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**ONE WOMAN UNCOVERS A MYSTERY FROM HER PAST AND FINDS HERSELF**

February 4, 2009 (Sturbridge, MA) – During any period of change, people find themselves looking back at where they have come from and the challenges they have faced. In Rita Schiano’s compelling novel, **PAINTING THE INVISIBLE MAN** (The Reed Edwards Company), she explores her own past through fiction rather than memoir. She wanted to avoid the debacle that James Frey created over his memoir, *A Million Little Pieces*, where inaccuracies and exaggerations invalidated the telling of a *true* story. The disclaimer on the copyright page

states that the work is based on a “known event” and stands somewhere between a work of historical fiction and a *roman à clef*, which allowed the author to merge “memory with imagination to create and recreate some of the scenes.”

While researching a freelance article, Schiano stumbled upon archived stories about her father’s gangland-style murder twenty years before. This inspired her to dig deeper into the story, and in doing so, look critically and emotionally into her own childhood. Schiano chronicles her coming-of-age story through the eyes of a fictional character, Anna Matteo, who also discovers articles about *her* father’s Mafia murder. Both Anna and Rita’s story is one of a stolen childhood, a family torn apart by the violence of a Mafia life, and one young girl’s resilient spirit that allows her to rise above the hardships and seek solace in most unusual ways.

Schiano reflects that, "Children are not privy to the truths of their fathers' lives, yet there is always this sense that danger lurks in the shadows." Living on the fringe of the Mafia, she explains that unless one's father is high up in the "Family," money is scarce. "Most men drawn to that way of life live dollar to dollar. They blow it on gambling and other excesses as quickly as they earn it."

**PAINTING THE INVISIBLE MAN** takes readers on a journey inside the world of a struggling Italian family on the fringes of the Mafia. With great insight and exacting brushstrokes, Schiano paints unforgettable portraits of both her father and herself.



In interviews Rita Schiano can discuss the following topics:

- Can learning about your parents' past answer questions about yourself?
- Knowing where you come from can tell you where you are going.
- Do we carry unresolved issues from our parents?
- The intensity of childhood events and exposure to certain events (death, fear, divorce) and the resiliency of children to overcome these life-changing events.
- Stories and films depicting Mafia life rarely focus on the effects the lifestyle has on children.

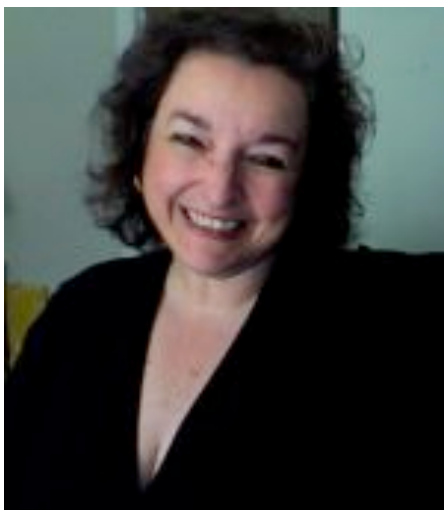
**Praise for *Painting the Invisible Man*:**

*“Painting the Invisible Man is an historical fiction novel about an ordinary writer drawn into conducting research on the world of her father, a man murdered more than two decades ago. The deeper she immerses herself into the painful and unresolved past, the more obsessed she becomes with uncovering the truth about her father... ‘the invisible man.’ Written with razor-sharp wit, **Painting the Invisible Man** is an absorbing tale that smoothly blends the quest for truth with the complexities of a self-portrait.”*

–Midwest Book Review

*“Painting the Invisible Man is both touching and even humorous at times. I found myself rooting for Anna, hoping she not only discovered who her father was, but also found herself and her own happiness as well. Rita Schiano has proven herself to be a powerful, talented storyteller.*

–J. Baker, Shelfari Author Review



**About the Author:**

Rita Schiano is a freelance writer and the author of the 1997 novel, SWEET BITTER LOVE. She has also written two full-length screenplays, and one television pilot. A former singer who performed in New York clubs like Studio 54 and a member of ASCAP, Rita is a published songwriter as well. She is currently at work on a new novel, *From Hell to Heaven in Five Hail Marys*.

**PAINTING THE INVISIBLE MAN**

**By Rita Schiano**

**Trade Paperback: 240 Pages**

**Price: \$14.95**

**The Reed Edwards Company**

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