



Letters to A G.I.

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PRESS RELEASE

Letters to a G.I.

Tom Williams

Paperback, \$ 21.95

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Letters to a G.I. Kansas City Author's Book Speakes to Friendship, Courtship, and Love

(KANSAS CITY) Have you ever been in love? Did you exchange notes, cards, and letters? What might they reveal today? Were they discarded and thrown away? Those questions are at the heart of Kansas City-area resident Tom Williams' book, *Letters to a G.I.: An Intimate Journey from Friendship to Love*, now available for purchase on Amazon.com and by order at area bookstores.

Letters to a G.I. is a collection of fifty-year-old letters written by a young woman to a soldier at the end of the Vietnam War. They provide insight into her developing maturity as her feelings blossom from a mere acquaintance toward love. Over a three-year period, comments from the soldier often question their relationship. The letters are filled with tidbits of life at home with family, pets, and work during that time in America's history.

Letters to a G.I. is available for [purchase on Amazon.com](http://purchase.on.Amazon.com) and by order at all bookstores.

Visit www.allwetpublishing.com for more information and contact Tom Williams at (913) 378-7044 or allwetpublishing@att.net to schedule an author interview.

BOOK SYNOPSIS

For as long as warriors have left their dwellings to serve, those who remained behind made efforts to keep in contact and convey a current picture of life at home; if for no other reasons than to provide a continued sense of connection, comfort, safety, and security that all is well.

Herein are the actual letters sent from a young telephone operator, Amy Palmer, to her G.I., Scott Morris, covering their three-year court-ship by mail. Follow her emotional path from transitory friendship, through dearest affection, to unabashed adoration, and finally enduring love.

Amy's sensitive, touching writings offer an intimate window into her likes, dislikes, and frailties, at times expressing self-doubt. On other occasions, she discloses an inner strength. Amy often penned late at night, which led to "mumbling" as she sometimes wrote. As their long-distance intimacy blossomed, her later signings convey a closer fidelity toward Scott. She also reveals growing maturity when displeased with him.

Her letters contain common, daily occurrences; an employed girl's life at home with mom, dad, sister Elizabeth "Betts," dog Hailey, and cat George. They include Amy's attempts at humor and sarcasm as well as thoughts when dealing with the highs and lows of work at the telephone company. Unfamiliar with the military, she uses newly learned army jargon to connect with Scott.

BOOK EXCERPT

August 28

Dear Scott,

After I finished your last letter, I thought of about a million things I wanted to tell you. Well, almost!

I got off work about an hour ago. I worked 7:30 to 4:30. Gosh, it was a long day. The people were really difficult. There are days like that. Also, I was doing everything wrong, which didn't help matters any. At least I have tomorrow off, so I'll have a day to recuperate. Then I work Monday, Tuesday, have Wednesday off, then work till who knows when. Oh joy! I can hardly wait!

I have my last vacation Thanksgiving week. I don't plan on going anywhere, but at least I hope to get some Christmas shopping done. Christmas — what a great time of the year!

We got paid yesterday, and I haven't spent any money yet. How's that for will power! It's so good being rich again! We get our wage increase on the next check.

I'll finish this Sunday.

Good night for now,
Amy

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TALKING WITH TOM WILLIAMS



Tom Williams, as a retired leader of America's military men and women, fully recognizes the importance of letters from home to each service member, and the impact on morale. He also understands letters from U.S. Armed Forces personnel stationed faraway to those who remain at home are just as meaningful.

While some correspondences bring disappointment, the overwhelming majority provides happiness and joy. A simple note that includes the deployed person celebrating the current holiday is greatly appreciated. A birthday or special occasion card to him or her from the folks, siblings, spouse, children, significant other, or partner is heartfelt. News of family and home brightens each service member's day, a wonderful respite from the "hurry up and wait" boredom and occasional highly stressful situations.

(Note: The author's answers to these questions, as well as his comments in the Press Release included in this Media Kit, may be quoted without prior permission, but may not be revised or rephrased.)

Q. What inspired you to write *Letters to a G.I.*?

A. At a veteran's event, two couples were exchanging stories on how they met. That discussion led to the questions "Did you write to each other?" and "Did you keep the letters?" The answers were a resounding "Yes!" Those questions and answers expanded the conversation to whether or not the digital savvy youth of today keep their e-mails, texts, tweets, snapchats, videos, etc. The overwhelming response was "No they are not kept and yes they are deleted." Both couples felt "What a shame," especially when those digital exchanges led to love and marriage.

From that point, I decided hand written letters would be a great idea for a book. This is not a new concept. Letters between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams provide historians with insights into the thinking of those two Founding Fathers. Letters from Confederate General Robert E. Lee to his family during the Civil War reveal his strengths and frailties as the war dragged on. In general, written letters from even the most common of people provide the reader, the historian, the researcher, the archivist with invaluable information about the eons, ages, and times in which those humans lived.

Q. What do you see as the book's core message?

A. That love is everlasting.

Q. How long did it take you to write the book?

A. It took about two years. Most of that time was devoted to transcribing. I'm no 100 wpm typist, not even half that fast. Single finger "hunt and peck" is more my speed.

Q. What was the hardest part of writing the book?

A. Surprisingly, determining which letters to include and which to leave out. In the three years of their courtship by mail, Amy wrote more than 700 letters. Many were easy to reject as you can only place so many "Hi Scott. I just wanted to say have a great day. Love, Amy" before the reader would get bored. Others had information, which might be interpreted as derogatory to businesses or other individuals. In addition, I was unable to get permission from some named persons for inclusion; that took time, as well.

Q. What was the thing that surprised you most during the writing process?

A. Even though I tried to stay detached, I found my mind wandering as I remembered content in my own letters I'd written to various girlfriends and love interests.

Q. What made you decide to publish the book yourself rather than seek a traditional publisher?

A. This was a relatively easy decision. First, the letters are not between any famous people. So, the chances an agent or publishing house would accept the work was nil. Second, there are many such books already in print. Third, and most important, Amy and Scott wanted this more for themselves. Self-publishing was a better process.

Q. What piece of advice would you give to a writer just starting out?

A. Go with your gut. You may not sell a lot of books. You may never become famous. Your work may never become a Broadway hit or Hollywood movie. Focus on the topic and self-satisfaction of accomplishing a personal goal. All else is icing on the cake.

Q. Are you a reader? Are there a favorite few books you might recommend?

A. I recommend reading biographies of famous people. They often present the human aspect of that person one does not usually learn about from more historical oriented text.

Q: Are you an author who likes meeting readers?

A. While the writing process itself is necessarily solitary; I greatly enjoy the chance to talk with readers. I schedule book talks and signings in the Kansas City area when possible—for

information on upcoming events, check the Events page on my website at allwetpublishing.com — and I welcome the chance to speak to book clubs and other groups about the book and its topics, including citizenship and the presidency. Just use the form on the website's Contact page to reach me; you'll hear back from me promptly unless I'm traveling, which may slow my response somewhat.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Abbreviated: Tom Williams possesses a wide range of experiences in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. A disabled veteran, he was employed in a state social services department and later as a county emergency manager. In industry, he worked in corporate insurance followed by a high-end jewelry business. As an employee of two non-profit organizations, he trained volunteers and raised money. Tom rejoined the government and assisted communities across the world prepare for the challenges of terrorism. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and received *magna cum laude* honors in Public Policy and Administration graduate studies from the University of Kentucky. Tom now resides in Kansas. He can be reached through his website, <https://www.allwetpublishing.com>

Full: Tom Williams possesses a wide range of experiences in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. He worked in the Executive Branch of federal, state, and county governments, in corporate America, small businesses, internationally renowned charitable organizations, and as a government contractor.

To earn money for college Tom worked as a newspaper boy, a gravedigger, a farm hand, grocery bagger, jewelry store clerk, and in a steel foundry. After military service, he was employed in a state social services department and later as county emergency manager. In private industry, Tom worked for an insurance company and in customer service for a high-end jewelry business. As a volunteer and later employee of non-profit organizations, he helped people find jobs, performed fundraising activities, and trained volunteers to aid citizens affected by natural disasters. Tom rejoined the government helping communities face the challenges of terrorism and other crises like active shooters.

He is a disabled veteran who lived, served, traveled, and vacationed on six continents in nearly sixty countries. Tom has appeared on local morning television and noontime radio talk shows and has conducted crisis management seminars in Asia, Europe, and across the United States.

Tom was born in the Sandhills region of western Nebraska. He attended private and public schools and, as was typical for young boys, participated in Scouting and played several sports. He earned a Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, and commissioning as a Second Lieutenant, United States Army. Tom achieved *magna cum laude* honors obtaining a Masters from the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

Since his retirement, Tom has focused on writing. His first work, completed in 2015 and given to his family, was a 600-page, four-year effort tracing his family genealogy from their arrival in the New World in the late 1600s until today. His other published books are: *President You: How a Thoughtful Ordinary Citizen Could Change the Most Complex Government on Earth*, 2019; and *My Life in Lists: A Simple Record of Your Life*, 2020.

Tom now resides in Kansas.

He can be reached via his website's Contact page <https://www.allwetpublishing.com>.

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