



My Writing Life

December 2019



Last night, while putting away my Thanksgiving tablecloth, I decided to reorganize the trunk in which I store my large table linens, blankets and the Guatemalan woven cotton rugs we use for picnics at Tanglewood. At the bottom of the trunk I found a large bag that held some very precious cargo: baby sweaters, matching caps and a bunting crocheted by my mother.

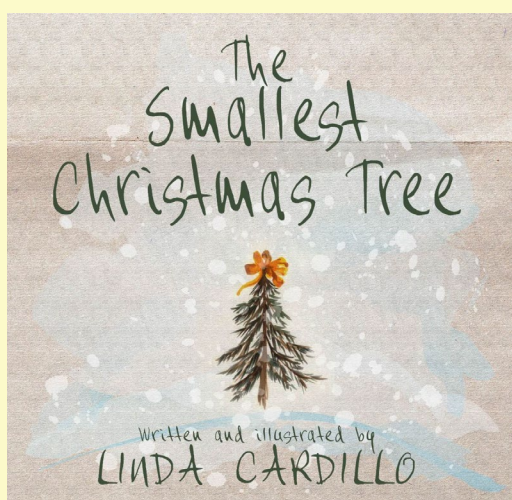
It has been 29 years since they were used, keeping my youngest child warm in the chill of a German winter. This discovery had a wonderful element of serendipity for me. It elicited memories of my mother's extraordinary talent (she once crocheted her mother-of-the-groom gown for my brother's wedding entirely out of fuchsia silk ribbon. It was gorgeous!).

But in addition to the memories, the sweaters are a link to my mother in a powerful way. The baby who once wore them is about to become a father in a few weeks, and these beautiful things will be passed on to his child. My mother would have been 100 this year. I'm glad the work of her hands will be keeping another child warm with love.

In a world where so much is disposable, I am deeply grateful for gifts like this that not only have practical beauty but also sustain our connections with one another.

As you prepare for the upcoming holidays, I wish you many opportunities to build and nurture your connections to those you love.

With warmest wishes,
Linda Cardillo



For the children in your life. . .

Papa says "No Christmas tree this year," because the family is going to be away from home visiting grandparents.

Mama is frazzled because the family has just moved into a new home in a foreign country and she needs to find the dishes, not the Christmas ornaments.

But ten-year-old Jack and four-year-old Maria know what is truly important about celebrating Christmas and get some help from a tree with a mind of its own.

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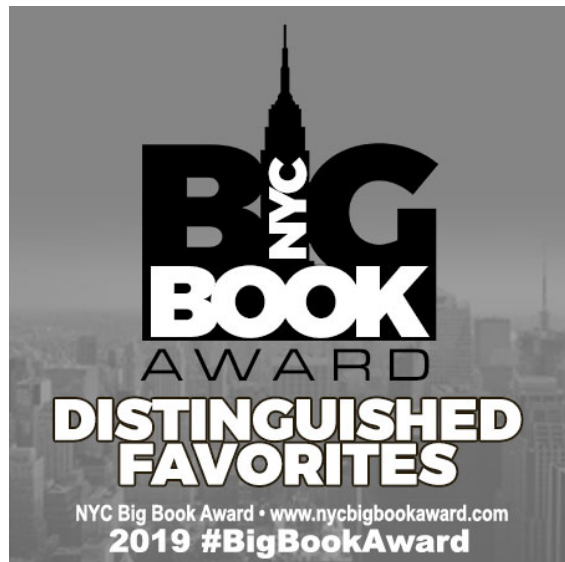
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Upcoming Events



Susanne Dunlap
Author of
The Spirit of Fire



Anne Easter Smith
Author of
This Son of York

December 8, 2019
4:30 p.m.

**Please join me as I moderate a conversation
with multi-published historical novelists
and award-winning storytellers
Susanne Dunlap and Anne Easter Smith**

Writers in Progress
221 Pine Street, #359
Florence, MA 01062

March 21, 2020
12 noon
Long Island Chapter
National Organization of Italian-American Women
Manhasset Public Library
30 Onderdonk Avenue
Manhasset, NY 11030

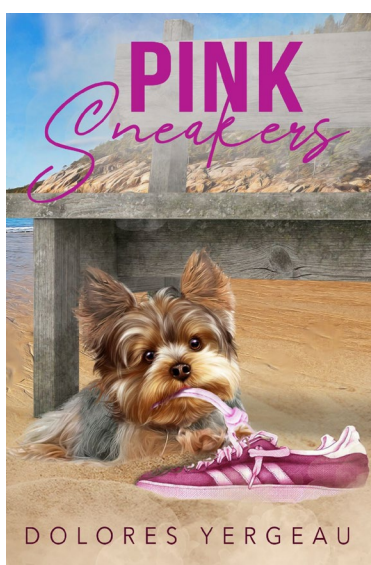
April 28, 2020
Book Club Discussion
Longmeadow, MA 01106

May 14, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Westchester Italian Cultural Center
One Generoso Pope Plaza
Tuckahoe, NY 10707

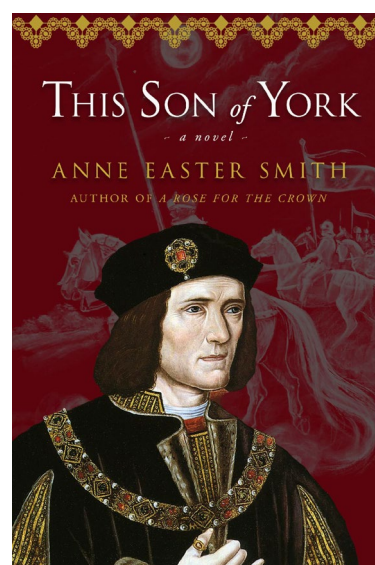
New Releases from Bellastoria Press



The Spirit of Fire
Susanne Dunlap



Pink Sneakers
Dolores Yergeau



This Son of York
Anne Easter Smith

The Journey Continues

Torn apart by decades of crusades against the Cathar heretics, thirteenth-century Languedoc braces for the final stand of the Catholic Church against the Good Men and Good Women at the remote fortress of Montsegur. Azemar and Azalais, now fugitives after their daring escape from the castel de Belascon, must try to reach the fortress—and fulfill their destiny—before it's too late.

But the captivating trobairitz Jordane de la Moux d'Aniort and her damozel Johana have escaped with them at the last minute, putting them all in grave peril. Will Jordane's conflicting purpose to reunite with the rebel Raimon de Berenger thwart Azemar and Azalais's quest?

A cryptic note leads Azemar to the Templar stronghold at Mas Deu, where he undergoes brutal trials—only to discover that his ultimate purpose could lead him to destroy the very culture and religion he wants to preserve.

The Spirit of Fire is Book II of the Orphans of Tolosa Trilogy.

A story of second chances, self-discovery, and the power of art to bring people together.

A walk on the beach brings a widowed artist more than a beautiful image to inspire her work.

Eileen Egan begins every day with a barefoot walk along the Maine shore near her home, leaving her pink sneakers under a bench on the dunes. One morning, she returns from her walk to find one of those sneakers in the mouth of Skipper, a mischievous terrier. Skipper's owner, English professor Eric Ames, manages both to save the sneaker and introduce himself to a skeptical but curious Eileen.

Within a few minutes, Skipper once again disrupts Eileen's quiet, ordered life when he cuts his paw on a piece of broken glass. An urgent trip to the vet, a tired but stitched up puppy, and a cup of coffee shared over the adventure set in motion a different kind of adventure for Eileen and Eric.

Unexpected entanglements with both failing students and old clients lead to confusion, misunderstandings and deep hurt. But both Eileen and Eric are sustained by a colorful group of friends whose lives revolve around the Royal Haven Inn and musical theater.

Richard III.

A man. A king. A legend.

He ruled England for only two years, but the legacy of Richard III remains both fascinating and divisive.

From his childhood in the intensely loyal and close-knit York family to his rise as a thoughtful but troubled ruler, *This Son of York* is a passionate and deeply personal account of the life of Richard III. A man who loved his family and his country. A king who struggled to overcome the challenges not only of a turbulent time but his own human frailties. A legend whose true life is only now coming to light.

Inspired by the discovery of Richard III's grave and its revelations, award-winning author Anne Easter Smith brings together her decades of intense research, five celebrated novels on the Wars of the Roses, and her sustained passion for Richard III in this culminating book on the last Plantagenet king.

[Website](#)



Linda Cardillo | P.O. Box 298, Enfield, CT 06083

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