



I ~~don't~~ blog: I brag, celebrate, and shamelessly advertise!!!

Welcome! to the director's cut of my newsletter. You know, or should know by now, I'm *dyslexic*. Relax. Put away your red pen. Sit a bit, let's chat and spend a few minutes together.

Kathryn's Beach and High Tide and Storm Surge are available **NOW**.
www.NadineLamanBooks.com

Writing News Briefs:

True confession time: I haven't written on my WIPs for several months. I have been busy. Among other things, I've started a new job - that meant I moved house, since a 70 mile commute every morning and evening didn't appeal to me. So I'm in a new town - literally - both for me and for the town which voted on its name only last summer.

I've moved both Nadine Laman Books, LLC and Cactus Rain Publishing, LLC - more paperwork than it sounds like it is and, of course, a fee or two.

I haven't written a newsletter for two months, but I ran a little short story contest on my blog. Let me tell you, contests are a lot of work. I will never look at them the same way again.

The short story contest **WINNERS** were:

The Lemon Man From Agerola by Jo Smith (France)
The Hunter by Peggy Nolan (USA)
Bostwick Blues by Don Blinebry (USA)

Read what I liked about each entry; visit my blog:
<http://nadelaman.blogspot.com/2010/04/imo-notice-there-is-nothing-humble.html>

It takes courage to enter the first contest, which is what this was for many of the writers.

Cactus Rain Publishing News Briefs:

Though Cactus Rain isn't officially accepting queries, there have been several. I've accepted works from France, India, and United Arab Emirates.

At the same time, I've rejected several works. I do vet the mss. Some 'publishers' will print anything - for a fee. Some people are not happy with me, but I simply won't publish second rate work. I'm very selective about the mss and the author's 'attitude.'

On my list is to build the Cactus Rain website with Joyce. That (I think) will be a tricky project. To me, not being a web design person, being able to sort books by genre, author, title, and country seems like a lot of coding.

Country? Oh yeah, I think globally. Cactus Rain books will come from around the world. They should appeal to the American audience and books by American authors should appeal to an international audience. It is that simple.

I am excited about this enterprise. I'm sure that it seems I'm moving slower than molasses in a New England winter, but I am working behind the scene.

I hope that you'll support the efforts of the authors and me by purchasing books and sending your friends and family to the catalogue as well.

Cactus Rain books will be an adventure in widening one's reading palate. Certainly, there will be those who find the offerings a new adventure in their favorite pastime. That is the goal.

I ♥ my blog: First Draft
<http://nadelaman.blogspot.com>

There are lots of writing tips in my blog. Go look.

And from our shameless advertising dept.

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I say "shameless" but I'm horrible about promoting my books. It is my hope that people will want to buy them without me 'selling' the idea.

However, the fact is, if you haven't purchased Storm Surge, you've missed a great story. The theme of the trilogy is resolution, forgiveness, friendship, and interior growth.

It is written in a literary style to get the reader to slow down and listen to the messages - some are posted in the sidebar of my website. They are more than books, more than stories about a social worker, they are life maps for contemporary readers in search of validation and meaning in books; in search of something new in a classical style with a contemporary twist.

There are only a few journals left for the offer below. So, if you have put off reading them, get them now.

ORDER NOW!

Order the complete trilogy and receive a FREE matching journal.

ORDER HERE!

- * Kathryn's Beach
- * High Tide
- * Storm Surge

I get...the **LAST WORD!** (Naturally!)

I believe there is no happenstance in life. There certainly shouldn't be happenstance in the stories we write. In real life, mine in particular, I've found if I'm not paying attention, life taps me on the shoulder to get my attention. Lately, the tap has been rather harsh.

While the current industry standard is to produce fast paced page-turners, not every story is designed for that template.

There are a great deal of literary devices in the trilogy. There are thought out parallels shared by the three books, Kathryn's Beach, High Tide, Storm Surge, that may or may not be found in other modern series; designed to challenge readers' expectations.

Each of the three books begins and ends with a two-person scene. Those who have read all three realize that the beginning of Kathryn's Beach foreshadows the ending of Storm Surge.

Not only does the story say in words who Kathryn is, it says so in the structure of the story. For example, and I've said part of this before, Kathryn has no last name in Kathryn's Beach. The symbolism is that she has diminished to the point of being so emotionally small that she has only one name - yet the variances in her name and who uses each variance, Kathryn, Katey, Kate, is symbolic of the relationship between Kathryn and the other person — Kathryn even tells the reader that.

In High Tide, Kathryn has a full name, which shows the development of her sense of self. Storm Surge goes beyond that by assigning her a public nickname, Matriarch of the Money and Kathryn the Great.

The books are a study in interpersonal relationships and dynamics between persons who are an odd fit together, and for whom, relationships have lost their intimacy of 'person.'

One of the things about each of the books in the trilogy is the story continues to haunt, linger, and unfold after it is read. The reader questions the dynamics, the events, and the meaning of certain acts in the books, especially if they are later reread.

There are several messages I wanted to portray in Kathryn's story. The one that is on my mind at the moment is that people are complex, enigmas. We assume we know who they are and what is going on inside who they seem to be, yet often, we haven't really seen them by any measure besides ourselves. I wanted to establish empathy for Kathryn in a way that I hope carries over to real life.

Our modern, technical world often encourages us to be immune to the feelings and need of others, and I hope to play some role in challenging my readers to go back to the basics in their relationships and see those around them in a different, deeper light.

This is a bit of a deviation from my usual message to writers in this slot. This time the message is to readers. "See the enigma" in what you read.

(This newsletter is dedicated to Barb.)

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