

I Love a Man in Uniform: A Memoir of Love, War, and Other Battles

By Lily Burana

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I Love a Man in Uniform: A Memoir of Love, War, and Other Battles By Lily Burana

An all-American love story about a former punk-rock stripper and her unlikely marriage to an officer in the U.S. Army.

In this brave, eloquent, and often funny memoir, critically acclaimed author Lily Burana writes about love, war, and the realities of military marriage with an honesty few writers would dare.

A former exotic dancer who once had a penchant for anarchist politics and purple hair dye, Lily's rebellious past never would have suggested a marriage into the military. But then she met Mike, a Military Intelligence officer, and fell hopelessly in love, resulting in a most unorthodox romance-poignant, passionate, and utterly unpredictable.

After Lily and Mike said "I do" in a brief, pre-deployment City Hall ceremony, Mike left for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Lily was left in a strange town to endure his absence alone, with no support system and little knowledge of the vast and confusing military world into which she had married.

Upon Mike's return from the war, the couple moved to historic West Point, where Lily found that life on base had its own challenges. As the war continued and the past intruded unexpectedly into the present, Lily and Mike found themselves plunged into the nightmare of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Struggling to cope in a community where admitting weakness is the ultimate tabooand "suck it up" is the suggested response to emotional pain, Lily suffered from depression so severe, it almost ended their marriage. With the help of a revolutionary therapeutic technique, the couple made their way out of the darkness and back to each other. Through it all, Lily wrangled with her preconceptions about the military and found her place within the uniquely supportive sisterhood of military wives.

From harrowing emotion to the dishy details of life on base, Lily Burana bares her heart and soul as a modern military spouse. I Love a Man in Uniform is a profoundly moving story of how a woman can locate, and heal, her true self as a dedicated Army wife, free spirit, and freedom-loving American.

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I Love a Man in Uniform: A Memoir of Love, War, and Other Battles By Lily Burana Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2464073 in Books
- Published on: 2009-04-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 1.25" w x 6.50" l, 1.05 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 368 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
A former stripper, Burana (*Strip City*) married a major in the U.S. Army and records, in this heartfelt though long-winded confessional, her attempts to render their two very different worlds compatible. Burana enjoyed a decidedly checkered past, from accidental teenage communist to peep-show girl and stripper in New York and San Francisco (she fondly recalls her *Playboy* shoot), before meeting Major Mike at a ceremony in a Brooklyn cemetery in 2000. She was attracted by his sense of order and honor, even charmed by his military jargon, while he admired her rebelliousness, though these same qualities would challenge their relationship over time. Living together in a condo near Fort Meade, Fla., where Mike was stationed, segued into a quick marriage (she called herself a War on Terror bride), before he was deployed to Iraq for six months in 2003, creating for her a painful personal trial of waiting and self-discipline. Their move to West Point underscored her new role as military wife, and she embarked on a gloomy, unstable period of psychological turmoil requiring therapy and medication for her own brand of post-traumatic stress disorder. Marriage counseling worked for them, bucking the high divorce rate within the armed forces, and Burana concludes her memoir on a positive note, having made peace with the army's fallibility and found her own place in it. *(Apr.)*
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From Booklist
Starred Review What’s a woman like me doing in a place like this? That’s the question former punk-rock stripper and Playboy pinup Burana ponders many times after marrying Major Mike, a military intelligence officer and professor at West Point. This disarming memoir recounts the couple’s unlikely courtship (they met in a cemetery) and Burana’s perpetually arduous adjustment to life as a military wife. The challenges for the two came hard and fast. Seemingly moments after they were married, Mike was deployed to Iraq. Burana found herself lonely and alone, living among women who baked cookies, coddled toddlers, and generally toed the line. Mike returned from war quiet and withdrawn, but soon everything was fine again—or so they thought. Then Mike started feeling the effects of his harrowing ordeals overseas just as Burana began grappling with memories of an abusive childhood. The emotional battles they faced nearly brought them down, but the two soldiered on, determined to repair lives fractured by a brutal war and a painful past. Burana (Strip City, 2001) writes with bracing honesty and wit. Of keeping company with West Point wives, she writes: “Mostly . . . it seemed to me like a supportive sorority. But sometimes, it was like Mean Girls with lawn ornaments.” --Allison Block

Review
""A humorous, moving and surprising account of married life in today's military... {Burana's] details elevate this honest and touching personal memoir into a notable historical document." (**New York Times Book Review**)

"A surprisingly tender -- although also mordant and sly -- memoir about the marriage between a feminist pro-sex rebel and a military officer." (**The San Francisco Chronicle**)

"Don't let the title fool you into thinking this might be a fluffy read. Lily
Burana's I Love a Man in Uniform is a thoughtful, poignant, and candid story about the joys and heartaches of being a military wife." (**author of Love the One You're With, Baby Proof, Something Blue and Something Borrowed *EMILY GIFFIN***)

"Lily Burana is as American as apple pie, dazzling as a Fourth of July firecracker, and smarter than a lash from a Senate Majority whip. Equal parts Cultural Studies professor and bombshell geek, she teases words into impossibly satisfying configurations. Her sparkling prose is like brain tonic served in a coconutshell-it's packaged so whimsically we forget we're being schooled."

(***DIABLO CODY, Academy Award-winning screen writer of JUNO***)

"Lily Burana is a great writer, able to transform everyday experience into transcendent art. What Lily achieves in her intersection with the culture of the modern day Army is simply extraordinary. This fierce, often funny volume about being a military wife during wartime-about life going on- deserves a place on the bookshelf of anyone interested in our curious times."

(***WILLIAM MONAHAN, Academy Award-winning writer of THE DEPARTED***)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joshua Orvis:

What do you concerning book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what your own problem? How about your time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They should answer that question simply because just their can do that. It said that about publication. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on guardería until university need this specific I Love a Man in Uniform: A Memoir of Love, War, and Other Battles to read.

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