

## Cindy Entriiken Media Kit

### **Bio:**

Cindy Entriiken is a person with strong likes and dislikes. She hates cooking, exercise, and hot weather.

She loves being outdoors, gardening, and learning, which explains the two master's degrees and the 31 hours toward a PhD. She adores cats and her two grandsons. And she can't go a day without reading—preferably mysteries, nonfiction, history, novels, almost anything she can get her hands on.

She lives in Wichita, Kansas, with her husband, Jim Hammer, one rescue dog, and two cats. She is the author of *Ila's War*.

### **Blurb:**

*Ila's War* is the true story of the first 30 years of Ila Armsbury's life.

Hers is the story of an ordinary Kansan—an “every woman”—who aspired for more than the traditional roles of wife and mother. The book is set in the 1920s through the 1940s. Some of Ila's stories are frightening while others are humorous or heart-breaking. But they're all true and inspirational because they show a young woman determined to take control of her own life to achieve her goals: education, service, travel, and a family.

Ila's stories include a confrontation with the Ku Klux Klan in Lincoln, Kansas; the arrest of her father on a charge of white slavery in Russell County; the havoc of dust storms during the Dirty 30s; and the crippling of five Lincoln men, part of a group of 50,000 Americans who drank adulterated Jamaica Ginger. Another story about working as an obstetrics nurse in the Kansas City, Kansas, slums in the late 1930s demonstrates some of the changes in medical practice over the last several decades.

In addition to detailed and colorful stories of Kansas history, *Ila's War* tells of her experiences as a US Army nurse with the 155th Station Hospital at Camp Cable, Australia; about the horrors of battle on New Guinea; how Camp Cable was overwhelmed when more than 2,000 US Marines—all sick with malaria—were evacuated from Guadalcanal just before Christmas 1942; about Ila's successful fight with an Army Board of Disposition to stay in the Army Nurse Corps; and about Ila's struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder after the war.

While some readers may see *Ila's War* as a coming-of-age tale, its real power lies in her triumph over the adversities of poverty, prejudice, betrayal, and war. Ila represents strong Kansas women, and she will serve as a role model for all of us living through difficult times.

**Endorsements:**

"[A] compelling story with vivid sketches, drawn from original sources . . . The world of a rural Kansas family in the 1920s and 1930s and a woman in the service of her country during wartime are vividly presented in Cindy Entriken's story of her great aunt Ila Armsbury's life through her letters and other original sources, including oral accounts."

--Dr. Ramon Powers, Executive Director (retired), Kansas State Historical Society

"This is a dramatic story, heartbreaking yet inspirational, of family life in Kansas in the 1920s. It's told by a remarkable new writer who turns her family history into an emotional and absorbing adventure. For the reader, the pain of betrayal will leave a dent in your chest, but also a deep love for the family in your heart. It's smoothly written and well researched. A great read."

--Marlin Fitzwater, Native Kansan and Press Secretary to Presidents Reagan and Bush

**Contact:**

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**Book:**

<https://www.amazon.com/Ilas-War-Cindy-Entriken-ebook/dp/B08FGHPWGY>

**Headshot:**



**Book cover:**

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# ILA'S WAR

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