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Vassar Tour Guides Recommend New Book, “Stolen Light,” By Claudia Riess, to Travelers Embarking on a Trip to Cuba

Poughkeepsie, New York – Vassar College is hosting two sold-out “people-to-people trips” to Cuba for its alumni, family and friends. The first is scheduled for January 7-16 and the second, February 15-24. After reviewing *Stolen Light* written by alumna Claudia Riess, the Vassar travel program coordinator and the Vassar Latin American history professor who is the tour guide have requested copies of the book for distribution to all tour participants. The art suspense novel has a pivotal Cuba theme.

“In this art-world thriller, Riess draws the characters with a broad brush, but they all have the capability, chemistry, and give-and-take of a strong mystery-solving duo... complex and intriguing...”
—*Kirkus Reviews*

The story of “Stolen Light” begins with the killing of a sugar plantation owner in Cuba during the revolution. Now, more than 50 years later, a young art-magazine writer and a more seasoned art historian team up for an academic endeavor. They wind up delving into the murder of the surviving daughter who had sought their under-the-radar help in recovering her father’s stolen artworks. The investigation takes them to London and Florence, where the mystery and their passion for each other unfold.

Whether or not you are planning a trip to Cuba, you can easily obtain a book from Amazon or Barnes & Noble through the author's website: www.claudiarieessbooks.com. It is available in softcover, hardcover and e-book versions. The book is also sold at independent bookstores such as Book Revue in Huntington, New York.

Claudia Riess is a Vassar graduate who resides on the East End of Long Island. She has worked in the editorial departments of The New Yorker magazine and Holt, Rinehart and Winston books.

The author's first novel, "Reclining Nude," was published by Stein and Day. Oliver Sacks, neurologist and author of "Awakenings," had said her first book was "exquisite—and delicate... a most courageous book, full of daring—a daring only possible to a passionate and pure heart."

A prolific writer, Claudia Riess has just introduced another novel called "Semblance of Guilt" since the publishing of "Stolen Light" last year. Kirkus Reviews said that the female protagonist in the newest book is "a determined amateur detective who'll garner fans with her refusal to either back down or give up."

The author is available for speaking engagements at libraries, as well as bookstores and non-profit organizations. For information about securing Riess as a speaker, contact her publicist, Janice Jay Young, at 631-284-3737 or jartandi@yahoo.com.

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