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Press Release

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Industry, individual new beginnings hit home in *Where Souls Collide*
Former local journalist's debut novel weaves economic realities with supernatural twists

DETROIT, MI – Times are tough enough without your employer teetering on bankruptcy, an ex-lover becoming your new boss, and discovering you *have* turned into your mother. Experiencing all three upheavals could give anyone nightmares. Yet, such is life for Navena Larimore, the thrice-threatened heroine of Stefanie Worth's debut novel, ***Where Souls Collide*** – dreams included.

“How often does the universe offer you one dilemma at a time? Very seldom. Trouble travels in packs that test you on all fronts – personal, professional, psychological,” says Worth. “The irony is that people typically experience the greatest growth by surviving their most challenging ordeals. I wanted my story to reflect that reality.”

The real world in ***Where Souls Collide*** is one familiar to many Michiganders: change in the workplace. In the Detroit-based novel, an entrenched community newspaper faced with rising costs and declining readership must reinvent itself to stay afloat. The publisher decides that move requires new leadership, much to the dismay of our heroine Navena who's been eying the newspaper's top slot for years. While anger, frustration and the idea of working for an old flame tempt her to take another job offer, the opportunity to recreate the ailing newspaper ultimately wins. But, of course, her decision to stay sparks a series of obstacles to happiness and success: bad dreams predicting murder, a rekindling of love lost, and a headline that threatens to derail the paper's makeover. In the end, Navena emerges from her trials wiser than she began and facing a future filled with new possibilities.

“Supernatural elements wrap around the story's realities to allow the reader a sense of escapism. My characters find themselves in mystifying situations for which I try to find poetic resolutions. That's where some of my own fiction preferences show through,” Worth explains. “As a reader, Stephen King and Dean Koontz captured my imagination, but as a writer, Maya Angelou and Toni Morrison won my heart.”

Worth knows her fictional arena well. A journalism degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, on-air stints in radio and television and an award-winning run with the Michigan Chronicle give her the inside view of a reporter's life that she shares with her readers through Navena's eyes. However, don't expect a memoir of Worth's life at the Chronicle. She says her background simply provided a framework for another time (15 years after her own newspaper days), a different economic climate and a cast of fictional characters.

“A bio-based book would be far too restrictive,” she laughs. “Imagination allows you to create flawed individuals, develop conflicted plot issues, and still guarantee your reader a happy ending – something real life can't always promise.”

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Where Souls Collide, published by Leisure Books, is slated for July 31, 2007, release and is currently available for pre-order through several online sites (Dorchesterpub.com, Amazon.com, bn.com and walmart.com.) For author interviews, speaker requests and additional book information, visit www.StefanieWorth.com or email spw@stefanieworth.com.

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