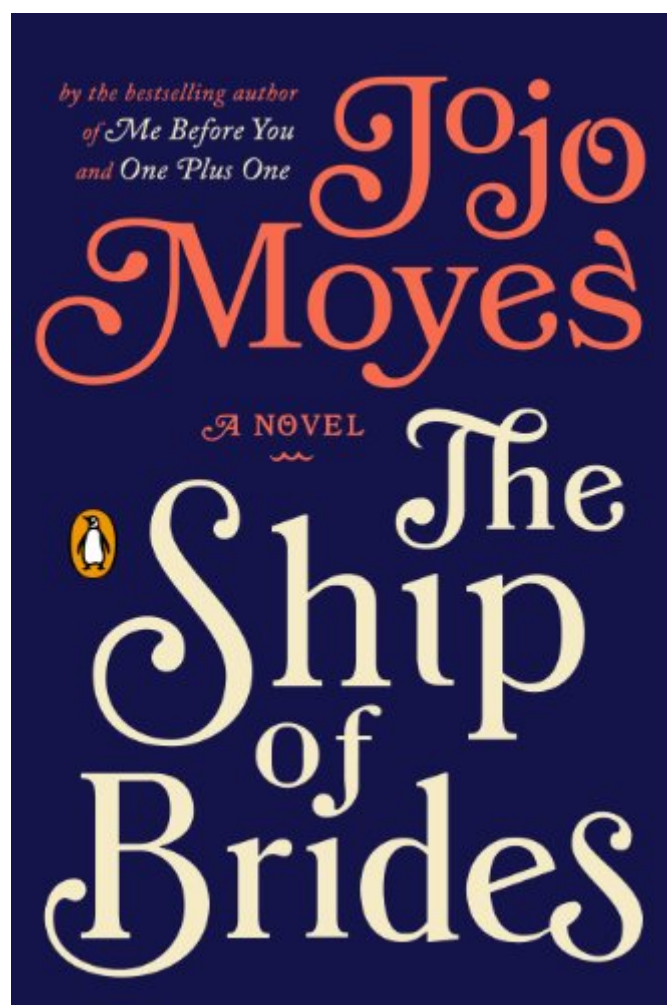


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The Ship Of Brides: A Novel



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 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.**

A fictional account of an actual voyage from Australia to England in 1946 by HMS *Victorious*, a WW2 aircraft carrier. On this, its last voyage before decommissioning, the role of the *Victorious* could not have been more different to its one in the war. It was a transport ship for some of the last Australian war brides to leave Australia, young women who had married British servicemen serving in Australia during the war, taking them to their husbands and new homes in the UK. The story is woven around four young women from vastly different backgrounds who are brought together through having to share a cabin for the journey. It is an easy read. Jojo Moyes has written it well, achieving a nice balance between the stories of the four young women, other women on the voyage and the officers and sailors whose job was to "look after" them. It is made stronger in that it has a well researched historical base - despite some slip ups - dollars did not become Australia's currency until twenty years after the story took place. An interesting fictional insight into a social phenomenon that would probably otherwise be lost, except in diaries and faded albums now tucked away in dusty drawers in cities and towns across the UK.

The Ship of Brides is one of the most engaging novels I have read in many years. I had no idea the British navy ships transported foreign war brides to England as one of their last duties after World War II. Each of the four cabin mates/brides has a unique and fascinating background that brings her to the HMS *Victorious*, a worn out aircraft carrier almost limping home. The friction and friendships between the girls and their antics with the men on board keep the story moving at a marvelous pace. I listened to it on CDs read by Nicolette McKenzie, who is a wizard with British and Australian accents. I hated it to end, feel like I lost my best friends. I am thrilled to see that Jojo Moyes has written other books and plan to read them as soon as possible.

After all the hype surrounding her novel, *Me before you*, I thought I would read this book that has

been on my bookshelves for an unknown amount of time. It just never jumped out at me before so I thought I would dive right on in. It started quite slowly and I was wondering where it was going to go. The style started off feeling a bit strange to me but it all started to make sense about a third of the way into the book once all the threads of the characters started coming together. I must admit to guessing what the secrets were before they were revealed but this did not ruin the story for me as I liked the way the author wrote them into the story. While being predictable the author made them interesting by revealing them in different and fairly unique ways. I usually hate happy endings but I was thrilled by one aspect of the ending of this book - don't worry I won't give it away. A great introduction to a new author to me and one that means I will definitely go on to try out some of her other books. 4 out of 5 for me, with one star being dropped as I felt it was about 75 to 100 pages too long, in my opinion but worth a read.

Disappointing after reading other books by this author. This story of Australian war brides being transported to England on a soon to be decommissioned World War II aircraft carrier had possibilities. But the story becomes mired in trite and repetitive prose and unlikely story lines. One of these that struck me was the premise that the waiting husbands could, for any reason it seems, write a telegram or letter saying Not Wanted Don't Come and the bride would be put off at the next stop and returned to Australia. If already married, this seems like it would be unlikely and perhaps illegal. In any event, this author has other books that are awesome and much more worth your time and money.

This book centers on a little known event in history during the War about 600 Australian women who were put aboard a carrier to be delivered to their husbands in England. The author centers on 4 women during the trip. I like this author but not this book. It's an easy read, the characters are well developed but that's it, for lack of better words the book is dull. The women have maybe one or two things happen to them but other than that, dull is the only way to describe this book. The women mostly talk and talk and talk, about their present situation, or their past or what their future will be. This is not an awful book but it is boring. If you're looking for an easy read that will not tax your brain, that will give you a little insight into the past and how women were treated this book will do the job. Do not expect to stay up nights turning pages on this one - it's not going to happen.

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