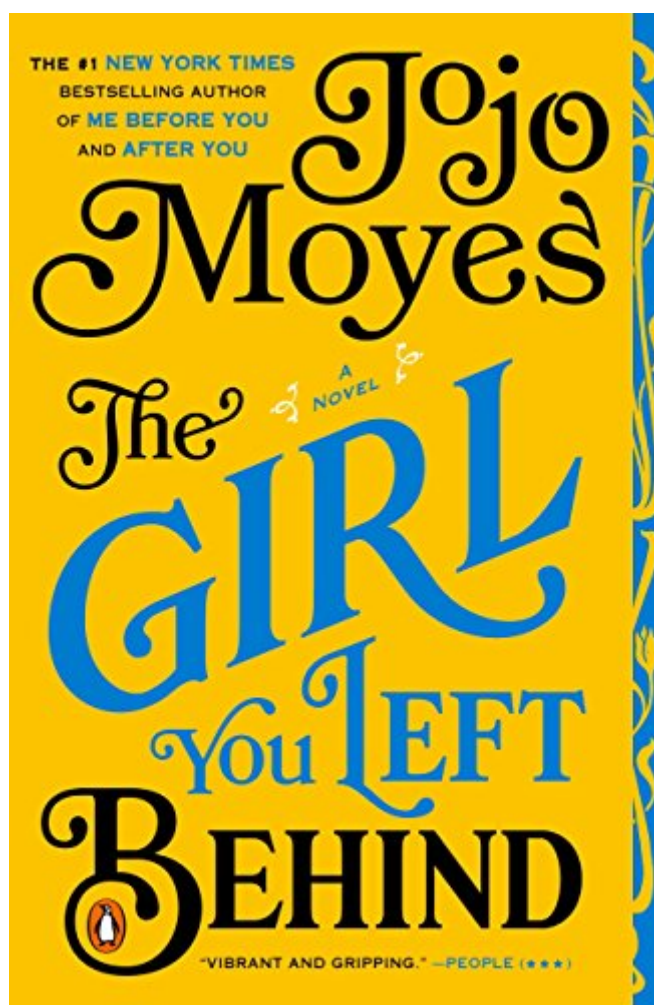


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The Girl You Left Behind: A Novel



Synopsis

Look out for Jojoâ€™s new book, *Paris for One and Other Stories*, coming October 18, 2016. Another New York Times bestseller by the author of *Me Before You*, *After You*, and *One Plus One* "a spellbinding story of two women united in their fight for what they love most. Jojo Moyesâ€™ word-of-mouth bestseller, *Me Before You*, catapulted her to wide critical acclaim and struck a chord with a wide range of readers everywhere. Now, with *The Girl You Left Behind*, Moyes returns with another irresistible heartbreakerâ€”a breathtaking story of love, loss, and sacrifice told with her signature ability to capture our hearts. Paris, 1916. Sophie Lefèvre must keep her family safe while her adored husband, Édouard, fights at the front. When their town falls to the Germans in the midst of World War I, Sophie is forced to serve them every evening at her hotel. From the moment the new Kommandant sets eyes on Sophieâ€™s portrait "painted by her artist husbandâ€”a dangerous obsession is born, one that will lead Sophie to make a dark and terrible decision. Almost a century later, Sophieâ€™s portrait hangs in the home of Liv Halston, a wedding gift from her young husband before his sudden death. After a chance encounter reveals the portraitâ€™s true worth, a battle begins over its troubled history and Livâ€™s world is turned upside all over again. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

File Size: 3724 KB

Print Length: 480 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0670026611

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (August 20, 2013)

Publication Date: August 20, 2013

Sold by:Â Penguin Group (USA) LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00BSY6U6K

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #3,489 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #10 inÂ Books > Romance > Historical > 20th Century #18 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction

> Historical Fiction > German #33 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Women's Fiction

Customer Reviews

Brief summary and review, no spoilers. This book is narrated by two different women at different points in time. The first part of the novel takes place during WWI and tells the story of Sophie LeFevre, who owns and helps run a bar/cafe in a small town outside of Paris. The town has been taken over by Germans and the locals have all suffered from deprivation and oppression at the hands of their captors. Sophie and her sister Helene are both concerned about their husbands who are French soldiers and possibly in a prison camp or worse. Sophie's husband is a talented and fairly well-known artist named Eduoard, and Sophie's most prized possession is the portrait he did of her shortly after they first met. She has it prominently displayed on the bar wall. When the German Kommandant sees the portrait, he becomes enthralled with it and with Sophie as well. What will happen to Sophie and her family and to their town if the Germans don't leave? And what will Sophie do in order to save her husband and see him again? The story then moves to the present times and we meet Olivia (Liv) Halston, a woman who's been in a state of depression and grief since the death of her young husband 4 years earlier. Liv is struggling financially and emotionally but things seem to take a turn for the better when she becomes attracted to a man named Paul McCafferty. Paul works for an agency that tries to give priceless paintings stolen by the Nazi's back to their original owners, and when he spots Sophie's portrait in Liv's home, he feels he must take action. I really enjoyed the WWI parts of this book, which pretty much make up the majority of the first half.

Did you ever get a gift that started out in a big box and you just kept opening smaller boxes within until you finally got to the real gift? This is what *THE GIRL YOU LEFT BEHIND* makes me imagine. There are stories wrapped up like gifts between the covers of this book. The Germans have taken over the small town of St. P'rrone in France. It is 1917. World War I. Sophie Lef'vre's beloved husband, 'douard, an artist who studied at the Academie Matisse, has been drawn to the front lines of battle. Before 'douard left, he painted a very seductive portrait of his Sophie. Forced to cook for the German soldiers in her family's hotel Le Cog Rouge, where that painting hangs, Sophie and her portrait gain the attention of Kommandant Hencken. Upon hearing that 'douard is in extreme peril, Sophie risks all to save him."15 January 1917 Today they took Sophie Lef'vre. Such a sight you never saw. She was minding her own business down in the cellars of Le Cog Rouge

when two Germans came across the square and dragged her up the steps and hauled her out, as if she were a criminal."It is 2006 and Olivia "Liv" Halston has been mourning the death of her husband, David, for four years. Before his death, David gifted Liv with a painting entitled "The Girl You Left Behind". While visiting Spain, David and Liv gave aid to a woman who was being forced to dispose of all of her Mother's property. This painting was to be discarded. Instead David bought the painting for Liv. Paul McCafferty, recently divorced, works for a successful company that helps to return precious property to their rightful owners.

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