



My Writing Life

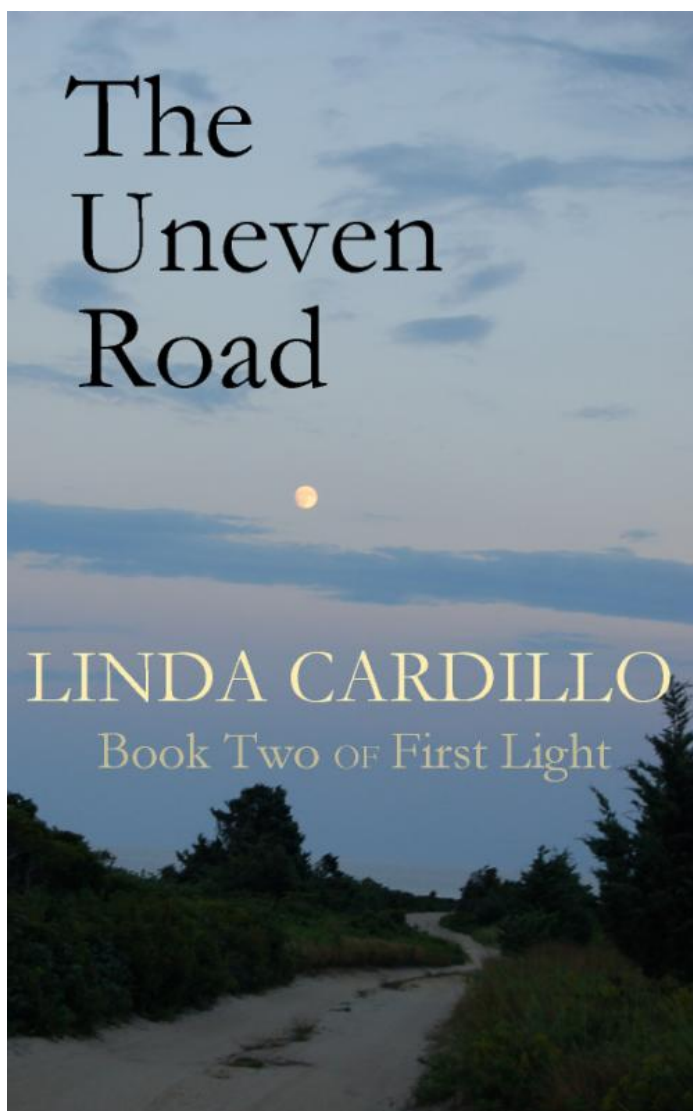
December 2015

Our family has many traditions that enrich our holiday celebrations--a blend of our Italian and German heritages. When my husband's parents still put up a tree at Christmas, they used real candles rather than electric lights (with a large bucket of water at the ready at the foot of the tree!). On Christmas Eve, my father-in-law lit the candles just before the children came down to see what Santa had brought. Everyone in the family picked a candle and we waited during the evening while they burned down to see which one would last the longest. My mother-in-law, now in her nineties, has replaced the tree with a Christmas pyramid. But the candle tradition lives on, and there is always a scramble to guess which of the many glowing red candles will outlast the others.

I hope your holidays are filled, as mine are, with joy and the warm glow of family.

Linda

Announcing *The Uneven Road* Book Two of First Light



The story continues . . .

The remote peninsula of Innisfree on Chappaquiddick Island carries the weight of dreams and loss and salvation for Josiah Monroe, whose life has been molded by its wildness and isolation. When his parents make the painful decision to sell Innisfree--the symbol of his Wampanoag heritage and identity--Josiah abandons the island, seeking solace in a wider, more dangerous world. The Vietnam War, the upheaval of the Sixties and the rejection of his roots lead him on a perilous journey that takes him far from Chappaquiddick both physically and emotionally.

The loss of Innisfree catapults the entire family into a spiral of disconnection. Tobias and Mae struggle not only with Josiah's disappearance and silence but also with their daughter, Izzy's, debilitating polio, as the new owner of Innisfree becomes a force driving them apart. Ultimately, it is the power and magic of the island itself and the bonds of family that call them back to one another.

Coming in February 2016
ISBN: 978-1-942209-23-2

Read and Review Opportunity

Because I've just finished writing my ninth book, I'm still in a state of euphoria—something like the high experienced by marathon runners (writing a 300-page novel has quite a lot in common with running a marathon, I've found. . . especially those moments when you catch sight of a mile marker and think, "Aargh! I still have *x* miles to go!).

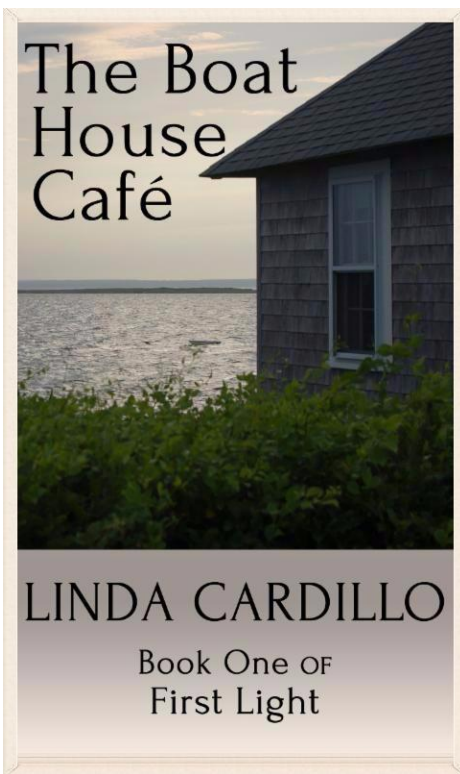
The process of writing for me has immense rewards. But after the writing is finished and I send the child of my heart and my brain out into the world, hearing back from readers is another reward. And when readers take the time to share their reactions with reviews on Amazon or Goodreads, it means that my work will have more reach and visibility.



As a gift to my newsletter readers, I'm offering a free MOBI (Kindle) or e-pub copy of *The Boat House Café*. If you'd like to escape to Chappaquiddick Island for a few hours and would be willing to post a review to Amazon or Goodreads by January 31, please write to me at linda@lindacardillo.com



Some of my favorite recent reviews . . .



A beautifully compelling story

I was drawn into this book from the first chapter and it held me in its thrall to the very last page.

The heroine is a strong independent young woman who survived the disappointments and duplicity of people she cared about in her teenage years. Through her hard work and determination she is able to purchase a piece of land on the New England coast, the one place where she was happy as a child. Here she repairs the buildings and opens a cafe which becomes profitable in spite of the skepticism of some of the town leaders.

When not attending to her customers, her life is reclusive and very private. Eventually she meets the other taciturn and reclusive person on the island.

The plot of the story moves on the budding relationship between these two very private people. Their struggles against the elements, the prejudice of the townspeople and their own pasts are real and persuasive.

The beautiful description of the lonely landscape made me feel as if I were right there in the story. The character development was excellent. This book made me want to read more of Ms. Cardillo's work. *Patricia Wenger, September 27, 2015*

A wonderful story of the triumph of the human spirit over secrets, threats to family stability, and prejudice.

The twists and turns of the plot kept my interest and I looked forward to every new unexpected development. I couldn't stop reading once I started and read the entire book in one day! I am eagerly anticipating book #2 of this three-part "First Light" series by Linda Cardillo. *Michelle Bergeron-Palmer, December 11, 2015*

(In addition to her review, Michelle also sent me a personal note, "Started the book late this morning, finished at 5 PM with a break for lunch and a load of laundry. Can't wait for book #2! Oh, and I forgot to mention, I never changed out of my pj's!")

Calling All Book Clubs and Women's Groups

As many of you know, one of the aspects I love about my writing life is the opportunity to meet with book clubs and women's groups. With the publication of *The Uneven Road* just a few months away, I'm starting to schedule book events for 2016 and would love to hear from you if your club or group is interested in hearing me speak. Please contact me at linda@lindacardillo.com

Here are a few comments from attendees at past events:

". . . a congratulatory note for your excellent Thursday presentation."

"Thank you so much for coming to our book club meeting and discussing your wonderful story with us. It was so fascinating to hear how you did the research for the story and the many connections you had to the story personally. Our group so enjoyed getting a sneak peek at the books to come!"

"Our book club really enjoyed discussing *The Boat House Café* and agreed a screenplay would be a great idea!! It was suggested that after book two is published, and we've read it, you come to discuss with us."



All in the family



My younger son is a composer who has been filling our lives with music since he started taking piano lessons at the age of six. He recently released a new song and I'm excited to share it with you. Listen to **The Fortune Teller--Take It All** here: <https://soundcloud.com/thefortuneteller/take-it-all-featuring-mansuit>

Available on iTunes, Spotify and Amazon

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