

With Love, Wherever You Are

Dandi Daley Mackall

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Everyone knows that war romances never last . . .

After a whirlwind romance and wedding, Helen Eberhart Daley, an army nurse, and Lieutenant Frank Daley, M.D. are sent to the front lines of Europe with only letters to connect them for months at a time.

Surrounded by danger and desperately wounded patients, they soon find that only the war seems real—and their marriage more and more like a distant dream. If they make it through the war, will their marriage survive?

Based on the incredible true love story, *With Love, Wherever You Are* is an adult novel from beloved children's author Dandi Daley Mackall.

With Love, Wherever You Are Details

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Author : Dandi Daley Mackall

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From Reader Review With Love, Wherever You Are for online ebook

Robin Hatcher says

Dandi Daley Mackall's *With Love, Wherever You Are* is a stirring and emotional WWII novel. I became invested in the characters, seeing the war through their eyes and circumstances. I smiled often, and more than once, I cried. Already I miss spending time with Frank and Helen and the doctors, nurses, and patients who surrounded them, all of them ordinary people thrown into extraordinary and often painful circumstances. Put this novel on your Must Read list for 2017.

— Robin Lee Hatcher, RITA and Christy Award winning author of *You'll Think of Me* and *Keeper of the Stars*

Renee says

Loved this sweet love story about Helen, an army nurse & Frank, an army doctor, who meet while serving soldiers during World War II. I enjoyed their adventures, getting lost in the time period, and the letters sprinkled throughout the story. I think just about every scene where Helen interacts with wounded soldier boys made me cry—or at least brought tears!

Helen & Frank's compassion, faith & sacrifice are truly inspiring. I'm so glad that this book is based on their true story because these two selfless heroes deserved a real-life happy ending!

Reading Dandi Daley Mackall's novel took me back to many happy childhood hours spent devouring the Cherry Ames & Sue Barton books—two series about nurses that were popular with tween girls in the 60s & 70s.

For me, this was a 5-Star read!

Amy says

With Love, Wherever You Are is based on a true love story of newlyweds, Helen Eberhart Daley and Frank Daley. They find themselves separated when they are sent to Europe during World War II. Helen works as an army nurse and Frank is an army lieutenant and a doctor. The two are only able to connect through their letters to one another. Between the distance and danger will their marriage make it through the war?

I thought *With Love, Wherever You Are* to be a pretty good read. I felt like I was transported back to the World War II in Europe and the emotions the nurses and doctors must have went through treating the wounded. I love reading Helen and Frank's letters. So heartbreaking and emotional at times and sweet and tender at others.

I would definitely rate this book 5 stars and believe it to be a must read.

I received this book from Netgalley.com, but was not required to write a review. This review is 100% my own honest opinion.

Staci says

What a sweet love story based upon letters sent between the author's parents during WWII.

While I enjoyed the entire novel, I especially liked the section of the book when Helen and Frank first met and were serving at the same stateside hospital. My heart melted at the kindness they each showed to the patients, especially the three friends.

The author did a nice job of weaving historical details and bits of humor throughout the novel. Well done!

Dawn says

I admit it. I'm a sucker for wartime romances. This one caught me immediately. Because it's based on the author's parent's love story. I loved everything about this book. Both Frank and Helen were well written. My heart rejoiced and broke for them as they navigated a war separated marriage. I also really enjoyed the secondary characters. Their letters made me feel like I really knew these characters.

At the end of the book, the author, in her note, explains how she came to write her parents' story. I think that was probably my favorite part.

I loved this book.

I received a copy of the book from the publisher for free in order to share my honest opinions about this book. I was not compensated in any way. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Recommended to fans of WWII, historical fiction, Sarah Sundin

Rating - 5 stars

Melanie says

With Love, Wherever You Are was a really good romance. The story was a slower one, but I actually quite enjoyed it. The letters grew on me and I loved how it showcased how a relationship/marriage progressed beautifully. It was awesome to learn that the story was based on the author's parents' love story.

The book had some difficult scenes and I never knew how things were going to go. I felt bad for certain characters at times and the ending was unexpected (it happened to quickly; I wanted more!).

All in all, With Love, Wherever You Are was very good and I recommend it to fans of historical romance novels -- especially if you like WWII novels.

*Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention/review it on my blog. I was not required to give a positive review, only

my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own and I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.*"

Kav says

Imagine being entrusted with hundreds of your parents' love letters with the caveat that you can't read them until both mom and dad are gone. What a bittersweet moment that must have been when the author finally got to open that first letter. As she read of their wartime romance, creative juices started to flow and the result is the astounding fictional account of Frank and Helen love's story. And it is totally brilliant.

Be sure to read the author's note at the back of the book which includes the most spectacular pictures. There's one of Helen sitting on Frank's lap. She's smiling at the camera but he only has eyes for her. Besotted about sums him up -- in real life and the fictional one Mackall has created.

Just to be clear -- this isn't a biography -- from what I understand, the author used the letters and her parents' wartime service as inspiration. Only she knows fact from fiction but vivid first-hand details make this one outstanding novel. From the hospital scenes to the outrageous banter between nurse and patient to the infuriating actions of the army (I hope they've evolved since the 1940s!) an authentic period vibe rings true through the entire read.

I loved the format -- letters interspersed with actual scenes. Everything flowed together so well that I just couldn't put this book down. I wanted to savor every glorious moment of Frank and Helen's story. It was pretty much love at first sight for him. Not so much for her. Helen carries some wounds from childhood which makes her wary of love -- especially committing herself to marriage. But war sharpens emotions. There's conflict and tension, hope and despair, laughter and tears. In short -- the stuff real life is made of.

A magnificent, remarkable, glorious read!

Beth says

I really enjoyed this one! It was a bit slow at one point, but overall, a great read. I have so much respect for what these men and women did for their country, and this hit home even more so because it is based on the author's parents and their real letters. You can tell she put her heart and soul into this book, and it's an inspiring story. Full review to come.

Ann says

WITH LOVE, WHEREVER YOU ARE, by Dandi Daley Mackall

Helen Eberhart has aspired to be a nurse since she was a girl. When the attack on Pearl Harbor occurs, she decides to enlist as an Army nurse. While she is in training for a wartime assignment—she hopes in Europe, since she hates heat—she meets Frank Daley, a doctor who is undergoing basic training before being sent to a battlefield hospital—he hopes in the Pacific, because he hates being cold.

After their memorable first encounter, they begin a friendship which quickly blossoms into love. Despite the almost unanimous disapproval of their family and friends, Frank and Helen marry after a whirlwind courtship. First Frank, then Helen, are sent to separate duty stations in the heart of the European conflict. Beginning a marriage by correspondence—"With love, wherever you are"—forms the basis of this gripping novel. But the hospital scenes and wartime conditions are fully as much a part of the story as their romance. The realism of the situations they encounter in their separate fields of medicine left me with images I won't soon forget.

Based on a true love story, *With Love, Wherever You Are*, is an outstanding novel. I couldn't put it down. Readers who enjoy World War II-era fiction will want to put this one at the top of their list. It's not to be missed!

Elizabeth says

4.7 Stars

Helen Eberhart is a nurse in the military and Frank Daley is a Doctor. They both recently joined and are waiting any day to be shipped overseas. When their paths cross in Battle Creek, Michigan, their lives will never be the same. Falling fast in love in the middle of a crazy war and about to be separated for no one knows how long, Helen and Frank try to figure out how to make it work. The horrors of war mix with love in this novel, to create a story of Hope and Vivid pictures of the tragedy of World War Two

I really liked this book a lot. Helen and Frank's relationship was cute, and admirable. (Although i do think it moved really fast) At the beginning of the book I thought the pacing was a little too fast, but it evened out along the way. I liked most of the side characters, and in the back of the book i really liked the "Story behind the story" part.

I would have given this 5 stars if not for a few things I'll list below.

Content (Maybe mini-spoilers but i tried my hardest to bleep any spoilery information)

Swearing

I don't remember seeing any swear words at all.

Violence

This is a war book, and while they aren't on the frontline, they still see the horrors of war up close.

It does get pretty violent from time to time (at least from my perspective).

The thing that inspired a character to become a nurse is, one day they came home to their mother laying on the ground in the garden with blood everywhere, the character has to stop the bleeding until the doctor gets there.

In a letter addressed to a character, the writer is talking about the horrible things that the Japanese do/did to their prisoners in semi detail.

The Characters see the rubble of buildings that were bombed.

Later, other characters are on a train headed somewhere and see blood in the train car, (they are in a "cattle car" on a train previously owned by the Germans, which they Americans had confiscated) one of the characters says that it isn't a cattle car, and that isn't cow blood, that the Nazis would herd "impure races" into trains and crush them in until nobody can breathe. And if they were unlucky enough to live, they would be taken to camps and forced into slavery.

A character's friend, one night while walking, picked something off the side of the road. It was a bomb and blew off this person's fingers. There is a scene when they are doing the best they can to stop the bleeding, but it is really bad.

A character eventually ends up working right near the front line with soldiers freshly injured off the battlefield.

An enemy soldier is shot close up.

A hospital gets a truck full of newly released German prisoners, some badly injured.

2 Characters are hit by a grenade. (No, not Helen & Frank)

A few surgeries are performed throughout the book as well as emergency stuff

Sexual Content

This is kind of what got to me, and while I know it's a war romance I wasn't expecting certain things, which I'll get into below, and is why I can't give it a full five.

There are a bunch of kisses, which I expected.

What I didn't expect were these things...

Anderson is a side character in the book and is a cheater, a drunk, and a womanizer. He makes a few sexual jokes throughout the book. (I didn't really like his character)

There was a part that was just so randomly odd to me, when Helen watched Frank as "His arms moved steadily, and she could see the outline of his deltoids, pectorals, triceps, abdominals"

Now what I'm about to say is a medium spoiler, but you should kind of already know this because it is based on the author's parent.

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They get married. Now if the book just left the marriage scene right after they were married and went to the next chapter I'd be fine. But it was a little awkward for me to read about Helen coming out in the "skimpiest nightgown Frank had ever seen" and then how after he shut off a lamp he was "grateful the light shining through the window left him see every inch of his new wife"

The war separates them, but they find ways to get together again. Every time they do the author makes it clear that "Husband and Wifely duties must be performed" in no uncertain terms. Whether the author words it as "He and Helen talked and made love, slowly listening to the rain on the window" or "Right now, all she wanted to explore was her husband"

And there are a few other instances like these.

Those were the things that I kind of felt weird about reading.

Characters were also smoking and drinking throughout the book.

Quotes

"I believe that love is when you can see the two of you trudging through 30 or 40 years of life together, and I can see that even now. Love is when sexual relations are secondary to understanding, companionship, sense of humor. It's when you care more for someone than for yourself and are willing to trade your inconvenience for someone else's happiness"

"I once had a girl-her name was Nellie

She fell in the ocean-right up to her...

Knees*

*The poet apologizes for the fact that this poem does not rhyme because the water wasn't deep enough"

"Naomi says I must stop this fruitless, but draining activity called worry because worrying is a bit like telling

God He can't handle things. Mom used to say worry is always borrowed, usually from a future that won't even happen."

"I hate the time wasted in petty arguments and misunderstandings"

(There was also one other quote I wanted to include, but it contained a major spoiler so i couldn't)

Overall

I really did enjoy this book. I didn't mind that it took me longer than most books because it was well written and a wonderful story. I love that it is based on the Author's Parents. I love that it is based around WW2. I Would/Will definitely read this again, but maybe when I'm a little older, or after i married. It is worth the read.

Sarah Sundin says

Uplifting and endearing, *With Love, Wherever You Are* tells the real-life story of the romance between the author's parents. With spunk and humor, Frank and Helen navigate the hardships, loss, and dangers of war. Dandi Daley Mackall paints a sweet but accurate picture, and I was hooked. Thoroughly engaging!

Kimberly says

With Love, Wherever You Are, written by Dandi Daley Mackall, is a historical romance set in WWII. The story is based off love letters written by her parents.

Helen Eberhart joined the Army as a nurse after Pearl Harbor. She is given the assignment of caring for severely wounded soldiers.

Frank Daley joined so he could finish medical school. He was hoping that he would not have to face battle. However, he ends up going to bootcamp and then to Europe to serve in a battlefield hospital. While serving the two met. The couple encountered love, faith and sacrifices as they had a whirlwind courtship and wedding. Then while serving the two had to cling to the thread of their love as they faced the dangers and struggle of taking care of their patients.

The author was able to make this couple come alive as she took the letters and was able to show the love this couple had as they faced uncertainty from the beginning. You can tell the love Dandi has for these two as she creates strong, yet loving characterizations of Frank and Helen. This is a well-written romance that touches the heart of the reader.

I was given this book by Tyndale Publishing in exchange for my honest review.

Kelly Bridgewater says

of my favorite two fiction genres to read is World War II. The second is mysteries, suspense, and thrillers. World War II grips my imagination because of the heroic men, women, and boys of the 1940's. I enjoy how

they didn't think twice about lying about their age or enlisting to defend our country. It is hard to believe that it has only been a little over seventy years since World War II, and America's values has gone so far south that there really isn't values anymore. The heroines of World War II wouldn't even recognize our country anymore. With a World War II novel, I expect to be taken through a number of war-torn countries with characters who are fighting horrible odds.

In Dandi Daley MacKall's debut adult novel, *With Love, Wherever You Are*, she has taken the liberty of recreating her parents' World War II adventures and love affair and making it come to reality of me. The story is written in a normal prose pattern to show the action between Helen and Frank, but there are authentic letters from MacKall's parents thrown in to show the emotions and true conflict these two were pressed up against. The novel begins around Easter in 1944 and ends right after the Japanese surrender in the middle of August 1945. The pace of the novel seemed long-winded. This was a 460 page novel, so it is a lot longer than most stories, which I don't mind if they're written well. MacKall had a lot of repeated scenes, so the novel appeared to move slowly for me.

The writing was clear and concise, allowing me to follow the war marriage between Helen and Frank. The letters enhanced the story, bringing the characters to life. I can't imagine all the research and the numerous drafts that MacKall had to go through to bring justice to her parents' love story. I'm sure it was plenty. It is hard enough to bring history to life when writing a story that I don't have an emotional attachment to. This story was her parents' story.

I enjoyed spending time with Helen and Frank. They were truly heroes of this generation. They didn't think about themselves until they found someone they wanted to spend the rest of their lives with. Helen was a take charge nurse who thought of her patients and wanted the best for them. Frank, on the other hand, worked really close to the enemies' lines and MacKall didn't have him complain once, knowing he could die at any moment. Even though MacKall was trying to recreate her parents, I think both characters were static. Neither one of them had a character transformation through the novel. There was mention of God, but I really didn't know where either character stood in their relationship with God in the whole story.

While I admire MacKall for wanting to bring her parents' love story to life with all the research she did, I believe the story should have been shorter with more meat to the made-up characters. As an avid reader of World War II novels, I wanted more.

I could be the only one that feels this way too. I think fans of World War II romances could pick up this book and think I'm crazy, wanting to read more of *With Love, Wherever You Are*. That's okay too. We all have our own opinions.

I received a complimentary copy of Dandi Daley MacKall's *With Love, Wherever You Are* from Tyndale Publishing, and the opinions stated are all my own.

Karen R says

A lovely WW2 romance based on the author's own parents' story, told mainly through correspondence. The narrative between the letters is well-written, filling in the story, giving a perspective from both Helen and Frank, with a touch of humor sometimes. Their frustrations of being separated, determination to find a way to see each other, and remain loyal to their vows, is conveyed well. Their love story is a bright contrast to the daily challenges they face as Army medical personnel, and the ugly reality of war that surrounds them. Faith,

hope and love shine through the darkness that they face. I couldn't rest until I found out how it ended for them, and their siblings too. I really liked the added index with details of the real people, including pictures and actual letters, plus the author's personal account.

Highly recommend for mature readers who enjoy an authentic romance tale set in wartime.

(An e-book was provided by NetGalley and the publisher. All opinions are my own.)

Michelle says

I always love stories about real life happenings. This book was created from a trunk of letters that Dandi Daley Mackall read through after her parents passed. How neat to create the lives of your parents from old stories and letters! This book is fiction but there are letters included and it really wraps the whole story up nicely. You are taken to the middle of war after Pearl Harbor and you get to see two different sides on what all goes on. I thought this was a well written book. At times it was a bit slow for me, but I still enjoyed it!

Four stars.

"I received this book from Tyndale Publishers for free. All opinions are my own."
