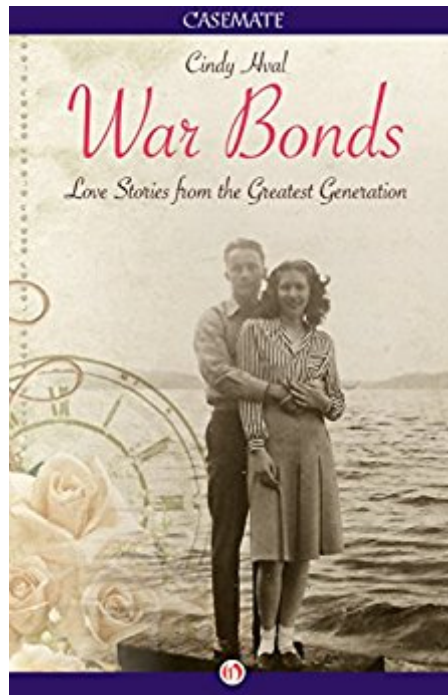




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War Bonds: Love Stories From The Greatest Generation



Synopsis

America's World War II is most often told through the stories of its great battles, when an entire generation of our young men was suddenly thrust across the oceans to represent the New World in deadly combat against the great powers of the Old. On sea, in the air, and on land our boys fought against totalitarian powers that threatened to overturn the American ideal of liberty for every individual, even civilization itself. But while often forgotten, America's women participated too. On the home front they were more than willing to share in the hardships of wartime, and in countless cases they fairly lived and breathed with support for our troops overseas. Whether working in factories or taking care of families, rationing or volunteering, their unflagging support contributed more to our victories than has ever been told. Young people have been falling in love since time began, but romance during a global conflagration brought a unique set of challenges. The uncertainty of the time led to an abundance of couples marrying quickly, after brief courtships. Others grew closer through intermittent correspondence, in which the soldier was often censored by officers, yet true longing from both sides invariably came through. It was the worst time of all to try to have a relationship, yet amazingly, thousands of couples created lifelong bonds. From blind dates to whirlwind romances to long separations, *War Bonds* highlights stories of couples who met or married during WWII. Each of the 30 stories begins with a World War II-era song title and concludes with a look at wartime couples in their twilight, as well as when they were so hopeful and young and determined to save the world. Illustrated with photographs from the 1940s as well as current ones of each couple, *War Bonds* offers readers a glimpse of bygone days, as well as a poignant glimpse of our own. During history's greatest war it was no time to start a relationship. But many among our young men and women did so regardless, and in this book we see how amazingly the war bonds of that World War II generation so frequently endured.

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Customer Reviews

War Bonds Love Stories from the Greatest Generation By Cindy Hval (Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney) Several years ago, Cindy Hval, a writer for the Spokesman-Review began a series of feature articles about couples who met and married before, during, or immediately after World War II. Responses to these stories about members of our Greatest Generation were so positive that she combined thirty-six of them into a single volume. For a child of those of the Greatest Generation, the stories and pictures proved to be a nostalgic trip back in time. I do not know any of those folks highlighted in the book, and it is quite probable that they did not know my parents. (A later newspaper story did feature a couple who live directly behind us, and whose daughter was friends for years with my mom and sister.) Yet the pictures remind me of ones I remember from my childhood. Even the way these couples met brings to mind family tales of how my folks met. (Something about Dad going to look at a horse and meeting the woman he would marry!) Most impressive about all of these folks is that they stayed together throughout the decades. Each of the stories features bits of wisdom from the couples on how to achieve that marital longevity. With members of the Greatest Generation leaving us at an ever increasing rate, Cindy's efforts to help us remember their courage, their love, their dedication to the nation and to each other is truly inspirational. This book is a great way to remember the best of our parents or grandparents.

I just received my book 3 days ago, and couldn't put it down! Each story is so personal, poignant, and inspiring! These couples faced so many BIG issues; but at the time they were going through them - it was just what they needed to do - whether it was serving their country, working in defense plants or other government positions during WWII, and doing without for the good of our country. They did all this without complaint, and even today, those few WWII vets still live their lives without complaint, but with dignity and humbleness. Cindy Hval is an excellent story-teller of the great

tradition - share the story in a way that it appeals to every reader. I highly recommend this book to all - and hope that it will soon be a movie!!!

It is so refreshing to read love stories from couples that have been married under the hardest of situations. Cindy does a wonderful job of telling the stories of 36 different couples in the northwest, mostly in the Spokane area. It is a great addition to the collection of war stories. Cindy manages to tell about the really hard moments in battle and sometimes in marriages but the couples never gave up. They were true to the vows they had made, and determined to stay together. If only modern couples could see tight situations and true love make for tight marriages. I loved the way every story sounded fresh and new and was told with a sense of humor and joy. Cindy is a talented columnist with the Spokesman Review, Her dad was a career military person, so she knew first hand the problems with military families and yet makes these love stories a real joy.

This is a book of vignettes. Each couple tells a bit of their story- perhaps how they met, how the War separated them, or how they reconnected with each other after returning from the War. There was one common thread that ran through each story, though. Each of the couples had been married for many, many years. And each couple had something to impart to the reader about how they kept their love alive over the decades. The overwhelming sense I got of these people is that they were ordinary people in extraordinary times. They were called to action in one form or another and they went. The women they left behind wrote, worked, raised kids if they had them and carried on. It must have been unbelievably hard going from day to day- wondering if your husband was going to come home. There was no sense that any of them believed they were being heroic and yet, in their own way, each of them were. This was a book that made me happy and sad at the same time. The stories were interesting. The history- of each individual's action in World War II and how the U.S. was nearly 75 years ago- was fascinating. As war decimated countries and continents overseas the people left here did what was necessary to keep home and hearth together, not knowing what the next day would bring. Sometimes the pictures were hard. I would look at the snapshots of these young vibrant people and try to see them in the pictures of the couples who had been together for sixty or even seventy or more years and wonder if they missed being young. Then I would think about my marriage and hope that we would be as lucky as they were. That we would be lucky enough to have each other for years and years and then be able to look back and know how blessed we were in having each other, our daughter and grandchildren to carry us forward, and I hope that I can do as well as they did.

Tender love stories surrounded by the hard times of world war. Story after story captured my imagination. I couldn't put the book down. Committed faithful love stands in stark contrast to the standard of today. Hval draws the reader into the hearts and minds of the young people facing huge upheaval in their lives. Their commitment to this nation and their loved ones inspires. This book is a real and tangible way to honor those who have served our country and keep the memories of those days gone by alive. The photographs are beautiful and a nice touch. You will not be disappointed in this book. Get one for yourself and one to give.

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