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Gulf Coast Author Features Monster Hurricane in Romance Novel

Pensacola, Florida -- *Storm Surge*, a romantic suspense novel by Pensacola resident Connie Chastain, will be released April 15, 2011 by Desert Breeze Publishing, Inc., of Castaic, California.

Set in Pensacola, Mobile, Alabama and Biloxi, Mississippi, the novel relates the story of consumer watchdog agent Briana Farrow, who is sent undercover to bring a crook, Justin Adair, to justice.

Adair, the owner of a small independent insurance adjusting firm, is suspected of insurance fraud, but after working with him a few weeks, Briana comes to believe in his innocence and integrity.

As the pair grow attracted to each other, they must deal with her deceit and his distrust, while a ruthless adversary from Justin's past, and Category Five Hurricane Kathy, endanger them both.

Storm Surge draws on Chastain's thirty years as a resident of the Gulf Coast, and her work experience in homeowner insurance claims.

She was twice employed with the the largest property and casualty company in the U.S.A., first when Hurricanes Erin and Opal made landfall along the upper Gulf Coast, and nine years later, when Hurricane Ivan struck west Florida.

"I saw the disaster response up close," she says. "I was in the middle of it, so I know what my characters, Justin and Briana, are up against."

Chastain left the insurance company to take a position as a caseworker in the district office of former Congressman Joe Scarborough. Her writing experience includes a stint as a staff writer with Scarborough's tabloid newsweekly, *The Florida Sun*, published in the early 2000s.

"I wrote the 'B' story -- the second lead story -- which was usually about off-the-wall subjects like Bigfoot hunters in the South, Mobile Bay's jubilees, and photos of Area 51 snapped by Russian spy satellites."

A native of north Georgia, Chastain grew up a preacher's kid in Alabama. She and her husband, a Louisiana native, spent five years in central Illinois, but her inspiration to write is firmly rooted in the people and places of Dixie.

"All my stories are set in the South and feature Southern characters facing sudden trouble or change in their lives," Chastain notes. "My novels are classified as inspirational because they are written from a Christian worldview. But they're too edgy to be Christian romances," she adds.

Chastain published her first novel, *Southern Man*, in 2009 under her own imprint, Brasstown Books. Available in both print and e-reader versions on Amazon.com, the novel is about a man victimized by false accusations at his workplace.

She has three more novels in progress, and several other projects in the planning stages.

Desert Breeze Publishing produces electronic books for sale through online outlets such as Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble and on the publisher's website. (<http://desertbreezepublishing.com>).

"The digital age is changing publishing," Chastain says. "In 2008, alternatively published books outnumbered traditionally published ones for the first time ever. Desert Breeze is on the cutting edge of that change, and I'm delighted to be associated with them."

Chastain's author web site is located at www.conniechastain.com.

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