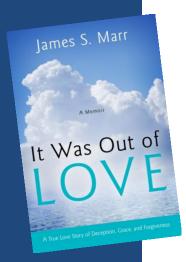
## It Was Out of Love





## Memoir of a 30-year Marital Deception

Valentine's Day is a day for romance; it's the day 19-year-old Jim Marr declared his intent to marry a woman he'd never met face-to-face. Thirty-one years later, it was the day he said goodbye to the love of his life.

In his memoir, *It Was Out of Love*, James S. "Jim" Marr details the "bizarre story" of the deception his wife, Melissa, lived every day of their marriage. It started in 1976, when Marr, an enlisted Air Force electronics technician, had a "blind phone date" with Melissa. After exchanging numerous phone calls and letters, Marr received several photos of the "beautiful young woman with long brown hair flowing over her shoulders."

Lovestruck, he penned his resolve to marry Melissa, sealed the note, and stored it in a safe place. Less than a year later, Jim and Melissa married despite glaring inconsistencies in the story she told Jim about her background.

During the next 30 years, Marr trusted in the love they shared while internally battling endless inconsistencies about Melissa's background. "But through prayer and trust in God's grace, we ultimately experienced a blessed life together," says Marr. "We grew in our love for each other as we shared in my career in the Air Force, and our ministry in the many churches we served during our travels."

Melissa's health began to decline from the long-term effects of diabetes, and six weeks before her death in 2007, she confessed the specifics of the deception she'd been living every day since their first blind phone date.

"Upon learning the secret Melissa kept all those years, I saw how God worked the deception for good and to His glory," says Marr.

Both Melissa and Jim experienced God's grace and forgiveness in powerful ways. "Because of this experience, I'm able to share His love and forgiveness with renewed vigor," says Marr.