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Talk Gertie To Me

Thursday, February 09, 2006

WESTFIELD -- Award winning debut author Lois Winston bursts onto the scene with a cross-genre contemporary novel sure to please mothers and daughters of all ages. Park romantic comedy, part chick lit, and part hen lit, Talk Gertie To Me offers readers a delightful romp filled from cover to cover with love, family, crafts and one very unique imaginary friend.

Winston, a Westfield resident and noted cross stitch designer, tapped into her years of experience in the crafts industry to pen what USA Today bestselling author Julie Kenner calls, "a wonderful debut with a wicked wit and a delightful cast of characters, including two heroines you can't help but love."

The winner of the Romancing the Novel contest, first runner up in the American Title competition and a Romance Writers of America Golden Heart finalist, Talk Gertie To Me has been called, "A real gem," "Hilarious and from the heart," "Smart and sassy," "Laugh out loud funny," "Hot fun!" and a book that "leaves you wanting more as soon as you set it down."

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Lois Winston began her writer's journey in 1995 when the characters from a dream took over her brain, refusing to leave until she promised to tell their story. Over the course of the next 10 years, Winston worked to hone her craft, garnering numerous writing awards along the way. Before the release of her first book, Talk Gertie to Me, Winston was already a three time Romance Writers of America Golden Heart Dorchester Publishing's American Title competition. In addition, Winston took first place in a dozen writing contests sponsored by various RWA chapters. Winston sold her first book to Dorchester Publishing as a result of her first runner up placement in American Title.

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Winston graduated from Temple University's Tyler School of Art with a BFA degree in graphic design and illustration, spending much of her career designing needlework and crafts for craft kit manufacturers, craft book publishers, and craft, needlework, and women's magazines. She often draws on her many years of experience in the consumer crafts industry as inspiration for her books.

Winston now writes humorous contemporary novels that straddle the romance, mystery, and chick lit genres. Talk Gertie to Me is a combination romantic comedy/chick lit/hen lit book with a dash of the paranormal -- a tale of love, crafts, and one very unique imaginary friend:

Nori Stedworth is living the good life. Her own apartment in Manhattan, a hotter than hot boyfriend, and the best coffee in the city right around the corner. That is, until one devastating afternoon that culminates with the unexpected arrival of her mother -- dragging her entire wardrobe and all her craft supplies in tow.

Mom is suffering from middle age meltdown. Her only identity is as wife and mother, but her husband is a workaholic, and her daughter is halfway across the country. Grandchildren would give her life new purpose. While Mom tries to convince Nori to return home to marry the most eligible bachelor in Ten Commandments, Iowa, she's also unleashing her inner Domestic Diva all over New York and transforming herself into the next Martha Stewart (albeit, a kinder, gentler version.)

Nori copes by channeling Gertie, her imaginary childhood friend. But instead of offering warm fuzzies, Gertie is now an acerbic (and annoying) butinsky, throwing her two cents in about everything in Nori's life.

And if Nori's smart, she'll start listening.

Romantic Times BOOKclub magazine called Talk Gertie to Me "a real gem" and said, "Wow! Where's this book been hiding? The storyline is fresh, offbeat and substantial."

Winston is a charter member of Chick Lit Writers of the World, as well as a member of Romance Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, PASIC, and various RWA and SinC chapters.

For more information go to HYPERLINK "<http://www.loiswinston.com>"
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