



NO MORE Secrets

Joanne
Guidoccio

ABOUT THE BOOK

Publisher: Soul Mate Publishing
Publisher Website: <http://soulmatepublishing.com>
Genre: Women's Fiction
Length: 190 Pages
ASIN: B08CVTYWWX
Amazon (Canada): <https://is.gd/qmInyo>
Amazon (US): <https://is.gd/MEHVbj>

Blurb

Angelica Delfino takes a special interest in the lives of her three nieces, whom she affectionately calls the daughters of her heart. Sensing that each woman is harboring a troubling, possibly even toxic secret, Angelica decides to share her secrets—secrets she had planned to take to the grave. Spellbound, the nieces listen as Angelica travels back six decades to reveal an incredulous tale of forbidden love, tragic loss, and reinvention. It is the classic immigrant story upended: an Italian widow's transformative journey amid the most unlikely of circumstances.

Inspired by Angelica's example, the younger women share their "First World" problems and, in the process, set themselves free.

But one heartbreaking secret remains untold...

Reviews

"Exquisitely written, No More Secrets is a must-read for women." N. N. Light's Book Heaven

"No More Secrets was a heartwarming tale that I'd recommend to anyone who wishes they could get advice from a wise family elder." Long and Short Reviews

"The author is very talented at weaving through the past and the present with her storytelling skills which kept me up reading it late into the night." Carol Balawyder

"Part women's fiction, part mystery, and fully captivating, I couldn't put it down."
Jo-Ann Carson

"A wonderful story that moves seamlessly between past and present. The author is able to evoke the flavour and atmosphere of an Italy long past and modern-day Canada." Miss Lill

"Beautifully written story of family, history, love and loss. You'll feel all the emotions when you read this one." Kimberly Mussell

"A beautiful, heartwarming story full of family values and love. Also, full of lots of intriguing and interesting secrets." Nicola Short

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



In high school, Joanne Guidoccio dabbled in poetry, but it would be over three decades before she entertained the idea of writing as a career. She listened to her practical Italian side and earned degrees in mathematics and education. She experienced many fulfilling moments as she watched her students develop an appreciation (and sometimes, love) of mathematics. Later, she obtained a post-graduate diploma as a career development practitioner and put that skill set to use in the co-operative education classroom. She welcomed this opportunity to help her students experience personal growth and acquire career direction through their placements.

In 2008, Joanne took advantage of early retirement and decided to launch a second career that would tap into her creative side and utilize her well-honed organizational skills. Slowly, a writing practice emerged. Her articles and book reviews were published in newspapers, magazines, and online. When she tried her hand at fiction, she made reinvention a recurring theme in her novels and short stories. A member of Crime Writers of Canada, Sisters in Crime, and Women's Fiction Writers Association, Joanne writes paranormal romance, cozy mysteries, and inspirational literature from her home base of Guelph, Ontario.

Links

Website: <http://joanneguidoccio.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/joanneguidoccio>

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Q & A WITH JOANNE GUIDOCCIO

What inspired you to write this book?

I was inspired by *The Bridges of Madison County* (1995), a film based on the best-selling novel by Robert James Waller. Meryl Streep and Clint Eastwood deliver stellar performances as Francesca Johnson (Italian war bride) and Robert Kincaid (National Geographic photojournalist). They have a four-day love affair that forever changes them.

Why is your book a must-read?

I came up with the tagline—A tale of forbidden love, tragic losses, and reinvention—long before the pandemic reared its ugly head. While I don't imagine there are too many cases of forbidden love at this time (I could be wrong), I know that people of all ages have experienced tragic losses of loved ones. Several scientists predict that over 2 million deaths will occur worldwide before a vaccine is available. Financial losses are even more rampant.

Novels, in particular women's fiction, can provide temporary escapes along with flashes of inspiration. Resilience and reinvention are common themes. I recommend picking up a copy of *No More Secrets* and following Angelica Delfino's transformative journey amid the most unlikely of circumstances.

Tell us about the key characters.

Angelica Delfino – Protagonist. Angelica is determined to help her three nieces, whom she affectionately calls the daughters of her heart. She senses that each woman is at crossroads and uncertain how to move forward. Hoping that the younger women will be more forthcoming, Angelica plans an all-girls weekend where she will share her own secrets, secrets she had planned to take to the grave.

Bellastrega – Angelica's psychic companion. Attached to her employer, Bellastrega, aka Lynn Miller, has misgivings about this all-girls weekend. Bellastrega doesn't want the nieces (or anyone else for that matter) to create unnecessary stress for Angelica.

Father Antonio – A charismatic, gladiator-priest who has a profound influence on Angelica's life trajectory.

Do you have a favorite scene?

I took extra care with the chapters surrounding Angelica's arrival at Pier 21 in Canada. I tried to incorporate the feelings experienced by my parents and grandmother as they prepared for their own transatlantic journeys in the early 1950s. Starting a new life in another country takes courage, and I hoped to convey some of that grit and determination to the readers. Whenever I reread those chapters, goosebumps rise on my arms.

You manage to sneak a psychic into many of your novels. Tell us more about this special interest of yours.

In my twenties and thirties, I attended holistic fairs and visited several psychics. Each time, I would emerge fascinated and often unsettled by their uncanny insights into my life. When I encountered a plot hole with *A Season for Killing Blondes*, I decided to introduce a psychic who could provide the protagonist with clarity. In *Between Land and Sea*, a tale of a middle-aged mermaid, a psychic dominates the second half of the novel. That psychic features prominently in the sequel, *The Coming of Arabella*. In *A Different Kind of Reunion*, another psychic helps the protagonist solve the murder.

In *No More Secrets*, Bellastrega, a psychic companion, appears throughout the storyline. With her assistance, the protagonist recovers enough of her health to help her nieces on their life journeys.

Why did you decide to use multiple POVs in *No More Secrets*?

Originally, I wrote the entire novel in the first person. While revamping the storyline, I decided to add more characters and alternate between the past and present. I still wanted Angelica Delfino (protagonist) to speak in the first person, but I also needed to give her three nieces their own voices. I wanted readers to have insight into the struggles and motivations of the younger women.

What was the hardest part of the story to write?

I struggled with the epilogue. In the original draft, I had ended on a bittersweet note (more bitter than sweet, according to my editor). Projecting one year into the future was a challenge, one I hadn't encountered in any of my previous work.

What is the most surprising thing you learned about yourself through writing?

A poster child for left brainers, I assumed I would be a plotter. That had been my modus operandi throughout the 31 years of my teaching career. It didn't take long for me to discover that I felt stymied and unmotivated whenever I approached writing in a structured way. Anything I outlined would find its way into a recycling bin. After several frustrating months, I sat down and wrote organically. Partway through the manuscript, I did experience the "sagging middle." When that happened, I stopped to outline the next chapter.

My new label: linear pantsier.

Words of advice for fellow writers in the trenches:

Use your "waiting time" effectively. While querying, start writing the next book in the series or an entirely new project. Alternatively, you could sign up for a series of workshops or take an online course. Keep your skills sharp.