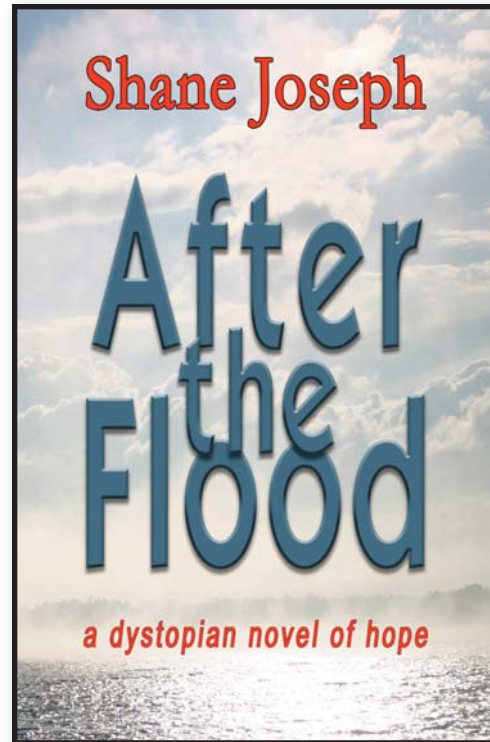


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1 - Shane Joseph Wins Award for *After the Flood*:

**Hidden Brook Press, author Shane Joseph
Wins National Award
for his novel
*AFTER THE FLOOD***

Cobourg author – Shane Joseph’s “dystopian novel of hope *After the Flood* won in the Futuristic/Fantasy category at The Word Guild Canadian Christian Writing Awards on June 16th 2010 in Mississauga, Ontario.

The contest received a record number of 245 entries from writers in eight provinces. The 34 award categories include non-fiction books, novels, articles, columns, poems and song lyrics.

Joseph, a graduate of the Humber School for Writers, has two other published books: *Redemption in Paradise* (2004) and *Fringe Dwellers* (2008). His short fiction has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies in Canada, India, Sri Lanka and the USA. His blog at www.shanejoseph.com is widely syndicated.

Joseph's novel portrays a dramatically altered North America in the aftermath of a giant flood, which is forecast to take place in 2012. His focus is on how mankind regroups to build a better world but remains hobbled by an ingrained trait – desire. Critics have described the book as Noah's Ark meets Samson & Delilah at Camelot in the Brave New World.

"I am grateful to The Word Guild for honouring me with this award," Joseph said. "Writers are supposed to get their reward only in heaven, but it is nice to get small doses of it on earth, occasionally."

The Word Guild, the organization that sponsors the awards, consists of more than 340 writers and editors across Canada who write from a Christian perspective and publish work in a variety of genres. The Word Guild also sponsors Canada's largest Christian writers' conference, Write! Canada (www.writecanada.org). After the Gala, 250 writers, editors, agents and publishers will meet in Guelph, Ont. from June 17 to 19 for professional development, networking and marketing opportunities.

To see the complete shortlist of finalists, or to obtain more information about the Gala or The Word Guild, visit www.thewordguild.com and www.canadianchristianwritingawards.com

2 – Catalogue Blurb:

A tale of love, loss and lust in a fundamentalist society formed in the aftermath of a giant flood that destroyed most of the earth in 2012.

David Arthurs, born after the Flood, tries to save his Humanitarian city state of Tolemac—located somewhere in the former North America—from sinking into sin and destruction as the forces of Capitalism sweep in from across the waters of neighbouring New Eden. How is he to overcome the forces of evil when his father and founder of Tolemac, Samson, is having an affair with the beautiful New Eden exile Delia Stone, when media-manipulated local elections oust David from political office, and when a drug cartel is poisoning the minds and bodies of the youth in the once peaceful island state? And more importantly, when, for the first time, David finds himself succumbing to temptations of the flesh that were outlawed during the founding of Tolemac but never eradicated from the human genetic code.

After the Flood poses the question: "If mankind was granted a new slate to create Utopia, could it?"

3 – Review by Waheed Rabbani:

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly In The New World, After The Flood

Shane Joseph's futuristic novel is indeed something original, and a refreshing read, when compared to other similar novels wherein the world, predictably, following a cataclysmic event is a dystopian place with a bleak future. Shane's characters lead normal lives, much like in their earlier world, unlike the survivors in the other stories, where they have to survive in—hard to believe and imagine—shattered buildings, bleak landscapes, and face not only food shortages but genetically mutated antagonists! Herein lays the charm of Shane's novel. The characters are real, whom we can relate with, and are drawn into their new world with all its former characteristics and inhabitants' good, bad and ugly wishes. As noted in the Synopsis "... the human ability to create havoc through the weakness of desire is still alive and well ...". This setting provides a unique opportunity to bring out the strengths and frailties of mankind,

which Shane has delivered in an absorbing novel that will make us ponder our own lives for some time after closing the book.

In selecting the time period of his story, Shane, appears to have taken a page out of an ancient Mayan almanac that had ended its calendar in 2012. Hence, quite believably due to ecological changes, the flood occurs that year to cut off parts of North America from the rest of the world. Shane's characters, through diligent hard work—typical after a disaster—have rebuilt their former city—possibly Toronto—into a city-state and named it, "Tolemac." The choice of that name tells a lot about the story itself and is a pleasant surprise when its reason is revealed.

Characteristically, the new world also gets divided into factions of have and have-nots and those with capitalist and socialist—called Humanitarian—values. The story takes on a bit of the charming "Peyton Place" style, when strangers arrive in town. The desires and wills of the residents are tested. Some remain resolute while others succumb to temptation, which leads even to a murder. Following an absorbing trial with a satisfying conclusion, where possibly Grisham might have ended his novel, Shane's story continues (much like a Bollywood movie) into a thrilling fourth act.

The writing and dialogue use is superb. Some of the discussions and speeches made by the contenders during the election campaign in Tolemac will remind us of our North American politicians. Shane has employed wonderful techniques and props to bring that age of the new world alive from the pages into our mind's eye. For instance the information and communication device used by those people is called a "Communicator," which appears to be a combined, radio, TV, PC, telephone etc, device. Could it be a future version of the latest iPad?

Shane Joseph's novel is aptly subtitled: "A dystopian novel of hope." To those of us who are concerned about the prospects of our World, and with the year 2012 in our minds, it will hearten us to realize that indeed there is hope for a tranquil future.

(<http://tiny.cc/wrabbani>)

4 – Review by Ben Antao:

After The Flood—A Story Of Second Chances

After the Flood, Shane Joseph's second novel, is a story of second chances that befall those that God marks for His chosen people. It takes its genesis from the Biblical origin of Noah's Ark after the big deluge that drowned the sinful, but the action in this novel happens in North America from 2012-2046.

The author subtitles his work as a dystopian novel of hope; if so, it's a hope rooted in man's perennial quest for light at the end of the tunnel, for dawn at the end of the darkest night. It's a kind of hope voiced by Malcolm in Shakespeare's Macbeth, namely, "The night is long that never finds the day."

Narrated in the 1st and 3rd person POV, the story straddles between pre-and-post Flood time zones, involving a family of Samson Arthurs, his wife Agnes, his son David, Sonya, David's wife and their two children. After the flood, the map of North America is redrawn, with former Canada and the U.S. emerging as the Federation of Humanitarian States and the League of Capitalist Nations respectively.

The author employs a diary kept by Samson, which helps David, the narrator, to flesh out the story with conflicts as a new generation begins to take charge and responsibility for its communities. Ironically, as the plot develops, Tolemac, the new community in the Humanitarian realm comes into conflict with New Eden of the Capitalist nation, as if the sins of the pre-flood era (drugs, alcohol, wanton sex) have come to visit the new one. The extremes of socialism and capitalism force the two states to find a middle way.

Shane Joseph engages the reader not only by his knowledge of the Old Testament but also by his insights into man-woman relationships and his flair in handling the problem of the other man/the other woman, the secret longing for carnality as revealed in the character of Delia. To quote:

Delia was dressed in a body-hugging, sleeveless T-shirt and pants, and her red hair was pulled back over her head and tied in a knot at the back. David felt the blood rush to his head again.

“I’m sorry to hear about your mother, David.” Sincerity shone through her sensuality.

The author maintains a good balance between telling the story and showing it through dialogue and action. This novel would make a fine movie, as entertaining as the book.

5 – Website and book ordering information:

- Find After the Flood at – <http://www.hiddenbrookpress.com/Book-Shane-AfterFlood.htm>
- Find Fringe Dwellers at – <http://www.hiddenbrookpress.com/Book-NShore3.html>
- Find full Hidden Brook Press catalogue at – <http://www.hiddenbrookpress.com/HBD.html>
- Order an autographed copy directly from the author at – www.shanejoseph.com

6 - Contact Information

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