

# Okinawa GI Brides: Their Lives in America

In the aftermath of World War II, thousands of Okinawan women married American servicemen and moved to the United States. These women, known as GI brides, faced a number of challenges as they adjusted to life in a new country. They had to learn a new language, adapt to a new culture, and often deal with discrimination and prejudice.



## Okinawa's GI Brides: Their Lives in America by Ruth Wariner

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Despite these challenges, many GI brides went on to build successful lives in America. They raised families, pursued education and careers, and became active members of their communities. Their stories are a testament to the resilience and determination of the human spirit.

*Okinawa GI Brides: Their Lives in America* is a collection of stories from these remarkable women. These stories provide a unique perspective on the history of the war and its aftermath, as well as the challenges and triumphs of these women as they built new lives in a foreign land.

## **The GI Bride Program**

The GI Bride Program was a program established by the United States government in 1946 to allow American servicemen to bring their foreign-born wives to the United States. The program was originally intended to help servicemen who had married during the war, but it was later expanded to include servicemen who married after the war.

Under the GI Bride Program, servicemen were allowed to petition for their wives to come to the United States. The wives were then required to undergo a medical examination and a background check. If they passed these requirements, they were issued a visa and allowed to enter the United States.

The GI Bride Program was a controversial program. Some Americans opposed the program, arguing that it would lead to an influx of foreign immigrants and that the wives would not be able to adapt to American culture. However, the program was ultimately successful. Over 100,000 foreign-born wives entered the United States under the program, and many of them went on to build successful lives in America.

## **The Challenges of Being a GI Bride**

GI brides faced a number of challenges as they adjusted to life in America. They had to learn a new language, adapt to a new culture, and often deal with discrimination and prejudice.

One of the biggest challenges for GI brides was learning English. Many of these women had never learned English before, and they had to struggle to learn a new language while also trying to adjust to a new country.

Another challenge for GI brides was adapting to a new culture. American culture was very different from Okinawan culture, and many GI brides had to learn new ways of living. For example, they had to learn how to drive, how to use American appliances, and how to interact with Americans.

GI brides also often faced discrimination and prejudice. Some Americans resented the fact that these women had married servicemen and were now living in the United States. They were often called names and treated with disrespect.

### **The Triumphs of GI Brides**

Despite the challenges they faced, many GI brides went on to build successful lives in America. They raised families, pursued education and careers, and became active members of their communities.

One of the most common ways that GI brides contributed to their communities was through volunteer work. Many GI brides volunteered at schools, hospitals, and other community organizations. They also helped to organize cultural events and festivals that celebrated their heritage.

Many GI brides also went on to pursue higher education. They earned degrees in fields such as nursing, teaching, and social work. These women used their education to help their families and communities.

GI brides played a vital role in the growth and development of the United States. They helped to build a more diverse and inclusive society, and they contributed to the country's economy and culture.

Okinawa GI Brides is a collection of stories from these remarkable women. These stories provide a unique perspective on the history of the war and its aftermath, as well as the challenges and triumphs of these women as they built new lives in a foreign land.

These women are an inspiration to us all. They show us that anything is possible if we have the courage to follow our dreams.

*Okinawa GI Brides: Their Lives in America* is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the history of World War II, Japanese American history, or the stories of strong and resilient women.

## **Image Gallery**

# OKINAWA'S GI BRIDES

*THEIR  
LIVES IN  
AMERICA*



ETSUKO  
TAKUSHI  
CRISSEY

*Translated by*  
STEVE RABSON



A GI bride and her American husband



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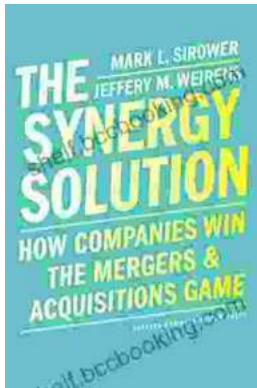
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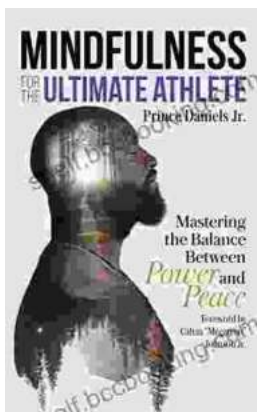


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