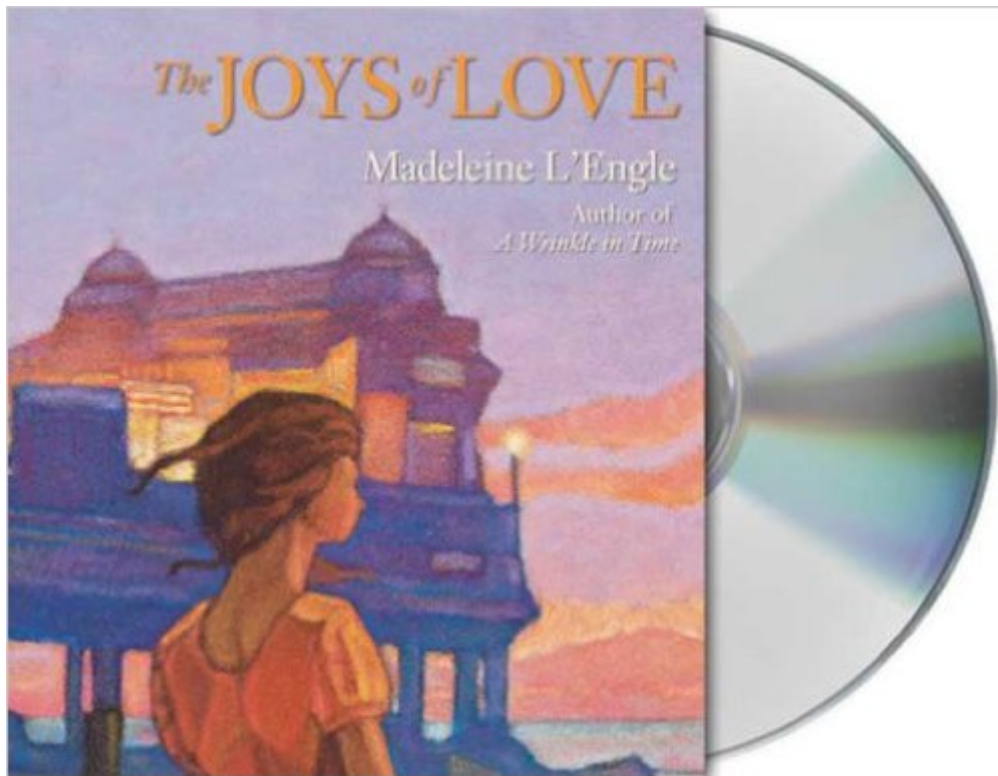


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# The Joys Of Love



## Synopsis

This moving and romantic coming-of-age story was written during the 1940s. As revealed in an introduction by the author's granddaughter L'Engle 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

ISBN-10: 1427204640

ASIN: B005SNN042

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.8 x 5.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,014,231 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

[Authors, A-Z > \( L \) > L'Engle, Madeleine](#) #305 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction >](#)

[Performing Arts > Theater](#) #993 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century](#)

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

The Joys of Love is a coming of age young adult novel set in the 1940's and first conceived as a short story in 1948, so it's quite different from the Young Adult offerings of this decade. When she tried to sell it decades ago, the agents/publishers weren't quite sure how to classify it then either (I received that bit of information from the introduction by her granddaughter, which almost is worth the purchase price itself!). The story parallels L'Engle's own young adult years that she spent in the theater, so it's a must-read for fans of L'Engle's writings and philosophy. However since the young twenty-somethings of that era probably have more in common with a fourteen-year-old today, the book might span a wider age range than many YA offerings -- even if the respect for parental authority and for good clean fun might seem a bit antiquated. The only nod to sex is when one character asks if two others are sleeping together (and the answer was, "I don't know. I haven't thought about it."). The material would be appropriate for any teen, but the subject matter would be

best appreciated by ages sixteen on up. It would be especially interesting for anyone with a professional or avocational interest in the theater or the arts. Twenty-one year old Elizabeth Jerrold is in that typical post-college decision-making stage. She earned a sensible degree as her guardian aunt desired, but now she's gotten on as an apprentice in a summer theater on the Jersey coast to see if she has a hope of making a living doing what she loves -- acting. Alongside the choices she is making about her future, there are inevitably choices concerning love. This plotline is expertly handled by L'Engle.

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