



The Beauty Chorus

Kate Lord Brown

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Beauty Chorus

Kate Lord Brown

The Beauty Chorus Kate Lord Brown

"Drawn from the home front diaries of the second world war, is Kate Lord Brown's rip-roaring *The Beauty Chorus* ... the research is played light and as a result the book soars as if it had a pair of Merlin engines strapped to its covers." The Spectator

"The novel is a page turner with real historical insight"

Aviation for Women (Women in Aviation International, December 2011)

New Year's Eve, 1940: Evie Chase, the beautiful debutante daughter of a rich and adoring RAF commander, listens wistfully to the swing music drifting out from the ballroom, unable to join in the fun. With bombs falling nightly in London, she is determined that the coming year will bring a lot more than dances, picnics and tennis matches. She is determined to make a difference to the war effort.

5th January, 1941: Evie curses her fashionable heels as they skid on the frozen ground of her local airfield. She is here to join the ATA, the civilian pilots who ferry Tiger Moths and Spitfires to bases across war-torn Britain. Two other women wait nervously to join up: Stella Grainger, a forlorn young mother who has returned from Singapore without her baby boy and Megan Jones, an idealistic teenager who has never left her Welsh village. Billeted together in a tiny cottage in a sleepy country village, Evie, Stella and Megan must learn to live and work together. Brave, beautiful and fiercely independent, these women soon move beyond their different backgrounds as they find romance, confront loss, and forge friendships that will last a lifetime.

The Beauty Chorus Details

Date : Published 2011 by Corvus

ISBN : 9781848878709

Author : Kate Lord Brown

Format : Hardcover 434 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, War, World War II

 [Download The Beauty Chorus ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Beauty Chorus ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Beauty Chorus Kate Lord Brown

From Reader Review The Beauty Chorus for online ebook

Debbie Robson says

Anything to do with women being heroic in WWI or WWII is the book for me! I love reading about both men and women being challenged and high up on my list to read is Bletchley Park and the SOE. This book crossed my path recently and as I was between bookclub books I grabbed it. I'm not sorry I did. Although I found the end a little implausible I commend the writer on her research into the ATA (the men and women that ferried war planes from factories to airbases and back). In particular the flying sequences which read very well. It was obvious she had done her homework and historical accuracy is something that is very important to me as both a reader and a writer. I loved the depiction of the day to day activities, the way Brown conveyed the simple cottage they lived in, reminiscent of the cottage that features in the movie Enigma and the sort of lifestyle (country living in small self sufficient villages) that I think has probably nearly died out in the UK and elsewhere since (and possibly because of) WWII. Anyone interested in these wonderful women should read this book. For more details on the ATA have a look at:
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Trans...](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Transport_Auxiliary)

McArthur and Company says

Kate Lord Brown's stunning debut novel begins in Britain, 1941, when World War II is at its height. Three young women sign up to deliver much-needed planes to airfields across Europe. They are glamorous, adventurous, and ready to risk their lives in the sky. To the fighter pilots, they are 'The Beauty Chorus'.

"Filled with grit, determination, bravery, espionage and the infamous British 'stiff upper lip', this book gives you an insight into what life was like during WWII." -- The Army Rumour Service (full review)

"Kate Lord Brown has taken a little-known part of the war effort and brought it to life. The research has obviously been meticulous" -- The Bookbag (full review)

Tara Chevestt says

I saw this on Netgalley and of course, it being about women in aviation, I had to read it. Though I received the eGalley from Netgalley, I am thrilled to be participating in the blog tour.

The Americans had the WASP and England had the ATA, Air Transport Auxiliary. This novel follows three different women, all ATA pilots during WWII for reasons of their own.

Evie is a rich, spoiled girl who is somewhat bored and wishes to get away from her stepmother's evil clutches. Evie is the star. She takes her flight test wearing a mink coat and drives an Aston... for full review, please click the link below:

<http://wwwbookbabe.blogspot.com/2011/...>

Cara says

I first heard about this book via an interview with the author Kate Lord Brown over at Caroline Smailes blog. I was immediately intrigued with the story surrounding the female civilian pilots who flew planes during WW2. Kate explains that the original idea came from seeing an obituary for one of the original female pilots in one of her husband's flying magazines. She was wowed that women flew spitfires and she started on a path of in depth research to find out more. Interviewing the real 'spitfire girls' and immersing herself in archives.

I think this research was what made the novel such a success for me. It would be easy to think the story was quite fanciful, romantic and even a little far fetched at times. However, knowing that these events and activities did actually take place takes it to a whole different level. It made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up at times reading about the bravery of these girls.

I really fell in love with the three main characters. Evie Chase is a young rich socialite and signs up to the ATA (Air Transport Auxiliary), initially to escape life under the regime of her step mother. She forgoes her luxury lifestyle and bunks in with her fellow trainees. Evie is typical of the ATA pilots, in that she is a young and glamorous, gaining the ATA their nickname of The Beauty Chorus.

Stella Grainger has joined up to escape the sadness of leaving her baby behind in Ireland with her in-laws, struggling with being a single parent.

Megan Jones is a young girl with a passion for flying. Losing her brother has made her want to do her duty for the war effort.

All three girls are thrown together in their preparations to start flying the fighter aircraft. They experience a fair deal of prejudice and malice at the hands of bitter injured male members of the ATA. The descriptions of the girls being airborne is magnificent and they are all longing to be given the go ahead to fly the majestic spitfires. There is a lot of fun and laughter along the way, but the inevitable sadness of them losing friends, family & colleagues is heartbreaking (I cried).

As I suspected when I wrote about starting this book, I was sad when I got to the end of it. However, to feed any hunger for further snippets about Evie et al, there is a blog Ask Evie, which has lots more information about the exploits of The Spitfire girls.

Full review including link to BBC report on the Spitfire girls here: <http://www.frecklesfamily.com/2011/06...>

Tyra says

great read

Kate Forsyth says

This novel tells the story of three young women who fly planes for the airforce during the Second World War. It's based on fact; women really did fly planes during the Second World War, risking their lives to help the war effort. This is a great book, with vivid characters and a storyline filled with drama, romance, and intrigue.

Marion says

Kloved this boo

Sheila says

Evie Chase is the daughter of a wealthy man in England set during WWII. She longs to join in the fight in some way. She was taking some flying lessons but had to stop when her allowance ran out. She meets an Pete, old friend at a dance and is introduced to a man who invites her to consider joining the ATA (Air Transport Auxiliary), female volunteers who moved aircraft around the country by the fastest method possible. She applies and is joined by two other women; Stella who is running away from a marriage and Megan, a young woman who has never been out of Wales. As the story unfolds we catch glimpses of the demanding work these women did, sometimes taking four or five flights a day and having to return by night train in the dark. The story revolves around the three women with Evie as the main character. I enjoyed the book and learned more about this valuable service the women and men did during the war.

Bev says

Very much enjoyed this one - set in the Second World War , about female pilots. Lots of action and a few tears too.

Sheri says

Really liked this book. I come from an aviation family so loved the female pilot angle. The only thing I didn't like was how abruptly it ended.

Erin says

Follow all my reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot....>

In a nut shell, The Beauty Chorus tells the story of three ATA pilots in 1940. Though a work of fiction, over 100 pilots did serve under Commander Pauline Gower, fifteen of which lost their lives. It is a shame that their story is not well known. Ms. Brown's debut has given these ladies a well deserved nod.

Sadly, I found myself a bit disappointed. I couldn't really connect with the characters. They were interesting

but a little under developed to be termed compelling. The alternating viewpoints were confusing at first but not detrimental to the overall reading. There are three main characters but Evie gets an overwhelming amount of ink where Meghan is all but invisible. Stella has a steady presence but like Meghan, pales in comparison to Miss Chase. Amy is the most intriguing of all though her presence made little sense to the story. Her brief appearances as a living character were fine but her ghost, while a wonderful creation, was unnecessary to the telling. I would hazard to say her continued presence was distracting as I found her to have more depth than the principle cast.

The Beauty Chorus is a well-written novel about three women coming into their maturity during the war. They just happen to be ATA pilots. The novel has a delightful cast and can boast a solid story line. I wouldn't recommend it to the historic fiction purist but it is entertaining in its way.

Jenni says

I'd put off reading this book for ages, I'd heard it was a beautiful and emotional read and I needed to be in the right frame of mind (and have a good supply of tissues) and it never felt like the right time. I'm really glad I waited, a book like this deserves some proper indulgent reading time. It's a truly wonderful read, I'm not sure I have the superlatives for it. Steeped in history, filled with the wonderful women of the ATA this book has it all – hard work, friendship, laughter, tears and love. An absolute must read.

Dianne Ascroft says

The Beauty Chorus is the fictional story of three very different women in the Air Transport Auxiliary who ferry aircraft to British bases during the Second World War. The novel follows them through training and the early years of the war. Their family difficulties, their work challenges and their loves keep the story flowing swiftly.

This novel is an engrossing story that is well told. From the moment I began reading it, I slipped into Evie, Stella and Megan's world and I wanted to keep reading to find out what happened next.

Adding to the strength of the plot, there is an interesting twist in the background of the main character, Evie's love interest, Beau. This twist heightens the tension and keeps you guessing what will happen next. He's a British hero but not a stereotypical one and the reader can't be sure he really is trustworthy until the climax of the novel. The story is a combination of an historical fiction and a spy thriller.

This is an excellent story and my only criticism is the author's use of imaginary monologues by an historic figure, Amy Johnson. These monologues purport to tell the story of her last hours of life before her aircraft went missing. The fictional Amy poses questions, which she never answers, about what she might have done during those hours and what might have finally happened to her. I think these scenes detract from the main story and the book would be better without them. But they are only a small part of the whole novel and can easily be skipped.

I found The Beauty Chorus a wonderful story that introduced me to a segment of war history that is often overlooked. It highlights the achievements of the women who served in the ATA in an entertaining manner and, even if it weren't based on fact, it would still be a good read.

Megan says

I wanted to enjoy this book, I truly did, but it has been quite a long time since I've had the misfortune of reading anything so vapid, so filled with common clichés and tropes, and so haphazardly thrown together.

Kate Lord Brown's *The Beauty Chorus* has all the pieces possible for a fantastic story - the world caught in the throes of WWII, beautiful women taking on roles previously done by men, Nazi sympathizers, and so much more. The problem is that our author could not write this story to save their life. Done by someone else, this novel could have been one of the greats among WWII fiction, but it unfortunately falls short of achieving this. Our three main characters - Evie, Stella, and Megan - are meant to be heroines, but come across void of personality and contradictory to themselves, each other, and those around them. They are meant to be viewed as headstrong, fearless, and independent, but instead come across as boy-crazy, flaky, and careless. There is not a single redeeming quality about any of them. In fact, given their jobs as ferry pilots, they're downright dangerous to themselves and others.

The male characters in the novel aren't any better off. The love interests of the three girls are as dreadfully boring as they are, and little more than vehicles for which the supposed heroines to have sex with, fall in love with, and to affirm the fact that "Well, yes. These girls are headstrong, fearless, and independent ... but all of that goes out the window when they meet a man." Personally, I even found it a little offensive. All of this time was spent telling us about these girls and how unlike other women they were, and then they became like all those other women that they are supposedly not. The only difference between Evie, Stella, Megan and "everyone else" is that we know their names.

There are villains in this story, of course. But their motives for being "evil" are so insignificant and inconsequential that it is painfully obvious that they are the villains "just because" there needed to be some degree of conflict, and Ms. Brown did not know how to create that without creating caricatures of bad people. Not for a moment could I actually believe what I was reading, and at points I was laughing out loud - and not when I was supposed to. All three meet their end (although not literally in some cases) with such haste that it is truly dreadful. Our hands are simply cleaned of them and that's it.

Brown pays very little attention to the time in which she has set her story. The world is at war, and she has the opportunity to write about the great things accomplished by women in the ATA, to give us a glimpse of life at this time, and what it must have been like for these girls and the people that they loved. The war is barely mentioned at all, and the only reminder that there is a war going on is the job that the ATA are doing, and some mentions of it by the characters. Ms. Brown has failed to paint an accurate picture of England during war time, and to be honest, it infuriates me to no end.

Lastly, there are so many loose ends left when the book is finished that I wonder how this got past an editor. There is very little closure upon reading the last sentence, and after having invested time into reading this I think it very irresponsible of the author to leave the reader wondering about so many things. You can't slap a "happily ever after" type of sentence at the end of your book and call it a day. There were so many things going on, and very few were addressed with a matter of finality. What happened with the land belonging to Megan's family? Was Lucky okay? What about Stella and Mike? Did Olivia see any form of consequence for her actions at all? I don't like to leave assuming so many things, and I doubt there are many who do after reading 400+ pages of a book.

Personally, I felt a little insulted by this book. Brown thinks so little of her readers that she assumes we will overlook all of the inconsistencies, all of the laughable dialogue, all of the loose endings, and all of the WWII romance clichés. Sorry, Kate - but just as with everything else about this novel, you failed in that as well. Please stick to writing articles and blogging.

Juliana Graham says

I really enjoyed this book and also learnt a lot about the role of ATA unit in the Second World war. I love fiction set during this period and this was a real treat, well written and with interesting and clearly defined characters (though admittedly with a few stereotypes). The book is very well researched and inspired me to look a bit further into some areas discussed.

My only complaint is that towards the end of the book things descended somewhat into action drama, quite different in tone from the rest of the story. I actually found myself laughing at one far fetched scene. Overall the book was great and not your typical war time romance - the ending just let it down a little bit.

I've posted here a link to Kate Lord Brown's blog, focussing particularly on the ATA - you might find it interesting before or after you read the book!

<http://katelordbrown.blogspot.co.uk/s...>