

24. Remembrance of Things Present

Who I Am Now: So *not* the proper English teacher I appear on the outside, for I lead a rich secret life – which will *stay* secret -- quite unlike anything I ever did until three years ago. I am even more intelligent than you may think, but always tone it down a bit so I won't be so off-putting. Since I lost so much weight, I have become a bit of a know-it-all and strive mightily to keep my mouth shut when I see so many people around me on the same wrong path I walked.

What I Enjoy and Value: I enjoy elegant food (gelato, sushi, Thai, fire-grilled snow crab, Godiva chocolate) TV crime shows (All the *CSIs*, all the *Law and Orders*, *Bones*, *Criminal Minds*, *Psych*, *Monk* reruns) and makeover fashion shows (*What Not to Wear*, *You're Wearing What!*, *How Do I Look?*), black and white movies, and thick thick books.

I value loyalty, honesty, intelligence, ambition, and kindness.

What I Do with My Time: too much TV, cooking and eating, writing for my various websites, workout about four times a week (love yoga and pilates, but feel powerful after weight training), primp, try on expensive clothes and get free facials, email and Facebook, petting Roscoe, juggling my many lovers (LOL), reminiscing, daydreaming, writing in my journal, and reading, reading, reading.

Specifics I Want to Remember: favorite glamour coffee (Starbucks one pump sugar-free vanilla nonfat Caramel Macchiato) and favorite everyday coffee (Blue Bean blend with a splash of half-and-half), my ancient Sheaffer cartridge pen and my elegant copper Waterman, the sweetness of a nice kiss and the warmth of a good hug, the heady exhilaration of hot sun on my face and the pleasure of being safely inside during an Oklahoma thunderstorm, Five Flavor LifeSavers and cinnamon square lollipops, blues and classic rock, Siena and Caen, ambiguity and juxtaposition.