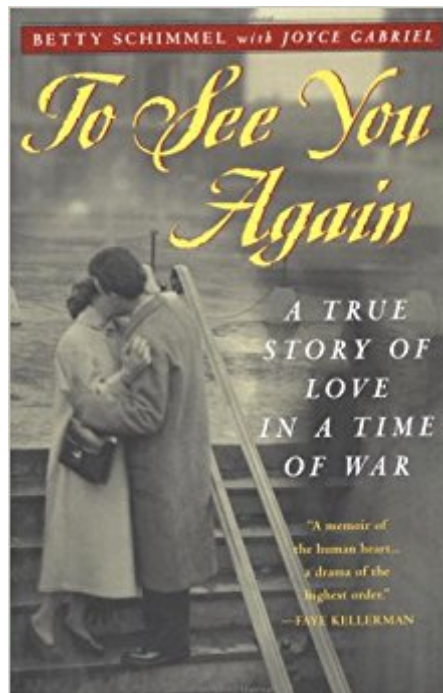




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# To See You Again: A True Story Of Love In A Time Of War



## Synopsis

"A memoir of the human heart . . . a drama of the highest order as well as an important document of twentieth-century history."--Faye Kellerman  
Betty Markowitz and Richie Kovacs fell in love as teenagers in Budapest amid the terror and uncertainty of a world at war. They planned their future together, secure in the belief that their love could survive anything, even Hitler. Then, in March 1944, the Germans invaded Hungary. Here is the moving and dramatic account of one woman's courage in the face of war, and of a love that spanned three decades. From the agony of separation to the horrors of a concentration camp, from her marriage to Otto Schimmel, an Auschwitz survivor who promised her a new life in America, through the joy and struggle of raising a family, Betty never forgot her first love. Then, in 1975, she returned to Budapest and saw someone across a crowded room . . . To See You Again is Betty Schimmel's wrenching memoir of survival and sacrifice, of love lost and love found. A true story that unfolds with all the suspense of a novel, it is one that will not soon be forgotten.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Recounting how she fled from the German invasion of Czechoslovakia with her immediate family to Hungary, where she met her first love, Richie Kovacs, in 1939, Schimmel offers a somewhat uneasy combination of teenage love story and Holocaust testament. As teenagers, the pair vowed to remain eternally true. But as Jews, they were forced to endure the pain of separation when Schimmel, her mother, brother and sister were marched to the Mauthausen death camp in 1944 (her father had disappeared earlier on a refugee-smuggling mission, never to be heard from again). Against all

odds, the family survived the winter and were liberated by American troops in 1945. While living in a displaced person's camp, Schimmel found Kovac's name on a list of the dead. She subsequently met and married Otto Schimmel, an Auschwitz survivor, although she warned him she could not fully return his love. The Schimmels and Betty's mother moved to America, but in her prosperous new life Betty never forgot her first love. She returned to Budapest with her daughter in 1975 and, in a hotel dining room, miraculously recognized Richie. Their emotional reunion was like a dream come true, but in the end, Betty chose to return home to Otto. Schimmel's testament as a Holocaust survivor is simply told and affecting, but the breathless passages describing her teenage love affair may alienate readers who suspect that her 50-year obsession more likely stems from nostalgia for the charmed, lost world of pre-Hitler Europe than from any connection with a man she knew half a century ago. Photos not seen by PW. Agent, David Hendin; BOMC selection. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As recounted in this gripping memoir, Schimmel left an idyllic childhood in rural Czechoslovakia to move with her family to Hungary, where World War II overshadowed her first great romance. (Thirty years later, she returned to Budapest to find her old love.) After Betty's father disappeared while helping refugees in North Africa, her mother struggled to raise three children as they were forced from their home into the crowded ghetto in occupied Budapest. The family then endured a grim march across Hungary (in winter) to the Mauthausen, Austria, concentration camp from which they were finally liberated in 1945. The extraordinary coincidences that forced Betty to confront her past make this true story of her family's miraculous survival and subsequent adaptation to a new life in North America all the more riveting. Highly recommended for all collections. A Kim Baxter, New Jersey Inst. of Technology, Newark Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I found this book in my local library a year or so ago, never heard of it before, skimmed through it, decided it was worth a read, then started as soon as I got home & couldn't put it down, so I went on .com and ordered my own copy. I recommend this book to everyone I know. Poor Betty--losing her father & distant relatives in the Holocaust, surviving it herself, losing Richie, marrying Otto, starting a new life in America, then finding out that Otto had known since 1950 that Richie was alive & had been searching for her. Hollywood should definitely make a movie of Betty's story, it's that intriguing. I was glad to see that she had some "closure" and found happiness with Otto. Betty & her son, Robert both died in 2010 (he was in a car accident).

I loved this book...it took a little while to pick up but once it did, the pages in the book seemed to turn way to fast and soon enough the book was over. This book left me feeling like there was a void in my heart... a must read...it's a true story of love and war!

I can't get over this book, I read it in one day. Never have I read a book like this, it just captivated me. The authors mother was just fanatastic keeping her family together while being forced to walk to a concentration camp, and then making sure they survived the time in camp. At first I felt bad when the author married a man she really didn't seem to love, but after seeing how she treated him during almost 30 years of marriage I felt rather angry at her. On the other hand, how hard it must be to lose your first love and never know if he survived the war. In the end I was very glad she stayed with her husband. I think so many of the problems with the author and her husband was the fact that they never really dealt with living through the Holocaust and were both keeping big secrets from each other. I'm so very glad I got to read this book.

At its heart this book is about how one must make painful, uncertain decisions in painful, uncertain times -- and how one particular person and family lived with the impact of those decisions long after WWII had ended. Reading about Betty's life, as well as her husband, Otto (not to mention Richie), is a poignant, moving experience. All emerge as real people with real virtues and real flaws -- products of the time and place in which they were forced to grow up too quickly and in a world turned upside down. The book works because of the well-crafted details: Betty's pre-war memories of her mother's delicate tea cups and jam jars lined up neatly in a row; the daily decisions her mother -- and others -- made during the war to protect themselves or to escape the enemy; the description of how a friend, who chose to pass as a gentile, was lost; and the pain in Otto's voice -- a man who had resigned himself to always be second fiddle. No wonder he worked so hard. "To See You Again" reminds us that we're all too human, that some choices stay with you forever, and that we can grow to accept and even to embrace them.

I am a Hungarian woman, for me the book was unbelievable! I liked it very much, it was the most exciting holocaust book which I ever read. It was very personal. Thank you Betty!

This book came in the condition it was described as. Really such an incredible story, highly recommend for anyone interested in reading about a first hand experience. While the main

character (the writer) comes off a bit snotty it is all of the other people (most notably her amazing mother) that bring such life to the story.

I LOVED this book. I was sorry that it ended!

This story broke my heart but Betty's life story is one of the best I've read. I cried as Betty, upon being freed from the camp, tried on clothes donated by Americans and twirled around feeling pretty again. No one except perhaps Betty's mother in this book is perfect but they are admirable, beautiful people who overcame adversity of the worst kind to live good lives. The man she married selfishly did something that I would have probably considered unforgiveable if I'd been her. Betty is a good role model for women and I wanted so much to tell her so but she died before I could do so. Anyone who has suffered from being separated for decades from their soul mate will appreciate this story.

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