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Our Hearts Were Young And Gay (Armed Services Edition)



Synopsis

Actress Cornelia Otis Skinner and journalist Emily Kimbrough offer a lighthearted, hilarious memoir of their European tour in the 1920s, when they were fresh out of college from Bryn Mawr. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Series: Armed Services edition

Hardcover: 286 pages

Publisher: Council on Books in Wartime; Sixth Printing edition (1943)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (68 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,462,142 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #177 inÂ Books > Gay & Lesbian > Travel

Customer Reviews

"We were poisonously young." - Co-authors Skinner and KimbroughOUR HEARTS WERE YOUNG AND GAY is a travel essay that appeared in 1942. Within, co-authors and best pals Cornelia Otis Skinner from Bryn Mawr, PA and Emily Kimbrough from Indiana share the experiences of an independent trip to Europe made in 1920 when young, footloose and relatively free of parental oversight. Skinner's parents were traveling on a parallel but more or less separate itinerary. The charm of this delightful narrative lies in the fact that it's a recollection of girlish innocence, naivete, and silliness told from the perspective of a more mature adulthood that achieves an engaging, self-deprecating wit. Had the two travelers been teenage boys, I doubt that such a retrospective tale would've been conceived and told by their grown-up counterparts; it's just not a Guy Thing. From Montreal to London to Paris, our heroines' misadventures are myriad. Their passenger ship runs aground in the St. Lawrence Seaway. Cornelia contracts measles in the mid-Atlantic and must be virtually smuggled ashore on reaching England. The two get lost in the maze at Hampton Court. Misdirected to recommended lodgings in Rouen, they spend the night on the top floor of a brothel, to the bemusement of the house madam, and never have a clue. (Teenage boys would've noticed, you think?) At the Rouen railroad station, Emily's overstuffed purse looses its contents onto the tracks just as a train pulls in. Bedbugs attack Skinner in the City of Light. Lunch at the Paris Ritz proves mortifying. A treacherous hair net ("Venida double-mesh") manifests itself during Cornelia's introductory acting lesson with a French stage idol. Of course, not all of the mini-Grand Tour was

comprised of frivolous mishaps.

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