



**BOOK  
CLUB  
KIT**

**LADY  
FLYER**

FROM THE BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF *UNDER THE JAVA MOON*

**HEATHER B. MOORE**

# BOOK CLUB KIT

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## A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear Reader,

I've long been fascinated with the history of aviation. My husband and I have attended many air shows with our children and spent many Saturday afternoons in museums. When the opportunity came to write about female aviators, I was excited to begin the research. One of my daughters is a pilot, so I knew she'd be of great help to me as well.

Women and World War II aviation isn't often synonymous with each other. Most people know that British women ferried planes from airbase to airbase in England during the war. Many others have heard of the all-female 588th Night Bomber Regiment from the Soviet Union that dropped bombs on Nazi targets, earning themselves the nickname of "night witches." But lesser known, the United States had their own female flying squadron that spent nearly two years between 1942–1944 flying every type of plane and delivering 12,650 combat aircraft to seventy-eight different bases throughout the nation. These women were the WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots).

Researching and writing about Nancy Harkness Love, who would become the director of these women aviators, was both a privilege and eye-opening. First, Nancy had to believe in herself and her abilities. Through many setbacks of family tragedy, a world war, constant obstacles and roadblocks to earn trust for women pilots, and personal health challenges, Nancy continued to push forward, soaring higher in order to make the path smoother for female pilots in the future.

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“  
A trailblazing  
World War II  
pilot and  
fierce  
advocate for  
women’s  
equality takes  
a stand that  
changes  
women’s  
futures in the  
military.”

—Foreword Reviews

One of the things that impressed me the most about Nancy was that she walked the walk. She wasn’t a stunt pilot or a daredevil. She genuinely loved flying and wanted to share that love with others. She did this by becoming a trailblazer by taking it upon herself to set the example that women could fly the larger, more complex aircraft. She qualified on virtually all the Army Air Force’s combat aircraft, including the P-51 Mustang, P-38 Lightning fighters, C-54 transport, B-17 Flying Fortress, Consolidated B-24 Liberator, and the B-29 Superfortress.

Thanks to Nancy’s vision and determination, along with other women such as Jacqueline Cochran, over 1,000 women became WASP, logging in over 60 million flight hours, which then enabled the male pilots to train and prepare for combat missions.

I hope you’ll enjoy Nancy’s remarkable journey.

  
Heather E. Moore



Nancy Love and Betty Gillies  
(Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons)

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1.**

Before reading this book, what did you know about female aviators' WWII service?

**2.**

What do you think drove Nancy Harkness Love to stay persistent in pushing for a women's aviator ferrying program despite all the setbacks and red tape?

**3.**

Why did it seem so complicated and sometimes difficult for the female pilots to gain experience and respect from their male peers?

**4.**

What do you think was at the core of the continual conflict between Nancy Harkness Love and Jacqueline Cochran?

**5.**

What did you notice about the difference between the men who supported women aviators (such as Nancy's brother, father, and husband) and the men who kept putting up roadblocks to prevent progress?

**6.**

Why do you think the United States was so slow to utilize female aviators when their closest ally, the United Kingdom, began recruiting female pilots as early as January 1940?

**7.**

Do you agree with the decision most of the Allied powers made to keep women pilots out of combat?

Contrast that with the Soviet Union's all-female aviation regiment that flew bombing missions against the German military.

8.

What do you think about Congress turning down the WASP bill for militarization in 1944, while other groups, such as the WAC, WAVES, and SPARs, were granted military status in the 1940s?

9.

The generational perceptions and differences between Nancy Love and her mother come through in the story in several scenes. **What generational differences do you see in your families?**

10.

Nancy Love burned her WASP uniform at some point after the ferrying program was disbanded. For plot purposes, I put it into the final scene, but **what are your thoughts about her actions, knowing how much time she dedicated to the WAFS/WASP program?**



Nancy Harkness Love  
(Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons)

“

In Heather B. Moore’s exciting historical novel *Lady Flyer*, a trailblazing World War II pilot and fierce advocate for women’s equality takes a stand that changes women’s futures in the military. . . . The steady narrative alternates between the grim realities of the war and warm vignettes that cover Nancy’s blossoming romance, married life, and strong friendships with other women pilots. . . . Nancy’s emotions are palpable throughout. Engaging historical novel.”

—*Foreword Reviews*



Some of the Originals from the WAFS (soon to become the WASP), from left to right: Barbara Towne, Cornelia Fort, Evelyn Sharp, Barbara Erickson, and Bernice Batten beside Vultee BT-13 Valiant.

(Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons)



WASP on runway, Laredo, Texas, 1944  
(Photo credit: [www.afhistory.af.mil](http://www.afhistory.af.mil))



WASPs in classroom, Romulus Army Airfield, Michigan, 1944  
(Photo credit: [www.afhistory.af.mil](http://www.afhistory.af.mil))

### **Additional Reading:**

*Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History* by Keith O'Brien.

*Fly Girls* by P. O'Connell Pearson

*Jackie Cochran: An Autobiography* by Jacqueline Cochran

*Nancy Love and the WASP Ferry Pilots of World War II* by Sarah Byrn Rickman

*The Originals: The Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron of World War II* by Sarah Byrn Rickman

*The Women with Silver Wings* by Katherine Sharp Landdeck

*About the Author*

# HEATHER B. MOORE



HEATHER B. MOORE is a USA Today best-selling and award-winning author of more than seventy publications. She has lived on both the east and west coasts of the United States, including Hawaii, and attended school abroad including the Cairo American College in Egypt, and the Anglican School of Jerusalem in Israel. She loves to learn about history and is passionate about historical research.

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