



# Camilla, a Biography of Camilla Eyring Kimball

*Caroline Eyring Miner*

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Camilla Eyring was born in 1894 in the Mormon colonies of northern Mexico. At seventeen she fled with her family from the dangers of revolution and was sent alone to Utah to finish high school and earn her own way into the world. Camilla tells her story, often in her own words, recounting her heritage, her high-spirited youth, and her struggles and triumphs as wife, mother, citizen, and individual. The book is packed with human interest: her childhood fear that she was going insane; her father's plural marriage; flight from Mexican revolutionaries; the insecurities of a poor but proud teenage girl; a whirlwind courtship and marriage; the terror of having a child stricken with polio; the frightening responsibility of wife of a General Authority; the exhilaration of travel; the anguish of watching her husband suffer through numerous physical infirmities. The woman who emerges is shy but warm, highly intelligent, refreshingly candid, deeply faithful, independent to a fault, unswervingly loyal, and reassuringly human.

## Camilla, a Biography of Camilla Eyring Kimball Details

Date : Published January 1st 1982 by Deseret Book Co (first published 1980)

ISBN : 9780877478454

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Format : Hardcover 216 pages

Genre : Biography, Religion, Christianity, Lds, Nonfiction, Church



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## **From Reader Review Camilla, a Biography of Camilla Eyring Kimball for online ebook**

### **Traci says**

Camilla Kimball, the wife of previous LDS prophet Spencer W. Kimball, is a most amazing woman. My favorite thing about her is her human-ness. I can appreciate her candid discussion of her adolescent insecurities, and I love her for her faith even in great adversity. She was in every way a match for her husband, a most powerful and inspiring leader. This is a fantastic biography/autobiography of a most inspiring LDS woman.

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### **'becca says**

It was a lovely book. I think we often make those in leadership and their wives into "larger than life" people. I appreciated seeing that Camilla was just "people". Well, nobody's "just" anything. Everyone's important. We all have our strengths and weaknesses, and our own stages of progression. Her strengths blew me away. I appreciate her example, and that she was real.

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### **Kathrine Holyoak says**

While I give her sparkle and example a 6 star review, the author (her son) rates only a 1 or 2 with me, so that explains my average of 3 star rating. I wish she'd written an autobiography instead of coaching her son through a biography. The clips of her own writing (I assume from her journal and other letters) is how I fell in love with her. It is where how "real" she is came shining through. She could express emotions and thoughts her son would have felt disrespectful summarizing, thus his writing felt much more sanitized. My other overwhelming thought on her life shattered a long standing myth of mine. I assumed the Lord would make the life of a prophet's wife pretty darn managable and even enjoyable. Doesn't she at least deserve that? Camilla suffered heartaches and health issues beyond my limits. Emma Smith should have shattered that myth long before I read of Camilla's life, but I assumed modern, non-pioneer women were exempt. Camilla is more woman than I ever want to be.

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### **Danni says**

good book. I guess I didn't know much about her. She was an amazing woman.

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### **Haley says**

While this wasn't the most well written book I've ever read, I still enjoyed reading it and came to appreciated the rawness of it. It almost felt more like reading individual diary entries, which to me gave it a personal feel. It did jump around a bit with the timeline which was confusing at times. I felt it was worth reading because I

definitely came away inspired and wanting to be a better person. It gave me insights on parenting, hard work, and faithful service which I hope I can implement in my life.

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### **Emily says**

This book makes me want to read more about the wives of the prophets. Sister Kimball lived an amazing life. You really get to see what her fears and challenges were and how real of a person she was. For example, she overlooked that Spencer was wearing white socks when she first met him. And she loved clothes, but never really had them and that was hard for her, especially in high school and college. Much of the book is from her own voice. It was wonderful!

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### **Autumn Sage says**

I enjoyed this book and found it interesting. I loved that it was taken mostly from her journals and so it was the real, every day life. It shows such an interesting side of the church in earlier days, starting out in the Colonia Juarez with polygamist parents and through a life that led her to be the wife of a prophet. It was filled with worry and heartache and struggles and you get to see a side that isn't usually seen in a prominent figure. I didn't feel, however that I got very much of the spiritual side -- more the timeline history. I feel like in contrast with Marjorie Hinckley's biography, there you feel that you can open any page and be inspired to be better. This was interesting history.

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### **Jeannie says**

I remember that the writing really wasn't really 5 star writing, but I am giving this one 5 stars because it inspired me and taught me so much about being a wife and mother. I read this shortly after I was married, and Sister Kimball's example taught me more about running an LDS home than any of the how-to books at the time. Not that I've mastered very much of it yet...

I had met Sister Kimball while at BYU, so this was a much anticipated book for me. During my years at BYU the General Authorities wives came to campus and held stake firesides for the sisters during the General Priesthood session of General Conference. Our ward was blessed to host the fireside with Sister Kimball. From that evening on, I knew that I wanted to emulate her. When she spoke for the first time that evening, many of us jumped a little, for out of that petite and delicate looking body came this strong, confident, and powerful voice. It was a defining moment in my young life. I have not been afraid to speak with a strong voice since that evening.

So the truth is, I'll probably give anything by or about Sister Kimball 5 stars and will recommend any of it to everyone. She was an amazing woman and I am so grateful to have had her example during my young adult years.

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### **Beth says**

Much of this book was written in the first person by Sister Kimball herself. At first, I was surprised to read of all the memories recorded that seemed “less than perfect” — about how Camilla hated feeling out-of-style when she moved from Mexico to Utah or how she once climbed out of a bathroom window to avoid a date. She was the oldest of a large polygamous family, so when she got married, she didn’t invite her sibilngs because she was afraid they would tease her. She seemed ... human.

It’s those less-than-perfect moments, more frequent in the first half of the book, that seemed to give me hope for myself (currently quite less-than-perfect), for she also had many, many “heroic” moments later in life. She and her husband had their share of health problems, but she didn’t let her own pain get in her way and did her best to support and care for her husband. I was reading a story about a horrific car accident she went through as I was waiting for a delayed plane at the airport, and suddenly my own problems of caring for a busy one-year-old in the terminal seemed inconsequential compared to the things she had overcome.

I enjoyed this book — learning about the lives of Latter-day Saint women encourages me to rise up and be a better person.

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### **Michelle says**

The writing was far from being anything special, but the content was excellent. She had such an interesting life - polygamist parents, born in Mexico, a refugee in America at 17, a teacher, mother to four, wife to the President of the Church, world traveler, etc. I am inspired by her tirelessness. Despite a crazy life in the public eye and a husband who had very delicate health (hers wasn't the best either), she took the time to have luncheons, can fruits and vegetables, bake bread, send gifts, give book reviews, and do her visiting teaching. I am highly impressed by what they say about her cooking skills, and that she entertained sometimes hundreds of guests at a time, and she did just about all of the preparation. She seems so knowledgeable about preserving food. In one place it talks about how she made pickles out of watermelon rinds. Wow. And it she was able to use every scrap to death and it always tasted amazing apparently. She was also very slow to show physical discomfort outwardly so as not to worry her family.

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### **Eric says**

Inspiring. I was surprised to read that Camilla was a refugee from Mexico as a young girl. Her family lost everything. She often battled with illness, her own and her husband's. She loved her family. She pinched pennies. She bottled watermelon rinds (pickled) because she couldn't stand to waste them. There was one person she didn't like (page 189). She saved leftover meat in a bag from an airplane flight, then wrote about it in her journal. She was human. She loved life (page 211).

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### **Christy says**

Question: What does it take to become the wife of a prophet? Answer: Absolutely nothing, girls! Camilla Kimball was the most ordinary woman you could imagine. But she DID have the sense to marry a really righteous man. Otherwise, you couldn't pick her out of a crowd. She worried about her clothes, and being liked. Once, when she and Spencer were at a Rotary convention, she sipped some liquor because she wondered what it tasted like.

Camilla's childhood in Mexico interested me because it paralleled my Grandma Allen's childhood. Both families were polygamists, they had farms and orchards, and they were driven out by rebels in 1912 and lost everything. They started over again in Arizona, and had to build new lives for themselves. My Grandma Allen was four years younger, but still, she and Camilla might have known each other!

Overall, this book is a great treatise on how an ordinary woman can lead an extraordinary life. Just marry a prophet!

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### **Rachel says**

I enjoyed getting to read Camilla's perspective of many of the same things I'd just read in her husband, President Kimball's biography. She truly seemed to enjoy the private life, the life with her family, but rose to the occasional that her husband's calling brought them in a lot more scrutiny and adulation. Also, her biography covered up to a later period than President Kimball's did, so there were other things I'd been curious about in hers that weren't there in his, because he hadn't lived them yet. Both were easy reads, and I'd highly recommend them.

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### **Michelle says**

Impossible to find, but wonderful to read if you can get your hands on it. It's the biography of Camilla Kimball, wife of President Spencer W. Kimball. My daughter was named after her.

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### **Monica says**

a true genuine woman whose faith and determination will motivate anyone to move forward.

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