

A Pledge of Silence

By Flora J. Solomon

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2014 Winner — Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award — General Fiction

When Margie Bauer joins the Army Nurse Corps in 1941, she is delighted to be sent to Manila, the Pearl of the Orient. Though rumors of war circulate, she feels safe, trusting the island is fortified and the Filipino troops are well trained.

On December 8, 1941, her dreamworld shatters when the Japanese invade the Philippines. The US Army evacuates to the Bataan Peninsula, where she cares for the wounded soldiers in a field hospital, and then in a catacomb of tunnels on Corregidor Island. Ultimately captured, she is interned in Santo Tomas, a Japanese prison camp, where for three years she endures escalating danger, starvation, and loss.

At once an epic tale of a nation at war and the deeply personal story of one woman's intense journey, *A Pledge of Silence* vividly illustrates the sacrifices the Greatest Generation made for their country, and the price they continued to pay long after the war ended.

Revised edition: This edition of *A Pledge of Silence* includes editorial revisions.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
This intricately woven novel asks the question, “how much can one woman take before she breaks?” Margie is a young farm girl who goes to nursing school and becomes an active nurse during World War II. The author does a dazzling job of pulling the reader into the story. The book begins in November 2000, when Margie is an old woman attending the funeral of her daughter, Barbara. The author then moves Margie back in time in a rather unique way that makes the reader wonder whether Margie is experiencing her own thoughts or really witnessing her younger life. This story not only reveals the struggles and discrimination women endured in this period of history, but the lengths some had to take to protect themselves. The images of the attack on Manila by the Japanese are vividly rendered: "Down at the docks, chaos reigned as masses of people crowded the shore, desperately seeking transport to safer islands. The brown, oil-slicked water churned with debris. Everything that floated got pressed into service. The nurses pushed their way down to the water's edge to look for their boat." The characters are well-developed and believable. And the settings in the book truly become characters—whether the action is in middle America or the Philippines. The pace of this book is near perfect. An amazing story that will leave readers thinking about the characters long after they the final page. Perfect ingredients for a breakout novel.

Review

"Some writers have the creative ability to describe an intense way of life. Solomon does just this with such an emotional tone. This is truly a novel that keeps the reader wanting more." —Jackie Iler, *The State Port Pilot*

"An incredible look back at the all too often forgotten role that American women played during the War. Mesmerizing." —Rosemary Smith, Librarian - Williams Library

“[Flora J. Solomon] takes us into the theater of war in the steaming tropics, where we can feel the tension and fear that the doctors and nurses experience while saving lives, as the Japanese attacks destroy the land and the people. The historical content of the novel is well done, and I felt the emotional trials the characters experienced during and after the war...I highly recommend this excellent book to those who enjoy novels about history and personal lives during WWII.” —Historical Novel Society, Editor's Choice

About the Author

Flora J. Solomon relocated from Michigan’s winter wonderland to the beautiful North Carolina coast, where, between visits from her children and grandchildren, she enjoys a hard-won tennis match and an occasional round of golf. Her debut novel, *A Pledge of Silence*, is set during World War II and captures the experience of American military nurses held as prisoners of war.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jennifer McNab:

What do you regarding book? It is not important with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. They need to answer that question because just their can do which. It said that about guide. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is proper. Because start from on pre-school until university need this A Pledge of Silence to read.

Susan Ford:

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