

Have you ever let the weather slow you down, to the point where you just want to curl up on the couch with one book after another rather than getting anything done? Well, that's where I've been every day since Thanksgiving, with my entire surroundings enveloped in a thick, bone-chilling fog. I'll gladly take sun, rain or snow, but day after day of fog has me asking myself whether I'm really awake.

I finally decided that I could not let this season slip by without gathering some of our dearest friends together for a holiday lunch. The cheerful socializing seems to have injected some energy into me, so I'm back at work. I've started my next novel, but I may detour to another juvenile biography of an nineteenth-century female who intrigues me (and whose name I won't reveal until the book is well underway!).

And so, my holiday message to all is simply a reminder that community is what we most need in order to keep our spirits lively and our home fires burning brightly during the holidays.

Wishing all of you a joyous season,

Jenifer

