



Talking Book Center
1 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401
540-885-6215

Historical Fiction: World War II Era

DB62431 The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Death narrates the tale of nine-year-old Liesel from 1939 to 1943 in Nazi Germany. Liesel copes with a foster family, air raids, her friend Rudy, and a hidden Jew, sustained by the books she steals. Some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2006.

DB48063 Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

Bombardier Yossarian desperately tries to stay alive during World War II. Military rules make it impossible for anyone to achieve the combat quota necessary to quit flying. Yossarian and his buddies concoct ways to avoid the ridiculous orders of their officers. Strong language and descriptions of sex. 1961.

DB79182 All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

When Paris is invaded by the Nazis, Marie-Laure LeBlanc's father evacuates her to St. Malo to stay with her great-uncle. Blind since the age of six, Marie-Laure must learn the town by the scale model her father has left. Then, the Germans arrive. Violence, and descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2014.

DB81189 The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

France, 1939. Vianne Mauriac sends her husband off to war, while her younger sister Isabelle runs off to Paris, claiming an affair. Once there, Isabelle becomes involved in the Resistance. Vianne's home is occupied by the invading Nazis. Violence and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2015.

DB67526 The Guernsey Literary And Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer
London, 1946. Writer Juliet Ashton corresponds with Dawsey Adams and other members of a literary society created as a front during the Nazi occupation of the British channel island Guernsey. Through letters, Juliet learns about their wartime experiences. Intrigued, Juliet sails to Guernsey, where she finds new inspiration. Bestseller. 2008.

DB14614 The Thin Red Line by James Jones

A multi-level fictional chronicle of the amphibious military operation in the World War II Guadalcanal campaign. Explores the collective behavior of a wide and varied cross-section of American military men, from the Big Brass who observe the strategy to the fighting men who carry out the battle plans without knowing or caring about them. 1962.

DB46772 The Reader by Bernhard Schlink

As a teenager in Germany, Michael Berg meets an older woman who becomes his first lover. Frau Hanna Schmitz always has him read to her when he visits. She disappears one day, but he encounters her at a trial for Nazi prison guards years later when he is in law school. Shocked and dismayed, Michael can neither understand nor condemn Hanna, who, he learns, is illiterate. Some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 1995.

DB39551 Corelli's Mandolin by Louis De Bernieres

Pelagia, daughter of Dr. Iannis on the Greek island of Cephallonia, is the central figure in a story that begins shortly before World War II. As Captain Corelli, a member of the Italian occupation forces that invade the island, and Mandras, a local fisherman, vie for Pelagia's affection, the arrival of Nazi and Communist troops turns the placid island into a quagmire. For Pelagia it is more than a test of endurance. Strong language 1994

DB22409 Empire Of The Sun by J.G. Ballard

A young boy living in China during the outbreak of World War II is separated from his wealthy parents and forced to forage for survival in Shanghai's foreign quarter. Interned in a Japanese prison camp for four years, he is eventually reunited with his parents. This novel is based on the author's own experiences. 1984.

DB36730 The Eagle Has Landed; Liam Devlin 01 by Jack Higgins

After intense training, a small force of German paratroopers lands on the Norfolk coast in England in 1943, with the aim of capturing Churchill, who is spending the weekend at a neighboring country house. Some strong language. 1975.

DB53839 The Naked And The Dead by Norman Mailer

Classic novel of World War II. An American infantry platoon invades the Japanese-held island of Anopopei. Mailer explores the soldiers' behavior and emotions under the extreme stress of jungle warfare. Strong language and some violence. 1948.

DB75604 Every Man Dies Alone by Hans Fallada

Berlin, World War II. Blue-collar Anna and Otto Quangel quietly oppose the Nazi party after the Quangel's only son is killed on the front. Then neighbors begin turning each other in to the Gestapo. Based on a true story. Translated from German. Violence and some strong language. 1947.

DB71622 The Tin Drum by Günter Grass

On his third birthday Oskar decides to stop growing. Haunted by the deaths of his parents and wielding his tin drum Oskar recounts the events of his extraordinary life; from the long nightmare of the Nazi era to his anarchic adventures in post-war Germany. 1959