

CHRISTINE RISTAINO, AUTHOR

CRISTAI@EMORY.EDU, (404) 481-7085



BIO

Christine Ristaino teaches Italian and is the faculty advisor for a number of programs related to social justice at Emory University. Her most recent book is a memoir, *All the Silent Spaces*, which details her experiences with violence. She has also coauthored an academic publication titled *Lucrezia Marinella and the "Querelle des Femmes"* in Seventeenth-Century Italy and the first edition of a book series *The Italian Virtual Class*.

- Ristaino writes about surviving molestation, rape, and being attacked in front of her 3- and 5-year old children.
- Her memoir, *All the Silent Spaces*, talks about the aftereffects of violence, from the perspective of somebody who has experienced it firsthand.
- Ristaino writes and publishes op-eds on overcoming violence, having difficult conversations, and equity, in publications such as the *Guardian*, the *Washington Post*, the *Huffington Post*, *Pacific Standard*, and the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*.
- Ristaino's book is timely, written before and during the rise of the #MeToo movement, which has trended in at least 85 countries and is creating historic cultural transformation.
- Ristaino utilizes storytelling to challenge and change the paradigm around sexual assault.
- Ristaino has spoken at important events in order to foster culture change, such as the Women's March on Roanoke, the Thinkposium on Equity, and RespectCon.
- Ristaino has given interviews on NPR and has also been featured on a number of podcasts..

"An insightful, openhearted memoir about brutality in many forms."

— Kirkus Reviews



ALL THE SILENT SPACES

RISTAINO'S MEMOIR IS AVAILABLE
WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD



REVIEWS

"All the Silent Spaces is gorgeous, heart-wrenching, and brave. Ristaino's memoir invites readers to be present to suffering, to seek common purpose, and ultimately to heal our fractured world."

— Marie Marquardt, author of *Flight Season*

"Christine Ristaino transverses complex landscapes of experience: racial and ethnic identities; family ties; the aftermath of violent crime. Her honest reflections remind us there are no easy answers, but that we must continue to ask the difficult questions. This moving memoir is a gift."

— Dr. Leslie Harris, Professor of African American History and Co-Editor of *Slavery and the University: Histories and Legacies*

"Throughout the process of reading *All the Silent Spaces*, I have felt validated in my most-shunned memories of sexual trauma. From her frank representation of the silent struggle for regaining ourselves, Christine Ristaino's vulnerability has given me solidarity and hope for community around this exiled discussion topic."

— Halla Maynard, Survivor



BOOK TRAILER



Watch now

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QUESTIONS FOR THE AUTHOR

- 1) What is All the Silent Spaces about and why did you write it?
- 2) You were attacked in front of your three- and five-year old children. How did you talk with them about the violence they witnessed?
- 3) Your book is also about race. Tell me more.
- 4) Why is it important to have difficult conversations with your community? What is at risk by not having them?
- 5) Your memoir talks about three violent experiences from your past. What do you want to change regarding how we talk about violence, rape, and abuse?
- 6) How can women effectively bear witness to the stories of those who have experienced trauma?
- 7) What would you like to share with other survivors?
- 8) What do you feel survivors need from the world more than anything?
- 9) You talk about finding your voice through storytelling. Do you believe all survivors should tell their stories?
- 10) How do you think women gain strength and what drives them?
- 11) What does healing look like for survivors of violence in your opinion?
- 12) If you could tell your younger self anything, what would it be?
- 13) How has writing this book changed you?
- 14) Who are your readers and what do you want them to take away from All the Silent Spaces?
- 15) How does your memoir fit in with who you are, what you value and how you inhabit the world?
- 16) How can authors use their writing to empower women?
- 17) How can writing be a tool for healing?
- 18) Parting words?

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES



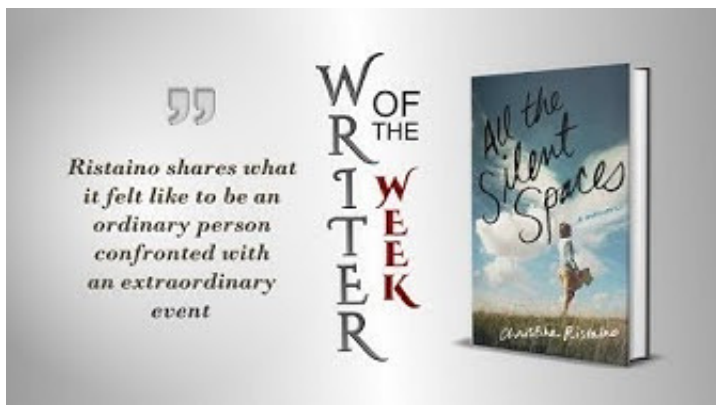
Women's March on Roanoke

Watch now



NPR's 90.1 WABE Station
Closer Look with Rose Scott

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Universal by Design's Writer of the Week
Interview

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MyNDTALK with Dr. Pamela Brewer

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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