

# GLAMOUR GIRLS

Inspired by a  
true story

MARTY WINGATE

*USA Today* Bestselling Author

Book Club Kit

# Q&A

## with the Author:



Q: Tell us about yourself.

A: I loved writing stories when I was in elementary school. I worked on the high school newspaper, and started out as a journalism major in college. Then, I wandered off into other areas—theater first, then speech therapy. I got back to writing through horticulture, writing gardening how-to articles and books, before I came back to what I had wanted to do all along: tell stories. My husband, an editor by profession, copyedits the first complete draft of my books.

Q: Why did you write *Glamour Girls*?

A: I am interested in women's roles during the twentieth century, and the stories of those women who managed to do what they loved, not just what they were told they could do. Rosalie's story is inspired by Mary Ellis Wilkins, one of the last surviving ATA pilots, who died in 2018 at age 101! I read Mary's autobiography and also other women pilots' stories and wove them into the book.

Q: Rosalie, the protagonist, has a special dream of being a pilot. Why did that interest you?

A: One thing that drew me to the story was the improbability of this young girl (any young woman of the time) becoming a pilot. But to Rosalie, it seemed natural! Rosalie's life seemed to reflect the story of Britain before, during, and after WWII when the world was filled with determination, joy, and heartbreak. No one was the perfect hero, but everyone had a chance to contribute.

Q: The setting is important in your book. Why did you choose it?

A: We love Britain and visit often, and I enjoy immersing myself in the culture and everyday ways that help make a story come alive. I continually find wonderful stories, many of them from before, during, and after WWII.

Q: How much research was involved in writing *Glamour Girls*?

A: Writers love research! So much so that we can get a bit lost in the details. For example, the canteen on an airbase: what sort of food was served? How did they make tea? I learned that making tea involved an enormous urn, what seems like a mountain of tea leaves, a huge muslin bag to hold them, and a pole. I also became fascinated with all the many airfields that were built on farmland during the war and that went back to being farms afterward. I have stood on the roof of a control tower in the middle of a farm in Lavenham, Suffolk. This was a U.S. base during the war, and it's where my father-in-law was stationed with the 487th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force. The control tower still stands, along with a few other buildings.

Q: What was the most challenging part of writing your book?

A: Learning about the airplanes (aeroplanes!) and how the ATA pilots flew them (at low altitudes with no radio or radar) as opposed to how the RAF pilots flew them. Although I've never been a pilot, I've been a passenger in small airplanes and I did fly a Spitfire simulator at the Maidenhead Heritage Centre. That was a amazing experience and gave me a sense of the space in the cockpit and what the pilot saw and did.

Q: What is your writing process?

A: Every writer has a different answer to this question. I write every day, usually about two hours in the morning. The next day, I edit what I've written and push forward. The day after, I go back over what I have and go further. This helps me know where I'm going in the story without any wholesale changes after I've finished the whole thing. Many authors prefer to write a first draft, and then take that and write the second, and continue that way until the entire book has multiple drafts. I know authors who follow this process and it works well for them. We are all different!

Connect with  
Marty!

 [martywingate.com](http://martywingate.com)

 [@martywingate](https://twitter.com/martywingate)

"A vivid and  
heartfelt read!"  
—Sara Ackerman,  
*USA Today* bestselling  
author of *Red Sky  
Over Hawaii*

# Discussion Questions

1

Which scene stuck with you the most? Why do you think it did?

2

As we follow Rosalie in the book, we are also moving through the war. How did Rosalie's years reflect the years of the war?

3

What did you like or dislike about Rosalie's relationship with Alan? What about Snug? Were you rooting for one or the other?

4

There have been numerous books about the strength and power of women during wartime. Why do you think this is such a popular topic now?

5

Siblings! How did Rosalie's place as the youngest and only girl influence her personality?

6

Did *Glamour Girls* remind you of any stories from your parents or grandparents about life during WWII?

7

Rosalie has to make a lot of decisions throughout the novel. Which decisions do you think were right? Were there any you disagreed with? Why, and what would you have done differently?

8

Which character did you relate to or empathize with the most?

9

What do you think happens to the characters after the book's official ending?

10

If you could ask the author one question about her book, what would it be?