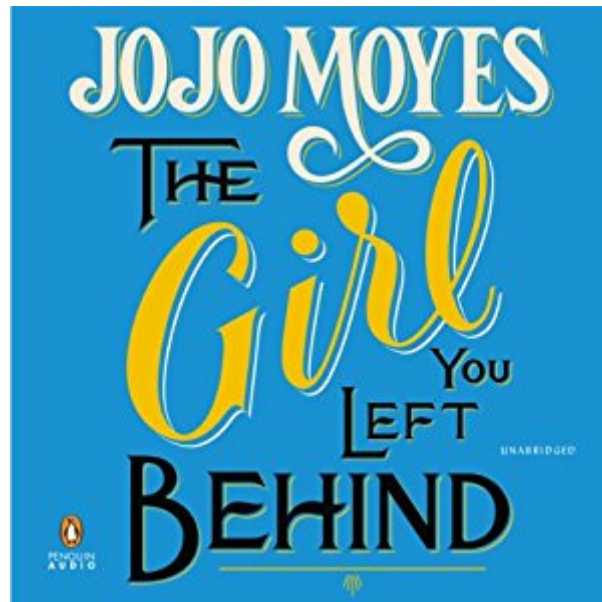


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# The Girl You Left Behind



## Synopsis

From the New York Times best-selling author of *Me Before You*, a spellbinding love story of two women separated by a century but united in their determination to fight for what they love most.

France, 1916: Artist Edouard Lefevre leaves his young wife, Sophie, to fight at the front. When their small town falls to the Germans in the midst of World War II, Edouard's portrait of Sophie draws the eye of the new Kommandant. As the officer's dangerous obsession deepens, Sophie will risk everything - her family, her reputation, and her life - to see her husband again. Almost a century later, Sophie's portrait is given to Liv Halston by her young husband shortly before his sudden death. A chance encounter reveals the painting's true worth, and a battle begins for who its legitimate owner is - putting Liv's belief in what is right to the ultimate test. Like Sarah Blake's *The Postmistress* and Tatiana de Rosnay's *Sarah's Key*, *The Girl You Left Behind* is a breathtaking story of love, loss, and sacrifice told with Moyes's signature ability to capture our hearts.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## 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. Pãrrone in France. It is 1917. World War I. Sophie Lefãvre's beloved husband, Édouard, an artist who studied at the Academie Matisse, has been drawn to the front lines of battle. Before Édouard 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 Édouard is in extreme peril, Sophie risks all to save him. "15 January 1917 Today they took Sophie Lefãvre. 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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