



My Writing Life

February 2017

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were joyful. Mine were filled with children returning home from corners far and near, a new daughter-in-law and a family gathering that included three members of the next generation - the babies of my nieces. All the leaves were in my dining room table and I felt like I was cooking for an army - three meals a day for the seven people under our roof, plus several big dinners with additional family over the holiday week. I loved it!

But now the house is quiet, the Christmas decorations are packed away and I am back to work. My Chappaquiddick trilogy has come to an end with my completion of Book Three, now entitled *Island Legacy*. I've submitted the manuscript to my editor - always a bittersweet moment as I let the words go. You'll find the cover and an excerpt below. The next few months will be busy with revisions, marketing and travelling, as I spend time speaking with women's groups and book clubs.

What's next? My Renaissance novel, *The Poet*, is now with my editor, and I anticipate publication in the fall of 2017. In the meantime, I'll be researching the next book for my Renaissance series and begin writing another novel I've had simmering, set in early 20th-century Vienna.

I'm looking forward to the coming year, and hope you are too.

Warmest wishes,

Travel Across the Water Again to Chappaquiddick

I am excited to announce the launch of
Island Legacy
Book Three of my First Light trilogy



"Innisfree binds us."

When Lydia Hammond encourages her grieving granddaughter, Elizabeth Innocenti, to spend the summer at Innisfree, the family's compound on Chappaquiddick Island, Elizabeth undertakes the journey from her home in Italy with her fourteen-year-old son, hoping to heal from the devastating loss of her husband after a long illness.

Innisfree holds cherished memories of an idyllic childhood for Elizabeth. But when she arrives, she finds the place abandoned, derelict and as needy as she is. A reluctant steward, Elizabeth undertakes the task of making the cottage habitable until a hurricane forces her to take shelter with the Monroes, the Wampanoag family who once owned Innisfree.

The fraught and tangled history between her grandmother and the Monroes pulls Elizabeth into an intense search for Innisfree's meaning for both families. At the same time, her challenging relationship with Caleb Monroe, the grandson of Mae and Tobias, forces her to confront her perception of who she is and what she wants.

Formerly entitled *The Deep Heart's Core*, Book Three has a new name, but will reunite you with the Monroe family and Lydia Hammond as a new generation attempts to define where home is.

Read an [excerpt](#).

Island Legacy
Print ISBN: 978-1-942209-37-9
E-Book ISBN: 978-1-942209-38-6
Coming in March 2017
Available for pre-order now from [Bellastoria Press](#).

Upcoming Events



As I do with each new book, I'll be on the road in the coming months. **If you are a member of a book club, women's group or organization looking for speakers, please consider inviting me.** Thank you!

February 12, 2017
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Literary Spotlight
Springfield City Library
220 State Street
Springfield, Massachusetts 01103

February 19, 2017
12:00 pm
Reading and Signing
Ladies' Philoptochos Society
St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

March 24, 2017
9:30 am
Book Club Discussion
Simsbury, Connecticut

March 31 - April 2, 2017
Chanticleer Authors Conference
(*The Boat House Café* is a finalist for the
Goethe Award in Historical Fiction)
Books by the Bay Book Festival
Hotel Bellwether
1 Bellwether Way
Bellingham, Washington 98225

April 8, 2017
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Presentation
"The Journey from Author to Publisher"
Historical Novel Society New England
Wilmington Public Library
7 Ruby Road
Wilmington, CT 06279

May 17, 2017
Book Club Discussion
Longmeadow, Massachusetts 01106

Update on *The Poet*



The image above is a drawing of Vittoria Colonna by Michelangelo.

“The artist's hand moved across the page as if in a caress. But instead of stroking my face, he was sketching it.

The hand holding his pencil was scarred and stained, the pigments from his latest masterpiece embedded in the deep lines of his palm. The hand had neither the elegant proportions of his David nor the evocative power of his Adam on the Sistine ceiling.

But it was a strong and beautiful hand to me, a hand that had reached out to me and lifted me up. A hand that had encircled my own and filled its emptiness.”

Excerpt from The Poet, Prologue

I am excited to report that *The Poet* will finally make its debut in the fall of 2017!

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