



My Grandfather's War: A Young Man's Lessons from the Greatest Generation

Jesse Cozean

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How buried WWII memories brought a boy and his grandfather together.

My Grandfather's War: A Young Man's Lessons from the Greatest Generation Details

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From Reader Review My Grandfather's War: A Young Man's Lessons from the Greatest Generation for online ebook

jgyweniverel says

My prayer...may we NEVER see another war, but if we should..may we never see the harsh atrocities that were shown on the innocent.

Gloria says

Two stories in one -- this is a story of a young man who interviews his grandfather about his WWII experience especially his time as a POW. It is also a story of a young man and his grandfather getting to know each other in a new way, and of the grandson caring for his grandfather through his serious illness. I liked the fact that the family history and the personal story were both included.

Karyn says

This story touched me on two levels- the resilience of a WWII POW and the the story of a grandson/grandfather. I shed many tears reading this- thinking of my own grandfather who was also a WWII veteran.

Rachel says

As I walked past the shelves of our library, the title caught my eye. Written by the grandson of a soldier from WWII, "My Grandfather's War" sounded intriguing. And it was, to an extent. Jesse Cozean tells the story of his grandpa's military experiences, including his capture by Axis enemies and the subsequent imprisonment in the POW camp Stalag IXB.

Chapters alternate between flashbacks of Mr. Cozean Sr.'s POW days and the more modern battle he faced: numerous risky surgeries for a faulty heart (that prove to be just as challenging physically as his battle imprisonment).

I was sadly disappointed by Jesse's perspective on his grandfather. Like so many soldiers returning from the horrors of war, Mr. Cozean Sr. didn't discuss his military action in an attempt to forget the pain. But when the veteran finally begins opening up, Jesse's initial response is typical of a modern American: don't care, don't tell me ("the old guy's just rambling on about his boring life way back in the dark ages").

Presented with more facts, Jesse becomes slightly more receptive to his grandfather's stories. Overall, it's an interesting account of a soldier who dealt with awful conditions in the War yet managed to survive. I was very saddened by Jesse's self-absorption and disrespect. It became very apparent from the first chapter that the author didn't have a real, true relationship with either his parents or grandparents, which is a shame.

Michael Hebler says

Before I begin singing praises for *My Grandfather's War*, I must come clean on two facts: a) being an author as well, it had been my intention to write a very, very similar book years ago about my grandfather's time in World War II as the bottom turret operator of a B-17 Fortress during the Pacific side of the war; and b) (and this is probably something more people could relate to) what it's like to be a caregiver for an ailing family member - the responsibility, the pressure, the fatigue, the time away from work, friends, and the simple pleasures in life we tend to take for granted (something vaguely comparable to being a prisoner of war).

Author Cozean hits the nail on the head with every word, right down to the brief moments of honest, yet silent, thoughts he allows himself to have before trudging on as a caregiver, heroically. I believe *My Grandfather's War* is a better book than anything I planned on writing if given the chance before my grandfather unexpectedly passed, because where I already had a solid and open relationship with my grandpa, Cozean not only takes a self-discovering journey in this memoir of the immense responsibility bestowed onto him during his "Papa's" recovery but builds a deeper and loving relationship with him that is just as intriguing as the stories of his grandfather's time being the Nazi's POW.

Filled with moments of grief, empathy, and humor, there is a little bit of everything in *My Grandfather's War*. For this reader, each transition moved seamlessly from one moment to the next, but what I especially liked most was the interludes into our nation's history and the retelling of America's involvement in World War II - brief, yet very important information in understanding the background and reasoning behind the motivation, influence, and abuse by all sides. In all honesty, I think I may have learned more about this devastating war in these 200 pages than I had during my 11th grade World History class - and then some - which was more enjoyable this time around because Cozean made sure the information was an exciting and intriguing read.

Finally, I could not agree more with the subtitle, which reads: "A Young Man's Lessons from the Greatest Generation". Even before reading *My Grandfather's War*, it had amazed me what our grandparent's generation accomplished and endured at their young age, and I wonder if our current generation would be capable of the same if put in the same war... a question similarly posed to Jesse by his Papa, and I believe answered honestly.

I look forward to more by this author in the future.
