

Local author publishes tenth novel

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FRANCONIA — Marlinne Cooper, a long-time resident of Franconia and the former Copywriting Director at Garnet Hill, has become a prolific novelist in the last few years. She recently announced the publication of "Second Wind," the ninth book in her Tyler Mackenzie series. Digital copies of the mystery novel are



(Left) Local author Marlinne Cooper is a frequent sight at several of the region's farmer markets during the summer months. She recently announced the publication of "Second Wind," the ninth book in her series of Tyler Mackenzie mystery novels.

Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which were ten days apart," said Cooper.

The book's protagonist, Tucker Mackenzie, finds himself lost on a boat with an escaped ex-con.

Cooper, who spends her winters in Culebra, said the giant storms had a massive impact on the island. People were cut off from the outside world for over a month. She

available for pre-order recently sat down to discuss her writing process.

"'Second Wind' takes place on the island of Culebra after

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described a news story she stumbled across where convicts, who had been imprisoned on the nearby island of Tortuga, had escaped in the aftermath of the two storms.

"True life inspires fiction," chuckled Cooper, who said she spent most of the last winter exploring the hidden, wild places on the island.

"These days, it's hard to disappear," she added. "But when communication is down and infrastructures collapse, people can disappear easily. I wanted to write about that."

"I am traveling through time with this series and I have tried to bring it up to the present. Tyler Mackenzie's children have grown and they have started to take the focus in recent books," explained Cooper. "At first, I was worried about writing in the voice of the younger generations, but I really like doing it. I like seeing things through their eyes."

Cooper attended Franconia College, where she received a degree in theater direction. Her experience in writing and directing plays led to a position at Garnet Hill as a copywriter and

then the Copywriting Director. In 2006, she assumed leadership as the Executive Director of WREN, while still working at Garnet Hill. She said she did not have much free time to write novels.

In the last five years, Cooper has published ten novels, nine of which are part of the Tyler Mackenzie series.

When asked why she chose mystery as her genre of choice, she said, "Because mysteries are complex and the plot goes somewhere. It's like doing a puzzle or building a house; all the pieces need to fit."

When asked how old she was when she first started writing stories, Cooper said, "As soon as I was old enough to figure out how to use a typewriter."

"I started writing stories and bringing them to school, and I got into a lot of trouble for it. One of the stories was about the school and had foul language in it," explained Cooper. "I was already being censored by the time I was 14."

Cooper said that although her books and characters are inspired by real life, the process of writing is an escape from the everyday. As a self-pub-

lishing author, she has experienced the challenges associated with that kind of independence.

During the summer months, Cooper can be found selling her books at the regional farmer's markets. She attends the Littleton Farmers Market on Sundays, the Lancaster Farmers Market on Saturdays, and the Gorham Market on Thursdays.

"It's unique for an author to do the farmer's markets, but it is a locally made product," summarized Cooper.

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ness - and gorgeous voice - launches the story and ultimately reveals the secret that links Alice and Billy.

Comic duo, assistant editors Daryl Adams (Jorge Donoso) and Lucy Grant (Courtney Blackmun) exchange snarky Steve Martin penne one-liners. Sam St. Jear the company Propert Designer, has wicke ly funny cameos as th obsequious lawyer ar poker-faced square dan caller. Local theater c rector Jan Clausing joi the company as the dis genuous Dr. Norquist.

The Weatherva team blends set, mo ment and music to cre Alice's world of memo Costume Designer R Schlecht moonlig