

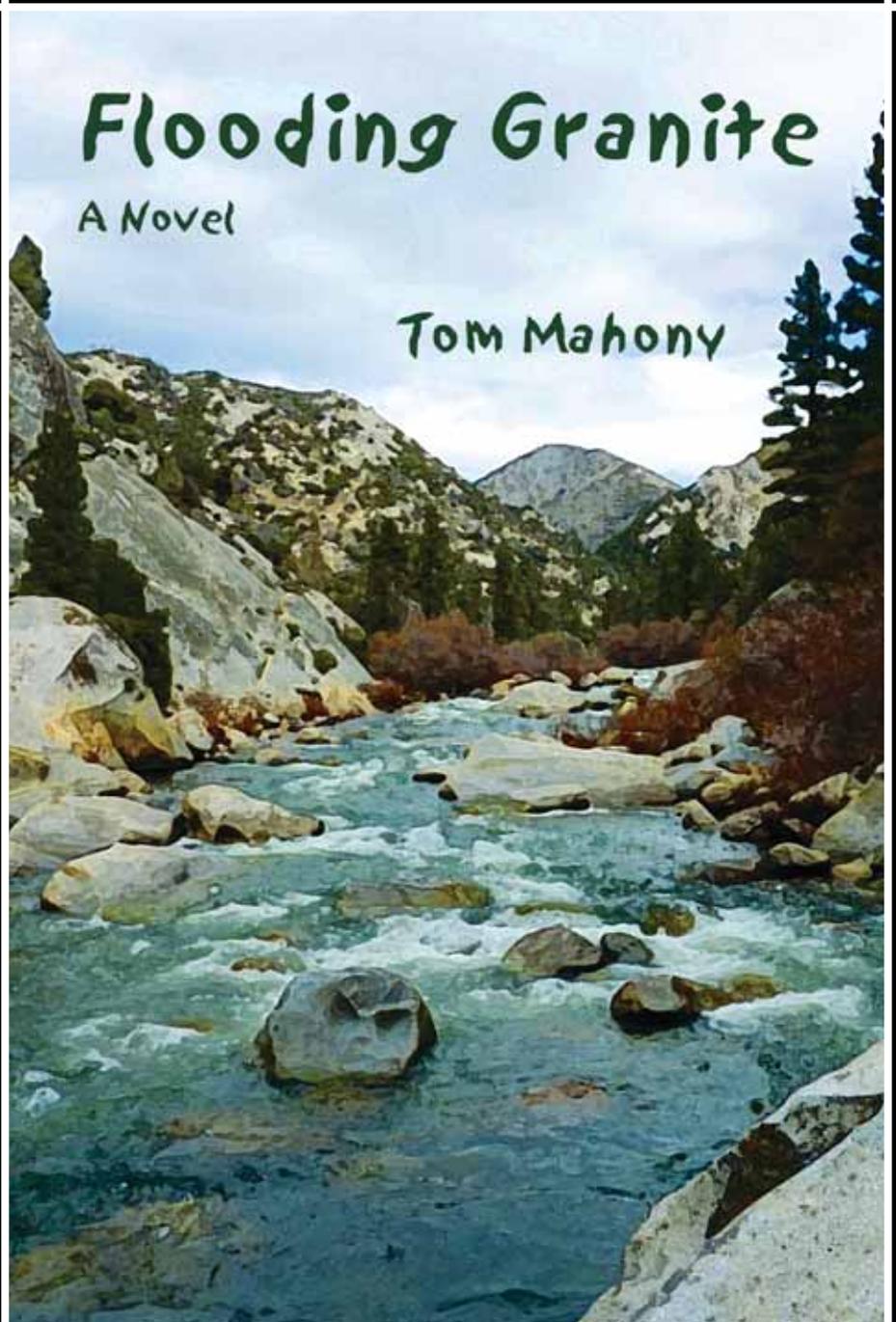
# Press Kit Contents

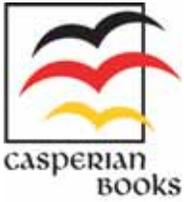
Press Release

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# Running from a flood of trouble...

Casperian Books is pleased to announce the release of Tom Mahony's second novel, *Flooding Granite*.

Zack Pruitt is a river guide long on skill but short on nerve: he dropped out of college, quit his job, and abandoned his girlfriend and young son when things got tough.

Back in the Sierra Nevada, Zack signs on for a high-water river trip with three other guides and eleven clients. As the flotilla careens toward Gallows—a brutal rapid that's always terrorized him—events spin out of control. A near-fatal accident coupled with a rush of snowmelt leave the guides and clients fighting for survival, and Zack discovers that for once running is not an option.

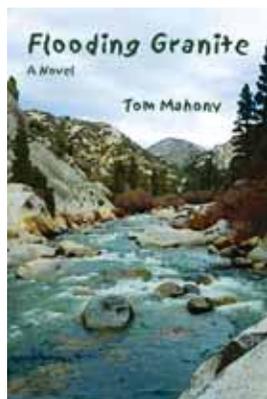
"River guide Zack Pruitt and his clients get more excitement than they bargained for in this gripping account of three days on the water battling nature, each other, and their own demons. Tightly wrought tension crests to life-threatening levels as Mahony takes readers on a ride filled with unexpected twists and turns. *Flooding Granite* offers nail-chomping suspense on every page."

—Robin Stratton, *Boston Literary Magazine*

"Tom Mahony knows how to tell a story and, as a scientist, understands the natural environment. In *Flooding Granite*, he demonstrates both of these skills with an intelligent action tale that grabs you by the collar and doesn't let go. More than a man-battles-nature story, *Flooding Granite* is layered with a human element that will have you rooting for Zack and caring for him despite, and maybe because of, his flaws."

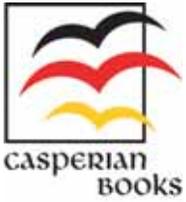
—Wayne Scheer, author of *Revealing Moments*

*Flooding Granite* goes on sale nationwide October 2011.



Author:	Tom Mahony
Publisher:	Casperian Books
ISBN-10:	1-934081-34-5
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Trim:	6x9
Binding:	Trade Paperback
Category:	Fiction - Coming of Age
Publication:	October 2011
Wholesaler:	Ingram

For further information or to arrange an interview with the author, please visit [www.tommahony.net](http://www.tommahony.net) or e-mail [publicity@casperianbooks.com](mailto:publicity@casperianbooks.com).



# Interview with Tom Mahony

**Q: What is the origin of *Flooding Granite*?**

A: Years ago I was a river guide for a season on the Kern River. During a high-water training trip with a bunch of other guides on an amazing but difficult stretch of wilderness class-five whitewater, I got pretty worked over. The trip opened my eyes to the intensity of the wilderness experience: the beauty, fun, danger, hardship. Everything seems amplified in the wilderness, both good and bad. It really gets to the core of existence. The seeds of *Flooding Granite* were planted on that trip and just grew through the years.

**Q: Is the Sequoia River a real place?**

A: No. It's loosely based on the Kern River, but the similarities end quickly. I had to invent terrain that suited the needs of the story. For instance, I needed a deep gorge that was difficult to escape at high water. If the characters could easily hike out, then the story wouldn't work. Yet, like with all my stories, I tried to make it accurate in terms of plants, wildlife, geology, and climate for the real region upon which the fictional setting is based.

**Q: What are the main conflicts in the story?**

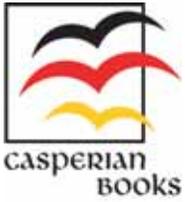
A: The story is fundamentally about redemption. Zack Pruitt is a decent but imperfect human being who's made mistakes. He blew it with his girlfriend and son and is trying to shape up in order to earn their trust and return to their lives. Paralleling this conflict is his fear of Gallows, a brutal rapid waiting downstream that's always pounded him. The challenges of the river mirror what he's experiencing in his life, and he's not sure if he's capable of rising to the occasion with his family or the river.

**Q: How do you keep the reader rooting for a flawed protagonist?**

A: It can be a tricky balance. The character needs to be flawed in order to achieve redemption, but if he's too flawed the reader will lose sympathy. I think the key is to always maintain a fundamental decency in the character, something the reader can relate to and respect, even as the character makes mistakes. If the reader stops rooting for the protagonist, then it's all over.

**Q: Start to finish, how long were you working on this novel?**

A: I actually started this novel as a short story fifteen years ago. Then, over the past seven years or so, I worked it into a novel. The early drafts were completely different; most of the story took place off the river. There were serious flaws with the story which I couldn't pinpoint until somebody said, "Keep it on the river." So a couple of years ago I deleted eighty percent of the manuscript, revised and expanded what remained, and the final version was born.



## About the Author

Tom Mahony is a biological consultant in California with an MS from Humboldt State University. He has spent sixteen years conducting biological surveys and environmental studies throughout the state. His fiction has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and has appeared in dozens of online and print publications, including *Surfer Magazine*, *Flashquake*, and *Boston Literary Magazine*. He is the author of *Slow Entropy*, a collection of short fiction released in 2009, and a novel, *Imperfect Solitude*, released in 2010. His website may be found at [www.tommahony.net](http://www.tommahony.net).

## About Casperian Books

Casperian Books is an independent publishing company located in Sacramento, California. We publish a wide variety of fiction, including genre, mainstream, literary, and experimental works, by a variety of writers, both first-time authors and seasoned professionals, who share our vision.

We are ardent supporters of small business and creative guerrilla movements, whether they be in publishing, music, or film, and we believe in diverse voices, different viewpoints, and departures from the status quo. Most of all, we believe in good books.