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# The Joys Of Love



## Synopsis

This moving and romantic coming-of-age story was written during the 1940s. As revealed in an introduction by the author's granddaughter Lina Roy, the protagonist Elizabeth is close to an autobiographical portrait of L'Engle herself as a young woman "a vibrant, vulnerable, and yearning for love and all that life has to offer."

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Macmillan Young Listeners; Unabridged edition (April 29, 2008)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.8 x 5.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #6,639,630 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > ( L ) > L'Engle, Madeleine #373 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction >

Performing Arts > Theater #1207 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Written by the late L'Engle (*A Wrinkle in Time*) in the 1940s and never before published, this romantic coming-of-age story will immediately draw in listeners. Twenty-year-old Liz Gerard has wanted to be an actress for as long as she can remember, and has finally been allowed to test her talents by apprenticing at a summer stock company. There Liz falls for the slightly older, charming director, Kurt. During a pivotal weekend, however, Liz learns that Kurt's intentions are not so honorable and she comes to appreciate Ben, who has been patiently waiting in the wings. Listening to Reed's narration of this dialogue-rich work is akin to attending a play. Her expert use of pauses, shifts in voices and quiet passion bring this story to life. Teens may need explanations of items like dirndl skirts and telephones with no dialing mechanisms, but the basic story of first love and deception transcends the period setting. The author's granddaughter Lina Roy supplies an introduction and an interview. Ages 12+ up. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of

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Grade 8 Upâ "During her apprenticeship at a summer theater company, 20-year-old Elizabeth begins to discover what acting and actors are all about and she falls in love for the first time in this story (Farrar, 2008) written in the 1940's and based on Madeleine L'Engle's experiences working for a theater company in Nantucket for two summers. Weekly guest stars, regular cast members, and fellow students help Elizabeth realize what achieving her dream will entail. The introduction and a bonus interview are by the author's granddaughter, Lena Roy, who recalls how this story was written for her and her sisters. Narrator Maggi-Meg Reed provides subtle voice changes for the different characters, making it difficult at the beginning to determine who is speaking. This semi-autobiographical, gentle, compelling coming-of-age story will enthrall most teenage girls.â "Anita Lawson, Otsego High School, MI Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

very flowery dramatic language and characters - understand it is set in a theatre troupe environment, so the writing style may be deliberate. But it was harder to get through than L'Engle's other books.

The story takes place in 1946, over 4 days in the life of Elizabeth Jerrold while she is working summer stock. Elizabeth is a recent college graduate who knows she wants to devote her life to the theater. She loves the theater and the people she has met there, especially Kurt Canitz, an older director. Life seems perfect and the summer unending. Than Aunt Harriet calls and states that she will not pay Elizabeth's tuition to stay at the summer stock anymore. Elizabeth must scramble to find a way to squeak out one more week of summer stock so she can see her favorite actress, Valborg Andersen, perform. And what about Kurt?M's L'Engle's story is dated, as some of the other critics have said. But it's still well written and a good read. It was fun to learn about what goes on in summer stock - the various classes, the practices and the people. I really enjoyed this book even though it's not of the same caliber as the "Wrinkle in Time" quartet. I recommend this book highly for all who are interested in seeing how summer stock works as well as those who want a good read.

Not the typical Madeleine L'Engle book. Sweet and sentimental.

Wonderful coming of age book set firmly in its era.

This book is a sweet, well written story. It is the perfect sort of book for a rainy day or a sick day when you want something entertaining and pleasant, but you do not want to tax your brain. I enjoyed it greatly.

Any work done by L'Engle is worth your time to read. Check out the list and the sequence of her works as some preclude others.

This is not at all what one expects from Madeleine L'Engle, as it is nothing like the Wrinkle in Time series. But it's such a beautiful little story full of the ordinary things that happen in just a few days of life. It makes me very calm and peaceful to fall into this story.

adeleine L'Engle shows in this book that she has mastered her story-telling craft. There are well-developed characters and a good plot line. I would recommend it to young adults and up.

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