



A Brief Affair

Margaret Leroy

Download now

Read Online ➞

A Brief Affair

Margaret Leroy

A Brief Affair Margaret Leroy

'The cups and saucers on the dresser begin to rattle faintly, as though a tremulous hand is holding them. The water in the washing-up bowl shivers all over its surface. There's a distant droning, something at first more felt than heard, like the far-off thunder of some massive waterfall. Rapidly coming closer . . .'

September 1940. England is at war once again and London has become an ever-fragile place for widowed Livia Ripley and her two young daughters, Polly and Eliza. When Livia meets charismatic publisher Hugo Ballantyne, she is hopeful that her life is about to change for the better. But as clouds gather in the clear autumn sky, the wail of the siren heralds the arrival of the Luftwaffe.

As the raids intensify, Livia volunteers to be a warden at the invitation of enigmatic Justin Connelly. Here she experiences the true reality and despair of war, a contrast to the world of comfort and cocktails provided in fleeting afternoons at the Balfour Hotel with Hugo. And ultimately, Livia discovers a strength she never knew she had that will give her the power to save those she loves. For when you don't know what tomorrow may bring, there is no choice but to live for today.

Reminiscent of classic films like *Brief Encounter* and *The End of the Affair*, this is a stunningly captured story of a woman finding herself whilst the world is at war

A Brief Affair Details

Date : Published February 11th 2016 by Sphere (first published October 8th 2015)

ISBN :

Author : Margaret Leroy

Format : Paperback 464 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, War, World War II, Literary Fiction, Romance, Historical Romance, History, European History

 [Download A Brief Affair ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Brief Affair ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Brief Affair Margaret Leroy

From Reader Review A Brief Affair for online ebook

Toast says

Methinks it doth protest to much. A Brief Affair its called and the affair in question certainly is brief. The lead is so fay you just want to shake her, the other characters are weakly drawn. The positive is to have the war portrayed as a frightening thing that kills people. At last, yes we were all pucky Brits on our little island, gathered behind Mr Churchill facing the foe and yes people did laugh and sing and dance and have a jolly war but it was still a war and people were scared, frightened, losing loved ones and at a loss as to what was going on and how it was going to end. War is horrible. People get hurt.

Toast

Linda says

Although I did enjoy this book it didn't hit me as though 'oh that was great'. Some parts of the book held my attention and in others a bit weak.

Aditi says

"You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved."

----Ansel Adams

Margaret Leroy, an English author, pens a heart-warming story about love and war, *A Brief Affair* that unfolds the story of a widowed mother of two girls trying to make her own stand and give wings to her passion for photography during the onset of World war II. While finding her own place in this world, this widowed woman also falls for a charming publisher of a magazine, that leads to *A Brief Affair*.

Synopsis:

'The cups and saucers on the dresser begin to rattle faintly, as though a tremulous hand is holding them. The water in the washing-up bowl shivers all over its surface. There's a distant droning, something at first more felt than heard, like the far-off thunder of some massive waterfall. Rapidly coming closer . . .'

September 1940. England is a war once again and London has become an ever-fragile place for widowed Livia Ripley and her two young daughters, Polly and Eliza. When Livia meets charismatic publisher Hugo Ballantyne, she is hopeful that her life is about to change for the better. But as clouds gather in the clear autumn sky, the wail of the siren heralds the arrival of the Luftwaffe.

As the raids intensify, Livia volunteers to be a warden at the invitation of enigmatic Justin Connelly. Here she experiences the true reality and despair of war, a contrast to the world of comfort and cocktails provided in fleeting afternoons at the Balfour Hotel with Hugo. And ultimately, Livia discovers a strength she never

knew she had that will give her the power to save those she loves. For when you don't know what tomorrow may bring, there is no choice but to live for today.

Livia Ripley is trying to publish her captivating war photography to the publishers for quite a while. She is the mother of two daughters, Polly and Eliza, who with the onset of the growing war and the oncoming raids by the Nazi air force, the girls grew apart from one another. On the other hand, Livia not only found home to showcase her talent through a publisher, Hugo Ballantyne, but also found home for her longing passion for love from another soul. But as the raids grew, she started volunteering as a war warden on Justin Connelly's request and that is where she learns about the true-reality of the war and its victims.

The author's writing style is exquisite and is layered with emotions. The narrative is not that alluring but will keep the readers focused because of the in-depth and vivid details. The pacing is bit slow considering the fact the story has lot of back stories and layers that eventually reveal to the readers.

The story is enlightening enough to give the readers an idea of what it feels like to make a livelihood near the war zone and the struggle that the people have to go through on a daily basis is strikingly portrayed into the story. The author has arrested the vivid details of the country England during its Nazi air raids and how the people held on to one another in those dark times. The author has painted a strikingly background not only highlighting the major socio-economical as well as political changes in the country in those times but has also highlighted its people, the culture, the streets and the houses. And yes the readers will be transported to that era as well as to England through the words of the author.

The characters are well-developed, especially the main character, Livia, who is haunted by the death of her sister as well as her husband, then she fearlessly opens her heart to the possibility of love and war. She evolves from being scared to brave and in the end, the readers will feel a longing towards this particular character. The supporting characters are also etched out quite strikingly.

Overall, this is an enthralling war-time story that is laced with love and kindness and a must read for all the historical fiction lovers.

Verdict: *A captivating and a poignant story.*

Courtesy: *Thanks to the author, Margaret Leroy, for giving me an opportunity to read and review this book.*

Bowerbird says

Margaret Leroy is so good at developing atmosphere, you could almost hear the bombs dropping. The novel is set in the London Blitz and conveys how the population coped as seen through the eyes of Livia- a widowed mother with two young daughters.

The smells, dust and devastation are mixed with heartbreak and intermingled with a spirit of sharing.

In a sense "The Affair" is almost incidental to the story but it illustrates the need to seek comfort in desperate times.

Annamaria Small says

I loved this book. Margaret Leroy is one of my favourite authors having enjoyed *The Drowning Girl* and *The*

Perfect Mother. This novel is set in the Blitz and perfectly portrays how life must have been for a newly widowed mother bringing up two children on her own at that time. The affair is really only the start of her journey and becoming a warden helps her to grow into a more confident and capable person. I also enjoyed the slightly supernatural undercurrent. The only thing I was a bit unsure about was the ending, it was such a good story that I felt it deserved a bit more.

Laura says

An ambitious and vividly told story set at the height of the London blitz in 1940. For the most part, I really enjoyed reading this story having been impressed by the authors other books. Some parts of the story are heartbreaking, whereas others don't really add much to the books development. Interestingly, the books title signifies a relatively small part of the protagonists journey.

There was much to love about this story, perhaps the greatest being that it shows the courage by the volunteer wardens during the bombings. The ending was a little abrupt for my liking but perhaps that was the authors intention to allow the reader to draw his or her own conclusions. Overall, a great addition to any historical fiction fans bookshelf.

Joan says

It's a look into the suffering and stoicism of the everyday people during the horrors of the blitz. Livie. sad. confused and lacking in confidence. A widow with 2 children' feeling unloved and unworthy. has a brief fling with Hugo who is going to publish her photos. Having a near death experience she promises to give him up and do better if her girls are safe. The new local vicar convinces her to become a warden so she can start doing her bit. He has faith in her and she becomes, stronger and more confident but even so she feels she is unworthy and needs to atone for past mistakes. A guilt that goes back to her childhood.

Beadyjan says

Wow this was a real eye opener, turned out to be one of the most atmospheric, dramatic and readable world war 2 books I've read. I was expecting a light read, a saga, but what I found between these pages is gritty, eloquent and authentic and captures the feel of being a young widowed Mother struggling to find her identity and forgive herself for her own past, beautifully.

Livia is bringing up 2 young daughters alone in her childhood home, having been widowed and is trying to launch herself as a photographer, in fact her pictures have been accepted by a London publisher and the heightened emotions of war building and loneliness encroaching lead Livia into a passionate and ill advised affair with the charismatic, and married Hugo.

Meanwhile bombs rain down on London and her daughters Polly and Eliza seem to be growing apart, with Eliza in particular seeming affected by the war and behaving out of character.

Livia is haunted by past events, a sister who died when they were both children, even her husbands death, hold elements which cause her to question her own role in everything that happens she blames and punishes herself for things she has no control over.

When she is presented with a chance to give something back by helping others in the war effort she fears she isn't brave enough but we see her develop and grow.

The descriptions of being in air raid shelters and going through the Blitz are gutsy, sombre and in parts intensely harrowing, reminiscent of *The Night Watch*. The book has a haunting, ethereal quality and Livia is a fantastically substantial character, I did like her, despite being slightly flawed she is very believable.

I can't recommend this book highly enough, the perfect winter pastime is to curl up in the warmth with a beguiling book like this.

Sue says

I enjoyed this book set in London during the blitz. The descriptions of London at that time are so vivid and the characters are beautifully depicted. Livia, a widow struggles to look after her children in difficult times but becomes more confident as the tale unfolds. A great read which lingers in the memory!
I received this book from a Goodreads giveaway.

Susan says

A most impressive read! Most of the London wartime books I have come across have been based on the story of plucky little Cockneys and I tend to avoid them. This is no stereotyped wartime romance. It centred on the life of Livia, a young widow with two little girls, struggling to cope with everyday life in the nine months of the London blitz. The opening chapter is powerful, describing a scene that faced Livia as a volunteer warden, and it sets the tone for the book, told in the first person - the way the author describes the sights, sounds, smells and atmosphere of war on the home front; the terrors of sheltering from the bombs, the impact on her children, her own insecurities from the past and her growing closeness to Justin, a vicar questioning his beliefs, with his desire for a better post war society. At one stage I felt I could only read a little at a time, the scenes had such an impact - graphic and quietly dramatic without in any way being sensational. Just one little word did not ring true - a number of times the girls are described with their hair in "braids" - surely that is an American term - as someone in the 1950's who wore that hairstyle, it was always in "plaits". It was not until I turned to Good Reads, that I realised the author also penned "*The English Girl*", set in Austria in 1938, one of the best books I have read in recent times. Both will stay with me a long time and deserve a 4.5 rating.

Julie Round says

This story grew on me gradually. A young widow caught up in the London of the Blitz, torn between her duties as a mother and the conflicts within herself. Predictable but beautifully descriptive.

Diane says

Repetitious.....not worth your time.

Kazimiera pendrey says

I was lucky to win a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. This book is set during the Second World War and is about a woman who is bringing up her 2 daughters on her own and the difficulty she is having doing this. As the story progresses her confidence increases and she becomes an ARP Warden This book is well worth a read however the characters I felt were quite cliched and one dimensional,also there were a couple of minor historical inaccuracies such as the drinking of coffee whereas I would have imagined that the drink of choice during this time would have been tea but maybe i am just nit picking as the book was a good read and I would recommend this for anyone who enjoys reading historical fiction

Zj says

I just couldn't get into it. I adored Leroy's The Soldier's Wife, and had high hopes for this one but I just couldn't get into it.

Jacki (Julia Flyte) says

We're in wartime London and the Blitz is about to begin. Livia Ripley is a recent widow living with her two young daughters. She's a worrier who finds it hard to forgive herself for a terrible mistake that she made as a child. Over the next few months she will grow in confidence and develop a sense of purpose. She will also get to know two men who will both have a significant impact on her.

This was really a book of two halves for me - or perhaps it would be more accurate to say a book of one third and two thirds. For the first 100 pages or so, I kept waiting for things to happen. It just seemed to be about Livia's everyday life with her daughters and her worries about whether she was doing a good job raising them. It's a slow burner of a plot and the title is quite misleading as are the publisher's comparison to "Brief Encounter". This isn't really a romance, it's more about a woman growing up and forgiving herself for past mistakes. But somewhere around the 100+ page mark, I realised that I was really enjoying it and I finished the rest in one sitting.

This is the third book written by Margaret Leroy that's set during WW2. The English Girl took place in Vienna and The Soldier's Wife (aka The Collaborator) in Guernsey. What all three have in common is that they all focus on interesting and flawed women who are struggling to find their feet against the backdrop of wartime events. I really enjoy the way that she writes and how she gives you a sense of what living in that environment would have been like.
