



Maryann Ridini Spencer **Biography**

Writing Aloha

"I feel most at home when I'm amongst the trees, plants, mountains, and by the ocean or in wide open spaces," said Spencer. "In fact, I feel so connected when I'm in the natural world I can literally 'feel' the energy. I find it inspiring, empowering, and the perfect place where I can allow my mind to be quiet to entertain the creative thoughts that pop into my head."

"My feelings about nature, as well as my interest in sustainable living practices, which include eating fresh, organic and farm to table, and protecting the earth's environment for future generations, is directly in line to what the Hawaiians believe and practice living the "The Way of Aloha" or in the "Spirit of Aloha," which is why I feel such an affinity to Hawaii.

"The word Aloha is rich with meaning," continued Spencer. "It means with love and affection when a person says 'hello' or bids a person farewell, and it's also a way of interacting with the natural world by a certain code of ethics, which includes, but is not limited to: love, kindness, tolerance, compassion, respect, and honor of all humanity and living things. It encompasses the thoughtful and deliberate preservation of the earth and its precious resources and the 'conscious

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manifestation' to live life joyfully in the present. In fact, in 1986, Hawaiian lawmakers passed the 'Aloha Spirit' law (Hawai'i Revised Statutes, section 5-7.5), inspired by the late Hawaiian teacher, poet and philosopher, Auntie Pilahi Paki's translation of the meaning of the word." (Link: <https://www.hawaii.edu/uho/clear/home/lawaloha.html>).

"I knew I wanted to incorporate the aloha philosophy in '*Lady in the Window*,' as a means for Kate to help heal herself and find her center. "Her journey continues in '*The Paradise Table*.'"

"I'm committed to writing the themes of Aloha," continued Spencer. "Whether it be in a novel, movie or television screenplay, or in my work as a food and lifestyle journalist, radio and TV host, or on my *Simply Delicious Living* blog."

In "*The Paradise Table*" (SelectBooks, 2018), Spencer's sequel to her award-winning novel, "*Lady in the Window*" (SelectBooks, 2017), two of the recurring main characters — Kate Grace, a just-married, successful freelance lifestyle writer and hopeful author, and Olivia Larkin, a vivacious, African-American entertainment icon, media mogul, and philanthropist, who share the same beliefs about living Aloha, find themselves witness to a violent act that shatters the quiet serenity of their lives. A shocking series of events are set in motion that lead to the confrontation of a devastating, decades-held secret. Still grieving and rocked by recent events, Kate must tap into her intuition to understand synchronicities sent from beyond to bring peace and healing to her family, friends, community... and to herself.

"Both my characters Kate and Olivia believe that love never dies and that our loved ones surround and guide us and in '*The Paradise Table*,' these intuitions and synchronicities help guide them both to the truth, and essentially, more healing.

"As humans, I believe that we're all connected and that as we live and navigate life, we're constantly learning, changing, and healing as we grow," said Spencer. "A vital part of our journey on earth is to learn to love and help one another. If we incorporate the sentiments of aloha in our heart and our thoughts and actions, we can all make a valuable difference in this world."

About Maryann

Maryann Ridini Spencer is an award-winning screenwriter, producer, author, journalist, TV host, and president of Ridini Entertainment Corporation, a Content Creation, Public Relations, Marketing, and TV/Film Production Company. A winner of several scholarships, she received her degree in communications from New

York's Hofstra University and soon afterward became a producer/writer for Cable News Network in Los Angeles, later serving as senior vice president at several Hollywood studios and firms.

A member of the Producers Guild of America and the Writer's Guild West, Maryann has produced movies and series for such networks as Showtime, SyFy, TMC, USA Networks, Time Warner Cable, and the foreign theatrical market. She is celebrated for co-producing and writing the teleplay for the Hallmark Hall of Fame CBS-TV World Premiere of *The Lost Valentine* (based on the novel by James Michael Pratt) starring Betty White and Jennifer Love Hewitt. Upon its CBS-TV debut in 2011, the award-winning film was the evening's highest-rated film, with over fifteen million people tuning in, and it became Hallmark Hall of Fame's highest-rated film in four years. Now considered a Hallmark Classic, the film airs each year on the Hallmark Channel and is part of Hallmark's Gold Crown DVD Collector's Edition. Maryann is also the creator, writer, producer, and host of the award-winning healthy living TV cooking series (and cookbook), *Simply Delicious Living with Maryann®*. Broadcast on the PBS-TV station KVCR in Southern California, the series is also seen on DirecTV, Dish Network, and to a global audience on Roku (Simply Delicious Living Channel), YouTube, and Maryann's award-winning Simply Delicious Living blog at MaryannRidiniSpencer.com.

Throughout her career, Maryann has worked as a freelance writer (or contributing editor) for such publications as *Los Angeles Magazine*, *Palm Springs Life*, and *Desert Magazine*. Her "Simply Delicious Living" print and video column as well as "Sustainable Ventura" the environmental news program she created, produces, writes, and reports, is broadcast on local television in Ventura County CA, and on the news and lifestyle pages at *Ventura County Star* (Search: Simply Delicious or Sustainable Ventura) at vcstar.com. Maryann lives with her husband, Dr. Christopher Scott Spencer, between Southern California and Hawaii. She is currently working on the third book in the Kate Grace series, *Secrets of Grace Manor*.

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For more information on Maryann's novels, visit:

Lady in the Window, visit: <https://MaryannRidiniSpencer.com/lady-in-the-window-press-kit>

The Paradise Table, visit: <https://MaryannRidiniSpencer.com/the-paradise-table-press-kit>

JOURNALISTS CONTACT FOR INTERVIEWS WITH MARYANN:

Please contact Ridini Entertainment (818) 884-0104 or email recprinfo@gmail.com indicating your request in the email subject line.