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# Joyce's Journal

A monthly dispatch from Joyce A. Miller, Writer

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## WHAT TO WRITE?

Are you stumped about what to write in your Valentine's Day card?

Instead of trying to write the perfect piece of prose or poetry, just say how you feel, simple and to the point. While researching my next WIP, I found that while writing to Corinne in February of 1903, Gari Melchers rhapsodized about his fiance's correspondence: "Such wonderfully sweet and dear letters as you do write me. I would just like to squeeze and kiss and hug you for every single word you say." It makes me sigh when I read it. I'm starting to work on a historical fiction novel based on the true story of Corinne Melchers, wife of American Impressionist artist, Gari Melchers and I love this research phase.

I'm going to be attending a workshop in February via Zoom for a Senior Citizen's Writing Program in Brookhaven, NY. Each month the students will have a writing prompt and then read their assignments out loud for the class. I will help the organizer of the workshop, Frank, critique their writing. I met Frank on Instagram after he read and loved **Joe Harris, the Moon**. Not only is he a lover of people's stories, but he is also an avid baseball card collector. As I've said before, with Zoom I can speak at any book club or meeting anywhere. If you're interested in that, please contact me.

A GLIMPSE OF  
WHAT'S INCLUDED:

**Valentine messages**

My memoir is with my editor for the final copy edit, and she says she will be finished with it on February 17th. Then back to work for me!

Have you ever wondered about the origin of Valentine's Day? In the third century, Valentine was a priest in Rome. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than married ones and decreed those soldiers were forbidden to marry. Valentine performed secret weddings for those soldiers and was imprisoned for his actions. The imprisoned Valentine fell in love with a young girl, his jailer's daughter, who visited him while he was confined. Before he was put to death, he sent her a love letter and signed it, "Your Valentine." The first Valentine's card! Valentine, a romantic hero, was put to death on February 14th.

If you are unable to come up with any creative messages for your own Valentine's Day cards, as a bonus for February's newsletter, I'm enclosing a pdf with some messages you can use. Tag me on Instagram @joyceamillerwriter if you use one!

I live in the Church Hill section of Richmond, VA with my husband and my retired racing greyhound. Before I started writing, I worked for 30 years at a nuclear physics research laboratory.

Show up and shine!



JOYCE A. MILLER, WRITER

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@JOYCEAMILLERWRITER on Instagram

you make  
me so  
happy

ours is my  
favorite  
love  
story

i love you  
to the  
moon and  
back

you're my  
favorite  
person

sending  
a whole  
lot of love  
your  
way

you make  
me  
smile

all i  
need  
is you

being with  
you is a  
dream come  
true

next to you  
is my favorite  
place to  
be

my heart  
belongs to  
you today  
and  
always

you're my  
shining  
star  
☆

i'll love you  
always  
and  
forever