



Galahad Porter

Best of the Blog

Issue 9

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Welcome to Galahad Porter Best of the Blog 9!

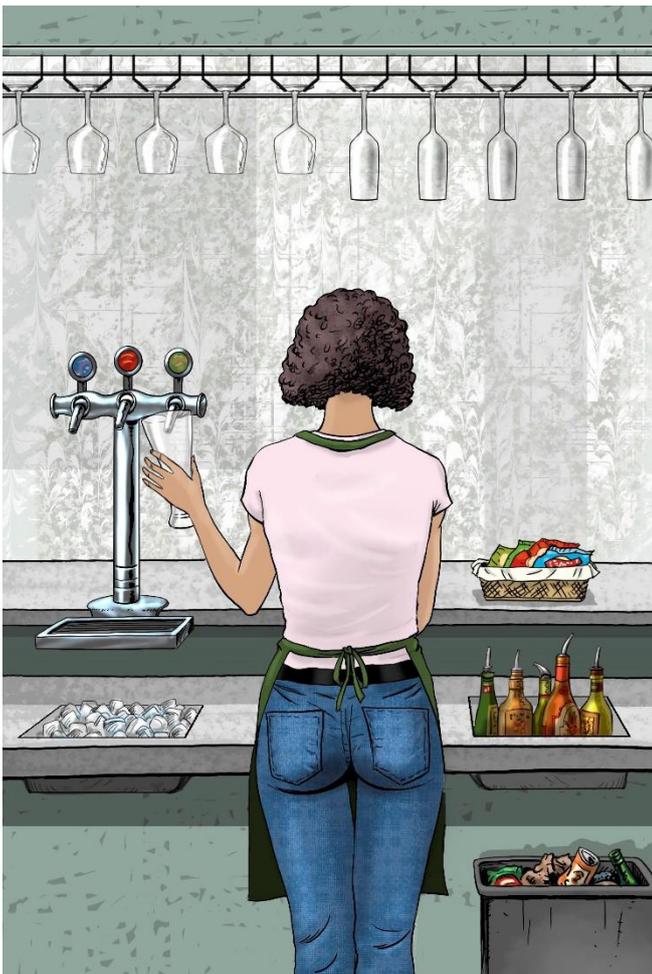
If you follow me on Facebook, Twitter or on my website at galahadporter.com you are pretty well up to date. For those who live by email alone, I have created this PDF file to bring you the latest news, and edited highlights of the website section 'The Blog'. I try to publish this to tie in with writing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

*Adding depth and menace!
(first published 5/2/2020)*

In previous posts I mentioned how the novel about pregnant bar worker Lucy was evolving into something deeper, becoming a true prelude to the thriller trilogy I am writing. As part of this process I have decided to add two storylines that create challenges for the writer.

There is a regular customer at the bar, a man with psychological issues. At the moment you only see his behavioural traits. This was deliberate, forming part of the mystery element of the storyline. The reader is left to speculate what happened to him to make him like this. However, rather than just showing his mannerisms, I'm thinking of taking the reader inside the guy's mind. It is very difficult trying to imagine exactly how someone might feel and handle their challenges. In the Galahad Porter debut novel *At Reception* Sally has some characteristics of a person on the autism spectrum. I was able to achieve this with the help of a couple of books*. BUT in the case of my character, he has serious complex problems. As far as I can tell he can't be narrowly classified. I once read a book that suggested we all face similar psychological issues but the difference is the varying degree of severity in individuals. So, I must imagine myself and dig deep...

Just over a month into her pregnancy Lucy starts having unusual dreams. These are nothing like those she's encountered before. The description of her series of dreams was planned to start in the trilogy. When you encounter Lucy in the first book she is suffering nightmares. They add intensity to the thriller element of the story. However, at the current stage of her pregnancy the dreams are relatively simple. Nevertheless, they add an additional feeling of menace to the story. Recreating her dreams on paper is quite a challenge. I'm hoping the reader will be able to visualise the richness of them without my having to use excessive description!



The cover graphic for the next Galahad Porter novel featuring Lucy the newly pregnant bar worker! Image © Dave Hill 2018

Note: 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.

Completion of these short storylines and expansion of a few draft conversations are all that remain to be done. There comes a point in any novel when you must draw a line under it. Say 'It's done'. I'm certainly a lot closer to that today than I was six months ago, and the result is a much richer reading experience!

* Books:

'All Cats Have Asperger Syndrome' by Kathy Hoopman

'Life on the Autism Spectrum - A Guide for Girls and Women' by Karen McKibbin
both from Jessica Kingsley Publishers
www.jkp.com

Do it while you can & A Paperless Life!
(first published 22/8/2019)

Do it while you can!

'Yes, I have regrets,' you will say one day, 'if only I'd have done it earlier!'

Having your hair cut into a mohican style and dyed blue can always be put off, can't it? Especially if working for an investment bank! It was after a spell in the Amazon jungle that I started to cut my hair shorter. Unable to speak Brazilian Portuguese, I just let the barber use the clippers. A number 4? He indicated with 4 fingers so I just nodded, I had no idea what that meant, I'd never had my hair cut so short before. I walked out looking like a toilet cleaning brush! But it felt good, lighter, my head fresher.

A few years later I was sat in the chair in Miami at a unisex hairdressers. The Spanish speaking lady asked if I wanted a 1 or 2. The problem is how fast your hair grows, a 2 as I discovered, turns into a loo brush very quickly. So I tried a 1, with little improvement, and eventually decided a zero every one to two weeks was about as good as I was going to get.

My regular trips to Italy brought me into regular contact with a delightful Italian barber in Perugia. He took great pleasure using his clippers to create patterns on my head and threatening to stop at that point. One day he left me with a very short mohican strip down the middle of my head. 'Blu!' I explained. He laughed and cut it off. I had been serious.

It is only in recent years that I came across the professional darts player Peter Wright sporting a colourful mohican. I was very inspired. I was going to give it a go!

After a longer than normal period between haircuts I had it cut into a mohican. DISASTER! My hair, by this time of my life, was too thin! 'If only I'd have done it earlier!' I cried. But I learnt the lesson too late... how many other things in my life will I regret not doing earlier? Writing is definitely one!

A Paperless Life

Galahad enters the paperless age! Now, instead of paper, I write on a 'tablet' computer when travelling or out and about. It is much easier to then transfer and edit my work on the laptop! I find it a little slower typing on a tablet than handwriting but, because there is no typing up to be done, overall saves time. I am also now leaving my middle of the night ideas on my phone rather than write on a pad by the bed - easy to transfer to the laptop, and there's no need to turn the light on!

Final word.....

Progress with the Lucy novel has picked up. With enough words now largely set, completing it in the next few months looks likely. The change in style away from first person has opened up a rich seam of depth to everyone. Seeing inside their minds has revealed slightly odd characters to be complex and have issues of their own. I am having a lot of fun creating backgrounds to each. Letting the reader understand why someone behaves the way they do, not just Lucy's take on them works well.

This change in emphasis has pretty well made Lucy's novel an opener to the thriller trilogy, effectively a prelude to the series. I may try pitch the book to agents as effectively the first in the series.

For more information on Galahad Porter's novels see:

Lucy novel: www.lucyatthebar.com

Sally novel: www.sallyatreception.com

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