



My Writing Life

July 2018

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Greetings!

The heat wave has finally receded and a fresh breeze is wafting through my back porch, bringing with it some much needed renewed energy as I embark on a new round of events, send my current manuscript off for proofreading and dive into my new book. Summer is definitely not a slow time for me this year, so please read on about what I've got planned.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Upcoming Summer Events

July 12, 2018

6:30 - 8:30 pm

LITERARY SPOTLIGHT

Springfield Public Library

[Sixteen Acres Branch](#)

1187 Parker Street

Springfield, MA 01129

I'll be sharing the spotlight with five other wonderful authors
as we each talk about our writing inspiration,
our journeys as writers, and our books.
My presentation will include excerpts from the First Light trilogy
and slides of images from Cape Poge,
the real-life setting of my fictional Innisfree.
Come for refreshments, a raffle, and an opportunity to chat!

July 17, 2018

6:00 pm

READING AND SIGNING

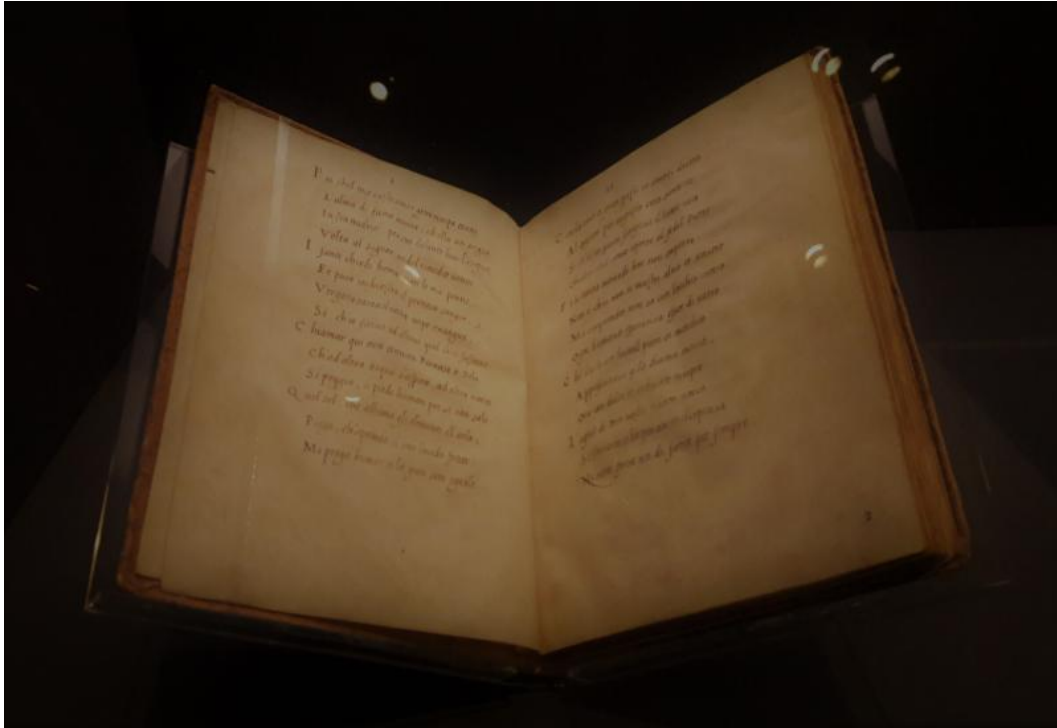
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415 South Brooks Street

Wake Forest, NC 27587

Enjoy an evening of words and music
as I bring Chappaquiddick to North Carolina.
Singer-songwriter Abigail Dowd will open the event
with her soulful songs that evoke the themes of loss, connection and reconciliation
found in my novels.
I'll be reading excerpts from the First Light trilogy,
talking about the seeds of my stories, and answering questions.
Please join me!

Final Steps into the Past



This past winter I journeyed to New York to view the Michelangelo exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The moment that took my breath away was turning a corner and coming face-to-face with the precious book of poems that Vittoria Colonna had prepared as a gift for her "dearest and most magnificent" friend. In all the years of research, the trips to museums and libraries, and the thousands of pages explored, I'd only read about the book, but never even seen an image of it. To experience the book itself, its heft and elegance, brought tears to my eyes.

Here is the scene in which Vittoria presents the book to Michelangelo:

I hold out the wrapped book to him and he takes it.

"Open it."

He sits then and unwinds the cord. When he lifts the book out and opens it, a tender smile eases across his face, erasing the dark mood with which he'd arrived.

He turns the pages slowly, stopping to read a poem or run his finger over Innocenza's beautiful lettering, as I'd done. Then he looks up.

"I do not know how to thank you or repay you."

"There is no need. I give it without any expectation of reciprocation. I give it purely out of love."

The gift of my own book to you, the story of the transcendent relationship between the poet and the artist, will be coming this fall.

What's Next?

Like a parent with an empty nest, I've found myself missing my characters and acknowledging that they still have stories to tell. Although *First Light* was originally intended as a trilogy, I've decided to return to Chappaquiddick and the Monroe family and give Izzy her own book. Stay tuned for excerpts and musings as her story unfolds, going back to the end of *The Uneven Road* and moving forward to recount Izzy's journey of self-discovery and spiritual awakening.

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