



The Great American Love Story of George and Barbara Bush

Ellie Leblond Sosa , Kelly Anne Chase

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Ellie LeBlond Sosa has fond memories of summers spent at her grandparents' Kennebunkport, Maine home. Though that home is a heavily protected compound and her grandparents are George and Barbara Bush, life at the Bush family home was not that different from most American families, with football and tennis matches, taco Tuesdays, and holiday gatherings. The Bushes always made a deliberate effort to connect and be involved with their small Maine community, attending church, going for walks, watching parades, and they have become beloved members of that community. In this highly readable biography, Sosa and co-author Kelly Anne Chase explore the enduring relationship of George and Barbara Bush. From its heady beginnings at the outbreak of World War II, through his time in the Navy and his long career of service, they trace the Bushes' 75-year love affair. Sharing intimate interviews with the Bushes and family friends, this is a never-before-seen look into the private life of a very public couple.

The Great American Love Story of George and Barbara Bush Details

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From Reader Review The Great American Love Story of George and Barbara Bush for online ebook

Sharon says

I listened to this book on audible.com. The narrator did a great job.

This was fast moving. Really didn't spend a whole lot of time on the politics portion of his life, for which I was grateful.

Written by one of their grandchildren telling their love story.

I do not care for the nickname George had for Barbara...."Barr". Got really tired of hearing it too.

Particularly sad as it neared the very end since they are both no longer living.

Anne says

I've read a lot of books about George and Barbara Bush. While this book does not offer a lot of new information in the telling of their love story, it does offer A LOT of new pictures. In addition, the personal insights offered by their granddaughter are something special. Both of these make it worth revisiting their great lives together.

Aryssa says

I'm not crying, you're crying.

Eileen says

Written by their granddaughter, Ellie, this book offered a special window into the lives of the famous couple! The strength of their love is evident throughout. I was struck by the excerpts from George's letters. He wrote to Barbara often, repeatedly expressing his devotion and reminding himself how lucky he was! He seemed to write prolifically to various family members also – his mother, as well as the kids and grandchildren.

I loved reading about how they met, and how the attraction was apparently instantaneous! It seems like such an innocent time, looking back. The war years and the loneliness of the long separations fascinated me, as my parents, too, fell in love and married during that time. Both George and Barbara seemed to have such a positive energy about them!

The book contained numerous black and white photos, along with letters which said so much so beautifully! I feel as though I know them a bit, and the aspects which came through are their warmth, the strong sense of family, and the importance of humor in their lives! In fact, Barbara is quoted on the back cover as saying that one of the reasons she married George was that he made her laugh!

The way they conducted themselves following the devastating defeat, when George failed to win reelection to the presidency, speaks volumes, and one cannot help but contrast that to the tone of today's politics.

‘Humble in victory, gracious in defeat, went the mantra in the Bush home’. Barbara’s comment at the time shows her strength: ‘You know, I’m not one who looks back. I just say how lucky I was to have been there’. Through the snippets of his letters to various loved ones, one realizes what a sensitive, caring man George was, and how great was his depth of feeling. Several years ago, I read *The Residence*, by Kate Brower. I remember being fascinated by the author’s revelation that, in recent times, George and Barbara Bush were the presidential couple most beloved by the White House staff. Considering that they were both born to a life of privilege, that seemed noteworthy! The book isn’t long, less than two hundred pages, but it is rich indeed!

Amy says

A very quick and pleasant read! The longevity of their love story is inspiring and encouraging. The addition of “real life” letters in the book was an added bonus to the reader. I especially enjoyed the letters marking their courtship and engagement during WWII. Equally as precious are the war letters George writes his mother whom he undoubtedly felt close with and missed greatly.

Caitlin says

A beautiful "all American" love story.

This is a touching story of two people who fell in love, stayed in love, and built a legacy even though the odds were stacked against them. You don't see many public figures who have strong marriages, which might be why this love story is so touching. Poppy & Bar Bush navigated a changing world, public service, politics, the media, family tragedy, and 12 years in the White House...all by holding each other's hands and staying true to the vows they had made to each other.

Val says

I had this book in mind to read in 2019, but with the passing of George H.W. Bush I moved up my timetable to honor him and his beloved Barbara. I consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be around the Bush family years ago and to see firsthand the genuine loving relationship this touching book brings to life through letters. If it's possible, George H.W. loved Barbara even more than these letters demonstrate. That love was an anchor to all of their children and grandchildren and it is reflected in how they treat their spouses as well. I also had the opportunity many years ago to work for a time around the author and her family when she was in her teens, so to read her personal comments about her grandparents added a special dimension to my enjoyment of this book.

I will always consider George H.W. Bush to be one of the kindest people I've ever met in my professional life, and it has always bothered me that most celebrities and news media mock him and portray him without the dignity and decency that he always bestowed on others. He was one of our most underrated presidents and deserves a more impartial assessment of his contributions than historians have given thus far. The letters published in this book add to our knowledge of George H.W. and his times, his feelings about Barbara, his inner-most thoughts and fear, his innate goodness of heart, and the kind of character we should all want in the most powerful position in our government.

This book was the perfect read at the time of his passing and funeral, but it also fills a niche for books about couples who only grow deeper in their love even as their roles in the world expand and public scrutiny swirls around them. No couple is perfect, and these letters won't portray them as such, but the letters do illustrate why this couple was perfect - for each other, and what held them together through a long period of our nation's history. I know they are together and happy now, continuing the genuine affection they showed in this life. I rated this 5 stars because the book is filled with wholesome goodness and is a relationship story worth telling.

Jen says

This book was inspiring in showcasing their love, devotion, and commitment to each other (and their family)- especially throughout times of separation due to the military and their support of each other throughout politics.

Everything I have heard about George and Barbara Bush throughout their funerals has increased my respect for them and my interest in wanting to learn more. As part of their funerals were held at my church and they could have been considered neighbors, they have become that much more interesting to me. This book was an enjoyable overall summary of their life together.

Alisa Luciano says

What a fantastic and personal perspective on the love of a couple who have lived and lead and loved well. I've read a number of biographies on the Bushes since April when Mrs. Bush passed away, but there is definitely something special and touching about this one. I enjoyed the unique perspective that Ellie Sosa adds with her notes about her grandparents and the unassuming manner with which the Bush grandchildren seem to carry themselves, obviously a legacy of the humble leaders who taught them well. This is a great read and I definitely enjoyed it.

Deborah Martinez says

What a beautiful love story told by their granddaughter, Ellie! The numerous pictures and handwritten letters were heartfelt and just truly amazing to me! A great way for me to bring my 2018 reading to a close with a happy ending!

Patsy Crawford says

LOVED THIS BOOK!! After President George H.W. Bush's funeral one week ago, I knew I knew that they lived in Texas, but I didn't know why? I knew just enough to be curious about the "REST OF THE STORY". I started the book about 7 or 8pm and finished about 11ish and went on to read the next President Bush book that I had purchased. Oh how I loved every story, every note, every detail of this love story. The Prince and the Princess. They both were genuine, well-mannered, good citizens of the United States of America and the whole, wide world.

We are all better Americans for many of the issues that the Bush family took care of. I felt blessed all day today after reading these two books.

Mr. Gottshalk says

When President Bush died, I wanted to know more about his life outside of his presidency. I did not want to read a 500 page biography, though. This is a well-written account charting the relationship of George and Barbara. They met on a dance floor when they were teenagers and the rest is history. I enjoyed all the letters and photos of the Bushes through the years.

Doris Herrmann says

This is such a sweet book. The story of two people who fell in love, this Great American Love Story just happens to be about a former president and his adoring wife. Much of what is in the book came from The Bush library, so there were no surprises, but I loved hearing the stories from the point of view of one of their grandchildren.

If you love presidential history or a great love story, this is for you!

Jennifer Novak says

What a wonderful love story. No matter your political views, there is no doubt that George & Barbara Bush were lovely people so devoted to one another and to their family. I loved reading the letters and journal entries by each. One can only hope for such a loving supportive relationship such as theirs.

Susan says

Enjoyed reading the nostalgic political life of George, and Barbara Bush. I wasn't interested in their romantic life when they were young. Though, it was fascinating. It didn't grab me as much as their political life. I enjoyed reading their letters to each other, and their love shines through. Also reading their letters especially the Pres. to their children. How much even in his busy life. He had time to write how he felt about his children. And had the time to play on their level. He, and Barbara are a time past in our political life has changed. The times they shared I with themselves, their children, and grandchildren, in Texas, the WH, in Kennebuckport, Maine is timeless. This is a love letter from their grand daughter to her grandparents. Given to her parents, and Bush family, and to the people of the United States of America. What a fine couple that will never be forgotten. A grand tribute to Barbara, and George H. Bush.
