

My Writing Life

January 2015

Dear Friends

I hope your holidays have been filled with warmth and joy. My far-flung children all returned (the first time in two years that all three of them have been together for Christmas!) and helped in the mammoth job of decorating our 12-foot tree. "It reminds me of the tree in the *Nutcracker*," one of them said. "I expect to come down after midnight and find giant mice roaming around."

Fortunately, no mice, giant or otherwise, joined our celebration! We carried on traditions brought to this country by my German in-laws, sang "Silent Night," toasted with champagne, and bet on the longest-burning candle on the Christmas pyramid of our 92-year-old matriarch, Oma. In addition to immediate family, our guests included a brother from Florida, a nephew from southeastern Massachusetts, and friends from Boston and South Korea, as well as Oma.

I wish you light, peace and good health for the new year.

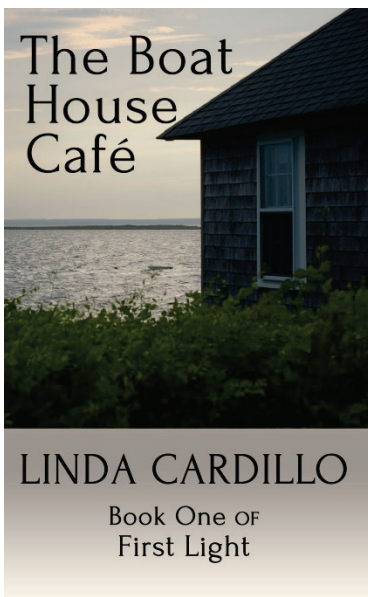
Warmest wishes,
Linda



Thank you! Thank you!

I am deeply grateful to my wonderful readers who have written to me about their reactions to *The Boat House Café* and shared their opinions on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Goodreads. I cherish every word.

Here are a few of the many messages I've received since the launch of the book:



"I am immersed in the story and it is hard to put down."

"I was drawn into the drama, passion and mystery of the story as if I was an active participant..."

"I ripped through your book in a few hours. It was fabulous!!!"

"I have recently read *The Boat House Café* and I LOVED it!"

"Leaves you wanting more."

"...beautiful, lyrical novel"

"I could not put the book down and read it in 2 days' time. Now I want more!"

"Great story, great read!"

What did *you* think of
The Boat House Café?
Please let me and others know,
especially with a review!

Another Thank You and A Special Offer



Part of the mission of Bellastoria Press is to publish books that stimulate lively discussions for book clubs. I'm delighted that *The Boat House Café* has already been chosen by several book clubs, and want to give a shout out to Glassbury Court, St. Andrew's Women's Fellowship and Kathy Coughlin for selecting *The Boat House Café* for discussion in their clubs.

Are you in a book club? As a way of encouraging more widespread word-of-mouth, I am giving away signed copies of *The Boat House Café* to the first five readers who are willing to propose the novel as a selection to their club. I'm also happy to join your club in discussion--either in person if you are within traveling distance of Massachusetts, or via Skype.

Please write to me at linda@lindacardillo.com or Linda Cardillo, P.O. Box 298, Enfield, CT 06083-0298 if you would like to be included.

Is Tuscany on your bucket list?

Is there a story within you waiting to be written,
if you only had the time or the structured environment
in which to create it?

Come write with me and my award-winning colleague Ann DeFee during an extraordinary week in an inspiring, nurturing environment.

July 9-16, 2015

We will be leading a "Writers' Boot Camp" retreat at Tenuta di Spannocchia in Siena, Italy. Visit www.spannocchia.org/education-program/writing-with-linda-cardillo/ for details.



But we will do more than write! We will eat and drink from Spannocchia's bounty of gardens, orchards and vineyards; hike the wooded trails; swim in the pool; explore the library; journey to Florence for a day of art, history and fashion; and experience the beauty and peace of an ancient and magical Tuscan landscape. I've enclosed a detailed itinerary and a registration packet. Please share it with friends!

The deadline for registration is February 1, 2015.