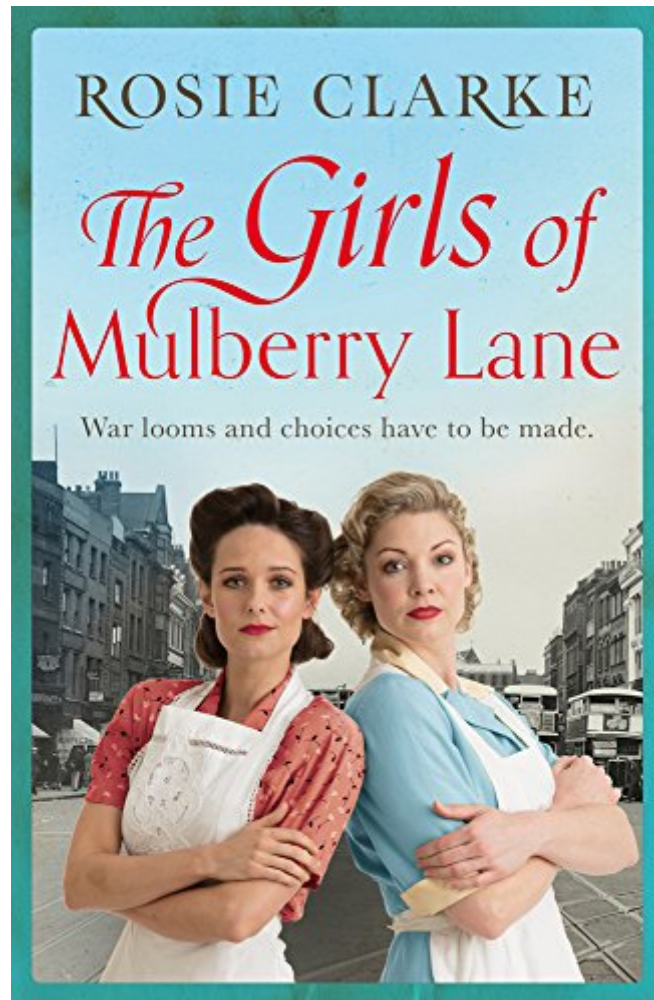




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# The Girls Of Mulberry Lane (The Mulberry Lane Series)



## Synopsis

1938, Mulberry Lane, London. War is looming, but on Mulberry Lane there are different battles being fought... Perfect for fans of Nadine Dorries and Cathy Sharp. Maureen Jackson is a prisoner of her father's blackmail. Three years earlier, she'd been hoping to marry Rory, the man of her dreams. However, after her mother's death, she was left to care for her overbearing father. Now Rory is back in London with a pregnant wife in tow to remind Maureen of the life that should have been hers. As war threatens, Janet Ashley hopes to marry her sweetheart Mike, but her father refuses to grant them his blessing. Defying his wishes, Janet finds herself pregnant and her mother Peggy is determined to hold her family together at all costs. Will the girls of Mulberry Lane manage to snatch happiness before the darkness of World War II descends? Order the next book in the series out JANUARY 2018 - A Wedding at Mulberry Lane.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Loved this book! I couldn't put it down and I can't wait for the next installment at the end of the year. Rosie Clarke is brilliant at bringing you into her stories and capturing life during the 2nd world war. I love her writing....

Saga writer extraordinaire Rosie Clarke kicks off her fantastic new series with *The Girls of Mulberry Lane*, a gritty, gutsy and compelling tale set in 1930s London that is simply perfect for fans of Donna Douglas, Nadine Dorries and Ellie Dean. The dark clouds of war are gathering in 1938, but in Mulberry Lane, London, the inhabitants of this street are waging war and fighting their own battles. Three years ago, Maureen Jackson had been head over heels in love with the man of her dreams, Rory. Maureen had been hoping to marry Rory and spend the rest of her life in total bliss with the man who had come to mean more to her than life itself, but she had quickly learnt that fate could be a very cruel mistress. Her mother had died leaving Maureen with no other choice but to care for her cruel father and turn her back on the love of her life. Her father has grown more overbearing and more impossible with the passing of years, and just when Maureen thinks that things couldn't possibly get any worse for her, Rory comes back into her life with a pregnant wife in tow; a cruel reminder about the happiness that can never be hers. But Maureen is not the only woman in Mulberry Lane nursing a broken heart. Janet Ashley wants nothing more than to marry her sweetheart, Mike. However, her father refuses to give his blessing and makes it perfectly clear that he does not want the marriage to go ahead. However, with the war approaching, Janet realises that she cannot bear to live with the regret of never giving herself fully to the man she loves. Yet, when Janet falls pregnant, it is up to her mother Peggy to keep the family together at all costs! Will the girls of Mulberry Lane find the happiness which they have been desperately searching for? Or will war and circumstance put paid to any hope which they might have of being with the men they love? When it comes to writing sagas, Rosie Clarke is up there with some of the best in the business. Her books are always redolent of past times, packed with full-blooded and powerful characters and there is always plenty of heart, emotion and pathos and *The Girls of Mulberry Lane* is certainly no exception! A terrific saga guaranteed to keep readers up well past their bedtime, *The Girls of Mulberry Lane* is a terrific tale of sacrifice, family strife, powerful secrets and the ties that bind I found absolutely impossible to put down. I've been a fan of Rosie's books for years and she gets better with every book she writes! I am counting down the days until the next release by this phenomenal talent.

London is preparing for a war, with the drumbeats on the horizon in 1938, Mulberry Lane and her residents in London's East End have just started to find some sort of normalcy in life, but after the last war, nothing is ever quite the same. Spanning a 2 year period, the story focuses on Maureen, stuck caring for (and managed by) an overbearing father,

she's lost much of the hope she had in love and its power to transform her life. Returning to Mulberry Lane we also meet Rory, love of Maureen's life but with a new, and pregnant, wife in tow. Janet, with her parents Peggy and Laurence run the Dog and Pheasant, the pub on the lane. Janet wants to marry Mike and start her life, but her father refuses to let them marry. Laurence was never quite the same after returning from the last war, and the last thing he wants is for any of his children to know that heartbreak and hardship. Both of his sons want to sign up, and his daughter wants a man who will more than likely go to war as well. With his own worries about being returned to duty, and his fear for his own children, Laurence is adamant that life stay the same for his little family, and the war doesn't intrude. As in most places, there is a center for the activity, advice, conversations and dream sharing, and that just happens to be the local pub. See Mulberry Lane is like most of its day: a small neighborhood within the city, where everyone knows everyone else, friendships are a given, and advice is free flowing. Quickly Clarke develops the story and presents the characters, flaws and all, to the reader, allowing us to see the spoken and unspoken, interactions and avoidances, and even the gossip and worry that the war will bring to the country and the lives of those we are getting to know. While Maureen is dealing with love lost and her own family issues, Janet overrode her father's refusal to marry and has ended up pregnant, now married to a serviceman and realizing that life as she imagined it is a far cry from her often romantic fantasies. Her mother Peggy is always willing to listen and lend a hand, with advice and time, but Janet's realization that marriage, particularly in these troubled times isn't easy, and she isn't quite mature enough to actually find her own coping mechanisms, relying on Peggy who has plenty to deal with when it comes to her own marriage. Each character is well-rounded and presented as a functional being, we see them change and grow, feel their slights and the slow adjustment of their dreams, struggles and actions. Yes, despite his wife, Maureen still yearns for Rory, although tied into caring for her father and discovering his misdeeds becomes more of a burden, daily. A true slice of life story that keeps readers wondering and learning, providing answers and new questions nearly every page. While not a particularly action-packed read, it is character and motivation driven, with enough drama to keep readers engaged while telling the story. Yes, there are still some questions and some situations that aren't fully resolved, but these are characters that stay with you, and call you back. I'm ready for the next. I received an eArc copy of the title from the publisher via NetGalley for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

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