

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**DEBUT NOVEL EXPLORES
THE ENIGMATIC WORLD OF GYPSY SPAIN**

Lajas, Puerto Rico – December 2012 – A daring new novel is attracting attention for its up-close look into the mysterious world of Gypsy Spain.

Mainstream society – both in Europe and the United States – has been at odds with the Gypsies since their migration from India in the 15th century. The Gypsies have lived most of their history accused of being different, non-conformists, and problematic. They have been marginalized, stereotyped, persecuted, glorified, and underappreciated. But rarely have they been valued as models for a way of life that has nothing to do with flamenco, stolen car rings, drugs, divination, and the robbing unsuspecting tourists – until the book *City of Sorrows* (Azahar Books, 2012).

City of Sorrows is the debut literary work from author **Susan Nadathur**. The novel portrays a way of life that most people don't see. Historically wary and suspicious of outsiders, the Gypsies stick to themselves and rarely allow people from the outside in. But Susan Nadathur was given the unique opportunity to live with a Gypsy family in Seville. From that experience, she penned this book.

City of Sorrows is an emotionally-intense story about how relationships can get complicated, and how life is not always the way we want it to be. When the prejudice of a wealthy Spaniard appears to cost the life of a young Gypsy woman, a vengeful young husband must work his way through anger and grief, without losing himself or his humanity in the process. *City of Sorrows* is a captivating novel about what we allow to control us, and the choices we must make to be free.

Susan Nadathur has become active as an advocate for Gypsies and other marginalized populations. She currently maintains a blog with research, stories and news at <http://susannadathur.com>. The author is available for interviews, book club appearances, speaking engagements and/or guest articles on the subjects of Spanish Gypsy culture, outcasts, outsiders, the effects of bullying, and writing. She resides with her family in Lajas, Puerto Rico.

Azahar Books is a small, independent press based in Lajas, Puerto Rico and distributed to retailers via the Ingram Book Company.

For more information, to request a review copy, or to schedule an interview, contact:

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About Susan Nadathur

Susan Nadathur is a widely-traveled writer, teacher, and self-proclaimed “outsider” from Connecticut who lives on-and-off in Spain with an extended family of Gypsies in Seville. A registered nurse with a master’s degree in Spanish, Susan teaches language and cultural diversity workshops to childbirth and healthcare professionals, and has authored several books on Spanish language acquisition and cross-cultural communication. When she is not teaching or writing, Susan volunteers in a local high school to help Spanish speaking students improve their English reading and writing. She lives with her Indian husband and their multicultural daughter in Lajas, Puerto Rico. *City of Sorrows* is her debut novel. Susan blogs about Gypsies and life at <http://susannadathur.com>.

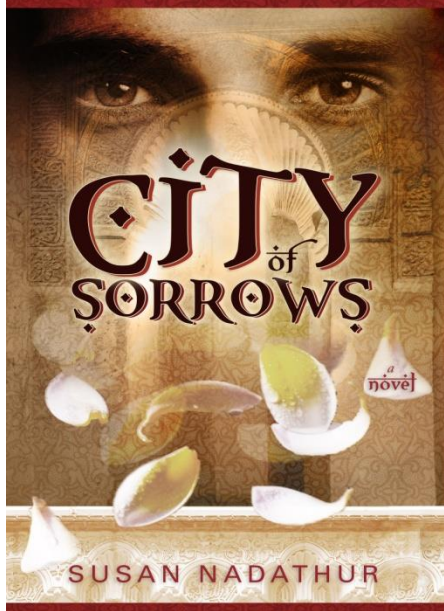
Interview Questions

- 1) Your novel challenges the idea that Gypsies are all fortune tellers, thugs and thieves. What do you want the world to know about Spanish—and American—Gypsies?
- 2) How did you end up living with the Gypsies in Spain, and what is one of your favorite or most memorable moments living with these families?
- 3) Your novel raises awareness of the struggles of modern Spain in relation to the Gypsies. What do you consider the most positive aspect of modern Gypsy life in Spain? What are the struggles? How do those struggles relate to those of the American Gypsies?
- 4) You’ve become an advocate and lay expert in issues related to Gypsies and marginalized populations. How did that interest develop?
- 5) What’s next for you as a writer? Any other projects planned or underway?

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Azahar Books Presents for Review



Title: *City of Sorrows*

Author: Susan Nadathur

Publisher: Azahar Books

P.O. Box 1665, Lajas PR, 00667 **Phone:** (888) 251-4562

Category: Mainstream/Multicultural Fiction

ISBN: 978-0615604701

Pages: 310

Price: \$14.99

Publication Date: December 2012

How this title is unique:

This original novel portrays a way of life that most people don't see, but often wonder about. Historically, Gypsies have been marginalized, stereotyped, persecuted, glorified, and underappreciated. But never before have they been valued as models for a way of life that has nothing to do with robbing unsuspecting tourists – until the book *City of Sorrows*.

Book concept:

City of Sorrows is an emotionally-intense novel that tells the story of three men – a Spaniard, a Gypsy, and an Indian immigrant, who under normal circumstances would never have met. On a dark road outside the city of Seville, the lives of these three men collide as one man's anger leads to an unthinkable act, triggering another man's obsession, and forcing the third to negotiate his way through the underside of life. The choices they make ripple outward, throwing not only their lives, but an entire city, into turmoil and change.

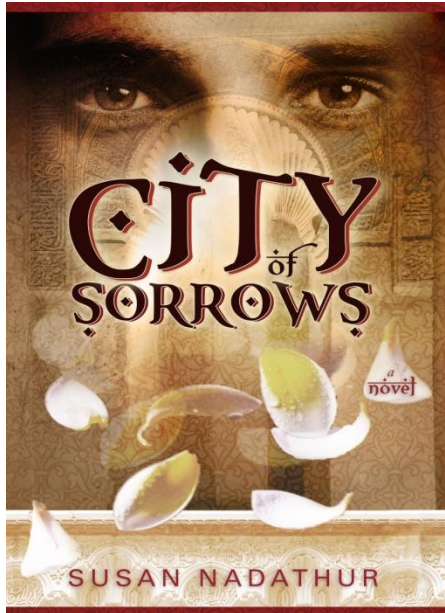
Early reviews call it:

A captivating novel about what we allow to control us and the choices we must make to be free.

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Reader Reviews



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“CITY OF SORROWS is a daring novel that will surely attract attention for its up-close look into the enigmatic world of the Spanish Gypsy. The book is both engaging and beautifully written. When I began reading it, I had to read consecutively until chapter four. I couldn't stop. Finally, I had to force myself to close the book and get back to work. It's brilliant.”

“Excellent reading! *City of Sorrows* catches the reader's interest in such a way that it is very difficult to put it down. The description of the environment and atmosphere from which each character comes from is so vivid that the reader has the feeling of being there. I really enjoyed the way of treating the characters as individual stories that relate and entangle long before they meet. The anticipation for the next development in the story hardly lets you close the book.”

“This is a very believable and engaging story that is brought to life by the author's ability to develop her characters and give the reader insight into their lives. The author skillfully moves the plot forward with each chapter focusing on a different character. As the story builds, you can't help but wonder where it will take you. The ending does not disappoint. You won't want to put this book down until it is finished.”

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