. I wanted to be a playwright after reading that, but alas it never happened - I went to business school then eventually investment banking. Stephen King is my favorite author. He is the only writer that I find I always read a book to the end, he writes so well you feel compelled to! His 'On Writing' was an insight, and somehow I knew after reading it at some stage I would have a go at a novel.



### WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO WRITE A BOOK?

I was sat in a bar one day and saw something that inspired me. I thought of a great story line and, after thinking about it, started writing down ideas. Over the next month or two ideas came thick and fast, and at any time of the day. One night at 1am I found myself scribbling down ideas, story outlines etc - that was it, I was hooked. I knew I had it in me to write.



### WHAT ARE YOU READING AT THE MOMENT?

I am struggling to find time to read. I know authors should read widely, but when faced with a trilogy that's so long I know I'll never finish if I lose motivation. I am a big fan of shorter, more intense, novels but alas the industry in the UK isn't. The one I

really want to read is 'The Trouble With Goats And Sheep' by Joanna Cannon, which I bought months ago and remains unread. Once the fuss of the At Reception launch is over I will take that with me on holiday!

#### WHICH BOOK DO YOU WISH YOU HAD WRITTEN?

'The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon' by Stephen King. It's the story of a girl lost in the woods. When I started reading it I was unsure, it wasn't like his other books. But it was a relatively short novel so pressed on with it. I think I read most of it in one sitting, gripped. My desire to write At Reception, which is written in first person, may have its subconscious roots in it.

#### WHERE DO YOU DO MOST OF YOUR READING?

It used to be in the garden, when alone in bed or when travelling, especially on long train and plane journeys. But now I write in the garden, do Ken Ken puzzles in bed, and observe people and make notes when travelling - that time can be quite inspirational for chewing over ideas for the next book!



#### WHERE DO YOU DO MOST OF YOUR WRITING?

At Reception was mainly written outside in the garden under an umbrella in Australia (I have a photo of rainbow lorikeets sat on my laptop if you want it). Writing is tiring on the eyes, so I prefer to 'write with a view'. I like to look up and have something to look at in the distance. I am a fan of bird watching, so to sit somewhere, even the kitchen table, with a view of a bird feeder in the garden meets my needs. But there's one rule - NOBODY must be anywhere around me. I need to be totally alone to write, in my own world!

#### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE ASPIRING AUTHORS?

It will take a lot longer than you think to finish a novel. Allow plenty of time: editing the first complete manuscript will take as long as writing it in my experience.

If you have no luck finding an agent go the self-publishing route. If you do, make sure you get your work professionally copy edited and proof read. Commission original artwork for the cover and take advice from the publishers. You want your debut novel to look as professional as those from the mainstream houses.

Finally, but importantly, take legal advice on copyright and liability, you don't want to blow it all accidentally!



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