

LINDA CARDILLO

Stories of the search for connection and belonging

My Writing Life

September 2020



My cousin Grace (not yet born when this photo was taken) shared this with the family a few days ago. To Italian-Americans of my generation, this scene is a memorable one: the family gathered together for a holiday meal.

At the table, an abundance of food, jugs of wine from Grandpa's barrels in the basement, children in their "best" outfits, my father as the oldest son presiding at the head of the table. . . and who knows what is going on in the heads of those somber faces.

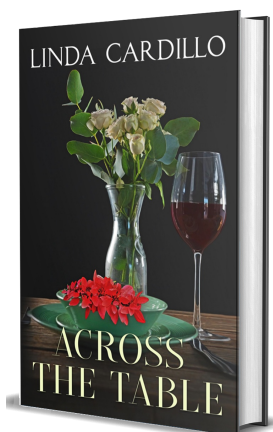
It is the women around the table, especially, whose lives as the first-generation daughters of immigrants became the inspiration for my novel *Across the Table*. They were gorgeous, feisty and ready to take on whatever challenge they encountered in their determination to both hold onto their heritage and define themselves as 20th-century Americans. Rose Dante, my heroine, is a character who embodies everything I learned and observed from my mother and my aunts.

After many years out of print, a new edition of *Across the Table* goes on sale today. I hope you'll find in its story echoes of your own family—messy, emotional, coming together in moments of joy and tragedy. Because that's what families do.

Take care.

Linda

Read an Excerpt



Many of the scenes in *Across the Table* take place at Thanksgiving as the family gathers at Paradiso, the Dante's restaurant. I hope you'll enjoy this "taste" of what you'll find in *Across the Table*.

[Read on.](#)

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Thank you for your continued support of my stories!

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