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Press Release

Interview with Tom Mahony

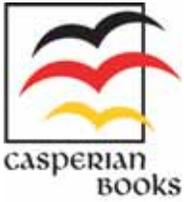
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About Casperian Books

Imperfect Solitude



A Novel by
Tom Mahony



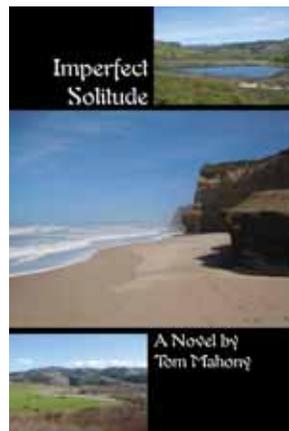
Sometimes a wave offers no room to maneuver...

Casperian Books is pleased to announce the release of Tom Mahony's debut novel, *Imperfect Solitude*.

When Evan Nellis, a neophyte biologist still reeling from the mysterious death of his father, is hired by PDT Biological Consulting in San Francisco, he finds himself under the brutal tutelage of Gordon Shaw, a brilliant biologist sorely lacking in people skills. With his neurotic, hypochondriac mother pressuring him to move back home to rural California and his entry-level wage forcing him to stay on the couch of an eccentric friend, Evan's only relief is surfing.

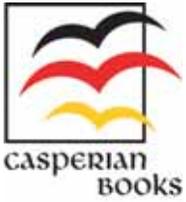
That changes when Richard Headley, a wealthy developer, takes an interest in Evan's career and requests him personally for the biological assessments of his properties. Yet what seems like a blessing at first soon finds Evan in conflict with his principles, and he must confront everyone, including himself, before all he values is destroyed.

Imperfect Solitude goes on sale nationwide December 2010.



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For further information or to arrange an interview with the author, please visit www.tommahony.net or e-mail publicity@casperianbooks.com.



Interview with Tom Mahony

Q: What is the story behind *Imperfect Solitude*?

A: I've worked in the environmental field for fifteen years, primarily as a biological consultant, and learned early on that issues dealing with land use, biology, and environmental regulation are loaded with conflict: people get extremely pissed off. It seemed like a good topic for a book. I started it almost ten years ago, toiling off and on throughout the decade. Sometimes I'd become so fed up with the book that I'd abandon it for a year or two, but something always pulled me back to it.

Q: What role does the setting play in the story?

A: The setting is an important character. There's an urban/rural contrast in the book, particularly between San Francisco and Alder Cove. The town and adjacent Solitude Beach are fictional, but inspired by portions of coastal San Mateo County, a beautiful, sparsely populated area just over the hill from a metropolis. The contrast is striking. There's intense land use conflict in parts of the region, between development and preservation, between urban and rural. It's a difficult balance and an interesting dynamic, which the novel explores.

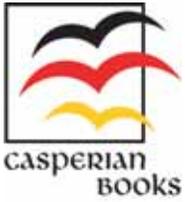
Q: Disillusionment seems to be a theme in the book...

A: The protagonist, Evan Nellis, is disillusioned by the mysterious death of his father and left struggling to believe in something. He's always found solace in the outdoors, especially surfing the pristine cove at Solitude Beach. But as he descends into the world of Richard Headley, he wonders whether anything is sacred.

The book also explores the theme of gradients: in nature as well as in morality. Evan works as a biologist, delineating boundaries around wetlands and other gradational phenomena. And in dealing with the slippery ethics of those around him, he wrestles with right and wrong in a world of diffuse morality, searches for black and white in a world of gray.

Q: What is your goal for *Imperfect Solitude*?

A: I'd like to draw the reader into the world of applied ecology for a couple of hundred pages, a world that few people think about as they live their daily lives, yet also a world that determines the ordinary landscapes surrounding them, be they urban or rural.



About the Author

Tom Mahony is a biological consultant in California with an MS from Humboldt State University. He has spent fifteen years working on natural resource projects 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. *Imperfect Solitude* is his first novel. His website may be found at 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.