

My Writing Life

April 2017

"This place has haunted my dreams for over forty years. I see the shadow of the Boat House; I hear my mother's voice, humming as she baked her pies; I smell the wood fire; I taste the clams." *Josiah Monroe*

The launch of *Island Legacy*, Book Three of my First Light trilogy, is a week away. My first shipment of books is scheduled to arrive on Monday afternoon, and, like a child waiting for Christmas morning, I'm fidgety with anticipation. No matter how many books I've written, that moment when I open the box and lift out the first copy is a special one.

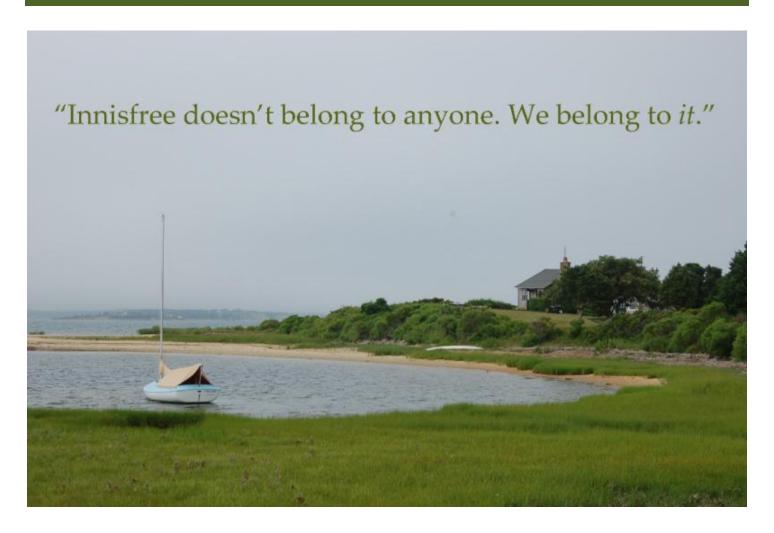
When I first started in publishing just out of college, Houghton Mifflin sent me to a course called "Bookmaking." We took field trips to a paper mill in Maine; to a typesetter north of Boston, where masters set books in hot, molten type; and to a bindery, where the printed pages were finally trimmed and glued or sewn together. Those experiences impressed upon me the craftsmanship of making a beautiful book, and I've never forgotten that.

Those memories are why I now take the time to savor the physical substance of each new book of mine. I feel the heft of its weight, smell the paper, see the words--my words--spilling down the pages, carrying the story to its conclusion. So many hands go into making a book, even in this technological age of digital everything.

I hope yours will be hands that pick up *Island Legacy* soon, and like Josiah, have your senses filled with the magic that is Innisfree.

Warmest wishes,

A New Generation Searches for Home

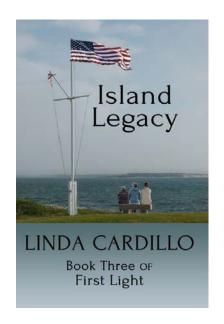


Young widow Elizabeth Innocenti journeys from her home in Italy with her fourteen-year-old son to seek solace and peace at Innisfree, her grandmother Lydia's cottage on Chappaquiddick Island.

Finding her beloved childhood haven abandoned and as needy as she is, she reluctantly sets out to restore it. When she takes shelter during a hurricane with the Monroes, the Wampanoag family who once owned Innisfree, she discovers its fraught history.

Elizabeth's passionate search for Innisfree's meaning for each family forces her to confront both her grief and her future; and her challenging relationship with Caleb Monroe, the grandson of Mae and Tobias Monroe, shatters her perception of who she is and what she wants.

Release Date: April 30, 2017



Island Legacy is available for pre-order now.

Print Edition ISBN: 978-1-942209-37-9, \$17.95, at Bellastoria Press

Kindle Edition ISBN: 978-1-942209-38-6, \$9.99, at Amazon

After April 30th, both editions of *Island Legacy* will be available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kobo, Apple and independent retailers.

Reviews--Don't forget to leave one!



I know I can sometimes sound like a broken record when it comes to reviews, but they are absolutely essential to a book's discoverability and success. A few words and a rating are all that's necessary. If you enjoy my books, please tell the world!

Thank you!

Goodreads Giveaway!



I am offering five signed copies of Is*land Legacy* as a giveaway on Goodreads from May 1 through May 31. Please sign up and tell your friends!

Upcoming Events for the Launch of Island Legacy



May 10, 2017
7:00 pm
Reading and Signing
Enfield Public Library
104 Middle Road
Enfield, CT 06082

May 17, 2017 Book Club Discussion Longmeadow, MA 01106

May 22, 2017
7:00 pm
Book Club Discussion
St. Andrew's Women's Fellowship
335 Longmeadow Street
Longmeadow, MA 01106

May 24, 2017 6:30 pm Reading and Signing Richard Salters Storrs Library 693 Longmeadow Street

Longmeadow, MA 01106

Is your library, book club or women's group *not* on this list? Please <u>contact me</u> to arrange for an appearance.

Bellastoria Press Books Win International Awards



Two Bellastoria Press Books Honored by Chanticleer Reviews

Ann DeFee's Believe was awarded First Place for Women's Fiction in the Somerset Awards and The Boat House Cafe, Book One in my First Light trilogy, won First Place for 20th-Century Historical Fiction in the Goethe Awards.

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