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Television reporter Susan Allison is looking for the perfect story about true love, yet she doubts where such a thing really exists, Neil Thomas, Jr. wants to share his parents' bittersweet love story with the world. On February 14, 1944, Caroline Thomas said good-bye to her beloved husband, a Navy pilot sent to the Pacific. For fifty year, she waited for him--until a miracle happened, and she received his last valentine. In the present day, when Susan and Neil meet, can the story of Neil's parents bring them together in a love as powerful as she dreams of and he remembers?

The Last Valentine Details

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From Reader Review The Last Valentine for online ebook

Jacki Combs says

The Last Valentine was overall a good book. Not great, not bad just good. First of all it was slow, so if you're looking for a suspenseful action-y book this isn't it. It was also predictable. By the second chapter I knew the two main characters would end up falling in love and living happily ever after. But- that is the sort of book that I enjoy so I liked it. It was an easy read, I got through it without a problem and I never dreaded reading it but I never encountered a time where I couldn't put it down. It gave some good historical information about WW1 while incorporating not one but two love stories. I liked that the book was told from two different time periods, it made it a little more interesting, gave some different insight into what was happening, and made it easier to understand the families history. The characters were easy to love, as they all had great personalities. So overall, I recommend this book- but if and only if it is the type of book you're looking for (a beach read chick-flick), as I feel that is the only way a person can enjoy it.

Lauren says

It was kind of like "The Notebook" it was such a sweet short story. There was a hallmark movie based off this book starring Betty White as Caroline Thomas (older) and Jennifer Love Hewitt as Susan. The movie as per usual took some allowances and changed some of the stuff from the book but it was really good. I liked the book a lot, this is the first book I have ever read by this particular author. He's kind of like a Nicholas Sparks and James Patterson (Suzanne's Diary For Nicholas) and maybe even a touch of Nicholas Evans. I like these kind of stories. Especially since I don't like romances with any "R" rated material. It maybe fine for the movies, but I don't necessarily want to read about that stuff. It just has to fit really well in the story to make it work and not really have me care. But reading for once a nice clean romance was just what I needed for the month of Feb. This would even be a perfect valentine's day gift for a reader.

Lindy says

A very sweet story with lots of romance and a bit of history and action too. I need to watch the movie now.

Lisa says

I'm a cheesy kind of girl, but this book was a bit too cheesy, even for me. ;) Still, it was a nice, quick read, with a good message about love. 3.5 stars.

I'm looking forward to watching the movie now.

Update 3/25/11:

I just watched the movie, which was a real tear jerker. I'm glad I read the book before seeing the movie. While I liked the book, I definitely thought the movie was better. There were some major differences between the two, and I liked certain elements of both. Good story.

Sarah Sammis says

Twoo wuv, the bread and butter of romance and inspirational fictional. Where would we be without that first moment of two strangers realizing they are soul mates. Now add put in a war to keep the lovers apart from their happily ever after and you either get a tragedy or you get schmaltz. The Last Valentine by James Michael Pratt is the latter.

February 14, 1944 Caroline Thomas says goodbye to her husband as he ships off the Pacific. They last embrace at Union Station in Los Angeles and he promises to be back in a year. Every year after that Caroline goes to the station to wait even though there is no evidence that he has survived the war. In the present, Caroline's son from that very short marriage tells this story of eternal love to a local television reporter and together they witness the miraculous return of the missing husband. Because of course twoo wuv transcends everything.

The World War Two pieces of the book are interesting. As a historical novel, The Last Valentine is pretty good. The details are convincing and the coverage of the war has some dramatic moments. Likewise, the reporter's skeptical approach the son's story has some mystery and could have been fine by itself. The weaving of the two together with the over-wrought theme of true love didn't work for me.

If Caroline and Neil had known each other longer and been married longer their love for each other would have felt more real. Caroline's devotion to a husband she knew only for a few months doesn't explain why after fifty years of waiting she hasn't moved on with her life. I know that present day me with nearly two decades of shard experiences with my husband would be far more willing to wait for him to return if he disappeared than I would have been at the start of our relationship. For a better and more believable example of transcendent true love, read Persistence of Memory by J. M. Snyder.

Zinaida says

As far as fictional love stories go, this one left me in tears. While you don't really get to "know" Caroline or the other supporting characters I believe that Neil Sr. carries the story well. I was moved by Neil Sr.'s conclusion, such a great character, it hurt to part with him. I could've done without the second romance, it was rushed and unnecessary but overall it had a satisfying ending.

Cherry says

If you enjoy romance without the "R" rated stuff then you will appreciate this awesome love story. I so appreciate a author who doesn't need lewdness to sell romance, but can do it tenderly. If you are a romantic you can't help but love this story. I would completely trust Michael Pratt when I was in the mood to read romance.

Cherylann says

Well, most of my friends (the three active ones I have) would have been surprised to even see this book appear on my list. I feel inclined to explain myself:

My creative writing professor/mentor had given me a constructive criticism about my writing, well more about me as a person. "Cherylann, you have one problem: You are allergic to sentimentality."

What I wanted to say was, "So?" but if this lack of emotion was negatively affecting my writing, I couldn't afford to just ignore it. As much as I'd like to say I have reached my ultimate potential in creative writing, I really can't. I also respect/adore my mentor, so instead of "So?" I said, "How can I fix it?"

She had a rather odd assignment for me: Read a sappy romance novel. I was picturing the books in the romantic section of Borders (R.I.P) with the women in clingy nightgowns and the half naked glistening centaur-men on the cover. She quickly clarified that she meant a "sweet" novel, not an erotic one.

Well, this book was the sappiest looking one I could find. It has some old looking love letters with a thornless rose covering them on the cover. The contents of the book were no more promising than the cover. The characters were utterly inhuman, every situation more cliché than the next. The parallel love stories just about threw me over the edge. Not only was the plot boring, I didn't even care what happened to the characters. Unfortunately I cannot stop reading a book once I have started, a "virtue" my 4th grade teacher Mr. Ito instilled in me at an early age. Once I reached the last scene, the whole "going into the light" one I actually had to put it away for a few minutes, literally put it out of my sight, The only consolation was I didn't waste money buying this book, I checked it out from the library.

I may be allergic to sentimentality; however if there is any caring in my cold, black heart, this certainly was not the book that could squeeze it out of me. In order to become sentimental about a character, that character has to be somewhat real. These characters were stagnant and typical. I probably would have been better off with the centaurs.

Katherine Kouklinou says

"I love you isn't good enough- Not for you Caroline."

A beautifully written story that has a lot to teach you!

Full of important messages, poems, quotes...

Loving, strong and true characters that you'll fall in love with from the first page!!

I love both the book and the movie!!

"Once in a while, our thoughts drift and fade, back into the recessed hiding places where our memories are stored. At times we recall them- the memories of our loves, our youths, our life experiences. These dreams appear to us, and for seconds, minutes, or hours we are there once again."

Even roses have thorns!

If i had a boyfriend like Neil Thomas... I think i would be forever happy!!

Happy reading and.... don't forget ...

"Tis better to have loved and lost

Than never to have loved at all."

Corinne says

I loved this book. It is a great World War II Love story. Like it had been said before, "It transports you back in time to the events and helps you immerse yourself into its emotions of the story."

This book has so many great quotes throughout, I had to write them down so I won't ever forget them.

Carolina says

Demasiado sentimentalismo en este libro!No es mi gusto y no tiene una secuencia (eso me vuelve loca)... A parte de que no me gustan las historias de Guerras... La canción de este libro sería: "Mi amor se fue a la guerra, que dolor que dolor que pena, mi amor se fue a la guerra y no se cuando vendra..."

Pero aún así no descartaría ver la movie =)

Crystal says

One of my favorite books. A love story that stands the test of time. Set between modern day and WWII, Pratt weaves an intricate tale of love, loss and the redeemable value of hope. the film was good also but the book was much better.

Buggy says

Opening Line: *"It had been exactly fifty years since she'd seen him."*

This was just the perfect Valentine's Day read. In the style of (The Notebook), a heartbreaker with flashbacks to the second World War, religious undertones and a love story that knows no bounds.

Betty White starred in the Hallmark movie version of this which is how I first became aware of the story. I liked the book even better though, even if it did jump around a lot with different time periods and up to 10 POV's including some very minor secondary characters. The battle scenes from the Philipians were particularly well done.

As well as the main 1940's war time romance we're also given a modern day older man/younger woman second chance romance (as the son of our couple tells his parents love story to a TV reporter) I enjoyed it equally as much.

The Last Valentine is just an all-round, beautiful, albeit bittersweet love story that left me believing in magic, requiring some tissues and unable to forget. Cheers ~4.5~
350jb45

Barbara Peters says

this is a great book filled with inspiration and good values. It is also a tear jerker, but well worth reading

Mirasol Quisto says

I already saw the movie before I read the book. And what can I say, both made me teary-eyed :P

Though the story is quite similar to "The Notebook", I like it because they have part where they mentioned Philippines and they have Filipino guerrillas cast involved which made me think of reading more about the Pacific War during World War II. Kinda bias about my comment but I really liked the story of the book. :)
