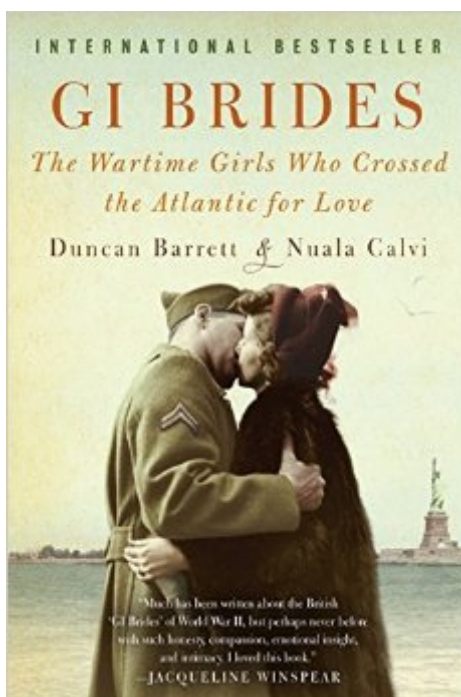


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GI Brides: The Wartime Girls Who Crossed The Atlantic For Love



Synopsis

For readers enchanted by the bestsellers *The Astronaut Wives Club*, *The Girls of Atomic City*, and *Summer at Tiffany's*, an absorbing tale of romance and resilience—the true story of four British women who crossed the Atlantic for love, coming to America at the end of World War II to make a new life with the American servicemen they married. The “friendly invasion” of Britain by over a million American G.I.s bewitched a generation of young women deprived of male company during the Second World War. With their exotic accents, smart uniforms, and aura of Hollywood glamour, the G.I.s easily conquered their hearts, leaving British boys fighting abroad green with envy. But for girls like Sylvia, Margaret, Gwendolyn, and even the skeptical Rae, American soldiers offered something even more tantalizing than chocolate, chewing gum, and nylon stockings: an escape route from Blitz-ravaged Britain, an opportunity for a new life in affluent, modern America. Through the stories of these four women, *G.I. Brides* illuminates the experiences of war brides who found themselves in a foreign culture thousands of miles away from family and friends, with men they hardly knew. Some struggled with the isolation of life in rural America, or found their soldier less than heroic in civilian life. But most persevered, determined to turn their wartime romance into a lifelong love affair, and prove to those back home that a Hollywood ending of their own was possible. *G.I. Brides* includes an eight-pages insert that features 45 black-and-white photos.

Book Information

Paperback: 592 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (370 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

As the daughter of a war bride, I know first hand that the stories depicted in this book are real, even if unbelievable at times. As my mother explained to me, when you are living through a war, emotions

are heightened, every young man in a uniform looks great, and you develop an attitude of "live for today for tomorrow we may die." GI Brides definitely depicts that high energy attitude in following these four young English women. Barrett and Calvi have done a credible job of portraying the era - one of rations, danger, high excitement - with the realities of leaving home and abandoning all of your family and everything about life you have taken for granted. Many young war brides were surprised and overwhelmed by America when they arrived. The streets were not paved of gold and this wasn't Hollywood. I found the stories of the four main characters to be engaging if somewhat depressing. Only one of the four marriages worked out in the end. The brash young men in uniform didn't turn out exactly as they originally appeared. I wonder what was the real percentage of war marriages that worked out? And I wonder if the stories were selected (since this is based on true events) were the most interesting or representative of this group of young women? That being said, it is still an engaging read and I highly recommend it. However, I must say that the actual writing was less engaging, even boring at times. Very da da da DA. da da da DA. Not really great, maybe a 3.5 stars. And some inconsistencies (in this pre-published edition), such as one character is said to live on Beacon Hill in Boston, then later brings his bride to Baltimore. And, please, if you are discussing being in America, use American terminology.

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