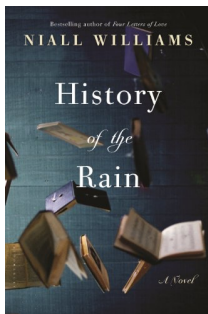


My Writing Life

October 2020



Like many in these pandemic times I've been relying on a good book to get me through some challenging days - both writing one and reading one.

A dear friend - former classmate, sister writer, and traveling companion on one of my Italian research trips - recently recommended the books of Irish author Niall Williams, who was unknown to me. Curious, I ordered *History of the Rain* from my local library, stopped by to get it during curbside pickup hours and dove in. What I discovered was a transcendent narrative that unfurled like a tight bud responding to light and warmth, revealing a love story about reading and writing. I couldn't stop myself from copying down passages that leapt out at me. Here is one of my favorites, one that I am hanging on the wall next to my desk to remind me of why I do what I do.

"We tell stories. We tell stories to pass the time, to leave the world for a while, or go more deeply into it. We tell stories to heal the pain of living."

Take care.

Upcoming Zoom Events

Over the next few weeks
Ann DeFee (my sister author and Bellastoria Press partner and I
will be Zooming on various topics,
both individually and on panels.
Please join us!

October 24, 2020
10:30 - 12:00 p.m.

Meet the Authors
An On-line Event with Award-Winning
Best-Selling Authors

with

Linda Cardillo
(I'll be presenting first, at 10:30, so don't be late!

*I'll be talking about the impact of my Italian-American heritage and the influence of
the women of my mother's generation on my novel Across the Table*

Also on the panel:

William Kent Krueger
Ann Napolitano
Riley Sager

Sponsored by the Harrison Public Library
Harrison, New York

November 4, 2020
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

Ann DeFee
Author of
A Summer Place

November 14, 2020

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Linda Cardillo
Love That Moves the Sun

Presentation
"Walking in the Footsteps of Vittoria Colonna"

Sponsored by the National Organization of Italian-American Women

Zoom Presentation

Research! Four Historical Novelists in Conversation

It's Just Historical Podcast
Panel discussion on researching historical fiction
with
Michelle Cameron
Linda Cardillo
Susanne Dunlap
Jacqueline Sheehan

An Update on Izzy's Story Now entitled *A Place of Refuge*

"Because the secret to writing, the entire syllabus, booklist, coursework, of Ruth Swain's Master programme in Creative Writing is: Sit in the chair."

- Niall Williams

I couldn't resist noting another resonant passage from *History of the Rain* to highlight what my challenges have been recently in getting the words on the page for the fourth book in my First Light series. As you know, if you've been reading my newsletter, this book will be Izzy's story. Getting myself into this chair has been daunting, but on the days that I do, I have what the narrator of *History of the Rain* calls "liftoff."



The chair I sit in to write

I invite you to fasten your seatbelts and join me on a short preview flight. Looking out your window, you'll see some images that have inspired the story, as well as a spoiler-free synopsis.

Praise for *Across the Table*

Goodreads Review



"*Across the Table* takes the reader on an unforgettable journey with three generations of Dante women, starting with Rose, the matriarch by the story's end; Toni, Rose's daughter, and Vanessa, Rose's granddaughter. There are secrets and heartaches which threaten to tear the family apart as they struggle to maintain a thriving restaurant, called Paradiso in Boston's North End....How does one hold onto family traditions while living in the modern world? Read *Across the Table* and discover how these three amazing women find the will and courage to face their deepest fears."

Amazon Five-Star Reviews

"I thoroughly enjoyed this rich story and felt totally immersed in Italian family life, though it could be any culture. Throughout the pages are gems of wisdom, observation, and love, and I wrote down many quotes."

"I loved this book! Rose is such a great character. She and the other members of her close-knit Boston Italian family take the reader through the post-war years into the turbulent sixties and beyond, in a family-through-the-generations saga that rings true at every level. I can't recommend it highly enough!"

"The book was definitely a page turner. Loved the book. I will recommend for my next read of my book club. A lovely and beautiful novel about love, family and life."

"I felt like I was a family friend, learning how everyone was doing as the story unfolds. I recommend this book for those interested in historical and women's fiction."

Have you read *Across the Table*?
If you have, I would be most grateful for a brief review on
[Amazon](#) or [Goodreads](#).

Thank you!



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