



PODCAST FROM THE HOME FRONT

A COMING SOON HI-DI-HO!

Hi di ho, friends! I'm getting ready to take you back in time with the **Podcast from the Home Front** radio program starting Tuesday May 1st! You see, Radio was the nucleus of home life, particularly during the war. Family gathered around in the evenings for shows such as The Inner Sanctum or Lux Radio Theatre, and during the day, children were captivated by their serial programs: The Lone Ranger, The Phantom, and Captain Midnight. There was something for everyone coming out of that radio in the living room, but my personal favorite is Glenn Miller's The Chesterfield Show.

After traveling back in my time machine as a kitty cat, I lounged beside the fireplace listening to President Roosevelt's "Fireside Chats" and on wash day, I played in the bed linen while enjoying the soap opera "The Guiding Light." Thanks to the American Broadcasting Company (ABC's) reporting, I could see through my mind's eye the brave boys storming the beaches at Normandy as the invasion unfolded on June 6, 1944. Oh how riveting! I was so afraid for all those fellas!

The music! Oh the music – It's positively purrrrfect and how I loved to watch my favorite wartime couple foxtrot in the kitchen when "Dancing in the Dark" played. What a thrill! I'd like to take you all back with me so that you can experience all of it, too.

Did you know, that although Television made its fascinating public debut at the 1939 World's Fair in New York City, it would be almost a decade until the first ones arrived at home. My mother's family was the first on the block in 1949! But until then radio was King, those revolutionary table top or console boxes filled with a speaker, tubes and capacitors exemplified life on the home front from the moment of introduction into America life. We call that period between the 1920s and the late 1950s – the Golden Age of Radio.

Books were also king and while Germany burned them, wartime 1940s produced some of the best loved classics such as a *Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Little Prince*. One book in particular began its extraordinary and powerful journey toward becoming so much more than "a book" some 76 years later. On June 12, 1942, in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, 13 year old Anne Frank made her first entry into a new diary: her story, her words, her real life sorrows, hopes, and dreams.

Everything tells a story – everyone has story, and none can better be told through the hero and heroines own words. Radio and the era's music I love so much may have been king, and fictional books may have transported readers to places far from war-torn life and topics, but – as a romance

storyteller - nothing resonates or inspires me like love letters sent to and from the Home Front. I'll be talking about all three, Music, Books and Letters, and then some ... on every Tuesday and Saturday beginning in May. In June, look for my podcast series "The Love Letter Project" where we'll meet three distinct couples and learn a little about their romance through their correspondence.

So from the floor of my padded clothes closet I'll be broadcasting to you over the podcasting radio waves coming into your home. I hope y'all will tune in and join me for a swell time! Until then ... Keep'em flying, darlings.

For more on radio and "The Mind's Ear" check out my blog [entry](#)

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