

My Writing Life

May 2010

Dear Friends,

In a few weeks, *Across the Table* will arrive in bookstores, the culmination of a work of love, written to honor the women of my mother's generation. I hope that you will find in it moments that elicit memories and a reaffirmation of the sense of connection and belonging that our families bring us.

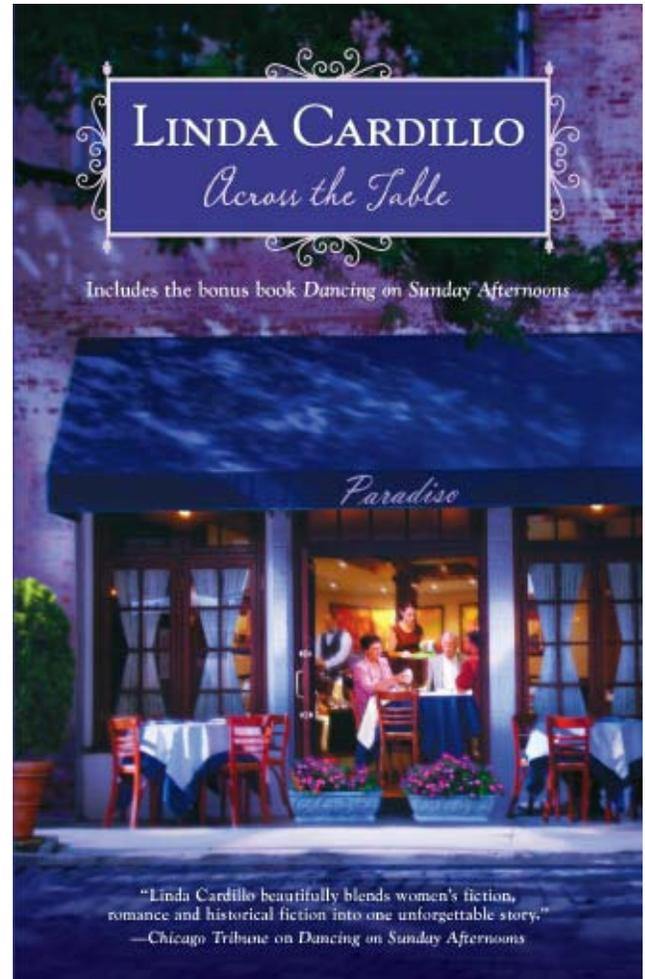
Read an Excerpt

The blue of the sea, the purple of the bougainvillea, the red of the chaconia trees—I'd never seen anything like them. The colors of the land, the smells of the sea and the flowers, everything was heightened by the heat and the moisture. The same was true of the food—the tastes were both strange to me and exaggerated, when I set out to find us something decent to eat.

The base had a commissary where we could get tins of evaporated milk, peas, potted beef and Spam. But I longed for fresh, so soon after I arrived I walked down to the little village that was halfway up the hill between the base and the harbor. I'd seen chickens pecking around a yard the first day, and vegetables I didn't recognize growing in a field. I knocked on some doors, talked to the old Mama who had the chickens, and walked away that first day with a basket of greens, some eggs, and a packet of spices—cardamom, cilantro, some dried chili peppers.

They eat spicy in Trinidad. I knew Al was used to Calabrian cooking and that was spicy, so I gave a try with the local things. If I had to open another can of Spam and make it into something recognizable, I thought I would shoot myself. Or we'd both starve.

But fresh eggs I knew what to do with. I had some potatoes and onions and made a nice pan of frittata, with the greens on the side. Al came into the house and smelled the familiar aromas. He ate that night with gratitude and pleasure.



On Sale
June 1, 2010

My New Website!

As my book list has grown, I've developed new material for readers that I hope will add to the pleasure you find in reading my stories. **I'd like to request your help.**

I've launched a new website (but still the same URL at lindacardillo.com) with lots of new topics, including the following:

- Discussion questions for book clubs
- Recipes for dishes found in *Dancing on Sunday Afternoons* and *Across the Table*, as well as family favorites from the kitchens of my mother, my grandmothers and my aunts
- Notes and advice on writing craft and career
- Expanded biographical information, including photographs from my family history
- A collection of comments from reviewers and readers

I'd be grateful if you would visit the site, explore and then give me some feedback on what you find there. Is it easy to navigate? Is it readable? What's missing that you'd love to see? Thanks so much!

Do you belong to a book club?

Please consider proposing *Across the Table* as a selection for your discussion. You'll find suggested questions for your group on my expanded website, and I'd love to join you for the conversation, either in person or via a phone connection. Contact me at linda@lindacardillo.com if you are interested.

Please join me in supporting diabetes research by bidding in Brenda Novak's Annual Auction

Every year, author Brenda Novak mounts an extraordinary auction to raise funds for diabetes research. Because a cure for diabetes is something about which I care deeply, I'm participating this year with a donation that I hope will encourage my readers to take part in this important effort.



I've donated a gift basket built around *Across the Table*. In addition to an autographed copy of the book, the winning bidder will receive a collection of recipes from Paradiso, the restaurant in which the book is set; Italian table linens; and an assortment of Italian delicacies to enjoy while you read and cook--extra virgin olive oil, specialty pastas, artichoke pesto, stuffed anchovies, biscotti, and more.

Here's the link to my gift basket:

[A Taste of Italy](#)

And here's the link to the home page of the auction:

[Brenda Novak's Annual Auction](#)

Upcoming Events

My event calendar is starting to take shape as the launch of *Across the Table* approaches.

I'll be sending updates as I add events, including a special celebration in the North End of Boston, where *Across the Table* is set.



Thursday, May 27, 2010

11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

Book Signing

Book Expo America

Jacob K. Javits Center

New York, New York

Sunday, June 13, 2010

2:00 p.m.

Signing

Barnes & Noble

The Shoppes

at Blackstone Valley

Millbury, Massachusetts

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

6:30 p.m.

Reading and Signing

Storrs Library

Longmeadow, Massachusetts

Saturday, June 26, 2010

2:00 p.m.

Reading and Signing

Barnes & Noble

Central Plaza

2614 Central Park Avenue

Yonkers, NY 10710

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Literacy Book Signing

Romance Writers of America

National Conference

Location TBA

Saturday, October 23, 2010

9:45-11:00 a.m.

Panel Discussion

"Not Your Grandmother's Harlequin:

Writing the 21st Century Romance"

Write Angles Conference

Mt. Holyoke College

South Hadley, Massachusetts

I hope to hear from you! Become a fan on [Facebook](#), follow me on [Twitter](#), or stop in to comment on my [blog](#).