

ww2 fiction books best

Discovering the Best WWII Fiction Books: A Comprehensive Guide

WW2 fiction books best is a phrase that resonates with readers who seek compelling stories set during one of the most tumultuous periods in history. These novels provide a window into the human experiences, heroism, struggles, and moral dilemmas faced during World War II. Whether you're a history enthusiast or a lover of gripping storytelling, the best WWII fiction books combine historical accuracy with powerful narratives that leave a lasting impression. In this guide, we'll explore some of the top titles in the genre, what makes them stand out, and how you can choose the perfect WWII fiction book to add to your collection.

Why Read WWII Fiction?

Before diving into specific book recommendations, it's important to understand why WWII fiction remains a significant and popular genre.

Understanding History Through Fiction

Fictional stories set during WWII often incorporate real events, battles, and figures, making history accessible and engaging for readers. They humanize the vast scope of war by telling personal stories that evoke empathy and understanding.

Exploring Moral and Ethical Dilemmas

WWII was a period of complex moral choices. Fiction allows authors to delve into the decision-making processes of characters facing life-and-death situations, highlighting themes of courage, sacrifice, and morality.

Preserving Memory and Honoring Heroes

Many WWII novels honor the bravery of soldiers, resistance fighters, and civilians alike, ensuring that their stories are remembered and celebrated.

Top WWII Fiction Books That Stand Out

Below is a curated list of some of the most acclaimed WWII fiction books that have captivated readers worldwide. These titles span different perspectives, settings, and storytelling styles, ensuring there's something for every reader.

1. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

- **Synopsis:** Narrated by Death, this novel tells the story of Liesel Meminger, a young girl living in Nazi Germany who finds solace in stealing books and sharing stories amidst the chaos of war.
- **Why it's a top pick:** Its lyrical prose and unique narration offer a poignant perspective on the power of words and human resilience.

2. All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

- **Synopsis:** Follows a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths cross during WWII, highlighting the impact of war on ordinary lives.
- **Highlights:** Beautifully crafted prose, compelling characters, and a story that intertwines hope and tragedy.

3. The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

- **Synopsis:** Focuses on two sisters in Nazi-occupied France, showcasing their struggles and acts of resistance.
- **Why it's recommended:** It emphasizes the often-overlooked role of women during wartime, portraying their bravery and sacrifices.

4. Schindler's List by Thomas Keneally (Fictionalized version)

- **Synopsis:** Based on the true story of Oskar Schindler, this novel explores his efforts to save Jews from the Holocaust.
- **Significance:** Offers a humanized account of moral courage amidst unimaginable evil.

5. The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

- **Synopsis:** Tells the story of Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew who is forced to tattoo prisoners at Auschwitz and finds love amidst horror.
- **Why it's impactful:** Combines romance with historical tragedy, highlighting resilience and hope.

Other Notable WWII Fiction Titles

Beyond the above classics, here are additional books that have garnered critical acclaim and reader admiration:

6. Life After Life by Kate Atkinson

- **Synopsis:** Explores the multiple lives of Ursula Todd, who relives her life during WWII, experiencing different outcomes and moral choices.
- **Theme:** The novel examines fate, free will, and the ripple effects of individual actions.

7. The Alice Network by Kate Quinn

- **Synopsis:** A dual timeline story involving a female spy network during WWI and WWII, unraveling secrets and heroism.
- **Appeal:** Combines espionage, adventure, and strong female characters.

8. Resistance Women by Jennifer Chiaverini

- **Synopsis:** Based on true events, it portrays the brave women who participated in the German resistance against Hitler.
- **Highlights:** Focuses on female strength and the fight for freedom.

Choosing the Right WWII Fiction Book for You

With so many excellent titles, selecting the perfect WWII fiction book depends on your interests and reading preferences.

Consider Your Perspective

- **Soldier's Perspective:** Novels like *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien (though more Vietnam-

focused, but similar themes) or *The Longest Day* focus on soldiers' experiences.

- Civilian's Perspective: Books like *The Book Thief* or *The Nightingale* emphasize civilian life and resistance.
- Spy/Resistance Stories: Titles such as *The Spy Who Loved by Clare Mulley* or *Resistance* by Anita Abriel.

Match the Tone and Style

- Historical Fiction with Literary Flair: *All the Light We Cannot See*, *Life After Life*.
- Emotionally Intense and Heartfelt: *The Nightingale*, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*.
- Action-Packed and Suspenseful: *The Alice Network*, *Resistance Women*.

Check for Historical Accuracy

Some novels balance storytelling with meticulous research, enhancing authenticity. Look for authors with a background in history or those who have conducted thorough research.

Where to Find the Best WWII Fiction Books

- Bookstores: Major chains and independent stores often feature dedicated sections for historical fiction.
- Online Retailers: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Book Depository offer extensive selections with reviews.
- Libraries: Local libraries can provide access to both popular and niche WWII novels.
- Audiobook Platforms: Audible offers narrated versions, perfect for multitasking or enjoying stories on the go.

Conclusion: Embrace the Power of WWII Fiction

The best WWII fiction books serve as literary bridges to the past, allowing readers to experience the triumphs and tragedies of a pivotal era in human history. Whether you're drawn to stories of heroism, resistance, love, or loss, the genre offers a rich tapestry of narratives that educate, inspire, and move us. By exploring titles like *The Book Thief*, *All the Light We Cannot See*, and *The Nightingale*, you can deepen your understanding of WWII's profound impact on individuals and nations alike.

Remember to consider your personal interests and reading style when selecting a book, and don't hesitate to explore different perspectives within the genre. With the right WWII fiction book in hand, you'll embark on a compelling journey through one of history's most defining periods.

Happy reading!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some of the best WWII fiction books to read for historical accuracy?

Books like *'The Book Thief'* by Markus Zusak, *'All the Light We Cannot See'* by Anthony Doerr, and *'The Nightingale'* by Kristin Hannah are renowned for their compelling storytelling and historical authenticity.

Which WWII fiction novels are considered must-reads for young adults?

'Code Name Verity' by Elizabeth Wein, *'Between Shades of Gray'* by Ruta Sepetys, and *'The War That Saved My Life'* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley are popular choices that blend history with engaging narratives for younger readers.

Are there any acclaimed WWII fiction books set from the perspective of soldiers?

Yes, 'All Quiet on the Western Front' by Erich Maria Remarque and 'Catch-22' by Joseph Heller offer powerful insights from the soldiers' viewpoints, highlighting the horrors and complexities of war.

Can you recommend WWII fiction books that focus on the home front and civilian experiences?

Absolutely. 'A Train in Winter' by Caroline Moorehead and 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows explore civilian life and resistance during WWII.

What are some popular WWII fiction books featuring espionage and secret missions?

'The Night Watchman' by Alan Furst, 'The Spy Who Came in from the Cold' by John le Carré, and 'The Cold Vanish' by Christopher G. Moore are thrilling reads centered around espionage during WWII.

Which WWII fiction novels explore the Holocaust and its impact?

'Schindler's List' by Thomas Keneally, 'Maus' by Art Spiegelman, and 'The Tattooist of Auschwitz' by Heather Morris are powerful stories that delve into the Holocaust's profound effects.

Are there any WWII fiction books that blend romance and war themes?

Yes, 'The Nightingale' by Kristin Hannah and 'Lilac Girls' by Martha Hall Kelly beautifully combine love stories with the backdrop of WWII.

What contemporary WWII fiction books are recommended for new

readers interested in the genre?

'The Alice Network' by Kate Quinn, 'The Paris Library' by Janet Skeslien Charles, and 'The Huntress' by Kate Quinn are engaging modern novels set during WWII that appeal to new readers.

Which WWII fiction books are praised for their emotional depth and character development?

'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak, 'All the Light We Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr, and 'The Nightingale' by Kristin Hannah are celebrated for their rich characters and emotional storytelling.

Additional Resources

WW2 fiction books best: A definitive guide to the most compelling narratives of the Second World War

The Second World War remains one of the most pivotal and complex conflicts in human history, inspiring countless works of fiction that seek to explore its profound impacts on individuals and societies. Among these, WW2 fiction books stand out for their ability to humanize history, evoke empathy, and offer nuanced perspectives on heroism, sacrifice, moral ambiguity, and resilience. For readers and enthusiasts, selecting the best WW2 fiction can be a daunting task given the vast array of titles available, each with its unique narrative style and thematic focus. This article aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the most acclaimed and influential WW2 fiction books, analyzing their significance, thematic depth, and literary qualities to guide readers toward the most impactful selections.

Understanding the Significance of WW2 Fiction

WW2 fiction serves a vital role in historical storytelling by translating complex events into personal narratives. Unlike academic history books, these novels often delve into the psychological and emotional landscapes of characters, offering immersive experiences that foster understanding beyond dates and battles. The significance of WW2 fiction lies in its ability to:

- Humanize history: By focusing on individual characters, fiction makes the war more relatable and tangible.
- Explore moral ambiguity: Many stories highlight the difficult choices faced by soldiers and civilians, revealing shades of gray rather than simple dichotomies.
- Preserve cultural memory: Literature helps keep the stories of those who lived through WW2 alive for future generations.
- Highlight diverse perspectives: From soldiers and resistance fighters to civilians and perpetrators, these stories encompass a broad spectrum of experiences.

Criteria for Selecting the Best WW2 Fiction Books

Given the wealth of WW2 fiction, establishing criteria for what makes a book stand out is essential.

The following factors are generally considered by critics and readers alike:

- Historical accuracy and authenticity: While some novels prioritize storytelling over strict accuracy, the best books often incorporate well-researched details.
- Narrative strength: Engaging, compelling plots that evoke emotional responses.
- Character development: Deep, believable characters whose journeys resonate.
- Thematic depth: Exploration of complex themes such as morality, sacrifice, loss, and hope.
- Literary quality: Stylistic excellence, innovative storytelling techniques, and evocative language.
- Cultural significance: Influence on the genre or contribution to collective memory.

Top WW2 Fiction Books: An In-Depth Review

Below is a curated selection of some of the most acclaimed WW2 fiction books, spanning classic masterpieces to contemporary works. Each offers a unique lens on the war's multifaceted narrative.

1. "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak

Overview:

Set in Nazi Germany, *The Book Thief* narrates the story of Liesel Meminger, a young girl who finds solace in stealing books amid the chaos of war. Narrated by Death, the novel explores themes of mortality, the power of words, and human resilience.

Why it stands out:

Zusak's poetic prose and inventive narrative perspective elevate this book beyond a typical war story. It captures the innocence of childhood juxtaposed with the horrors of war, emphasizing the importance of storytelling as a form of resistance.

Critical reception:

Praised for its originality and emotional depth, *The Book Thief* has become a modern classic, resonating with readers worldwide and serving as an accessible entry point into WW2 literature.

2. "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr

Overview:

This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel weaves together the lives of a blind French girl, Marie-Laure LeBlanc, and a German boy, Werner Pfennig, whose paths eventually cross in occupied France. It explores

their personal struggles amidst the chaos of war.

Why it stands out:

Doerr's lyrical language and meticulous research create a vivid, immersive atmosphere. The dual narrative explores themes of perception, hope, and the destructive impact of war on innocence.

Critical reception:

Celebrated for its poetic storytelling and nuanced characters, the novel offers a powerful meditation on the human capacity for both cruelty and kindness.

3. "Catch-22" by Joseph Heller

Overview:

A satirical novel set in World War II, *Catch-22* follows U.S. Army Air Forces B-25 bomber pilot Captain John Yossarian. It critiques military bureaucracy and the absurdities of war.

Why it stands out:

Heller's dark humor and inventive narrative structure provide a biting critique of war and authority, highlighting the paradoxes faced by soldiers. The term "Catch-22" has entered the lexicon, underscoring the book's cultural impact.

Critical reception:

Acclaimed for its sharp wit and existential insights, *Catch-22* remains a seminal work in war fiction, illustrating the madness inherent in wartime bureaucracy.

4. "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah

Overview:

Focusing on the women of Nazi-occupied France, *The Nightingale* chronicles the courageous efforts of two sisters, Vianne and Isabelle, as they resist the German occupation in different ways.

Why it stands out:

The novel emphasizes the often-overlooked contributions of women during WW2, portraying their resilience, sacrifice, and moral dilemmas. Its emotional depth and compelling characters make it a powerful read.

Critical reception:

Hannah's storytelling has been praised for its heart-wrenching portrayal of love, loss, and hope amid hardship, making it a bestseller and a favorite among contemporary war narratives.

5. "Atonement" by Ian McEwan

Overview:

While not solely a WW2 novel, *Atonement* features a significant section set during the war, focusing on the repercussions of a false accusation and the subsequent journey toward redemption.

Why it stands out:

McEwan's intricate prose and psychological insight explore themes of guilt, memory, and the moral complexities of wartime decisions.

Critical reception:

Hailed for its literary excellence and emotional resonance, the novel offers a profound reflection on the

personal costs of war and misunderstanding.

Emerging Trends and Contemporary WW2 Fiction

While classic titles continue to influence the genre, contemporary authors are bringing fresh perspectives to WW2 fiction, often emphasizing underrepresented voices and nuanced moral questions. Recent trends include:

- Focus on resistance movements and espionage: Novels highlighting spies, partisans, and underground activities.
- Diverse perspectives: Stories from Eastern Europe, Asia, and the Pacific, broadening the narrative scope.
- Questioning heroism and morality: Challenging traditional hero narratives to explore moral ambiguity and human flaws.
- Incorporation of historical fiction with speculative elements: Blending fact and fiction to explore alternative histories or psychological realities.

Authors such as Kristin Hannah, Anthony Doerr, and Erik Larson continue to push boundaries, enriching the genre with new insights.

Conclusion: Why WW2 Fiction Continues to Resonate

The best WW2 fiction books do more than recount battles; they delve into the depths of human experience—fear, courage, love, betrayal, and hope. These stories serve as vital cultural artifacts,

reminding us of the costs of war and the resilience of the human spirit. Whether through poetic prose, satirical wit, or heart-wrenching drama, these novels allow us to explore history from personal perspectives, fostering empathy and understanding across generations.

For readers seeking to deepen their knowledge of WW2 or to experience its profound emotional landscape, the curated titles above offer a compelling starting point. As the genre continues to evolve, future works promise to expand our understanding of this pivotal period, ensuring that the stories of those who lived through it remain alive and relevant.

In summary, the landscape of WW2 fiction is rich, diverse, and deeply impactful. From timeless classics to contemporary masterpieces, these books not only entertain but also educate and inspire reflection on one of humanity's darkest and most transformative eras.

Ww2 Fiction Books Best

ww2 fiction books best: Classic Stories of World War II John Steinbeck, James A. Michener, Kurt Vonnegut, Norman Mailer, J. G. Ballard, 2018-05-08 A collection of the greatest stories ever written about World War II. World War II brought grief and destruction, but it also inspired some of the most impassioned literature in history. Classic Stories of World War II includes excerpts from novels such as James Jones's *From Here to Eternity* and Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*, as well as real-life accounts of the Battle of Britain by Guy Gibson and the exploits of the French Resistance by Nancy Wake. More than a dozen riveting stories of the war from esteemed authors are featured, providing the reader with a rich variety of perspectives that will bring a new understanding of this global conflict.

ww2 fiction books best: *A Kennedy Affair* Emily Hourican, 2024-10-17 Two powerful families. A changing world. When Kathleen 'Kick' Kennedy left England to return to America, Europe was facing war and Billy Cavendish, future Duke of Devonshire and the man she loves, had told her he could never marry her. Now, in 1943, as London stands a shell of its former self, Kick returns hoping to reunite with Billy - but there are many obstacles ahead. Lady Brigid Guinness has swapped high fashion and exclusive dinner parties for long shifts as a nurse helping wounded soldiers, forming a close bond with one in particular. And yet the only person she can really talk to is a man shunned by her inner circle. Meanwhile, wide-eyed Sissy Maddington has arrived from Ireland under the care of the Guinness family. She's eager to explore everything London seems to offer - while she tries to forget where she came from. As the three women navigate a changed city, they each discover a capacity for love they never could have expected. But will they find the strength to stay true to themselves? Inspired by real events, *A Kennedy Affair* is a powerful story of friendship, forbidden passion - and how in the worst of times we can discover the best of each other.

ww2 fiction books best: When We Were Brave Suzanne Kelman, 2020-02-24 The face of the woman in the photograph was tilted upwards, as if enjoying the sunshine just for a moment, even as the wreckage of the bombed-out street lay behind her... 1944, Cornwall: Blinded by love, Vivienne Hamilton eloped to Paris with a Nazi prisoner-of-war, never to be seen again. A disgrace to her family, her name would not be mentioned by any of her relatives for over 75 years. Present day, London: When Sophie discovers a photograph of her great aunt Vivi from World War Two, it throws her into a world of confusion. Because, as she learns about this secret relative, she quickly realises that the photograph doesn't fit with her family's story. It shows Vivi leaving an address associated with a spy network in London – a place she had no reason to be – and it is dated right before she disappeared. Meanwhile Sophie's own life feels as blasted and bombed as the blitzed city in the photograph she's looking at. Her beautiful daughter – as full of joy and wild energy as Vivi had apparently once been – is gone; and Sophie's heart has been left broken into pieces. Retreating to the family home in rural Cornwall to seek solace from her pain and the feelings of guilt that she could have done more to protect her daughter, Sophie finds herself becoming obsessed with Vivi's life. But nothing can prepare Sophie for what she is about to uncover – the story of a woman who risked everything for the person she loved the most; and a secret family history that could be the key to Sophie's own future. A powerful, haunting and unforgettable read about love, heartbreak and betrayal set in Second World War Britain and France. Perfect for fans of *The Nightingale*, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* and *My Name is Eva*. Readers love *When We Were Brave*: 'Wow! Just wow! This book kept me on the edge of my seat right from the get-go!... [An] amazing story.' Goodreads Reviewer, 5 stars 'Fantastic... Historical fiction at its best. Characters that you fall in love with, a story you will hate to end.' NetGalley Reviewer 'Totally captivating... About the bravery of the silent heroes of WWII, the secret agents who intercepted codes... A wonderful, compelling story that will grip you to the very end, it will break your heart but it will also leave you with a sense of gratitude for these selfless individuals. I can't stop thinking about this story.' Krafti Reader, 5 stars 'I [am] hooked on this FANTASTIC author. *When We Were Brave* is another OUTSTANDING piece of fantastic writing... I have nothing but total admiration.' Goodreads Reviewer, 5 stars 'Mesmerising and captivated me with every turn of the page... Absolutely heart-breaking... Filled with sadness, love, courage and sacrifice – I couldn't put this book down.' Stardust Book Reviews, 5 stars 'A heartbreaking tale of war, love, loss, betrayal and courage.' Goodreads Reviewer, 5 stars 'Oh my goodness I loved this book!!!... A beautifully woven time-slip novel... This story and its characters will stay with me.' Goodreads Reviewer, 5 stars 'I LOVED THIS BOOK!... Vivi is a fierce heroine and represents the bravery that everyone had to have during the war... I recommend this book to everyone that loves historical fiction.' NetGalley Reviewer, 5 stars 'A truly heartbreaking and inspirational read. I was gripped from page one and literally flew through the pages.' Jaynie's Book Reviews, 5 stars 'After reading *When We Were Brave* [Suzanne Kelman] is officially added to my autobuy author list... For a book to bring tears to my eyes it has to be amazing... I highly recommend this one to anyone who loves WWII fiction and even those that normally do not... You will not be disappointed.' Goodreads Reviewer, 5 stars

ww2 fiction books best: Secrets Revealed Marion Kummerow, 2021-03-09 Hiding from the Nazis... ... right under their noses. Officially employed as a radio operator for the Wehrmacht, Lotte is, in fact, a spy for the British service, risking her life to defeat the Nazi forces. When her contact in the Norwegian resistance is captured, it's a race against time. The allies are advancing, but if they don't hurry and liberate Norway, the Gestapo is sure to uncover her secret. If she's caught, she'll be tortured and killed. When the tides turn, friends become foes – and enemies become allies. Without their help, Lotte will never see her family again. Follow Lotte on her agonizing flight across Scandinavia, evading both her own people and the enemies who would destroy her. You'll love this fast-paced World War 2 adventure, because everyone loves a woman of courage and valor. Topics: Berlin, World War Two, WWII, German Literature, Historical Fiction, Resistance, European Literature, Heartbreaking Story of Love and Redemption, Jewish and Holocaust History, Concentration Camps, Espionage, Nazi Party, Gestapo, Holocaust, Forbidden Love, espionage,

young girl German spy, brave teen, against all odds, saving her family, travel and adventure, fleeing across Europe Perfect for fans of Ann Bennett, Lucinda Riley, Dinah Jefferies, Victoria Hislop, Marius Gabriel, Tracy Chevalier, Fiona Valpy, Deborah Swift, Jenny Ashcroft, Petra Durst-Benning, Nicola Cornick, Janet MacLeod Trotter, Jean Grainger, Clare Flynn, Kate Furnivall, Kristin Hannah. Sharon Maas, Anna Jacobs, Helen Carey, Catherine Hokin, Sarah Lark, Tania Crosse, Rhys Bowen, Angela Petch, Hazel Gaynor, Roberta Kagan, Anna Stuart, Kate Hewitt, Ellie Midwood, Chrystyna Lucyk-Berger, Eoin Dempsey, Suzanne Goldring

ww2 fiction books best: Olivia Manning Deirdre David, 2013-01-10 Olivia Manning: A Woman at War is the first literary biography of the twentieth-century novelist Olivia Manning. It tells the story of a writer whose life and work were shaped by her own fierce ambition, and, like many of her generation, the events and aftermath of the Second World War. From the time she left Portsmouth for London in the mid-1930s determined to become a famous writer, through her wartime years in the Balkans and the Middle East, and until her death in London in 1980, Olivia Manning was a dedicated and hard-working author. Married to a British Council lecturer stationed in Bucharest, Olivia Manning arrived in Romania on the 3rd September 1939, the fateful day when Allied forces declared war on Germany. For the duration of World War Two, she kept one step ahead of invading German forces as she and her husband fled Romania for Greece, and then Greece for the Middle East, where they stayed until the end of the war. These tumultuous wartime years are the subject of her best-known and most transparently autobiographical novels, The Balkan Trilogy and The Levant Trilogy. Olivia Manning refused to be labelled a 'feminist,' but her novels depict with cutting insight and sardonic wit the marginal position of women striving for independent identity in arenas frequently controlled by men, whether on the frontlines of war or in the publishing world of the 1950s. However, she did not just write about World War Two and women's lives. Amongst other things, Manning published fiction about making do in Britain's post-war Age of Austerity, about desecration of the environment through uncontrolled development, and about the painful adjustment to post-war British life for young men. As the author of thirteen published novels, two volumes of short stories, several works of non-fiction, and a regular reviewer of contemporary fiction, she was a visible presence on the British literary scene throughout her life and her work provides a detailed insight into the period. Grounded in thorough research and enriched by discussion of previously unexamined manuscripts and letters, Olivia Manning: A Woman at War is a timely study of Olivia Manning's remarkable life. Deirdre David integrates incisive critical analysis of Manning's writing with extensive discussion of the historical contexts of her fiction.

ww2 fiction books best: The Orphans on the Train Gill Thompson, 2023-10-01 Perfect for readers of The Tattooist of Auschwitz and The Nightingale, and inspired by real events, a gripping story of love, loss and two orphaned girls separated by war. 'Exciting and tragic . . . beautifully written' 'Absorbing and emotional' 'A stunning book based on true events' 'A fantastic historical read' 'I loved it!' 'I highly recommend it to all lovers of historical fiction' 1939. A girl with auburn hair looks anxiously out of the train window, watching the mountains of Europe pass by. War is on the horizon at home, and Kirsty finds herself heading to neutral Hungary to help in a school for Jewish children. Little does she know that in leaving everything behind, she is about to find the most precious gift of all - a true friend in school pupil Anna. 1943. When the Nazis invade Budapest, Kirsty and Anna are on their own, and Kirsty worries desperately for her Jewish friend. What lengths must they go to in order to survive, and, when they are separated, can the guiding light of friendship bring them back to each other? Your favourite historical authors LOVE this moving and heart-wrenching novel: 'A powerful, poignant story of survival' KATE HEWITT 'A different aspect of the Second World War to any I've read before . . . both heartbreaking and compelling, yet ultimately uplifting. I loved it' DEBORAH CARR 'This is a story of amazing courage . . . an extraordinary novel that has stayed with me long after I turned the final page' CAROL McGRATH 'Beautiful and evocative . . . an intelligent, thrilling novel which will stay with me for a long time' LOUISE MORRISH

ww2 fiction books best: Rethinking Collection Development and Management Becky Albitz,

Christine Avery, Diane Zabel, 2014-02-25 This collection of thought-provoking essays by visionary and innovative library practitioners covers theory, research, and best practices in collection development, examining how it has evolved, identifying how some librarians are creatively responding to these changes, and predicting what is coming next. *Rethinking Collection Development and Management* adds a new and important perspective to the literature on collection development and management for 21st-century library professionals. The work reveals how dramatically collection development is changing, and has already changed; supplies practical suggestions on how librarians might respond to these advancements; and reflects on what librarians can expect in the future. This volume is a perfect complement for textbooks that take a more traditional approach, offering a broad, forward-thinking perspective that will benefit students in graduate LIS programs and guide practitioners, collection development officers, and directors in public and academic libraries. A chapter on collection development and management in the MLIS curriculum makes this volume especially pertinent to library and information science educators.

ww2 fiction books best: *Black Stereotypes in Popular Series Fiction, 1851-1955* Bernard A. Drew, 2015-04-28 Even well-meaning fiction writers of the late Jim Crow era (1900-1955) perpetuated racial stereotypes in their depiction of black characters. From 1918 to 1952, Octavus Roy Cohen turned out a remarkable 360 short stories featuring Florian Slappey and the schemers, romancers and ditzes of Birmingham's Darktown for *The Saturday Evening Post* and other publications. Cohen said, I received a great deal of mail from Negroes and I have never found any resentment from a one of them. The black readership had to be satisfied with any black presence in the popular literature of the day. The best known white writers of black characters included Booth Tarkington (Herman and Verman in the Penrod books), Irvin S. Cobb (Judge Priest's houseman Jeff Poindexter), Roark Bradford (Widow Duck, the plantation matriarch), Hugh Wiley (Wildcat Marsden, the war veteran who traveled the country in the company of his goat) and Charles Correll and Freeman Gosden (radio's Amos 'n' Andy). These writers deservedly declined in the civil rights era, but left a curious legacy that deserves examination. This book, focusing on authors of series fiction and particularly of humorous stories, profiles 29 writers and their black characters in detail, with brief entries covering 72 others.

ww2 fiction books best: *The Best Short Stories of World War II, an American Anthology* Charles A. Fenton, 2003-01-01

ww2 fiction books best: *The World War II Combat Film* Jeanine Basinger, 2003-05-15 Lively, comprehensive analysis of World War II movies.

ww2 fiction books best: *The Forgotten VCs* Brian Best, 2017-10-30 Fought amid the most challenging terrain of any theater during the Second World War, the campaign in the Far East saw heroic actions against the unyielding Japanese that resulted in the awarding of more than forty Victoria Crosses greater than a fifth of all the VCs of the war. Such actions include that of Major Frank Blaker, whose battalion of the Gurkha Rifles was held up by Japanese machine-guns on 9 July 1944. After climbing for five hours up a 2,100-foot hill, Blaker crawled on his hands and knees through dense jungle alone until he was close enough to stand up and charge the strong enemy position. Though mortally wounded, he urged his men to follow and the hilltop was taken. During the famous Chindit operations, Lieutenant George Cairns was with the South Staffordshire Regiment as it attacked a Japanese position on top of Pagoda Hill. The Chindits reached the summit and, charging into the Japanese, a vicious hand-to-hand battle ensued. In the fighting a Japanese officer hacked off Cairns left arm but, astonishingly, the young Londoner then killed the enemy officer, picked up the sword with his right hand and carried on fighting. He died the next day. The Gurkhas are renowned for their courage and it is unsurprising that many of the Fourteenth Army's VCs were won by these tough Nepalese soldiers. Rifleman Bhanbhagta Gurung found his battalion of the 2nd Gurkha Rifles pinned down by an enemy sniper. So he stood up in the open and killed the Japanese soldier. As his battalion advanced again, it once more came under enemy fire. Bhanbhagta Gurung charged the enemy positions, taking five Japanese foxholes, one by one in the face of almost pointblank fire. The wide-ranging nature of the conflict in the Far East saw awards being granted for

actions not just in Burma but also in India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaya, Borneo, New Guinea and even off the coast of Japan itself. The recipients came from across the Commonwealth, including Australia, Canada, Fiji, Great Britain, India and Nepal. These VC actions are told in great detail in *The Forgotten VCs*, the first book to examine in depth the Victoria Crosses of the war in the Far East. Brian Best brings to life the daring deeds of a group of courageous men in the most inhospitable of battlefield conditions, filling a glaring gap in the historiography of Britain's most prestigious award for valor.

ww2 fiction books best: *Jolly Good Detecting* Bruce Shaw, 2013-12-31 This book is an appreciation of selected authors who make extensive use of humor in English detective/crime fiction. Works using humor as an amelioration of the serious have their heyday in the Golden Age of crime writing but they belong also to a long tradition. There is an identifiable lineage of humorous writing in crime fiction that ranges from mild wit to outright farce, burlesque, even slapstick. A mix of entertainment with instruction is a tradition in English letters. English crime fiction writers of the era circa 1913 to 1940 were raised in the mainstream literary tradition but turned their skills to detective fiction. And they are the humorists of the genre. This book is not an exhaustive study but an introduction into the best produced by the most capable and enjoyable authors. What the humorists seek is to surprise the reader by overturning their expectations using a repertoire of stylistic conceits and motifs (recurring incidents, devices, references). Humor has a liberating effect but is concerned too with comic contrast through ugliness and caricature. In crime fiction one effect is intellectual pleasure at solving (or attempting to solve) a puzzle. Another is entertainment but with serious undertones.

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