

Lisa Montanaro

SPEAKER KIT

Author ~ Speaker ~ Webinar Host

Looking for a dynamic speaker for your writing - or reading-related event? Look no further!

Known for her combination of warmth, humor, and expertise, Lisa delivers straight talk in a manner that's informative and entertaining. She has years of experience as a professional speaker and guest expert on television, radio, and podcasts, and frequently presents for groups, conferences, and organizations. Lisa has had the pleasure of serving as the Webinar Host for the Women's Fiction Writers Association (WFWA) since 2019. Serving in this role keeps her finger on the pulse of the writing community and affords her a front-row seat to publishing industry trends. She speaks often for writer organizations and conferences, libraries, and bookstores, working closely with agents, editors, book coaches, authors, booksellers, librarians, and other experts in the publishing industry.



Lisa Montanaro
Writes

“ Lisa Montanaro brings an abundance of enthusiasm and ready-to-use content to all her speaking engagements. If you want to infuse your program with energy, invite Lisa as a presenter!

A Dynamic Speaker

Contact Lisa for book readings and signings, author talks and interviews, book clubs, book festivals, and writer workshops and conferences.

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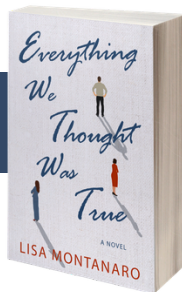
BIO

Lisa Montanaro is part no-nonsense Italian American New Yorker and part sunny Californian. She has a unique background, having traveled the path of a performer who didn't want to be a "starving actress."

After saying no to Broadway, she worked as an instructor of high school deaf students to put herself through law school and practiced employment law for a decade. She then defected from her legal career and started her productivity consulting business on the heels of the September 11 tragedy.

Lisa is a nonfiction author and novelist. She writes book club fiction featuring complex characters breaking barriers and fighting to truly be themselves despite obstacles in their way - including the time they live in and societal stigmas. Her debut novel, *Everything We Thought Was True*, released January 27, 2025 by Red Adept Publishing. It was awarded Best New Fiction/Debut in the 2025 American Writing Awards, first place for LGBTQ Fiction in the 2024 International Firebird Book Awards, Honorable Mention for General Fiction by the 2025 Los Angeles Book Festival, and a Finalist in LGBTQ Fiction in the 2025 National Indie Excellence Awards.

Her nonfiction writing revolves around productivity, life-work balance, branding, writing, and career issues. Her chapter, "The Brand Called You! Personal & Professional Branding for Authors," was featured in *Launch Pad: The Countdown to Marketing Your Book*, published by Red Penguin Books in 2023. She is also the author of *The Ultimate Life Organizer: An Interactive Guide to a Simpler, Less Stressful & More Organized Life*, published by Peter Pauper Press in 2011.



Lisa has a life-long love affair with the written word. She's been keeping a journal since she was eight years old, filled with countless pages of prose and poetry. Whether she's conveying the power of someone's written words through performing in a play or musical or sharing stories with her audiences as a professional speaker through her presentations, Lisa appreciates the power of story and creativity in all its incarnations. An avid reader since childhood, Lisa is a supporter of authors, the publishing industry, and libraries and bookstores (especially indie ones!). She's actively involved in collaborative author-reader groups and book clubs.

She's had the pleasure of serving as webinar host for the Women's Fiction Writers Association since 2019, and as a member of its diversity and inclusion committee. She also serves as facilitator of the Retro COLAGE group for adults with LGBTQ parents.

Lisa has a BA in Psychology, Speech Communication, and Political Science from Hofstra University, and studied abroad in the Netherlands at the Roosevelt Study Center. She received her JD, *magna cum laude*, from Pace University School of Law.

When not writing, Lisa enjoys cycling and hiking with her veterinarian husband, tending to her garden, and chasing after her rescue dogs. A native New Yorker, Lisa has enjoyed living snow-free since 2012 in Northern California, where she's made it her mission to sample the wines of the region.

Most Requested Speaking Topics

WRITING CRAFT

- Turning Fact into Fiction: Mining the Truth to Influence Your Writing
- Writing About Family Secrets: Drama, Discovery, and Mystery
- Creative Structure: Writing Multiple Points of View and Dual Timeline
- Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway: Writing as an Act of Vulnerability and Bravery
- Do No Harm: Respectfully Writing Outside Your Experience & Identity
- These Little Earthquakes: How to Write Fiction About Marginalized Communities as Rights and Protections Shift and Crumble

BUSINESS, BRANDING & MARKETING

- Get Yourself Out There: Dynamic Public Speaking for Writers
- The Brand Called You: Personal & Professional Branding for Writers
- Building Your Author Platform: Embracing the Marketing Side of Writing
- The 4 Cs of Social Media: Creating a Successful Online Presence
- The Power of the Author Newsletter: Building Your Mailing List to Stay Connected to Readers
- Writer as Entrepreneur: Making Sense of the Business, Financial & Legal Side of an Author Career

PRODUCTIVITY & MINDSET

- The 6 Pillars of Center Stage Success for Writers: A Holistic Approach to a Successful Writing Career
- Developing a Growth Mindset as a Writer: Overcoming Internal & External Blocks to Success
- The Productive Writer: Conquering Time Bandits to Focus on Your Writing
- Don't Be a Seesaw: Strategies for Achieving Life-Work-Writing Balance

PUBLISHING

- Publishing Paths for Today's Strategic Author: Choices, Decisions, and Priorities
- Ready, Set, Launch! Developing a Successful Book Launch Plan
- Successful Collaboration: Working with Publishing Professionals

Looking for a topic not listed? Lisa has a comprehensive list of speaking programs not included here and would be happy to customize a topic that matches the needs of your event.

Past Speaking Engagement Clients

Writer Conferences

- Erma Bombeck Writers Workshop
- InkersCon
- Jericho Writers Summer Festival of Writing
- Minnesota Writing Workshop
- San Francisco Writing Workshop
- Women's Fiction Writers Association 10th Anniversary Conference

Bookstores

- A Seat at the Table Bookstore - Elk Grove, CA
- Avid Reader Bookstore - Davis, CA
- Bedford Books - Bedford, NY

Writer Groups

- Adventures by the Book Writer's Network
- California Writers Club, Fremont Area Writers
- California Writers Club, San Joaquin Valley Chapter
- California Writers Club, Sacramento Chapter
- Prolific Writers
- San Diego Writers & Editors Guild
- Women's Fiction Writers Association
- The Write Practice

Libraries

- Harrison Public Library - Harrison, NY
- Mary Stephens Library - Davis, CA
- Tuckahoe Library - Tuckahoe, NY

What People Say: Testimonials

“I enjoyed Lisa’s *Dynamic Public Speaking for Authors* workshop so much! The content, the presentation, the resources, and the group discussions were all first-rate. I agree with everyone who said the workshop could be longer – there was so much good stuff to unpack. This was my first Women’s Fiction Writers Association (WFWA) program and it was an impressive introduction to the organization. I am grateful for Lisa’s practical inspiration that will stay with me as I navigate the road to publishing my debut novel!” -Laurel English, WFWA member

“Lisa Montanaro’s *Dynamic Public Speaking for Authors* workshop is a must for any writer. I gained confidence, poise, and my nerves disappeared after learning Lisa’s tips. She offers so much more too, including preparing pitches and all of the materials an author needs for a book launch. I think it’s important for writers to hone their speaking skills, probably as important as it is to have a polished manuscript. Highly recommend!”
-Nancy J Fagan – Writer, Nurse, Novelist, WFWA Member

“Lisa has excellent delivery style, subject matter expertise, energetic presence, experience, and provides great resources and relevant examples in her content.
She’s also organized, responsive, and a great partner!”

“Lisa is an incredibly skilled presenter – completely on-top of her material and fully engaged with her audience. An outstanding speaker in every respect.”

“Lisa’s positivity and enthusiasm is evident! She is engaging and informative as a presenter covering lots of actionable advice.”

“Dazzling presentation that exceeded expectations! So much valuable content presented in an interactive manner that kept attendees engaged. One of my favorite sessions!”

“I enjoyed Lisa’s presentation for the Minnesota Writers Workshop on *Mining the Truth to Influence Your Writing*. Lisa is a wonderful presenter – very clear, upbeat, knowledgeable, and open.”
- Daniel Meltz, author of *Rabbis of the Garden*

Testimonials from Erma Bombeck Writers Workshop

“I attended Lisa’s presentation *The Brand Called You: Personal and Professional Branding for Authors* at the 2026 Erma Bombeck Writers Workshop. I enjoyed the presentation so much and appreciated Lisa’s invaluable insights about developing our online presence and personal brand. I especially loved what she said about how it’s okay to lose some audience members in service of finding an audience that feels more aligned with our values.” -Emily Bressler, writer

“It was a pleasure to attend Lisa’s session *The Brand Called You: Personal & Professional Branding for Authors* at the 2026 Erma Bombeck Writers Workshop. I learned a lot and added so many items to my to-do list! I was really impressed with the amount of useful information Lisa shared. I especially liked her emphasis on authenticity, which, like many people, I’m really craving right now.” -Amber Shaw, writer

“Lisa Montanaro’s author branding presentation was clear, fun, detailed, and thorough. Her generous spirit shown through! Helped me see what I’m doing well, and what I can develop for my own author brand.”

“I have a marketing background, and I still learned a ton from Lisa!”

“Montanaro packed in a lot of interesting information in her fast-paced author branding workshop, filling every moment with useful ideas.”

“Lisa’s presentation far exceeded my expectations! I left completely reassured that I too can competently brand myself, my writing, and my books.”

“I appreciate that Lisa acknowledged fears about author branding and discussed options for those not readily interested in social media.”