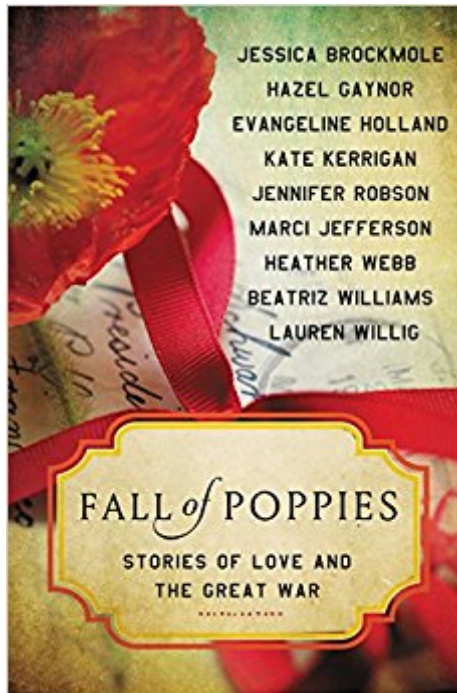




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# Fall Of Poppies: Stories Of Love And The Great War



## Synopsis

Top voices in historical fiction deliver an unforgettable collection of short stories set in the aftermath of World War I featuring bestselling authors such as Hazel Gaynor, Jennifer Robson, Beatriz Williams, and Lauren Willig and edited by Heather Webb. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month... November 11, 1918. After four long, dark years of fighting, the Great War ends at last, and the world is forever changed. For soldiers, loved ones, and survivors the years ahead stretch with new promise, even as their hearts are marked by all those who have been lost. As families come back together, lovers reunite, and strangers take solace in each other, everyone has a story to tell. In this moving anthology, nine authors share stories of love, strength, and renewal as hope takes root in a fall of poppies. Featuring: Jessica Brockmole, Hazel Gaynor, Evangeline Holland, Marci Jefferson, Kate Kerrigan, Jennifer Robson, Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig, Heather Webb.

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Jennifer Robson's *After the War is Over*: "A glorious journey from grief to celebration. Once I started reading, I couldn't put this novel down. The story is engaging, memorable and beautifully imagined." • (Jeanne Mackin, author of *The Beautiful American*) Praise for Hazel Gaynor's *A Memory of Violets*: "Gaynor once again brings history to life. With intriguing characters and a deeply absorbing story, her latest is a fascinating examination of one city's rich history and the often forgotten people who lived in it." • (Booklist) Praise for Beatriz

Williams *A Hundred Summers*: "A fast-paced love story." (O, The Oprah Magazine) "You'll be drawn into this story of obsession and passion." -- on Heather Webb's *Rodin's Lover* (Cosmopolitan Magazine) From Marci Jefferson's moody tale of a courageous young girl seeking to avenge her family's honor... to Hazel Gaynor's incandescent confluence of births and deaths...and including tales by Kate Kerrigan, Beatriz Williams, and Lauren Willig, this collection offers an atmospheric homage to one of history's most emotionally devastating episodes. (Booklist) "With so many established and beloved names included, this title will be easy to suggest to the existing fan base of a particular writer as well as anyone looking for historical fiction with elements of intrigue and romance." (Library Journal)

Top voices in historical fiction deliver an unforgettable collection of short stories set in the aftermath of World War I "featuring bestselling authors such as Hazel Gaynor, Jennifer Robson, Beatriz Williams, and Lauren Willig and edited by Heather Webb. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month...November 11, 1918. After four long, dark years of fighting, the Great War ends at last, and the world is forever changed. For soldiers, loved ones, and survivors the years ahead stretch with new promise, even as their hearts are marked by all those who have been lost. As families come back together, lovers reunite, and strangers take solace in each other, everyone has a story to tell. In this moving anthology, nine authors share stories of love, strength, and renewal as hope takes root in a fall of poppies. Featuring: Jessica Brockmole, Hazel Gaynor, Evangeline Holland, Marci Jefferson, Kate Kerrigan, Jennifer Robson, Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig, Heather Webb

I suppose I may have been expecting quite a bit from this collection of stories, considering the wonderful authors who wrote them. But as I read them I realized no characters were jumping out at me. So I read it again and felt the same way. Many readers will love this book but it just didn't grab me. Beatriz Williams's story was a bold experiment for her, so unlike her other work. I admire the fact that she took a risk, though I didn't enjoy the story in any way. Jennifer Robson's story was delightful, but a little too thin for my taste. I want to hear more -- a lot more -- about her characters. As for the book design, it is gorgeous with the deep reds, and the texture of the cover makes me want to keep holding the book even after I'm done reading.

I cannot choose a favorite story among these gems of truth, feeling, and memory. I believe WWI continues today; it is our Hundred Years War. Told mostly from a woman's viewpoint, these short

stories reveal the thoughts & feelings of the "survivors" who birthed, raised, loved or loved some other woman's child caught up in the disaster of war. One hundred years later, the madness continues.

Most of these stories are rather unbelievable, too much reliance on coincidence to provide a positive/upbeat ending. The idea of using the WWI armistice as a theme is a good one, but the execution is mostly weak. There are two stories that were standouts for me, "Hush" by Hazel Gaynor and "All for the Love of You" by Jennifer Robson.

Every once in a while, I like to leave my romance genre comfort zone and read something a different. Fall Of The Poppies is an interesting collection of short stories, all set around the end of World War One in 1918. Here are my three favourite stories from this historical anthology:

A moving story about a single mum. The Daughter of Belgium by Marco Jefferson

Amelie has lived within the confines of the Cavell Institute in Brussels for three years. Now it is time to move all the patients into another building. Amelie is informed she is to stay behind and use the training she has gained during her time at the institute to look after the only patient who isn't moving too. Lars Ludvig is not who Amelie thinks he is and finds out they have much more in common than she ever dreamed.

Betrayal. Something Worth Landing For by Jessica Brockmole

A beautiful story of an artist who develops feelings for an injured American serviceman who is being fitted for a mask to cover his facial disfigurement. He then goes back to his home, after been told tragic news about the beautiful young lady who helped him. Years later the woman finds out that the serviceman was told of her death, so she actively tries to track him down.

Compassion and hope. All For the Love of You by Jennifer Robson

A young pregnant woman who is and about to lose her job and home meets a pilot who offers to marry her on a whim. He tells her she can claim Widows benefit if he dies. Neither would have guessed that during the time they wait to become legally married, they both are falling in love with each other.

All the contributing authors are new to me. Each has their own individual style, covering vastly different plot-lines but all share the poignancy of the Great War. The austerity of the era is highlighted, yet, there is an abundance of hope for the protagonists. As a reader, I love any story that leaves me to ponder about what happens next and there is plenty to think and wonder about within these short stories.

Fall of Poppies is a stunning anthology written by some of my favorite authors of historical fiction. Each story takes place during WWI, and they are all full of emotions; love, sorrow, loss and a hope

for the future. The stories are all as distinctive as the authors who wrote them, and the characters in them are complex and interesting. I encourage all fans of historical fiction to read these wonderful short stories.

This anthology of short stories is held together by the common theme of love and the end of WWI. Each story has its own unforgettable characters, from the young rape victim in hiding, to the show girl to the grieving mother I was enthralled by them all. The characters experience the last day of WWI as a focal point to the experience of the "Great War". I generally read books that are longer with the opportunity for more leisurely character development. I found this work to be a pleasant surprise. In the hands of these skilled authors I was instantly transported to the time and the experiences of the women. I heartily recommend this read.

Stories of World War I intrigue me and this one was very good. The characters were well written and very much came alive for me. A lot of war incidents were described but nothing violent happened in the book itself. One of my favorite books I have read in the last year.

I selected this book to read because I enjoy reading about how WWII impacted people and I just had finished reading a book by one of the authors of the short stories and I enjoyed her work. Short stories are amazing . . . the author must be very clever to accomplish something interesting to read in so few pages. There was one story that I found confusing but I enjoyed all the rest.

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