

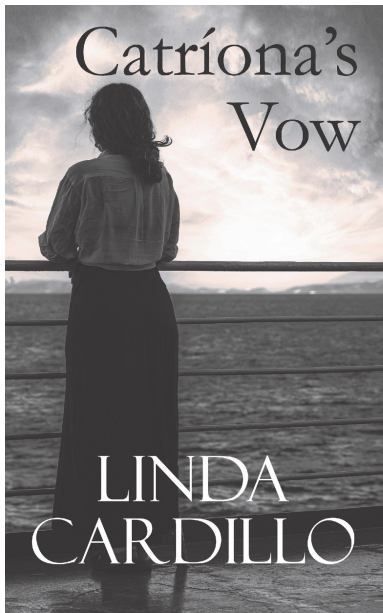
LINDA CARDILLO

Stories of the search for connection and belonging

My Writing Life

December 2022

A Special Gift for My Newsletter Subscribers



Greetings!

As a way of saying "Thank You" to my readers, I've written a new novella that I hope you'll enjoy as a free gift from me.

Catriona's Vow is a prequel to my First Light series, introducing Mae Keeney's parents, Catriona Scannell and Liam Keeney. It's set in Ireland in the years leading up to the Easter Rising.

Warmest wishes,
Linda

TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE BOOK

AS AN EBOOK: Download the ebook [here](#) to read in your browser or on any e-reader device.

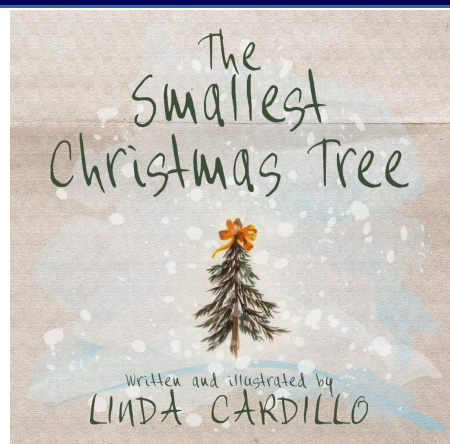
I am using the ebook delivery service Book Funnel. The process for downloading an ebook for the first time is a bit time-consuming, I discovered when I tried it out myself. Please don't be dismayed by the number of steps. You will need to enter the email address you use for this newsletter and then follow the directions for downloading to your specific device.

If you encounter problems, please [email me](#).

AS A PDF: If you prefer to read a PDF, please download the PDF [here](#).

...and a gift for you to give to those who believe in the magic of Christmas

For the children (or the children at heart) on your holiday gift list, I'm delighted to offer an inscribed copy of *The Smallest Christmas Tree*, a story I wrote for my own children that now is a favorite of my granddaughter. She calls it "Nonna's book."



For a limited time, the book is available for \$8.00, including tax and shipping.

Please **complete the order form** and remember to add the name(s) you would like me to inscribe.

Orders must be submitted by December 10 and will be shipped by December 12.



FROM THE BACK COVER

Papa says "No Christmas tree this year," because the family is going to be away from home visiting grandparents.

Mama is frazzled because the family has just moved into a new house in a foreign country and she needs to find the dishes, not the Christmas ornaments.

But ten-year-old Jack and four-year-old Maria know what is truly important about celebrating Christmas and get some help from a tree with a mind of its own.

An Invitation to Italian American Women

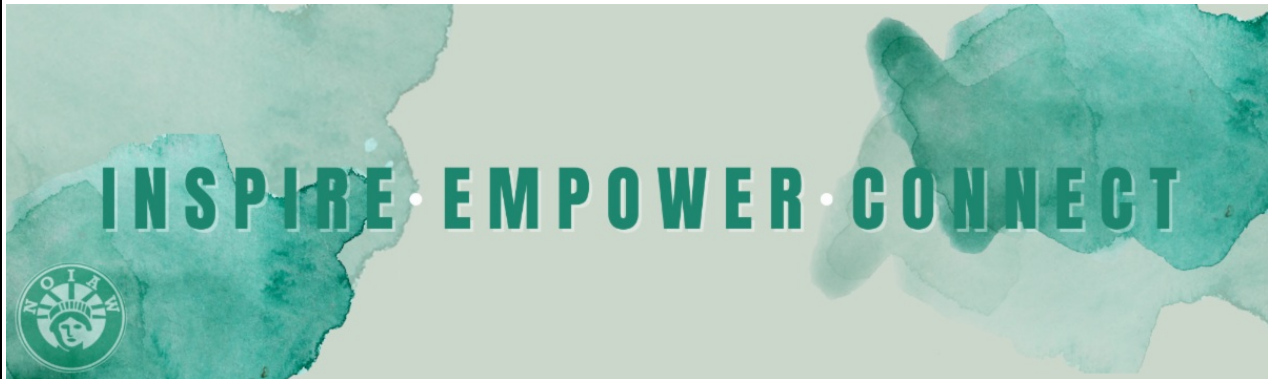


*On the right, Pat Tinto, President of NOIAW, introducing me at the event
"Love, Food, Sex, Family, and Ancient Civilizations"*

In September I had the privilege of speaking at the Italian American Bookstore in Boston's North End. The event was the launch of an outreach by the **National Organization of Italian American Women (NOIAW)** to form a regional chapter in the Boston area.

I was first introduced to NOIAW many years ago when I was invited to speak in New York, where I had grown up. Since then, I've been an enthusiastic participant in many of its cultural events and a strong believer in its mission "to create a thriving, inclusive community that embraces Italian culture and supports the personal fulfillment and professional advancement of its members."

In addition to the new Boston chapter being formed, NOIAW also has regional chapters in Greater New York; Greater Washington, DC; Connecticut; and Rhode Island.



I invite you to **join me as a member of NOIAW**, an organization that is committed to:

UNITING AND CONNECTING
women through Italian culture and heritage

CELEBRATING
the achievements of women of Italian ancestry

INSPIRING AND ENRICHING
members with shared interests in cultural programs

EMPOWERING AND ADVANCING
the educational and professional aspirations of current
and future generations
(from the NOIAW vision statement)

A New Opportunity to Meet with Me: "Conversations with Linda"



My Aunt Cathy in conversation with her family over coffee and cake

I recently had a delightful experience meeting on Zoom with two readers, cousins who kept in touch with each other through the books they read. They had reached out to me when they realized we had all grown up in the same area that was the setting for *Dancing on Sunday Afternoons*. Although part of our conversation was reminiscing about the "old neighborhoods," our discussion ranged over many topics, sparked by a list of questions they had compiled and sent in advance of the call.

Since COVID, I've met with many book clubs via Zoom, and it provided both me and readers with a satisfying opportunity to talk face-to-face and share impressions and ideas.

Now, after the engaging conversation that took place during the "Cousins' Zoom," I'd like to try an experiment and offer to you, as a newsletter subscriber, some time to talk. What I have in mind is an hour on Zoom for you and perhaps two or three others. You can ask questions (for example, where do I get my ideas for my stories, or what is my writing process, or what advice to I have for aspiring writers) and we can see where the conversation takes us. What do you think? Is that an appealing idea to you?

So grab a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and **[let me know if you'd like to talk.](#)**

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Many thanks for your continued support of my writing and my warmest wishes for good health and joy in the coming season!

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