

LINDA CARDILLO, author

■ **Residence:** Longmeadow

■ **Occupation:** Author of the novel "Dancing on Sunday Afternoons" and the novella "The Hand That Gives the Rose" in the anthology "The Valentine Gift."

■ **Philosophy:** Treat everyone with kindness and generosity. Kiss my husband whenever we part from or return to one another, even if it's only for a brief time. Say "I love you" and "thank you" frequently. Laugh.

■ **Favorite music:** Jesse Cook (flamenco guitarist)

■ **Favorite TV shows:** "West Wing," "Masterpiece Theater" and "Law and Order"

■ **Book currently reading:** Sarah Dunant's "In the Company of the Courtesan."

■ **What got me interested in my work:** I've wanted to be a writer since I could hold a pencil. Listening to stories as a child, reading to my children every night and understanding the power of words to touch people made me realize how important stories are as guideposts to what it means to be human.

■ **Greatest accomplishment:** Raising three thoughtful, happy children who have discovered their own talents and are pursuing them passionately.

■ **Pet**

peeve: People who take all of the credit when things go well and none of the responsibility when they don't.

■ **Current projects:** I'm currently writing my third book for Harlequin, a story about a family in Boston's North End who own a restaurant, narrated by three Italian-American women for whom food is love, change, defiance and salvation.

Send Local Spotlight submissions to rkelly@repub.com

