

My Writing Life

August 2007

Dear Friends,

It's been a year since I first launched this newsletter, two years since I signed my first contract with Harlequin. Much has happened in that time, and I'm deeply grateful to you for being a part of my adventure.

Praise for *Dancing*

Dancing on Sunday Afternoons garnered some wonderful responses, ranging from a review in the *Chicago Tribune* to heartfelt, personal letters from readers. Here are just a few excerpts:

"Dancing on Sunday Afternoons" is a superbly nuanced, emotionally rich tale of one woman's journey from turn-of-the-century Italy to America in which Linda Cardillo beautifully blends women's fiction, romance and historical fiction into one unforgettable story."

"I loved it! I will be anxiously awaiting what comes next. . ."

"This is a stupendous book! Filled with affect, it captures beautifully the essence of Italian culture, especially immigrant culture in New York City in the early 1900's. Each page jumps out and grabs you into Giulia's life, her loves, and her conflicts. Don't miss this book. . . . Kudos to Linda Cardillo for giving us this window into a small part of her own Italian heritage."

"...you gave me my grandparents back for a time.

"*Dancing on Sunday Afternoons* captured for me the essence of the Italian soul."

"Giulia and Paolo...became a part of my life."



Thank you!

The Big Read

One of the highlights for me of the response to the book was its inclusion in THE BIG READ, a program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Libraries across the country engaged their patrons in reading selected classics, among them Willa Cather's *My Antonia*, and then offered suggestions of other books readers might enjoy. *Dancing on Sunday Afternoons* was one of the recommended titles, along with works by Isabel Allende, Amy Tan, Susan Sontag and Jhumpa Lahiri!

Stay in touch! Please visit my website for updates on appearances and new work.

www.lindacardillo.com

Coming soon—My New Novella

“The Hand That Gives the Rose”

A reluctant daughter who takes over a centuries-old winery in Cold War Germany.

A Polish physician who crosses into the West during the harvest.

A love story that defies distances of time, geography and political upheaval.

On Sale February 2008, in the Harlequin Everlasting Love anthology **THE VALENTINE GIFT**.

How I Spent My Summer



Sunset on Cape Pogue, where I escape to write every summer.

For the last six years I've been fortunate enough to spend a week or two with my family on the isolated northern tip of Chappaquiddick Island (yes, *that* Chappaquiddick) in a house that until last year had no electricity. We now have lights that come on with the turn of a switch, but still no TV, no video games and no computer. We play board games at night and then each pick our favorite spot on the couch or window seat and read one of the many books we've brought along. During the day I sit on the porch with my narrow-ruled notepad and Pilot pen and write for hours. This summer I continued work on my third book, as yet untitled, about an Italian-American family with a restaurant in Boston's North End. The story—narrated by the matriarch, Rose; her daughter, Toni; and her granddaughter, Vanessa—will span over sixty years in the family's history. It's due to be published by Harlequin in November, 2008.

Upcoming Appearances

October 10

7:30 p.m.

Foster Memorial Church Book Club
Springfield, Massachusetts

October 16

7:30 p.m.

Storrs Library
Longmeadow, Massachusetts

October 17

Book Club Discussion
Springfield, Massachusetts

November 16

12:00 p.m.

Pelham Women's Club
Pelham, New York



February—Dates to be announced

Ladies Philoptochos Society
St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Springfield, Massachusetts

Hendrick Hudson Free Library
Montrose, New York

More to come. . . stay tuned.

Writing Friends

One of the highlights of my summer was the Romance Writers of America national conference in Dallas. I had the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, especially fellow Everlasting Love authors Geri Krotow (<http://www.gerikrotow.com>), Judith Arnold, (<http://www.juditharnold.com>) Ann DeFee (<http://www.ann-defee.com>) and Linda Barrett (<http://www.linda-barrett.com>); and meet some wonderful new friends—among them Tracy Wolff, whose Everlasting Love *The Turn for Home* will appear in 2009. The Everlasting Love authors spent an afternoon exploring what is so unique about our books and brainstorming ways to get the word out to readers. One of the results of that brainstorming is our new blog, <http://hqeverlastinglove.blogspot.com>, where we muse about writing, love, food and fun. Please stop by to visit. I'll be blogging for the first time on Tuesday, August 28, about—what else—the food in my books.

Because authors are arranged alphabetically, Anna Campbell (<http://www.annacampbell.info>) and I happened to be seated next to each other at the huge book signing event RWA holds every year to raise money for literacy. In between the scores of fans who lined up to get an autographed copy of her book, *Claiming the Courtesan*, Anna managed to chat with me and we wound up buying each other's books. I shipped home a heavy box of the books I acquired during the conference, but I took Anna's with me on the plane, and I absolutely devoured it. For those of you who know me, I'm not much of a reader of Regency romance, but once I began, I couldn't put Anna's book down. The writing was beautiful, the story was nuanced and well-paced, and the passion was both tangible and tantalizing. It was a delight to discover such a compelling and entertaining story.