



Galahad Porter

Best of the Blog

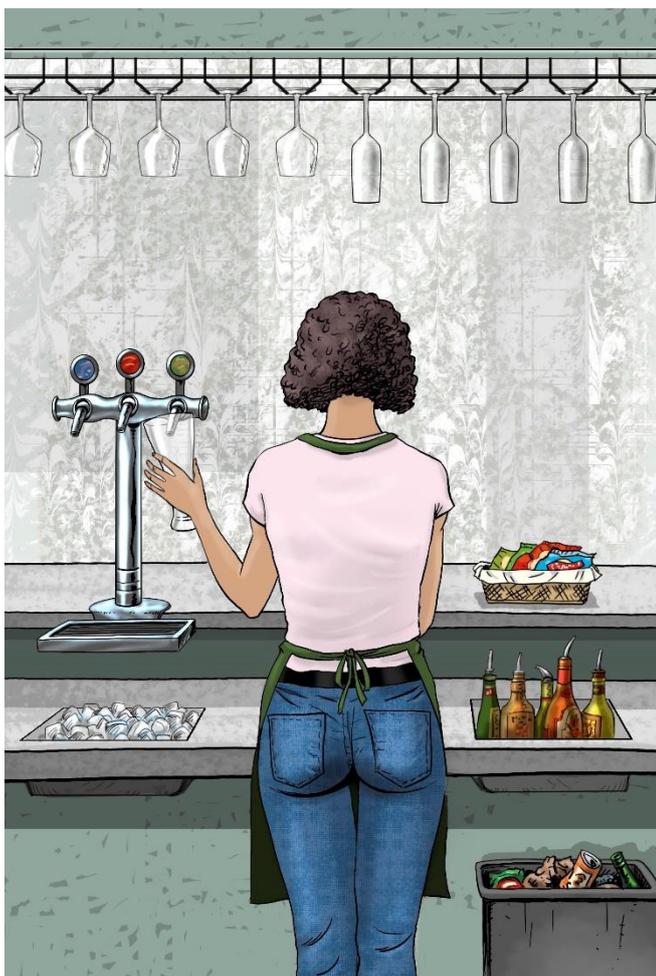
Issue 8

February 13, 2019

Welcome to Galahad Porter Best of the Blog 8!

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 every 3 months or so, fitting in with writing and publication milestones.

Meet Lucy at the bar - the cover for the forthcoming novel is released!



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

The design is based on the cover of the Galahad Porter debut novel, *At Reception*, showing Sally at reception. Lucy at the bar was created by artist Dave Hill (davehillsart.co.uk), who also produced the artwork for *At Reception*. Both Lucy and Sally are strong willed single people working in largely unappreciated roles. They are both struggling with the dilemmas life throws at you. In addition, as both feature in the forthcoming thriller trilogy GP is writing, the graphic link between the two seemed appropriate.

The opening scene of the trilogy is currently set in a bar in the USA. Young and pregnant, Lucy the 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.

It seemed unfair to gloss over her decision making process, and get on with the next chapter in the trilogy. I was unable to 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 the debut novel *At Reception*. That has delayed publication of the trilogy. Once again, another character has emerged with a story to tell that 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 creates the opportunity to explain in more detail why certain characters behave the way they do. Telling Lucy's story enables readers to step into the world of the trilogy. Hopefully that will not just entertain, but arouse interest in the series!

The as yet untitled novel featuring Lucy is planned for publication in 2019. For the latest information on how the writing is going see the next article 'Prequels and all that!' published today on galahadporter.com/the-blog.

Have any questions about the Lucy novel? galahadporter.com/novels/lucy-novel.

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.

Prequels and all that! (first published 13/2/2019)

It's time to give an update on how my writing is going! You'll be pleased to know that the next GP novel, about pregnant bar worker Lucy, is making excellent progress. As usual, my forecasting of completion dates has proven way too optimistic. But, as those who have read my blog articles on the subject will be aware, I usually have a good reason to delay things. The GP debut novel *At Reception*, about quirky hotel receptionist Sally, went through several changes. A light hearted novella eventually emerged as a deeper full length novel. The consequence was a constant pushing out of the publication timetable. The final draft was eventually completed around 12 months later than intended.

The Lucy novel was already clearly laid out before I started writing. The opening scene from the planned thriller trilogy had been written. The lead characters and outcome were set. The decision to explore Lucy's decision making about her future in detail was always going to be a full length novel. But writing is not a mechanical exercise. The writer has lots of options that can change the flow and feel of the story. Same people, same outcome, but many differing routes can be taken.

A significant issue was trying to decide how much of the story is about Lucy, and how much about the other characters. Sally in *At Reception* is the focus of the entire novel. Many readers found this extreme first-person approach challenging. In addition, her (deliberately) negative but realistic view of life didn't help those readers who needed someone to like. Lucy is more likeable. She has none of the psychological issues that beset poor Sally. Lucy is strong willed, and needs to get on with her life. She's not going to let her pregnancy hold her back. The clock is ticking down on how long she'll search for the father before moving on.

As Lucy's story comes out of a thriller, how much of the thriller element do I include in the novel? In *At Reception* some of the characters from the thriller check in and out of the hotel. However, it is only at the very end that the thriller element emerges. Thriller lovers will probably have given up reading by that stage. But when you get to the end, the desire to re-read the novel in a completely different light is there to be enjoyed.

Maybe I should have put the last chapter at the beginning, then added '... three days earlier...'

Writing the Lucy plot lines, and adding some extra characters, has changed the emphasis of the story. It remains about Lucy's decision making, but brings in the question of free will. How much of what she thinks she wants is what she wants? Marketing and adverts are there to make you want something, even if you never needed it before. Why did you buy the stuffed unicorn to go on the bed with your teddy bear?!

The theme of manipulation never ran through the original story. But, as soon as you add an element of manipulation the feel of the story changes. Instead of a likeable young woman trying to get on with her life, you change to a young pregnant woman trapped in a web of intrigue. Yikes!

And, that's what has happened. I've ended up with a thriller. The trilogy characters have come back to bite me! So, the Lucy novel can be seen as a prequel to her character in the trilogy. It takes you straight into the action a few weeks before the events that occur in *At Reception*. Technically it's not a prequel to the series, but at least it's a good taster that hopefully will leave you hungry for more!

Social media update!

GP is now on Instagram! See <https://www.instagram.com/galahadporter>. Do follow, although most of the photos and captions you will see will be also available on the blog at www.galahadporter.com/the-blog.

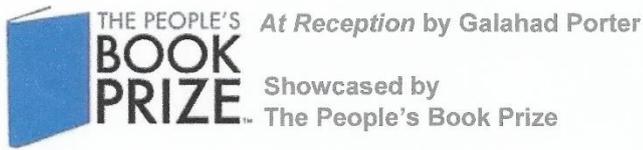
GP is on Skype! Search Galahad Porter and request to be added if you would like to chat. In the longer term, the intention is to hold live group interviews and discussions about the writing process.

The Galahad Porter YouTube channel is in formation. The plan is to upload discussions and readings related to GP's writing. More will follow on this when the initial content becomes available.

Don't forget you can also keep up to date by following GP on

Facebook: @GalahadPorter
Twitter: @galahadporter

At Reception news & Happy Birthday Sally!



It's now over one year since the Galahad Porter debut novel *At Reception* was published! Sally's first birthday was on September 15th, 2018. What's more, it was around that time in 2015 that I had the idea to start writing. It has been an amazing journey, one that has taken a lot longer than expected! You can follow this with my blog at galahadporter.com/the-blog but as it is written with the latest post first you'll need to start at the end!

The novel is showcased by The People's Book Prize, summer 2018 collection. Although it did not win, the publishers Troubadour have cut the price to celebrate its participation.

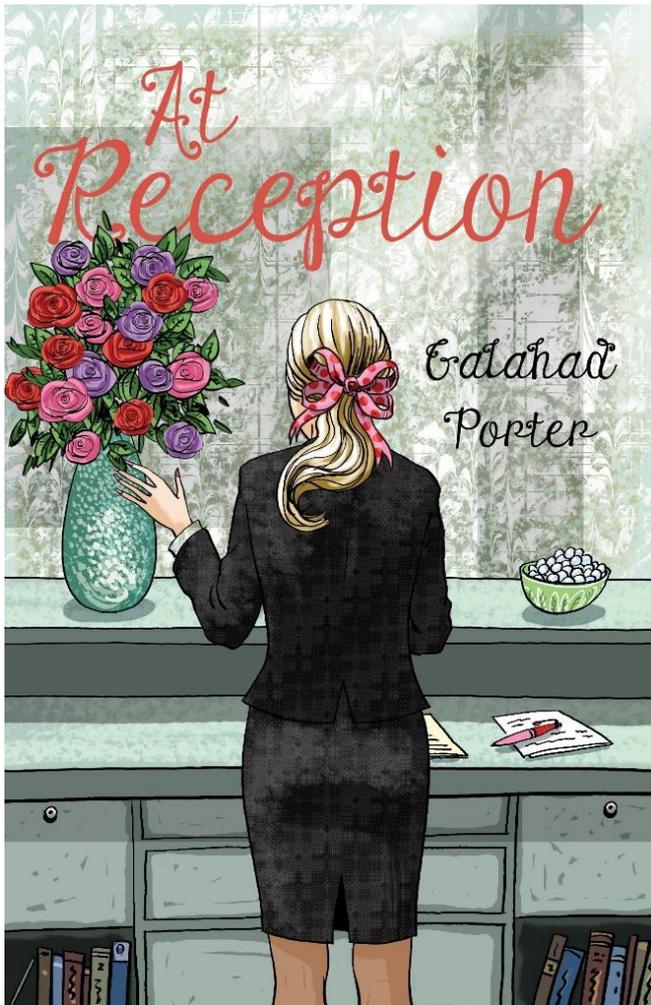


Image © Dave Hill 2017

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

Last November Troubadour emailed me with a new review of the novel. It reminded me that, although it was over a year since *At Reception* was published, people are still reading and reviewing the book. The review can be seen on the USA Amazon website. I never comment on specific reviews, everyone is allowed their own opinion. However, where a trend develops I will try address the issue. As I said in a recent interview, *At Reception* is very different from your usual romance novel, or most novels for that matter. Some readers find its approach and the character Sally a bit of a challenge. It's great there are people who appreciate what I was trying to create. GP articles and interviews can be found on the website at www.galahadporter.com/articles-interviews.

Final word.....

The writing of the Lucy novel is keeping me very busy. With the words piling up, I'll soon have to start the long process of reading everything again and again. Not just looking for errors (writing and plot), but to rebalance the story lines. It's easy to find you have written too much at the beginning and not enough at the end!

When the first chapters are finalised I'll submit them to literary agents. They can take a month or two to review the work, so that gives me time to move on with copyediting. If nobody picks it up then publication should be later this year. If it does find representation then obviously release will be later. During that period I hope to have made great strides with the trilogy!

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