

# HIGHLIGHTS

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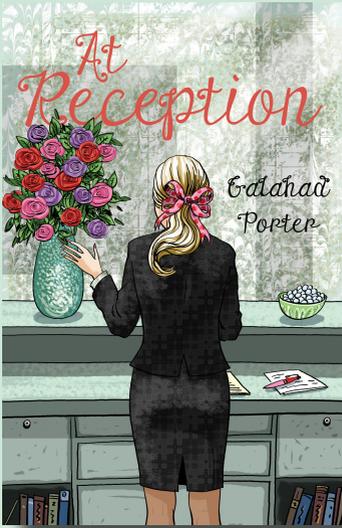


## *At Reception*

*A tale of  
self-discovery  
and  
transformation*



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## *At Reception*

Galahad Porter

£7.99 • 9781788032711 pb  
£3.99 • 9781788030014 pb

### A tale of self-discovery and transformation.

Sally finds herself in a lonely world of her own making. Suffering psychological stress, unsupported and mistreated, she chooses to live alone, with only stuffed toy pets for company. Unable to change her situation, she is locked in a cycle that's impossible to escape and crippling her life.



Lost in her own world, the arrival of a guest at the hotel where Sally works begins the challenging process of her opening up to the idea of a human relationship. Every day is a series of short interactions with guests and staff and each provide the basis of a series of short stories, which intertwine over the three days that the book is set. Sally's interactions with the guests increasingly challenge her long-held opinions and self-image. Will John's charm help her through life and find herself willing to go on a serious date with him?



*At Reception* is a heartfelt debut novel from Galahad Porter that draws on the issues of loneliness and stress to encourage self-discovery.

# 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?**

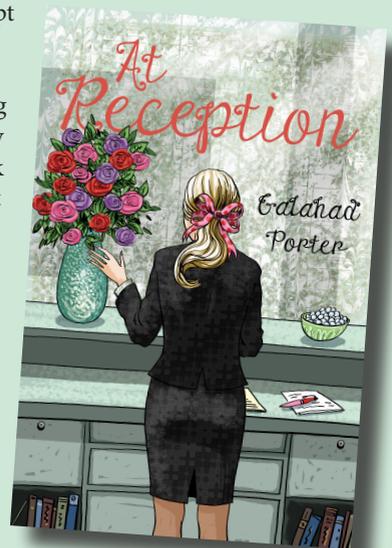
At Reception was mainly written outside in the garden under an umbrella in Australia (I have a photo of rainbow lorikeets sat on my laptop if you want it). Writing is tiring on the eyes, so I prefer to 'write with a view'. I like to look up and have something to look at in the distance. I am a fan of 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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