



# PIN UP DOLLS & CLASSIC CARS: A COVID LOVE STORY

Do you appreciate stuff more now that the worst of COVID is over? Pretty things like the buffed painted body of a car, the chrome polished into mirrors reflecting light? Or maybe friends and lovers that you're afraid might get sick again? The trauma of the pandemic still sinks in.

Pacific Northwest summers provide a beautiful snapshot of the "Good Ol' Days" where folks moved about freely showing off their cars and dresses. Pin Up clubs fit into auto shows like hands into elegant lace dress gloves smoothing over a quarter panel, modeling for photos.

Dolls invent Pin Up characters, glamming up to win a tiara, crushing the competition. Gearheads asked dates to go to the movies, not thinking love could disappear so fast.

Self-destruction and supposed preservation were in full swing when it was so easy to have fun, going to the club, ball game or parties at friend's houses. But when the lockdown began, and family started dying the prospect of losing everything changed us.

## QUICK FACTS

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# FAQ

## **Why did you write the book?**

I didn't know that Pin Up Clubs existed until I saw Dolls at car shows. Except for WWII era advertisements and calendars, I thought it was a bygone era. But Pin Up has had a revival. The symbiotic nature between women dressing up and gearheads, both needing each other for racy photos to accentuate their builds, seems like pure Americana.

## **What's your favorite car?**

A 1939 Lincoln Zephyr comes to mind. I love the pre-war design, bulbous fenders, sweeping curves. But I'm a carpenter by trade, I couldn't even maintain a vehicle like that, let alone restore a car. Muscle cars are cool, but when am I going to drive over 100 MPH again?

## **What's the relationship between patriotism and Pin Up?**

Most Pin Up clubs do charity work, and veterans will always need help. If you're planning a pageant over the 4th of July then displaying the red, white and blue will sell. Summertime is when folks like travel, be free, go to car shows. Of course, the history of Pin Up goes to modestly titillating the "Boys" overseas at war with artwork. Maybe there's even some sex appeal?

## **Several of the characters are very unlikeable. Why is that?**

In my opinion, most folks are decent, hardworking and caring about others. Life is hard. But toxic people abound, too. With breakups, usually one partner is causing most of the trouble, boy or girl. How you respond to other's bad behavior should be a decision. When families go to war with each other, kids are often the most devastating weapons. I just wrote about what I observed.

## **How do modern Pin Up Dolls compare to those of yesteryear?**

I imagine that the motivation is the same, but there's a lot more tattooing than before. The availability of ordering clothes and accessories on the internet allows today's Dolls unlimited creativity. Better makeup and fabrics too. The old school look; however, can still define "class", high style and status.

## **Are they many men doing Pin Up?**

I've seen a few. It takes guts. I think the same standards should apply though. Makeup, clothes, hairdo, shoes, accessories, talent, disposition, class, all apply if clubs are going to compete. Females can be gearheads too, don't forget.

## **Compare "Beauty" between Dolls and Cars.**

It's inexhaustible. Shape, color or form that please the aesthetic, especially sight, defines "beauty" but it's entirely subjective. The journey to create something beautiful is huge. It takes time and resources to build a look or a machine. When a hot rod cruises by and people stare, the driver should feel great satisfaction. Is it different for a Doll who is paid complements on her style? It's in our vocabulary. How'd you like to go for a ride? We admire and then desire.

## **Why is there so much loss in the book?**

Death comes in threes, so they say. I knew I didn't want to turn the love story into a treatise on the effects of the pandemic, although they were so immediate and devastating. To foreshadow the loss of millions I emphasized death in Part One. The question obviously became whether the lovers would overcome COVID.

## **How do you describe the Dolls and Cars with such vividness?**

Research and the internet. I went to car shows that Pin Up clubs were also hosting. Asking questions of gearheads without sounding dumb and Dolls without sounding creepy was daunting. Looking at published photos helps.