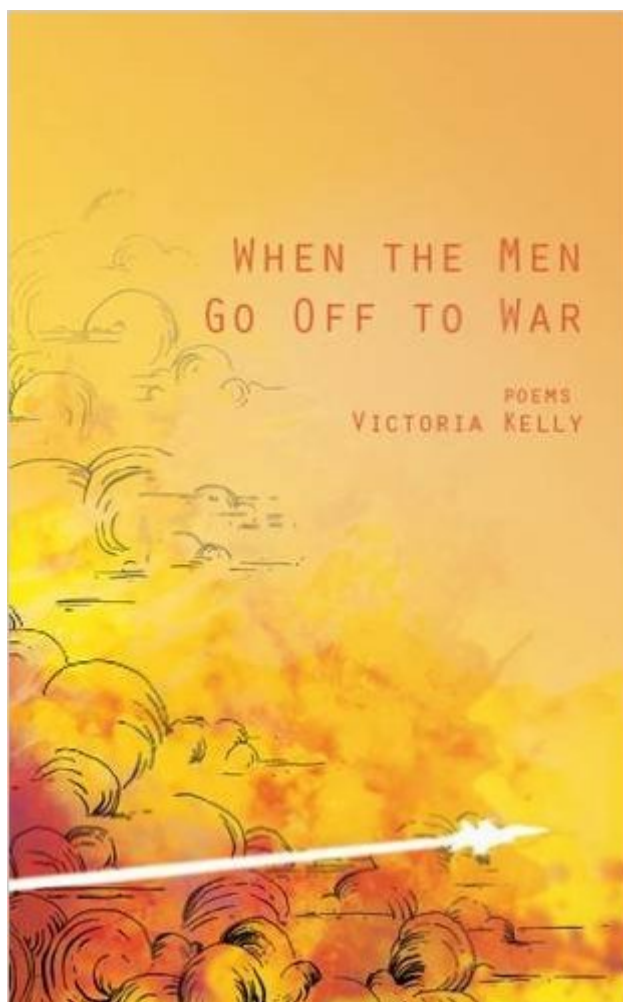


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When The Men Go Off To War: Poems



Synopsis

Collecting the nationally-recognized poems of Victoria Kelly, *When the Men Go Off to War* captures the hopes, anxieties, and intimacies of the military spouse during a time of war. Written over the course of her husband's deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan, these haunting poems span vast geographical distances and generations, moving between the literal and the fanciful to find community in the midst of isolation. Kelly blends lyric and narrative elements to evoke themes of loneliness and human fragility with keen insight. But ultimately, *When the Men Go Off to War* is a heartrending ode to enduring romance and the reclamation of a marriage tested by loss and separation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Poetry is images and sounds and feelings and ideas, all together at the same time, with a melody always lingering in the background. Poet Victoria Lynn Kelly knows this, makes artistic sense of it, and creates poems that are poignant in their descriptions and astute in their ability to make us see, hear, and feel the powerful ideas she wants to convey in a poetic way. With each poem, she generates awareness that Robert Frost called the "æhness" of poetry. Read her book *When Men Go Off to War: Poems*. It is a welcomed work of clarity of thought and feeling in a poetry age of pretty confusion and pretentious abstraction. Believe me. After finishing the book, you will want to read and marvel at her poems again. Highly recommended.

Victoria Kelly's *When the Men Go Off to War* weaves history and present day in a way that goes

beyond the military family experience to encompass the joys and aches, the loss and triumphs, of all families. Each extraordinary poem remains etched in the brain long after the last page has been turned, like the lingering contrails a fighter jet leaves behind as it cuts across the sky.

If you want one book that elegantly portrays the struggle and anguish of the military spouse, this is the one. Victoria Kelly is the most remarkable of poets and writers. She writes from the depths of experience and pens the most elegant of verse. Read slow. Then reread.

Few people can write poetry that is easy to read, much less understand. Ms. Kelly does this with grace and passion. Even if you don't usually read poetry, read "When the Men Go Off to War", you might just fall in love with poems.

I couldn't help but consume the whole collection in one sitting. Ms. Kelly's work is unexpectedly intimate, displaying a vulnerability that is deeply relatable regardless of one's circumstances. I will be following this author.

This book is incredibly accessible, moving, and most of all deeply true. Managing to capture the vital essence of an American experience that transcends generations, Mrs. Kelly's writing is as vital and relevant today as it would have been for any of the families of the men and women who have left these shores to defend their country in wars for over two centuries. Most of all, it lets those of us who have lived these experiences know that we are not alone. Thank you for being who you are. Thank you for writing this.

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