

WORLD WAR II Fiction & Memoirs

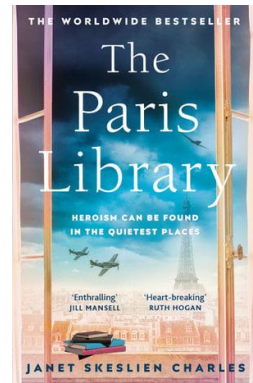
Resources for students in Years 10 – 12

FICTION - FRANCE

The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles, 2021

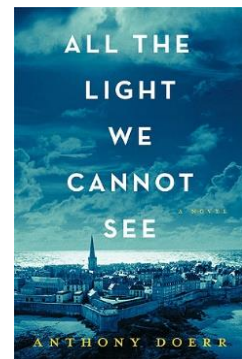
PARIS, 1939. Odile Souchet is obsessed with books, and her new job at the American Library in Paris - with its thriving community of students, writers, and book lovers - is a dream come true. When war is declared, the library is determined to remain open. But then the Nazis invade Paris, and everything changes.

Inspired by the true story of the librarians at the American Library in Paris who risked their lives during the Nazis' war on words.



All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr, 2014 (**Book and Film**)

Follows the parallel lives of two protagonists - Marie-Laure, a blind French girl and daughter of a master locksmith at the Natural History Museum in Paris; and Werner Pfenning, an orphaned German boy growing up in the mining town of Zollverein. Their lives are drawn against the brewing conflict, which will soon engulf not only France and Germany, but most of the world - the second World War.



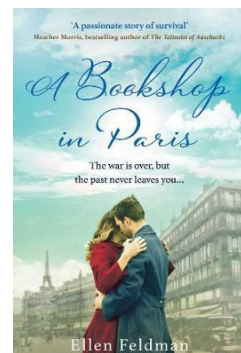
Charlotte Gray by Sebastian Faulks, 1999 (**Book and Film**)

It is 1942. London is blacked out, but France is under a greater darkness, as the Vichy regime clings ever closer to the Nazi occupier. Charlotte Gray, a volatile but determined young Scottish woman conceives a dangerous passion for an English airman. Charlotte goes to Occupied France on a dual mission- officially, to run an apparently simple errand for a British special operations group and unofficially, to search for her lover.



A Bookshop in Paris by Ellen Feldman , 2020

Paris, 1944. Charlotte Foret is working in a tiny bookstore in Nazi-occupied Paris struggling to stay alive and keep her baby Vivi safe as the world around them is being torn apart. Every day they live through is a miracle until Vivi becomes gravely ill. In desperation, Charlotte accepts help from an unlikely saviour. The truth of what happened in Paris is something she can never share with anyone, including her daughter. This is a moving story of resilience, love - and impossible choices.

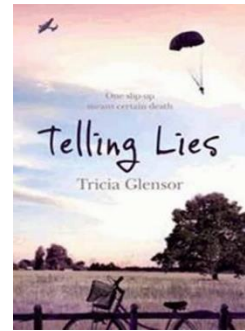


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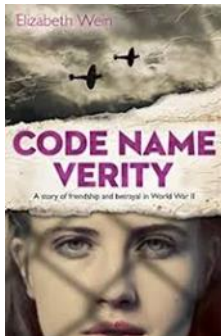
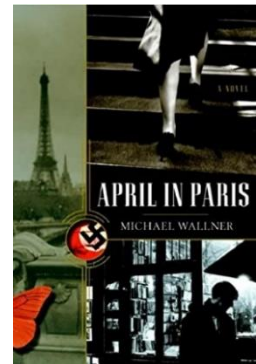
Telling Lies by Tricia Glensor, 2012

Against the background of paranoia, fear and betrayal that is German occupied France in 1942, a defiant French family decide to help Paul, a downed New Zealand airman. If they are to hide him, smuggle him to safety, and survive, they must weave a web of lies. With spies at every corner. The difference between success and failure is one of life or death. Based on a true story.



April in Paris by Michael Wallner, 2007

From the outside, Michel Roth, a handsome but guarded, quietly spoken young man looks every inch a Parisian student. What no one can see is his painful secret, one that he cannot even reveal to the woman he loves. Michel is no ordinary Frenchman but a German, sent to Paris to assist the Nazis in dealing with Resistance fighters.



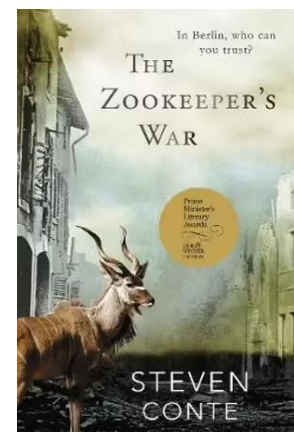
Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein , 2012

Oct. 11th, 1943 - A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun. When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution.

FICTION - GERMANY

The Zookeeper's War by Steven Conte, 2010

It is 1943 and each night in a bomb shelter beneath the Berlin Zoo an Australian woman, Vera, shelters with her German husband, Axel, the zoo's director. Together, they struggle to look after the animals through the air raids and food shortages. When the zoo's staff is drafted into the army, forced labourers are sent in as replacements. As tensions mount in the closing days of the war, nothing, and no one, it seems, can be trusted.



The Love That I Have by James Moloney, 2018

Margot Baumann has left school to take up her sister's job in the mailroom of a large prison. But this is Germany in 1944, and the prison is Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Berlin. Margot is shielded from the camp's brutality as she has no contact with prisoners. But she does handle their mail and, when given a cigarette lighter and told to burn the letters, she is horrified by the callous act she must carry out. Margot steals a few letters, intending to send them in secret, only to find herself drawn to their heart-rending words of hope, of despair, and of love.



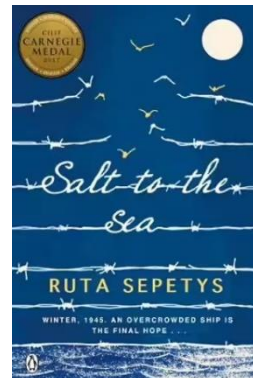
Hitler's Angel by William Osborne, 2019

Otto and Leni thought they had found sanctuary in England as the Third Reich's war machine rampages across Europe. But when they accept a top-secret mission to extract a young girl from a convent in Bavaria, a girl who might possibly turn the tide of war against Hitler, they are hurled back into the very heart of the Nazi regime. In a deadly game of cat and mouse, the three of them must try to reach Switzerland and safety before it's too late.



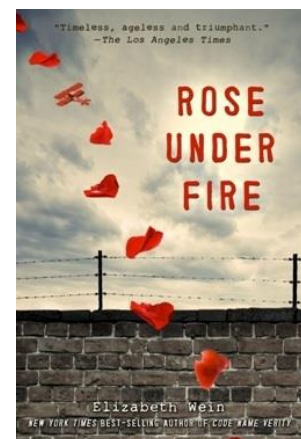
Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys, 2016

It's early 1945 and a group of people trek across Germany, bound together by their desperation to reach the ship that can take them away from the war-ravaged land. Four young people, each haunted by their own dark secret, narrate their unforgettable stories. This inspirational novel is based on a true story from the Second World War. When the German ship the Wilhelm Gustloff was sunk in port in early 1945 it had over 9000 civilian refugees, including children, on board. Nearly all were drowned.



Rose Under Fire by Elizabeth Wein, 2013

While flying an Allied fighter plane from Paris to England, American ATA pilot and amateur poet, Rose Justice, is captured by the Nazis and sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious women's concentration camp. Trapped in horrific circumstances, Rose finds hope in the impossible through the loyalty, bravery, and friendship of her fellow prisoners. But will that be enough to endure the fate that's in store for her?



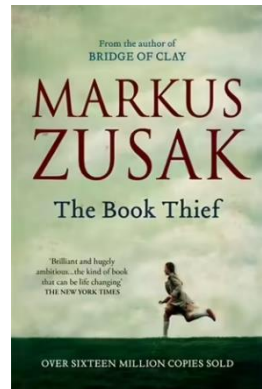
White Rose by Kip Wilson, 2019

A timely VERSE NOVEL based on the incredible story of Sophie Scholl, a young German college student who challenged the Nazi regime during World War II as part of The White Rose, a non-violent resistance group. Sophie Scholl, her brother, and his fellow soldiers formed the White Rose, a group that wrote and distributed anonymous letters criticizing the Nazi regime and calling for action from their fellow German citizens. This debut novel recounts the lives of Sophie and her friends and highlights their brave stand against fascism in Nazi Germany.



The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak, 2019 (Book, Film and Audiobook)

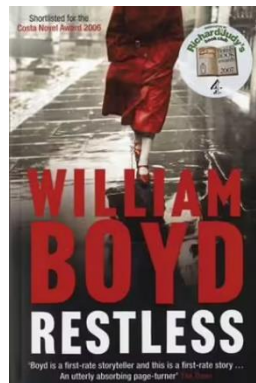
It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier and will become busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up an object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel learns to read. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jewish fist-fighter in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up, and closed down.



FICTION - GREAT BRITAIN

Restless by William Boyd, 2007

During the long, hot summer of 1976, Ruth Gilmartin discovers that her very English mother Sally is really Eva Delectorskaya, a Russian emigree and one-time spy. Exploring the devastating consequences of duplicity and betrayal this thrilling novel captures not only the drama of the Second World War but also reveals a remarkable portrait of a female spy.



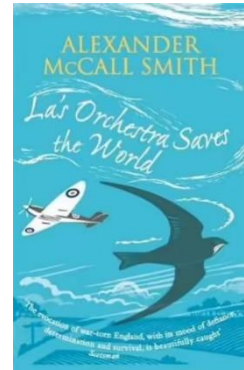
The Report by Jessica Francis Kane, 2012

London, 1943: Tube stations across London have been converted into bomb shelters. Night after night, while sirens wail in Bethnal Green, immigrants and East Enders alike sleep on the tracks and wait. On March 3, as the crowd hurries down the staircase, something goes wrong, and 173 adults and children lose their lives in a deadly crush. Based on the true story of the worst UK civilian disaster of the Second World War, at Bethnal Green tube station during the Blitz.



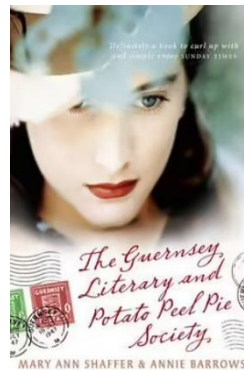
La's Orchestra Saves the World by Alexander McCall Smith, 2009

It's 1939 and the war in Europe casts a long, all-encompassing shadow. In a sleepy town in Suffolk, the generous and determined widow, La, forms an amateur orchestra to entertain the locals and the locally based airmen and soothe her own broken heart. Celebrates the power of love and friendship in the shadow of the collective tragedy of war, as well as the extraordinary healing power of music.



The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer, 2009

It's 1946, and as Juliet Ashton sits at her desk in her Chelsea flat, she is stumped. A writer of witty newspaper columns during the war, she can't think of what to write next. Out of the blue, she receives a letter from one Dawsey Adams of Guernsey - by chance he's acquired a book Juliet once owned - and, emboldened by their mutual love of books, they begin a correspondence in which Juliet comes to know the extraordinary personalities of the Society and their lives under the German occupation of the island.



The Little Wartime Library by Kate Thompson, 2022

Clara Button is no ordinary librarian. While the world remains at war, in East London Clara has created the country's only underground library, built over the tracks in the disused Bethnal Green tube station. Down here a secret community thrives with thousands of bunk beds, a nursery, a café and a theatre offering shelter, solace and escape from the bombs that fall above. Based on true events, this is a gripping tale that remembers one of the greatest resistance stories of the war.



The Enigma Game by Elizabeth Wein, 2020

Three young people are desperate to make a difference in a war that has decimated their families, friends, and country. When the means to change the course of history falls into their hands, how will they use it? And when the enemy comes looking for them, who will have the courage to strike back? A thrilling story of wartime secrets, international intrigue, and wild courage with three young heroes you'll never forget.



FICTION - ITALY

The Girl from Venice by Siobhan Daiko, 2021

Lidia De Angelis has kept a low profile since Mussolini's racial laws wrenched her from her childhood sweetheart. But when the Germans occupy Venice in 1943, she must flee the city to save her life. Lidia joins the partisans in the Venetian mountains, where she meets David, an English soldier fighting for the same cause. As she grows closer to him, harsh Nazi reprisals and Lidia's own ardent anti-fascist activities threaten to tear them apart.



Lunch with Mussolini by Derek Hansen, 2003

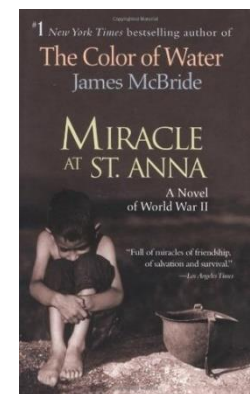
Spring 1945: The quiet of a northern Italian village is shattered by an explosion of gunfire as eight innocent women are gunned down. Why have they been executed now, with the war almost over and the Germans standing to gain nothing from further reprisals?

Fifty years later the daughter of one of the victims finds the German officer who ordered the executions living under an assumed name and sets out to avenge her mother's death.



Miracle at St. Anna by James McBride, 2003

Inspired by a historical incident that took place in the village of St. Anna di Stazzema in Tuscany, and by the experiences of the famed Buffalo Soldiers of the 92nd Division in Italy during World War II, this is a singular evocation of war, cruelty, passion, heroism, and love. It is the story of four American soldiers, the villagers among whom they take refuge, a band of partisans, and an Italian boy, all of whom encounter a miracle - though perhaps the true miracle lies in themselves.



Our Darkest Night by Jennifer Robson, 2021

In Venice, 1943, under the Nazi occupation, life is increasingly perilous for Italian Jews. Antonina Mazin has but one hope to survive - to leave her beloved parents and hide in the countryside, posing as the bride of a man she has only just met. Inspired by true events, a powerfully moving story of love and sacrifice in World War Two Italy.



FICTION - NETHERLANDS

Hunger Winter by Rob Currie, 2020

Thirteen-year-old Dirk has been the man of the house since his papa disappeared while fighting against the Nazis with the Dutch Resistance. When the Gestapo arrests Dirk's older sister, who is also a Resistance fighter, Dirk fears that he and his little sister, Anna, might be next. With only pockets full of food and his sister asleep in his arms, Dirk runs away to find his father. As Dirk leads Anna across the war-torn Netherlands, from farmyards to work camps, he must rely on his wits and his father's teaching to find his way.



Winter in Wartime by Jan Terlouw and Laura Watkinson (Translator), 2020

It's the winter of 1944-45, and Michiel's country has been at war since he was eleven. Now he's fifteen, and his country is under Nazi occupation, including the town where Michiel lives and where his father is the mayor. No longer able to attend school, Michiel spends his days running urgent errands on his bicycle, avoiding Allied bombers and German soldiers alike. Then one day, his friendship with Dirk, the neighbour's older son and a member of the secret underground, involves him in the care of a wounded British pilot. When a German soldier is found murdered and the townspeople are blamed for his death, Michiel's already-risky mission turns life-threatening.



FICTION - POLAND

The Light in Hidden Places by Sharon Cameron, 2020

Death penalty for all who give aid to a Jew.

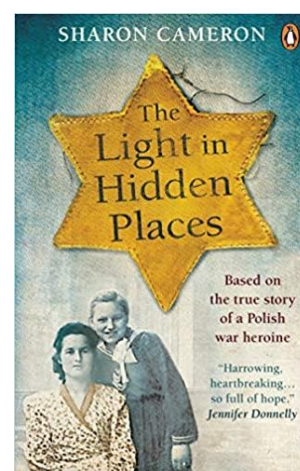
Death to all who harbour a Jew.

Death to all who feed a Jew.

Death to all who provide transportation to a Jew.

One knock at the door could be the death of them all.

It is 1943, and sixteen-year-old Stefania Podgorska has been working for the Jewish Diamant family in their grocery store in Przemsyl, Poland, for four years. But everything changes when the German army invades. The Diamants are forced into the ghetto, and Stefania is alone in an occupied city. And then comes the knock at the door. Max Diamant has jumped from the train headed to a death camp. Stefania and Helena make the extraordinary decision to hide Max, and eventually twelve more Jews. Based on the remarkable true story of Stefania Podgorska, a Polish teenager who hid 13 Jews in her attic during World War Two.



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Schindler's Ark by Thomas Keneally, 1982- (Book and Film)

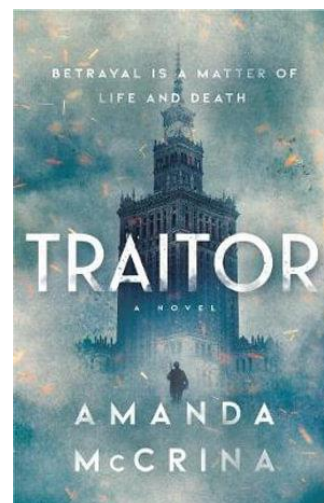
Audio Book and Film under the name "Schindler's List"

In the shadow of Auschwitz, a flamboyant German industrialist grew into a living legend to the Jews of Cracow during World War II. He was a womaniser and heavy drinker who enjoyed the good life, associated regularly and openly with the Nazis, and yet to many Jews he became their saviour employing them to work in his munitions factory and keeping them out of the concentration camps. This is the extraordinary story of Oskar Schindler, who risked his life to protect Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland and who was transformed by the war into a man with a mission, a compassionate angel of mercy.



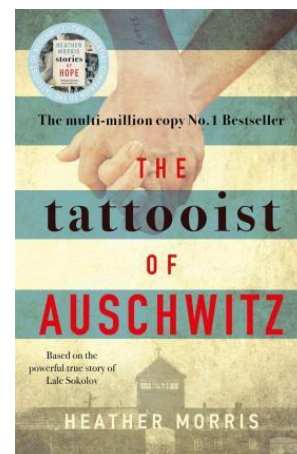
Traitor by Amanda McCrina, 2020

Poland, 1944. After the Soviet liberation of Lwów from Germany, the city is a battleground, its loyalties torn between Poland and Ukraine. Tolya is half-Ukrainian, half-Polish, and he joined the Soviet Red Army just to stay alive. When he shoots his political officer in the street, he's taken in by a squad of insurgent Ukrainians. Tolya doesn't trust them and especially doesn't trust Solovey, the squad's young war-scarred leader. He doesn't know just how well Solovey understands the cost of looking out for life over loyalty. Then a betrayal sends both on the run. Traitor is an action-packed thriller about a world where loyalty begets lying, traitors pass as saviours, and betrayal is a matter of life or death.



The Tattooist of Auschwitz (Trilogy) by Heather Morris, 2018 (Book and Film)

I tattooed a number on her arm. She tattooed her name on my heart. In 1942, Lale Sokolov arrived in Auschwitz-Birkenau. He was given the job of tattooing the prisoners marked for survival - scratching numbers into his fellow victims' arms in indelible ink to create what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust. Waiting in line to be tattooed, terrified and shaking, was a young girl. For Lale it was love at first sight. And he was determined not only to survive himself, but to ensure this woman, Gita, did, too. So begins one of the most life-affirming, human stories of the Holocaust. Sequels are **Cilka's Journey**, and **Three Sisters**. Young Peoples Versions available.



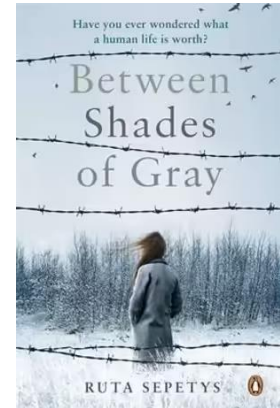
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FICTION - RUSSIA

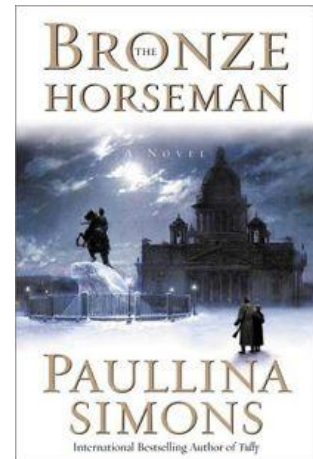
Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys, 2011, 2021 (**Book and Graphic Novel**)

It is 1941 and Lina is preparing for art school and looking forward to summer. Her life is changed forever when the Soviet secret police invade her home and forcibly remove Lina, her mother and brother, transporting them from familiar Lithuania to remote Siberia. The conditions are horrific, the genocide unseen and thousands of lives are lost.



The Bronze Horseman (Trilogy) by Paullina Simons, 2001 (**Tatiana and Alexander Series: Book 1**) (**Book and Film**)

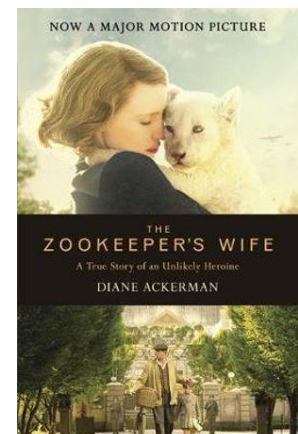
Leningrad 1941: The Metanov family live in a crowded apartment. It's a hard life, but one with room enough for love and romance. But Hitler's invasion of Russia spells war and, for Leningrad, siege, and their earlier existence seems luxurious in comparison with the terrible deprivations that the family now suffers. As the grip of winter closes as relentlessly as the advancing German army, so Tatiana is forced into ever more desperate measures in order to survive - both physically and emotionally. Meanwhile her husband, Major Alexander Belov, a decorated hero of the Soviet Union, has been arrested by Stalin's infamous secret police and is awaiting execution as a traitor and a spy. Sequels are **The Bridge to the Holy Cross**, and **The Summer Garden**



NON -FICTION

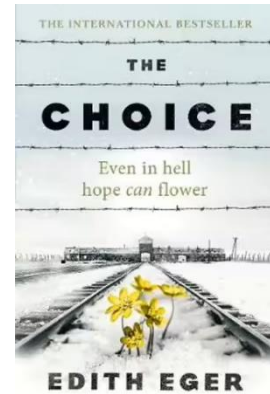
The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman, 2017

When Germany invades Poland, Luftwaffe bombers devastate Warsaw and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals killed, or stolen away to Berlin, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski begin smuggling Jews into the empty cages. As the war escalates Jan becomes increasingly involved in the anti-Nazi resistance. Ammunition is buried in the elephant enclosure and explosives stored in the animal hospital. Through the ever-present fear of discovery, Antonina must keep her unusual household afloat, caring for both its human and animal inhabitants - otters, a badger, hyena pups, lynxes - as Europe crumbles around them.



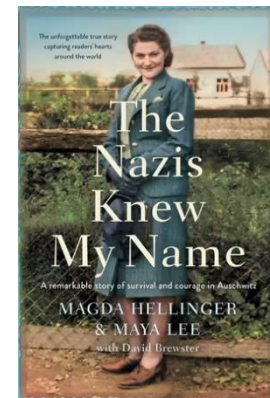
The Choice by Edith Eger, 2018

In 1944, sixteen-year-old ballerina Edith Eger was sent to Auschwitz. Separated from her parents on arrival, she endures unimaginable experiences, including being made to dance for the infamous Josef Mengele. When the camp is finally liberated, she is pulled from a pile of bodies, barely alive. The horrors of the Holocaust didn't break Edith. In fact, they helped her learn to live again with a life-affirming strength and a truly remarkable resilience.



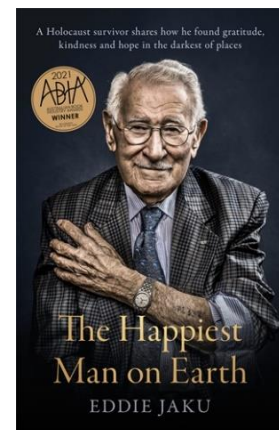
The Nazis Knew My Name: A remarkable story of survival and courage in Auschwitz by Magda Hellinger, Maya Lee, and David Brewster, 2021

The extraordinarily moving memoir by Australian Slovakian Holocaust survivor Magda Hellinger, who saved an untold number of lives at Auschwitz through everyday acts of courage, kindness and ingenuity. Based on Magda's personal account and completed by her daughter Maya's extensive research, including testimonies from fellow Auschwitz survivors, this tale offers us insight into human nature, the power of resilience, and the goodness that can shine through even in the most horrific of conditions.



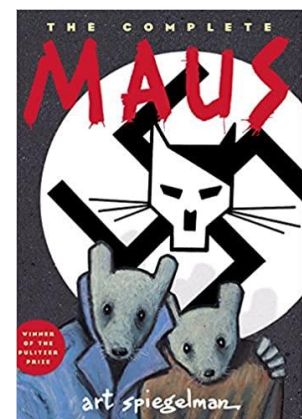
The Happiest Man on Earth by Eddie Jaku, 2020

A Holocaust survivor shares how he found gratitude, kindness, and hope in the darkest of places. Eddie Jaku always considered himself a German first, a Jew second. He was proud of his country. But all of that changed in November 1938, when he was beaten, arrested, and taken to a concentration camp. Over the next seven years, Eddie faced unimaginable horrors every day, first in Buchenwald, then in Auschwitz, then on a Nazi death march. He lost family, friends, and his country. Because he survived, Eddie made the vow to smile every day. He pays tribute to those who were lost by telling his story, sharing his wisdom and living his best possible life.



MAUS by Art Spiegelman, 2003- (Graphic Novel)

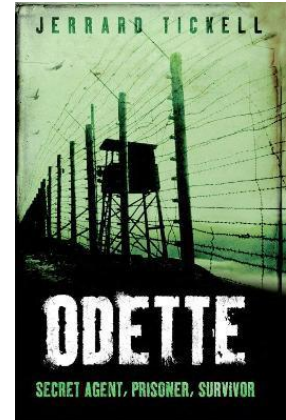
Maus is the harrowing story of the author's parents, Vladek Spiegelman and his wife, living in Hitler's Europe, and then his father dealing with Art's questions as he explores his past - all drawn with cats and mice. Vividly detailing the unspeakable through the pictorial and diminutive, it blends tragedy and comedy by turns. Against a backdrop of history, Art Spiegelman brilliantly meditates upon the guilt, relief and extraordinary sensation of survival - and how the children of survivors are in their own way affected by the trials of their parents.



Odette by Jerrard Tickell , 2008

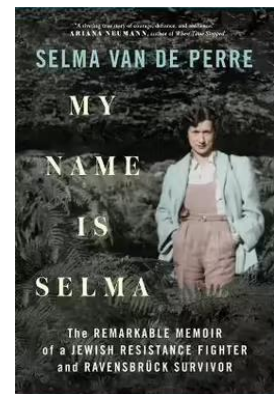
'I am a very ordinary woman to whom a chance was given to see human beings at their best and at their worst... I completely believe in the potential nobility of the human spirit.'

During some of the darkest days of the Second World War, a young Frenchwoman living as a mother and housewife in England left her ordinary life to become a British agent, working covertly in France to aid the Resistance. Entering a murky and deadly world of espionage and double-dealing, she was betrayed to the Germans, only to endure torture by the Gestapo and the hell of the infamous concentration camp of Ravensbruck.



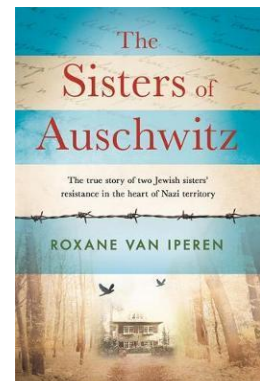
My Name is Selma: The Remarkable Memoir of a Jewish Resistance Fighter and Ravensbruck Survivor by Selma Van De Perre, translated by Alice Tetley-Paul and Anna Asbury, 2020 (Book and Film)

'I am one of few Jewish survivors of World War Two, but one of many Jewish people to fight the Nazi regime. My story illustrates what happened to thousands of Jews and non-Jews alike... the sheer luck that saved some of us and the atrocities that led to the deaths of so many, as a tribute to all those who suffered and died.'



The Sisters of Auschwitz: The true story of two Jewish sisters' resistance in the heart of Nazi territory by Roxane Van Iperen , 2020

The Nazis have occupied The Netherlands, but resistance is growing and two Jewish sisters - Janny and Lien Brilleslijper - risk their lives to save those being hunted, through their clandestine safehouse 'The High Nest'. It becomes one of the most important safehouses in the country but then the house and its occupants are betrayed. What comes next challenges the sisters beyond human imagination as they are stripped of everything but their courage, resilience, and love for each other. WINNER of the Opzij Literature Prize 2019.



The White Mouse by Nancy Wake, 2011

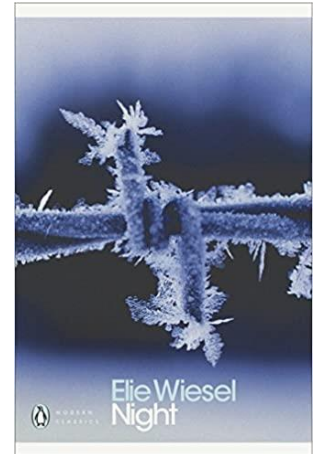
Nicknamed 'the White Mouse' for her ability to evade capture, Nancy tells her own story. After living and working in Paris in the 1930's, Nancy married a wealthy Frenchman and settled in Marseilles. Her idyllic new life was ended by World War II and the invasion of France. Nancy joined the French resistance and, later, began work with an escape-route network for allied soldiers. Eventually Nancy had to escape from France herself to avoid capture by the Gestapo. In London she trained with the Special Operations Executive as a secret agent and saboteur



before parachuting back into France. Her autobiography recounts her extraordinary wartime experiences.

Night by Elie Wiesel and Marion Wiesel (Translator), 2006

Born into a Jewish ghetto in Hungary, Elie Wiesel was sent as a child, to the Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald. This is his account of the ever-increasing horrors he endured, the loss of his family and his struggle to survive in a world that stripped him of humanity, dignity, and faith. Describing in simple terms the tragic murder of a people from a survivor's perspective, *Night* is among the most personal, intimate, and poignant of all accounts of the Holocaust. A **harrowing** first-hand account of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust.



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