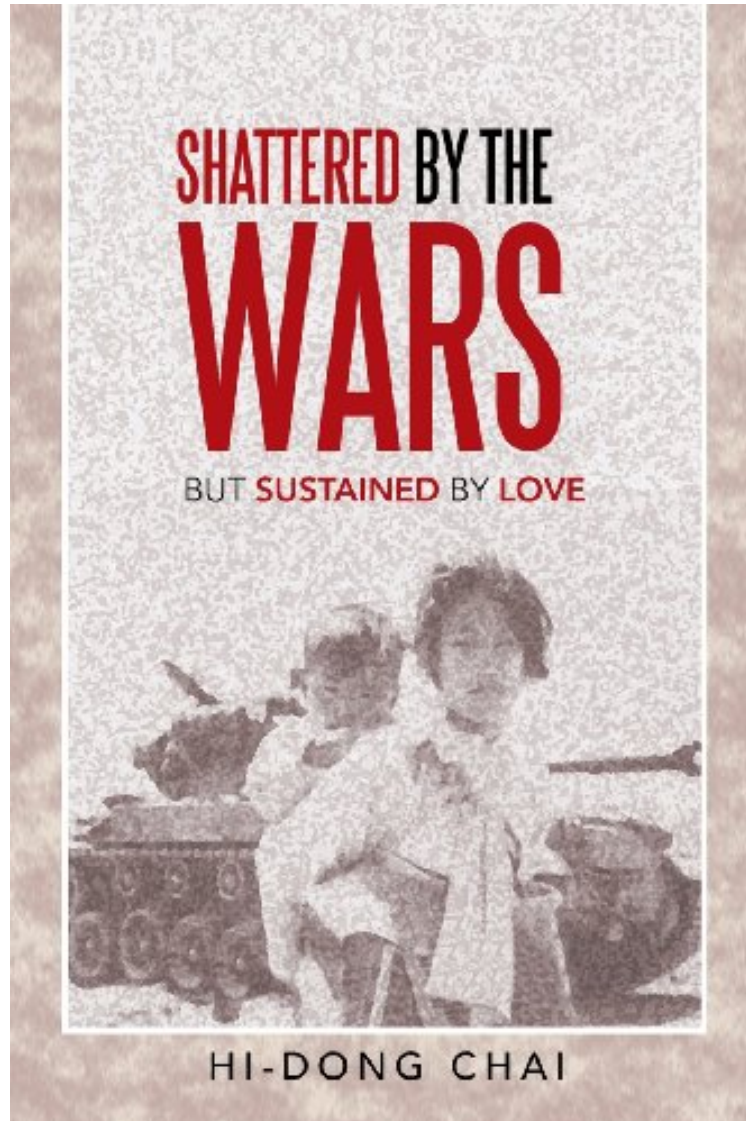


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Shattered by the Wars: But Sustained by Love

Hi-Dong Chai

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Hi-Dong Chai : Shattered by the Wars: But Sustained by Love before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shattered by the Wars: But Sustained by Love:

39 of 39 people found the following review helpful. One man's journey of love, loss and hope for the futureBy L. ColumbusThis was a deeply touching story, written in the first person, as the author experienced the events personally. It is a tale of courage, survival, family connections and most of all love. While there are Christian themes mentioned, anyone would enjoy reading HI-DONG CHAI's story and should take something away from it. Despite all the tragedies related in the book, the author incredibly and admirably maintains a hopeful outlook on life. This is simply a

plainspoken narrative, detailing one man's personal feelings and losses caused by war. It is an anti-war treatise, but not in a preachy way. It speaks louder than any essay or fictional anti-war novel, because it's honest and true. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. 5* touching depiction of enduring faith in a chaotic period; regrettable caveat for those who read only for entertainment

By John H. Manhold
Shattered by the WARS but sustained by love ISBN: 9781462407972, Inspiring Voices Books, e-book by Hi-Dong Chai is a memoir of a Seoul, Korean born immigrant now a successful and highly respected engineer and inventor. The story begins with the story teller's birth and progresses through the following years until his departure for America at sixteen years of age. Chronicled are his early life growing up in a land soon wracked by wars and the havoc rendered by these catastrophic occurrences. These woes are exacerbated by a number of other factors. With the advent of WW II the country is overrun by Japanese and the father, a Christian minister, is arrested for adhering to his religion, their home is confiscated and a brother attempting to effect the father's release enters the Japanese army and succumbs to war injuries. Peace is short lived followed by North Korea's invasion of Seoul and its attendant privations. When the allies join the south and free the city, Chai's older brother Hi-Bum, a brilliant student who had become a communist teacher is sought but escapes and the authorities will not believe the family is unaware of his whereabouts. The father again is taken by authorities and mother and Chai incessantly harassed. Once again they must move and the remainder of the book details the suffering of both mother and Chai as they are separated, the many attempts to discover if the other even has survived and the miserable lives of abject poverty they must endure until finally a break occurs providing Chai an opportunity to come to America. He agrees only at the insistence of his loving and devoutly religious mother.

Conclusion: a heartrending tale of a strongly maintained religious faith in the face of overwhelming loss and deprivation told powerfully by use of the simplistic manner of a young Korean boy totally devoted to his mother and her 'properly indoctrinated' way of life. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Shattered By the Wars- A Humanistic Story
By Sheryl
Shattered by Wars is a sweet autobiography written in war time Korea. Yet, the autobiography does not exclusively deal with wars. This story is about simple people with simple aspirations who are devastated by war and finally come through it stronger due to the power of love. Love is the eternal healer and its presence is felt throughout the book. The book depicts the life in Korea during Japan occupation and North Korean invasion. It is pleasant to read about a different culture with different norms and its own set of superstitions. It is amusing to find a woman seeing her husband for the first time after a month of marriage and getting disappointed by his image. Yet, the woman goes on to have a deep bond with her husband and has ten babies for him. The little everyday events as recited by the big-headed boy with the bow shaped legs in quite refreshing. The war details are horrifying and quite sad but they have dealt with in a sensitive manner and hope resides all along the story.

Shattered by the Wars is a very humanistic tale that would bring a smile to your lips and tears to your eyes. This nonfiction would touch your heart and would prove to be an entertaining though sad read.

Shattered by the Wars won the 2015 SPR contest in non-fiction. Also it came in as a finalist in 2015 Beverly Hills Book Awards, 2014 Eric Hoffer Awards, 2013 Hippo Campus Magazine and 2013 Autumn House Publishing writing contests

I hate war. War kills. War maims. War orphans. And it leaves a deep scar not only on the land, that will take years to heal, but also in the hearts of those who are affected by the war. I am one of those who carry a deep emotional wound to this day, more than sixty years later. During World War II, under Japan, my father was imprisoned because he was a Christian minister who refused to bow down to the picture of the Japanese emperor. My elder brother volunteered to join the Japanese military in the hope of having his father released from the prison. He left home as a vibrant, fifteen-year-old boy and returned home as a worn-out, injured, eighteen-year-old man after the war; he died a year later. During the Korean War, two North Korean officers came to my house and took my father away because he was a Christian minister. He never returned.

Shattered by the Wars is a story of love, sacrifice, faith, and suffering, all wrapped in one package. The heroine in the story is my mother, as seen by her youngest son. Mother prayed without ceasing. Through her unceasing prayers, she was able to walk through the dark tunnel of trials and tribulations and lead us onward with love and grace and absolute faith in God.

From US of Books
Shattered by the Wars is a comprehensive portrayal of Chai's life. Many of the moments are sharp and vivid to the point that audiences will feel they are peering down the lens of a professional camera and are right there with Chai on his journey. The atrocities faced and the sacrifices made by Chai's family should only be made for Hollywood; no man in reality should have to undergo such trying circumstances. But the most astounding aspect of this narrative is Chai's resolve. Despite all the bad, he shared his mother's determination and believed that life would get better. Ultimately, this story is not about technique, style, or even plot. It is the genuine expression of the human spirit: man's desire to dig into the most painful parts of his essence and pull out a narrative that is both heart wrenching and mesmerizing.

From the Author
In my professional career as an engineer and a professor, I published 40 technical papers including the textbook, *Electromechanical Motion Devices*, Prentice Hall, 1998. I was the inventor or a coinventor of 52 inventions that were either filed for the U.S. Patents or published in the IBM Invention Disclosure Bulletin.