

Entertainment Telling Stories

Shreveport native releases first novel

Pulling from his Louisiana roots, journalist, screenwriter, playwright and Shreveport native Stinson Carter recently released his inaugural novel, "False River."

Utilizing both Shreveport and New Orleans as backdrops, "False River" is

Prior to beginning "False River," Carter had finished writing a screenplay he labeled a "clock-in, clock-out job."

"I had lost track of why I called myself a writer," Carter said. "'False River' was my attempt to remind myself why I'd chosen the writer's life. I was trying to find out if I

for his novel.

He also drew inspiration from "the greats" of Southern fiction as his own story progressed.

“My family has been in Shreveport for over five generations. My blood is in the ground here. It's my home.”

the story of silver-tongued bad boy Cam Daltry. Carter's protagonist hails from a blueblood Southern family and is framed for a bizarre crime and forced to live by his wits on the streets of New Orleans. After conning his way into high society, Daltry's path takes a dark turn when his charm fails and tragedy propels him onto the difficult path to maturity he has been running from all his life.

Originating as a short story, "False River" eventually evolved into a full-length novel as Carter, a former editor-at-large for *BlackBook* magazine and a current contributor to *Maxim* and *The Huffington Post*, found his writing groove. Carter's novel is the product of two years' work: one to compose it and another to revise it.

actually had something to say."

Turns out he had plenty to say.

Carter was inspired to write "False River" through his own life experiences.

Though Carter has lived in Los Angeles for a decade now, he still claims Shreveport as his home.

"My family has been in Shreveport for over five generations," Carter said. "My blood is in the ground here. It's my home."

Carter also likes to think of New Orleans as his adopted home, where some of his earliest and favorite childhood memories reside.

"New Orleans has always felt magical to me," Carter said. "It was the first place I ever saw that made me realize there was an exotic world out there I could explore."

But the cities weren't Carter's only muse

"You read much differently while you're writing a novel," Carter said.

A few of his literary heroes include Walker Percy, Robert Penn Warren and Truman Capote.

Currently, "False River" is available only through e-book format. "I want this story to reach people in a less static way than



A Writer's Life: Shreveport native Stinson Carter has released his first novel, "False River."

Photo by Lara Fairchild

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a typical hard-copy book,” Carter said. “People pass around stories and articles all the time now without ever having a hard copy, and I’d like to see people do that with books. I think it’s a matter of time before most media and art is shared that way.”

Carter’s love affair with words goes back a long way.

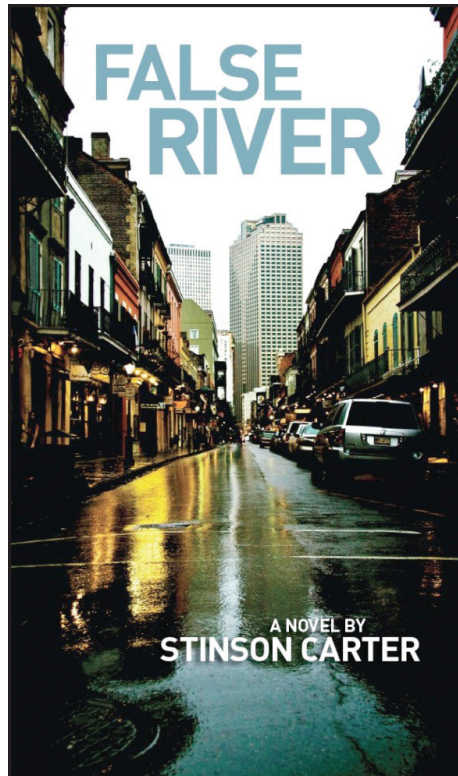
“I always liked to tell stories,” Carter said. “And my father always wanted to be a writer, so I grew up thinking that being a writer was the highest ambition of any man. That set the value for writing in my mind early on.”

Of all the many jobs Carter has, fiction writing and playwriting come the most natural to him. “When I’m writing a play or a book, I can lose myself in the flow of it. Journalism and screenwriting are more work,” Carter said. “You always have to have focus and structure, but with fiction and playwriting, structure follows the spark.”

Carter’s advice to aspiring authors can be boiled down to one word – perseverance. “Writing a novel is harder than you could ever imagine,” Carter said. “It’s a commitment that once made you will have to work at like a challenging marriage. It’s either ‘til death do you part or it isn’t.”

Despite the tough road it requires, Carter believes those who are passionate about writing should make the effort required to pursue their dream.

“Only people who have to be writers should choose to be writers, because there are many easier paths to take in life,” he said. Carter certainly chose the right path, as there is plenty on the horizon, including interest in a film version of “False River.” Also, Carter has multiple magazine stories



in the works and is currently writing a TV pilot set in Louisiana during the beginning of legal gambling in the early 1990s.

Yet despite his busy schedule, he is committed to the idea of another novel.

“I’ve had some requests for a sequel to ‘False River,’ but I can’t speculate about that,” Carter said. “I have another character for my next book idea who is just as endearing and conflicted as Cam Daltry in ‘False River.’”

For more information on Carter and his writing, visit www.stinsoncarter.com.

– Betsy St. Amant



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