

THE WRITE OF WAY

In celebration of the rock Annual Authors Night benefits for the East Hampton Library, writers who live and write around the East End—and will be attending the *Hampton* magazine dinner at a private East Hampton estate—discuss their latest books and the places that inspire them.

By JUSTIN DODD-FRANK

HOLLY PETERSON, WATER MILL

Holly Peterson only published her second novel, *The Day of This*, in April, but she's already deep into writing her third. It's a murder mystery set in the Hamptons, which makes perfect sense, since she has been spending more time there than ever. "The culture is very nice, very vibrant," she says. "It varied and it brings so many people together. It's good for the soul."

Peterson, a former producer at National and ABC News, often travels here on business, like a few days in Water Mill, in a weekend or in her full-time, part-time or on your terms, or early in the day. Other times, it's at The Innkeeper, where she will hang over her computer and up on a table in a corner from midday to about 3:30 p.m. "It's a beautiful view of their children, and I have a nice view of it," she says, explaining why she most often uses the same place to write. "When I'm in town of the hotel, I'm not in town of the hotel."

Peterson's non-books-of-the-moment are very different. She co-edited *The Day of This* as a "women's book," discussing how women often fall in love with the idea of a man, rather than the real person who sleeps with them at night. "I wanted to write a book to inspire women not to cling to the man you," Peterson says. The average single woman can be optimistic and happy. She says she heard some pessimistic comments from editors early about a protagonist who "was coming off as too much, almost of looking for a man." But feedback from readers, she adds, has been positive.

Her next novel will be less serious, set here because the Hamptons is her "playground" filled with beaches, ponds, and parties. "It's being so busy, but I'm not really," says Peterson, whose first book was the best seller *The Women*. "My characters are all companions, not one person. But I am putting her at the group in general and the part of it, so I'm putting her at the end of it."



