

THE ARTS

The "Prince of Nantucket" comes home

Author Jan Goldstein on island to discuss the book Nantucket inspired

By **MARLI GUZZETTA**
INDEPENDENT ARTS EDITOR

Jan Goldstein was having a rough time — his father had just died, and he was going through a divorce — when he came to Nantucket for time away.

"I felt like an island in a sense, and I found Nantucket a glorious

place to heal and renew myself," said Goldstein, who set his latest and sophomore novel, "Prince of Nantucket," on the island. The book's lead character, Teddy, is a California senatorial candidate going through a similar crisis of the soul (and a campaign) when he moves to Nantucket to care for an ailing mother.

"When my mother died of an Alzheimer's related illness, we had a wonderful relationship," remembered Goldstein, who has three book talks on island this week. "I wondered what would happen if a son didn't have a wonderful relationship with his mother and then finds out everything he believed about her was wrong and then only had a narrow window to get to know her."

While biking the Nantucket bike paths, Goldstein concluded that Nantucket was the perfect setting because it would allow for the family to be secluded, in a sense. It also became a metaphor for each of the characters in the book, who are "each an island unto themselves," Goldstein said. Likewise, the Nantucket fog comes to represent the protagonist's occluded, L.A. mindset.

Nantucket readers will recognize more than a few historic and contemporary landmarks in the book. The Even Keel makes an appearance, as does the Visitor's Center and even a particular house on Baxter Road. (Goldstein won't identify which, but he did say that a few readers have already figured it out for themselves.)

Intangible qualities of Nantucket are also at play.

Teddy's ailing mother is an artist. "To me, Nantucket has that gift of art," said Goldstein, who gave

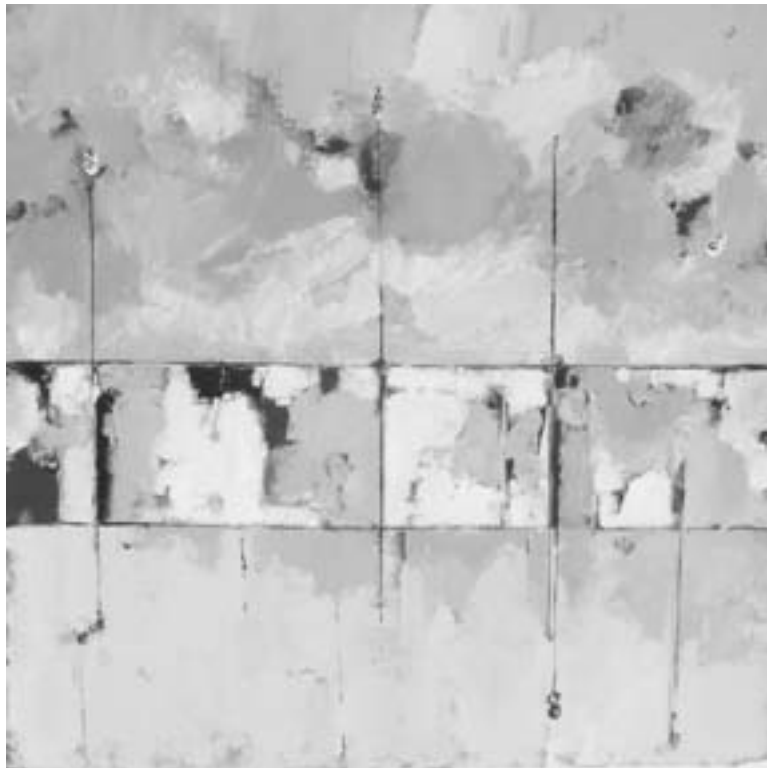
Teddy a moody teen daughter named Zoe and a love interest in waitress — cum — photographer and

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"Prince of Nantucket" is author Jan Goldstein's second novel.



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