

WordPoint

PUBLISHING GROUP, LLC

About the Winkels

We are always interested in learning more about the authors of the books we read. Here, you can learn more about who we are and where we've been



The Winkels in Montisi, Italy

THE BASICS: We live in Phoenix, Arizona, in a cherry-red house we renovated ourselves. We share our home with our two adopted Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Becky & Spencer. Married for almost twelve years, we are partners in most everything...life... writing...business...and one of our great loves, travel (more about that toward the end).



The canine Winkels (in Phoenix)

More about Thomas

WHERE I WAS BORN: I entered the world in northern California, and then promptly accompanied my family all around the country before settling in Phoenix (pretty close to a native...I still remember when Shea Blvd. and Scottsdale Rd. was dirt!).

THE FIRST THING I WROTE: Aside from the required school writing assignments, my first forays into the written word took place in Saudi Arabia. While stationed there during the buildup to the Gulf War, I took to documenting my journey, both physical and spiritual, in stories. (Nicola and I intend to bring that story to print in the not-so-distant future.)

MY WORK EXPERIENCE: I happened upon my high school Vice Principal just prior to writing this and, of course, he asked me to summarize my life since I graduated. Knowing that he no longer had the authority to put me in detention, I felt that I could disclose the requested information. I started with the facts: there was the post-high school, what-am-I-going-to-do-with-my-life-now, trip to Europe with a friend to become an actor (boy could I have used Nicola's planning skills then!); there was the Marine Corps and trying to jump the sand dunes of Saudi Arabia in my hummer while waiting for the Gulf War to commence; there was working with the homeless in Flagstaff, Arizona, as they traveled on their seasonal migration routes between the rocky mountain states and the southwest; there was having and recovering from cancer while getting married and competing my Master's degree in Counseling Psychology; and last but not least there was working as a therapist in residential treatment centers and hospitals, and now in a private practice setting.

More about Nicola

WHERE I WAS BORN: I was born in Mississauga, Ontario, a suburb of Toronto (yes, I'm Canadian!). My family moved to Phoenix when I was seven-years-old. Except for a stint in Portland, Oregon, to attend college, I've lived in Phoenix ever since (pretty close to a native too!). My family is originally from Jakarta, Indonesia. In the 1960s, my parents, grandparents, and aunts all immigrated to North America.

THE FIRST THING I WROTE: My first complete written piece was a story titled "The Two Small Talented Turtles." Yes, I still have it, and no, no one else can read it :)

MY WORK EXPERIENCE: I have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. My first position out of college was working for Child Protective Services in Portland, Oregon. This was an intense job, but an incredible learning experience. After we moved to Phoenix, I took a program development position with a social service agency. With this position, I was solely responsible for creating a program to help victims of domestic violence gain safety and self-sufficiency. This position was another amazing learning experience, entailing everything from program development to public relations, from program evaluation to grantwriting, and from team management to community collaboration. I am most proud that the program is still in existence almost ten years later, still serving women and children affected by domestic violence.

Thomas and I started our first company, The Waypoint Group, LLC, in 2003. To this day, he primarily provides the services and I handle the administrative side. In 2005, the opportunity arose for me to work with a growing publishing company. During my time there, I managed operations, focusing on processes, efficiency, and integrating technology. I also had the opportunity to write, edit, and manage production of a guidebook with 130,000+ circulation. Another amazing learning experience! In retrospect, it is clear to me that all of these experiences provided me with the skills and preparation I would need for the next challenge of my life...becoming an author and a publisher.

AROUND THE WORLD - We love to travel. We even stepped foot on four different continents over a 12 month period in 2005/2006! A few of our favorite travel experiences so far, in no particular order:

Seeing the David statue (the real one) in Firenze/Florence, Italy - Some may tell you that the replica is just as good, but there is no comparison.

Diving the Great Barrier Reef in Australia - While visibility was limited due to a Class 5 hurricane a few months earlier that severely damaged the reefs, it was still an unforgettable experience. We swam in the middle of a school of baby barracuda, saw giant clams open and close, spotted sharks, and even found Nemo!

Sitting in silence on the shores of Lake Toba, Indonesia - Our world is so noisy, with literal noise and with stress and "things to do." Sitting on the shores of Lake Toba, we experienced a calm and peace unlike any other place we've been.

Hiking around a mountain lake over Engelberg, Switzerland - Engelberg is a beautiful little town about an hour outside of Zurich. You take a cable car (not for those fearful of heights or faint of heart!) up to a mountain lake that shimmers. A stone church completes the picturesque view.



The Winkels Down Under