

Poems and songs celebrating forty years of love and passion.

Forever Maria

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Forever Maria

“Celebrating Forty Years of Love”

Volume 1

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“Celebrating Forty Years of Love”

Volume 1

William R. Menzel

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my wife, whom I call Maria when I am happy, Mary when I am peeved and Mariluz when I need to use her given name. I chose the title Forever Maria and the subtitle “Celebrating Forty Years of Love” because I am a simple man with a straightforward way of expressing my feelings. This book is a collection of poems and songs that I wrote to my wife on the cards I gave to her for Mother’s Day, Christmas, her birthdays and our anniversaries. She has been my muse for over forty years, and I am proud of her beauty, courage and good heart.

I also want to acknowledge that this book would not exist were it not for my son, Anthony Menzel, who was my very able editor and kind guide.

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Chapter 7: Songs of Passion

Heart of My Heart (1990)

Heart of my heart,
Soul of my soul,
How could I breathe
without your breath?

Song of my life,
joy of my loins,
How could I feel
without your touch?

Sun of my days,
Star of my nights,
How could I dream
without your love?

Maria in the Night (1991)

Oh what joy you give,
when you love me sweetly.
My heart leaps
when you bare your body,
My soul sings
When you whisper wanton words.

Your eyes shine into my heart,
and I am young again.
Your tongue bathes my lips,
and I am beyond all cares.

Your hands caress my hips,
and all my aches are none.

You are my magic, my elixir, and my sun.

My Darling Maria (1984)

You are the sweet soft
tender night--love in my dreams
You are the ache fulfilled
the yearning satisfied.
All my days I remember
Your brown eyes shining
and brown hair falling
and warm lips parting
as you lay back in my arms
giving your life blood and
gentle breath, holding my love.
Te amo, Maria.

When (1989)

When you come to me
Eager and tender,
With your soft, warm womanly flesh--
then I know how I want heaven to be.

When our breasts cling together
and our hearts beat as one,
and your breath gentles my soul--
then I know all my battles I've won.

When your eyes shine with love
and your arms draw me close,
and your kisses waken my youth--
then I know all life's goodness will come.

The Passion of My Soul (1993)

The sweetest lips,
the longest tongue,
the softest hips--
Who could ask for more than this?

Deep chocolate yes,
warm and meaty thighs,
and creamy breasts with strawberry tits--
Who could ask for more than this?

You are the passion
and the food of my soul
You are the love of my life.

Always By Your Side (1998)

Rushing through the city
Laughing at the world
Waiting for you late nights
Always by your side.

Dancing to old music
Swaying with your grace
Aching to possess you
Always by your side.

Keeping vigil at your sick bed
Praying for God's mercy
Holding hands to find my heart
Always by your side.

Rocking gently on your shoulder
Caressing your tender places
drinking in your softness
Always happy, by your side.

My Valentine Wish (1998)

What joy to see your eyes sparkle
when your lips part for mine.

How good to wrap my arms about you
and crush your swollen breast to my heart.

So sweet your moans and warm
whispers brushing softly my ear.

How grand the explosion and laughter
as you tenderly caress me to passion.

If I never see heaven, at least I've been near,
thanks to you, my sweet angel, thanks to you, my dear.

I hope to make you as happy
as you have made me.

Always My Love (1999)

Always my love,
from the morning surprise of your green garters
warming my bed, your eyes shining with lust.

Always my love,
to the nights of sweet passion,
and your breasts gorged with milk,
so good to rock you so deep.

Always my love,
to the tender reunions, when fated to part
for long, lonely weeks.
I wrapped you in blankets of gladness,
so grateful to love you again.

Always my love,
as we dance in the twilight,
and embrace as we sleep,
forever I'll love you,
forever and deep.

The Lady I Admire (1993)

I have loved you for your kindness,
and I've loved you for your sex.
Sometimes my love was mindless,
driven by the late night yearnings
aroused by the flower of your soul.

I have loved you for your beauty,
and I've loved you for your fun.
Sometimes my love was tender,
charmed by your laughing song
and the summer in your eyes.

But now as I grow wiser,
and see your strength and drive
and courage, and witness your bright mind,
I have happily discovered
that the woman that I lust for
is the lady I admire.

About The Author

William met Maria on New Year's Eve, 1966, and so began a romance and a marriage that has lasted for forty years. William started writing poems and love songs to Maria on the back of every card he gave her for special occasions starting in 1968, and this collection includes some of his favorites.

William and Maria both grew up in difficult circumstances in New York City, and both were passionate, ambitious people with a zest for life. William emigrated from Germany at the age of ten, and Maria came from the Dominican Republic when she was fifteen.

William R. Menzel (the R stands for Reinhold) was born in Germany on October 18, 1946. His mother, Minna, was a refugee from what had been East Prussia before World War I, and so both were deemed stateless by the West German government. After many hardships they managed to immigrate to New York City along with his younger brother Robert in the winter of 1957. William grew up in the Ridgewood section of Queens, which in those days still had a German-speaking movie theater and newspaper. He inherited his mother's love for literature and spent most of his summer vacations reading books and listening to late night radio. Jean Shepherd was an early influence. In 1959 Robert was severely injured in an auto accident, which caused William to doubt religion.

William was a talented artist and a good student but had difficulty adjusting to America, and after some scrapes, he was expelled from the High School of Art & Design. After working in a boring job as a stock boy, William joined the Army in 1964, right before his eighteenth birthday. He became a paratrooper and got his GED diploma in 1965. William started composing songs in the Army, but lost most of them after getting seriously wounded in Vietnam. William spent over a year being treated in military hospitals and was discharged with a partially paralyzed left hand. He received disability and went to school under a rehabilitation program. William married Maria while in school, and she worked as a secretary to help support them. They lived in the Inwood section of Manhattan, where their daughter Valerie was born in 1969. William obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration, Magna Cum Laude, from Pace University in

Forever Maria

1970 and graduated fifth in his class from the Columbia University Graduate School of Business in 1972.

The Menzel family moved to Cincinnati when William joined Procter & Gamble in 1972. William has a good singing voice and began to sing and compose songs in the car during his commute from work. Often the songs seemed to flow out of him with a life of their own. Anthony was born in 1975, and Maria had a serious operation for kyphosis that put her in a body cast for most of 1976 and caused Maria's mother to join the family and help raise the kids.

The family moved to Dayton, Ohio when William joined Ponderosa Steakhouses as a Marketing Director in 1978. They lived in a nice ranch house, and Anthony soon added Lucky the beagle to the family. William rose to Vice President and eventually Executive Vice President at Ponderosa and then decided to fulfill his life-long dream of financial independence by becoming a franchisee.

In 1985 the family moved to Virginia Beach when William and a partner took over five steakhouses in the Tidewater area. It was here that Valerie, who had blossomed into a beauty, won the position of Princess for the 1986 Neptune Festival. Many competitive restaurants soon opened in the area due to the military buildup during the Reagan years. Cash flow difficulties led to the need to sell the franchise and William returned to the corporate world in 1988. In 1989 Anthony, a talented musician and top honors student, had the first of a number of epileptic seizures that restricted his life and caused much anguish. Throughout this turmoil Maria was a wonderful supporter and help-mate, and some of the poems reflect William's gratitude.

The family moved to New Jersey in 1991 when William became a Senior Vice President at Restaurant Associates, a famous food service company headquartered in Manhattan. In mid-1991 William's mother died after several years of increasingly painful illnesses. In her youth she had worked two jobs for many years and was a heavy smoker. William was heart broken for a long time, and Maria's comfort helped heal him through this terrible ordeal. In 1993 Valerie was married to college sweetheart Gerd Ballner in a large, memorable wedding in Washington, DC.

Celebrating Forty Years of Love

Grandsons Parker and Hunter were born in 1997 and 2004 respectively. Both are unusually bright, athletic and handsome.

In the late 1990s, William's career changed, and he became responsible for helping to acquire and divest various companies, including Charlie Brown's Steakhouses, Acapulco Mexican Dinner houses, California Pizza Kitchen and Au Bon Pain. He traveled a great deal and was often gone for months at a time. Some of his poems reflect the yearning and loneliness of that period. During this time Maria became increasingly active in real estate, and is now well known in Morris County, but this also resulted in less time for intimacy.

William became the President of the New York Krispy Kreme franchise in 1999 but this turned into a painful experience after the 9/11 World Trade Center bombing destroyed the most profitable unit in the group and slowed expansion to a crawl. In 2003 William launched his own consulting firm and started Ayhan's Mediterranean Brands with his partner Ayhan from Long Island. The start-up was a struggle and led to much strain in the family. Maria, who had turned to religion, became very involved in faith healing and in assisting their son Anthony, who had become a Charismatic Protestant minister in addition to being a full-time Spanish-English bilingual high school science teacher.

In 2006 William reconnected with Restaurant Associates and helped them transition into the Patina Restaurant Group and later to acquire the Smith & Wollensky Steakhouses. In 2007 he learned about the publish-on-demand technology and decided to publish this collection as a gift to everyone who knows Maria, and those who might like to.

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