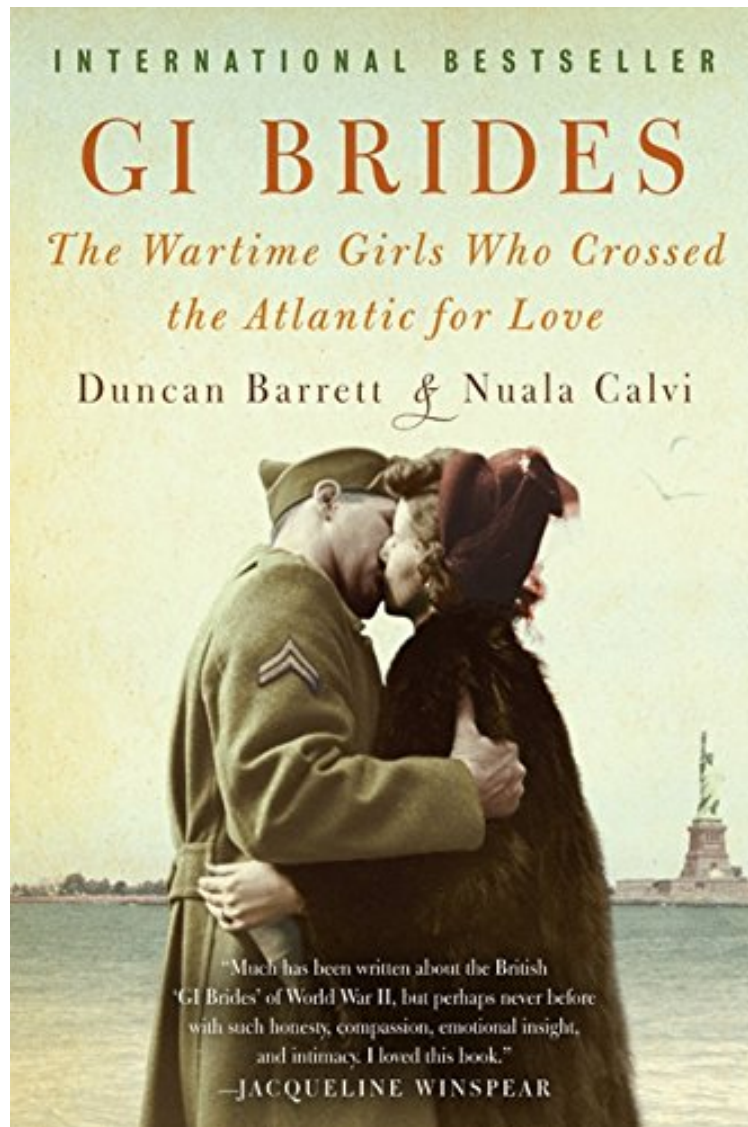


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GI Brides: The Wartime Girls Who Crossed the Atlantic for Love

Duncan Barrett, Nuala Calvi
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Duncan Barrett, Nuala Calvi : GI Brides: The Wartime Girls Who Crossed the Atlantic for Love before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised GI Brides: The Wartime Girls Who Crossed the Atlantic for Love:

94 of 97 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and true to lifeBy Jo Ann GrahamThis is a can't put it down tale of four women from England who married four American GIs during and after World War 2. The women do not know each other. The book explains their coming to America and how they adapt to the completely new life

and culture in a strange country. Some of the women knew little or nothing about their new husbands and married in the heat of war. They all met with some disappointment and some happy surprises in the life they expected to have as a new bride in America. Begun as a project to look into the background of a relative of one of the authors, the book grew into an enthralling tale of real life in all its joys and sorrows. After reading the book in just two days (I couldn't put it down, it is fascinating) I passed it to my mother who is 90 years old and was born and raised in England. In her late teens and early 20s, she lived through the war in London and surrounding areas. She verified that the book is very accurate to real life in terms of the areas and conditions described. She also couldn't put the book down and loved reading about people who seem to come to life in your hands. Although she was not a war bride herself my mother was and remained friends with many women who were war brides and truly enjoyed reading the stories of the four women in this book. The authors are wonderful in the manner in which they spin this narrative. You really get to know the players and to care about their lives. You cannot help but respect the courage of women who left the only world they knew and ventured to a new land to join their new love and search for a new life. This is a fascinating and very enjoyable book. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. *G.I. Brides or "Whatever Was I Thinking?"* By Sue Cross Many of these women were living in a fantasy world of what they believed America was. It appears that they truly felt they were in love with their American GI, but it seems to me that most were really in love with what he represented. The world they lived in was dangerously bombed, short on necessities, and in many cases extremely harsh. They pictured all of America like the Hollywood they saw in movies. They saw their GI husband as a way to "live the good life." It is very interesting to see how their lives in America truly played out. Many of the husbands had hidden secrets of alcoholism, poverty, serious gambling addiction, etc. But there were many women who married for love and found it. This study of these real women and how their lives turned out is fascinating. Happiness or failure, they all had two things in common; they were all strong women and they all were homesick for England. I would highly recommend this book to others. I can hardly wait to read the other books by the same authors on other women in similar situations. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. *GI Brides* By Colleen T. I just love WWII history! There is such an amalgamation of beauty and romance, horror and desolation that I seem to be transfixed with these stories no matter what angle they take. In *GI Brides* we get another interesting angle (and one I haven't read yet): that of the English women who fell in love with the American men that flooded their shores and that left behind everything to follow these men to a country they knew so little about. What makes this story that much better is the fact that it's all true! *GI Brides* shares the experiences of four English women during the war and after as they moved to America with their G.I.s. Each chapter concentrates on one woman's story and the chapters alternate between women. I was impressed with how well the stories flowed together, showing the similarities within each storyline as well as how each woman's situation was unique, and it really read more like a novel than what I've experienced with more bland, facts-driven nonfiction (which is a good thing!). What I enjoyed most of all was the fact that the stories weren't sugar-coated to give "happily ever after" situations. These women sacrificed a huge amount, leaving behind everything they had to follow these men they really didn't know very well. None of the men were exactly who they said they were and these women had to face the realities of men suffering with alcoholism, gambling addiction, overbearing families and even infidelity. What I was left with was a remarkable appreciation for what these women endured and how they never gave up on working for the life they wanted for themselves and their children (if they had any), whether that was with these G.I.s or not. These women were survivors. My biggest complaint with *G.I. Brides* isn't really the story but the narrator of the audiobook (I switched back and forth between the Kindle version and the Audible version). While she did a good job of guiding the story along with her inflections and pacing she didn't really distinguish much between the various characters' voices. While I know it would be incredibly difficult to differentiate between this many people I have heard it done before and, for the most part, the women all sounded the same and the men all sounded the same. I will also say that there are some delightful pictures of the women and their families, which I very much enjoyed, but they were lumped all together at the end of the eBook. I would have preferred them disbursed throughout when the actual people were being discussed so I could visualize them while reading, not after I was finished. I think *G.I. Brides* does a wonderful job of giving a well rounded look at what these English women gained and lost by following their hearts to America. It isn't overly romanticized or exaggerated, it is real life with all its ups and downs. I would probably recommend the print version if you are like me and love having pictures throughout showing the people being discussed (I assume the print version does this), but if this isn't an issue for you I would highly recommend getting the story whichever way you can. I look forward to reading more about G.I. brides and that's because of what I learned here.

For readers enchanted by the bestsellers *The Astronaut Wives Club*, *The Girls of Atomic City*, and *Summer at Tiffanys*, 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.

Beautifully rounded portraits delightful and touching. (Daily Mail (London)) This is a treasure box of testimonies from a very different world, and one that will soon slip from living memory. Kudos to the authors for capturing these memories for posterity, and in such a readable, touching way. (The Londonist) Much has been written about the British *G.I. Brides of World War II*, but perhaps never before with such honesty, compassion, emotional insight and intimacy. I loved this book, and once picked up, it was really hard to put down. (Jacqueline Winspear, New York Times Bestselling Author) *GI BRIDES* includes two authors, four women, and the countless trials and triumphs of wartime romance. Nuala Calvi and Duncan Barrett deftly portray love and heartbreak in riveting narratives that consume the reader from the opening paragraph to the last perfect sentence. (Erika Robuck, bestselling author of *FALLEN BEAUTY*) Heartbreaking yet tender, these British wartime brides face the high cost of marrying GIs they scarcely know and courageously reclaim their lives a thousand miles from home and family. Rich in historical detail and masterfully researched (Marjorie Hart, New York Times bestselling author of *Summer at Tiffany*) Truly fascinating insight into the experiences of the war brides; remarkable women whose lives were transformed by war and the American GIs who stole their hearts. (Hazel Gaynor, New York Times bestselling author of *The Girl Who Came Home*) From the Back Cover They left everything behind to follow their hearts. . . . True stories that illuminate the experiences of British war brides in America after World War II American soldiers stationed in the UK came away winning more than just a war, they also won the hearts of young women across Britain. At the end of World War II, more than 70,000 GI brides followed the men they'd married men they barely knew to begin a new life in the United States. Meet four of these women: Sylvia Bradley, a loyal, bright-eyed optimist Rae Brewer, a resourceful, quick-witted tomboy Margaret Boyle, an English beauty who faced down every challenge Gwendolyn Rowe, a brave woman ahead of her time Though all made the bold choice to leave family and the world they knew, the journey each experienced was unique ranging from romantic to heartbreaking. Fascinating and unforgettable, *GI Brides* pays homage to these brave women, propelled by love and hope, who embarked on an adventure that would change their lives. About the Author Duncan Barrett Nuala Calvi are the bestselling authors of *GI Brides* and *The Sugar Girls*. Duncan studied English at Cambridge and now works as a writer and editor, specializing in biography and memoir. Nuala is a writer and journalist. She trained at London College of Printing and has written for *The Times*, *The Independent*, the BBC, CNN, and numerous *Time Out* books. They both live in London. Duncan Barrett Nuala Calvi are the bestselling authors of *GI Brides* and *The Sugar Girls*. Duncan studied English at Cambridge and now works as a writer and editor, specializing in biography and memoir. Nuala is a writer and journalist. She trained at London College of Printing and has written for *The Times*, *The Independent*, the BBC, CNN, and numerous *Time Out* books. They both live in London.