

# My Writing Life

November 2010

Dear Friends,

My warmest wishes to you and your family. I hope you had a happy Thanksgiving and will continue to have joyful holiday celebrations in the coming month!

As my heroine Rose, the matriarch of the Dante family, poured her heart and soul into cooking for the family every Thanksgiving, I spent the last few days peeling apples and chestnuts, rolling out butter-filled pastry dough, whipping sweet potatoes and chopping *lots* of garlic. I'm proud to say that my antipasto platter this year was graced by pickled eggplant, just like the kind Rose packed up for Toni to take to Indiana when she went to meet Bobby's mother for the first time. I discovered my mother's recipe last summer, handwritten on sheet from a yellow legal pad. My first attempt was a mushy failure--I had cut the eggplant strips too thin. But I learned from my catastrophe this fall. When my daughter and her boyfriend brought me mounds of beautiful eggplant from their garden, I couldn't resist trying again. This time I succeeded! When I sampled the first batch, I was brought back to my mother's kitchen.

I hope that you are cooking family favorites and looking forward to tables filled with good food, laughter and love!

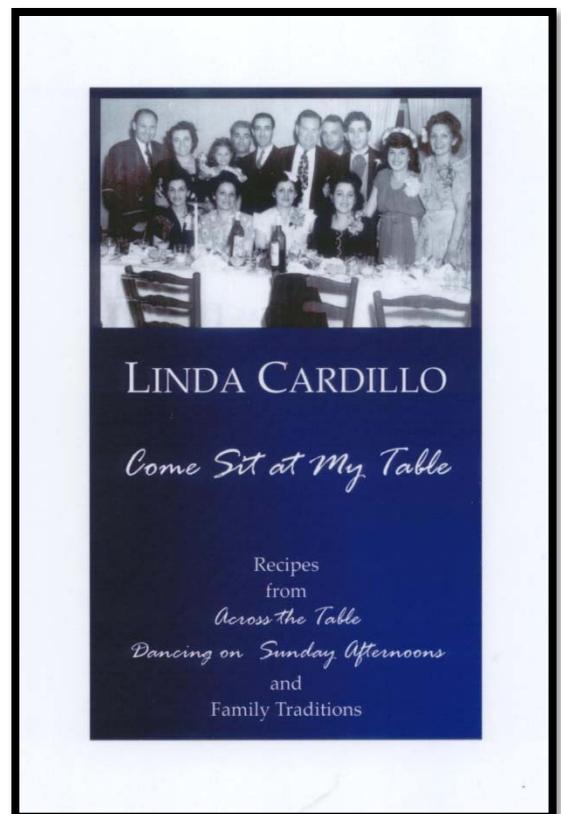
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## If you found yourself hungry while reading *Across the Table* . . .

I'm excited to announce my new collection of recipes from *Across the Table*, *Dancing on Sunday Afternoons* and my own family traditions.

From escarole soup to "gravy" and the Christmas dolce *struffoli*, each recipe opens with a special moment in one of my books or a childhood memory. I hope you'll find a way to connect to your own memories through reading about and preparing some of my own and my characters' favorite dishes.

You will find a full description on my website, [www.lindacardillo.com](http://www.lindacardillo.com). If you would like to order the cookbook, you can use the form below or order with a credit card online through my website.



COME SIT AT MY TABLE

On sale now

\$8.50 (shipping included)

✂-----

PLEASE PRINT

Please send me \_\_\_\_ copies of COME SIT AT MY TABLE @ \$8.50 per copy.

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Please make check payable to Linda Cardillo. Mail to Linda Cardillo, Box 298, Enfield, CT 06083. Thank you!

**COME SIT AT MY TABLE**  
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## A Season of Events

One of my most delightful experiences this fall was my reading and signing at Montione's Bakery in Norton, Massachusetts. That's Mary Montione, biscotti baker extraordinaire on the left, and surrounding me are the members of a book club who had read *Across the Table* after discovering it alongside the pastries at Mary's bakery. I had such a great time--touring the bakery, with its luscious aromas; reading excerpts from *Across the Table* and listening to the audience share their own family stories.



*Mary Montione, a local book club and me*



One of the highlights of the afternoon for me was the presence of my 96-year-old Aunt Kay, whose life on the island of Trinidad in the early days of her marriage was the inspiration for the opening chapter of *Across the Table*.

## Across the Table on YouTube!

My dear friend Marjorie Lyon has created a beautiful, evocative taste of *Across the Table* with her book trailer. It's filled with color, music, food and excerpts from my story of love and loyalty, family and forgiveness. You can view it via my website: [www.lindacardillo.com](http://www.lindacardillo.com)



This photo of Aunt Kay inspired the following passage in *Across the Table*:

"On my mother's dresser was a photograph of her in Trinidad that had been there as long as I could remember...She is

wearing a Japanese kimono, embroidered in flowers...It was exquisite--navy blue silk with a riot of color spilling down the back. I asked her if I could wear it for the wedding."