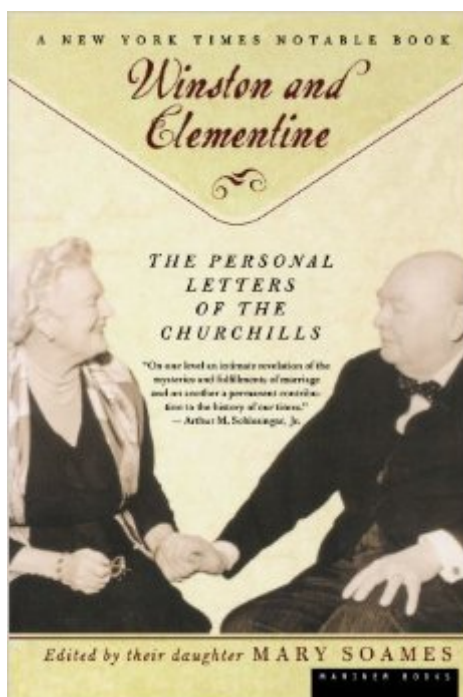


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# Winston And Clementine: The Personal Letters Of The Churchills



## Synopsis

Winston and Clementine Churchill wrote to each other constantly throughout the fifty-seven years of their life together, from the passionate and charming exchanges of their courtship until the year before Winston's death in 1965. Their letters provide rare and revealing insights into both the great political and social events of a turbulent century and the intimate world of an extraordinary partnership. Mary Soames, the only surviving child of this remarkable couple, has brought her parents to life as no biographer could. In moving detail we hear of Churchill's dramatic career and his final, deeply felt reflections on the fading of his enormous powers. And we hear Clementine, responding with her love and advice, and her belief in his destiny. Bringing these letters together for the first time, WINSTON AND CLEMENTINE is a surprising portrait of one of history's most significant figures.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Winston and Clementine: Happily Ever After This is the story of a political marriage. In some ways it will be familiar to the contemporary reader, though it began and ended a long time ago. Both husband and wife in this marriage were interested in politics. The husband was elected again and again over decades to high office. For decades his wife fought at his side, entertained at his table, offered her judgment to him and his colleagues and his enemies. She took his place in his absence, and sometimes in his presence. She became an international figure. She had power, and she used it. Always she had a mind of her own. Sometimes this couple would quarrel. Once a serving dish

was thrown. There was a period, not too long, when one of the partners was out of sympathy with the other, or anyway in sympathy with another. They knew trouble. They lost a daughter and many friends to death, and some friends to betrayal. They fought political wars at home in which their own party tried to deprive them of office. They fought shooting wars abroad-including the worst ever. More than once, they seemed down and out. Their livelihood as much as their career was threatened. After decades of struggle they reached the summit of power and they knew the adoration of a nation and a world. By then they had grown old together. Readers of this story will find that wives did not enter politics yesterday, and private lives were influential in politics before last week. But in other respects this story is unlike anything we have known in this time. Here are two people who won every honor that human affairs can offer, and they won them together. Meanwhile they operated upon those natural and traditional lines that involve that deepest of partnerships.

I recently read this paperback book and thought it was fantastically interesting. We all think we know as much as we need to about the wonderful Winston Churchill, but this is a fascinating review of 20th century history, and I hadn't known the following points I learned in this book: We think of WC mostly as a WW2 leader of the British, but I hadn't known he was previously a very distinguished wartime soldier. First in the Boer war, later in WW1, where under fire he was constantly in danger of death, and wrote, "Our death is simply an event, and not necessarily the most important one in our lives." I also tended to think of aristocracy as having been an issue of the 19th century, but was (sort of) surprised to learn that so many people in Churchill's circle, including friends and military officers (and the Churchills themselves!) were actually members of the aristocracy. Churchill was personally acquainted with so many historical figures: Coco Chanel, Virginia Woolf, Ike, Montgomery, FDR, Harry Hopkins, Ari Onassis, Grace Kelly, etc, etc, etc. My main reason for reading this book was to discover whether it's true that FDR and Hopkins were "pro" "Uncle Joe" and the communists. The book was compiled by Mary Soames, sole surviving child of the Churchills, and she obviously wanted to steer clear of any politics that would alienate an American audience. However, it's certainly true that WC despised Communists and the USSR, wasn't too impressed by Harry Hopkins, etc.

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