

Goodbye Kiev Book Reviews

До свидания Киев

“Moving, Heart-Rending, and Spiritually Fulfilling!”

At some point or another, we all pine for that special someone who will one day come into our lives and ease the lingering pain of being alone...our only fear: that when they finally come along, they're too good to be true...

Such is the case with Tom, a veteran firefighter looking to mend the broken pieces of his heart after an unpleasant divorce. Of all places, he selects the countries of the former Soviet Union to seek his ideal mate - and, as unlikely as it may seem, he soon finds the new love of his life, Lyubov, through a Russian matchmaking agency. Everything about Lyubov convinces Tom that she's the woman of his dreams, and, after traveling to her native Kiev to meet her in person, the two of them soon fall head over heels in love with one another and begin a whirlwind romantic affair that culminates in her joyfully accepting his heartfelt marriage proposal.

Just as quickly as they brought Tom and Lyubov together, though, circumstances soon begin to drive them apart. For reasons unknown to Tom, Lyubov suddenly starts to put distance in-between them, and she eventually cuts off contact with him completely. Not one to give up on true love so easily, Tom relentlessly pursues Lyubov, determined to discover precisely why she longs to withdraw from him - and what he ultimately learns about her shakes not only the foundation of their burgeoning relationship, but his own personal belief system as well. In the wake of the devastating, life-altering news, Tom is forced to decide if his love for Lyubov is truly strong enough to endure even the most daunting of challenges.

Goodbye, Kiev is a touching memoir penned straight from the heart of someone entirely familiar with the thrilling highs and abysmal lows of love. Thomas Almond's semi-autobiographical account of the simultaneously rewarding and arduous trials of relationship-building will resonate with readers of all ages even remotely familiar with such universal matters of the heart. We are taught from a young age that we must fight for the things that we truly desire, but few among us are able to sustain the requisite resolve to endure the various challenges that threaten to impede us along the way. Through the example of Tom's life, Almond provides the reader with a sterling example of the benefits of such tenacity, and he also skillfully displays that - even if the result that we receive is different than what we desired - we are still ultimately richer for having embraced the experience.

Reviewed by Linda Waterson

Apex Reviews (Durham, NC USA) February 21, 2009

“Goodbye, Kiev is a touching story written from the heart, one that will make you look at your life and wonder if your love for your spouse is strong enough to test the troubled waters of life.

First, this story is fictional, based on a true story. As I read it, it became hard to distinguish where fiction leaves off and truth takes over.

It took me a little bit to get into the story line, but once I did, it was a very moving story , one that tugged at the heart strings, and left me with deep feelings for the couples in the story

Tom has been going through a matchmaking service in Russia. He is a veteran firefighter, divorced with children of his own. He meets Lyubov, and after communicating back and forth over a course of several month, Tom travels to Russia to meet Lyubov and her son, Sasha.

It seems that they both have fallen in love with each other, and Lyubov accepts his proposal of marriage. Just as fate has brought Tom and Lyubov together, circumstances soon begin to pull them apart. Is Tom's love for Lyubov strong enough to combat even the most daunting of challenges?

Reviewed by Debra Gaynor "ReviewYourBook.com" April 6, 2009