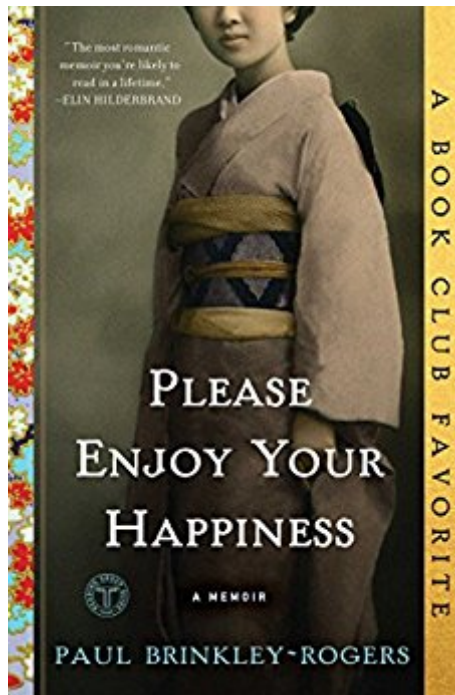




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Please Enjoy Your Happiness: A Memoir



Synopsis

A beautiful and evocative memoir based on the author's summer-long love affair with a remarkable older Japanese woman in the wake of World War II "the most romantic memoir you're likely to read in a lifetime" • (New York Times bestselling author Elin Hilderbrand). 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 truly end.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I found it a bit dull and slow moving at times. The story is interesting, and apparently made a huge mark on young man, which he carried through his life. Apparently he married and had two sons, each of which he mentioned just once! Never a word about his wife, or how this moving Japanese encounter influenced his subsequent family life. Apparently he could not tuck it away as a beautiful 'growing up' experience. I was disappointed.

If you want to read an absolutely beautiful, but sad story, this is for you. I have not read a book like this ever. So loving, so tender....when you meet the love of your life, never let them go. I was to marry the love of my life, but he died before we married. Like the author, I carry his memory forever. Love never ends....

As a man in his sixties I could relate to this story of youthful love like no other. It literally brought tears to my eyes and more importantly, the book reminded me in the most profound way to enjoy my happiness. Paul's writing is pure pleasure. Thank you for sharing this delightful memoir.

I agree with the first reviewer. As I read the book I saw it as a movie in my mind complete with soundtrack from lyrics used in the book. The story is achingly beautiful. I was entranced. An older man sits alone in his library and opens a book of poetry to find within letters from a long lost love. He begins to realize that she was a pivotal influence in his personal as well as professional career as a Pulitzer prizewinning journalist. The letters, for me, revealed an unforgettable woman in Yukiko. Her self-effacing Asian femininity subtly and gradually revealed a depth of wisdom, courage and strength. Such qualities are not often acknowledged by Westerners. At least for me, it was a revelation and provoked an admiration for the character and the culture from which she sprang. The book is dedicated by the author to "Those Japanese women from all walks of life who with grace, warmth, and kindness helped Japan rise to new greatness after the disaster of World War II." A tribute that is probably long overdue. In addition, the story chronicles life aboard a US Navy aircraft carrier that visited Yokosuka in the summer of 1959. Were you in the Navy at that time? If so, you'll readily identify with the very funny description of a young British immigrant sailor experiencing naval culture during the Cold War. His forays with his friends into the fleshpots of Hong Kong were

especially charming, and I use the word because they were all so young and inexperienced (I am a woman). How did this young sailor start his journalistic career on board ship? He was chosen because he could spell the word "apprentice." This is much more than just a "romance." It has the depth and quality of fine literature. Lots of drama, humor, passion, and historical background combined with fabulous writing will leave you breathless and just waiting and hoping for the movie.

I just completed "Please Enjoy Your Happiness". by Paul Brinkley-Rogers. I am not exaggerating to say: To miss it is to miss one of the most beautiful and enriching love stories I have ever read. Paul's masterly use of images and his tender heartedness in dealing with a simple encounter as a young man that brought such delight and depth to him and his dear one - left me with the feeling that I had been gifted by the integrity of these two deep friends who truly were in love.

I am reading this now, very interesting

I'm crying as I write this review. This book touched a place in my heart that I didn't know I had. Brinkley-Rogers is a truly gifted writer who evokes emotion through his incredible writing style. This story is one of love, mystery, history, and creating self-awareness. By all means - read this book. It's a real treat!

Intriguing account of a young man's experience in post World War II Japan with an older woman. The author's longing to find the woman years later is beautifully written, as well as recounting their original encounters.

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