



Galahad Porter

# Best of the Blog

Issue 7

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*Welcome to Galahad Porter Best of the Blog 7!*

If you follow me on Facebook, Twitter or on my website 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 the latest news, and edited highlights of the website section 'The Blog'. I try to publish this every 3 months or so, fitting in with writing and publication milestones.

*At Reception selected to be showcased for the People's Book Prize!*



Showcased by  
The People's Book Prize

I am delighted to be able to announce that the Galahad Porter debut novel *At Reception* has been selected to be showcased by The People's Book Prize for the summer 2018 collection. Unlike many awards, the winning books are selected by the public not a panel of judges. For more information on the prizes, and to see the list of books showcased, visit [peoplesbookprize.com](http://peoplesbookprize.com). Voting ends October 15, 2018. You can vote via the *At Reception* page at any time. The link is [peoplesbookprize.com/books/at-reception](http://peoplesbookprize.com/books/at-reception).

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.

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

For online retailers search 'Galahad Porter' and it should lead you to *At Reception*.

If you order from a high street book shop 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 or ebook 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)

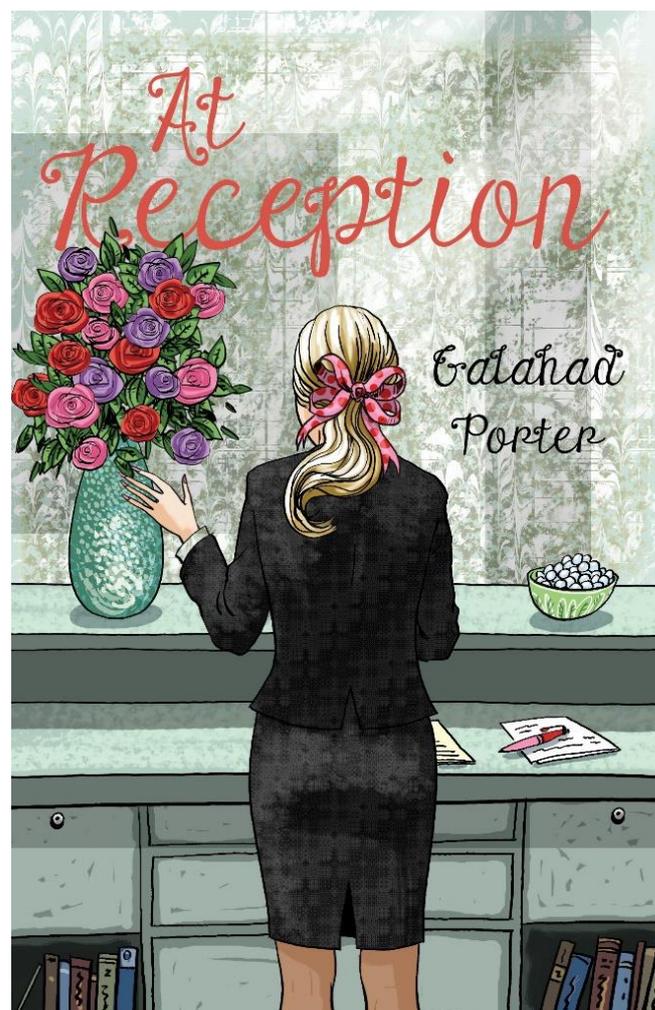


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## *On Getting Side-tracked by a Young Pregnant Woman and a Short Story!* (first published 16/5/2018)

The opening scene of the thriller trilogy I am writing is set in a bar in the USA. Young and pregnant, Lucy, a bar worker, is desperately seeking the father of her unborn child. She has lots of options for her future. She really would like to at least discuss with him what happens next.

Should I gloss over her decision making process, and get on with the next chapter? I couldn't resist exploring the life of another trilogy character in more detail, the quirky hotel receptionist Sally. What started as a short story eventually emerged as my debut novel *At Reception*. That delayed publication of the trilogy by at least 18 months. Once again, I find myself with another character that has a story to tell that I believe should be heard. The bar has several customers who appear in the trilogy, and these early scenes set out the background for the first book in the series. Writing Lucy's story would give me the opportunity to explain in more detail why certain characters behave the way they do. I already plan a prequel to be published after the trilogy. That is intended to answer some of the underlying questions readers may still have on finishing the series. Nevertheless, telling Lucy's story enables readers to step into the world of the trilogy just days before it starts. Hopefully that will not just entertain, but arouse interest in the series!

I wrote a short story for a competition which could have seen it published. Originally the story was based on characters that appeared in the trilogy. Like the Lucy story, it covered a period of time just before the series starts. However, I worried that this could compromise my use of the characters in the trilogy. I therefore rewrote the story with different characters, and changed fundamental aspects of the storyline. The competition panel did not shortlist it for publication, so I am free to use it again as I wish. To me, the original version was better and readers may appreciate some of the links to characters in *At Reception*.

After some thought, and debate with friends, I've decided to write the novel about Lucy's early pregnancy. Unless published elsewhere first, the short story will appear in the same book. Lucy's story is already largely structured, and the short story just requires a bit of filling out. Therefore, I

anticipate finishing a first draft by the end of the year, and publication in 2019. This will delay publication of the trilogy until late 2020 at the earliest. Hopefully the two stories will set the scene for the series. For all those frustrated thriller readers not interested in decision making in romance or pregnancy, I have no plans to write another novel before I finish the trilogy!

## *Life Changing Consequences and Random Events* (first published 10/2/2018)



***I decided to move to Italy...!***

You are now living with the consequences of decisions you made in the past, good or bad. You cannot change them, only make new decisions in the future. For the writer, every fictional character can change their mind at any time before the novel is published. A significant change in decision making can result in largescale rewriting of the novel, especially if it occurs early in the story! Alas, as much as some of us may wish to, we cannot do that with our own lives!

How long has it been since you had a major change in your life?

Was that a consequence of a decision you made?

If you had taken another option what would your life be like now?

In the Galahad Porter debut novel *At Reception* the main character Sally faces a number of dilemmas. Her decisions could lead her forward, but most often block her life. She is trapped in a crippling world of her own making, unwilling or unable to find a way out. Her life is one without any human friends: a vase of flowers, the large lobby mirror at work and stuffed toy pets are her confidants. If you read the novel you will experience how she struggles with the decisions she has to make. She worries about the

consequences and frequently decides to do nothing. See [www.galahadporter.com/the-store](http://www.galahadporter.com/the-store).



***I gave up investment banking for the Amazon!***

So much for the past. What is your current life changing dilemma?

How would making a decision change the story of your life?

For a writer, free to choose character decision making, the story can be forced to the planned events and ultimate conclusion. However, that is not how I write. I start with a few ideas and a framework story line. Allowing the characters to make their own decisions does not mean the ultimate conclusion will change. Nevertheless, the path to get there, and the colour/make-up of the ending could be very different. But, importantly, the story will read much more naturally. It can be that someone does something unexpected, and the consequences are creative and enhance the story. But these should be carefully built up to, a few hints given on the way to the surprise. You don't want the reader getting irritated when a character does something they would never, at least in their mind, do. For example, in horror films groups of people often split up and head off in different directions, with predictable dire consequences! In reality fear would probably lead them to stay together as a group.

That's decision making, but what about the impact of external events?

What seemingly random events have had a major impact on the development of your life?

Think beyond accidents: how about unexpected encounters with people/other creatures; the impact of a news item/book/article on you; the surprise discovery of an ability/medical problem; suddenly coming into/losing money?

The writer can insert random events, they are part of the novelist's toolbox. If a storyline is getting too far from the main plot, its course can be corrected with a push in another direction.

It's time to meet two characters from the opening of my planned thriller trilogy. Lucy is a young bar worker, appearing newly pregnant at the start of the story. She is a significant character in all three books. Lucy, like anybody who is newly pregnant, has to decide what she does about her situation. There are many different choices. Grant is newly retired, he is in the bar, worrying about the breakdown of civilization and considering his options. At the beginning of the novel he contemplates leaving the city and moving to the countryside. I know when and where I want these two characters to appear later in the trilogy. Their decision making should get them there, but if it doesn't I could throw in a random event - when you get to read it see if you can spot if I needed to!

Let's hope our own decision making leads us down the path we want to go!

***Final word.....***

The success of *At Reception* and decision to write the book covering Lucy's dilemmas will keep me busy through to next year. However, I'll continue to address the issues I face as a new writer in the blog at [www.galahadporter.com/the-blog](http://www.galahadporter.com/the-blog). Oh, and don't forget to vote for Sally on The People's Book Prize page for *At Reception*!!

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