



For Immediate Release

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***Wave* to hit Jersey Shore by Memorial Day**

**Set on Long Beach Island, New Jersey, the tsunami novel was
already in development when disaster struck in Southern Asia**

Long Beach Island, New Jersey, May 2, 2005—Aboard a 747 bound for the U.S. capital, a terrorist’s plot has gone awry. The plane nosedives into the Atlantic and a crudely made nuclear device detonates below the ocean’s surface, creating a vast undersea landslide. Within minutes a tsunami is born, and a series of huge waves begins to move toward the Jersey shore. Thousands of residents of Long Beach Island (LBI) are sitting ducks, with only one bridge to the mainland and less than three hours to evacuate.

When he began writing his novel, *Wave*, the farthest thing from author Wil Mara’s mind was that a real-life tsunami might soon command the world’s attention. The tsunami that devastated Southern Asia on December 26, 2004 claimed more than 200,000 lives, making it one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history.

“*Wave* was not inspired by this event,” according to Mara, whose latest book will be published May 16. He said he wrote the novel because he thought it would make a suspenseful and entertaining read, particularly for residents and visitors to New Jersey’s Long Beach Island (LBI), where the action is set. He noted that while the “main event” in the book—a series of massive waves caused by a seismic occurrence at the ocean floor—mirrors the cause of the destruction in Asia, the similarities end there.

Distinctions include the hemispheres and oceans in which the events occurred, the causative factors (Mara’s tsunami is spawned by an act of terrorism), the size and number of affected areas, and the toll on human life. While the damage from the Asian tsunami was of epic proportions, the impact of Mara’s wave is depicted on a much more modest scale. In fact, the author said he chose LBI in part for the close-knit nature of the small seaside community, which comprises fewer than 8,000 off-season residents.

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In his first adult thriller, Mara maintains a remarkable balance of science, storytelling, and characterization. The powerful presence of the tsunami is strongly felt as the story builds to an exciting climax, but Mara is as interested in exploring the joys, heartaches, and interactions of his characters as he is in the attributes of the wave itself. From a disgraced mayor with a unique chance for redemption, to young lovers from opposite sides of the track, to a working mom desperate to find her young sons, the lives and emotions of Mara's protagonists play out vividly against the looming disaster.

"The Indian Ocean tsunami has created a great deal of interest in *Wave*," said John B. Bryans, editor-in-chief and publisher of the Books Division at Plexus Publishing, Inc. He said that while Plexus has moved quickly to publish the novel, given its topicality, the publisher wants readers to know it was not produced to capitalize on the tragedy. Primarily a regional book publisher, Bryans said Plexus has been successful with novels set in Jersey shore locales like Ocean City, Cape May, and LBI, including a series of mysteries by Jane Kelly. "When Wil approached us in 2002 about writing a tsunami novel set on LBI we thought it could be a lot of fun and enjoy strong sales in the region," Bryans said. "Considering recent events, I think many of *Wave's* beach readers will be keeping one eye on the horizon."

Advance reviewer Karenne Snow—an author, naturalist, and geologist who is also the Community Relations Manager for Barnes & Noble in Marlton, New Jersey—said, "*Wave* is a thriller that really is too compelling to put down before you finish reading it. The moral conflicts, unlikely heroics, and emergency responses of everyday people are played out against a tsunami disaster that is all too likely. It opens your eyes to disturbing possibilities. Best of all, besides the fact that it is extraordinarily well written is that the science is believable. That counts a lot for this geology major!"

Wil Mara has written more than 70 books for children and adult readers and his work has been translated in over a dozen languages. For more information, visit www.wilmara.com. **Plexus Publishing, Inc.**, is a Medford, New Jersey-based publisher of books and journals. Plexus books, including *Wave* (May 16, 2005/300pp/hardcover with dustjacket/ISBN 0-937548-56-1/\$22.95), are available in better bookstores everywhere and by contacting the publisher directly at (609) 654-6500, ext. 144; fax: (609) 654-4309; e-mail: info@plexuspublishing.com; Web site: www.plexuspublishing.com.

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