



A Flight of Golden Wings

Beryl Matthews

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September, 1938. Britain is at war and Ruth Aspinall, a gifted pilot, is determined to join the Air Transport Auxiliary, an organisation of civilian pilots who ferry aircraft to wherever they're needed. Meanwhile over in America, siblings Jack and Lucy Nelson, both experienced pilots themselves, are keen to join too.

After a perilous journey by sea, Jack is soon having his first experience of the London Blitz before being posted to White Waltham, where he quite literally bumps into Ruth and romance soon blossoms. On D-Day, Jack is sent to France to deliver a Spitfire, but he is declared missing in action after his plane fails to arrive. Heartbroken, Ruth must accept that the love of her life may never return . . .

A Flight of Golden Wings Details

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From Reader Review A Flight of Golden Wings for online ebook

June Williams says

The story sheds well-deserved light on the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA), a World War II civilian organisation based at White Waltham Airfield in England. These pilots – from several nations, including the U.S. – flew ferry missions and mail and ambulance flights, thus freeing Royal Air Force pilots for combat duty. ATA pilots included women who were paid the same as male pilots; in fact, a woman was the first ATA pilot to die in service, so it is realistic that some of the book's characters die in action.

Matthews does a good job of describing the ATA's work and life in England during the war (Matthews grew up during the war), but the writing style is at the level of young adult. I'd even say it was suitable for elementary school children except for the few non-explicit paragraphs about characters having sex.

Still, I'm glad I read the book. I enjoyed learning about the ATA, and I congratulate the former tea-girl for becoming a published author at the age of 70.

Maggie Kiely says

Another easy read by Beryl Matthews. The Second World War has begun and Ruth a top pilot joins the Air Transport Auxillary. In the USA Jack and Lucy Nelson also want to join. Jack comes to the UK to White Waltham where he bumps into Ruth spilling drink on her and annoying her in the process. Ruth realises that she is in love with Jack but the war makes it difficult for any future plans to be made and Jack is not making any plans or declarations of love. As the war is changing course Jack gets lost in France while delivering a plane.

Again I really enjoyed this one and would recommend it as a light easy read.

Psammead says

I enjoyed this book.. liked learning about the ATA and what they did during the war.

GABRIEL LOMBARDO says

Great band poignant story of ATA during WWII

Enjoyed meeting the ladies and gentlemen of the ATA . Following their heartfelt adventures during the beginning of the war in England until the end of the ATA.

TheIron Paw says

As a novel, this book comes up a little short. The characters are rather stock and the plot is routine romance.

(It is classified as a "romance" by the library). There is value in this novel however in the setting: the Air Transport Auxiliary during World War II. From what little knowledge I do have of the ATA the author appears to have provide a decently accurate description of the growth and role of that organization and the role that female pilots played in it.
