

Christmas: With my sister gone, I'd have my parents' complete attention

Continued from Page 1C

became the perfume of my childhood, the diesel of the fishing boats just blocks away, and the all-pervasive smell of salt water. Even today, a whiff of our waterfront can take me right back to New Bedford. My mother said very little, and I simply committed the night to memory because getting what I wanted seemed like such a magical thing.

"So, aren't you going to miss Lorraine?" I whispered as we walked into the apartment.

"Of course," she replied. "But being a nun will make her happy."

I didn't know how to argue with that. I always wanted what made me happy. My mother hugged me, and I went to bed.

ity. She'd spent all the previous day cooking, all that day with a house filled with children, and had probably still been cleaning up when she noticed that it was snowing and woke me up to take me around the block on my sled — because she knew that would make me happy.

I appreciated that later, but that night, still high on my midnight adventure, it occurred to me that with Lorraine gone and happy, I would have my parents' complete attention. Avarice was now replaced by ego. I would be Number One.

That had possibilities.

Jensen has written for Harlequin since 1984. She's published 93 books in the American Romance line, Superromance and Harlequin Historicals. She lives in Astoria with her husband, Ron, a Westie mix named Claire, and a pair of Tabby cats. She has three children, nine grandchildren, and the great-grands are still coming.



Muriel Jensen

THE DAILY ASTORIAN TV SCHEDULE Evening listings FRIDAY—SUNDAY

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels and programs. Includes text: A - Charter Astoria/Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach.

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