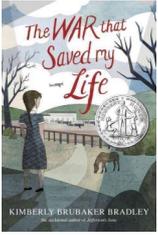


# Staff Picks: The War That Saved My Life



[view in catalog](#)

**Reviewed by Stephanie H.**

I love Ada! Ada and this character-driven historical fiction won many awards, including the Newbery Honor book. She and her younger brother Jamie are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II. Away from the bombings and their abusive mother, they find the rural setting and their new caregiver both frightening and joyful.

Never have I been so glad for a sequel! Ada grew so much in the first novel, but in the sequel she really demonstrates her strength against the formidable Lady Thornton, runaway horses, and a war that now reaches the countryside and those she has come to love.

Powerful and uplifting!

Posted by Alejandria G. on October 23, 2018

[The War That Saved My Life; The War I Finally Won](#)

[Britain](#)

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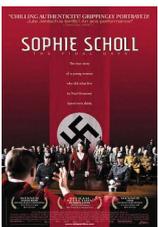
[World War II](#)

[Oh, the Things You Can Think](#)

[Alejandria G.'s blog](#)

Unpublished

# Sophie Scholl: The Final Days



[view in catalog](#)

While I was growing up in the 60's and 70's I learned in my history classes about the horrors of what happened in Germany during WWII. However in these classes the German people were painted with broad sweeping strokes of black as supporters of the Nazi movement and Hitler. I never learned of people such as Oskar Schindler, the German industrialist who managed to save the lives of so many of the Jewish people. Nor had I heard of groups, such as 'The Swing Kids,' 'The Edelweiss Pirates,' 'The Solf Circle,' and 'The Kreisau Circle.' All of these were groups of German Nationals who were either vocal opponents of the Nazi doctrine or actively fought against them as part of the underground resistance in Germany. In fact there were a lot more 'subversive groups' in Germany than I was aware existed. Another group I had never heard of was one founded by Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie known as 'The White Rose.' [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on January 9, 2016

[Sophie Scholl Die Letzten Tage](#)

[World War II](#)

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## Gellhorn: A Twentieth-Century Life

**GELLHORN**  
A TWENTIETH-CENTURY LIFE



[view in catalog](#)

"I was never deeply interested in being a child." Twentieth-century war correspondent and novelist, Gellhorn always said these words would open her autobiography if she ever wrote one.

Unfortunately, she never did but Moorehead's deeply researched biography of the writer is so rich with Gellhorn's work, family life, love affairs, and travels that probably not even Gellhorn could have gotten it down with such precision. Also, Moorehead provides a rich tapestry of historical and cultural information for the nine decades of Martha's life.

During WW II, the military refused to give her a pass to Normandy for the German invasion, so Martha sneaked aboard a troop ship and hid in the bathroom until they were well at sea.

Her father, an ex-German doctor settled in St. Louis and married Edna, an intelligent member of the local upper class. Both parents were half Jewish. One of the fascinating things in this book is to discover the lifelong extremely close connection between mother and daughter. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on August 5, 2015

[Gellhorn: A Twentieth-Century Life](#)

[Writing](#)

[World War II](#)

[Biography](#)

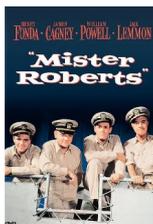
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## Mister Roberts (1955)



[view in catalog](#)

*Mister Roberts* (1955), starring Henry Fonda, is based on the stage play by Frank Nugent. Fonda, who starred in the Broadway play, reprised his role as Lieutenant Douglas Roberts for this film, with an A-list of players supporting him. Jack Lemmon also stars as Ensign Pulver, a role which won him an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor; James Cagney as Captain Morton and William Powell as "Doc" round out the cast. Sadly, the film also ended the longtime friendship and working relationship between Henry Fonda and director John Ford who, in a fit of anger, reportedly sucker punched Fonda in the mouth. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on August 4, 2015

[Mister Roberts \[Motion picture : 1955\]](#)

[Award Winner](#)

[Classics](#)

[Comedy](#)

[Drama](#)

[DVD](#)

[World War II](#)

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## Monuments Men



[view in catalog](#)

It's not often that a World War II film comes my way that stirs my soul. It's even rarer that what stirs my soul is not the personal story of an individual or a small group of people standing up for what is right against the Nazi's or an escape from a German internment camp despite impossible odds. It's not that I don't enjoy a good war film, but most war films have the same basic features, [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on December 26, 2014

[The Monuments Men](#)

[World War II](#)

[War & Military](#)

[Movies](#)

[History](#)

[Historical](#)

[Germany](#)

[DVD](#)

[Art](#)

[American History](#)

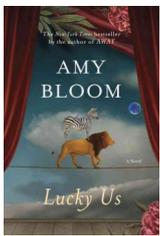
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## Lucky Us



[view in catalog](#)

This intriguing 1940s novel opens with a mother announcing that someone has died and they better hustle over to the house and "see what might be in it for us." The house belongs to Eva's dad and his recently deceased wife.

A week later Eva's Mom deposits her on the doorstep with a suitcase then disappears from her life. Upstairs is Eva's half-sister, Iris. Until this day, neither sister knew the other existed.

Iris, four years older and in high school, enters and wins many talent contests (elocution, dramatic readings, poetry, patriotic essays, and dance) in their small Ohio town and bergs like it within fifty miles. However, she must hide her earnings from her father, Edgar, a college professor of elocution, who has no qualms about stealing from his children.

Before long, Iris graduates from school and heads out to Hollywood. Because their dad basically abandons Eva to her own care, she soon drops out of school to join her older sister in Hollywood. They move into a rooming house and Iris shares her adventures with Eva as she holes up in their room until school is out each day.

Iris scores a few speaking roles in movies, but soon becomes involved in a gay sex scandal and gets blacklisted in Hollywood. The older more famous actress marries immediately and her career zooms on. Soon Edgar reappears and along with a helpful make-up artist, Francisco, they decide to drive across country to find possible jobs in New York. Edgar thinks he can pass as a butler and with some training, Iris, can be a governess. As they drive through the west, Iris memories facts from *The Little Blue Books*, and the party grills her on Shakespeare. Luckily, father and daughter land jobs with an Italian *nouveau riche* family, the Torellis.

Eva grows up to become a fortune teller. As Iris advised Eva, "It's the great thing about the war... Anyone can be anyone." Iris adopts a son (somewhat illegally--they actually steal him from the orphanage) and falls in love with the Torellis' cook, Reenie, whom she convinces to leave her husband and move in with them.

To this crazy dysfunctional family, Bloom brings her insight as a former psychotherapist. The 40s time period is captured well and a series of letters from a dear family friend, who was thrown out of the country for being Jewish describe some of the hardships of Europe including the Dresden bombings. In no sense is this a light, hopeful book, yet it is very well-written and captures the complex relationships and dynamics of a modern American family in the midst of a rapidly changing world.

For a book about another family surviving WW II on the other side of the pond, try Amanda Hodginkson's [22 Britannia Road](#).

Posted by Dory L. on December 15, 2014

[Lucky Us: A Novel](#)

[World War II](#)

[Fiction](#)

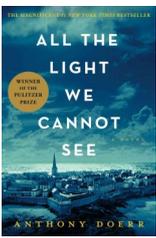
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## [All the Light We Cannot See](#)



[view in catalog](#)

A blind French girl. A brilliant German boy. A locksmith who works at a world-class museum. A French resistance worker who doubles as a housewife. An agoraphobic great uncle who has not left home since the close of the last war, WW1. A Nazi army gem expert who prowls after a world-class jewel that he believes will cure his advanced cancer.

These are the main characters that people this fascinating WWII novel. Tying them all together are radio signals and a blue diamond worth millions.

The novel alternates (mostly) between the points of view of Marie-Laure, a blind girl and Werner, an orphan who teaches himself advanced radio skills. Marie-Laure has been blind since the age of six. Just after the German occupation, she and her locksmith father flee Paris, but soon after the Germans take and imprison her father.

A myth surrounds the blue diamond itself. Marie-Laure learned about the diamond early in her life. The myth says that anyone who carries it will have bad luck befall them. Unfortunately, the museum director entrusts the locksmith with this diamond as the Germans enter Paris. He also ordered two other duplicates created to confuse anyone trying to track the diamond. None of the three employees trusted with the diamond know who has the real one. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on July 21, 2014

[All the Light We Cannot See](#)

[Coming of Age](#)

[Fiction](#)

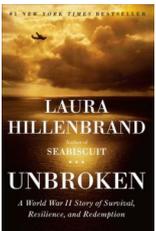
[World War II](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

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## **Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption**



[view in catalog](#)

*Unbroken* tells the amazing true story of Louie Zamperini, a rascally little boy who grows up in Southern California to Italian immigrant parents. As a child, Louie is constantly in trouble and has a restless energy. His saving grace is being introduced to long distance running by his older brother. Louie ends up running in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin and is focused on the 4 minute mile and another chance at the 1940 Olympics.

Back home, he enrolls in USC and continues running when the War interrupts. Louie joins as a gunner in the Army Air Forces. He is eventually sent to the Pacific theater and after a few successful missions, his plane crashes in the Pacific during a search mission. Three members of the aircraft team make it to two small liferafts and his unbelievable story continues. Louie's 40+ day survival on a life raft seems impossible. Then he is shot at and captured by the Japanese and unofficially is held in horrible war camps. Here too, his survival is seemingly impossible.

Louise does survive, his spirit is damaged, but also hopeful. Louie's story will stay with you. I kept

thinking of him and his story well after I finished the book. [Read more](#)

Posted by sbowman on October 24, 2012

[Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption](#)

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