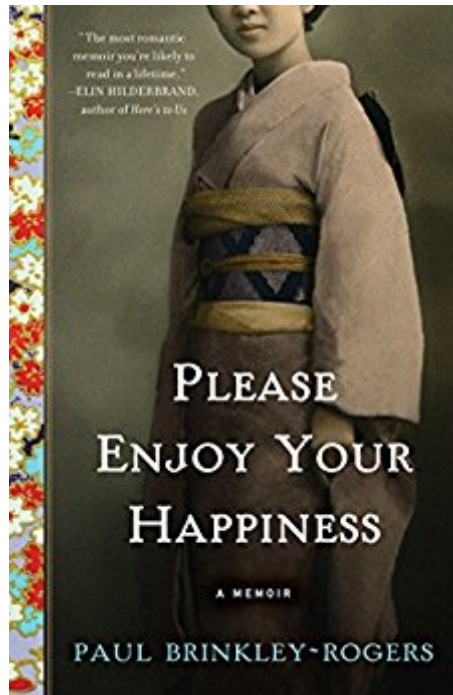


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Please Enjoy Your Happiness: A Memoir



Synopsis

“The most romantic memoir you’re likely to read in a lifetime.” —Elin Hilderbrand, New York Times bestselling author of *Here’s to Us* An evocative memoir. A beautiful journey to half a century and half a world away. An ageless love story. Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent Paul Brinkley ‘Rogers has lived an adventurous life all over the world. But there is one story he cannot forget: that of his haunting love affair with a mysterious older Japanese woman in 1959. Paul was a sailor aboard the USS Shangri-La that long ago summer when he met Kaji Yukiko in the seaport of Yokosuka. A fierce intellectual, Yukiko shared her astonishing knowledge of literature, film, and poetry with Paul and encouraged, even demanded, that he use his gifts to become the writer he is today. But theirs was not a quiet love story. When a member of the yakuza, Japan’s brutal crime syndicate, attempted to kidnap Yukiko, Paul realized that there was much more to her—and to Japan in the devastating wake of World War II—than he saw at first glance. Through the searing letters that Yukiko wrote to him and Paul’s vivid telling of a history made all the more powerful and poignant by the weight of time, *Please Enjoy Your Happiness* reaches across decades and continents, inviting us all to revisit those loves of our lives that never do end.

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Customer Reviews

* Between 1947 and 1959 - 31,080 Japanese women became "war brides" of American servicemen. "Please Enjoy Your Happiness," a title which refers to the awkward use of English on a sign posted outside of a watering hole in Yokosuka, Japan - may or may not be a book about one of these women. And this is just ONE of this memoir's many tantalizing mysteries. The cover art on the U.S. edition suggests an old school story. But what's inside is actually a tale of people caught in transition - as Japan speeds toward modernity in 1959.* Despite Paul Brinkley-Rogers's Pulitzer-Prize winning credentials, my expectations were low. What more could be gleaned about a serviceman's romance with an Asian woman overseas? I worried about clichés associated with such pairings in popular books and films, which peaked during the 1950s and 1960s.* But the 31-year-old Japanese woman who becomes the object of Mr. Brinkley-Rogers's affections - doesn't fit the aforementioned stereotypes. She's not looking for a man. She's described as being unusually tall and fair with a stunningly beautiful face, in one scene wearing a dark red beret with matching lipstick, a trench coat buttoned to her neck with a belt cinched tightly around her waist. Most odd of all - she has a mind of intense sophistication and intellect - soaked with the history of classical art, music and literature, e.g., Debussy, Beethoven, Kafka, Sartre, Kerouac and jazz. Yet she's an outcast because of her complicated genealogy and a dark past which includes ties to organized crime.* Others have already outlined what this memoir is about. It is indeed one long love letter - broken up by chapters - and interspersed with real letters that this beguiling woman wrote to Mr.

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