



*Maryann Ridini Spencer Photo by Marie Gregorio-Oviedo*

***Maryann Ridini Spencer***  
***Biography***

***“Hawaii is my heart, my home, my true soul place...”***

*“Hawaii is my heart, my home, my true soul place,”* is a feeling expressed by both Kate Grace and Olivia Larkin, characters in *Lady in the Window*. It’s also is how I feel,” said Maryann Ridini Spencer, author of *Lady in the Window*. (SelectBooks, 2017; Santa Rosa Press, 2019).

"I feel at home and 'connected' when I'm in the peacefulness of nature," said Spencer. "I grew up in the country, and as an adult, I've lived and worked in places like New York City and Los Angeles, but my joy and creativity flourishes when I'm in nature — amongst trees, plants, mountains, and by the ocean or in wide open spaces. The energy of Hawaii and its people and culture is something that resonates with my soul; that's the only way I can describe it."

In Spencer's novel, *Lady in the Window*, two of the main characters — Kate Grace, a 30-year-old successful, Italian-Irish journalist from a loving family, and Olivia Larkin, a 42-year-old black entertainment icon, media mogul, and philanthropist — feel the same way. When they first meet, little do they know that one cover story interview would lead to a life-changing friendship that would have a ripple effect after Kate experiences a second upset in her life, the loss of her long-term love, and the passing of her dear mother.

"Kate's loss prompts her to re-evaluate her life, and in doing so, she learns how to live authentically," said Spencer. "Kate also discovers, in very mystical ways, that those we love never die; that under God's direction and by His will (and without us seeking it out!), that we are sometimes blessed with divine messages and inspiration — a belief shared by Olivia, which is part of why they become such close friends."

In writing *Lady in the Window*, Spencer drew from some of her personal experiences as a writer and coming from a large East Coast-based Italian-Irish family.

"I knew that I wanted to write about family and healing," said Spencer. For a time, I tossed around some ideas. However, it was during a visit to Kauai in 2014 that I decided to place my novel in Kauai because of the affinity I had for Hawaii and its people. Then, after my dear mother passed towards the close of 2014, the story of *Lady in the Window* just unfolded for me."

### **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 Writers 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 movie 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 also airs on DirecTV, DishTV, and to a global audience on Roku, YouTube and Maryann's blog at <https://SimplyDeliciousLiving.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 the environmental news program she created, produces, writes, and reports, *Sustainability Now News*, is broadcast on local television and FM radio in Ventura County, CA. Maryann lives between Southern California and Hawaii. Her next novel in the *Kate Grace Mystery* series, *The Paradise Table*, will be in bookstores Fall 2019.

You can visit Maryann online at <https://maryannridinispencer.com>.

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