

My Writing Life

November 2007

Dear Friends,

The balancing act that is a writer's life is kicking into high gear as the publication date for my second book, *THE VALENTINE GIFT*, approaches on January 15, 2008. My fall appearance schedule is in full swing as I visit with women's clubs, book discussion groups and library programs (see my calendar on the next page for an update of where I'll be). I've also been writing articles, preparing for interviews and attending to the myriad details of getting the word out about a new book. And intermingled with this very public side of my profession is the writing itself! I'm deep into my third work of fiction, set in Boston's North End and narrated by three Italian-American women for whom food is love, change, defiance and salvation. Its working title is *SALEM STREET*, but I'm on the hunt for a final title in the next few months, since the manuscript is due on February 1!

The Valentine Gift. . .

is an anthology of three novellas focused on the idea that every Valentine's Day is a gift.

In *Valentine's Daughters* by Tara Taylor Quinn, it's a day to remember old promises...and make new ones.

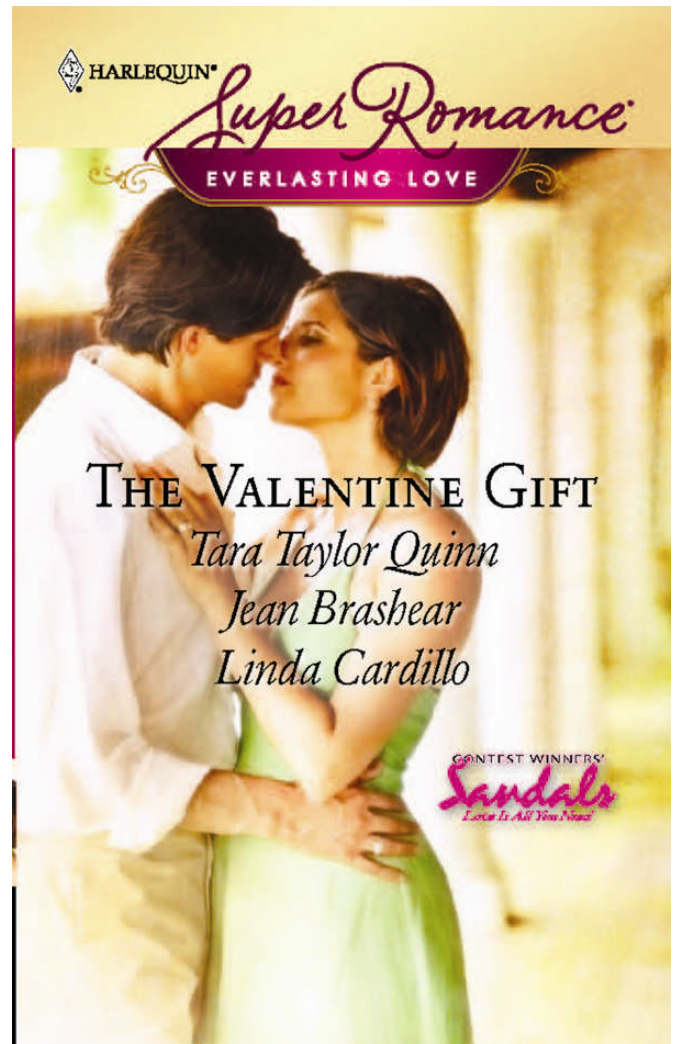
In *Our Day* by Jean Brashear, it's when love gets a second chance.

And in my own *The Hand That Gives the Rose*, it's the day love finally bridges two separate worlds.

I had the opportunity to meet both Tara and Jean this past summer at the Romance Writers of America national conference in Dallas. They are talented writers and consummate professionals, and I'm honored to be included with them in this anthology. Please visit their websites to learn more about them and their work!

<http://www.jeanbrashear.com/>

<http://www.tarataylorquinn.com/welcome.html>



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Where it comes from

Many of you know that my family and I lived for several years in Germany, my husband's birthplace. We were fortunate enough to be there during the transformative time when the Berlin Wall fell and East and West Germany were united. I took that experience, as well as the opportunity I had to work in the Riesling vineyards of the Rheingau alongside a woman vintner who became a dear friend, and created my tale of love, duty and political upheaval.

Upcoming Appearances

October 30

Springfield Rotary Club
West Springfield, Massachusetts

November 15

12:00 p.m.
Pelham Women's Club
Pelham, New York

2008

January 27

Hendrick Hudson Free Library
Montrose, New York

January TBA

Storrs Library Author Speaker Series
Longmeadow, Massachusetts



February 3

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

February TBA

Zonta Club of Springfield
West Springfield, Massachusetts

More to come. . . stay tuned.



Artist's Quarters

I recently moved offices at my day job and used the opportunity to cull the extraneous and be thoughtful about how I wanted to arrange my workspace. I didn't take more than a couple of hours, since I had so many pressing projects waiting for my attention, but I was struck by the effect the changes had on my energy and focus. Even others coming into my office for meetings felt the difference (and wanted to stay!).

I decided to take home the lesson learned that day and create an entirely new space in which to write. We have an enclosed porch at the back of our home with three walls of glass that look out over the back garden and a small cluster of woods. Over the summer, it was the gathering place for my teenaged son and his circle of friends, and after he left in September to go back to school I discovered why it had been so inviting. I tried writing out there for a few days and knew that I had found my new space. I set up a long writing table facing out to trees and sky, carted out my files and a comfortable chair, and then breathed a sigh of satisfaction. The light, the simplicity and the peace allow me to focus on the words and not on the distractions that can so often pull a writer away.

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

www.lindacardillo.com