



Into the Storm

Lisa Bingham

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RueAnn Boggs meets Charles Tolliver, a handsome Brit with a secret job, and in the course of twenty-four hours, RueAnn is swept off her feet—seduced, wed, and then left by dashing Charlie, who hastily departs for an assignment in England. When weeks go by and she hears nothing from her new husband, RueAnn becomes determined to find out if she's a wife in name only, and she travels to London for answers. But what she finds there is not at all what she expects...

Susan Blunt has spent her life staying put, retreating into her books while her vivacious twin sister, Sara, lives life to the fullest. The start of the war hasn't stopped vibrant Sara from collecting a throng of beaux in uniform, including Paul Overdone, an RAF pilot heading for the front. When Sara pressures Susan into switching places and going to a dance with Paul, Susan reluctantly agrees. Little does Susan know that a single night is more than enough time to fall deeply in love with Paul—who returns her ardor, even though he thinks she is someone else...

When the Blitz begins and bombs start raining down on London, both RueAnn and Susan must find the strength and courage they never knew they had in order to survive. They form a friendship out of the city's ashes, one that helps them weather the storm as they wait for news from the front—from the men they love, have lost, and hope desperately to find once more.

Set against the backdrop of a remarkable era, INTO THE STORM brilliantly explores relationships in wartime, when the passion shared in just one day could sustain love for a lifetime and the love borne of one night's deception could become the truth that saves a life.

“Lisa Bingham is a master storyteller.” —AFFAIRE DE COEUR

Into the Storm Details

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Author : Lisa Bingham

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From Reader Review Into the Storm for online ebook

Kristina says

Into the Storm by Lisa Bingham is a historical romance set during the beginning of World War II. RueAnn Boggs grew up Defiance, West Virginia. Her father was a hard man and when RueAnn had a chance, she escaped. RueAnn ended up in Washington, D.C. working as a seamstress for the performer Glory Bee Hallelujah. Her father, though, is determined to find her. Mr. Boggs has become a religious zealot and preacher. RueAnn has received word from her sister, Astra that their father has discovered her location and is on his way. As RueAnn is escaping the theater she runs into Charles “Charlie” Tolliver. Charlie is British and a friend of Glory Bee. He convinces RueAnn to accompany him to check out his aunt’s house (he inherited it from her). Charlie has his own motives for asking RueAnn to go with him.

The two have a lovely day until gunshots ring out. RueAnn’s father had found her and she was in a compromising position. Charlie told Mr. Boggs that they were engaged to be married. Mr. Boggs decides the wedding will take place immediately (with Mr. Boggs present with his shotgun). Unfortunately, Charlie had to immediately catch a train to New York to make his boat back to England.

A year later (it is now 1940) RueAnn Boggs Tolliver makes her way to England. She has not heard from Charlie recently and also wants to recover some letters. RueAnn meets Charlie’s mother, Edna. Edna is not pleased with RueAnn’s arrival. She puts her in the maid’s room in the attic and informs RueAnn that Charlie has been missing for months. Charlie was in France and was not able to get out ahead of the German’s invasion. RueAnn will wait for Charlie to come home, but she will have to endure the Blitz, rationing, and finding a way to earn money in a foreign country.

Sara and Susan Blunt are twins who live next door to the Tolliver’s. Sara is outgoing, gregarious, and is always going out with a different gentleman. Susan is more subdued (and she likes books). One night Sara asks Susan to help her out. Sara “doubled booked” herself. Sara wants Susan to take her place at the dance with Paul Overdone. Susan is reluctant to agree, but she is drawn to Paul. On this night England goes to war. Paul asks to write and Susan agrees. These letters are the one bright spot in Susan’s life over the next few months as she experiences significant loss.

RueAnn, Susan, and Sara become good friends during the war. They help each other out during the extremely difficult times of war. London endures extreme bombing from the German’s and they will all be lucky to survive. Charlie’s love of RueAnn will help him endure and get back home to his wife.

Into the Storm is a lovely novel. I give it 4.5 out of 5 stars. Into the Storm is about the endurance, love, friendships, and survival. Lisa Bingham did a wonderful job portraying what life would have been like during World War II in London. To find out how they survived, what happens between Paul and Susan, if Charlie makes it home, and much more please read Into the Storm.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from NetGalley (and the publisher) in exchange for an honest review.

Ruby Tuesday says

I read a lot of books, both fiction and non fiction from the WWII period so was looking forward to reading this book by Lisa Bingham, an author who's work I'd not encountered before.

The book follows the story of RueAnn Boggs, an American woman trying to escape her abusive father. She meets Charles Tolliver who she is seduced by and quickly married to - a shotgun wedding indeed. As war is brewing in Europe, Charles has to return to England on an assignment and when RueAnn doesn't hear from him, she travels to England. The other key character in this book is Susan, the quieter rather bookish identical twin of the vivacious Sara. Susan falls in love with Sara's beau Paul, an RAF Pilot after she is asked to attend a dance with him as Sara, who is unable to make it. The paths of Susan and RueAnn cross when RueAnn arrives in England and lives with Charles's mother and they end up being neighbours. As the War progresses they're both united in their hope of hearing from the men they love.

I have to say that when I read the bio of Lisa Bingham I was sceptical as to how authentic of the period this book would be from an American author in Utah. I've read lots of books written by American authors set in Europe during this period and one thing that really grates on my nerves is when the dialogue between characters just doesn't ring true and they fall into the trap of their characters speaking how they THINK they would have spoken, but being way off the mark. Lisa Bingham hasn't fallen into this trap, it is an excellent book with believable and likeable characters. Lisa has really captured the essence of wartime London. I would definitely read other books by this author.

I received a digital advance copy of this book from NetGalley and Diversion books in exchange for an honest and fair review.

I was given a digital ARC of this book from NetGalley and Diversion books in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Sarah says

It took me quite some time to get into the story, and it wasn't until near the end that I found I couldn't put it down. There are one or two things about this novel that didn't quite work for me, but on the whole it was quite a good read. However, I do get annoyed at coincidences that wrap up a plot quickly: the ending felt a tad contrived, hence the 3 stars.

Cathy Geha says

Superb story, excellent writing, and wonderful characters – I found this book a joy to read. Not because it was light and happy but because it was rich in ways that left me wanting to read more, know the characters better and find out whether or not there would be a happy ending for RueAnne, Sara, Charlie, Paul and others in the book.

Ms Bingham has written a WW II novel predominately from the perspective of the women that were left to

deal with the Blitz in London. What life must have been like was portrayed with all the grittiness and reality of war. Having been through a few wars myself, I could relate. Also, having kept diaries and corresponded through the years I found that the letters that were written by RueAnn, Charlie and Paul provided insights into the characters that would have been difficult to share in any other way. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and look forward to reading other books by this author.

I thank NetGalley and Diversion books for the opportunity of reading and reviewing this book.

Sarah says

It took a while for me to get into this novel. The insta-love between the leads and their beaus was hard to stomach, and I just couldn't connect to their respective characters. I felt some kinship with Susan with her quiet, wallflower personality; I have that myself to a degree. But I found myself having to force myself to continue reading at times.

Yet, once Rueann got over to Britain and I got to see in depth life under the Blitz, my interest peaked and I was sucked in. The author does an incredible job at portraying intimately the dangers these British people faced and triumphed over. I really enjoyed her gift with imagery: the mannequins in the bombed out street, the hand of a loved one sticking out of a pile of rubble, the screams of the wounded as they go through harsh burn treatment, and the heartbreaking image of a messenger bringing the dreaded telegram telling of another loss.

After the story got rolling further, I found myself liking Rueann and Susan far more. I don't know if it was because the setting had changed and become so stark or not. Both girls showed a deep well of strength and resourcefulness that I found admirable. They both became the hubs for their respective families, and I liked how devoted they became to everyone around them. The author also portrayed their more vulnerable sides, the moments of doubt and fear that everyone feels in such circumstances. I could see myself in both girls which is a plus for any novel.

As for their relationships with their respective loves, I still am a bit ambivalent to a degree. I could never really connect with Susan and Paul. I almost feel like it incorporated *too* much melodrama, the whole mistaken identity and who Paul really loved from the beginnings things didn't help matters. I guess I just rolled my eyes too often and skimmed their parts to go to the next.

Charlie and Rueann, though, I grew to like. I think the letters they wrote to each other without any expectation of delivery were very touching. And I really liked the idea that Charlie fell in love with Rueann through her darkest secrets. He pretty much saw into her literal soul and fell in love with that in addition to her outer shell too. So at least I was able to get behind one of the main relationships.

I would recommend this book for its portrayal of the British during the Blitz alone. Its stark reality brings home the pain and incredible danger the average Brit faced during this time. Yet, I grew to like the two leads as well, even if it took a while after the story started to do so. I liked their strength and devotion through the horrors of war. The romances were OK. Paul's and Susan's I didn't care all that much for, but Charlie's and Rueann's I grew to adore. This is a work of WWII fiction I'd recommend to any reader of the genre; it's a very enjoyable read.

Note: Book received for free from publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Erin says

Find this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot....>

If I were more discerning, I'd put Lisa Bingham's *Into the Storm* somewhere between a three and a four, but I don't give partial ratings and ultimately decided I'd too many concerns to round up. Don't misunderstand, I liked a lot about this book, but I'd be lying if I didn't admit that many elements of the piece left me wanting.

Fair warning folks, *Into the Storm* is a character heavy narrative. Bingham sets a brilliant pace from the start, but she doesn't spend much time introducing her audience to each of the players so it should come as no surprise that I spent many of the early chapters flipping back and forth to ensure my understanding of both people and events.

Later, I noted a distinct imbalance between RueAnn and Susan's storylines. RueAnn's backstory is more interesting than her war time experience, but Susan can't catch a break during the blitz and as much of the novel takes place during the war, I often felt Susan received the lion's share of the novel's intrigue and drama. I don't mean to be harsh, but with the exception of a few shared scenes, Susan and RueAnn could have easily headlined their own narratives and excuse me for saying so, but I feel it might have been better if they had.

To add insult to injury, the romantic elements of their stories felt forced and unbelievable. Like the characters involved, these relationships are grossly underdeveloped, something that is especially evident in comparison to Charlie's non-romance with Elizabeth. If you're wondering who Elizabeth is, I'm sorry, I'm not in habit of incorporating spoilers in my reviews so read the book and find out. Suffice it to say, the relationship she shares with Charlie is the only one that develops naturally and proved more authentic than his passion for RueAnn or the love triangle involving Paul, Susan and Sara.

At this point you might be questioning what I liked about the piece and I don't blame you. I haven't said much to the positive, but I hope you don't think the book without merit. I really enjoyed Bingham's illustration of life in the shadow of the Luftwaffe and fell in love with many of the supporting characters. The author obviously put a lot of thought into those elements of the story and I have great appreciation for that sort of care and attention to detail.

Would I recommend *Into the Storm*? Yes and no. It's certainly better than *War Brides* and *Tuscan Rose*, but it doesn't really compare to *Battle Hymns*, *Night in Shanghai*, *The Gods of Heavenly Punishment*, or *A Life Apart*. Not exactly what I'd expected, but a pleasant diversion if you like WWII fiction.

Nancy Martins says

Great story

Wonderful plot and author really keeps you interested. Captivating story of love. Lots of twists and turns.

Highly recommended and you won't regret it.

Dianne Ascroft says

There are 2 very different storylines in this novel, following American RueAnn Boggs and Englishwoman Sarah Blunt, and I loved the way the story jumped between the two. It was a traditional English RAF love story, a spy story and a glimpse into the wrong side of the tracks in America, all rolled into one. Both threads of the story completely captivated me.

Christina Marie says

****This book was given to me in exchange for my honest review****

After a few days thought, because this story definitely is something different for me, I can say that I had an overall refreshing and memorable experience with this book.

I am not a historical fiction person, I don't read them because I am typically not one to love on characters set in the past. It doesn't mesh well with my reading palette. Plus, this one was a bit slow for me. But I decided to go ahead and give this one a try. While this book isn't a favorite of mine, merely based on the fact that I'm not a historical fiction person, I still had a good time reading it.

The book definitely has its distinct high points and low points, but it was the high moments that made me want to continue reading. INTO THE STORM follows dual protagonists RueAnn Boggs and Susan Blunt on their concurrent, but separate storylines of falling in love. Although these characters do come together at some point in the book, the storylines aren't reliant on each other.

I really enjoyed the vivid pictures that Bingham painted with her words. She did a great job of making me see where my characters were. Although there was a TON of insta-love all over this book, which I am NOT a fan of, Bingham does a great job of writing strong relationships that become believable. The romantic relationships take a moment for me to grasp, but the friendships are awesome.

There is a bit of a subplot with one of the other characters, Charles Tolliver, that I tried to follow, but unfortunately the primary plot point focusing on RueAnn, overpowered that one for me. But that's okay. It's mainly because I'm a romantic at heart.

The supporting characters in the book were really good. I sometimes connected a bit more with them, than the main characters. But overall, they all worked hand in hand.

As I stated, I'm not a historical fiction kind of person, so this book took some time for me to absorb. But coming from someone who doesn't enjoy the genre, I'd say that I had a good time. I'd definitely recommend this book for someone who really enjoys the genre; otherwise, a reader would probably struggle a bit like I did.

Amber says

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<http://www.memyshelfandi.com/2015/03/...>

Diana says

Ms. Bingham's writing style in the novel "Into the Storm" captured my attention immediately. I enjoy stories with lots of character dialogue, both internal dialogue, and that which is expressed aloud. Being theatrical, I long to hear the voice of each character to truly relate and find myself engaged in the storyline. The book starts with a beautifully written letter from RueAnn to a mysterious "Dearest J." The letters expressed throughout the novel share deep insights into the characters who penned them. I loved the letters and all of the dialogue throughout the whole book! The voices of the characters in "Into the Storm" are rich and satisfying.

The setting of this story was intriguing. WWII was an epic event in history that left none untouched. There are so many different stories to be told, and so much to learn in so many different areas of the world during this trying time, I find this particular story of the women left behind during the London Blitz a welcome addition to the many WWII novels already in print. I appreciated the insight into the little daily inconveniences, the trials of the air raids, and the resilience of the people through unspeakable horror and tragedy. I feel the author truly did her research and understood the time period well.

I appreciated the structure of this novel. Parts of the story were presented through letters that shared thoughts and feelings through the past as well as the present. We were transported from place to place through the chapter progression, and the pace was exceptional--never a chance to get bored!

I have debated on how to rate this book, because, as I have stated above, there are so many things I like about this book! I must confess my reservations about officially giving it a four-star rating, (which is a very high rating for me--I don't give that very often at all). I am not a prude, however, I really wish the explicit details of the intimate relationships could have left a little more to my imagination. I have a very vivid imagination and I like it when authors give me a few ideas and then allow me the opportunity to fill in the blanks with as much or as little detail as I desire. When stories are told in this way, I feel better about recommending the wonderful books to my dear aunts, my daughter, and my close friends who are always looking for an inspirational, educational, or fun read. "Into the Storm" is a great story, and I think my loved ones would enjoy it, if they could make it through the intimate scenes right at the beginning, and then again at the end of the book. Those who follow my book ratings know that I enjoy reading a wide variety of books, and they trust that anything I give a four-star rating will meet their strict moral standards. I believe this story would be just as wonderful without the intimate romantic details. I wish I could highly recommend it to everyone.

I wish there was a clear-cut formula on how to rate books. If I was just rating the author's story-telling talent, I'd give the book a 4-star rating. When rating a book, however, my rating encompasses not only the author's talent, but my feelings about the storyline, the morals and values, and how I relate to the story.

I enjoyed almost every aspect of this book! I love the characterizations in every Lisa Bingham novel I have read, and I look forward to reading more of her stories in the near future.

Barb says

I am such a fan of historical novels set in the era of World War II and can never get enough of them. I just finished novels by Lisa Bingham that served to whet my appetite for the war-time novels. "Into the Storm" is a novel that begins in the United States and travels to war-time Great Britain. We begin with RueAnn Boggs, meeting Charlie, marrying him in haste in a real shotgun wedding. Charlie is immediately called home to England and war. After a year, RueAnn follows her heart to England where she is caught up in the Blitz.

We also follow Susan Blunt, whose twin sister convinces her to switch places with her on a date. Susan reluctantly does and winds up falling head over heels for the young airman, Paul. He thinks she is Sara and then the fun begins. RueAnn and Susan live next door and sustain each other through the ravages of the war. Each girl comes to find a courage they didn't know they had and the ingenuity to make the most of their circumstances. Join me in reading about the wonder of war-time love and the sorrows of life that come from battle. You won't be disappointed.

I was sent a Kindle copy of this book by NetGalley.com in return for my honest review. You can find this review on my blog at <http://wp.me/p2pjIt-gX>.

Tammy O says

I enjoyed this book--a journey that followed not only women of the blitz during WW2, but the emerging independence of all women during war and the responsibilities and new jobs they faced. Great characters and relationships. Advanced eBook provided by the publishers at NetGalley for review.

Abigail Lo says

I am a sucker for great characters. Melina Marchetta, Marcus Zuzak, Laini Taylor, Susan Ee -- they've made it onto my list of favorite authors because they make each of their characters pop off the page. (If you'd like to see some of my fangirling over Angelfall by Susan Ee, just click [here](#)!) And guess what? Lisa Bingham has just made it onto my little list.

Despite the insta-love between RueAnn & Charlie and Susan & Paul, their relationships felt real. I don't know, maybe I'm becoming a sappy romantic who rambles about love at first sight, but I believed in their love. I also loved how Ms. Bingham took the time to craft every character, from the heroines down to the maid. She even got me to like RueAnn's mother-in-law! God knows how awful those can be sometimes.

The picture that Ms. Bingham painted of WWII London was also absolutely breath-taking. Yes, of course she's clearly done a lot of research into WWII, and that's lovely and all, but that's not what makes it great. What makes her writing great is how it flows together so much that I can picture it before my very eyes. Even after I stop reading and I rush to my next class (which I was late for, no thanks to Ms. Bingham), I can almost imagine that I'm walking the streets of London. That's what makes it amazing to me.

So after all this praise, why not five stars? Simple: I wanted more. RueAnn and Susan's stories would have

been better off as separate novels. As it is, crowded into the same novel, their stories feel incomplete. The endings were wrapped up a little too neatly and a little too quickly. But that little worry isn't enough to stop me from recommending this to everyone reading this review! So go out, look at the cover, fall in love, read the book, and fall in love again!

Ionia says

Isn't this a beautiful cover? I fell in love with it right away.

The book took me a bit longer. If you like books where you get to know a lot about the characters before jumping into the meat of the story, then you may find yourself struggling a bit with this one. The writing is clear and concise, but I still found I had to keep going back to figure out who was who, until well into the story.

The novel has a lot going for it, both memories from the past and the current parts of the character's lives are interesting, but I did have a few issues with it. I didn't feel that the relationships and conversations amongst the characters always felt genuine.

I did like the way the author fit pieces together that at first didn't seem to make much sense. Whilst reading this, you will no doubt have a few "aha" moments as the book progresses.

Overall, I thought this was a complex story with a lot going for it, but there were opportunities to make the characters more important to the reader that I thought were missed.

Still a good book. A nice combination of thoughtful writing and excellent descriptions.

This review is based on a complimentary copy from the publisher and provided through Netgalley. All opinions are my own.
