



Photo of Maryann Ridini Spencer by Maria Gregorio-Oviedo

Maryann Ridini Spencer Biography

Writing Aloha

“I feel most at home when I’m amongst trees, plants, mountains, and by the ocean or in wide-open spaces,” said Spencer. “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 being in nature, as well as my interest in sustainable living practices (eating fresh, organic and farm to table), and protecting the earth’s environment for future generations, is in line with what the Hawaiians believe in living "The Way of Aloha" or in the "Spirit of Aloha."

“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 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.”

The Paradise Table is another Kate Grace Mystery and Spencer’s follow up to her award-winning novel, *Lady in the Window* (SelectBooks, 2017; Santa Rosa Press, 2019). In the book, 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, 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 taps into her intuition, dreams, and prayers to understand synchronicities sent from beyond with the hopes of bringing peace and healing to her family, friends, community... and to herself.

“Both my characters, Kate and Olivia, believe that love never dies and that, with God’s grace, we get divine inspirations validating that we are not alone.

“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.”

Maryann Ridini Spencer writes themes of *Aloha* ...penning award-winning novels and writing and producing critically-acclaimed projects for film & television. She began her career as a producer/writer for Cable News Network. Later, she was appointed Director of Publicity for Miss Universe, Inc., and also served as Senior Vice President of Stephen J. Cannell Productions/The Cannell Studios before founding Ridini Entertainment Corporation, an award-winning PR, marketing, multimedia content creation, and TV and film production company. As company president, she is committed to creating, writing, producing, and promoting content that entertains, inspires, educates, and uplifts.

A member of the Writers Guild of America West and Producers Guild of America, Maryann has executive produced/produced numerous movies and series for television and the foreign theatrical market. Her projects have appeared on Showtime, SyFy, TMC, USA Networks, CBS-TV, and Time Warner Cable. She is celebrated for co-producing/writing the teleplay for the award-winning Hallmark Hall of Fame movie, *The Lost Valentine*. Based on the James Michael Pratt novel, the movie stars Betty White and Jennifer Love Hewitt. Over fifteen million viewers tuned in to watch the film, which won CBS-TV the night in ratings. The film has since become part of Hallmark's Gold Crown (DVD) Collector's Edition. The film can also be live-streamed on Hallmark's movie channels.

Maryann is also the creator, writer, producer, and host of the award-winning healthy living cooking series, cookbooks, and blog, *Simply Delicious Living with Maryann*®. The series is broadcast on PBS-TV station KVCR in Southern California, DirectTV, DishTV, and to a global audience on Roku (*Simply Delicious Living Channel*), YouTube, and Maryann's blog at SimplyDeliciousLiving.com.

Throughout her career, Maryann has worked as a freelance writer and contributing editor for such publications as *Los Angeles Magazine*, *Palm Springs Life*, *Desert Magazine*, *Ventura County Star* (part of the *USA Today* Network), and *Ventura Breeze*.

Maryann is the author of the award-winning novel, *Lady in the Window* (SelectBooks 2017, Santa Rosa Press, 2019) and *The Paradise Table* (Santa Rosa Press, October 2019) — both *Kate Grace Mysteries* and the *Simply Delicious Living with Maryann*® — *Entrées* cookbook (Santa Rosa Press, 2019).

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