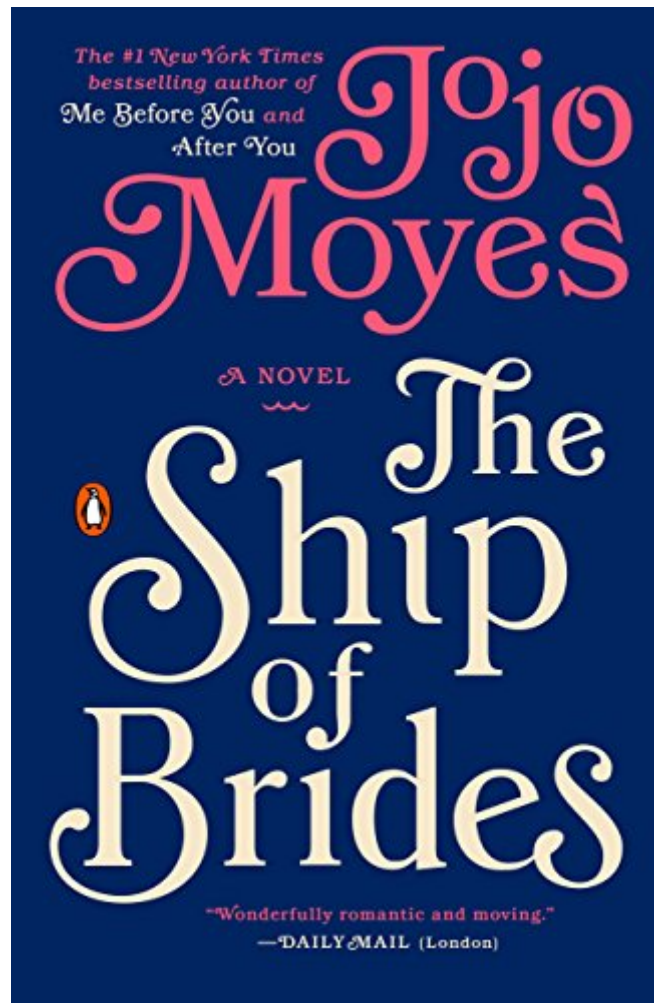




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The Ship Of Brides: A Novel



Synopsis

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Me Before You* and *One Plus One*, in an earlier work available in the U.S. for the first time, a post-WWII story of the war brides who crossed the seas by the thousands to face their unknown futures. 1946. World War II has ended and all over the world, young women are beginning to fulfill the promises made to the men they wed in wartime. In Sydney, Australia, four women join 650 other war brides on an extraordinary voyage to England aboard HMS *Victoria*, which still carries not just arms and aircraft but a thousand naval officers. Rules are strictly enforced, from the aircraft carrier's captain down to the lowliest young deckhand. But the men and the brides will find their lives intertwined despite the Navy's ironclad sanctions. And for Frances Mackenzie, the complicated young woman whose past comes back to haunt her far from home, the journey will change her life in ways she never could have predicted forever.

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Customer Reviews

I always love these based on truth fictionalized stories. I found that I cared for all of the characters, even the snobby one. The courage these young brides showed while being transported from Australia to England aboard an aircraft carrier at the close of WW II were astonishing. The cultural

differences interesting, and the interaction of the 650 or so brides with the enlisted men on board fascinating. Many men English fighters, while stationed in Australia during the great war met and married--sometimes within weeks--young Australian women and then were sent back home or to other assignments leaving the brides behind. The royal navy was assigned to bring all of these brides back to England to reunite them with their husbands. This story is about one such ship--an aircraft carrier. Most of the other ships were more like cruise lines and not so nitty gritty with the enlisted men. The central thread that unites all of the characters is a growing relationship between a quiet nurse and an honorable officer. How they hid their admiration and eventually love from each other as well as all of the other characters is the suspenseful thread throughout the book. I loved it not for the brilliant writing, which it did not have, but for the historical interest and learning something totally new about which I had never heard. Of the main characters (wives) developed and followed throughout the journey not all have happy endings being reunited with their loved ones. Some are removed from the ship and returned to Australia for various reasons. It was a good read and I am happy to have read it. It was worth my time.

It was interesting to read an early novel, by JoJo, who is now a fantastic writer and who really pulls you into the personalities of each of her characters. In this novel of hers, I thought she tried to squeeze in too many characters, and she rarely gave us enough info to really care about them all. Still, a very interesting premise for a book.

The story is told as a flashback from present day back to World War II. The stories of several young women unfold as they cross oceans, I was always thinking about the initial meeting with the present day character. The characters are well-developed and unique, their stories should be read as fiction based on fact. I was unaware of the efforts required to reunite couples married during the war.

nothing new here in the re-telling of the war brides of WW II... told through the tear filled eyes of the now-grandmother, to a too-nasty, too-privileged young grand-daughter. why she would travel with this selfish young girl when she herself is fragile ...beyond the reader's comprehension.

I loved everything about this book, from the first page to the last. I first became acquainted with Ms. Moyes' work when I bought *SHELTERING RAIN* and quickly discovered she wrote in the tradition of Marcia Willette, Rosamund Pilcher, and the early works of Maeve Binchy. I immediately ordered the rest of her available books and *THE SHIP OF BRIDES* was one of them. Based on a true story of

Australian war brides shipped to England via an aircraft carrier, it is simply enthralling. The four main female characters are a study in contrasts, but the reader quickly becomes deeply enmeshed in their lives, their hopes, and their fears. Even the least likable of the women is sympathetic because of what they are facing. I hated for this book to end. It's just the kind of richly detailed, beautifully researched, fascinating story filled with drama and wonderfully realized characters that I constantly search for and too seldom find. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

Great story about a topic I didn't know about at all from World War II. The women came alive with the author's descriptions. The descriptions of their clothes and hair were also interesting. The story line was intricate and different. I recommend this book to all history buffs. This is a part of the war that we didn't know was there.

I usually like Jojo's books, but I was really bored with this one. After reading 30% I decided life is too short to waste on something that didn't grab me. I read to either be entertained, or to learn something. I love historical fictions. This just didn't cut it.

Wonderfully written. Reflecting back it feels like I saw this movie instead of having read it. Three woman you fall in love with, as well as two men. Doesn't start off great so get past the beginning...the only reason I gave it 4 stars instead of 5.

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