

Delicious and literary fun

The Write Place celebrates release of contest-winning book

The release of the Write Place's contest-winning book, *Leo's Birds*, will be celebrated at The Next Chapter bookstore in Knoxville on Thursday, October 25. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., the evening will feature a book signing and reading by the author, Knoxville resident Michael Van Natta, as well as snacks and a wine tasting courtesy of Nearwood Winery.

Leo's Birds was the winner of the 2012 Write Place Book Contest. The Pella-based business chose the story from among many other entries to be published as a print and e-book. It tells the story of Maria, a small-town family doctor wrongly accused of murdering two patients, and Leo, a construction worker trying to overcome the ghosts of his past. After Maria makes a daring escape from jail, her path crosses with Leo's in unexpected ways.

The novel is an insightful exploration of the intertwining worlds of law and medicine, and investigates the consequences of greed and betrayal. Not until Maria is caught, and Leo gets a grip on life, do justice, relief and rebirth become possible.

Van Natta, a doctor in Knoxville and the facilitator of the Marion County Writers Workshop, has been active in the writing world ever since he turned a fishing guide into a novel of unrequited love. He has written six other novels, and countless short stories, including "Grant Park" (Abaton, 2008).

The novel will be available for purchase at the Write Place's website on October 25. Excerpts from the novel and an interview with the author are currently available at www.thewriteplace.biz/contestwinner. The Write Place is also giving away four free copies of the book—for a chance to win, post on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/thewriteplace.

The book division of The Write Place is dedicated to helping authors self-publish their books. The Write Place also has a business division, which provides professional writing, graphic design and marketing coordination services to small- and medium-sized businesses, as well as internal communications assistance to corporations. Learn more about their business and book services at www.thewriteplace.biz or call 641-628-8398.

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Incl: Jpg of book cover