



The Hours After: Letters of Love and Longing in War's Aftermath

Gerda Weissmann Klein , Kurt Klein

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Hours After: Letters of Love and Longing in War's Aftermath

Gerda Weissmann Klein , Kurt Klein

The Hours After: Letters of Love and Longing in War's Aftermath Gerda Weissmann Klein , Kurt Klein
The love letters of Gerda and Kurt Klein, revealing one of the greatest love stories ever told. Over fifty years ago, Gerda Weissmann was barely alive at the end of a 350-mile death march that took her from a slave labor camp in Germany to the Czech border. On May 7, 1945, the American military stormed the area, and the first soldier to approach Gerda was Kurt Klein. She guided him to her fellow prisoners who lay sick and dying on the ground, and quoted Goethe: "Noble be man, merciful and good." Perhaps it was her irony, her composure, her evident compassion in the face of tragedy, that struck Kurt Klein. A great love had begun. Forced to separate just weeks after liberation and hours after their engagement, Gerda and Kurt began a correspondence that lasted until their reunion and wedding in Paris a year later. Their poignant letters reflect upon the horrors of war and genocide, but above all, upon the rapture and salvation of true love.

The Hours After: Letters of Love and Longing in War's Aftermath Details

Date : Published February 19th 2000 by St. Martin's Press

ISBN : 9780312242589

Author : Gerda Weissmann Klein , Kurt Klein

Format : Hardcover 288 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, World War II, Holocaust, History, Romance, Autobiography, Memoir, Biography

 [Download The Hours After: Letters of Love and Longing in War ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Hours After: Letters of Love and Longing in War&# ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Hours After: Letters of Love and Longing in War's Aftermath
Gerda Weissmann Klein , Kurt Klein

From Reader Review *The Hours After: Letters of Love and Longing in War's Aftermath* for online ebook

Kari says

Amazing true letters by two heroes. They are so descriptive, intelligent, and romantic. I enjoyed them, but didn't feel the need to read more than the first ten or so.

Joe says

By the same author as *All But My Life*, this is a collection of letters between Gerda and Kurt during the months that they waited between their engagement and wedding. It was at times difficult to wade through so many letters, unlike reading a continuous narrative, but there are some really wonderful expressions of love and longing, poignant memories, and deeply meaningful insights based on their war experiences.

Michael Sciortino says

To be honest, I never actually finished it. From time to time I bring this book out and read a few of the letters sent between Mrs. Klein and her husband Kurt. Beautiful. I met Mrs. Klein during my Freshman year of college and I have to say that no amount of documentaries, movies, books can bring you to the reality of the horrible events during World War II. Her face told the story. You could catch a glimpse of the horrors she experienced. Any quarrel in your heart is humbled by the beautiful letters in this book and in Mrs. Klein's biography *All But My Life*...

Deena says

If you read *All But My Life*, you may want to read this one too, since it's the sequel. I'd recommend reading *All But My Life* Before reading this, because this one refers to incidents in the previous volume.

This is primarily letters Gerda and Kurt sent each other between his return to the U.S. at the end of the European part of WWII, and his arrival in Paris in June of the following year so they could marry. There are parts added in by each of them explaining some context and setting up the letters/separation, and those parts are quite helpful.

There's little direct Holocaust material here - it is indeed about the hours, days, months, after. But it is also by definition about the Holocaust since survival of years in ghettos and as a slave laborer for the Germans that created the situation Gerda was in. Although he had emigrated to the US just prior to the war, Kurt was also directly affected by the Holocaust, and the letters they write trace their psychological paths in the year following the end of the war. I am intentionally, if rather awkwardly, refusing to use the term "recovery" because there's no way a person "recovers" from such ordeals - they can only grow from there. The letters show both of them, but perhaps especially Gerda, as they start to grow after their experiences.

Some of the letters become a bit redundant as they fight bureaucracies in several countries - bureaucracies that are also being rebuilt and coping with the aftermath of war. On the whole, however, Kurt and Gerda did an excellent job of editing. The letters are arranged chronologically, which can be a bit confusing sometimes because they wrote to each other nearly every day, not waiting for responses. When there is a specific response it is to something that was written weeks previously. It is, however, the over-all picture that is important here, not the specific details.

This was well worth reading; I am only sorry that my copy of *All But My Life* is in a box somewhere, because I might have referred to it a time or two.

Aundreau says

it's good book.

Shelly Orenstein says

This book provides a wonderful view of Germany in the year following the war, at the same time chronicling an amazing personal journey. The difficulties in obtaining permission to emigrate following WWII were much greater than I knew. Gerda Klein has written a more extensive account of her life at home, in the ghetto, and finally in the camps following Germany's invasion of Poland that is also very much worth reading. Both books are ultimately hopeful about humanity and the healing power of love.

Joan says

Very good follow up to "All But My Life."

Caitlin says

A wonderful and bittersweet book about survival, healing and learning to live again. The letters written back from Gerda and Kurt were heartfelt and wonderful...I enjoyed every one and how Gerda matured from girl to woman I could see it in her letters. And on that note I think the art of writing letters has died but reading this book brought it back to life for me. If you want a good book of letters this is it!

Gina says

I am a huge fan of Gerda Weissmann Klein- as a Holocaust survivor and human rights activist, she has shared her story in both her book, *All But My Life* and the documentary, *One Survivor Remembers*. This particular book, *The Hours After*, is a series of letters she and her future husband wrote to each other after he

saved her from the camps and had to return to America. It shows their struggle through political red tape to find a way to be together; with the piles of paperwork, lack of documentation, and each country's slow moving forces to grant permission to this displaced person, her journey out of the camps and into her new life was long and complicated.

Renee says

No one writes love letter like this anymore. The details of these two trying to come together again after the war take away from the read, but this was my favorite part of the book:

"I have found that for me the meaning of life was not gained at a summit, whatever the achievement might be. Summits tend to be windy, cold, and lonely. Nor have I found the answer to the meaning of life in the abyss of hunger, abuse and pain. The crest of my dreams during the years of slavery in the camps were thoughts of an evening at home with my family. That vision has served me well. No matter how enviable or luxurious my surroundings as a visitor, there is always that ever-present yearning of wanting to go home, a feeling that has never disappointed me."

Madison schwartz says

The hours I read

The Hours After is not like the other Holocaust books I have read. This one focuses more on the story of the survivors and not on what happened in the end. This story is of a liberator and the and one of the people he liberated. This book is composed of the letters that these two wrote to each other. Although you do find your self wondering threw the book what might have been lost in the translations since these letters we first written in German. Other than that this book is fairly easy to fallow but the 35 intro(prologue) is a little tough to get threw. I in between letter explaining what is going on and has happen in the war.

The beginning of the story starts you off with a clear view of the future and what has happens two them so it is a little harder to focus on the story. like when the kurt perposes its hard to be exited about it but if it had been just that and i didn't know about it from the start i would be a lot happier.

I like the structure of the story. I always like books that are written in letter. this book is even better because it was real letters. I Believe that in letters most people share a little part of there souls. This is because they expect the reader to be the only one reading the letter so they feel that they can be open.

the other part i like is the explanation of what has happen in time between some letters. With this i feel fully involved in the life and how there feeling have changed. How there lives are going and where they are. It's like a prologue in the story.

So the fact that this story is a good combination of elements. There is interesting writing, cleaver ways to get information to the readers, and makes you think how fate put these two together. This story is refreshing its a good outcome of a bad event. I would say that this book is a 3 out of 5 stars. I like it but not as much as some other stories but it is mostly good. yes it's a good stories just with a few dull moments.

Jessica says

That was beautiful. Thank you for sharing your story.

Juneus says

One would think that the exchange of so many letters written so close together would bore one to death. This is not the case. Each letter had much the same as others and at the same time so much of value that made each worthwhile. I had one troubling thought that followed me throughout the book. I wondered if Shirley Temple Black had read this book. I know she must be aware of the wonderful effect her persona has had on the world; but to have the joy her picture brought to a 15 year old Jewish girl in Germany in 1939 whose life was on the edge of such an evil turn and not to be aware of it seemed to me to be almost a sin. I hope that somehow before she dies she learns of this passage in the book, my movie idol Shirleika!

Karen Jones says

Nice follow-up to All But My Life. Very sweet.

Brittany says

I was luck to have a change to meet Ms Gerda Weissmann Klein. She is the sweet women. Everyone has to read her books.
