



While You Were Mine

Ann Howard Creel

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

While You Were Mine

Ann Howard Creel

While You Were Mine Ann Howard Creel
Everything she loved could so easily be lost.

The end of World War II should have brought joy to Gwen Mullen. But on V-J Day, her worst fear is realized. As celebrating crowds gather in Times Square, a soldier appears on her doorstep to claim Mary, the baby abandoned to Gwen one year earlier. Suddenly Gwen is on the verge of losing the child she has nurtured and loves dearly.

With no legal claim to Mary, Gwen begins to teach Lieutenant John McKee how to care for his child, knowing that he will ultimately take Mary away. What starts as a contentious relationship, however, turns into something more, and Gwen must open her heart to learn that love means taking chances.

While You Were Mine paints a vivid portrait of 1940s New York and tells an enchanting tale of the nature of love and trust.

While You Were Mine Details

Date : Published April 1st 2016 by Lake Union Publishing (first published March 22nd 2016)

ISBN :

Author : Ann Howard Creel

Format : Kindle Edition 301 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Fiction, Historical Romance

 [Download While You Were Mine ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online While You Were Mine ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online While You Were Mine Ann Howard Creel

From Reader Review While You Were Mine for online ebook

Leslie Herman says

Luckily it was free! Characters were one dimensional. Plot was slow, then fast like there was a hurry to wrap things up! Same way I felt!

Rachel McMillan says

After Magic of Ordinary Days (a fabulous book), I knew I wanted to read more about love in unexpectedly quiet places.

Creel holds soft command of the narrative and paints a vivid portrait of New York during a time in a nation's upheaval. Though the marketplace has been (too?) saturated with WWII set books over the past few years, Creel's stands out for painting a deft canvas of the homefront and a woman whose life will be changed in more ways than one.

Creel has a way of painting relationships that help you sink into them with empathy like a comfy blanket. When the last page ends, you feel as if you are saying goodbye to friends who wistfully hover thereafter for awhile, rolling around in your brain.

Creel's brand of soft romance appeals to me in a far more natural way than most. While this book had notes of The Light Between Oceans and The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, it stands in a gentle, poignant class of its own.

Luli says

You can find this review in English below.

No he podido terminármelo. No es un mal libro, bajo ningún concepto, es sólo que lo he encontrado aburrido y muy lento. Al principio me pareció muy interesante, con todas las descripciones del final de la segunda guerra mundial, la referencia a la famosa foto del beso entre el marinero y la enfermera, las necesidades y penurias que cambian el estilo de vida de todo el planeta, la historia me tenía captivada. Pero llegados al ecuador de la misma, la sensación es de aburrimiento. El romance es muy sutil, demasiado, y la historia está atascada. La autora no nos ha dejado disfrutar del inicio del romance, en cuanto los protagonistas han cruzado la línea de conocidos a novios, el resto de las interacciones son mencionadas, pero no las vivimos. Quizás esta historia sería más ficción histórica que romance.

Estoy en ese punto en el que sé lo que va a pasar y no me apetece *obligarme* a leer otras 150 páginas de lo mismo.

Una pena...

I could not finish it. It's not a bad book, not by any means, it's just that I have found it boring and so slow. At first I found it very interesting, with all the descriptions of the end of World War II, the reference to the famous photo of the kiss between the sailor and the nurse, the needs and hardships that change the lifestyle of the entire planet, the story had me captivated. But once I reached the story's halfway point, the primary feeling is boredom. The romance is very subtle and the story is stuck. The author has not left us to enjoy the beginning of the romance, as the MC's have crossed the line from acquaintances to, well, I wouldn't say lovers, so I'll say to something more, their interactions are mentioned, but we don't get to see it. Perhaps this story would be more historical fiction than romance.

I'm at that point where I know what will happen and I do not want *to force* myself to read another 150 pages.

A pity ...

Natalie Joy says

So glad this was free from Kindle First for March, because I'd regret paying for it otherwise. Boring, predictable plot that you could transplant to almost any other era--part of what draws me to historical fiction is the historical setting's unique effect on the plot, but in this book the post-WWII era is just kind of there. The author tries to describe what life was like in 1945, but it feels like someone mixed up a fun, descriptive history article with the pages of the novel, since the setting has so little bearing on the actual story. You could shift the plot to almost any other postwar period in American history and the story would be the same. After the first chapter, you can take a guess as to where the story is going and you'll be right--no unpredictable, unique plot twists or anything. Two stars because it was a mildly entertaining distraction I blew through in about 2 hours.

Janet says

Disappointing

The story was ok but there was such a fuss about that the nurse and sailor picture from Life magazine at first...resulted in nothing. I thought it would involve both of them instead of just the nurse. It was brought up a few times during the story but never led to anything.. Story could have written and been ok without the reference

Barbara says

There was much I liked about this book, but parts just dragged a bit. The story is based on the iconic photo of the nurse and serviceman kissing in Times Square after the WWII victory is announced. The character of Gwen is supposed to be that nurse. The story opens with Gwen sharing an apartment in NYC with Alice, a troubled woman whose husband is a MIA during the war. Alice is suffering from possible postpartum depression and cannot face the responsibility of raising Mary, her infant daughter alone. She leaves without warning and Gwen is left caring for infant, Mary, with the help of an upstairs neighbor. Alice's husband John turns up out of the blue and finds his wife is gone, no forwarding address, nobody knows where she is. By

this time Gwen and Mary have bonded and after determining he cannot find Alice, John decides to become a father to Mary with Gwen's guidance. Once John and Gwen start spending so much time together sharing the parenting duties of Mary, they find themselves inexplicably falling in love. Alice comes back on the scene and John drops Gwen. Gwen and John find themselves together in the end, both a bit stronger in themselves, than at the start of their relationship. Thank you Net galley for the opportunity to review this book.

Kriss says

This was a freebie book I got ages ago (I believe it was a Kindle First pick?) and since I've been sick and working for a while, I wanted a little standalone to ease me into reading again. Usually when I look to books that are historical in setting, I steer more towards 1910's and back, just because the closer we get to the 21st century the less I feel immersed. Overall, it was okay, but honestly, I've seen the concepts in this book tackled better elsewhere. This is definitely a quick, simple read and it's not bad, but not so much my cup of tea.

I'm writing this review while sick with the flu and recovering so I might need to rewrite someday

So, what went wrong?

Well, first of all, the book doesn't really feel historical—sure, they mention some distinct historical stuff and the author is trying to make you feel that this is 1940's New York, she even had her main character be based off the nurse in that famous V-J Day photo—but there were times it felt distinctly 21st century.

Another flaw is that this book isn't emotionally charged despite the subjects being naturally emotional in nature. The subjects weren't really given any weight and the characters ended up feeling pretty 2-D. Gwen was perhaps the only character I really felt anything for and I overall liked her. We talk about war and how it affects the soldiers who survive and deal with the complexities of being a parent and romantic love, but overall I wasn't really moved by the romantic subplot. In fact, I think I'd rather have read a book about Gwen going to court for custody of Mary and moving the legal system with her love for Mary. I would have even tried reading a story about Gwen dating Gunter and seeing if life with him could work out. I honestly wasn't invested in the romance and only kept reading out of a general curiosity to see how things got resolved.

I also wasn't the biggest fan of John. He's not like abusive or annoying or anything, but he's very... bland and he's also wishy-washy and a bit spineless. Like a person who is nice but really tends to feel like there's not much substance, more worried about being pleasing to everyone than focusing on what matters. I was really unhappy with the way he handled Alice's return. She threatens to get sole custody of Mary, so he leaves Gwen (only a few days, maybe a week or two after taking her virginity and swearing love and all that stuff too, mind you) and gets with Alice, then has the gull to be like "this is hard for me too Gwen, I'm losing us too" while forgetting that Gwen is also losing Mary, aka the child she's raised and whom she loves as her own, which is probably MUCH harder to deal with. Then, when Alice realizes she doesn't actually want John or Mary and runs away once more, he shows up at Gwen's place and is like "Alice left! We can be together now! Isn't this great?" as if Alice was just a bump in the road and all he did can be forgiven and forgotten as if it was just a bump in the road and they can continue their relationship like it never happened, which really shouldn't be his mentality after crushing Gwen like that and then he also admits he slept with Alice a few times because he was "trying to love her again." It's one thing to be with someone you don't love for a kid's sake and break up with someone you do love, but it's another to try to recklessly sleep with

them while you love someone else. Like it really came off as him going “whelp I’m with alice now, guess I should try to make the husband/wife thing work out” which seems to go against the “I am doing this ONLY for Mary.” Newsflash you can partner up with someone in a civil way to raise a kid without being involved with them romantically/sexually. Just FYI.

As you can imagine Gwen forgives and they move on and it’s a happily after kind of book since it’s a fluffy little standalone, but I was like REALLY. I don’t know; John just feels so spineless and eager to placate that he’ll turn his back on things and Gwen deserved better. In all honestly, Alice’s return was really just a pointless conflict that ruined John’s character and made me pity and scold Gwen for taking him back. He doesn’t scream “unfaithful” as much as he screams “unable to hold his ground” but either way I wasn’t impressed.

As for the good, the author can write pretty well. It’s simple, to the point, pleasant to read and easy to understand. Though I noticed that she used some of the same sentences (like, five or more word long sentences) several times in the story, which is probably a poor reflection of the editing. It should have caught these duplicates and rewritten them. I did overall like Gwen a lot. She’s relatable, likeable, perhaps not the most complex or moving heroine, but generally amiable without any grievous problems outside of her ability to forgive John for being such spineless, eager-to-please moron. I think the story’s idea was pretty good too, and the plot could have performed amazingly well, but the approach was so bland and simple and John wasn’t the best male lead, so overall this gets a tepid 2.5 stars from me since I got through it in one sitting. Though I did skim some parts here and there and did consider stopping a few times.

Vanessa says

I’m a fan of the plot, but the execution is not the best. The story dragged on and on at points, and I felt like I was never going to finish the book, even though it’s not that lengthy. Unlike some reviewers, I like Gwen, the main character, because of her selflessness, but I do agree with the complaints about her low self-esteem. This story had so much potential, but something was lacking for me and prevented me from giving it four stars. I’d still recommend it for someone interested in a mix of historical fiction and romance.

Erica Miles says

I could barely read through my tears as I came to the end of this book. So much magic, so much love, so much beauty, so much tragedy. A couple bonded by a baby, or rather a toddler, who brings them together, and who fall in love, but must face unforeseen consequences when the birth mother who abandoned the baby reappears in their lives. An exquisitely told tale, complex, provoking mixed emotions and reflecting deep historical significance based on the theme of war veterans and how they survive. The reader’s experience is one of being lifted up only to be let down, blown up and torn apart along with the narrator, herself. A strongly narrated story by an author who has obviously done a great deal of research, and one who has great insight into human nature and the way the littlest things touch one. The descriptions of New York City, Coney Island, Greenwich Village, Central Park, and the wonderful escapes outside the city, as well as descriptions of scenes in other parts of the country, are totally exquisite. In other words, this author is a master. I couldn’t recommend a book more highly.

Pam Nelson says

4 While You Were Mine Stars

I quite enjoyed this book, again it isn't my preferred genre but the story was really well written.

Gwen has a lot thrown at her but she rolls with it so well you almost forget that she is just as young as Mary's mother was. I am so glad Gwen had some support in this book I don't think I would have liked it if she hadn't had Dot or the lady upstairs.

When John enters the scene I was worried for a little bit but he too grew on me that was until his ex-wife came into the picture. I guess I wanted him to stand up for himself and for Gwen.

I think that is my only real complaint I wanted him to be the man Gwen deserved. The father Mary deserved.

I will say I couldn't put this book down and the narration again was perfect for this story.

You don't have to like my review but its 100% my opinion, and I am allowed to have it.

Cindy Roesel says

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. But in the case of Ann Howard Creel's novel, **WHILE YOU WERE MINE** (Lake Union Publishing), a picture turns out to be worth an entire novel. We've posted the photo that inspired her book above. It's the iconic shot of a World War II-era sailor kissing a nurse in a back-bending swoon. Taken in Times Square, by photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt, to this day, people still don't agree who the couple is. The majority think they're Rhode Island sailor, George Mendonsa and dental assistant, Greta Zimmer, but there's no consensus.

So with that mystery lingering, author Ann Howard Creel, creates her version of the unknown nurse's story in her novel, **WHILE YOU WERE MINE**. Who was she? How did she end up in Times Square? Where did she go after that kiss? No one knows. It was exactly this not-knowing that inspired Creel to create Gwen, a young nurse making her way in New York City during World War II—a time when people made extraordinary sacrifices, and whirlwind romances often led to hasty marriages with profound repercussions and what happened to Gwen was nothing short of a drama worthy of a novel.

Twenty-five year-old, Gwen was single and enjoying the time of her life working as a nurse and dating in New York City, far from the farm she grew up on in Colorado. She had a lovely apartment with a roommate who had an infant with a MIA soldier husband. But everything seemed perfect until it wasn't.

Soon after the excitement of the end of the war and the kiss, Gwen's roommate, Alice said she was leaving and not taking her six-week old, Mary with her. Once the shock settled in and Alice was gone, Gwen realizes, she's become a "mother." Gwen handles single-parenthood with grace and courage and luckily, Mary's regular babysitter, Lisen lives upstairs. But for the most part Gwen is on her own.

Seven months later, after Gwen has nursed Mary through strep-throats, fevers, nightmares, while juggling her career as a nurse, Mary's father John shows up. He's not MIA or dead, but very much alive, and shocked his wife, Alice has left and that he has a daughter. His initial reaction is to take Mary away from Gwen, the only woman Mary has known as her mother, but then things get really complicated.

Creel weaves a interesting multi-layered, narrative including relationships, heartbreak and trust. She uses alternating perspectives between Gwen and John, which worked well for me while reading. The cover is beautifully designed. Lake Union design is doing nice work for their authors. I enjoyed how Creel described the NYC landscape in the 1940's. I could see, smell and hear the taxis, people and the rain falling in the evenings. But I felt the novel was somewhat over-written, perhaps twenty-ish or so pages. It seemed to be repetitive and it dragged towards the end. I believe a more focused ending would have been more satisfying. The copy editor should have caught that.

WHILE YOU WERE MINE will be published April 1st. Thanks to Amazon for providing a kindle copy for an honest review. Creel has another novel with the working title, "The Whiskey Sea" scheduled to be published later this year. What a busy lady!

You can contact Ann Howard Creel on Twitter, Facebook and on her website www.annhowardcreel.com

Lisa says

This book has all emotions packed in it!.... love, hate, sadness, joy, passion, fear, longing, hope, anxiety.... The list goes on and on. It was definitely a roller coaster ride for me. I enjoyed the idea of the story and you can clearly tell that times were different back then. There were many times throughout the book where I thought if I were Gwen, someone would have gotten an earful or worse because of their words and actions (or lack thereof). The author definitely pulled on my heart strings and had me thinking. I don't know if I could have handled everything that Gwen endured in the span of a year.

I gave the book 3 stars because although I liked it. I wasn't surprised and/or shocked by anything. It was just a good heart felt story about a year in a woman's life.

Shelley says

It is unusual for me to give a book I've finished one star, but if I could return a Kindle First book, I would. All the historical accuracy of a Time/Life glossy grocery-store aisle special and all the romance of...Hamlet. No. Hamlet has more romance. It also commits the double sin of having a hero with the fortitude of a banana slug and a heroine with the self-esteem of a dishrag.

Cristina says

Best part was the synopsis.

Arlena says

Title: While You Were Mine

Author: Ann Howard Creel

Publisher: Lake Union Publishing

Reviewed By: Arlena Dean

Rating: Four

Review:

"While You Were Mine" By Ann Howard Creel

My Thoughts...

I enjoyed reading this historical fiction 'While You Were Mine' was really a love story. This read caught my attention and I couldn't put it down until the end. The characters...Gwen, Mary, Dot, Dennis, John, Lisen, and Georff to name a few were off the chart well developed, defined, portrayed and believable giving the reader a interesting read. Yes, some of the story was somewhat predictable, however to me it didn't take anything away from this well told story that took place after WW II in New Year during the 1940's. especially with a few sailors dealing with PTSD ...an abandoned baby...and this story takes off.

I liked how this author was able to use that part of 'Gwen being kissed by an unknown sailor, being photographed and put on the cover of Life Magazine which became a well know photos in our American history.' Now, I don't want to tell you too much about the read other than to find out what this novel is all about you will need to pick up 'While You Were Mine' to see how well it is presented to the readers. The gust to the whole story will have some twist and turns that will take the reader to a reassuring end.

Thanks to Amazon for providing a kindle copy for Prime members for an honest review.
