



## Love Finds You in Victory Heights, Washington

*Tricia Goyer, Ocieanna Fleiss*

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The Second World War has stolen Rosalie's fiance from her. But rather than wallow, Rosalie throws herself into her work at the Boeing plant in Victory Heights, shooting rivets into the B-17 bombers that will destroy the enemy. A local reporter dubs her Seattle's Own Rosie the Riveter, and her story lends inspiration to women across the country. While Rosalie's strong arms can bear the weight of this new responsibility, her heart cannot handle the intense feelings that begin to surface for Kenny, the handsome reporter. Fear of a second heartbreak is a powerful opponent - but will it claim victory over love?

## **Love Finds You in Victory Heights, Washington Details**

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Author : Tricia Goyer , Ocieanna Fleiss

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## From Reader Review Love Finds You in Victory Heights, Washington for online ebook

### Erin says

Find the enhanced version of this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot....>

I've steered clear of the Love Finds You series for a long time. I can't put my finger on what it is but something about the books told me to look elsewhere in my literary wanderings. Still, I am a WWII nut and the subject matter of this particular title proved a real temptation. My resistance crumbled entirely when Love Finds You in Victory Heights, Washington turned up as a kindle freebie. No offense to the authors or fans but next time around I hope I listen to my gut. I prefer grittier storytelling and this was just too sugar coated for my taste.

I had a real problem with Rosalie's lack of emotion in the face of loss. Her grief over her fiance's death should have been palpable but for me it read only lukewarm. Additionally, I couldn't give weight to Rosalie's 'fear of a second heartbreak' when her first was never properly developed. What grief she experienced seemed to stem more from her own inadequacy and guilt than any real affection. Her belief that marrying Vic would have been a mistake further undermined the authenticity of her emotions and went a long way in minimizing the internal conflict touted so prominently in the book description.

Emotional depth wasn't the only thing I noted as lacking. I also felt a distinct absence of creativity throughout the book but nowhere is it more obvious than with our leading lady. Christening the rivet wielding heroine Rosalie was as uninspired as Kenny's exploitation of the Rosie the Riveter comparison in the newspaper. Thank you Captain Obvious. Is it really any wonder his boss wouldn't give him a hard story? His breakthrough piece was half written in the American psyche before he even touched pen to paper. It might work for other readers but this was just too cutesy for me to get into.

One thing I did appreciate was the attention to detail. The story and writing style weren't for me but there was an obvious amount of effort put into recreating war era America. The lingo, the pastimes, the prejudice experienced by women in the work place, all of it speaks volumes about the ladies who put Victory Heights together. The end result didn't hold much water with me but even so, I applaud the effort that went into writing it.

Before descending my soapbox I want to note an observation not of the book itself but of some the other reviews. Many of those who issued lower ratings cite surprise over religious themes as the cause. With all due respect I can't give these reviewers a lot of credit. I realize the blurb doesn't hint at the inspirational content but that is the case with a lot of religious fiction. If you don't appreciate the subject matter, take time to learn how to recognize it so you know what to avoid. That sounds harsher than I mean it to but there are plenty of indicators if you know where to look.

Both Amazon and Goodreads classify the novel as religion based entertainment. Summerside Press bills itself as "an inspirational publisher offering fresh, irresistible Christian fiction" on their website and in the publication information of the book itself. Tricia Goyer's website and author bio states she was named 'Writer of the Year' at the Mount Hermon Christian Writer's Conference in 2003. According to her author bio, Ocieanna Fleiss contributes to a bi-monthly column in the Northwest Christian Author. The Love Finds You series "features real towns and combines travel, romance, and faith in one irresistible package" per the series information in the back of the book. The copyright segment clearly states that "unless otherwise noted,

all Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, King James Version.” The acknowledgement section even provides a few clues as it thanks the Emmanuel Orthodox Presbyterian Church and Jesus Christ before concluding with “Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto them give glory. Psalm 115:1.”

Before you ask the answer is no, I do not seek out Christian fiction. It is my affinity for historic fiction that leads me to many of these titles. I’m not particularly religious but the subject doesn’t bother me. All the same, I like to be aware that I am venturing into the realm of faith based lit. It might sound complicated but once you know where to look these titles are easy to identify. Don’t blame the book because you didn’t do your homework. If it really inhibits your enjoyment you will find that spending an extra two minutes to research a particular title is more than worth your time.

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### **Carly says**

I love historical novels set during World War II and I love the writing team of Tricia Goyer and Ocieanna Fleiss. And of course, you can’t go wrong with a Love Finds You story. All these factors come together to make for a story that took me back to a time and place when the world was in turmoil, but life in America was simpler and patriotism was strong. Rosalie was a strong and loyal woman dealing with the death of her fiancé on the battlefield and Kenny was a man seeking his purpose, a man with secrets of his own. Both of these characters were easy to like and their chemistry felt natural. The authors did a fantastic job with that. The romance never felt forced or fake.

This book also had a lot of humor and light moments that you would expect in everyday life. I really enjoyed the balance of romance, humor, and historical accuracy. This book had a charm about it that stayed with me even after I finished reading it. I really enjoyed everything about this book and I highly recommend it to romance fans and historical fans. This writing team knows how to write a story that will appeal to a variety of readers.

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### **Carole Jarvis says**

I enjoy Tricia Goyer's World War II novels and was glad to discover this one in the Love Finds You series. Some sections were a little slow moving to me, but a very good read overall. Good period detail, spiritual themes, and tender romance.

My Dad served during World War II and my husband worked for a large military aircraft company until retirement, so I found the Boeing aspect very interesting. Music also plays a big part - and being a fan of both So You Think You Can Dance and Dancing with the Stars, I could visualize most of the dance moves mentioned.

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### **Faith says**

A bit slow in the middle (in my opinion xD), but really good through the last 1/3–1/4.

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## Ruth says

Rosalie's childhood dream was falling in love and having the kind of marriage and family her father, a reporter whose work consumed his life, could never seem to give his own family. When war comes and Rosalie's brother dies at Pearl Harbor, she decides that her best friend, Vic, would make a good husband. But she puts off marrying him until his return, hoping to convince herself that she loves him enough. However, Vic never comes home, and consumed with guilt over promising to marry a man good man she never really loved, Rosalie loses herself in her work as a riveter at the local Boeing plant. Surely her valuable wartime work will help atone for the shame she carries over not being able to give Vic the love he deserved. When a chance meeting with Kenny, a dashing reporter, thrusts her into an unwelcome spotlight as a poster girl for women working to support the war effort – and possibly Kenny's ticket to the big time, Rosie must decide if she can come to terms with her past and look beyond her fears long enough to risk a future with a reporter who seems to treasure her every word. Can she trust a story seeker, or will her scars keep her heart bound by guilt?

Love Finds You in Victory Heights is a seamless collaborative effort between authors Tricia Goyer and Ocieanna Fleiss. I've been a longtime fan of Goyer's World War II novels, and was excited to see how this new, co-authored effort set on the homefront would unfold. This book is so chock-full of 1940s atmosphere and mannerisms that at times I felt like I was watching an old black and white film play out in my imagination as I read the story (and being a classic film fan, I LOVED that!). The world-crafting in this novel is superb. The authors do an excellent job bringing every aspect Rosalie and Kenny's world to vivid life, from the sounds and atmosphere encountered at the Boeing plant to the excitement of a war bond rally graced with the presence of movie stars, along with liberal descriptions of the fabulous music that served as the soundtrack to the time. Every detail, from the setting descriptions to the clothes to the food unfolds with precise, rich detail that fully immerses the reader in 1943 Seattle. In that respect Victory Heights is like a nostalgic love letter to a time long past, a time capsule of an era when patriotism ran high and "dolls" like Rosalie couldn't wait to get off work and cut a rug with a fella like Kenny.

The romance that develops between Kenny and Rosalie is the heart of the novel, and I loved watching their relationship develop from the moment sparks flew at their first meeting. Kenny is a great hero and his point-of-view is particularly well-drawn. We get an insider's glimpse into his view of Rosalie (so romantic!), and I thought his struggle to reconcile his desire for affirmation and advancement in his career with his faith was quite realistic. Rosalie occasionally frustrated me. I loved her strength and how she embodied the character of a generation of women who left their homes and took on "men's work" in order to support their country. These women were trailblazers, and Goyer and Fleiss have crafted a loving tribute of thanks to these women for their courage with this novel. But Rosalie's "mood swings" as regards Kenny was occasionally frustrating and her faith journey felt a little rushed. More time to develop that would have been welcome. I also wish there'd been more time to resolve Rosalie's conflict with Lanie- that reconciliation felt completely glossed over. But those issues didn't detract from my overall appreciation of the novel. The authors deserve major kudos for creating a cast of characters who are pitch-perfect true to the time period. The dialogue is peppered with 1940s slang that adds authenticity and fun, and the attitudes and faith of all the characters populating Victory Heights ring true to the time period. If, like me, you love this history, Love Finds You in Victory Heights is the perfect cure to satisfy your nostalgic longing for the 1940s with a healthy dash of swoon-worthy romance. Here's hoping for future Goyer and Fleiss collaborations like this one!

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### **Alexis Rhoads says**

I don't normally don't read love stories, but this book is fantastic! I love anything about the 1940s era, that's what sold me on this books.

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### **Alyssa Tabor says**

Ooh, this was a fun one! Loving the home front trend and it was especially fun to read a book about a riveter.

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### **Margaret Chind says**

Can I say it again? Summerside Press is awesome and at it again. So far almost every Christian Historical that I have read from these guys has just about sucked me in until I was able to accomplish the whirlwind of reading through another romantic adventure (even with the AppleBlossom distractions). Last year or so I was suppose to review Love Finds You in Lonesome Prairie, Montana but it never arrived and I was pretty close to devastated as far as book expectations go. So when Love Finds You in Victory Heights, Washington came around also from Tricia and Ocieanna I was ecstatic!

Let me tell you first how much I love the cover. It just tells so much of the story right there. During World War II, life in America was different for women than it had ever been and this is a great fun and loving read for such a hard time period. The characters flow off the pages and make this an enjoyable end of summer read or for anytime.

Getting engaged is a difficult enough decision, and then with your heart unsure and sending a man off to war... It's a question I always wondered how it could be portrayed in a story and it was a great story. Rosalie is "Rosie" of the time and quite an inspiration. The language of the time and place are fascinating and this book is a great one to fall into the pages of as a journey for a little escape.

\*Thanks to Litfuse Publicity Group for providing a copy for review.\*

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### **Lorraine says**

**SUMMARY:** After losing her fiance in the war, Rosalie throws herself into her riveting work at the local Boeing plant. When a handsome reporter dubs her "Seattle's Own Rosie the Riveter," she finds herself a reluctant national hero. Fear of a second heartbreak is a powerful opponent...but will it claim victory over love?

**REVIEW:** Another enjoyable LFY historical fiction novel. Set during WWII, it depicts the fun, patriotism, heartbreak and sorrow of the WWII era. Once again Goyer & Fleiss have collaborated with excellent historical research, a good storyline and great characters. The aptly fitting "slang" from this time period along with the war time work and activities made this a quick, enjoyable read. A nice tribute to those who supported the troops at home.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "But you know, when you lash out, it reveals more than momentary frustration. I'm guessin' there's a deep hurt that makes you blow up at your loved ones. And, honey, the Bible says the root of all self-centered anger is sin."

"I'm more thankful for the way God's love has flowed through the things and people He's brought into my life. And as for the hard stuff, I have more of a peace about those things than I used to. Life is hard, but I'm thankful we have a strong God to turn to."

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### **Suzanne Williams says**

Likeable characters. Author obviously did a lot of research on the subject. Enjoyable plot, but a bit too much time is taken with the main characters faults. Characters thoughts are a bit unnatural to what I think normal people in love would do. Still, I wanted to know how it ended.

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### **??Trea says**

I entered into reading this with a bit of trepidation, as Ms. Goyer's works have been hit or miss for me. Sadly, this was yet another miss.

I found the book to be slow moving, even though it was written about a time in history that I enjoy learning more about. I really had to force myself to sit down and read it. Connecting to the characters was also difficult, though they had no trouble evoking emotional responses from me! Often times, I wanted to smack a character around for the way they acted! More often than not, I felt that Rosalie and Kenny were too immature to be together.

The book suffers from a lack of consistent language, as well. One chapter is heavily laden with 40s lingo, and the next it only has a few words where appropriate. It served as a distraction for me.

Several times, I had to stop and shake my head at the implausible things that the characters did, and how there seemed to be no consequences for anyone's actions. While there was a strong religious theme throughout this story, it seemed to be the only consistent thing.

All in all, I rounded up from a 1.5 star rating due to the setting and concept of the book. It's not often that I've encountered a book for WWII set around Rosie the Riveter, the Boeing plant in Washington, or the staging area in the Northern Pacific. That alone made it unique for me, and worth a slightly higher rating. That being said, this book is being deleted from my Kindle Library, as I can't see myself re-reading it.

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### **Trisha says**

I like the time setting of this book and the idea behind it. But after a while I had to make myself pick it up. It was blah.

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### **Melissa A Comer says**

A wholesome love story set in Seattle during the early 1940's when home front patriotism ran high. The setting and time frame appears well researched. It is a trip down memory lane and especially nostalgic if the reader knows the area and experienced the era, as well. Such a reader can forgive the fact that the book is not a literary gem.

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### **Megan says**

Not my favorite read. The concept was good, but the writing was awful and peppered with so much 40's slang as to be laughable. I've watched movies from that time period - people didn't talk like that! Good message but lost in a sea of confusion. Not worth reading

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### **Kirsty Pearce says**

I had hopes for this book, and while it was entertaining in certain sections, over all I felt underwhelmed, and only got about halfway through

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