



As I Have Loved You

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The inspiring true story of courage and love in a time of war

As I Have Loved You Details

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From Reader Review As I Have Loved You for online ebook

Nicole says

Very inspirational story of faith, love and gratitude during WWII. It made me want to be a better mother. Really quick read.

Linda Hart says

This was a touching, and amazing autobiography. The author's style is certainly not lyrical nor is it great literature, but what she has to say about her experiences as a previously privileged class child whose family was but in concentration camps on the the island of Java, Indonesia, during WW2 makes a compelling read. As a 12-13 yr old she emigrates to Holland with the surviving members of her large family, where they lead a spartan lower case existence. Then as an 18 yr old she emigrates again, to America, also with her family, but leaving behind the man she loves. How they both, separately, find the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ is a fascinating story for members of any Christian faith.

Mimi says

I really enjoyed this book. After last spring, I promised to stay away from WWII books for a while, because I had gone on such a binge with them, but I am really glad I read this book. I have read about WWII from American, English, Dutch, and German perspectives, but I had never read or thought much about what happened in Indonesia during WWII. As a Dutch colony and so near to Japan, it was caught right up in the war. Everyone with Dutch descent was put in concentration camps, and then as soon as the war ended, the native Indonesians had decided they liked the freedom from the Dutch and declared their independence, so this family just left the concentration camp after the war ended to an even worse situation and still were not able to be safe in their own country. Unbelievable! And they weren't even 100% Dutch. They were Dutch-Indo.

I appreciated that the story is more one of healing than one to expound on all the horrors of war. The author recognizes at the beginning that she has no desire to bring up that pain again for anyone, but just to retell her story and her family's story. I found it fascinating, and I cried quite a bit. I cannot imagine enduring so much. The faith that sustained her mother is impressive.

I recommend this book to anyone who is not afraid to cry and who is willing to learn more of the darkest hours of humanity and encounter a woman (the author's mother) who overcame them all with dignity, honor, forgiveness, and love.

Leslie Nielson says

I was very impressed by the mother's example and strength during extremely difficult circumstances. This is definitely a powerful and memorable story.

Tovi says

I read this for our July Book Club. What an amazing story! I truly respect and admire the author's mother. She was so strong during so much heartache. I hope I can be more like this mother! I can't say that I absolutely loved this book because the last quarter of the book was not tied in as well to the rest of the story. I guess I would have liked more details or a better wrap up to the narrative.

Tanya W says

First of all, it should be noted that the audio is really a "fireside talk" and not the same as the book.

On a second reading, I have to give this five stars... absolutely wonderful and amazing story. It is hard to find such Christlike examples outside of the scriptures and Jesus Christ himself. This is absolutely right up there with *The Hiding Place*, perhaps even better (now I'll have to re-read that one too!). These kinds of books highlight the great disparity between the lives most of us live and the tremendous suffering that is the lot of many "far away".

I must say that I can't explain the suffering, but I have confidence in a fair and loving God who will make it up to His children who have borne such difficulty and sadness in this life. I think of the scriptures that talk about the last being first and the first being last ("And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last..." Luke 13:30), and I look forward to that day when those of us who have had lives of privilege and comfort... so many of us... can stand back and see our suffering brothers and sisters be "first" (that's my take on those scriptures).

This is a story worth telling that inspires, with so many lessons woven into it:

- ~how doing good to others can come back to bless you
- ~how loving and being kind to your enemies can bless you and them
- ~the power of the human spirit to overcome terrible things
- ~the importance of being "in tune" to God's will and how that can bless many
- ~the power of love

What a brave family, what a brave nanny. There is so much worth emulating here.

Read first sometime around the early 90's, Read again 2/2013

Cindy says

I really enjoyed this book, and it went right along with *The Zookeeper's Wife*, which I just finished. Kitty, the author, grew up in Indonesia, where she lived an idyllic life with her family. Then World War II broke out, and the Japanese invaded. Suddenly her life was turned around. She was a young child at the time, but experienced some great challenges.

I just loved this book. I was amazed at the courage shown by her mother. In one really amazing scene, her mother stands up to the Japanese. They have commandeered their home and allowed her family to stay in two rooms. Meanwhile they are waiting to hear news of her father, who is fighting with rebels and is a

wanted man. Her mother gives birth with the help of her teenage daughter. Just days later, she is forced to make her way to a town where her husband is being held prisoner. She waits without food for two days, along with her newborn, then is interrogated by the Japanese. Then she has to walk home.

While this book contains some sobering accounts of wartime violence, it also has stories of compassion, from the clerk who smuggles some food into the mother while waiting for her interrogation to begin, to the nanny who risks her life to bring Kitty her favorite doll and treasures from home. While it is written by an LDS writer, the book is full of her love for both her Christian parents and the Muslim people who helped her family when they were in need. I highly recommend this one.

Myla says

Much better written than some personal stories told by people who are not authors. So the story is what pushes it up in star rating. And her story is amazing, but it's her mother that wins it all. The author either made her mother out to be more due to childhood memories becoming grander than reality or her mother was truly a living saint. Would have liked to have known her back story a bit more and understand how and why she had such unshakeable faith.

Verona says

This is a book that will make you realize how good your life is. It also gave me a new appreciation of being an American by birth and having the privilege of living in a free country. Kitty De Ruyter was born in Indonesia, on the island of Java. She and her family became prisoners of the Japanese during World War II. They had lived comfortable lives with servants and in a spacious home and lands. They suffered terribly, nearly starving, and being treated horribly. They survived and eventually were able to go to Holland, which was the father's homeland, on a freighter. But they still lived in poverty. They received a wonderful opportunity to immigrate to America which they did. This is the storyline, but the biggest takeaway from Kitty's story for me was her spiritual journey. Her nanny, her baboe, taught her about God, and to live a good life. Her mother, Mams, taught her to pray daily, and to have faith, and be positive in any circumstances. Mams looked for the good even in their enemies and treated everyone with love and respect and taught her children to do the same. Toward the end of the book, Kitty shares her religious journey's capstone as she followed her husband's lead to join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He joined in Holland after she moved to America. Their story is quite unique in itself. She herself studied the church's teachings for two years before being baptized. She and her husband served in many capacities in the church organizations. They represent some of the most selfless people I've ever known about. She and her husband took in her Mams when she had Alzheimer's and the rest of the family thought she should be put in a nursing home. Bob, Kitty's husband, had promised Mams when she had lived with them earlier in their marriage that he would never let her be taken to a nursing home. Mams had expressed that people didn't take care of their own anymore. Bob kept his promise, and they speak lovingly of caring for her in their home, and how sacred the experience of her last few days was to them and their children. This book was very inspirational, and I feel more determined to live a more positive life, with less whining about and dissatisfaction with my trials. I will remember Kitty DeRuyter and her life story and attitude for a long time.

Rebecca says

Wow, I really liked this book. It caused me to take pause in my life and thank the Lord for the many blessings that I take for granted. Great book.

Jodi says

This was a remarkable book written by a woman who endured a Japanese concentration camp as a young child. The story of her imprisonment with her mother and sisters was heart wrenching. I've read several accounts of people who have survived concentration camps, but none have I felt so personally as I did this one. This story is unique in that the author's mother had been left alone to care for her 6-7 young children when they are captured and imprisoned. The mother even delivers her own baby while captured.

I think this story touched me so much more than other accounts I've read because I am a mother myself. I can't imagine the mother's pain as she was separated from her three young sons as they were taken to a different camp. She was able to remain with her daughters and her newborn son who was mistaken for a girl. The faith and strength of this mother was inspirational. The way she was able to stay calm and peaceful and positive for her young children, stand up for her belief in God, and so lovingly and wisely be able to care for her children in such horrific circumstances was absolutely amazing. This book inspired me greatly to be a more kind, loving, and attentive mother. This story is also unique because the author is a Mormon. She was not a member of the LDS church as a child, but later converted as an adult before writing this book. This is a remarkable book that I highly recommend.

Jenny says

This is a great true story, similar to *The Hiding Place* or *Diary of Anne Frank*. It is about a Dutch-Indonesian family that was taken to live in a concentration camp during WWII. They practiced their Christian religion despite strict orders not to. One thing I liked is that this book wasn't as tedious or in-depth as the previous two books I mentioned, and it also talks about what happened to the family after the war. The narrator joined the LDS church in her adulthood.

Jaymie says

I recently re-read this book. It's a world war II book but not written like a thriller as some are. I gave it 4-5 stars because of the feelings it left me with and the pondering of my own motherhood and faith. The start of the book is more explanatory about Java (the authors home) which I thought sounded beautiful and her family. So it takes some time to get to the middle which was my favorite and I thought the most inspiring part of the book. The last third of the book is interesting and inspiring also but less full of action.

Not my typical kind of story I would choose. I was pleasantly surprised how much I liked it.

Maria says

I chose this memoir because the author came to my church and spoke and I was so inspired by her life and the lessons she learned from her trials that I wanted to have them written down so that I could remember. This book contains a lot of history that she didn't include in her talk, and her talk contained things not in this book. One reviewer on Amazon claiming to be a member of her family claims some of it was fabricated, but I'm not too concerned about that a "memoir" concerns itself more with the memories and emotions of the writer and less with the "accurate facts" so some liberty is expected, and when someone goes to the trouble to write something so negative I suspect a few sour grapes.

Anyway, I was quite inspired by her family, especially her mother, whose love and faith transcended all their trials. I really enjoyed it.

Lisa says

I read this book 20 years ago. I loved it then and love it again. Such an incredible story of strength. I am so impressed with Mams. What a hero. What a perfect example of a Mother. Strength and courage that is unbelievable. Her Christlike attributes and willingness to treat others with respect. Her faith in Heavenly Father is what I hope to have.
