



# My Writing Life

July 2019

## The Rhythm of the Seasons

The rhythm of my writing life is often set by the rhythm of the seasons, and this year is no exception. I spent winter and spring on my annual “road trip,” promoting *Love That Moves the Sun* to libraries, book clubs and cultural organizations.

I even had an opportunity to appear on a book talk show, engaging in a lively discussion of my work. You can watch the video [here](#).

I love this aspect of my role as an author—getting out into the world to meet with readers and make new connections. This season, in particular, offered me inspiring opportunities to exchange ideas with fascinating individuals from wide-ranging backgrounds.

If you are one of my new connections, thank you for becoming a part of my reader community, and welcome to *My Writing Life!*

Now that my suitcase is unpacked, the fireworks have subsided and no lingering responsibilities are keeping me awake at night, it’s time for what summer has come to represent to me over the many years of my writing life.

It’s time to write the next book!

Enjoy a taste of what I’m working on below, the fourth book in my First Light series and the story of one of my favorite characters, Izzy Monroe.

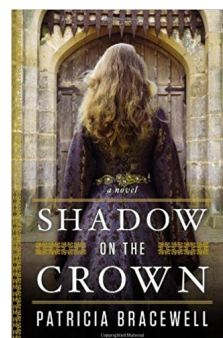
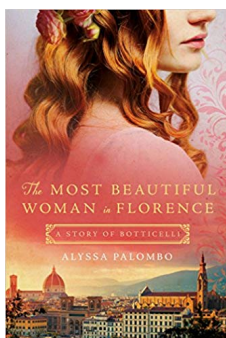
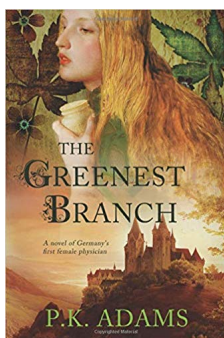
## An Excerpt from *All Will Be Well*

The tiny Fiat climbed the mountain outside Siena, its windows covered with the dust that churned up from the serpentine road winding its way to the Portarello farm. Marcelino, the farm manager, had met her at the bus station, and she had collapsed, jet-lagged and on the edge of tears, in the cramped seat next to him.

She had made the journey once before as a college student and guest of her classmate Maria Basso during their spring break. But she had overestimated her ability to make the trip alone, even with a detailed itinerary and an Italian phrasebook clutched in her hand. From the moment she had bid her parents farewell at the gate in Logan Airport, she’d been engulfed with doubt. What had she been thinking, to step off the edge of the world when her entire being was already a stranger to her?

[Read More](#)

## What I’m Reading This Summer

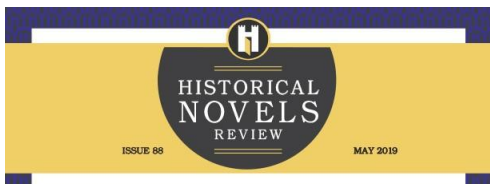


In late June I attended my first conference of the Historical Novel Society. As most conferences are, it was exhilarating, exhausting, challenging and a great deal of fun. It was also an extraordinary opportunity to meet several accomplished authors and discover their books. I am now in the midst of reading three of those newly discovered novels and can enthusiastically recommend each one of them, stories that bring to life the “invisible” women of the past.

*The Greenest Branch*, by P. K. Adams, is an evocative exploration of the early years of the life of Hildegard of Bingen, a German Benedictine abbess whom you may know from her lyrical music, but who, in addition to being a composer, was also a writer, philosopher, mystic and polymath.

*The Most Beautiful Woman in Florence*, by Alyssa Palombo, is the story of Simonetta Cattaneo Vespucci, Botticelli’s muse and model for his iconic painting *The Birth of Venus*. It recreates the complex, compelling and dangerous world of Medici Florence as it explores the passionate relationship between the artist and his beautiful inspiration.

*Shadow on the Crown*, by Patricia Bracewell, is a gripping tale of medieval England based on the life of Emma of Normandy, who comes to England as the fifteen-year-old bride of the much older King Æthelred. The writing is lyrical, summoning up a time and place filled with superstition, passion and palace intrigue.



## Another Sparkling Review of *Love That Moves the Sun*

"Linda Cardillo's writing is exquisite, inviting the reader into total immersion in this life story of a challenged and challenging woman who left an indelible mark on Italian and spiritual history.... Read and relish this singular work of historical fiction!" –*Historical Novels Review* magazine



Once again, I ask you to post a review, especially on Amazon.

After a book receives 50 reviews, Amazon will list the book in its newsletters and other promotions. Even a short review counts, so please consider sharing your opinion by clicking on the Amazon logo above.

Thank you!

## My Husband, the Turtle Whisperer

We were on our way to our daily swim, driving past a large pond, when my husband noticed a box turtle s-l-o-w-l-y making its way across the road to the water. He drove a few feet and then made a u-turn, back to the turtle.

With the emergency flashers on, he jumped from the car and approached the turtle, none too happy about being lifted in the air.



But my hero husband persisted, despite the scabbling legs of the turtle, and managed to get it safely into the reeds on the water side of the road.

Just another day in the life of the turtle whisperer, rescuing straying wild animals.



## If You Find Yourself in Washington, DC...

...I encourage you to visit the National Museum of Women in the Arts. I first encountered the museum in a catalog produced for an exhibition on Italian women artists—the source of my discovery of Vittoria Colonna.

This June was my first time at the museum itself, and I was awed by the vibrancy and diversity of its collection. I found myself exclaiming every time I turned a corner at the astounding talent on display by women who had so long been ignored and relegated to obscurity. I think I've found more subjects for future books!

[National Museum of Women in the Arts](#)

Linda Cardillo | P.O. Box 298, Enfield, CT 06083

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