



Wives of War

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London, 1944. Two young nurses meet at a train station with a common purpose: to join the war effort. Scarlet longs for the chance to find her missing fiancé, Thomas, and to prove to her family—and to herself—that she's stronger than everybody thinks. Nursing is in Ellie's blood, but her humble background is vastly different from Scarlet's privileged upbringing. Though Ellie puts on a brave face, she's just as nervous as Scarlet about what awaits them in France.

In Normandy, the two friends soon encounter the seemingly unflappable Lucy. Scarlet and Ellie are in awe of her courage and competence, but the experienced nurse is well aware of the dangers of the job they've chosen—and even she is terrified they won't make it home alive.

Pushed to their limits by the brutality of a world at war, Scarlet, Ellie and Lucy will need to rely on each other—and the power of their friendship—to survive.

Wives of War Details

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From Reader Review Wives of War for online ebook

Amy says

All of my reviews can be found on www.novelgossip.com

Wives of War is about three young military nurses who form a friendship during one of the most difficult periods in their lives. It's told from all three of their perspectives and I equally enjoyed hearing from each other them. Scarlet is from a well off family and her family is not pleased when she joins the war effort. Although she wants to help as much as she can, she's also hoping while she's away she can find her missing fiancé. Ellie is from a more humble background, she's a charming, fun Irish lass with a heart of gold and then there is Lucy, a smart, hardworking woman with a tough exterior. They were all inspiring, strong young women willing to take risks to do what is right.

As much as the story focused on the friendship between the women it was also heavy on the romance as well. There were three separate love stories that also intertwined at times and though there were cases of instant love and intense romances, I wasn't bothered here because I think it fit the time period. These young people were so scared and facing such an uncertain future that they clung to one another just to have some small slice of happiness in their lives. I found it to be hopelessly romantic and totally swoon worthy!

All the leads changed dramatically throughout and I loved cheering them along as they grew and matured. I so wanted them all to find happiness and their relationships with each other were sweet and endearing. At its core, this was a beautiful story of friendship and hope steeped in tragedy, I really enjoyed it.

Allison6876 says

I'm a fan of both WWII and romance novels so I had high hopes for this book. However, I was disappointed. Lack of character development and 'insta' love made for a book that read like poorly written YA. Lots of potential but fails to deliver.

The Lit Bitch says

It's been a long time since I have sought out an author to do a review. Most of the time, books come my way and if it sounds like something I might like or in the mood for, then I review it.

However with Wives of War, I saw the book on my Twitter feed and it totally grabbed my attention and for one reason....I loved the cover. In my never fending Twitter feed, I see tons of books go by. But with this one, the cover caught my eye which promoted me to read the description.

It sounded like something totally up my alley so I asked if I could review it. I was thrilled when the author agreed. I'm a sucker for WWII novels with romance but this sounded different because it also focused on the friendship between two women.

I really really loved this book. Sure there were technical things that were a little irritating and wanting, but on

the whole this was a great read for me.

Some things were cliche....love at first sights, best friends from hello....that sort of thing. Sure it was unlikely and a little juvenile but yet I personally didn't mind.

There were some historical inaccuracies but I am willing to give the author creative license with that because this isn't a history book, this is a historical FICTION book so any mistakes the book had weren't really that big of a deal for me. I like character driven novels so setting is often secondary. If you are looking for something heavy on the historical research then you might want to look elsewhere.

I noticed that some of the dialogue lacked the ring of authenticity. There were a lot of American phrases and lingo but yet the characters were supposed to be British. So that was a little bothersome but again, I didn't go into this book thinking everything was going to be spot on when it came to historical accuracy. I read it because I wanted something casual.

So what did I like about this book? I was in it for the characters and the romance. I loved the three female leads. They were interesting and believable characters. I cared what happened to them and wanted them each to find love. I felt attached to each of them and wanted to share in their hopes and felt sad at their miseries.

Some reviewers complained about the 'insta love' amidst the horrors of war but honestly that didn't bother me. In fact I felt like it actually worked rather well and gave a ring of truth to the romances. Often in times of war, soldiers (and nurses) don't know if they are going to live and die so suddenly this 'live in the moment' mentality takes over and things happen quickly....typically more quickly than in normal circumstances. There were a number of marriages where couples met while a soldier was on leave for two weeks and suddenly married when he returned to his post. So the whole insta love in a war rang true for me. While others might not have liked it, I thought it was fine.

Overall I really really liked this book. The story moved quickly and I loved watching the romances unfold. The war played a big role in the novel and helped create an atmospheric novel that I think many readers will enjoy, especially for those who love WWII romances (like me). It had the perfect mixture of sadness/tragedy, love, and friendship. A very worthwhile summer read!

See my full review [here](#)

Amanda says

Wives of War by Soraya Lane is a story of despair and of darkness in the trying times of 1940's that test the faith and the courage of unsound heroes—of doctors and nurses on the battle field, caring for the injured, of soldiers fighting for freedom. The devastation described in this book clutched at my heart. It is stark and heartbreaking. I felt the deep pain of these characters. They are each strong and capable in their unique way yet their delicate emotions get rip to shreds with the demoralization of human life all around them. This emotional tearjerker will leave you breathless. It will stir your soul. It will wreck havoc with your mind. It is hilarious at times but the dreadful war taking place within the pages will bother you. I saw the brutal scenes through the eyes of each character stretch out before me in dramatic detail.

I loved Ellie and Scarlet. Though they come from different backgrounds—Ellie is a poor country girl and Scarlet is the belle of society girl—they connect and bond instantly. Sharing mutual sisterly respect for each

other and keeping each other's spirits up when everything around them fall apart.

Scarlet doesn't act privileged in any way. I admired her. She showed how courageous she is by leaving her family to become a nurse with hopes of finding her dear Thomas, her fiancé. Her journey throughout the book is tough and eye opening. It is on the train, to her station as a nurse, where she meets Ellie and their friendship is sealed at that moment.

Ellie is charming and brave with always a ready smile to cheer the downtrodden. But behind her smile hides her fear. I wanted to reach out to her and tell her to keep being brave. Handsome Dr. Spencer takes her mind off things only if it's just for a while.

Lucy. What can I say about her? She has seen death and injury up close. She's seen a doctor take his life, seen soldiers die... I don't think I have the guts like her to be where she is and see what she has and still be strong throughout it all.

James. James is tender, wise and sometimes he speaks his mind. I found his wisdom to be soothing. The passionate chaos that is his attraction to Scarlet is a bright light under a gloomy, horribly dank Sussex sky. On the ship while sailing to Normandy, he's there too and without knowing that his presence gives Scarlet the strength to keep it together when all she wants is to fall apart. To flee. To return home. But she doesn't.

What shocked me the most was that first plot twist! I literally gasped when I reached that part, because I never for one second saw it coming.

Now, I can go on and on about this book but I won't. Not because I'm lazy (I'm not) but rather because I feel if I did continue I might slip up and reveal vital bits of the plot.

In summation, here are just a few reasons why *Wives of War* by Soraya Lane consumed me from the start and found a place in my heart:

1. It is a captivating, emotionally stirring, haunting and raw. Once you start reading you find yourself not wanting to put the book down!

‘War changes you, makes you realise the errors of the past sometimes,’ James replied.

2. The lush prose.

‘I think of that night so often – the way he kissed me when it was dark, when no one could see. Our teeth kind of bumped and his moustache was bristly against my lips, but it was amazing. I mean . . .’

3. The sometimes inspirational and raw dialogue.

“Smile and the world will see the woman you want them to see, no matter how you feel inside.”

“There was so little to look forward to, and so much sadness surrounding them. Was it so wrong to anticipate a night of fun?”

4. The courageous cast.

‘We’re going to be fine, I promise,’ Ellie said, patting her arm as a whistle blew.

5. The scenes literally burst to life in your mind.

"At least I know how the other side lives now. We all sat around our dinner table, my brothers and me, with Ma and Pa, and at night Pa'd read to us in front of the fire. We didn't have a lot, but we had full bellies most of the time and there was plenty of laughter and hugs.'"

Overall, *Wives of War* is a sterling read from a writer who deserves every bit of praise for such an intense and absorbing tale.

Highly Recommended
5 Stars

chloe (semi-hiatus) says

Ahhh. Historical fiction.

What is this book about?

In this book, three brave nurses join the war effort. They are afraid and unsure of what awaits them, yet they try to hide it and comfort each other. During the war, they develop a deep friendship.

Cover

I love this cover so much! When I first saw this book in a Kindle ad, I was immediately interested. I can't help judging a book by its cover! The background is a sky filled with smoke, probably because of the bombing. On the cover, there are three women, and I love the one standing in front the most. She looks so smart in uniform!

Characters

I admire all three of the women in the story. They are all strong and courageous. Lucy wants to become a doctor, although female doctors are unheard of then. Ellie always tries to lighten the mood when the three of them feel terrible. Scarlet is always willing to share with others and listen to what they have to say.

Conclusion

This book is amazing! 4.5 stars!

Ann Cooper says

Not for me

This was a romance that placed itself in the most terrible scenes of war. I know the nurses of war time put themselves in danger and were brave and stoic and skilled, but making this a story of boy meets girl amid the horror seemed to trivialize the things real nurses went through.

Suzanne Leopold says

Two British nurses volunteer to work at a battlefield hospital during World War 2. Scarlet is seeking information about her soldier fiance since his correspondence has ceased. Ellie has prior experience as a nurse and feels that she can contribute immediately to the war effort. Both women are apprehensive about the risks involved but they are determined to make a difference. Their paths converge while on a train headed to their assignment and a lifelong friendship is formed.

In France they meet Lucy, an experienced nurse who is charge of operations. At first Lucy shows no interest in developing friendships but eventually she takes the women under her wing. While stationed in Normandy, the fighting escalates and they encounter tireless amounts of soldiers. The casualties are horrific and the working conditions are poor. Scared that they might never make it home, they remain courageous, and rely on one another for support.

This story has a nice mix of historical fiction and romance. It shows how deep bonds can develop during the worst of times. I enjoyed this novel by Soraya M. Lane.

Kerry says

Stunning and captivating, WIVES OF WAR is an epic story of friendship, survival, and resilience. Ms. Lane's accomplished writing quickly drew me into the lives of Scarlet, Ellie, and Lucy and kept me enthralled until the last page. I cheered them on during their triumphs and felt the anguish of their tragedies. I thoroughly enjoyed this novel and highly recommend.

Rebecca Rosenberg says

Such an interesting perspective to experience war through these three young nurses. Their courage and friendship pull them through the grueling years. Soraya Lane's writing sweeps you away with their pain and triumphs.

Anne OK says

FIRST AND FOREMOST, let me emphasize that this book is categorized as "FICTION." There may be some readers that take issue with the extent to which the author has taken liberties with the historical details -- but I still found its message to be an interesting journey back in time to the days of those brave warriors who have been pronounced by many as the "greatest generation."

And secondly, after reading several reviews comparing Wives of War to a "hallmark romance," I felt the need to clarify that I happen to enjoy a weekend visit to the Hallmark Channel. Yes, they are clean as a whistle, but they always carry a nicely wrapped message to pass along that brings no harm to anyone.

I'm a sucker for a good WWII romance, and the cover on this book immediately drew my attention. After reading the book blurb, I one-clicked hoping for another winning historical fiction from this era. And,

indeed, I found exactly that.

A character-driven novel cast against the backdrop of World War II, portraying three young British women who, for very different reasons, train and volunteer for service as battlefield nurses during the days just prior to D-Day until the end of World War II. The story is told from the perspective of each of the three main characters. The landing on Normandy was especially meaningful for me because, throughout my life, I've heard my dad tell his stories of driving his tank onto the beach and into hell where he lost his best friend that day. The author maps the progression of the friendships between the three strangers, their triumphs over fears they never imagined, and finally their own personal love stories found on war torn battlefields. I loved getting acquainted with Scarlet, Ellie and Lucy, and I was captivated with each one's background, upbringing and motivation.

Scarlet reigns from wealth. Her family is unhappy with her decision to join the war efforts. With her fiancé missing in action, she hopes that being closer to the frontlines will aid in finding him. From a more modest background, Ellie is a charming Irish lass, who is kind-hearted and giving. And Lucy is the strong and smart one -- she works hard and hides her true self behind a hardshell on the outside.

The storyline is predictable but still captivating. Romance is central to the story and passionately written, but the non-explicit sex scenes shouldn't offend anyone. The writing style is straightforward. And that may have been purposely planned regarding the time period, setting and nature of the matters at hand. The pacing was even and moved along at a nice clip. Characterizations could have been developed a bit stronger in my opinion.

Oh sure, in some cases there was a necessity to stretch the imagination regarding the cases of insta-love matches and BFF (best friends forever) from the start. Most times, those are far-fetched. And yes, there were some historical inaccuracies – but you were forewarned that this isn't a textbook, but fiction. All in all, I enjoyed reading this nicely put together saga that perfects the blending of sadness and joy, loss and growth, with friendship and love.

Squeaky says

This is not historical fiction, this is a romance book with some very weak historical facts trying to hold it together. A disappointed Kindle First read book. According to the description it was supposed to hit right in my sweet spot... WW2 historical novel, with nurses as the main focus. This sorely disappointed. Besides the HUGE historical mistakes, the writing was sophomoric. Every thing that happened to Scarlet (not a name I would think someone of upper class Britain would name their daughter in the 1920's), is reflected back in detail. The plot is mired in this back and forth back and forth. "Scarlet turned to the girl on her right, Rose. She'd spent some time with her the night before caring for a patient with a head injury... " Action, and then back action. We're leaving the old house, the old house we stayed in for 2 days- dark and mysterious, the small bed... yada yada.

Also the best friends for life thing was established in the first minutes of the novel, the man of affection is established by 7% and then everything aligns to fit. This is beyond cheesy, absolutely no depth, and I feel gyped out of my Kindle First Read.

Jules says

Wives of War was a heart-wrenching historical romance set during World War Two. I admired the strong women in this book. This story focuses on the lives of three young female military nurses, their day to day lives and struggles during such a harrowing war, the friendship that develops between them and their love lives.

This was a very enjoyable story, if somewhat emotional and a little hard to digest at times, especially when I reminded myself real men and women went through this. It worked really well as an audiobook.

I borrowed this through Amazon Kindle Unlimited.

The Just-About-Cocky Ms M says

I know this author writes primarily romance stuff, but hey, I took a chance on this one because I generally like WWII novels, and hoped the war would mitigate an overdose of sweetness and light. Well, to some extent it did, but there were other issues besides romance...

Lots of historical errors, which is surprising since WWII is not that far removed from the modern idiom, and Wiki is sooo convenient for the casual researcher.

Lots of clunky and jarring Americanisms abound, almost from the first page to the last. If one's heroines are going to be English and quasi-Irish, then it behooves one to know how they spoke in 1944. Oddly enough, it isn't like some folks do in Middle America, circa 1950. I did find the author's attempts to slip in a few "Britishisms" amusing--"to do one's bit," for example, occurred with astonishing frequency.

Upper class young English women were reserved in their manner and speech. They did not, despite any imagined proclivities toward house servants, introduce themselves by their Christian names--and I shudder to think anyone was actually named "Scarlet," despite the popularity of *Gone with the Wind* [and whose Scarlett had two ts]--nor say such nonsense as "Pleased to meet you." There were far more examples, but you can find them for yourself.

The allegedly Irish Ellie is a cliche from first to last, and not a particularly good one. So is the "heroic" Lucy, whose courage is supposed to shine like a beacon through the fog of war and save everybody. The characters are so one-dimensional, with utterly predictable "romantic" interests, that I simply didn't care about any of them.

And then there is the author's strange tendency to have her female characters forge strong, everlasting, all-encompassing, and tight bonds of friendship that will sustain them throughout the rest of their lives, and certainly until the end of the book, within five minutes of meeting each other. So we have Scarlet and Ellie in the railway station [anyone wonder why they have the same types of tickets when Scarlet would obviously travel first class and Ellie third?], and Scarlet, Ellie, and Heroic Lucy at the hospital. Instant friendship--not likely. Not like this. Not with these types of women, if they were true to life. Ah, but they aren't, are they?

I skimmed to the end because my interest waned rather quickly and because I've read far better, more complex, and more rewarding novels about women in the European theater of operations. The characters

were flat, the writing either pedestrian or visibly trying too hard, and the historical bloopers unforgivable, at least to me.

Of course there will be--and apparently already are--scores of readers who will think this is a wonderful novel, and find nothing whatever wrong with it. I'm truly happy for them because we all should enjoy whatever we choose to read. Unfortunately, this was not the book for me.

Vikki Vaught says

Great read! Loved these three women's journey. So pleased this one had a happy ending. Happy reading!

Joan Buell says

Stories of love among nurses at war

As a nurse, and reader of all things WWII, I chose this book as a Kindle First book for the month. It was a bit of a disappointment, with young women falling in love at first sight in spite of the horrors of war around them. Resolution of problems happens very simplistically and improbably. Yet I did keep reading, and did care about the characters.

There were some errors of context, with these British women seeming more American in their speech, and in some phrases and actions not fitting into the 1940's. As for the GI who couldn't remember his name...did they not have dog tags then? If this were simply a romance book, it would be fine. It is definitely not in the class of historical fiction.
