

LOCAL AUTHOR PUBLISHES “CATNIP JAZZ” AS NINTH MYSTERY NOVEL

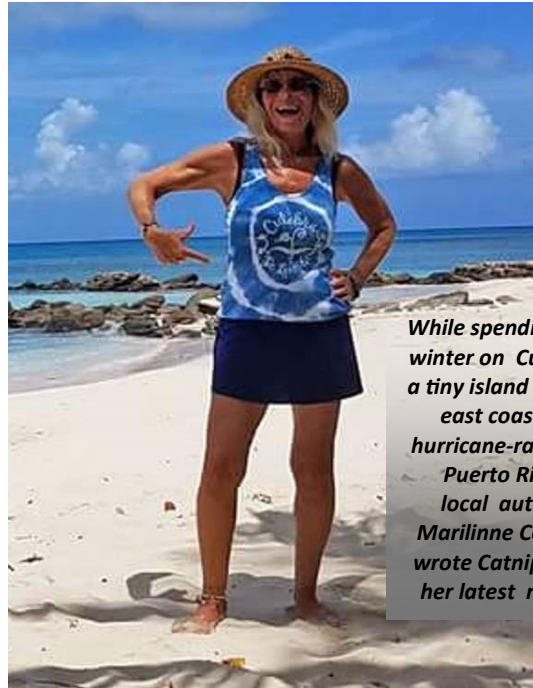
Advance readers say it is the darkest and twistiest one in the series. Editors have become so caught up in the story that they have forgotten to keep editing. Marilynne Cooper’s latest book, *Catnip Jazz*, may be her most page-turning novel yet. Working its way from the Baja Peninsula to New Orleans to the seediest sections of Montreal, *Catnip Jazz* weaves the suspenseful narratives of familiar characters with a new assortment of improbably spicy personalities into a compelling and sometimes disturbing thriller. Along with its exotic locales, a good portion of *Catnip Jazz* still takes place in the wintry landscape of northern Vermont and features the charismatic Tyler Mackenzie and his growing dysfunctional family.

“People always ask me, how do you write a mystery? How long does it take? I have no idea how I dream this stuff up,” says Cooper. “But this past winter, I spent a lot of late night hours without internet on a tiny post-hurricane island, banging away at my computer keyboard while everyone else was sleeping. Once I got going, I couldn’t stop writing this story. And yes, I really do write in a hammock. And, okay, yes, I did go to the beach a lot.”

These are not “cozy” mysteries or “Chick Lit” – there can be graphic language and adult content. Readers include both men and women, are wide-ranging in age, but all looking for a novel they can’t put down. “I have 95-year-olds that come back every year for the next book; a serious fiction addiction is usually a life-time habit.”

In 2016, Cooper retired from her job as Executive Director of WREN, to pursue a dream of being a full time author. She has authored nine independently published novels for which she singlehandedly does all of the layout and formatting as well as the marketing and promotion. “It’s a lifestyle, not a living,” she admits. “I still have to supplement my income with other part-time employment. And marketing and managing my books is as big a job as writing them. Today authors have to get online and out on the street and sell themselves in a competitive world.” And she does just that, at farmers markets each weekend throughout the summer and fall season. Although the longtime Bethlehem resident now spends winters in the Caribbean, she returns to the North Country for the remainder of the year.

Mystery lovers and fans of the series can purchase signed copies at local Farmers Markets and events throughout the summer and fall. To learn more about Cooper and her novels, as well as upcoming events, visit www.marilynnecooper.com.



*While spending the winter on Culebra, a tiny island off the east coast of hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico, local author Marilynne Cooper wrote *Catnip Jazz*, her latest novel.*

Photo credit: Will Keyworth

WHAT HAPPENS IN CATNIP JAZZ....

A Cajun fortuneteller. A sassy sex show performer. A pair of Voodoo Buddhists in the Bywater... When Myles rescues Kit, a mysterious woman wandering in the desert landscape of the Baja Peninsula, he has no idea how his good deed will irrevocably change the future. He soon finds himself on the run with murder charges hanging over his head. Fleeing north with Kit, under an assumed identity, he leaves an idyllic beach existence on the Sea of Cortez for a new life as a musician in colorful New Orleans. But eventually the past catches up with Myles in a series of cataclysmic events from which there is no turning back.

Meanwhile, in a Vermont village, Tyler Mackenzie’s domain has been forever changed by the presence of Chloe, the whirlwind young mother of his twin granddaughters. Chloe has taken over his household and his job, leaving Tyler in a semi-permanent state of depression, a couch potato unable to locate his irresponsible son, Tucker, or his wayward best friend, Myles. But the winter doldrums end abruptly when first Diva, Myles’s cat, and then Angel, the charismatic tourist, arrive. Soon Chloe is derailed by dark desires for drugs and sex and is plunged into a hypnotic nightmare of deception, and Tyler finds himself once again searching for the lost adult children of West Jordan.

With an improbable cast of spicy personalities, *Catnip Jazz* works its way from Mexico to New Orleans and to the seediest sections of Montreal, weaving compelling narratives together in a dark and twisty adventure that keeps the pages turning and burning.