



Seasons of Love and War

Brenda Ashworth Barry

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SEASONS OF LOVE AND WAR is a historical family saga and epic love story. Childhood sweethearts Beth Ann Rose and Kaylob Shawn O'Brien just want to get married and pursue their dream careers, but the Vietnam War changes everything when Kaylob is drafted into the Army and declared dead. Beth Ann has a complete emotional melt down and starts to have visions of him in the jungles of Vietnam. Is he alive or has she completely lost her mind?

Seasons of Love and War Details

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From Reader Review Seasons of Love and War for online ebook

Donna Walo-Clancy says

Could not put this book down.

The love between Beth Ann and Kaylob are what dreams are made of. I normally do not read books about Vietnam because it brings back too many memories. This story was done with so much class and taste it was a pleasure to read. The characters drew you into their worlds as if you were participating in the story. I would highly recommend this love story to everyone.

Sarah Stuart says

I read this book on New Year's Eve, and it affected me more than books usually do. It's a love story that starts so happily for Beth Ann and Kaylob, even though he is drafted to Vietnam. He will come back, and he does, but with frightening news. He is going back for the sake of his friends: a noble cause that results in news of his death.

The inspiration behind Brenda Barry's story is twofold. Beth Ann's unfailing belief that Kaylob is alive, and the marvellous support she receives from her family and friends. Does she need that support when the dreadful news is confirmed, or does Kaylob survive?

Frank Moody says

This book is awesome!One of the best I've read. The Vietnam War and watching one of the main characters get captured was awful. The writer shows you the inside of a POW camp so well, I felt I was there too. The scenes are gut wrenching. Looking forward to reading book 2

Tracey Madeley says

It is nice for me to read something from the other side, in terms of fighting in the Vietnam War. However, I did feel the author hadn't done sufficient research and it could have been any conflict in Asia, the Korean War had only just finished in the 1950's. From my limited understanding one of the main features of Vietnam was the draft, enforced conscription, although the story suggests Kaylob is a willing, professional soldier. What about his colleagues, how did they feel about being there? No mention is also made of napalm which was used extensively from 1963 onwards, although the famous photo wasn't taken until 1972. Despite being used in World War II this chemical is very much associated with Vietnam in people's minds. There are, however, the stereo typical commie expletives.

The thread of Kaylob and Beth Ann's relationship is a strong theme in the book and makes the ending both

fitting and logical. Blake, as the other man, is suave and sophisticated, yet tinged with an unexpected undercurrent of violence, making a lovely contrast with the loving professional soldier.

My biggest problem with this book is we are told not shown the story. If we are to see and feel Kaylob's experiences then we need a lot more description. Perhaps it would help to know a couple of the guards, reinforce their roles as the villains. Do they have any redeeming features? What about his fellow prisoners, is he kept in complete isolation?

Beth Ann's breakdown is understandable and engineers a lot of sympathy for her. The reader does get the feeling of her falling apart due to the visions and the cutting of her hair. However, there needs to be more scenes like this where we see her interacting with other characters and together with her emotional and physical reaction.

In terms of language and motifs there are some nice distinguishing characteristics, Beth Ann's red hair, Blake's dimples, Kaylob's warmth and strength. Some readers may question the use of pronouns, women use more in their writing than men. Perhaps this is something to be aware of. The prose is a little wordy in places. Modern writing tends to lean towards brief short sentences with not too many joining words and limited adjectives.

Overall this is a pleasant heartfelt story for those who like romance, but are not too squeamish when it comes to fighting in a war zone.

Brigitte says

Seasons of Love and War is a very fitting title for this novel. I didn't know quite what to expect when I started reading but wow, what a story!

Kaylob is engaged to his childhood sweetheart and is none too happy when he is drafted to join the army in the Vietnam War. He witnesses a tragic occurrence and in his sorrow, he makes a promise to his best friend. This promise comes with a heavy price.

Beth Ann is an actress and a singer. She is longing for the return of her first and only love. Life without him is quite empty and realising their dream of forever and a day can't arrive soon enough.

After witnessing this tragedy, Kaylob returns home sooner than expected. Beth Ann is surprised and delighted at the same time. At long last they can now bring their dream to fruition and then Kaylob gives her the unexpected news that he has to go back to Vietnam. Beth Ann is devastated by the news but once she knows the reason why, she reluctantly comes to term with his decision. He is an honourable man who doesn't break his promises. They make the most of the time they have together before he departs. Their love for each other only intensifies even when they think that it couldn't get any stronger.

The time for Kaylob to go back arrives a little too soon. Saying goodbye once more is heartbreakingly sad but there is the promise that the next reunion will be for good. Not long after, Kaylob goes missing and then presumed dead. Beth Ann goes into melt down as she doesn't know how to live without him. She also refuses to accept that he is not coming back. With the support of family and friends, she eventually tries to resume some form of normality. As time passes, she does her best to have a "normal" life. She gets a break in her career and at the same time someone from her past declares his undying love for her. She is very

apprehensive about starting another relationship. The bond between Kaylob and Beth Ann materialises in the most fascinating and unusual way even though they are apart. She has to make a decision. Accept things as they are and move on or live in hope. Just when she makes her decision, along comes this twist.

The first part of this story is riveting. The ordeals that the loved ones have to go through whilst at war are very upsetting. The love of two soul mates is unmistakable. The love and support of family and friends is remarkable. There is unrequited love, confusion and anguish. The heartache is so palpable.

I have just finished reading this book and it has left me with quite intense feelings. What happens now?

I like the writing style and the way the author conveys the emotions. I would highly recommend this novel to romance lovers.

James Sillwood says

Beth Ann Rose and Kaylob Shawn O'Brien are childhood sweethearts. Kaylob has just returned from Vietnam and Beth Ann is not happy when he tells her he's volunteered for a second tour. After seeing his best friend killed in the war Kaylob feels unable to abandon his other comrades. Several months later Beth Ann gets the news from Kaylob's parents that he is missing in action and her world falls apart. Time passes and, although Beth Ann tries to get on with her life by following her dream of becoming a Broadway singer and actress, thoughts of Kaylob never leave her. Her love for him remains as strong as ever. She thinks of him every day and starts to experience visions of him. She never gives up hope of seeing him again and her love for him remains constant. Not wanting to give away any spoilers, the book ends with Beth Ann facing an uncertain future. It will be interesting to read what happens to her in the sequel.

The war in Vietnam is an important part of history which should not be forgotten and the author does an excellent job in conveying the pain and terror which the young soldiers must have experienced. The P.O.W scenes in the jungle are descriptively written, gripping and atmospheric.

A powerful, well written and moving story of enduring love.

Betty Richardson says

This book took me by surprise. It was bought for me by a friend and I wasn't expecting to care for it. However, I grew in love with the characters. They reminded me of people of my day and I felt it was refreshing how old fashioned Kaylob was. For my generation, good manners and old fashioned values were more common.

The thing I didn't like had nothing to do with the story telling but Beth Ann's choices. I wish she would have done things differently.

But I loved her most of the time. She had this habit of always thinking she was right about everything. I didn't much like that about her but she eventually won me over.

The memory of the Vietnam War is fresh in my mind and I knew so many families that had ones they loved over there.

Although the war wasn't what the story was about, it showed what some of the guys went through and that

was horrific.

I hear this young lady is a new author and I want to say congratulations for doing such a wonderful job..

I'll be looking for the next books.

Nancy Pennick says

Beth Ann and Kaylob are young and in love. What can come between them? The Vietnam War. The story is set in a time of change and upheaval in the U.S. Kaylob has been to war and volunteers to return. He has unfinished business. Beth Ann isn't too pleased but finally sees why Kaylob must go back. The lovers are torn apart and Beth Ann struggles to go on with her life. Although good things happen for her, Kaylob is always in the back of her mind. He is her one true love.

If you love a good romance story, *Seasons of Love and War*, is for you. The strength of Beth Ann and Kaylob's love is apparent throughout the book. Beth Ann has to continue her life without him and Blake is more than willing to take his place. Blake is rich and handsome, someone who's loved her since high school. Beth Ann struggles with leaving Kaylob in the past and moving on. She sometimes has visions that he is alive, calling out to her, and tries to make sense of the meaning. The book almost becomes a fantasy at this point because of this strong bond and connection. Her dreams and visions are real.

The author uses slang of the late sixties to set the tone of the book. I got a feel for that time period through her descriptions of clothing and settings.

The one criticism I have is the overuse of the word "baby" and "darlin'" in the story. It was said one too many times. Also, Beth Ann's wonderful Broadway career came to an abrupt end and was never mentioned again. It would've been interesting to see how that side of her life evolved. Every man seemed to fall in love with Beth Ann and things came easy to her. I would have liked for her to become a more independent woman in correlation with those times.

Seasons of Love and War is a historical romance set in a turbulent time of U.S. history. It's an easy read. I understand this is a saga and there's more to come. The love triangle of Beth Ann, Kaylob and Blake is hopefully not over yet.

Cindy Smith says

Wow! What an amazing beginning to an epic love story. Childhood sweethearts grow up and then Vietnam. When Kaylob goes off to War, Beth Ann waits for him. He does make it back and Beth Ann is so thrilled. But, Kaylob tells her he must go back and save his friends. That is when it hits the fan. Kaylob goes missing and his bloody dogtags are found. His family finally decides he has passed and try to move on. Beth Ann is sure he is alive. She goes into a tangle. Years pass and she is haunted by dreams in which she sees Kaylob. Kaylob is alive and trying to get free of the prison camp. Beth finally gets herself sort of together and moves on with life. Then what???? What a twist! WOW

Cindy says

One war draft that holds two young prisoners . Two childhood sweethearts trying to get their future started

during the Vietnam war. Kaylob has a passion for cooking and Beth Ann is Broadway bound. What could possibly go wrong right? Amazing how one military draft can hold two prisoners. That's exactly what happens. One becomes a prisoner of war while the other becomes a prisoner inside herself. I love the writers style and the story. She also showed what it was like for some the Vietnam P.O.W's and those left behind to try and put their lives back together. I loved the characters and their sense of humor. It's amazing what the human spirit can through and still survive. Beautiful coming of age love story. I'll be watching for the next book in the saga for sure.

Joyce Scarbrough says

I'm a sucker for stories about epic loves that were meant to be, and this book delivers that and much more. The two main characters, Beth Ann and Kaylob, are childhood sweethearts who grow up and finally get their chance to be together forever, only to be torn apart by the Vietnam war. Beth Ann is lost without the love of her life, but she manages to pull herself out of the grief that almost kills her and goes on with her life and the pursuit of her dreams because she knows that's what Kaylob would want. She even manages to find love again, but nobody and nothing can ever replace Kaylob in her heart. And despite what everyone tells her—even the U.S. Army—she still can't accept that he's really gone.

This book grabbed me by the heart from the beginning, and I fell completely in love with the three main characters. Yes—all THREE of them! The ending will leave you gasping, but don't panic. I hear this book is only the first in the saga and the next one is already on its way!

Robin Austin says

A warm epic love story full of innocence and a heart and soul (supernatural) connection between two lovers. More romance than a mystery novel but with tension throughout.

The characters are well developed. I found the main character a little too adored by others but she fits well in this heartbreak tale and has room to grow. This first in the series ends with miracles, hope, and double trouble ahead.

Well written and edited, it will not disappoint. It's a great curl up on the sofa read. If you have ever loved and lost be sure to have a box of tissues nearby.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. Thanks to the author.

Gayle Woodward-terrell says

What a wonderful book. I have not read any books for years and this one got me hooked from the beginning. After my husband was done reading it, I finally got the chance to read it. Love the story line and the Characters. This is a really good love story about childhood sweethearts who are torn apart by the Vietnam War. Now I am waiting patiently to read book 2.

Lee Ward says

Timeless love stories always grab me by the throat and never let go. Such is this wonderful book. Seasons of Love and War touches the soul in so many ways.

The two main characters, Beth Ann and Kaylob, are childhood sweethearts who are deeply in love, but when they finally get to be together, the Vietnam War tears them apart. Beth Ann is told that Kaylob is lost forever as a casualty of war, but deep down she'll never accept that he's gone. She is deeply depressed and almost becomes a casualty of her own grief, but she knows Kaylob would never want that for her. But how can anyone truly accept that the person they breathe for is gone?

This book grabbed me from the beginning and never let me go! I laughed, cried, and shouted "no" a few times, but that's only because this gifted author did her job! And, there's another book on the way in this one! So, don't miss out! I love this book!

Lydia Howards says

This book was more than I ever imagined. I found Brenda on the internet by accident and thought this book looked good. Well, it wasn't just good, it was fantastic. I loved the emotional driven plots and Beth Ann and Kaylob were two people so in love that I was addicted to this book right away. All the things they went through, the stress and the love that was meant to be. I can't recommend this book enough, once you read this one. You will continue on with her entire saga. Brenda Barry has become my favorite author. Not just one of them, but my favorite. Her characters will become a part of your life and you will feel as though you know them and they will become your family.

Colleen Mcleash says

If you like a wonderful love story this is the book for you. Beth Ann and Kaylob have loved each other since Childhood and they feel nothing can tear them apart, until the Vietnam War where Kaylob is drafted. Beth Ann is pretty innocent but she is waiting for the love of her life to come back. He comes back alright and made a choice without telling her that he is going back to the war to do a second tour. She is not a happy girl. The things that happen next set Beth Ann's life on a downward spiral and the book gets intense. She has visions and even though she's told he is dead. She keeps seeing and hearing him. It gets intense. That's as far as I'll go with my review since I don't want to spoil it. But it's worth reading and I am waiting for book 2. I can't wait to see what happens next.

Lisa Cummings says

I loved this book so much that I couldn't put it down. The story might be a little old fashioned. But you can

feel the love between Kaylob and Beth Ann. The POW scenes are done well and break your heart. The entire book kept me on edge and one minute I wanted one thing and the next I couldn't make up my mind. Bottom line, someone has to get hurt. I felt sad, angry and joy while reading this and I can't wait for book 2. The only thing that I was upset about is where it ended. I felt it could have gone on a bit longer so I'm very happy that there is another book.

Mariyam Hasnain says

Emotional is what I would say about Seasons of Love and War. Beth Ann and Kaylob are childhood sweethearts and are very much in love even as young adults. The young lovers are inseparable until the Vietnam War when Kaylob decides to return to the war voluntarily.

The book is a true portrayal of the plight of a young lady whose fiancé gone missing and is declared dead. She has to go on with life but she finds herself trapped in a mesh of emotional breakdowns, nightmares, auditory and visual hallucinations about her missing boyfriend. She never accepts that Kaylob is gone never to come back.

While she struggles to carry on with her life keeping herself busy in her Broadway career, Blake Tanner, her friend since high school, shines as a ray of hope.

Though it's a well written, well structured and professionally edited book, the characters seemed underdeveloped and appeared somewhat flat to me. I even wanted to read about Beth Ann's successful career as a dancer and singer and wanted to see her evolve as an independent woman instead of having flings with Blake and even willing to sleep with her childhood friend Frankie, but that didn't happen.

That said, the book is an easy read and is flawless when it comes to technicalities including editing and structuring and would appeal to anyone who wants to read a well written well structured historical romance set in the era of crisis and war.

Jill says

This is a wonderful tale set in a time period that was fraught with pain, change and bravery. Beth Ann is a young woman growing into a woman, looking forward to when her fiance, Kaylob comes home from a tour of duty in Vietnam. Unable to save his best friend in an attack, the brave Kaylob feels he can't in good conscience leave his buddies to fight alone and he signs up for another tour. When Kaylob ends up Missing in Action, presumed dead Beth Ann is heartbroken. I don't want to give away any more of the actual story line, you need to enjoy the reveals for yourself.

The scenes are beautifully written so that you feel as if you are going through all of the heartbreak and hardships with Beth Ann and Kaylob. The characters are full and well drawn so you feel as if you know and like them personally. I found myself torn between Beth Ann moving on with her life and finding out Kaylob is still alive, although you are not sure how long Kaylob can hold on in the prison camp where he finds himself. This time period is an important one to look back on and remember, and Ms. Barry brings it to life beautifully. I can't wait to dive into the next installment, December Road.

D.R. says

Seasons of Love and War is a heart-tugging love story about Beth Ann Rose and her childhood boyfriend turned fiancé, Kaylob Shawn O'Brien. Kaylob returns to Beth Ann following a tour of duty in the jungles of Vietnam where he lost a best friend and promised his brothers in battle that he'd return. It was a promise he hadn't shared with his fiancée. Beth Ann had expected Kaylob was home to stay.

The author does a great job of establishing an intense romance between Kaylob and Beth Ann early in the novel. Even though Beth Ann is a 20-year-old aspiring Broadway performer and Kaylob is a soldier years older, they had yet to consummate their relationship. Kaylob had committed to Beth Ann's brother he'd wait until marriage. I found their abstinence a little unusual at first, especially given Beth Ann's behavior later in the story. However, I came to appreciate portraying Beth Ann as "forbidden fruit" made succumbing to their desires during Kaylob's short leave even more passionate and meaningful to the story.

Kaylob returns to the front lines in Vietnam where he goes missing and assumed killed. Beth Ann doesn't accept word of Kaylob's death. Near suicide, she crumbles, but her life and career are rebuilt with the help of close friends. A couple of Beth Ann's male friends, Frankie and Blake, become strangely close to her. Blake is the more persistent in his affections, ripping at Beth Ann's emotions and having her questioning her commitment to Kaylob.

Having lived during the Vietnam era, I'd hoped for a balance between love and war. There were war scenes, some very descriptive, but this was clearly a love story. For those into historical romance novels, it will not disappoint. It is a story of enduring love struggling through painful uncertainty. Not all is solved in this novel, and the author does a good job of setting up the next book. You'll want to download it as you finish the final chapter.
